

SPEAK

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OCTOBER 1993

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No.54

**Workplace
panty
scandal**

**PRIZES
TO
WIN!**

**PATRICIA DE LILLE
Leading the PAC**

**Should marriages
be arranged?**





Shouldn't you be a SPEAK subscriber?

What do people say about SPEAK?

■ **Elizabeth Thabethe, Chemical Workers Industrial Union (CWIU), Germiston**

"I think SPEAK magazine is a women's liberator because it is the powerful women's voice and always upholds the women's struggle at heart. I strongly call on other magazines and journals to follow SPEAK."

■ **Thenjiwe Mthintso, South African Communist Party, Marshalltown**

"SPEAK magazine is the voice of oppressed women, especially black working class women. It lets them speak for themselves; it speaks in a manner meaningful and understandable to them, it highlights their needs and aspirations."

■ **Lota Bertulfo, Asean Women in Development Forum, Cebu City, Philippines**

"SPEAK is an important magazine. It is one of the few publications which dare to present interesting and relevant stories of women. They are not gossip, not fairy tale, not make believe. They are real life stories of so-called 'ordinary' women. As their stories get printed and get known, one realises they are not ordinary at all."

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Pumla Radu, ANC Photo Unit

COMMENT

While political leaders continue to make "progress" at the multi-party talks about the future of our country, the situation of ordinary people remains the same.

Imagine women workers not being allowed to wear panties at their workplace. This has been the case for 400 women workers at a poultry farm in Pietermaritzburg. The company says their clothes are not "germ-free" and may result in the chickens getting diseases. A simple solution to the problem would be for the company to buy workers proper clothing. But this, of course, would cost too much for the company. So women either have had to accept it or find work elsewhere. This was not the only problem the women experienced. The company put a male supervisor in charge. He would touch the women's private parts to see whether they were wearing panties or not. This is the kind of insulting and offensive labour practice which often goes by unnoticed and unchallenged by those negotiating our future. Women in this country must take a stand on bad labour practice, and challenge their parties to take up the real issues that affect their daily lives.

Talk Back

Thanks for SPEAK

I would like to thank you for Speak magazine. I am a 16-year-old girl doing standard 6, and your magazine helps me a lot with my English. I have had problems finding SPEAK in Mamelodi. Where can I buy it and, I'd also like to enter your competitions.

Rose Mnguni
Mamelodi West

SPEAK is on sale at all CNA's and in certain cafe shops. It is sometimes difficult to see the magazine because it is often hidden behind other books. Ask if SPEAK is on sale and also look around carefully in the shops or CNA's. You could also subscribe to SPEAK. See details inside. - Editor

A poem to women

To all mothers of Africa
I say, speak out of these moments
Speak up about your courage
Speak out about your beloved country
Yes, South Africa belongs to you all
Therefore, speak out

Time wasted shall never be regained
Yes, mothers of Africa I talk to you

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

Mothers of Africa, I talk to you all
This is the chance to express yourselves
Therefore, I say speak out

Everyone was born free
Everyone was born to speak
No one can speak for you
No one can damage your power
Yes, no one can damage your power
Really, ma-Africa speak up
Really, ma-Africa speak out

Speak Reader

Thank you very much for your poem. I hope all the mothers of South Africa get to read your poem and begin to speak out. - Editor

Surprised and angry

I was surprised and angry about a speech made by Ms Gertrude Shope at the University of Transkei in August. She said: "Women let us wake up and lift the standard of our men in the ANC. Let us work hard and pray and vote for Mr Mandela who has been up and down fighting for our rights."

This surprised me. According to my knowledge Mr Mandela has been up and down against apartheid.

He has never been up and down fighting for women's rights.

I am a black woman who has been hard hit by apartheid and sexism. Sexism has been directly imposed on me by my fellow black men in the name of black culture and religion. Racism has been less harmful to me than the sexism I have experienced.

As a woman you are undermined, not only by your husband, but even by your children who are boys.

I fail to see the purpose of the ANC Women's League. Maybe it is because I do not know their policy.

Tell me, Ms Shope, what are you thinking when you tell women to vote and pray for men? I am not sexist but I cannot vote and pray for men who have been oppressing me all my life.

Vera Vimbala
Umtata

I cannot answer your question since you've addressed it to Gertrude Shope. I can only say that 27 April 1994 is a day we should all look forward to. For the first time all South Africans can vote for whom they want. As women, we must put pressure on organisations and political parties to place our issues high on the agenda. If they do not then we must think clearly if we want to vote for a party that does not have our interests at heart. – Editor

Can you live without a man?

This letter is for all women who are trapped in unhappy love affairs.

A few years ago I had a love affair with a man and believed that I would not be able to live without him. Unfortunately our relationship was like many others. He controlled everything, including my life. I had to follow his rules, whether I was going to the post office, visiting friends or going for a work interview. Yet I had no say over what he did. He never asked me what I thought.

Eventually I left him, and I thank God for giving me the strength to do so. If I had stayed with him I would have become powerless, without any self confidence.

I had to move on with my life without him.

Today I am in love with a man who respects me for who I am, and lets me do

whatever I need to do with my life. Love should be a confirmation that you are special because you are who you are.

All women should remember that somewhere there is a man who will give respect and love without trying to mould their partners.

C Mpe
Soweto

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
WINNERS!

Matla Trust Voter Education Competition

**Wilson Mafifi is the
lucky winner of a
radio**

Congratulations to:

★ **Veronica Thomo of
Kwa-Thema who won
a book called *God
Dies by the Nile* by
Nawal El Saadawi**

★ **Minnie Siwundla of
Letaba who won a
book called *My Story*
by Miriam Makeba**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Kwa-Sophie

A taste of your own medicine

A male friend of mine was complaining to me the other day about getting his bum pinched in bars in Nairobi when he was on a visit to Kenya. "Fortunately a friend of mine offered to take me around after I had been there for a few days," he said.

"As she is a woman, other women must have felt I was out of bounds so I did not have the experience of having my bum pinched in public again," he told me. "Well," I said, "Now that you have experienced sexual harassment, how do you feel?" I never mentioned the fact that he needed a woman to protect him. Shame, poor men, they do not cope very well when they have a taste of their own medicine.

Don't miss it - it is ms

Normally I do not take too much notice of whether I am being addressed as Mrs, Miss or Ms,



although I prefer using Ms. However, on an account I have with a clothing shop in the city, they continually addressed my post to Miss T P Khubekha. When I asked that this be changed to Ms, the accounts clerk looked very confused but agreed to do this. The next account that arrived for me was addressed to Mrs T P Khubekha. I phoned again and

explained that the form of address was again incorrect and was angrily asked what the big deal was all about. He, however, said it would be put straight. I received an account yesterday that was addressed to Mrs M S Khubheka. Well sometimes you just have to give up.

Just say Madam Chair

Recently I attended a conference in Zambia where a paper was given during a session chaired by a male participant. The woman giving the paper referred to the chair as "madam chair" throughout the session. This caused great amusement amongst the other participants, particularly as the speaker seemed quite unaware of the error. The chairpersons's eyes kept getting wider and wider as she continually called him madam chair. It was great fun seeing a man in the kind of situation women are often in.



Challenge

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Women have to spearhead the struggle for gender equality. Leaving it to men would be like leaving the struggle against apartheid to whites.

From the book *No Turning Back*

South African
**LABOUR
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South African
**LABOUR
BULLETIN**

SA 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 companies as part of their education programmes.

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Patricia de Lille is a leading Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) negotiator at the multi-party talks. De Lille is a leader in her own right. Rosalee Telela speaks to this dynamic leader

“Gosh, Patricia is one of the few women at the multi-party talks who speaks all the time. And she knows what she’s talking about...”, this is what one of the delegates at the talks said about Patricia de Lille.

De Lille is one of the leading negotiators of the PAC at the multi-party talks presently being held in Johannesburg. Although she believes women’s issues must be addressed, she’s clearly not “the woman delegate” of her organisation at the talks.

She makes no excuse for her belief that she is an African before she is a woman: “This should be the way that all African women see themselves.”

De Lille argues that African women, and men, are oppressed by a white minority government before they are oppressed as women. “The colonial master (white man) is the main

Patricia de Lille

‘I am African before I am a woman’

PAC leader Patricia de Lille: “We are in the process of building democracy in this country. We must respect the view or feeling of an individual, whether they want to be a housewife, politician or career woman.”



Photos: Phumla Radu

oppressor.”

She disagrees with the way others see the oppression of black women in South Africa: “Liberal feminists say women face a triple oppression, on the basis of race, gender and class. This is a move away from the main problem.”

She warns that if women’s oppression is viewed in this way then “the women’s movement will be in competition with the liberation movement”.

On the other hand, De Lille agrees that women need to be organised because “we face particular problems”. She says it is important that women come together to look at ways of addressing these problems but, it should not go against the struggle for liberation.

De Lille stresses the need for individual rights: “We are in the process of building democracy in this country. We must respect the view or feeling of an individual, whether they want to be a housewife, politician or career woman.”

She does not believe all women want rights: “We should not assume that all women feel unhappy and believe they are oppressed. Many women are happy with their situation, even if we can see they are being oppressed.”

Although De Lille sees the government as the “colonial master”, she admits that as a woman she still has to work twice as hard as men to prove herself.

Born in Beaufort West, in the Cape in 1951, De Lille says she was brought up in a very politically aware family. She is the third of seven children. In 1969, she completed

“To deal with the oppression of women, one has to start at home, because that is where you live, sleep and eat. It is where you spend most of your time,”



De Lille with colleagues at the World Trade Centre

her matric.

From 1970 to 1973 De Lille worked as a laboratory assistant in a firm in Cape Town. A year later she moved to work at Plascon Paints as a technician. This was where her involvement in the trade union movement and politics began. Between 1983 and 1992 she was elected into positions which include: a shop steward for the South African Chemical Workers Union (SACWU), national vice president of the National Council of Trade Unions (NACTU) and foreign affairs secretary of the PAC.

Although De Lille is a very strong and confident African woman, she still faces discrimination.

“The way I deal with it is by being alert and quick to respond to any issue, word or act that makes me inferior. For example, I refuse to serve tea to men in a meeting, when they can do it themselves. I simply make my own tea and sit down,” she adds.

De Lille argues it is impor-

tant to be aware of the ‘little’ things that happen to women every day.

She says the use of the English language makes it difficult for women to express themselves. Many people do not know how to speak, read or write in English.

“Women are afraid to speak in meetings

because they cannot express themselves properly in English, and feel shy to speak in their own language. I want to encourage women to speak in their mother tongue, after all, English is not their language,” De Lille adds.

She too has been in situations where she does not understand what is being said “because I grew up speaking Afrikaans. When I do not understand something, I ask.”

SPEAK asked her what her views on abortion were: “Abortion is a sensitive issue. What is important is that the right of the individual must be



considered.”

De Lille believes that the family is important because it gives support to women and must be the starting point of changing the views of women in society.

“To deal with the oppression of women, one has to start at home because that is where you live, sleep and eat. It is where you spend most of your time,” she argues.

“Women must get their families to support them. I could not be doing what I’m doing

without the support of my family,” adds De Lille.

She says: “the family is very important, especially now because of the breakdown of the African family and culture. Today you find old ladies being raped by young boys.”

She believes: “because it is women who are responsible for their families, they should be the ones to begin changing things at home. This will begin to influence the community,” she

says.

“I learned from an early age that one can’t just demand freedom. Each of us has a responsibility to get involved.”

She says the Women’s National Coalition is a big achievement in bringing women together. “It is important that there is unity. It is going to be a long and painful process of understanding, learning and respecting each others identity and way of life,” De Lille explains.

Speaking about her involvement in the negotiation process, a process which is male dominated, she says: “When I joined the PAC team at the negotiations, I made it clear that I’m there as a PAC representative. A lot of damage has been done by making it a must for each party to have a woman representative. I never agreed with that.”

She explains: “some parties bring in a different woman every second day. Most of the time they do not update her on what’s been happening.”

De Lille blames the different parties and organisations for this.

Her message to all women is: “Women make up more than 50 percent of the population. We are fighting for freedom, and if we do not involve women, then we are selling out.”

She says women should look at the policies of different parties and see which one has a record of dealing with women’s oppression and has women in leadership positions. “Otherwise women will be used as voting cattle with par-

Questions about voting

Many people have fears about voting. **SPEAK** looks at some of the questions women have about the coming elections



Women have many questions and fears about voting.

Women must organise to make sure they get all the information they need. Organisations which are running voter education training can be invited to run workshops for women's groups. There will also be special programmes on radio and television. If you have any questions about voting, you can also write to SPEAK or Matla Trust.

Above all, women must

pass on information about voting to each other, and make careful plans to join in the action on election day.

Here are some answers to questions women have asked about voting.

Can all women vote?

Some women think they have to be married in order to vote, others think they will not be able to vote because they cannot read and write. Some women who live far away from

their husbands think they can't vote on their own.

None of these are true. All South African women over the age of 18 can vote.

You will have to have a South African or homeland identity document when you go to vote to prove you can vote. If you don't have an identity document, you should apply for one from the Department of Home Affairs as soon as possible. If a woman has the right identity document, nobody can stop her from voting on election day.

Despite many difficulties with transport and misinformation, many women in Namibia took part in their elections



Photo by Guy Tillim, Southlight

How do I decide who to vote for?

People are free to vote for whichever party they think will best answer their needs.

Women must look carefully at the different political party policies and decide which party they think will best represent them.

Can someone force me to vote for their party?

No. You have the right to choose for yourself which party you support.

Many people will try to rob women of this right. Husbands, fathers, brothers, and other relatives may say women have to do as they are told on election day. Certain chiefs may also try to do this. Bosses may try to threaten women by saying they will lose their jobs if they do not vote for a particular party. Other people may try to "buy" women's votes by offering them gifts or inviting them to big parties.

You have nothing to fear. Your vote is secret. Nobody will be able to find out who you voted for. A woman does not have to tell anyone who she decides to vote for. If people force her to speak, she can say anything, because they will never find out the truth.

All voters (except blind people and some others) will be completely alone when they put a mark

on their voting paper next to the party of their choice. This is to make sure each person's vote is secret. Women can prepare for this moment by teaching each other and practising together before the election.

Can people who can't read and write also vote?

Women who cannot read and write will be able to vote if they know their party's symbol. Parties' symbols will be shown next to the party's names on the ballot paper (voting form). People will have to make an X in the box next to their party's symbol or name.

Where will I go to vote?

It is not yet known where voting will take place. Nearer to the election, political parties and community organisations will have more information about this. There will be thousands of voting stations all over the country. People will be able to go to the voting station that's most convenient for them. Sometimes transport will be provided by parties or employers. Even if women use this transport, they are still free to vote for whichever party they like.

On election day, there will be long queues outside the voting stations. Mothers can take

their babies with them to the voting station. Other children

can stay at home with young people under the age of 18. It is also important for grandmothers to be able to participate in the election.

What about violence?

Many women say they will not vote because they are afraid of violence on election day. Special plans are being made to protect voters inside and outside the voting station.

More than half of the South Africans who will vote are women. The women's vote therefore is very powerful. We must make sure that all women who can vote, do vote. ☆

COMPETITION WIN A RADIO!

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

■ Do women over 18 years of age have the right to vote?

Answer

Name

Address

.....

.....

.....

Code

I agree to abide by the rules of this competition

Signature

Send your entry form to

SPEAK/Matla Trust Voter

Education Competition,

PO Box 261363, Excom, 2023,

South Africa

Competition rules: The decision of the judges is final. This competition is only open to people living in South Africa. Employees and relatives of employees of SPEAK are not allowed to enter. The closing date is 26 September 1993. The winner will be announced in the October issue of SPEAK.



Matla Trust

This page is a joint project of

MATLA TRUST & SPEAK

Noria the artist

In a village in Venda, a woman sits and carves beautiful images out of wood. The carvings she makes reflect life in South Africa. *Thembinkosi Mabaso* visited the sculptor at her home



Well-known South African sculptor Noria Mabasa hard at work at her home in Venda. Through her art she has challenged women's traditional role

It is often argued by traditionalists that women should not be allowed to do certain jobs in a society. The blame is usually laid on our ancestors for being the ones who determine our traditional way of life. Noria Mabasa, a sculptor, challenged this way of thinking and found it to be not true.

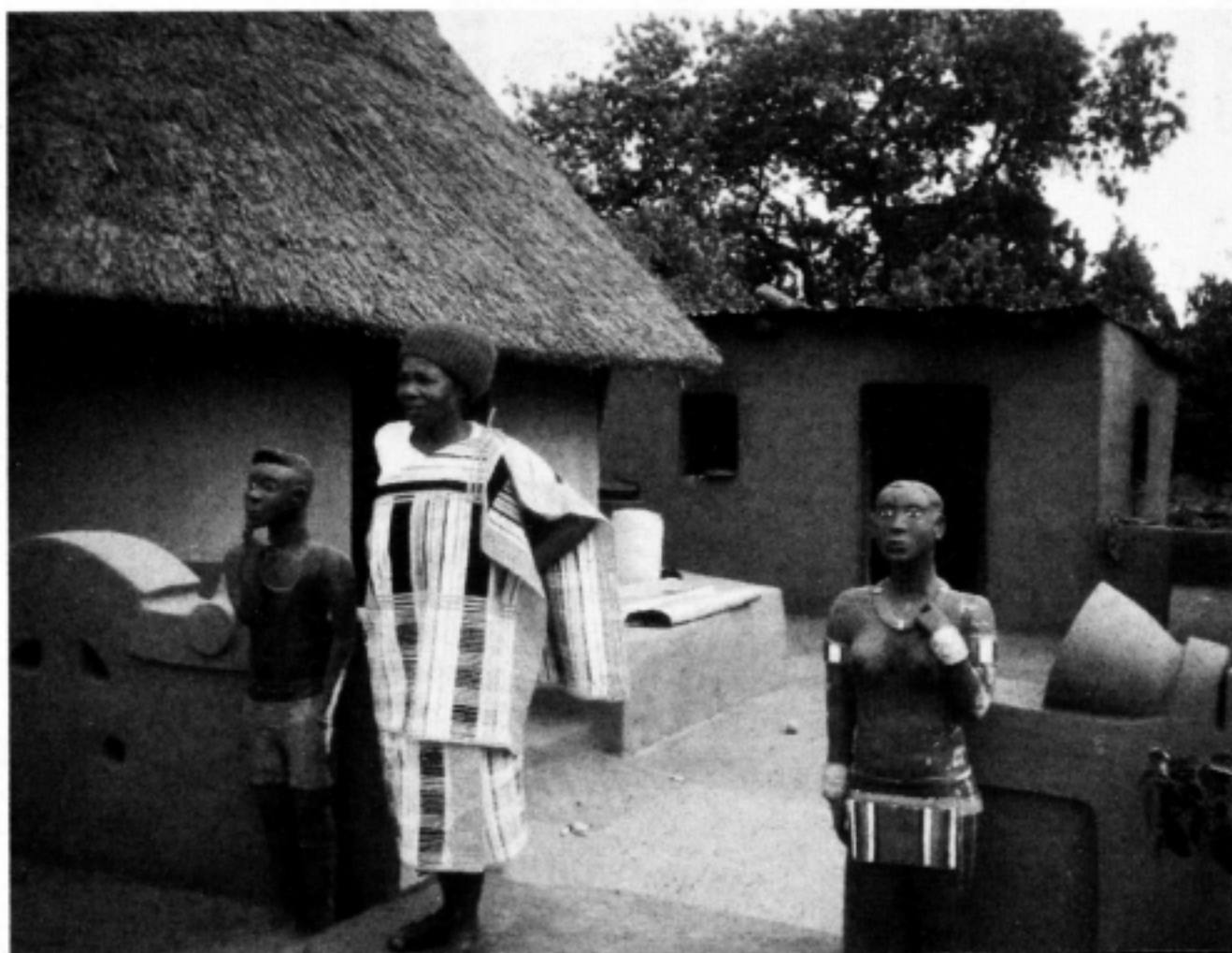
SPEAK visited Noria at her home in Tshino village in Venda. Her house is not only beautiful, but shows her personality and success as an artist. At the gate we were welcomed by beautiful clay figures which were skilfully made by Noria.

Despite the heat of the day we found Noria with a chisel and a mallet, sculpting the wood. She was dressed in traditional Venda clothes. The way she worked with the wood proved to us that she is an experienced artist. Noria, a soft spoken but confident person, is used to strangers coming to her home. She has many visitors and art dealers coming to her home all the time.

"I started carving in 1976. It was not easy, I was scared. People laughed at me saying I am crazy and that this was not a woman's job, but a job for strong men," Noria told SPEAK.

In most traditions tasks are divided: women are potters and weavers, whilst men are carvers and blacksmiths.

Weaving and pottery is argued to be women's work



Noria at her home in Tshino village, Venda. Next to her, at the entrance, are two of her beautifully crafted sculptures in the style that has made her famous

because they are closely associated with domestic chores.

Why carving for men? Wood carvers were more than artists in a society. Their carving brought them closer to high priests and linked them to the world of spirits.

It is said that historically menfolk pushed themselves closer to the spirits. Men believed they were the ones who should be in control of the contact between societies and the spirits. In some societies holy places are reserved only for men. This is clear in traditional families where women are not allowed inside the kraal. Therefore, only men were allowed to carve religious symbols.

Today men still command relationships with the spirits. When the beast is about to be killed the head of the family is the only one allowed to talk with the ancestors.

Noria is one sculptor who has proved that women can also communicate with the spirits.

But, it was not that easy for her to accept her career. "Some people said my ancestors were going to punish me for going against our tradition. That did not worry me because I was told by my ancestors to carve," says Noria smiling.

She continued: "As early as 1965 my deceased grandmother visited me in my dreams. She told me to mould in clay. I did not do it because of my belief that men were the only ones who could speak to our ancestors," she said.

Noria went on to say: "I got very sick, and the sickness went away the moment I started to mould."

That was the start of her career. She said her ancestors visited her again. This time, a voice from the "world of the

spirits" ordered her to enter the so-called "men's world" to be a sculptor.

"In the early 1970s my ancestors advised me to carve. I wasn't going to hesitate again, so I gladly accepted their offer. I am now a full-time carver and happy," she said proudly.

It is a blessing for Noria that her family supports and loves her art works.

A famous piece of sculpture Noria calls CARNAGE shows her wonderful skill in joining together human and animal forms.

The sculpture is in the form of a circle and shows the relationship between human beings and animals.

Another one of her artworks called FLOODS, show the flood disaster in Natal in 1987. During the floods, both people and animals lost their lives. It shows the struggle and pain faced during the disaster.

Today Noria's works are very popular with art collectors in South Africa and in other countries. Her work has been on show in art galleries, and is highly respected by her fellow artists. "She is a brilliant carver," said Dr Phuthuma Seoka, a sculptor from Lebowa.

It is more than ten years since she's gone against "traditional rules". She said her ancestors still visit her through her dreams. "They provide me with inspiration and ideas for my next sculpture," she said.

Instead of being hated, Noria is winning the hearts and minds of the world and more especially the people in her community. ☀

Making a choice

For women all over the world there is a great deal of pressure to get married. In some societies marriages are arranged. *Carmel Musiker* asked a number of women what they think of arranged marriages

“Not all arranged marriages are forced marriages.

That is an important point to remember,” says Shaheeda. “I am not against arranged marriages, but women should not be forced into them. Most times arranged marriages do work. They are not always wonderful, but they do work out. It is forced marriages that do not work. Women must be able to decide whether or not they want to marry the man chosen by the family,” adds Shaheeda.

Bindhu accepts the idea of arranged marriages. She grew up in India as a Marthamite Christian. She is therefore, not allowed to marry anyone from another religion, and in most cases marriages are arranged. If a woman disobeyed this tradition she would lose all her family support.

Bindhu had little contact with men as a child: “I couldn’t think of going on a date. I can feel my father’s eyes watching me all the time. In India, you cannot have boyfriends. If people find out, there is a chance that you will never get married.”

“I see more positive points for having an arranged marriage than negative. Your parents know what you like and do

■ FOR

**“I am not against arranged marriages, but women should not be forced into them.”
*Shaheeda***

not like, and how you live. They can chose someone for you,” she says.

For Mira, a 22-year-old university student, arranged marriages are unacceptable. While she is a devoted Hindu, her boyfriend is not.

“My mother does not mind me having a boyfriend. She does not even mind that he is not Hindu. My father would never allow it. He would tell me to leave home. He would never speak to me again,” Mira says sadly.

“The Hindu religion does not say you have to marry your own kind. It does not teach prejudice (when people dislike

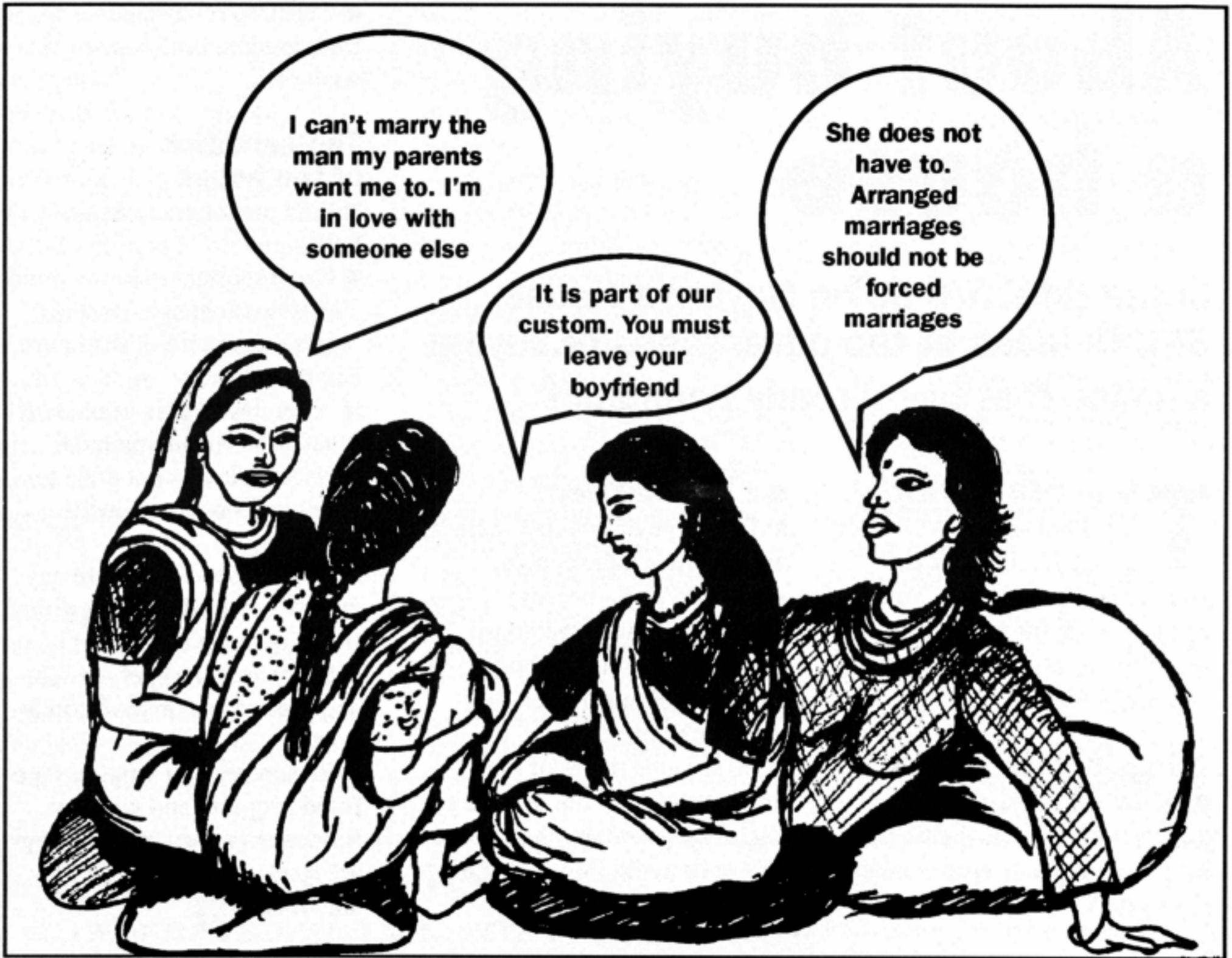
■ AGAINST

**“I would rather leave my family than face losing my boyfriend.”
*Mira***

others because of race, religion or class). It teaches against this. I think it is important to know the difference between religion and tradition. Tradition is the customs that people often confuse with religion. I would rather read and obey the Hindu scripture than follow traditions that I do not believe in,” she says.

Mira says she would rather leave her family than face losing her boyfriend. Her experience of love has made arranged marriages seem very cruel. If her father does not understand her point of view, she will have to chose between her family and the man she loves.

Sithara was 19 years old when her family decided it was



time for her to get married. "I remember going to a dance to meet Suneel. He showed an interest in me but I knew he was not the right person for me. Some time later our families met at my house and his family gave me a sari. I accepted the sari, and by doing that, I was agreeing to marry their son," Sithara says.

"I knew that this was not what I wanted. He had a serious drinking problem. It took a lot of courage, but eventually I told my parents that I could not marry him. They were upset but accepted it. For the next ten years families in our community tried to match me up with

someone. I never felt that I could spend the rest of my life with any of the men I met. Eventually my mother and the community stopped trying to arrange marriages for me," she told us.

Sithara says that in her community although parents arrange the meeting between young people with the hope that they will marry, it is possible to say no.

Today Sithara is happy about the choice she made. "I am happy with my life and confident to take on the challenges

every new day brings."

She believes that women must not allow themselves to be forced into marriages. "Women must be allowed to

"Women must be allowed to make the decision of whether to marry the man that her family arranges for her. No one should be forced to spend the rest of her life with a man she cannot love."

make the decision of whether to marry the man that her family arranges for her.

"No one should be forced to spend the rest of her life with a man she cannot love," says Sithara. ★

About buying a house

In the third article on Buying a House, *SPEAK* looks at the advantages of buying a house that has already been built

The best thing about buying a house that is already built is, what you see is what you get. You can look over the house to make sure that it is the house you really want to buy.

Things to look out for

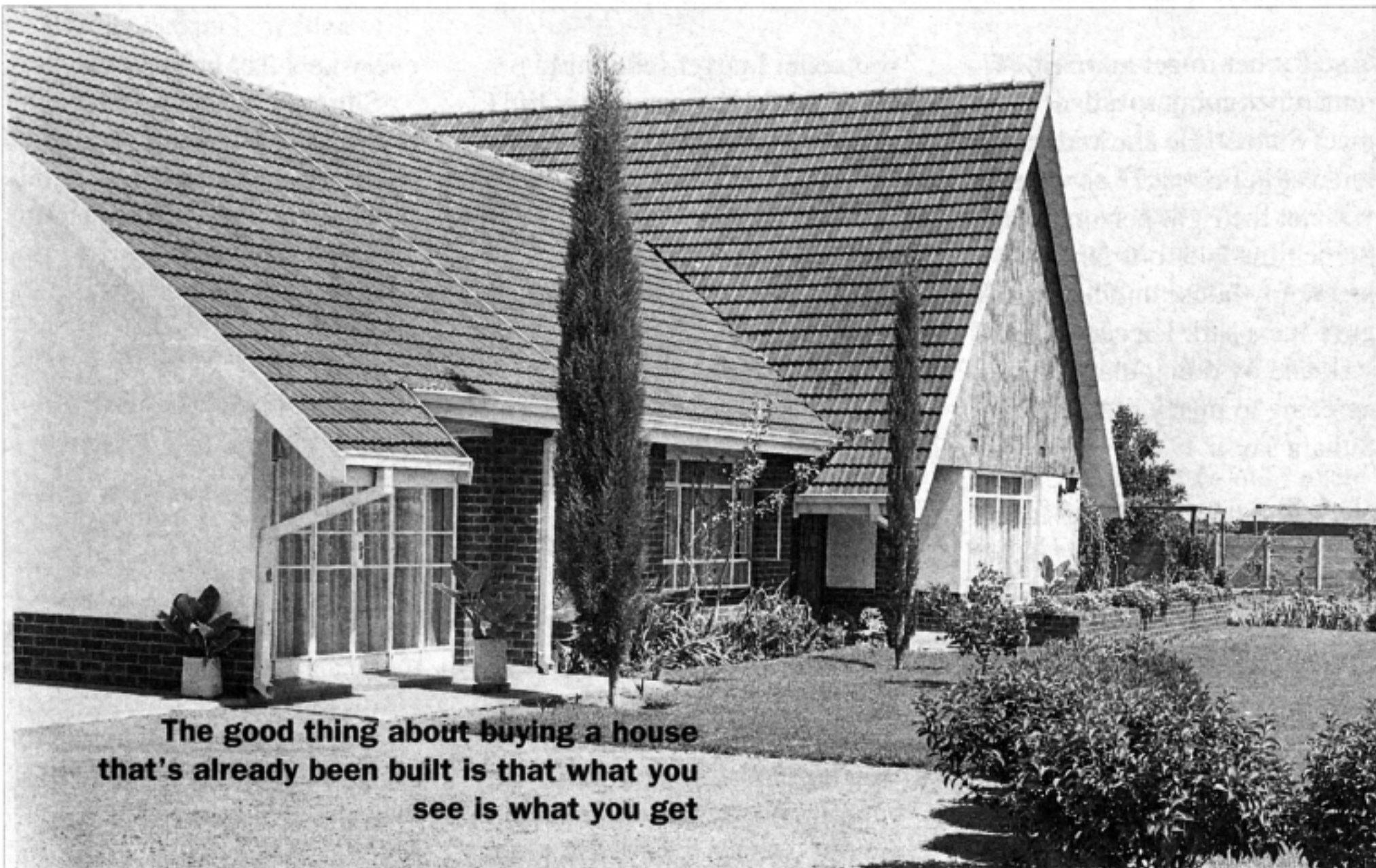
■ Where the house is situated is very important. Is the house on a busy street or near a busy bus route?

- Is it in a safe area?
- Take note of whether there are facilities like schools, shops and parks nearby;
- See which way the house faces. A north facing house will be cool in summer and warm in winter;
- Be sure the doors of the house leading to the outside are slightly higher than the ground. This will avoid flooding if it rains;

■ Check to see if there is space for a garden, if of course you want one.

The condition of the house

- Find out when the house was built;
- It is important to know if any alterations (changes) to the original structure of the house had been made;
- When last was it painted? If it has been freshly painted, check that it was not done to hide cracks or damp in the walls;
- Look to see if there are any cracks, crooked walls or if the floors are uneven;
- Make sure the roof, gutters and pipes are in a good condition;
- Be sure that all windows are fitted properly and window frames are not rusting (if they are steel), or splitting (if they are wooden);



The good thing about buying a house that's already been built is that what you see is what you get

- The electricity should be working, including all electrical points;
- Check the water supply. Make sure all the taps are in a working condition;
- Look to see whether the toilets, drains and plumbing are okay.

Remember to make a note of all the things that are wrong with the house and ask the present owner to fix it. You can also ask the owner to bring down the price if there are many things wrong with the house.

Buying the house

When buying an existing house, you will have to sign a contract with the seller which is called an "offer to purchase".

If the seller accepts the

amount of money you offer and agrees to the sale, the house will then be transferred from the seller's name into your name.

If you do not have the money to pay cash for the house, you will have to take out a housing bond with a building society or bank. This means that the bank will pay the full purchase price to the seller, and you will pay monthly instalments to the bank.

If you are shown the house by an estate agent, make sure that the estate agent is registered with the Estate Agents Board. This will tell you whether the estate agent can be trusted.

If you meet the seller through an estate agent, after the seller has accepted your

offer, a certain amount of money will have to be paid to the estate agent by the seller.

Remember that buying a house will probably be one of the biggest financial commitments that you will make. Be sure that you are happy with the house you buy.

Information from:

The Housing Rights Unit of Lawyers for Human Rights, P O Box 5156, JOHANNESBURG 2000

For further information contact:

The Housing Consumer Protection Trust Advice Office at Lawyers for Human Rights Tel (011) 331-3466

● Next month, the final article on housing will look at marriage and ownership

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Give them the respect, dignity and care they deserve

In celebration of International Day of the Aged, October 1, *SPEAK* looks at the lives, needs and demands of the elderly in our country

The elderly in South Africa, like in many other countries, are discriminated against. They are treated like children with little or no rights, and face housing, transport, finance and health care problems.

The black elderly are in a worst position in our society because of apartheid.

In 1992, elderly white people were getting R314 per month, while black pensioners were getting only R235. At the moment, white pensioners still get paid more, but this is going to change. A new law is presently being

looked at to make sure all pensioners are paid the same amount.

While black and white pensioners do not earn the same, they face the same problems.

A national survey conducted by the South African Council for the Aged (SANCA) found pensions to be the biggest problem.

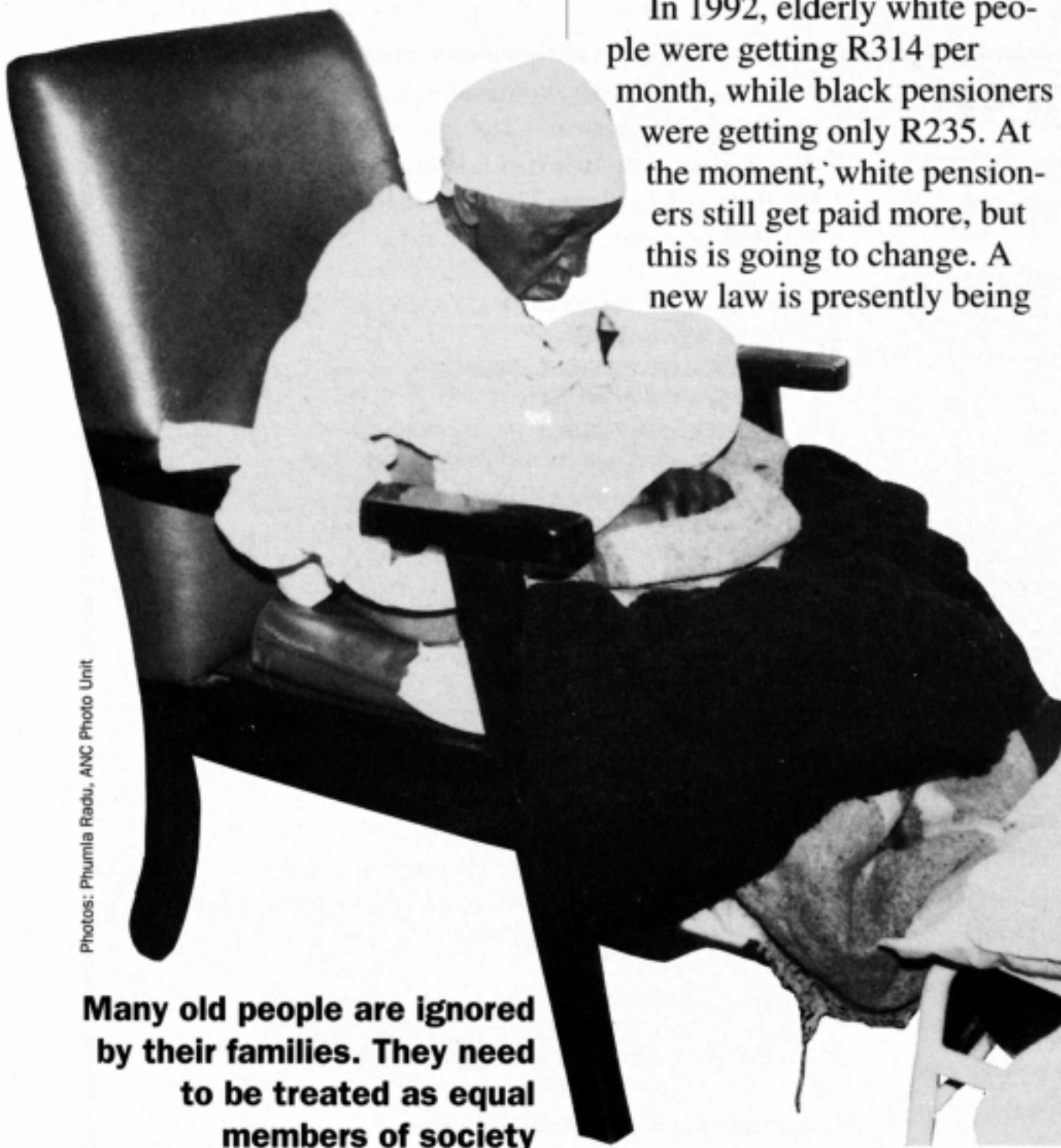
The elderly not only complained about the low amount of money they get every month, but also of problems they face at the places where they collect their pensions.

"A 70-year-old woman from Mamelodi witnessed the killing of three people at the pay points over the past ten years," said Pinky Vilakazi of SANCA.

There is little or no protection for the elderly when they collect their pensions. Many get robbed after they have fetched their pensions and have to go without money for a whole month.

She said many elderly could not survive on their low pensions and feel their pensions should keep up with the cost of living.

Most of the elderly complained of poor health services and said health workers should be trained in a way that can deal with their "special" needs.



Photos: Phumla Radu, ANC Photo Unit

Many old people are ignored by their families. They need to be treated as equal members of society



We need to support and care for the elderly

They also want health care to be free of charge since many cannot afford it.

One of their biggest fears and problems is that of being attacked. "Physical and emotional abuse of elderly people is nothing new, though it is often ignored," said Vilakazi.

Between January 1 and July 22 this year, nearly 500 elderly people were attacked. Ninety-four people were killed, 22 were raped and 75 were assaulted.

The abusers include family

members, friends, business people and other people in the community.

Older people often get ignored, threatened, beaten up, sexually abused and robbed of their pensions.

“Abuse of older women is as bad as the abuse of women in general. Vilakazi said: "It has little or nothing to do with aging."

She added: "Older women are more likely to become victims of abuse. They are less



Finding creative ways to make their lives more fulfilling



Old people say they prefer to live together because here they are treated as equals

able to fight against it, and are more at risk of being sexually abused."

Vilakazi's message is: "Solutions do not only lie with those of us that are involved in the care of the elderly. We have to accept that every old person has a place in society and must be treated with respect, dignity and be assured security."

While there is little support for elderly people in this country, many of them are finding creative and fulfilling ways to make their lives better. ★



Women protesting against sexual abuse

Enough is enough

Often women workers put up with sexual harassment because they fear losing their jobs. Lakela Kaunda spoke to a group of women who decided to take a stand against being forced not to wear underwear at work

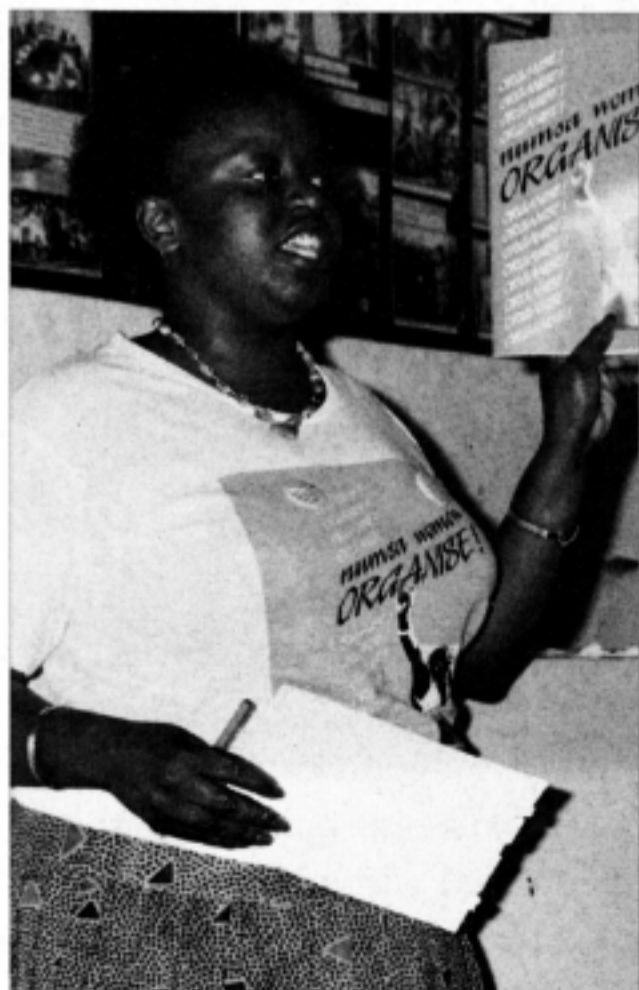
Four hundred women in the Natal Midlands recently lost their jobs for demanding what many other women all over the world take for granted: The right to wear panties at work.

The women, employed by National Chick Farms outside Pietermaritzburg, were dismissed on June 1 for refusing to take off their panties in the chicken breeding areas of the farms.

According to company rules, they take off their panties as soon as they get to work, and put on company issued Bermuda shorts. The company set this rule because it claims new born chicks easily catch diseases and there needs to be strict hygiene measures.

SPEAK went to talk to these fired women about their decision to take a stand against this rule. We found them picketing outside a supermarket in Pietermaritzburg - persuading shoppers not to buy products from the chicken farm.

One of the women, Zodwa



Cosatu gender co-ordinator Dorothy Mokgalo says the women should take legal action

Photo: SPEAK



touch our private parts to make sure that we are not wearing panties. Imagine having to tell your children that you can't work with panties on? That is

why we joined the union because we felt it would help us fight the problem.

"Imagine when we are menstruating! We tell the supervisor that we need to wear panties then and he says we should hold the sanitary pads with our thighs.

What do they think we are - animals?" she asked angrily.

After being dismissed the women decided to take their campaign for the right to wear underwear to the streets. They picketed outside shops every day - talking to shoppers.

"Some people just walk past," said one of the other women picketers, "others show an interest, read our placards and ask how they can help. They are horrified to hear we had to strike just to wear panties."

"Where in the world has this ever happened? People find it hard to believe a company can treat workers this way," she continued.

The women are determined to make their campaign work.

Most of them come from the Cato Ridge-Hammarsdale

areas. They organised to live with friends and relatives in Pietermaritzburg during their protest.

Mkhize has three children and she needs a job. "I hope our union, the Food and Allied Workers Union (FAWU), will get our jobs back soon," she said.

The workers were first dismissed on April 27 but were reinstated on May 1 after negotiations between Fawu and the company.

The company refused to comment.

We spoke to Dorothy Mokgalo, the gender co-ordinator of Cosatu, about this case. She said this kind of treatment is "a disgrace and completely unacceptable".

"It's degrading enough not to wear panties and then to still put a male supervisor in charge... It is unfair toward women and simply wrong.

"These workers have a right to take legal action against the company for violating their human rights and for sexual harassment and sexual abuse," she said.

"Since news reports, the owner of this company hasn't even apologised. He obviously has no respect for women."

We also spoke to Debra Marakalala of the Women's National Coalition.

"Who are the owners of National Chicken Farms?" she asked. "Would they allow their wives, sisters, mothers or daughters to be treated in this way?"

"There must be dignity for all women. It is good that such stories are told, so no one can get away with such actions." ❖

Mkhize (not her real name), told SPEAK she first started working for the farm over five years ago. She said she had put up with the underwear rule since she started work.

"But we now feel enough is enough," she said. "This thing is humiliating. They treat us as very dirty people. On arrival at work we are forced to wash again and then take off our panties. We then change into men's overalls and wear those shorts."

Mkhize said the women workers would be humiliated further by checks to make sure they were sticking to the rule.

"A male supervisor would

Accepting and caring



“My family wanted nothing to do with me. Now they’ve accepted I have HIV,” said Nomsa

When Nomsa was pregnant with Lindiwe, her doctor told her that she was HIV-positive. For months she kept this a secret. Later, after speaking to people at a community AIDS organisation, Nomsa built up the courage to tell her family. They were angry and scared. For a long time no one wanted to go near her. Nomsa did not give up trying to get them to understand. She kept speaking to them about it and, after some time they accepted it. Now, her whole family is going for counselling. Nomsa is lucky, she has a family that understands her needs and helps her as much as they can.

Caring for people with HIV and AIDS

AIDS is a sexually transmitted disease. The virus that causes AIDS is called HIV.

Many families simply refuse to have anything to do with relatives with HIV and AIDS. They are scared of getting the disease themselves. Many also feel helpless. At present, it is mostly health workers who are working with people with HIV and AIDS. Health workers tell people what they can expect when going for a test. They also try to prepare them for what the outcome of the test might be. They also provide medical treatment.

Many of the problems people with HIV and AIDS face are not medical, but relate to fears, lack of support from

**These pages
have been made
possible by
NPPHCN
National AIDS
Programme**



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

National office: (011) 337 8539

Eastern Transvaal:

(01315) 41 181

Northern Transvaal:

(01521) 91 4221

Southern Transvaal:

(011) 337 7126

Orange Free State:

(057) 396 5509

Natal: (031) 301 2582

Natal Midlands: (0331) 45 0453

Northern Natal: (0354) 74 181

Border: (0431) 43 6733

Eastern Cape: (041) 41 1618

Transkei: (0471) 31 0757

Western Cape: (021) 696 4154

People who are HIV-positive or have AIDS need care and support from their loved ones



Nomsa is lucky. Her family support and care for her and Lindiwe

family, loneliness and guilt.

Care and support of patients should not be left to health workers alone. Community organisations, families and other institutions should play an active role in working with patients. At the moment, PPHC National AIDS programme is the only organisation that has a care training centre. The centre, based in Pietermaritzburg, trains people, including health workers, how to care for people with HIV and AIDS.

Families also require a lot of support and encouragement. They need to learn how to counsel and nurse. AIDS is a disease many people believe will never affect them or their loved ones. When it does, they are not prepared for it and have to learn how to cope with, care for and support the patient without fear and discrimination.

Going for an HIV test

People planning to have an

HIV test also need support. It is necessary to get counselling before and after the test is done. They must think carefully about what they would do if they are HIV-positive. They have to be sure they want to know whether they are HIV-positive or not.

People need counselling after receiving their result, whether it is positive or negative. They need to be informed about safe sex to avoid the risk of being infected or of infecting others.

If the test is positive they will need emotional support. The person will have to inform their sexual partner and family about the results of the test. This is often very difficult and painful.

They should get advice on where to go for further help and support.

Living with AIDS

Personal relationships may suffer when a person is told he or

she is HIV-positive. People may lose their jobs and if the person gets full blown AIDS, they will have many health problems.

Many problems will arise as someone gets to the final stages of AIDS. Counselling and support for the individual and family members is important at this stage. The dying person and family members may need help to communicate with each other; to share their feelings, fears, hopes and to support each other.

People with HIV face rejection and hostility, and have serious financial and other practical problems. Often employers, co-workers, friends and family members are afraid of them, and avoid them.

It is the duty of everyone to become aware of HIV and AIDS, and to learn to accept and support people with HIV and AIDS. ★

Eugene Nyathi, director of the Centre of African Studies, says women are not angry enough and let men get away with being sexist. Nyathi was born in a village outside Newcastle in Natal. He spent the early years of his life in Zimbabwe and went on to study economics in South Africa and the United States of America (USA).

For many of us, early life experiences have a lot of influence in our adult life. This is true of Nyathi's: "At a fairly young age, I found out that blacks are discriminated against."

But, he believes difficult times can develop a person and build discipline: "In the end, I found out that my biggest defence and way of surviving was being myself and being proud of my background, especially my African history and upbringing."

This, he says, is the difference between himself and a large number of other black professionals. He describes them as people who go out of their way to impress others: "They go to meetings and speak with fake American accents."

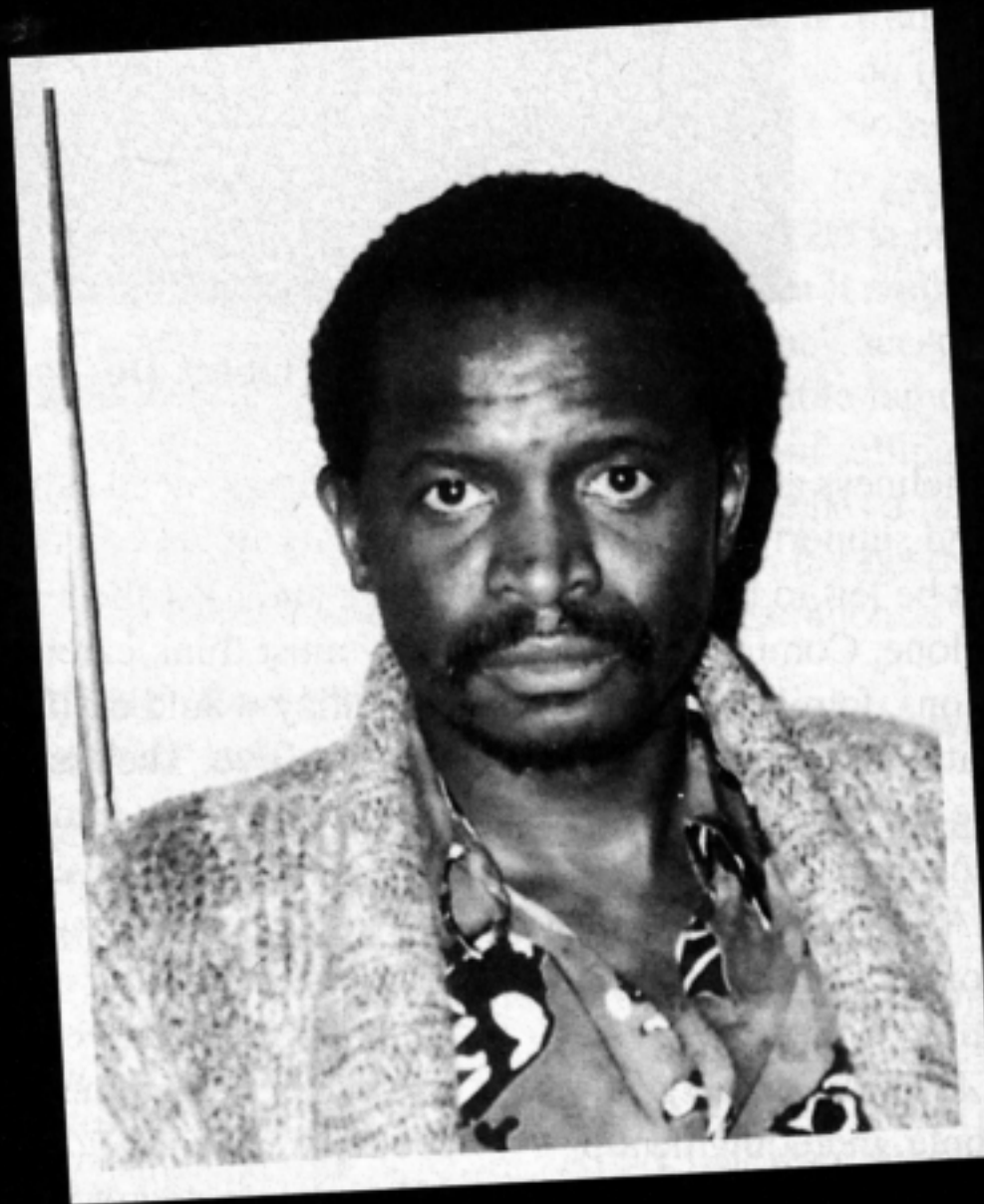
Nyathi is angered by such behaviour because: "These people are meant to be the role models in society, and I'm not so sure they are."

He is also concerned about the condition of the black family today. He says: "One of the biggest strengths in my life is I had both parents until my teenage years. I believe they gave me guidance I could not learn in any textbook."

"Today the black family is falling apart. This is sad

Make sexism a

Eugene Nyathi says he is a feminist who believes women, especially black South African women, let men get away with being sexist. Nyathi speaks to Rosalee Telela about his views on sexism, the family and racism



Photos: SPEAK

because family is the strength of any society.

"If there is anything I would love to encourage anybody to believe, is that responsibility starts with the individual. It starts at home," Nyathi adds.

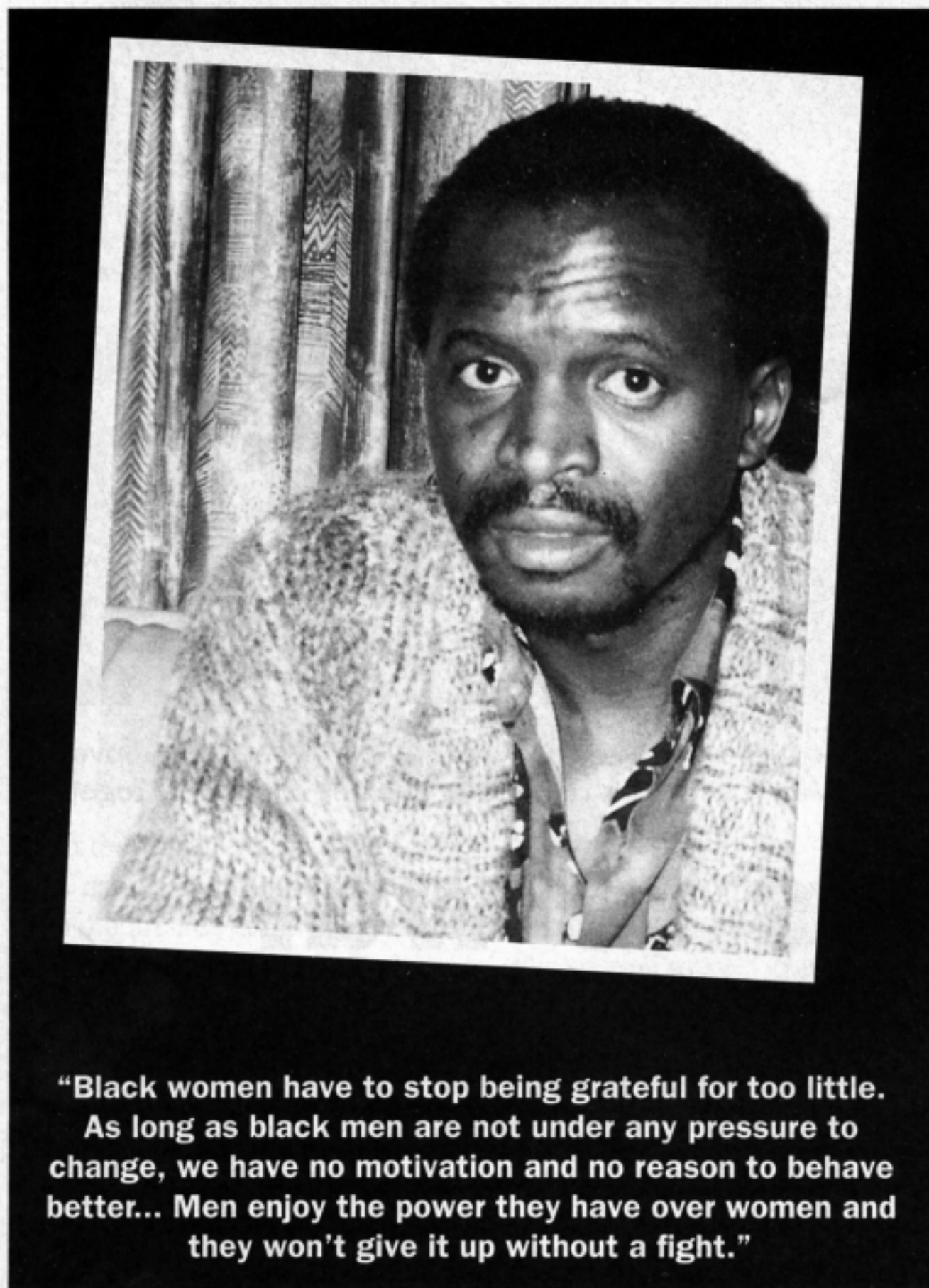
He argues though that people cannot blame apartheid for everything: "You can blame apartheid for the lack of education, health and so on. You can't blame apartheid for the

fact that we (men) may abuse our wives, our children, and father children that we do not support.

"Black women have to stop being grateful for too little. As long as black men are not under any pressure to change, we have no motivation and no reason to behave better."

"Men enjoy the power they

criminal offence!



“Black women have to stop being grateful for too little. As long as black men are not under any pressure to change, we have no motivation and no reason to behave better... Men enjoy the power they have over women and they won't give it up without a fight.”

have over women and they won't give it up without a fight,” he adds.

Nyathi says he practices what he preach in his own relationship.

“My partner is a very strong woman who has her own views on many issues. If we disagree on anything, we discuss it, but I never force her to accept my point of view.”

He does not agree with the

bible which says when two people get married they become one. “They are two different people who should keep their different identities.”

Nyathi believes there should be laws that make sexism a crime.

But he says, laws won't automatically change things.

“Women should recognise that the pressure for real gender

equality will be an ongoing struggle for a very long time to come. A law which says sexism is wrong is useful, but you have to go beyond it.”

At the same time, he feels women are letting men get away with their sexist behaviour: “Women are not angry enough. I consider myself a feminist. I have been involved in gender issues for a very long time. Sometimes I have been shocked by the behaviour of some of the women activists.

“The woman who speaks the loudest at conferences demanding gender equality, is in the next moment very obedient to her boyfriend or her husband.”

“I've been to many conferences where it turns out I'm angrier about women's oppression than the women attending the conference themselves. Women have to understand that given the injustices against them in the past and present, its okay to be angry and there is no need to apologise for the anger,” argues Nyathi.

He says if women do not show their anger and “continue to pretend they are not oppressed, it makes it a lot easier for men not to address the problem.”

Speaking on abortion, Nyathi says he believes abortion should be made legal: “I'm pro-choice. I regret that debates on issues to do with abortion or family planning are mostly dominated by men. It is men who are allowed to have the final say in the way a woman should manage and handle her own body,” he says angrily. ☘



Photo: Nigel Marple, AP

In spite of the hardships, the women in Bosnia never give up trying. Trying to improve the lives of their children, feeding and making a home for them, and keeping the family together.

A witness to war

Journalist Maggie O'Kane has been reporting on the war in Bosnia (former Yugoslavia) for more than a year now. It is a war that she cannot understand and it is a war that has seen the lives of innocent people go to waste.

O'Kane is known throughout the world for her "passionate and powerful" reporting on the war. Though it's won her four international awards, it often nearly cost her life.

In June 1992, she watched helplessly as the Red Cross truck she was travelling in was hit by bombs.

O'Kane survived the bomb attack. Now she's going back to Bosnia to report on the war

Maggie O'Kane is a journalist who has seen a lot of bloodshed. For over a year now, O'Kane has been reporting on the war in Bosnia.

Lucia Perez spoke to this daring woman when she visited South Africa

that held the attention of the world for more than a year.

But this Irish-Catholic woman is not war-crazy.

"It's just a job that someone's got to do. I don't know whether it's true to say I want to go where the trouble is. It's my job," said O'Kane.

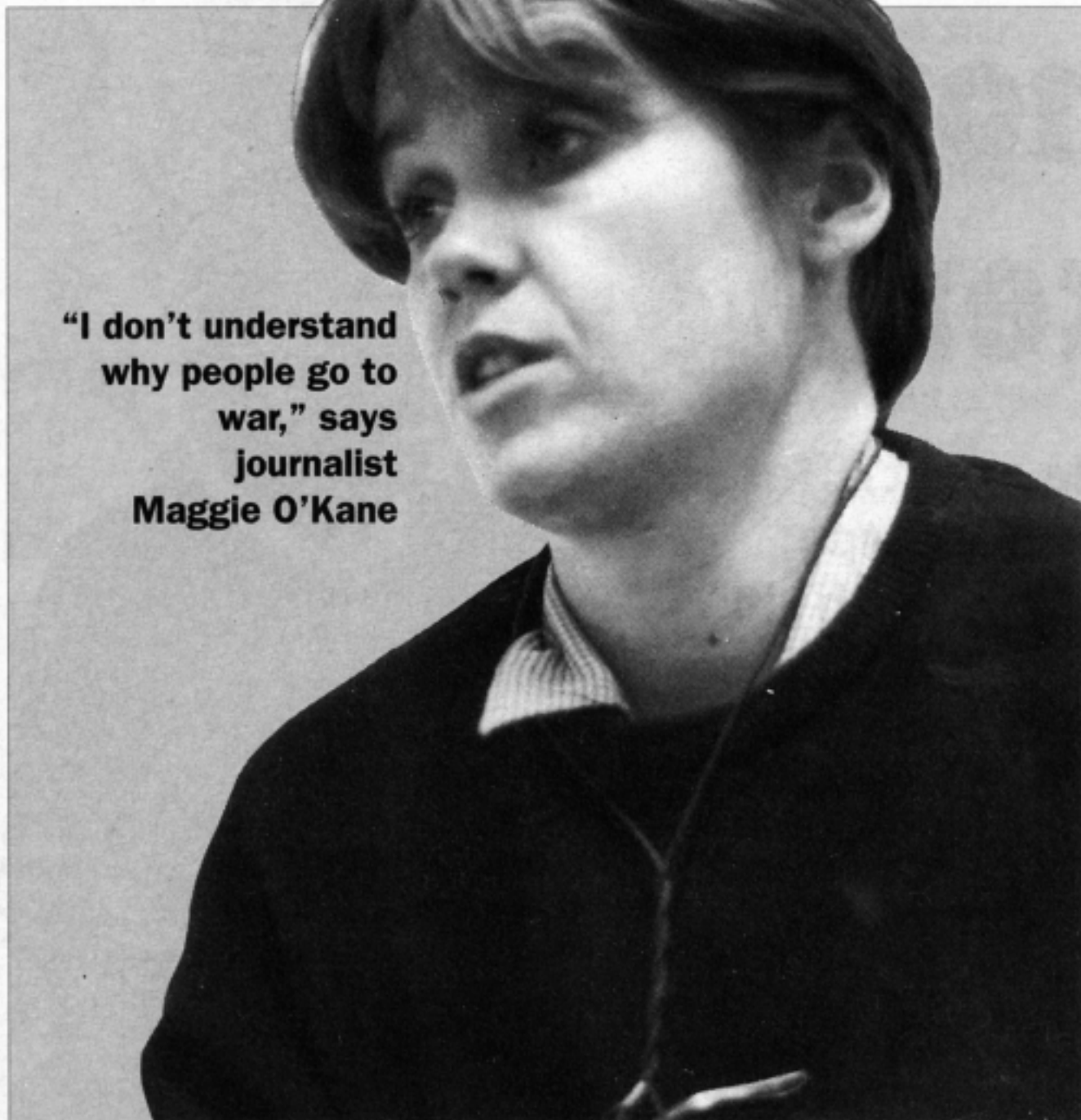
"We can't stop the war, even though we thought we could. But we can improve the situation by letting the world know

what's happening," she added.

"Then if they don't want to act on it, that's not our (journalists) problem."

Like her reporting, O'Kane shows understanding, wisdom, compassion and a healthy dose of realism.

"I have been asked why I write about war in a personal way. Well, it's because those involved in the war, or caught



“I don’t understand why people go to war,” says journalist Maggie O’Kane

up in the war are human beings with names and faces. Those who die are not just casualties of the war but people. I always try to find out the names of those killed,” she told SPEAK.

Born in Ireland 31 years ago, O’Kane started reporting on war to make a living. Tired of working for Irish television and radio, O’Kane quit her job and left for Paris. There she was faced with a choice of starving in overcrowded France or working. O’Kane knew she had to go to cover the Iraqi war.

“I was the only Irish reporter with a visa for Iraq, so the Irish Times asked me to go and report on the Gulf War. After that I reported on Romania, Bulgaria, the Berlin Wall and of course, Bosnia.

“I was very surprised when I won the British Journalist of the Year Award last year

because you don’t have time to think about anything except the story. Even the danger seems to take second place,” she said.

O’Kane is also not intimidated by the lack of women in the profession she has chosen to make her own.

“Of course I get scared, but so do the guys. We judge each other by the same standards.”

Having seen much cruelty and bloodshed, O’Kane said she does not understand why people go to war.

She said the war in Bosnia, like all other wars, was all about power and control.

The world watched in shock when Muslim women reported being raped by Serbian military troops. The troops have undertaken a so-called “ethnic

cleansing” operation by killing Muslim citizens of Bosnia. Muslim women, including girls, have been tortured, raped and sometimes killed. Early this year, two hundred women prisoners who managed to escape the “rape-death” camps said: “Serbian soldiers told us they will rape us until we get pregnant and bear ethnic Serbian children.”

O’Kane said: “I have met many women who are filled with courage. Women never give up trying. Trying to improve the lives of their children, feeding and making a home for them, and keeping the family together.

“It is women who hold everything in place while the men mess things up.

“I’m still shocked by what people can do to each other.

“But as long as I don’t give up and continue to show the horrors of war, I can still make a difference,” she said.

“I want to share a few of my experiences and that’s why I came to South Africa to speak at a conference of the End Conscription Campaign,” she said.

O’Kane shared the same platform as Nelson Mandela. She said proudly of her meeting with ANC president: “This was one of the very special moments in my life, sharing a platform with Nelson Mandela.”

Where to next? “After three years of war reporting, I’d like to take a break,” O’Kane said, before she flew back to war-torn Bosnia. “I’d like to come back to South Africa to report on the elections.” ★

New 'shoes' on the soccer field

Is soccer an all male sport? Not so says Hilda Mmadibe Papo. Sihle Mabusa caught up with this energetic soccer-crazy star

Twenty-year-old soccer star Hilda Mmadibe Papo comes from a soccer-loving family. The family's house in New Eesterus, Hammanskraal, is painted in the colours of Orlando Pirates soccer team. It therefore comes as no surprise that the only woman soccer player in the village is from this "soccer mad" family.

Papo started playing soccer in 1991 and is the only woman soccer player in the village team. All of the teams they play against are made up of male players. But this does not scare her.

"It does not feel strange at all to play in an all male team.

She remembers her very first game: "Because I'm a woman, my opponents were a bit soft on me. I became more daring and actually scored a beautiful goal.

"We won the game," Papo adds smiling.

She admits that she does face problems, though.

"Sometimes when the boys have to go camping to talk about future games, I have to stay behind. But I'm sure that

will change as my teammates realise that I'm a member of the team like everybody else," she says.

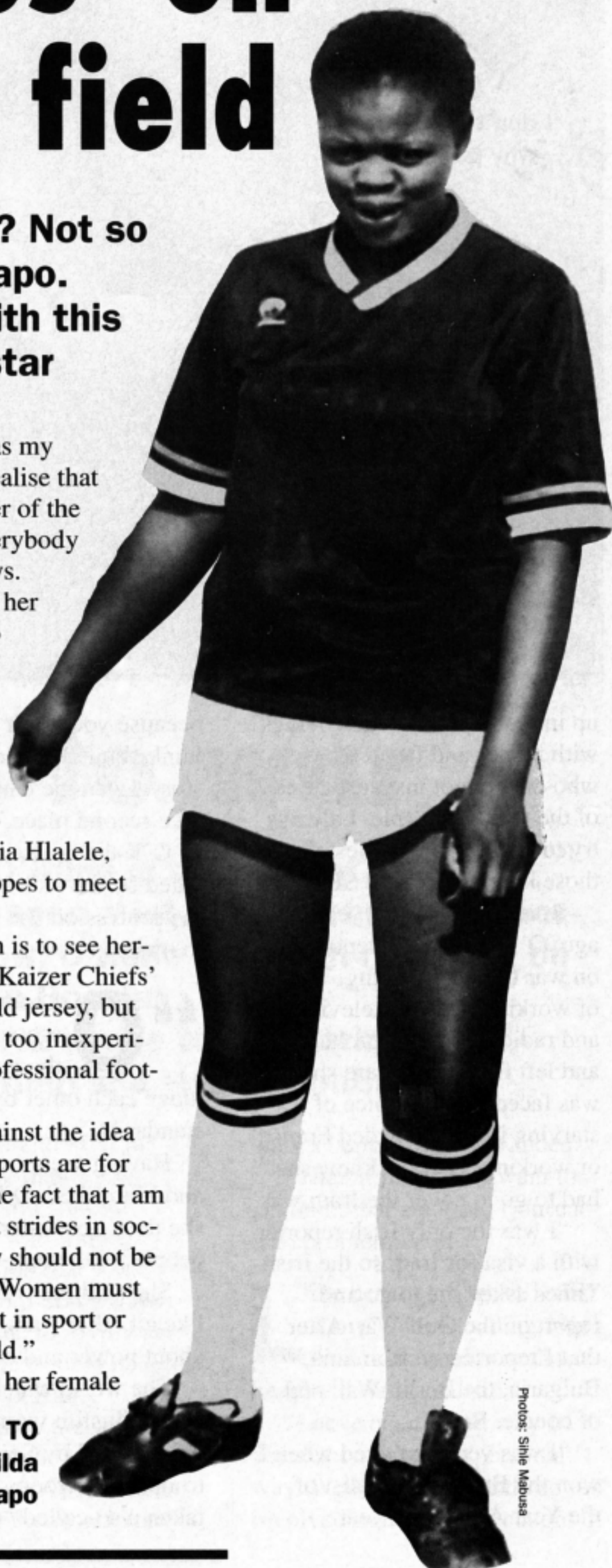
Papo says her inspiration to play soccer comes from her mother and a famous Tembisa soccer star, Gloria Hlalele, whom she hopes to meet one day.

Her dream is to see herself wearing Kaizer Chiefs' black and gold jersey, but admits she is too inexperienced for professional football.

She is against the idea that certain sports are for men only. The fact that I am making great strides in soccer right now should not be seen as odd. Women must go for it, be it in sport or any other field."

Papo says her female

DEDICATED TO SOCCER: Hilda Mmadibe Papo



Photos: Sihle Mabusa



Soccer star Hilda Papo and some of her soccer-mad family members. Even their house is painted in the colours of Orlando Pirates



“The fact that I am making great strides in soccer right now should not be seen as odd. Women must go for it, be it in sport or any other field.”

friends do not find it strange that she plays soccer, and still regard her as “the same old Hilda”.

“They always come and cheer me on, and whenever I score a goal, they regard it as proof that a woman can beat men at this, or any other game,” says the woman with golden feet.

All nine Papo girls are active in sport, though the other eight have not tried playing soccer.

She says her family encourage her to work harder at her game and are proud of her achievements on the field.

Says mother Reginah Papo: “I’m proud that one of my daughters chose to follow in my footsteps. I encourage her

to continue with soccer because it is something worthwhile to do instead of the bad things that bored girls her age would do.”

Papo’s mother played for the women’s side of a team called “Pretoria Bantu Callies”. Her father has been a soccer coach for over 20 years.

All the members of the family are crazy fans of the Buccaneers, except for Papo who loves Kaizer Chiefs.

The only time the family disagrees on anything is when the Buccaneers play against Chiefs. Papo jokingly says that she goes to a neighbour’s house to watch the match on TV because watching it at home “might be dangerous when Chiefs score a goal”.

The family lives in an informal settlement, and the Boputhswana government has

refused to provide water or any other basic facilities. There are no places where young people can meet each other and dance or play sport.

“There is absolutely nothing to entertain ourselves with here.

That is why our family decided to form a soccer team.

My parents give a lot of time and their own money for the team,” adds Papo.

And the response from the community? “It has been wonderful,” she says. “Many people have joined the team and lots more turn up for our games. When the team first started out there were two other female players in the team. But they both dropped out.

The Papo family did not give up and is now trying to attract as many women as possible to start up a female football club.

Says Papo: “A few are already coming. Thrice a week I take them on a jog and we practise passing and marking. We have not played any games yet because we have fewer than the eleven members needed to make up a complete team.”

She is confident their team will get all the players and will soon be competing with other teams.

And her advice to budding soccer stars?

“Practise hard and know where you want to go. I regard our female team’s motto as good advice to all women: ‘Believe in yourself and even the sky won’t stop you’,” she says confidently.

So watch out, John “Shoes” Mosoeu, here comes a young woman who means business. ❁

In this issue we look at the causes of miscarriages and the effects it can have on women

Elizabeth did not plan her pregnancy but when the doctor told her she was pregnant, she was very happy. Eleven weeks later, she had a miscarriage. This was her second miscarriage.

“It felt like there was a war going on in my stomach. I felt so helpless. I really wanted to have the baby. But there was nothing I could do,” she says sadly.

“I cried a lot and felt as if there was something wrong with me. It was worse with my second miscarriage.”

Elizabeth said it was hard for her to hold a new born baby and felt jealous whenever she saw a pregnant woman. She wanted to have a baby so badly but was scared she'd have another miscarriage.

What is miscarriage?

Miscarriage is the name used for the sudden loss of a pregnancy before the foetus can survive on its own. It is one of the most common problems with pregnancy. It is believed that one out of every six pregnancies ends in miscarriage. Sometimes miscarriage happens so early in a pregnancy that it may be thought to be a heavy menstrual period. A miscarriage can be a terrible experience especially after a wanted or planned pregnancy.

Coping with a



Visit your doctor and try to find out the causes for your miscarriage

What causes a miscarriage?

One of the first things a woman may ask after a miscarriage is: “Why did this happen to me?” There may be a number of reasons:

- The foetus may be aborted because there is something wrong with it. It is nature’s way of saying that if the baby had been born, it would not have been healthy;
- There could be problems within a woman’s body such as infections, a weak cervix, or medical problems of some kind;

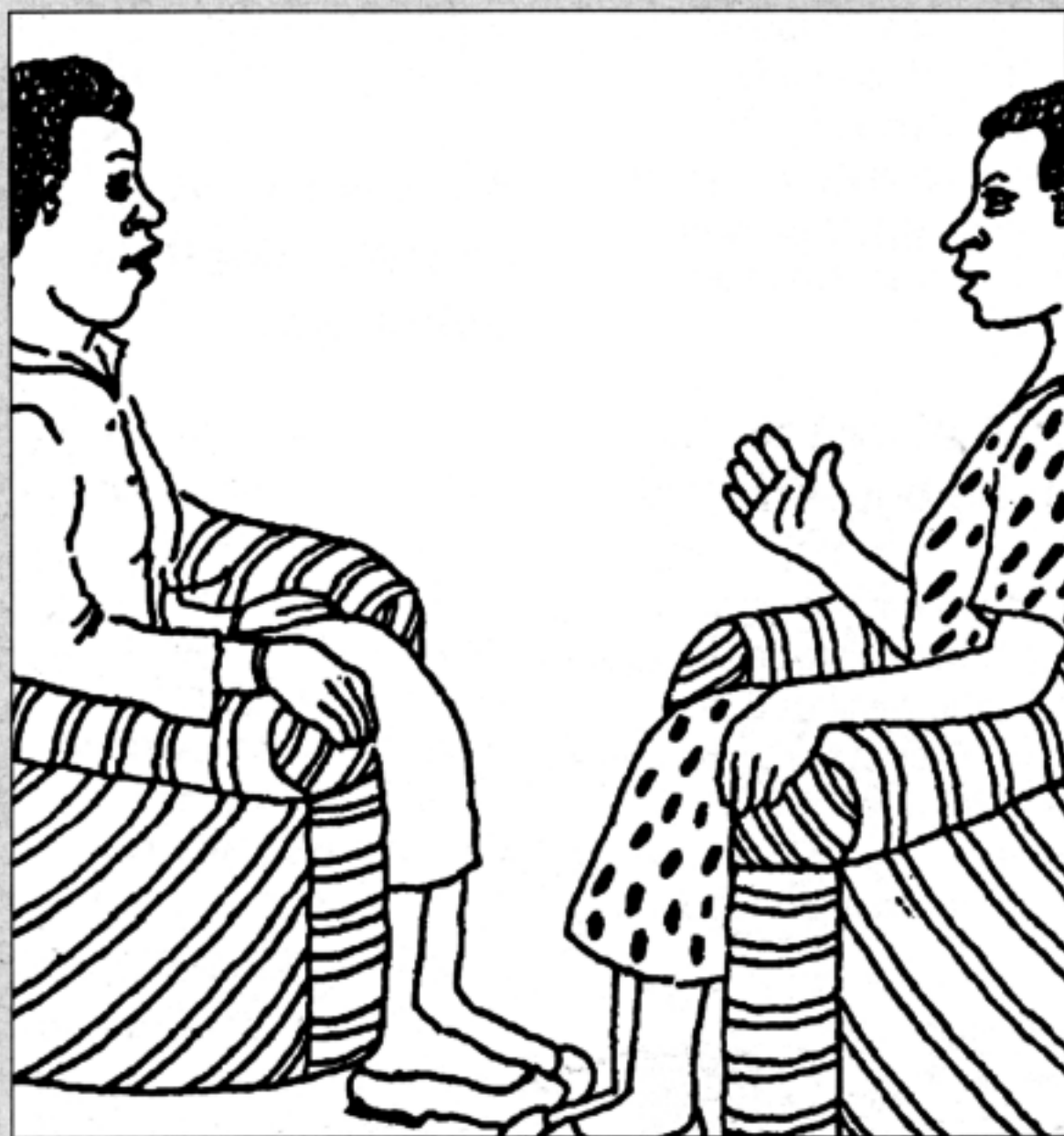
- It may be because the woman has been pregnant many times;
- Hard physical work can cause a miscarriage;
- Smoking, drinking alcohol or taking drugs can bring on a miscarriage;
- Chemicals at home and in the workplace could cause miscarriage.

If it happened once, will it happen again?

Sometimes miscarriages happen for reasons not known or understood.

If you have a miscarriage,

miscarriage



Give yourself time to heal from your loss. Speak to friends about how you feel

try and find out as much as you can about why it happened. Ask your doctor. Remember, you have a right to know.

Even if you have had one or even two miscarriages, it does not mean that you will not be able to carry a baby for the full nine months of pregnancy. Because miscarriage happens quite often, one and even two miscarriages are not seen to be a problem from a medical point of view. A woman who has had a miscarriage can fall pregnant as easily as a woman who has never had a miscarriage. Even

after two miscarriages there is a 70 percent chance of a successful pregnancy. If a woman has had three miscarriages she should have medical tests or a medical examination to find out what the problem is.

What you can do after a miscarriage

The time during and after a miscarriage can be very difficult. Many women feel angry and sad. Often women feel that it was their fault. They may ask themselves: "Did I do something wrong to make this hap-

pen?"

Remember these feelings are normal. If it happens to you, give yourself time to work through your pain. It may help to talk with other people, such as your husband or partner, family members or close friends. You can also contact community organisations for counselling and support.

Getting pregnant after a miscarriage

Trying to get pregnant after a miscarriage is something you should discuss with your doctor. Family members or friends may encourage you to become pregnant soon after a miscarriage. This may not be the best thing for you. Although you may feel your body is ready, it may take much longer to prepare it for getting pregnant again.

The healing time, no matter how long it takes, can be put to good use. Make your body well and strong. Eat proper foods and get plenty of rest and exercise. In this way, you will be well prepared for pregnancy next time. ☺

Resource organisations

■ *The Compassionate Friends provide counselling and support services for women who have had a miscarriage. They have branches in many parts of South Africa. You can call their National Office for more information.*

Telephone: (011) 738 3723 or 728 4451

■ "Share", a volunteer group based in Cape Town, also provides support services. For more information, contact them on: (021) 794 3660

HEALTH BRIEFS

Teenage pregnancies

According to the Department of National Health and Population Development, over 1 million pregnant teenagers visited family planning clinics between 1991 and 1992.

Mental state of women

Different forms of discrimination, poverty and violence has a harmful effect on the mental health of women.

In South Africa, more black women are raising children on their own, with little or no support from the

father of their children and their families. This and the high rate of rape and, emotional and physical violence against women has increased depression and mental illness amongst women.

Cervical cancer can be beaten

One in 46 African women risk getting cancer of the cervix (the neck of the womb). Every year hundreds of women die of the disease.

One of the main reasons

for the high death rate is because women go to the doctor when it is too late.

Cervical cancer can be prevented if women have regular check ups and pap smears.

AIDS is the main cause of death in Bulawayo

Illnesses connected with AIDS are the main cause of death in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. A total of 685 people died of AIDS-related illnesses during this year alone. It is estimated that about 600 000 Zimbabweans are HIV-positive. ★

COMPETITION

Four lucky SPEAK readers stand the chance of winning a beautiful bag from Kenya. Simply answer the question below and send it to SPEAK. You might be our lucky winner!!!

Which organisation does Patricia de Lille represent at the multi-party talks presently being held at the World Trade Centre (see page 5)?

Answer

Name

Address

.....

.....

.....

Postal Code



Send your entry to:
SPEAK magazine
PO Box 261363
Excom 2023
South Africa

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

You could be a lucky winner!!

As a matter of fact...

Johannesburg says no to prostitution

A call for prostitution to be made legal in Johannesburg has been rejected by the city's council.

The proposal was made by the councillor Anchen Dreyer. The council voted 23 for and 17 against. Dreyer said the decision was based on moral outrage and did not come up with any solutions to the problem of prostitution.

"Sex workers are working against great odds as prostitutes are fearful of police traps," she said.

Victory for women at the World Trade Centre

The appointment of two women to the previously all-male planning committee is a small but important victory for women negotiators. One is from the Afrikaner Volksunie and the other from the Transkei government.

Protest against rape

A group of women protesting against the low bail, R200, of two men suspected of rape and sodomy occupied the office of Cape Town attorney general, Frank Khan.

They demanded that Khan personally look into their grievances. Most of the women were members of Rape Crisis and the Black Sash.

Both suspects were first granted bail of R1 000 before it was reduced to R500 and then to R200. Khan said: "I'm aware of the feelings surrounding bail, but the court must consider the rights of the suspect. If the police say they are in favour of bail then there is nothing we can do."



Women warn the ANC

The ANC has been warned that if it does not meet women's demands, they will vote for another party the following election. This was the message given by the national organiser of the ANC Women's League Nosiviwe Maphisa at a meeting held in the Natal Midlands. She said once the ANC was in power it would be expected to protect women against violence, both in the home and outside. If the ANC fails to do this "we will have to look for another party to vote for in the election following the April 27 one," she said.

Is muti poison?

Zimbabwe's traditional healers have been accused of poisoning many of their patients with their traditional medicines. The 'muti' was said to be responsible for many cases of poisoning reported to city hospitals over the past ten years. The blame has, however, been put on patients who take overdoses of the medicines.

TAXI TALK

Call me woman

demands Pamela Ntshanga, a student at Rhodes University, Grahamstown

Watch your television, page through your magazine, listen to your radio, and you will find the blatant use of the word "MAN" to describe the human race, a human being or a person.

You can find it in every corner of the world. There is even a phrase like, "the man on the street", as if it is only men (males) who walk on the streets.

Another famous saying; "man and his relationship with the world", makes one wonder if the "fairer sex" is part of that world. Or does this saying suggest that women just happen to find themselves in the world like a book finds itself on the shelf.

I have to express my dismay at the sexist language our

world uses and the manner in which people have become so used to it. As for myself, I am not about to begin a process which practises discrimination. Infact I will choose to use the

made, man-hour, man-kind, will soon have to be thrown out of our vocabulary.

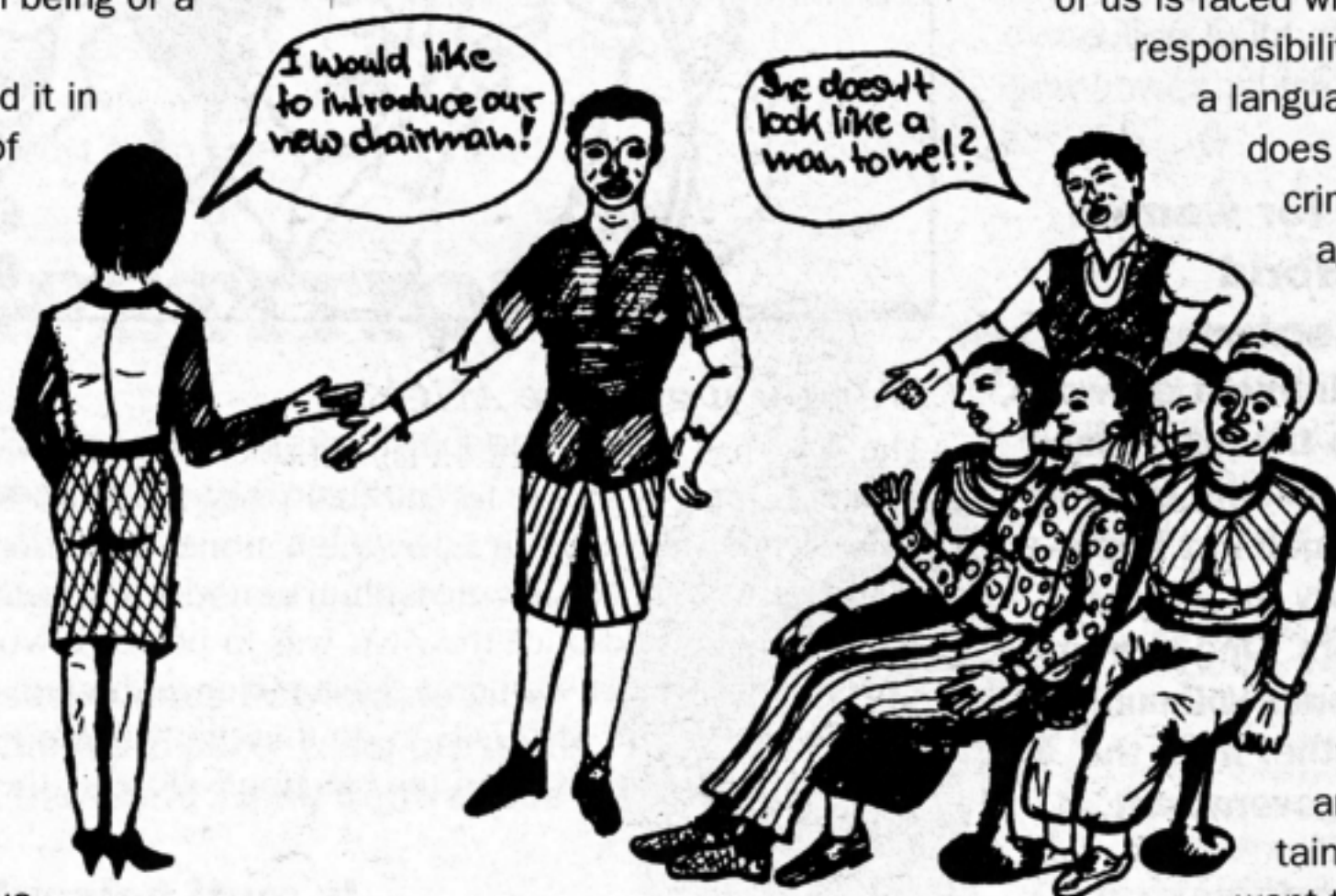
If we desire a non-sexist society, we need to take the usage of language into account. Therefore every one of us is faced with the

responsibility of using a language that does not discriminate against a particular group of people, be it women, gays or children.

I am a woman and I certainly do not want to fall under the "glorious" banner of being

referred to as a "man" when my birth certificate still says I'm a female.

Oh yes "gentlemen" I beg to differ and next time you talk to me don't, I stress don't, forget to call me "woman" for I am — just like you — a citizen of the world. ★



Graphic: Maya Wedenig

term "human being" and other words that are not sexist. However, we have to transform a lot of our English vocabulary in order to tune in with the changing times. Words such as manslaughter, manpower, man-

NOTICES

● Centre for survivors of sexual abuse ●

The Johannesburg Children's home has launched a treatment centre aimed at providing counselling for adult survivors of child sexual abuse. Eight week sessions will be run where those who attend can begin the process of healing themselves.

For further information contact:

Noreen Broomhall at telephone:

(011) 484 3044 or Joan Rubenstein at

(011) 648 1120 during office hours.

● Package for literacy learners ●

The Continuing Education Project (CEP) has brought out library packages to meet the needs of adult learners. The packages have books of fiction and non-fiction stories, and the writings of literacy learners themselves. The books are in English and African languages.

For more information contact

● Worker Services ●

The Farmworkers' Research and Resource Project provides information on how to organise farm workers.

You can get hold of them at:
Fifth Floor, Biccard House
Biccard Street, Braamfontein
Telephone (011) 403 2908

The Industrial Health Unit assists with health and safety issues in the workplace. They also offer free pamphlets and advice.

You can get hold of them at:
The University of Natal
Telephone (031) 816 2441

● All about sexism in the workplace ●

"Sex Discrimination at work" is a book which looks at the discrimination women workers experience in their daily lives. It deals with basic pay, working hours, racial and sexual harassment, lesbianism, women with disabilities, pregnancy and maternity. The book provides guidelines of how workers can negotiate such matters with their bosses.

For your copy, send a R15 postal order to:

Access Books

P O Box 166956

Brackendowns, Alberton

1450

PEACE IS NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ANY ONE PARTY OR GROUP BUT OF ALL OF US.

The time has come for all South Africans, ordinary men and women, to accept responsibility for peace. To make peace with one another. And to make peace with the past.

Because only if we work together can we ensure that the doves of peace live. Live as a symbol of hope for the future. A future characterised not merely by the

absence of strife, but by economic prosperity and social harmony.

But, to make all that the peace emblem symbolizes a reality we need the help of all South Africans.

So if you want to find out how you can use the peace symbol write to: The Peace Office, P.O. Box 785203, Sandton 2146. And help to build peace in our land.



PEACE IN OUR LAND