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Turfloop students leave campus after the university was closed following a six day boycott of lectures.

## The Turf gets rough as students return to class

THE RECENT events at the University of the North (Turfloop) over the detention of two students, have seen the students acting as a united body for the first time since the early 1970's.

At the time of going to print, students had returned to campus after the university closed for ten days following a six day lecture boycott to protest against the detention of Benedicta Monama and Makhosazana Nhlapo. Both had been detained under Section 29 (1) of the Internal Security Act on October 12.

On returning to campus, students held a mass meeting where they decided to end the boycott of classes in the interests of maintaining student unity.

One student said of the decision, "We realised the call for our colleagues' release would not be met, and with exams just around the corner it seemed the only way to avoid division amongst students".

"It would have been strategically more destructive to continue the boycott at this stage", he said.

One report of the meeting said although there seemed to be general agreement to end the boycott, there was a certain amount of dissatisfaction in the way the decision was taken because a number of students had not yet returned to campus.

Some students who disagreed with the decision itself have since stoned the admin buildings.

Another issue that has stirred student anger is the exam timetable. Most students have their major subjects crammed into one day and then a slack period for their less important ones. Students feel admin has deliberately done this so that they can blame failures on the boycott.

The university's closure came after a six-day boycott of lectures following the detentions of Monama and Nhlapo.

They also protested against the fact that two staff members had assisted the Security Police to arrest the two detainees.

A member of the university's security staff was accused of providing the security police with a master key to unlock the hostel room and detain Nhlapo at 3am.

The students said the assistant registrar later pointed out the lecture room where Monama could be found.

The Turfloop rector, Professor Mokgokong confirmed the alleged collaboration of two university employees with the security police but said he was unable to meet student demands for their dismissal or suspension.

The boycott was characterised by active student participation in decision making and a great deal of unity, said an SRC spokesperson.

Each day a mass meeting, coordinated by the SRC, was held. At the start of the boycott, students met in groups to workshop a plan of action and then reported back at a

general meeting. As a result, the following ideas were implemented:

- To send a telex to the Minister of Justice to find out the detainee's situation.
- To march to the admin building with placards every day.
- For law students to run seminars on South African law, particularly security legislation.
- To set up regional committees and elect leaders in case students are expelled. These committees would liaise with the SRC and work to a carefully formulated plan.

The students appealed to the Black Academics Association to "down tools". However after a meeting between some of the Association's members and the SRC, they agreed the BAA would not strike but would help the students in other ways such as by raising funds for legal costs. According to an SRC spokesperson this represents a breakthrough in the relationship between students and staff members.

On Tuesday, October 19, a commemoration meeting was held to mark the fifth anniversary of the banning of organisations and individuals.

On the same day, the rector gave the students an ultimatum to either return to classes by the next day or go home. The students unanimously decided to leave the campus.

The rector then declared that the university would go into recess until

November 1 and exams would start on November 10.

The SRC organised buses to take students to the Pietersburg station and extra coaches for the Johannesburg train. They also tried to arrange rail tickets for students with financial problems.

By 5pm the following day all the students had left the campus. Those from far away places like Namibia and Zimbabwe were accommodated by the church, 35km from the campus.

The students' decision to leave campus rather than return to lectures before their colleagues are either charged or freed is clear sign of unity", said the president of the SRC, George Pathudi.

In support of the student action, Azaso released a statement aligning itself with the boycott and calling on admin to exercise restraint in dealing with the protest and for the immediate release of the two detained students.

On the students decision to return to classes, an Azaso spokesperson said: "We support their decision to go back in unity rather than allow the intransigence of the authorities' actions to fuel division."

He said the exam time-table was of concern as it seemed that the university was going to victimise students in the exams. "This can only lead to further misunderstanding between admin and campus", he said.

## Beyers banned again

PROMINANT POLITICAL and church leader Dr Beyers Naudé has been banned again for three years.

Naudé, former director of the banned Christian Institute, was served his first order restricting him for five years in October 1977.

Although according to the new order Naudé does not have to report to a police station once a week, he is still not allowed to be with more than one person except to attend church services.

Naudé has decided not to make representations to the Minister of Law and Order to review his banning order. His attorney, Raymond Tucker said, "To do this would lend credibility to a charade of justice."

Soon after his banning order was renewed, about 30 members of the Alexandra Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk in Afrika crowded into Naudé's small living room to take part in a service led by the Rev Sam Buti.

Meanwhile, there has been national and international condemnation of Naudé's rebanning. His wife, Ilse Naudé said her husband had received a stream of support messages from South Africa and overseas.

In a press statement, Nusas said there could be no justification for the rebanning of its honorary president "We strongly condemn the state's action in reimposing these harsh restrictions on a man who has dedicated his life to working for a free and democratic South Africa", said the statement.

Naudé is the nominated honorary Nusas president but because of his banning order he is prevented by law from accepting this position. Nusas has symbolically left the position empty.

On October 19, 1977, Naudé and seven others were banned, many people detained, and 18 organisations including the Christian Institute were declared illegal.

Among the seven others banned at the same time as Naudé, was Rev David Russel of the Anglican Church, whose banning order has been lifted.

In a public statement Russel saluted Naudé as well as Father Smangaliso Makathswa and Dr Ramphelo who remain banned. "Such people have the grace of an inner freedom which cannot be confined," he said.

"But more vivid in my mind is a recent picture in the press of a mother with a child on her back, scrambling into a van after a pass raid arrest, trying desperately to hold onto her baby's bottle of milk."

"Let us remember that millions of South Africans are being hounded like her, restricted and banned in their own land. When such things are being done, you can be quite sure, banned or unbanned, we will not rest."

## Board lifts distribution ban on Nusas book

THE DISTRIBUTION ban on "Campus Action for Democracy", a booklet introducing the 1982 Nusas theme to students, has been lifted after Nusas won its appeal at a Publications Board hearing.

The booklet, aimed at students on Nusas-affiliated campuses, focuses on education in South Africa covering issues such as the role of universities, segregation in education and the 1976 and 1980 school boycotts.

Reasons given by the publications committee for the booklet's banning included:

- Placing members of the SAP in a bad light
- Representing the ANC as the only organisation which had and has the interests of blacks at heart
- Quoting the Freedom Charter
- Showing anti-capitalist tendencies

The decision to find a publication undesirable rests on the publications committee, an anonymous body appointed solely by the minister concerned. If the publishers want to contest a ban, the appeal is heard before the Publications Appeal Board. Because the committee's reasons for banning the publication are not binding on the Appeal Board, the Board can refuse to unban it for other reasons. This puts a great deal of power in the Appeal Board's hands.

Gilbert Marcus, defence attorney for Nusas, argued that the committee's reasons for the ban were insufficient.

Mere criticism of the police could not threaten South African society, he said, and the term "brutal repression" was a "fair comment" as it related specifically to security legislation, detentions, bannings and trials.

The booklet's description of June

**B**UT all of these initiatives fail to reflect the real needs and demands of the majority of South Africans.

"Campus Action for Democracy" therefore calls on democratic students to respond to this crisis and to put forward democratic demands:



Most importantly, we must begin to gear our universities to a South African future. We must begin to work out now what role they should play in working for change in South Africa and ultimately, what the role of the universities should be in that democratic future.

A page from "Campus Action for Democracy"

1976 as a "massacre" was a "valid perception" of a most tragic event in South Africa's history.

Marcus argued that the booklet's treatment of the ANC was historical and descriptive rather than propagandist. He said there were contradictions in the committee's allegations that the ANC tried to present itself as having only "the interests of blacks at heart" and yet later claims the organisation pretends to have "the interests of the majority at heart".

Marcus pointed to a survey conducted by the Johannesburg daily newspaper, *The Star*, which had showed widespread support for

the ANC. Of four political movements (Inkatha, Azapo, PAC, ANC), the ANC had easily topped the poll as having the most widespread support, and imprisoned ANC leader Nelson Mandela as the most popular leader. In this light, according to *The Star*, the ANC could legitimately be called the only "national party".

He further agreed that extracts from the Freedom Charter could in no way be dangerous to the state's security and that the committee's allegations that the booklet contained "half truths, distortions and blatant lies" was totally unsubstantiated.

## Students must use media to press ahead

STUDENTS MUST use the student press to fight for ideas they think are important and to expose campus to the injustices around them.

This was said by the newly elected University of Cape Town (UCT) SRC president Anton Richman in an election campaign speech.

He said many UCT students would go through university not understanding the issues surrounding the strikes, community struggles and widespread unrest that are so much part of this country and having little idea of what demands for a future society are being made by South Africa's majority. It was

the duty of the student press to guard against this situation.

He argued that although students often defiantly claim that the state can never ban ideas, it does attempt to prevent these from spreading. "The state increasingly restricts the information that can be legally reported and through banning leaders and publications whose ideas seriously challenge the status quo, the political spectrum is narrowed."

Richman, ex-*Varsity* editor and Saspu vice-president stood as an independent left-wing candidate and topped the election poll receiving 45 percent of the votes cast.

The new SRC was elected on a 37 percent poll 11 percent up on last year's results and marks the sixth consecutive year that the predominantly left-wing SRC has taken up office at UCT.

While a broad range of topics was discussed during the election, the three areas of particular focus were the role of the student press democracy in the university and the militarisation of South African society.

An "Action on Education" group added a new dimension to the election, applying the 1982 Nusas theme "Campus Action for Democracy" to the question of student say in decisions affecting their education.

They hammered the complete lack of student representation on staff selection and promotion committees and the bias towards research skills over teaching skills in this selection.

The group stressed that the most important ingredient for success in affecting changes, whether at a course level or within the university as a whole, is the united action of students.

The candidates challenged students to examine what role their education equips them to play, whose needs it serves and whether students are going to be able to use it to meet the needs of the majority of South Africans.

Students were called upon to assess the relevance of their courses to the South African situation and the extent to which particularly science, engineering and commerce courses are tailor-made to suit the needs of industry and big business with little regard to fulfilling broader social needs.

Another important election issue was the fear that the SADF might attempt to establish a military unit on UCT's campus as these exist on all the Afrikaans campuses. The potential of the campus unit being used to crush student activity would also constitute a major threat to academic freedom.

Furthermore, the potential establishment of military units on the campus was seen as part of the creeping militarization of everyday South African life. Attempts to develop a war psychosis through propaganda about the "total onslaught" from outside our borders were rejected.

Throughout the campaign the left wing candidates emphasised the importance of students finding ways to use our skills to help build a democratic SA. However democracy was not simply defined as one person one vote, but as an ongoing process of extending people's say over all aspects of their lives in the workplace, in the communities and in the schools and universities.

## Paddock jailed for refusing to do army training

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR, Billy Paddock has been sentenced to a year's imprisonment in a civilian jail for refusing to serve in the SADF.

"The war on this country's borders is unjust, and it is impossible for a Christian to take part in an unjust war", he said. It was for this reason that he refused to do military service.

Unlike previous conscientious objectors, Paddock does not believe in pacifism. Although he abhors violence he does not reject it per se, he said in an interview.

Paddock is a committed Christian and a former Student Representative Council vice-president from the University of Natal.

During his trial, the president of the court martial ordered that when he has completed his jail sentence he will be discharged with ignominy from the South African Defence Force.

Meanwhile, another conscientious objector, Neil Mitchell has been sentenced to an additional six months for refusing to wear a brown overall which "would identify him with the military".

Mitchell is presently serving one year in detention barracks for refusing to do national service. He will serve the extra six months in a civilian jail.

The incident arose after Mitchell refused to replace his blue overall with a brown overall. The blue overalls were worn by Jehovah Witness conscientious objectors while the brown overalls were regarded as military dress.

Shortly before he was sentenced, Mitchell told the court his career as a teacher would be jeopardised if he were sent to a civilian jail because persons with a criminal record were barred from teaching.

Mitchell was also discharged "with ignominy" from the SADF.

An all day vigil was held on Sunday October 17 for conscientious objectors and detainees at the Catholic Cathedral in Johannesburg.

It was organised by people involved in the Johannesburg Conscientious Objection Support Group and included speeches on various aspects of the military and detention.

## Westville students unite over canteen grievances — and win

A TWO-WEEK boycott by University of Durban-Westville students of the campus' privately-owned canteen ended in victory with student demands for cheaper and higher quality food and to continue their radio service being met.

The boycott, called by the SRC and joined by 5,000 students, was started because constant student demands for an improved canteen service were being ignored by the canteen's manager.

A student spokesperson said: "We have been plagued by a cafe that was always in a filthy condition and charged unjustifiably high prices for a very limited choice of food."

"The final crunch", she said "came with the manager's attitude to the SRC's radio station."

The radio station, Audwax, which was launched in June this year, came to a standstill after the cafe manager sabotaged the sound system by cutting the wires and demanding that the SRC remove the equipment from the canteen.

This sparked off the campus-wide boycott and the cafe stood empty for two weeks.

Because the canteen is the only food outlet on campus, the SRC started providing an alternative service.

When UDW's admin tried to stop the SRC from selling food, students saw this as an attempt to crush the boycott. An SRC member said: "Although the boycott was aimed at private business, the university authorities stepped in to take the



The Durban-Westville canteen stands empty during the food boycott that ended in student demands being met

manager's part, showing once again that they do not have the students' interests at heart."

After a heated meeting between the SRC and admin, the SRC managed to secure the use of the room being used to sell food and to continue this service.

The SRC representative said: "The cafe manager's contribution to break the boycott was a pathetic pamphlet that convinced nobody but himself. What it convinced us of was his desperation and our imminent victory."

After student demands were agreed on by the manager, a mass meeting of the students resolved to end the boycott.

This is not the first time that UDW students have fought for improved canteen conditions. In 1975 students spontaneously boycotted the canteen for several months, finally forcing the manager to close the cafe.

The canteen victory is the second successful campaign undertaken by the SRC this year. Earlier, as a follow up to the 1981 boycott of exams, the SRC was successful in its demands that exams should not be written on June 16.

An SRC spokesperson said these two successes had shown that "we can only succeed if we are united, disciplined and organised."

A CONSUMER boycott, press publicity and student involvement seem to have had the desired effect in that the management of Veldspun International in Uitenhage have offered to re-employ 214 of more than 1,000 workers fired in August.

They were dismissed when they downed tools after the sacking of colleagues who refused to do the work of retrenched workers.

Since the sacking effectively reduced almost all National Union of Textile Workers (NUTW) strength in the plant, the employer refused to hold talks with the union on the issue.

The union then launched a campaign to expose the unfair

## Barlow begins to sew the seams in textile dispute

practices of Barlow Rand subsidiaries such as Veldspun (through its holding in Romatex), and the starvation wages being paid and sufficiently embarrassed the group for it to start negotiations on the issue.

The managements have come up with an offer to re-employ 214 of those dismissed, which has been conditionally accepted by the

workers.

However, the workers are insisting that the managements stick to a verbal agreement that they provide the union with a list of those to be accepted back.

The management have said they will not do this, but will instead inform the 214 themselves.

The workers obviously feel that those who have been vociferous and

militant will be victimised.

There is also confusion as to whether shop stewards will be among those taken back, and it is believed they will be among the first casualties.

Meanwhile at Wits University where Barlow Rand chairperson Mike Rosholt is the university's chancellor, students are still campaigning around the issue.

The SRC's Economic Research Commission has put out an information booklet, "The Rosholt Connection" and a campus meeting was held where NUTW organiser John Copeland addressed students. The meeting was meant to take the form of debate but Barlow Rand turned down an SRC invitation to participate because "students had prejudged the issue". Barlow also dismissed the information booklet as "biased and misleading" and "bristling with inaccuracies".

Recently, at the Chancellor's lecture, students handed out pamphlets calling for Rosholt's immediate personal intervention in the dispute.

## Hogan verdict spreads treason net — lawyers

TOP LAWYERS have sharply criticised the ten year sentence imposed on Barbara Ann Hogan, the first white woman to be convicted of high treason in South Africa.

Hogan's family and friends sat in stunned silence in the Rand Supreme Court this week as Justice A P van Dyk sentenced her to 10 years for high treason and four years for being a member of the ANC. The sentences are to run concurrently, effectively jailing her for ten years.

Hogan was refused leave to appeal, but her lawyers are to petition the chief justice for permission to appeal.

The trial has attracted

considerable attention as it is the first time membership of the banned ANC has resulted in a charge of high treason when not accompanied by acts of violence.

Hogan admitted to joining the ANC in 1977, meeting and holding discussions with ANC officials and supplying them with information on labour matters.

According to lawyers, this now means that ANC membership is in itself an act of treason, since it denotes identifying with the overall aims of the organisation.

Prof John Dugard, director of the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at Wits University, said he would have expected the judge to be more compassionate as this was a test case.

"In my view, the sentence is excessive" he said.

Prof Johan van der Vyfer, president of the Lawyers for Human rights organisation, said in principal he was against the whole idea that the right to appeal could be refused.

Dr Mike Rosholt, chancellor of Wits University where Hogan was a Masters student, attacked her jail sentence at the prestige Chancellors Lecture on Thursday night.

"Barbara Hogan's actions were unlawful, but did not involve the use of violence and were motivated by a desire for social justice in South



Outside the Johannesburg Supreme Court after Barbara Hogan was sentenced, her parents (front right and left) stand with a crowd of supporters

Africa," he said, shortly before introducing guest speaker Dr Robert McNamara, immediate past president of the World Bank and former US secretary of defence.

Passing judgement, Justice van Dyk rejected Hogan's claim that she had not identified with the ANC's use of violence and that she had not had the "hostile intent" that constituted treason.

By joining the ANC and committing acts that helped to achieve the main aims of the ANC to overthrow the government, she was guilty of a conspiracy to commit high treason.

The judge said she had carried out orders with enthusiasm and dedication. He was satisfied she realised that the ANC was, and still is, "waging a minor civil war" in South Africa.

Addressing the court in mitigation of Hogan's sentence, her advocate, George Bizos, asked the court to bear in mind how little she

had done to further aims of the ANC. "Persons are punished for their own acts, not for the nature of their conspiracy." He said one of the documents written by Hogan, "Problems arising in internal political work", which she sent to the ANC but which was intercepted by the security police, was actually a complaint that the ANC had left her out in the cold without sufficient instructions.

The type of documents and academic articles she had sent the ANC were readily available and did not contain sensitive information on strategic installations such as Koeberg or the television tower.

"Treason is a serious offence, but there is treason and treason," said Bizos.

He added that a heavy sentence would not have any reformatory effect as it would not change Hogan's view that we live in an unjust society.

J A Swanepoel, for the state, said a heavy sentence was needed to serve as a deterrent.

"There has been an escalation of ANC activities and as the situation worsens, so sentences will have to increase to serve as a deterrent," he said.

Swanepoel added that society had to be protected not only by security forces, but by deterrent sentences passed by the courts.

Commenting after the trial, one of her friends said he did not think the sentence would deter the white left.

"People act from firmly held political beliefs, and this won't deter them. But it may create a context where they reassess their activities."

He said he thought the authorities had used Hogan's case as a show trial. He believed the decision to charge her with high treason was a political one as similar acts to those Hogan had committed had been less severely dealt with.

## "Be strong and stop this crying"

"BE STRONG and stop all this crying," Barbara Hogan, 30, told her family as she left the Rand Supreme Court to begin her ten year jail sentence for treason.

Moments before, she had given a clenched fist salute to the packed public gallery and shouted "Amandla".

She wore the colours of the ANC and carried a bunch of yellow flowers given to her by friends who also wore yellow flowers in their lapels and dresses.

Outside the courtroom, her sister, Sally Hogan said, "We feel that she in no way could be a traitor. It's a tragedy that someone like this, who is on the side of the majority of South Africans, should be treated like this."

Hogan's ten year sentence means Barbara will be 40 when she is released, as political prisoners get no remission of sentence for good behaviour or first offences.

As South Africa's only white woman political prisoner, it is uncertain where Barbara will be jailed.

Her sister Sally said she would use the time to study and do another BA degree.

## Cosas spring school brings pupils together

EXTRA TUITION for students in the pre-exam period forms part of the broad programme of the Congress of South African Students (COSAS).

Recently the Cape Town branch of Cosas organised a spring school for Std 8, 9 and 10 students. The school was held at Spes Bona Secondary School in Athlone and organised with the SRC of that school.

The subjects offered were English, Afrikaans, History, Maths and Biology. Teachers were drawn in from several of the Peninsula's

schools.

Registration started late in September and students were asked for a 50 cents donation to cover costs.

Over 120 students gathered in the quadrangle on the first morning, some accompanied by parents.

Lessons, due to start on Tuesday morning, were interrupted by the arrival of a Coloured Affairs Department Inspector. He told students that only Spes Bona students were allowed to use the school. He also ordered all posters mentioning Cosas to be removed.



Cosas president, Shepherd Mati

He then called in the vice-principal and the Community Development official. This resulted in the vice principal and inspector having to "look after" the school for the rest of the week.

Nonetheless the spring school went ahead and lessons, though delayed, continued until Friday.

Discussions were held by students on the needs and ways to organise and to create companionship between students, responsibility and understanding.

Students on the whole felt the school had been helpful towards their studies and particularly worthwhile in giving them the opportunity to meet with students from other areas.

## Cosas denies any links with Afrikaner Student body

AN OFFICIAL representative of the Congress of South African Students has denied a commercial press report that a Cosas delegate attended the Polstu conference.

Polstu, the verlig student body that formed after a breakaway from the conservative Afrikaanse Studente Bond, reportedly claimed that Cosas had attended their conference in Stellenbosch.

"We didn't receive an invitation to their conference," said the Cosas spokesperson, "and even if we had, we would have refused to attend. We strongly dissociate ourselves from anyone who might have attended the conference claiming to be a Cosas rep."

He said Cosas policy did not allow any working relations with liberals or liberal organisations, whether black or white.

"Our policy is unambiguous on organisations which do not fight for genuine change in South Africa. We do not work with them."

"We believe in the fundamental change wanted by the majority of people and so will only work with individuals or organisations whose aims are the same as ours", he said.

## Women mustn't be passive

A GLARING lack of participation by women in the Black Students' Society has led to the formation of the BSS Women's Group.

"We see the lack of involvement of women students as largely due to the fact that women have been socialised into particular roles and have been forced to accept their subservient position in society as natural," said one member of the group.

"We think that the 'special

disabilities' that women experience can, to a large extent, be overcome through political involvement. We hope that leadership qualities and confidence develop in women through their work in the BSS Women's Group."

The group takes up national issues such as National Women's Day, August 9; as well as questions on Feminism and its relevance to the struggle in South Africa. The group is also part of all other general BSS

projects. Its aims are:

- To take up issues affecting women on campus and in society.
- To educate women and men about issues concerning women and to mobilise around them.
- To encourage campus women to play a more relevant role in community struggles.
- To work towards the elimination of sexist attitudes.
- To work with other relevant and progressive organisations.

# Rising prices in the nation's bread leads to protest

THE VALUES instilled in students through their education and the kind of economics taught at universities could make them see the recent bread hike as an unavoidable reality beyond the state's control part of a worldwide recession.

This was said by Tiego Mosenke, a BSS member, at a Wits meeting organised by the Black Students Society to protest against the bread price rise.

"I vehemently oppose this kind of rationale", he said. "It is national

## Rape Crisis Centre opens in Jo'burg

JOHANNESBURG'S FIRST Rape Crisis Centre opened in Randburg last month.

The Randburg Rape Crisis Centre, established by Penny Dean and Eliza Lotriet, held its first training session for volunteer counsellors on October 9 and 10.

Due to lack of publicity, only three people attended the session. The Centre needs far more support to maintain the 24-hour counselling service it offers.

It is the first organisation in Johannesburg to deal exclusively with sexual assaults and rape victims. It gives legal and medical advice to victims and plans to increase public awareness about rape.

Penny Dean, who counselled rape victims in Pietermaritzburg for five years, said: "There are many myths about rape — that it is a crime of passion, that women provoke men and ask to be raped and that rapists are insane."

"Rape is an assault," she said. "It is motivated by feelings of anger, aggression or inadequacy. It is a way of solving a problem violently and women are usually the victims because they are weaker than men."

According to NICRO statistics, South Africa has one of the highest rape incidence in the world. It is estimated that a rape occurs every 2.7 minutes, but that less than 20 per cent of the victims report the rape.

Penny said these statistics reflect the intense aggression in South African societies and show the problem demands serious action.

All volunteer counsellors are women because it is thought victims respond better to women. "After the trauma of rape a woman responds badly to a man. She feels violated and vulnerable."

But she appealed for support from men and women who are able to contribute in any way, whether professional or simply people who care.

Anyone interested in helping or who would like to talk to Penny should phone 726-6602 or 726-6706, code 900.

## Guess who went to dinner

THE NUSAS National Executive has dismissed Professor Gavin Stewart, head of Rhodes University's journalism department, from his position as Nusas honorary vice-president.

This follows a build-up of controversy over Stewart's invitation to the Newspaper Press Union Centenary conference at Grahamstown's 1820 Settler monument.

Stewart, amidst widespread student criticism, insisted on attending the conference banquet on

policy, it is deliberate. It is deliberate National Party policy."

Bread is the staple food for most South Africans, he said, because poorer people depend on it as they can't afford much else.

He quoted statistics from a survey held before the bread increase which showed a high infant mortality rate from malnutrition.

"The increase in the bread price is also accompanied by rises in all other vital commodities and services meat, paraffin, milk and rents."

Most South Africans receive wages way below the value of their labour and their meagre pay is further eaten away by gross over-taxation, inflation, transport costs and high rents for matchbox houses, he said. "Our people will not starve. They see and resent this and they will stubbornly refuse to be relegated to a pig level existence."

He said that the government, through its wheat board, was raising the price of bread to pander to its voters, the white farmers, at the expense of the people.

"The white farming sector which is protected at such a costly price has a long history of dispossession and exploitation. They pay poor wages and assault farm labourers."

"There is another far more devastating reason for the unending increases" he said. "The latest government plan is co-option. It plans to rid urban South Africa of the labour industry doesn't need. The remaining black minority will be granted good jobs, training and amenities and maybe a represen-

tative like Thebehali in parliament one day."

Black university students were vulnerable to this co-option and so needed to make a concerted effort to resist the roles for which they were trained by the university.

He listed three ways in which, he said, the government tries to keep people out of the urban areas:

- By making heavy cutbacks in providing housing and leaving this to the private sector which will

provide housing only the black middle class can afford;

- Through using the proposed Orderly Movement of Black Persons Bill;
- By increasing the cost of living in urban areas to ridiculous heights — bread being one of the main items.

He told the audience that campaigns to oppose the bread price have already been started in Natal and the Cape. "They want better education and housing and a higher standard of living", he said.

He said that while there were positive aspects to this response, there are other factors to bear in mind. "Firstly, before the Extension of University Education Act was passed in 1959, our campuses were far from open."

"Opening doors to all means that it is still only the privileged members of society who will be able to afford, or have the necessary schooling, to attend. It will do nothing to correct the imbalances which have been created in this country over the past 300 years."

"Secondly," he said, "the universities are presently geared to serving the existing status-quo by training people to fill positions in the existing power structures."

"Over the past few years, however, students have been calling for a democratic education whose aim will be to serve the entire South African community and not just the small group which presently holds power."

"The call for opening universities is only a positive one if it is seen as the first step towards the total democratisation of our universities."

After Stewart refused to respond to the ultimatum, the SRC proposed to Nusas that Stewart be immediately and summarily dismissed from his position.

Each year the symbolic position of honorary vice-president is granted by Nusas to those who have played a particularly supportive role to the national union.

The Nusas executive decided to meet the SRC proposal and immediately removed Stewart from this symbolic position.



The staple food for most people is becoming a luxury

tative like Thebehali in parliament one day."

He said that while there were positive aspects to this response, there are other factors to bear in mind. "Firstly, before the Extension of University Education Act was passed in 1959, our campuses were far from open."

"Opening doors to all means that it is still only the privileged members of society who will be able to afford, or have the necessary schooling, to attend. It will do nothing to correct the imbalances which have been created in this country over the past 300 years."

"Secondly," he said, "the universities are presently geared to serving the existing status-quo by training people to fill positions in the existing power structures."

"Over the past few years, however, students have been calling for a democratic education whose aim will be to serve the entire South African community and not just the small group which presently holds power."

"The call for opening universities is only a positive one if it is seen as the first step towards the total democratisation of our universities."

After Stewart refused to respond to the ultimatum, the SRC proposed to Nusas that Stewart be immediately and summarily dismissed from his position.

Each year the symbolic position of honorary vice-president is granted by Nusas to those who have played a particularly supportive role to the national union.

The Nusas executive decided to meet the SRC proposal and immediately removed Stewart from this symbolic position.

but will have small satellite campuses in Port Elizabeth, Bloemfontein and Soweto and also on existing campuses.

"While maintaining the segregation of the universities, it offers an initial solution to the shortage of skilled labour," said Joffe. "It's fragmented nature deprives students of a base from which to organise and articulate their opposition to the present South African system."

Joffe also looked at the response of the "liberal", English-speaking universities to the education crisis. They have rejected the establishment of Vista and once again called for open universities.

He said that while there were positive aspects to this response, there are other factors to bear in mind. "Firstly, before the Extension of University Education Act was passed in 1959, our campuses were far from open."

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# New SRC elected on high poll

ONE OF the main priorities of the newly-elected SRC at the University of the Western Cape is to build up the democratic organisation on the campus and draw as many people as possible into its activities.

After an SRC meeting to formulate general policy, a mass meeting in the form of a report-back was held on campus.

The new SRC, elected on a high thirty-six percent poll, stated that it sees students as being "an integral part of the democratic movement in South Africa. The SRC's role is to facilitate their full participation in this movement through educational programmes and taking part in campaigns"

SRC president Vernon Stevens said the SRC needed to be built as an organisation involving the majority of students in its sub-committees and other activities.

Other SRC members announced several new committees and urged student participation in them.

- A publications committee aims to produce a regular newsletter to inform students about SRC activities and other issues.

- A faculty committee aims to investigate forming student faculty councils where course content, teaching methods and academic staff could be assessed. Hopefully, through these councils, students will be able to critically confront and take up grievances related to ethnic education.

- A campus committee will have general functions such as facilitating booking venues and receiving complaints about the cafeteria.

Moirá Marais, co-ordinator of the new women's committee, said while campus activity had in the past been marked by militancy, there was also a noticeable lack of women's participation.

She pointed to the audience where men easily outnumbered the women present. "This is not a true reflection of the student population" she said.

She said this was not accidental but lay in the way society shaped the consciousness of women. "Women have been conditioned to be passive and so they are reluctant to participate."

She sees one of her roles on the SRC as catering for involving more women in activities. A first step to this is initiating the women's committee to involve women students in campus issues that are important to them.

The new SRC also endorsed the previous SRC's general policy and said it aimed to "strengthen ties with our national black students organisation, Azaso."

## Cosas two still missing

THE FAMILIES of Siphiso Mtimkulu and Peter Lengene have still not been able to trace their sons.

Siphiso Mtimkulu (21), a Cosas member and SRC president of his school in Port Elizabeth, has been missing since April. He is a former detainee who is suing the Minister of Police for R150,000 for allegedly being poisoned while in detention.

The whereabouts of Peter Lengene, a former member of the banned Soweto Students Representative Council has been a mystery since he was allegedly kidnapped from Botswana and brought to South Africa at the beginning of this year.

The police say they have since released him and he is living with relatives in Soweto. However his mother has not seen or heard from him.



Durban 1980: another student boycott in protest against this country's education system

# Dark sarcasm in the classroom

**PASSING KNOWLEDGE** from one human being to another is the cornerstone of our progress. And the more sophisticated society becomes, the greater the need for facts and ideas to be properly passed on.

Today, we entrust this responsibility to schools and teachers, in the hope that they will see to it that we are properly prepared to make our contribution to the common good. Well, that's what it's supposed to be anyway.

"Our Geography teacher, Mr More, is lazy and he can't teach. All he does is read from the textbook, and sometimes he explains difficult words. We might as well read the book ourselves."

\*This and all other quotes are from black school children in Alexander and Soweto.

In the early days, of course, people would be taught by their parents or other older people they knew. The teaching was part and parcel of the personal relationship between pupil and teacher, one which took the pupil's own needs into account insofar as what knowledge was necessary.

The first casualty of an institutionalised education system, and the first problem it has to overcome, is the end of that relationship.

How to develop each pupil's unique potential as a human being, both for their as well as society's benefit, should be the primary concern of every teacher.

"I left Alexandra High because my teachers were lazy. They did not come to classes."

When people have little or no say in the way they are taught, education soon stops being a healthy interchange of ideas with the teacher as guide and tends towards authoritarian schooling. "Schooling" is a term coined by American educationist Ivan Illich to describe a system where pupils are disciplined into a model their educators deem fit for them. Sadly, this seems to be the tendency in South Africa, especially as regards black education.

"There are a lot of beatings and assaults. Teachers sjambok pupils violently for small things, like uniforms. In the morning, some teachers spend their time in the yard, waiting for late-comers whom they want to beat up."

Before winning hearts and minds came into vogue, South African education authorities were quite explicit in adopting the schooling philosophy. Verwoerd, as minister for black education, was being completely honest when he said his department was preparing blacks to be useful labourers and nothing else. Unfortunately for Bantu Education, their honesty led to open rebellion in 1976 and, after this had been violently crushed, attempts to defuse the situation were hastily made.

## "We would be happy with education under a tree, if it were real education"



Not much has changed since the 1976 riots. School students are still questioning the form and content of their education

Bantu Education was given a facelift and a new name and some tools of the trade were refurbished, extra funds having been found to provide schools and equipment. The response of pupils has been unenthusiastic, to say the least.

"Bricks won't hide Bantu Education. A school is not a matter of bricks and cement. It is made of human beings and the relations between them. If these relations

were being rebuilt, we would be excited."

Despite the grand machinations in the corridors of the Department of Education and Training (DET), the daily lives of black pupils remain those of servants to a system in which they have no say and little interest. If the civil servants who determine who shall be taught and what they shall be taught would take the time to listen, they would find a

situation as unhappy as that which led to the debacle of 1976. And if they looked beyond the desire to produce subservient labourers they would have the answer too.

"A certain boy I know made a speech on 'What I want to be and why'. He said he wanted to be a teacher because there was a lot wrong with teaching at school and he would improve matters. It was partly a joke. His teacher was

furiously and threatened to get the boy expelled."

The DET's disciplinarian approach has undoubtedly filtered through to the teachers who apply Departmental policy. Pupils are forced to submit to petty rules of behaviour and uniforms under threat of violence or expulsion, rules upon which an apparently bigger premium is placed than on useful education.

"For ties, the vice-principal goes from class to class checking. He assaults anyone who has no school tie on. For uniform, the prefects go from class to class. Anyone without a uniform is removed from class."

"One girl was expelled because she made a public complaint about forcing pupils to wear uniform. She came from a poor household and couldn't really afford the uniform. Regardless of what might become of her or how much her mother might have invested in her education, she was expelled."

It also appears as if the injection of funds which followed 1976 has failed to alleviate the critical shortage of equipment.

"Students who take woodwork have to pay R3.00. We hardly have any tools, so that maybe 40 of us have to work with two planes. Most of us just watch while two students use the plane on a plant, without producing anything useful."

The response to complaints about shortages and malfunctions has been extraordinary in some cases.

"One girl complained that she was cold. The teacher told her she had better not try to be clever . . ."

Being clever is, it would appear, not a desirable product of black education. Clever people are difficult people. Critical, alert, conscious of injustice and quite capable of being ruler instead of ruled, clever people do not conform to the model the DET has mapped out for them. Small wonder, then, that conditions in black education have changed little since 1976. That year's events may have placed a certain premium on defusing a dangerous situation but they did nothing to alter the concept of the servile labourer, existing only to benefit the white masters. And that remains the crux of Bantu Education.

Equally clear, however, is the fact that education does not only take place in the classroom. If it did, Bantu Education would be achieving all its designers intend it to.

But the pupils are not being fooled. More than anyone else, they know what they want and are setting their minds to getting it. Whether the Department of Education and Training responds to the pupils' grievances in a positive manner remains to be seen but one thing is certain. If there is a repeat of the 1976 unrest, the blame will once again rest squarely with education authorities who refused to listen. And there's plenty to listen to.

# Paying for accidents, not safety

**Compensation for injuries at work is meant to protest the labour force. But how effective is it really?**

A QUARTER of a million South Africans are injured at work every year in accidents serious enough to keep them away from work for at least a day.

This is a statistic of the National Occupational Safety Association. According to the South African Labour Bulletin of March 1979, about 800 people are killed in mining accidents every year.

These are just two examples from the lengthy list of industrial accident statistics. What they show clearly is that work for most South Africans is a pretty dangerous activity. The obvious long-term solution is the elimination of dangerous working conditions but in the short-term, those injured need compensation and treatment.

The Workmen's Compensation Act (WCA) was introduced to compensate workers for accidents and diseases caused by work. The Workmen's Compensation Fund is administered by a Commissioner and is supposedly a kind of insurance for the worker. It is compulsory for industrialists to belong to the scheme.

On the surface it would seem that this scheme serves as a real protection for workers but a closer look shows that they are very vulnerable to both the severe limitations of Compensation and to the attempts by industrialists to pay out as little as possible.

Employers contribute to the WCA Fund by a levy system. The more dangerous the work the higher the levy paid. All claims for injury or disease against a company are met from the levy paid by that company. These claims cover medical expenses, temporary or permanent loss of earnings and up to R400 towards funeral expenses in the case of death.

Employers try to keep the number of claims as low as possible not because they are concerned for the workers' health but because Compensation works on a rebate system.

If there have not been many claims, the employer is repaid some of the levy money. This rebate can be as much as 50 percent. In practise then, an incentive to employers to tighten up their safety precautions, has a very different effect.

One way to keep claims to a minimum is to just not report and claim for accidents. One of the most effective means used by management is the provision of a health service at work.

This generally sees to all casualties which would otherwise go through Compensation for medical expenses. This way they are dealt with by the nurse on the spot at no extra cost. Although employers bear the cost of running a clinic and employing a nurse, the WCA rebate can be more than enough to cover all costs.

Another reason for attempting to keep claims low is that

Compensation involves private medicine only, paying full private rates. Patients under WC cannot be treated as ordinary State Hospital patients. Thus the costs are high which obviously affects the size of the rebate.

Employers aside, the WCA itself has numerous limitations. The main one is that the majority of South African workers are not even covered by the Act. All domestic, farm and casual labourers have no legal recourse if injured at work. Mine workers are covered by a different and less comprehensive scheme.

Workers always lost income, on top of the pain and inconvenience of injuries. They are only paid 75 percent of their wages while absent, the first three days of which nothing is paid unless they are away for longer than two weeks. The vast majority of claims are for less than two weeks.

There is also often a long delay between the time of injury and when compensation is paid. It is worked out according to the worker's wage. Thus a worker who earns a lower wage is paid proportionately less for the same injury than someone in a higher income bracket.

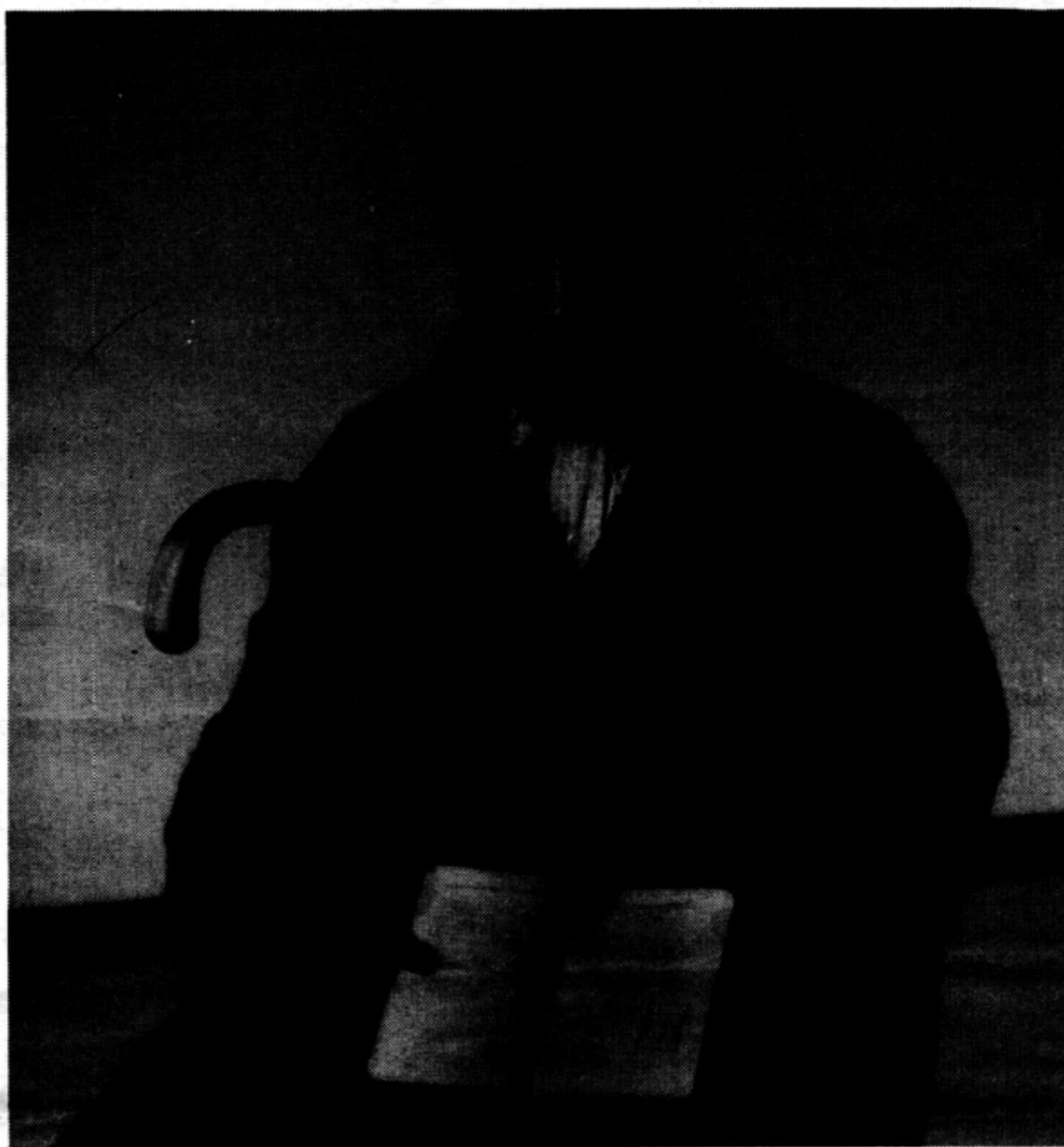
This situation is highlighted in the case of permanent disability. The loss of a hand or arm for a manual worker can mean life-long unemployment yet the compensation received is far less than that for someone whose hand is not as essential for continued employment.

Claiming for compensation involves a great deal of bureaucracy. There are numerous forms to be completed by the injured worker and this is difficult for a large part of the working class who are illiterate and not used to filling in highly technical forms.

This problem becomes more serious when the employers, who are responsible, fail to report the accident or disease. Then it is up to the employee who refuses to report the accident follows this up by firing the injured worker — adding unemployment to injury!

Another limitation of Compensation is that it doesn't cover accidents caused by "the serious and wilful misconduct of a workman", which includes drunkenness and reckless use of equipment. These categories are obviously open to bias and if a worker is not represented by a union, accidents are more likely to be blamed on the "wilful misconduct" of the worker.

The WCA protects employers from being sued even if they have not taken the necessary steps to provide a safe and healthy workplace. It also protects employers even if their negligence has been directly responsible for injuries. This is one of the most serious limitations of the Act as it has failed to ensure that industrialists provide a safe workplace.



Swazi Siktshana lost his leg in a mine accident. The compensation money he was paid has run out and he is unlikely to find employment again.

## The blow that ended all his hopes of getting another job

SWAZI SIKTSHANA is a man struggling with his family to survive in a small Transkei village. But while the area's poverty takes its toll on all, Swazi also bears another scar — he lost a leg in an accident while working as a migrant labourer on a Transvaal mine.

Swazi tells his story with anger, but also with resignation — a story he knows is not his alone but that of thousands who industry has used, crippled and discarded.

Swazi grew up in Mdaka, a village in the Transkei's Elliotdale district. His parents both died when he was a young child, leaving him to be raised by his uncle, a migrant worker on the mines near Johannesburg.

Like his uncle Swazi couldn't escape the mines. He needed money to support his wife and child and having had little education and with unemployment rife, he had no hope of getting a job closer to home.

Trying to cultivate the small plot allocated to him would hardly have fed the family, let alone made

possible his hopes of providing for his child's education.

So in November 1976 he became a migrant contract worker at Springfield Collieries in Grootvlei, Transvaal. Only four weeks after he started work he was in an underground accident. A railway truck knocked him down and crushed his leg as it went over him.

In the mine hospital his leg was bound with plaster of paris. Soon afterwards he complained he could not move his toes, but only two weeks later was the plaster removed to investigate. His leg had turned gangrenous and had to be amputated.

After two weeks in a Johannesburg mine hospital he was transferred back to Springfield and informed he was being sent back to the Transkei. He would be given R1,000 to "compensate" for the loss of his leg.

Swazi says he refused this immediately. He was still young and had a wife and kids to look after...

the money would not last... he had come to the mines because he was desperate, and now he had no chance...

The mine official offered him another fifty rand. He again refused. Swazi says he was then taken away by the mine police and "forced at gunpoint to sign for the compensation".

He was discharged and told if he needed work at a later stage he could go back as a cleaner. A year later he was employed as a cleaner for six months, but since then although he has applied many times, he has never been taken on by them again.

Swazi now lives with his wife and child and uncle who is blinded in one eye also from a mine accident. He received a false leg from the mines in 1980, but it has made no difference to his job prospects.

Today the "compensation" money is finished and Swazi looks at a bleak future with little hope of another job.

WHY ARE 120,000 South Africans still suffering from a disease medically so well researched and understood that it has almost been wiped out in many countries?

This was the question posed at a UCT medical conference on Tuberculosis (TB) called "Consumption in the land of plenty," where students from all over the country met to come to grips with what really causes TB on such a wide scale.

The thrust of the conference was summed up by one speaker who said the TB bug was a "multidisciplinary creature" which could not be understood only in medical terms.

## Consumption in the land of plenty

"We must link TB to the South African realities of migrant labour, poverty and resettlement", he said.

This approach, although not new, was seen as a change from the traditional tackling of the disease in South African medical schools and contrasted sharply to the international TB conference held at Medunsa earlier this year.

The Medunsa conference fitted into the focus TB is receiving because 1982 is the 100th anniversary of Robert Koch's discovery of the disease's causative

organism.

Organised jointly by the university and the Department of Health, the Medunsa conference posed the question "Why have we failed to control TB in SA" and then limited its answers to purely scientific papers such as "A comparison of sputum conversion after multi-drug therapy" or "Pulmonary TB as a present day surgical problem".

By contrast the UCT conference saw TB as a social disease which could not be looked at or solved by a

straight medical approach.

One speaker, Wits University lecturer Dave Webster said, "Our appalling TB statistics are mainly due to the inequalities in our society. Without fundamental social and economic change, the scourge of TB and other such disease cannot be successfully overcome."

One focus of the conference was mining and TB. Miners are particularly vulnerable to the disease and the stress of the underground working day can

accelerate the breakdown of a healthy worker into a TB cripple who would not be re-employed on the mines, and if lucky, would receive compensation of R55 every 2 months.

Finally, the homelands' role in disguising TB in this country was dealt with. South Africa's TB statistics have seemingly dropped miraculously since the bantustan sufferers have been excluded. Even more disturbing is that the South African Department of Health has passed responsibility for these victims onto the short-staffed and highly inadequate homeland health services.

EVERY YEAR thousands of black children in South Africa die of malnutrition and diseases linked to undernourishment.

While many factors are responsible for malnutrition in developing countries, including South Africa, scientific surveys have shown that a number of infant deaths — especially in the under six month age group — are caused by undernourishment brought about by a very innocent weapon that has been dubbed "The Baby Killer" in scientific circles . . . the feeding bottle.

Among the potentially fatal diseases that can be linked to poor nutrition during childhood are gastro-enteritis and other gastric disorders. Many children are stunted in their growth and remain this way for the rest of their often short lives.

A survey of malnutrition prevalence throughout the country in all race groups shows that while the rates have lowered over the past five years, they have not done so to any significant extent.

The obvious step that can be taken to tackle some of the problems of malnutrition is a massive education drive financed by the state to acquaint people with the benefits of breast feeding. Secondly, a curb should be made on all intensive advertising of Infant Formula. Provisions should also be made where possible for working mothers to have facilities available for breastfeeding their children.

Baby Formulae are processed, usually powdered substitutes for mother's milk, made from a base of cows' milk with vegetable fat, milk, sugars, vitamins and minerals added, and is very nutritious if used properly. But in the Third World countries where millions of people live below the bread-line it becomes a deadly killer.

Here in South Africa, the cost of adequately feeding a child with powdered milk is at least R120 over a six month period, which does not include the cost of bottles and teats, the cost of sterilization, and so on. This amounts to almost the total cash income of South African blacks living in rural areas.

Most rural blacks are illiterate and cannot read instructions on the tin to ensure a correct mixture. Many poor families overdilute the milk to save money — and the child suffers. Also in order to buy an even inadequate supply of formula, the parents will often cut back on the other household necessities. This



# The 'baby killer' that feeds off a bottle

**At the World Health Organisation's summit earlier this year, the baby feeding bottle came under heavy attack as a formula for malnutrition in developing countries. A code restricting advertising the product was supported by all nations except America. How does this problem affect South Africans, and what is being done even by those countries that supported the code?**

means that older children suffer.

Most important is the water problem. Nearly all formulae are in powdered form and need pure water for mixing, while the vast majority of South Africans live in areas without a readily available supply of uncontaminated water.

The children are therefore subjected to very high degrees of infection which is doubled when the fact that bottles cannot be sterilised is considered.

In Kwa-Zulu, which has been drought-stricken for the past three

years, lack of adequate water facilities has led to cast outbreaks of water-related diseases such as typhoid and cholera, which in some areas reached epidemic proportions. Since all these diseases can be passed on to the baby through the feeding bottle, it is not surprising that the infant mortality rate has risen dramatically.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) realised the dangers of intensive campaigns for bottle feeding in developing countries by the multi-national giants. An International Code of Conduct on the marketing of baby formulae was drawn up by WHO and was presented to the member nations at a summit earlier this year.

The code recommends that governments ban advertising to mothers, end the distribution of free samples and the use of company paid "milk nurses".

Aimed at mothers, advertising bottle feeding is highly manipulative. It implies the parent that chooses breast feeding is irresponsible and pushes for bottle feeding as the modern and most medically sound method. This is backed by distributing free samples to medical personnel who then pass it on into their communities. Once the mother has been bottle feeding for a while, her breast milk will cry up, making the dependence on the product total.

The baby milk manufacturers association attacked the code as "unjustified" and "uncompetitive" and sent officials to Geneva to try to influence the vote. Some of the least subtle pro-industry lobbying was carried out by an organisation calling itself, "The Voice of the World's Children".

Every country represented at the United Nations summit voted in favour of the Code . . . except the United States of America, the world's largest single exporter of infant formulae.

"The fact that every other country in the world agreed on the code did not change, the US decision. The

official response from the Reagan Administration was: "We couldn't adopt it at home, and we couldn't recommend it for anyone else."

Many top US leaders were shocked at the government standpoint. Dr Stephen Joseph, the top health official at the US Agency for International Development resigned his job in disgust as did the agency's top nutrition expert, Dr Eugene Babb. In resigning his post, Joseph said the vote was "contrary to the best interests of my country, inexplicable to my colleagues and damaging to the health and growth of the children of the world".

But, while the US was isolated at the WHO conference in opposing the code, today there is an obvious disparity between those who voted for it and those actually legislating to implement its provisions.

India, for example, led the lobby in favour of the code but has since buckled under pressure from the milk producers and so backed down on legislating against the product.

Indian officials rationalise this by saying the incidence of bottle-feeding in India is relatively low. What they fail to point out, though, is that the percentage of mothers moving from breast to bottle feeding is steadily increasing in that country.

Similarly there has been little or no action by African governments who voted for the code.

While international controversy continues to rage over the whole issue, here in South Africa, the position with regard to the code remains unchanged.

We spoke to DR W E K Loening, a lecturer at the University of Natal's Faculty of Medicine who was in Geneva at the time of the conference, and was hopeful that the code would be adopted here too.

"Even though South Africa is not a member of WHO, there is no reason why we cannot try to adopt the code in principle. If the Minister of Health were to subscribe to the code and enforce it, it would be a tremendous step forward. I will be bringing it to their attention and will

suggest that the code be adopted and a conference be called on how to implement it," said Loening.

Dr Jerry Covadia, a Paediatrics Specialist at the Medical School pointed out that the problem ran much deeper than it seemed.

"A major cause for concern is that the medical profession as a whole appears to be ignorant on the subject of breast-feeding. For example, there is virtually nothing taught on the subject at Wits Medical School or here at Natal. This problem is compounded by the fact that many multi-nationals advertise their products in professional journals and so influence doctors," said Coovadia.

According to Coovadia, there are many advantage to breast-feeding that sometimes even health professionals are unaware of.

"The most important way in which breast-feeding benefits a rural parent is obviously the fact that it is free, the utensil does not need sterilisation, and it is unhygienically processed in sterile conditions and ready to serve! But the other benefits to breast-feeding are that the antibodies from the mothers body are passed on to the child which help build resistance to combat disease. This is specially important among the poor in rural areas where infection is rampant."

"Also not unimportant is the psychological feeling of "togetherness" created by breast feeding between mother and child which is important in a society where the unit is slowly dying out" he said.

Coovadia added that deaths from malnutrition were only the tip of the iceberg. Many causes of infant mortalities were linked indirectly to a poor food supply.

The fact that South African hospitals are basically racially oriented is a major stumbling block towards the development of a solution to malnutrition. It is important that the government take heed of the WHO warning and launch a programme of action before it is too late," said a Durban medical practitioner.



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THE MAIN Hall of Pietermaritzburg campus rocked to its foundations at an "Alternative to Peter Sarstedt" concert recently organised by Stun Productions.

The concert was held on the same night as international musician Sarstedt performed in Pietermaritzburg.

The big difference was that while of Peter's event was a pretty dull and tame affair, the alternative went on for several hours after midnight as people dancing shoulder to shoulder made it clear that they are more interested in the local music scene than jaded musical refugees who have nothing to offer South Africa

## Where do you go to my lovely if Pete doth croon in the Hall

at this critical stage in its history.

Stun Productions, a two-person company, decided to react to Sarstedt's presence for three reasons:

- Tickets for his concert cost R6
- He is an overseas has-been as opposed to exciting young South African artists.
- By breaking the cultural boycott he gave support to South Africa's social structure.

A hand-out distributed at the concert explained the reasons for the boycott. It said that "progressive people and organisations throughout the world are calling for South Africa's total isolation to drive home the present system's injustices and in the hope of pressuring change. They see any breach of the boycott as a victory for the South African government. We must show them and our friends throughout the

world that we will not allow the government these victories."

Stun's representatives decided they should show their disapproval of Sarstedt's appearance by holding an alternative concert as it is more positive and less likely to be violent than picketing. The entrance fee of R1.50 was aimed to highlight his exorbitant price and to make it within the reach of more people's pockets.

After an extensive two-week advertising campaign, the night finally arrived and fortunately for the organisers, who risked their own money, the hall was packed. Recorded South African music such as Malopoets, Hugh Masekela and Dollar Brand was played between the live performances of local groups.

The concert was a roaring success with the dancing floor remaining full until two o'clock in the morning. Hopefully Stun Productions, with a little help from their friends, have set an example that will be followed by many more. Alternatives rule, OK.



Myth Inc actors in National Madness — a subconscious journey into the individual and the nation.

# Scaring the Nation

Scavenger's Dream and National Madness — two plays by Myth Inc.

YES, WE all know there's something rotten in the State — South African theatre is obsessed with it (and quite rightly so). We've had Fugard et al gaaning aan about the Immorality Act, poor whites (ag shame) etc etc ad nauseum.

But, folks, do we know that the rot has set in — there's something rotten in the state of our minds.

If you are worried about having noticed symptoms like recurring angst, a blurring of the senses, you need a dose of National Madness, a peek into the Scavenger's Dream.

These two plays are presently on at the Market. But be warned: they are not suitable for ostriches, shareholders, cabinet or closet ministers.

They are in fact unsuitable for anyone who doesn't want their skull cracked open, dissected and closed up again.

These plays should be seen — not only by white middle class SA from where they grew but by all South Africans. They speak to all of us because, as is shown, while we are "split down the middle, right between the eyes", we share a collective psyche — we haunt each others minds.

The plays explore two middle-class white individuals. That's the starting point, but the exploration uncovers a hidden network, an unwritten code which leaves little of the "neandethal monster" which is our society untouched.

Scavenger's Dream maps out the schizophrenia of Judy, a young woman lawyer. It shows us people like businessman Stan: "Between my thighs James Bond and John Calvin

are at each others throats" and the black office cleaner is "a shuffle in the back of my mind".

Stan was Judy's husband. Thokozile, sentenced to twenty years under security legislation is Judy's friend and client.

The voices in Judy's head relentlessly chime out a refrain: "Wipe the virgin blood from her death certificate, Lord. The lady was seduced." When Judy married Stan who wants to "get off" and sail into the sunset which he'll do by the motto "Accumulate!" — she opted for security, say her voices, "a cosy bribe".

At the play's beginning, Judy is alone in her filthy flat with her three voices — male voices who prompt and direct her every move. The plot thickens when Linda, "Miss Snap, Crackle, Pop", arrives. Linda has popped in to see her "golden girl-who-had-everything-going-for-her-sister" after a two-year living-in-London-and-writing-for-Cosmopolitan-period.

Linda is "together". Linda now feels "right" because, living away from it all ("it all" being South Africa), she no longer feels stifled and can be "creative" — Linda is our feminist. She wants a "new woman" to be created — Linda is our Cosmo Gal.

Pity she came to see Judy because things fall apart at that visit. Linda is confronted by a filthy, schizophrenic ghost of the sister she left behind. You see Just, as opposed to having "left all this", has become twisted, torn and engulfed by the contradictions that are her reality. While Linda is together, clean, healthy (tuna and tracksuits), Judy is "split down the middle right between the eyes."

Judy tells Linda that when she last visited Thokozile, "it felt as if she could smell Houghton Drive oozing out of my pores".

"Now I smell seduction in every mirror I see, in every family tree."

Judy is overcome by all the Judys she has been taught to be and the Judy she is expected to be, that she wants to be, and the Judy she isn't ready to be — the icy, professional lawyer defending activists.

The play is a brilliantly organised collage of personal interchanges between the sisters: Judy's voices pass commentary on these, acting out macabre flashbacks and symbolic sketches. The South African State's every action becomes an attempt to protect "that one riot policeman". White South Africa becomes two paranoid joggers being held on the spot by Guilt, in the shape of a black miner: "Run South Africa, Run".

To Linda, Judy is all "quivering sensitivity and futile intelligence". To Judy, Linda has come back "armed to the teeth with words".

The Scavenger's Dream is powerful because there are no clichés — the ones that do appear are put there on purpose and quickly counteracted.

As Linda says: "There's nothing we can do", has become mere dictum, meaningless". It is powerful because no answers are given, no resolutions — we have to make our own decisions. Judy and Linda aren't two different people — they are the two-sided coin.

The subconscious journey into individual and nation continues in the second play, National Madness. Shaun, the main character, hears voices too — the other side of his

coin, and we take a look at the draftee who isn't into the war.

"After studying English Literature, it's quite weird learning how to kill people" and "Well, Sersant, civil wars aren't very relaxing."

Plain enough to all who would care to see Shaun, like Judy, is part of the code. "There are Cubans in Angola and Koreans in Zimbabwe — and who is the nigger in the woodpile?"

As he says to his military psychologist: "You have listened to your lies for so long you believe them — and you make your children mad." Which reminds him that "Love thy neighbour" means "Thou shalt not ban his leaders, thou shalt not shoot down his children..."

For his pains, Shaun is declared to have an immature personality and unfit for military service.

In the wake of Scavenger's Dream, National Madness can be forgiven for being a bit of a let-down. What comes after the Lord Mayor's Show indeed. But so what? On its own, National Madness would enjoy the same response as its colleague and therein lies its strength. A watershed of South African theatre is an understatement.

Rave rave rave, Huh? No weaknesses? Sure there are. The programme, for one, falls into the same trap the plays so meticulously dissect, that of mystifying (yech) sacred cows and cherished lies, albeit from the other side. Blah blah society embodies blah blah intellectual masturbation. This is no way to treat a malady. But whilst the programme is optional, the plays aren't. For, as the graffiti-man said, "it's not where your head is at that matters, it's where it's never been."

## Non-racial sport pulls crowd to CT festival

THOUSANDS OF people from all parts of the country came together last month for a successful sports festival organised by the South African Council on Sport (Sacos).

The festival, held in Cape Town at the beginning of October, was the first of its kind in this country's history of non-racial sport.

The events took place at various venues in the peninsula, involving eighteen different sports starting with weightlifting and body building and ending with a weekend of soccer, rugby and cricket.

In all cases it was the organisations top sportspersons — the Sacos and President teams — who played each other.

Spectator support was high, with soccer, athletics and baseball drawing particularly large crowds.

A highlight was the gymnastria involving up to 1,000 schoolchildren all wearing the black and yellow Sacos colours who performed interesting formations to music.

It has been suggested that such a festival be held each year.

The festival, however, did not go without opposition from other sporting bodies. Before the festival, anonymously published pamphlets giving false information about events were distributed and before the main events were about to start, piles of manure were dumped on the stadium field.

After the festival, the controlling body of South African sport — the South African National Games and Olympic Association (Sanoc) put a full-page advert in both the *Sunday Times* and *Rapport* attacking Sacos. The two adverts cost Sanoc about R23,000. A Sacos representative said this indicated the extent to which Sanoc sees Sacos as a threat. In a press statement he asked: "Why, if they claim in the advertisement that we are such a small organisation, are they spending so much money in an attempt to discredit us?"

Sacos was formed in the early seventies as a vehicle to fight for the rights of non-racial sportspersons on every front. It insisted from the start that sport can't be separated from politics, much to the chagrin of the South African sports administrators who claimed they could not be held responsible for the country's racial policies.

Sacos started to lobby for South Africa's sports isolation to force the government to change its policies. This led to the founding of the London-based South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (Sanroc) through which international pressure for South Africa's sports isolation has been exerted.