

ENVIRONMENT — 1991

JANUARY — JUNE

# 1990 dry year for most of country

NR 4/1/91

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — South Africa had one of its driest years in 1990, with some areas having the lowest rainfall in 87 years, the Weather Bureau said.

Mr Mike Lang, the bureau's deputy director for climate said the entire Transvaal had recorded a rainfall figure far below normal. From 5 percent in the Lowveld to as low as 50 percent in Potgietersrus, Northern Transvaal.

In December the entire Transvaal was still well below normal in spite of good rains in the Lowveld and parts of the Highveld.

Mr Lang said the north-western, west and south-western Transvaal were the worst hit regions.

Thabazimbi, in the northern Transvaal has had 89mm rain since July. The normal is 295mm. The whole Transvaal received from as little as 21mm in Ellisras to 176mm at Phalaborwa.

Mr Lang said the downpours in December had done nothing to alleviate the situation and a couple of areas were still in trouble last month.

The eastern Highveld town of Carolina had only 44mm rainfall against the normal 123mm, Potchestroom had 58mm against the usual 99mm.

## OFS SUFFERS

The OFS also suffered a lot during the season. Wepenaar recorded 106mm, which is only 43percent of the normal 246mm, Frankfurt had 119mm, 33 percent below the normal 355mm, Bloemfontein had 99mm, 48 percent of the normal 206mm. The lowest was 26,1mm in 1948.

However, conditions improved in December in some areas. A total 14mm was received in Fourismith and 69mm in Bloemfontein. Temperatures were close to average.

The Eastern Cape also fell well below the normal. Middelburg had 232mm against the normal 362mm. Queenstown, with a normal 551mm, had only 336mm rain. Aliwal North had 361mm against 536mm — the lowest since 1982 which had 201,8mm.

Natal, West and Northern Cape were not problem areas, Mr Lang said.

Eastern Cape and Karoo had 41mm against 49mm, Queenstown had 38mm against 73mm after several bad months. The area has had 106mm rain from July to December. The normal figure for the area being 226mm.

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# Green issue the 'key to SA survival'

SUSAN RUSSELL (56)

ISSUES such as pollution might appear trivial when compared with SA's socio-economic and political concerns, but protection of the environment is vital if the country's growing population is to survive, says a Foundation for Research Development (FRD) report. The FRD is a statutory body which provides funding, manpower and facilities for scientific and technological research.

Projected growth of SA's major urban centres had the potential for true disaster, the FRD said in the report, released this month. It projected the PWV area's population at 30,5 million in 2020, as opposed to 6-million in 1980. Durban/Pinetown's population would have grown from 2,8 million to 12,1-million, while the figures for the Cape Metropolitan area were expected to grow from 1,8-million to 6,2-million. ~~8/12/79~~ 9/1/79

"The pressures on education, medical and sanitation services are already overwhelming, not to speak of the major challenge of providing energy, appropriate housing and employment for millions of poverty stricken people," it said.

## Lifestyle

SA's socio-economic and political developments were exacerbated by environmental degradation which, if not attended to, would see SA's environment deteriorate beyond recovery.

It would not be possible to sustain a vigorous economy or provide "any semblance of a quality lifestyle".

Economic development and a healthy environment were often perceived to be in conflict, but a compromise had to be found to manage them both in a mutually beneficial way. Major environmental problems had already manifested themselves in SA. Air pollution created by highveld coal-fired power stations was among the worst in the world and many rivers and estuaries were so polluted they were no longer fit for recreational or domestic use. The problem of waste disposal, more particularly hazardous material, was one which SA would also have to address urgently.

PLAN TO SIPHON WATER FROM SWAMP TO MINE

# Threat to Okavango

W.C. HARRIS  
12/11/91

**JOHANNESBURG.** — South African diamond giant De Beers has become involved in an ecological slanging match with the Botswana government over a plan to use water from the Okavango swamps.

The controversial plan to siphon water from the ecologically fragile swamps in northern Botswana has been designed, according to a government-sponsored environmental impact report, to supply water to the De Beers-controlled Orapa diamond mine.

But De Beers, equal partners with the government in Orapa, say they do not need the water and want nothing to do with the scheme to siphon it.

Cynics might believe the De Beers stance is the result of a threatened "Diamonds are for Death" campaign being orchestrated by international environmentalist groups against the diamond giant if the Okavango scheme goes ahead.

But despite a similar threat to include the Botswana beef industry in the "death" tag threat, the government seems determined to press ahead with the controversial scheme.

This week the Botswana Minister of Water Affairs, Mr Archied Mogwe, addressed a traditional "kgotla" (tribal chiefs) meeting in Maun to explain the scheme to irate leaders who complain that they have not been consulted by the government over the scheme, which could have a major impact on their farming and cattle-ranching.

Furious environmentalists in Botswana are also lobbying against the plan and at the same time orchestrating concerned overseas "greens" to bombard the Botswana government with threats in order to force it to abandon the scheme.

Environmentalists say that the scheme will lead to the degradation of more than 600 square kilometres of wetland, a claim disputed by the government, who say just 60 square kilometres will be affected.

The government also says it has appointed an ecologist to oversee the project, including the re-planting of grasses and sedges and the routing of roads to spare trees.

According to a report by the Australian-based Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation (SMEC), which investigated two dozen different schemes to siphon water from the Okavango, "all of the alternative schemes considered assume the existence of Maun reservoir and are directed towards improving the surface water supply to Orapa in dry years".

The Botswana government has said that the main aim of the scheme is to provide water to farmers and ranchers in northern Botswana as part of a "self-sufficiency" scheme and to guarantee a supply to the town of Maun.

However, the SMEC report pooh-poohs both ideas.

It says the soils in the area are too acidic, thin and sandy to support farming without constant watering and the supply of all nutrients needed by the crops grown.

The report found that the cost of irrigation, transport, fertiliser and other factors meant that an outlay of R600 000 on a 100 hectare irrigated farm would return less than 5 percent profit, while increased running costs on larger units would mean no profit at all.

It also partially contradicted government assertions that the Okavango scheme was necessary to provide a reliable water supply for the town of Maun, finding that alternative ground water supplies had not been fully investigated.

Finally the report contradicted De Beers' assertions that it had plenty of water, pumped from boreholes, for Orapa's needs, adding that De Beers engineers had vastly overestimated the area's ground water reserves.

Indeed it found that at present usage, if ground water supplies were not replenished by rains, Orapa would run out of water by 1994.

It also said that the cost of water from the Okavango would cost just 20 percent of the cost of pumped ground water, which also added to main-

tainance costs because of its high calcium content that clogged pipes and plant.

De Beers would not be contributing anything toward the estimated R100m cost of getting Okavango water to Orapa.

The report concluded that if the scheme to tap the Okavango was not implemented it would cost De Beers an extra R100m over the working life of the mine.

20 (1-ARG) 12/1/91

# Rooi Els row likely to go to court soon

By DALE KNEEN, Defence Reporter  
RESIDENTS of Rooi Els on False Bay are poised to declare war on an explosives testing company which occupies land in the Overberg.

The first salvoes in what promises to be a protracted battle are likely to be fired by the Rooi Els Local Council in court this month.

Armstrong subsidiary Somchem leases a portion of land around the Buffels River dam but many Rooi Els townfolk say the lease is invalid.

Support for this view has come from the Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay Residents' Association and the Kogelberg Landowners' Association.

But Somchem, which has occupied the land for 11 years, is prepared to battle it out in court.

The crux of the litigation is likely to be the validity of a decision, by the defunct Caledon Divisional Council, to lease the land to Somchem.

## Water for the people

Rooi Els Council, which came into existence in 1989, claims the Divisional Council failed to safeguard the land as the source of the water supply for "the people" by leasing it to Somchem.

The explosives testing company signed the lease in 1987 but it was backdated eight years.

The court may be asked to review Somchem's decision to erect additional extensive buildings on the site, said the acting chairman of the Rooi Els Council, Professor Denis Cowen.

He said a proposal by Somchem to purchase two portions of land was also illegal because "this decision is in direct conflict with the administrator's wise direction against subdivision of the site".

Somchem had undertaken to provide security services in the area and at the dam and to ensure no pollution occurred.

## Pollution fines too light, says study

PRETORIA — Heavier penalties for pollution offences are recommended in a CSIR report on waste management and pollution commissioned by the Department of Environmental Affairs. *B|Pay 14/1/91*

The report says fines generally are too low and prosecutions not an adequate deterrent, as many offenders willingly pay admissions of guilt.

Staff involved in the administration and enforcement of existing laws are also inadequate.

To counter the problem, industries should be encouraged to increase pollution monitoring and environmental auditing. Spot checks should be made.

The report notes, howev-

GERALD REILLY

er, that industries are becoming increasingly aware of environmental issues because of the growth of the green movement, and political parties are beginning to integrate environmental issues in their mainstream policies.

Littering remained a serious problem and waste recycling had to be encour-

aged.

More than 60 findings and recommendations are made in the 1 400-page report.

The report is the work of experts from three universities.

The study examined land, air, freshwater and marine pollution control.

More than 750 private and public sector representatives co-operated.

56

# Kaolin: Pienaar's 'not the final say'

CML. That 26/1/91  
Municipal Reporter (56)

MR Louis Pienaar, the Minister of Environment Affairs, did not have the final say over whether to allow kaolin mining in the Chapman's Peak area, Mr Jeremy Wiley said yesterday.

Mr Wiley, a prominent Noordhoek landowner who is opposed to the kaolin mining, was reacting to remarks Mr Pienaar made in an interview published in the Cape Times yesterday. Mr Pienaar said the country would suffer a great loss if the mining did not go ahead.

Mr Wiley said the decision on whether the mining would go ahead lay with the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, and not with Mr Pienaar.

Ironically, Mr Wiley's Good Hope Development Company owns the land on which the proposed kaolin mining is to take place, but he is powerless to stop it.

"We own only the surface rights. Serina (the kaolin mining company) bought the mineral rights from the previous owners. Very little protection is given to the owners of the surface rights," he said.

Mr John Butterfield, a member of the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group, said he wished the new minister all the best in his new job, and he did not wish to take issue with him.

APL TALKS 25/1/91

# Pienaar: 'Loss if kaolin mined'

By ANTHONY JOHNSON  
Political Correspondent

THE country would suffer "a great loss" if kaolin mining was inhibited in the Chapman's Peak area, the Minister of the Environmental Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar, said yesterday.

"However, this does not mean that it should be done indiscriminately," he said in a wide-ranging interview with the Cape Times about his new portfolio.

Asked whether he favoured the mining of the high-grade kaolin in the Chapman's Peak area, Mr Pienaar said: "You find proper kaolin where you find it. There are many deposits of kaolin throughout the country but few that can be used for porcelain."

"It would be a great loss to this country

if we were to be inhibited from continued mining of kaolin in that area."

However, any such mining had to take place with proper environmental safeguards, including controls on dust, traffic and proper provisions for restoring the surface once kaolin deposits were depleted.

Mr Pienaar emphasized that his comments were provisional since a further report on the environmental impact of mining in the area had been called for.

"I will reconsider my attitude in the light of the report. If it is so negative that (the effects of mining) will be intolerable, then I will have to reconsider."

Mr Pienaar, a keen backpacker and perlemoen diver, characterised himself as "a green minister ... still finding my way in my new job".

During his tenure as minister he would strive not to bypass sensitive issues but would also attempt to deal with problems with "great circumspection and tact" rather than as an aggressive "super-police-man".

Mr Pienaar also said that negotiations were well advanced on a formal co-operative arrangement between the Department of Environmental Affairs and the Navy to patrol the country's fishery zone effectively.

He said the illegal catching and smuggling of crayfish was a major contributory factor for shortages in certain areas. Other important factors were the migration of crayfish and the fact that each seal annually consumed about 13 times the amount of crayfish allowed for individual private divers.



'GREEN' MINISTER ... Minister of the Environmental Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar, being interviewed yesterday.

Picture: BENNY GOOL



# The poison playground that lures children

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Wimond 25/11 - 3/11/91

Hazardous waste is being illegally dumped at a number of sites — and the offenders face a maximum fine of R500.

**EDDIE KOCH reports**

**C**HILDREN, attracted by dumped sweets, are playing in an illegal waste dump contaminated by discarded syringes, blood transfusion bags and other toxic waste. The dump is near Kallehong on the East Rand.

Shocking pictures and details of this and other dumps, which medical experts agree can pose serious health hazards, were released by the Johannesburg branch of Earthlife Africa at a press conference yesterday.

Says Henk Coetzee, a representative for the environment activist group: "The Kallehong dump, listed as a sports ground on official maps, is a playground for local children who eat sweets dumped by a Wadeville company and play barefoot amongst broken glass, domestic waste and used syringes, needles, drips, blood bags and other medical waste bearing labels from Natspruit Hospital and Highveld Blood Transfusion Service."

Dr Norman Kearns, superintendent of the Natspruit Hospital, told *The Weekly Mail* he had no reason to doubt the veracity of Earthlife's report and had taken the matter up with an East Rand company, called Multi-Waste, which has a contract to dispose of medical waste from the hospital.

No comment was available from Multi-Waste at the time of going to press. Professor Hendrik Koorhof, deputy director of the South African Institute for Medical Research, said the dumping of used syringes and needles on open sites was a serious offence that could endanger the health of people living near or on the dumps.

Koorhof said there was a very small risk these products could contaminate



Health hazard ... scavengers at the Kallehong dump which contains toxic waste.

Photo: JUSTINSHOLK

people with the Aids virus. He added, however, that this was not probable because the virus has a very short life once exposed to air. The chance of contracting other blood-borne diseases, such as Hepatitis B, from the products was greater.

"The law requires that all bio-hazardous waste is incinerated or stored in a landfill isolated from the public," said one informant.

"But it is standard practice for blood transfusion units to dump waste products, sample bottles and used plasma at unguarded municipal sites on the Reef."

Doctor R Crookes, deputy medical director of the Transvaal Blood Transfusion Services denied this. He said all products that test positive for any form of infection are incinerated. Used transfusion bags could not be

classified as bio-hazardous material because the contents are rigorously checked for contamination.

However Crookes confirmed that needles used for taking blood from donors are not incinerated and are disposed of in a Class 2 or Class 3 landfill sites without being checked for infection. Class 2 and 3 sites are not strictly isolated from the public.

Earthlife discovered the conditions at the Kallehong dump after being asked to investigate by the township civic organisation.

"Local residents recall how the dump, initially a clay quarry, was used more than 20 years ago by factories in Wadeville as a dump site, possibly for toxic chemical waste," the organisation's report says.

"After children developed a rash from playing on the dump, the local authority

promised to cover it and build a soccer stadium. This never materialised and the site is still used for dumping."

Kallehong City Council engineer Chris Hating said the site was shut down last year and all dumping there is now illegal. But Earthlife says its members witnessed a Post Office truck from Wadeville discarding piles of waste on the site.

● In November last year an Earthlife member discovered an illegal dump at an abandoned factory site, now occupied by homeless people, at Ullana Park in Germiston.

"We found a large number of drums both inside and outside the perimeter fence of the factory," the organisation said. "Many of the drums contain toxic chemicals and most are leaking. Some of the drums have health warning stickers on them."

● A team of activists found an unknown operator burning drums of waste in the veld along the banks of the Elsburgspruit on the East Rand. Toxic heavy metals are leaking from a dump on the site and contaminating the river.

"This situation is only the tip of the iceberg. Chemical analyses have shown large amounts of toxins in this stream. On a later visit, all the drums on the site had been emptied and removed, leaving only piles of ash, pools of oil and other waste lying in the veld."

The disclosures come hard on the heels of a report by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) which notes that legislation governing the disposal of industrial and municipal waste is hopelessly ineffective — offenders face a maximum penalty of a R500 fine.

# Rand toxic waste dumps a 'big worry'

By Mark Suzman

56

There is apparently widespread dumping of illegal toxic waste around the Witwatersrand — causing damage to the environment and posing serious health risks to the community.

At a news conference yesterday, members of the Johannesburg branch of Earthlife Africa disclosed the discovery of several dumping sites on the East Rand and warned of the existence of many more.

Branch co-ordinator Henk Coetzee said at least two dumps had been found along the Elsburgspruit, where waste contractors had been dumping and burning drums of oil and chemicals that had leaked toxins into the stream.

Local residents swim in the stream.

Similarly, in Uiana Park near Germiston, a squatter community had occupied an abandoned factory containing leaking drums of toxic chemicals.

And in Katlehong township, a large municipal dump had been found to contain hazardous medical and electrical waste.

SW 25/1/91

The dump, which was unfenced and as close as 30 m to houses, had been found to contain used needles, blood bags and medicine bottles clearly marked as being from nearby Natalispruit Hospital.

Children often wandered over the dump and apparently retrieved and ate waste sweets that had been discarded by a local confectionery company.

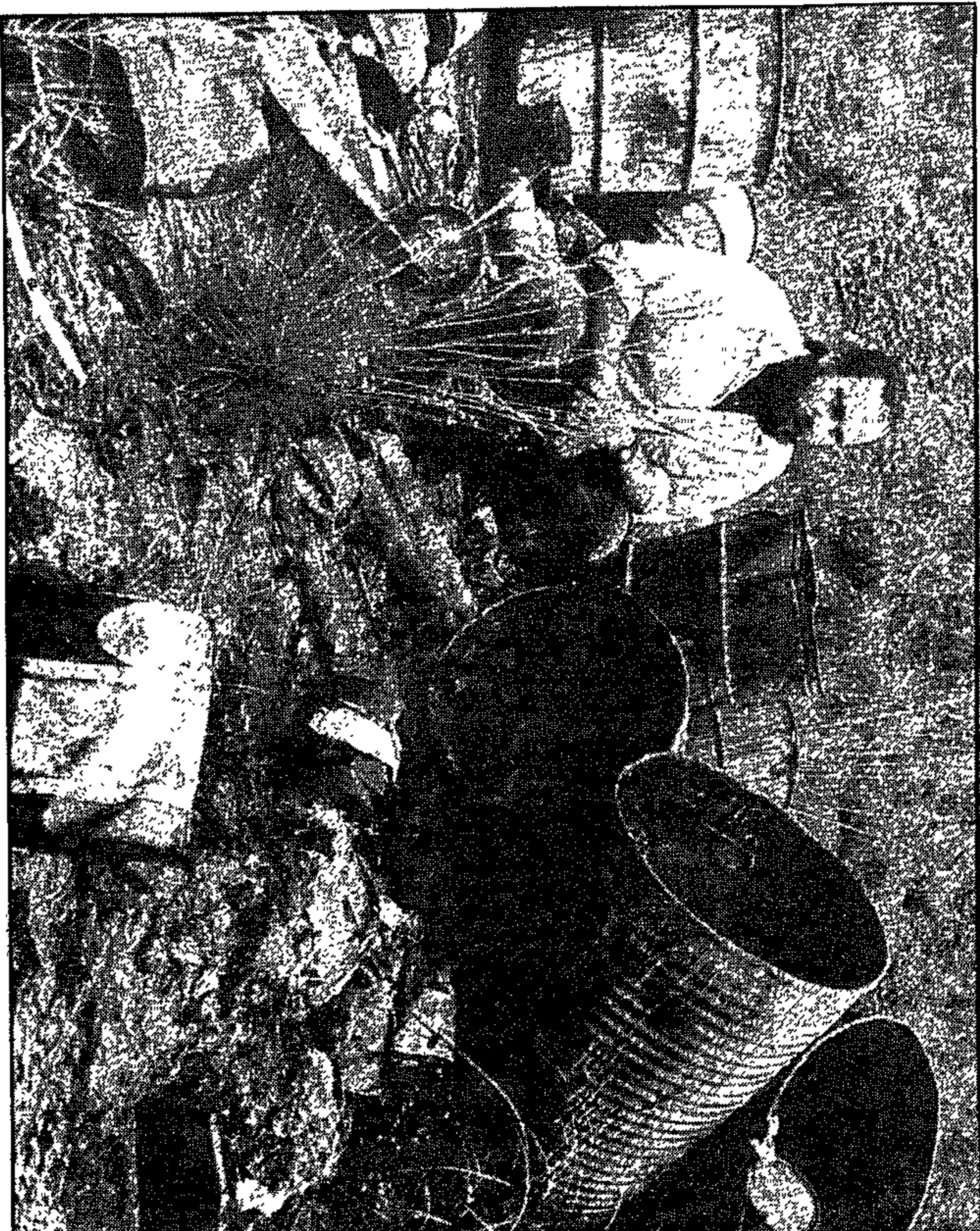
Earthlife legal expert Carien Engelbrecht said Natalispruit Hospital administrator Dr Norman Cairns had denied there was hospital waste on the dump and had refused to view photographic and video evidence.

When approached by The Star yesterday, Dr Cairns was not available for comment.

Mr Coetzee said the Department of Water Affairs, which has jurisdiction over dumping, had been informed about all these issues and would be taking action.

A F Ellis, regional director for the Highveld at the department, said the existence of such toxic waste dumps was a "big worry" because of the threat posed to water supplies.

He further warned that under new laws offenders could face a R10 000 fine for a first offence.



Waste matter . . . Henk Coetzee, branch co-ordinator of the Johannesburg branch of Earthlife Africa, said the existence of such toxic waste dumps was a "big worry" because of the threat posed to water supplies.

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# Govt to probe toxic dump claims

THE Water Affairs Department would investigate claims of three East Rand toxic waste dumps reported by Earthlife Africa yesterday, authorities said.

Earthlife Africa spokesman Henk Coetzee told a Press conference in Johannesburg the dumps posed a potential health threat as the toxins in them could contaminate underground water sources.

Sapa reports Water Affairs deputy director for water control Maria Oliveira said investigations would start next week.

Coetzee said drums of chemical waste were being burned on the banks of the Elsburgspruit near Germiston. The stream contained toxins, and ash, oil and other waste was found in the veld.

An Earthlife Africa member found barrels leaking toxic substances at Ulanda Park, a deserted factory site near Germis-

POLLY JONES

ton, which is occupied by squatters. The company which originally owned the factory was untraceable, Coetzee said.

Earthlife members had investigated another dump following a request from the Katsheho Civic Association. The dump contained blood bags, unburnt swabs, needles, plaster casts and medicine bottles, and fears were raised over the spread of hepatitis and AIDS.

The dump, 30m from a residential area, was unfenced.

Earthlife Africa stated Krugersdorp businessman Benoni van Gran's proposal that a toxic waste dump be constructed in the Krugersdorp area on the grounds that the area was prone to earth tremors and such a dump, close to a densely populated area, might leak.

56



## THE DEBONAIR GROUP LIMITED

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(Registration number 83/05882/06)  
Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa

### Results of rights offer

# R2m UK govt gift to Soweto college

THE British government will inject more than R2m into SA's first independent, non-racial, teacher training college in decades which opens near Mamelodi next week.

The Promat College of Education would receive a British assistance package which included about 80 bursaries a year as well as staff and library development funds, British Embassy spokesman John Sawers said yesterday.

Sawers described the new college as the most exciting development in SA education this year.

Last year the British government spent about R400 000 relocating Promat's matric college in Mamelodi.

In the past nine years Promat colleges — which teach standard 9 and matric in a year, mainly to underqualified teachers — have become known for their excellent matric results. They achieved an 83% pass rate in the recent exams when the national pass rate hit a record low of 36%.

Promat has received donations from the US, Spanish, Canadian and Dutch governments.

TANIA LEVY

Promat executive director Larry Robertson said well-qualified teachers would be more crucial to SA's future than politicians.

It has been estimated that by the year 2000 an additional 250 000 qualified black teachers will be needed in SA.

At present only 3,4% of all black teachers have university degrees, while 30% have not passed matric.

The college has been built with funding from Anglo American's Chairman's Fund and Germany's Evangelical Centre for Development Aid. It cost R30m.

It will open on February 4 to 116 students. They will take a four-year primary school diploma course designed by Wits University.

Robertson said more than 4 000 applications for places had been received. About 15 staff members had been selected from 300 applicants.

Promat has five matric colleges in the Transvaal and Natal.

Graduates of the college will be qualified to teach at any school in SA.

## We'll look into hospital - TPA

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration in Pretoria has announced an investigation into allegations by Earthlife Africa that Natalspruit Hospital had dumped unincinerated medical waste at the Kathlehong municipal dump. (56) (45)

TPA spokesman Jan van Wyk said the waste removal at all Transvaal Provincial hospitals was the responsibility of the relevant local authority. In the case of Natalspruit, Kathlehong municipality had a subcontractor remove its waste.

Human tissue was incinerated at all TPA hospitals except Baragwanath, where it was removed for incineration elsewhere. *Skw 26/1/91*

Earthlife Africa alleged this week that Natalspruit Hospital was illegally depositing unincinerated medical waste, including blood bags, used needles, plaster casts and medicine bottles.

Experts believed this waste could cause the spread of hepatitis and Aids, as the dump was unfenced and a mere 30 m away from residential houses, Earthlife said. — Sapa.

Chapman's 29/1/91

# Warning on more kaolin mine sites in Noordhoek

## Valley area

BY PETER DENNEHY

TWO more possible kaolin-mining sites exist in the Noordhoek Valley, within a couple of hundred metres of the controversial site "on the slopes of Chapman's Peak".

Mr Jeremy Wiley, a large landowner in the valley, said at a press conference yesterday that if kaolin mining was allowed to go ahead in Noordhoek, "this valley will probably be faced with mining for 50 years".

The expected lifespan of what he called "the Chapman's Peak site" was supposedly 16 years, he said. Yet Noordhoek Valley could become known as "kaolin corner" if mining took place on all the sites.

### Rights confirmed

The kaolin-mining company Serina (Pty) Ltd already had the rights on one of the other two sites, Trentham Farm near Crofters's Valley, Mr Wiley said. Mineral rights on the other site were held by six different parties.

The managing director of Serina, Mr Carl Tarrant, confirmed yesterday that his company owned the smaller deposit on Trentham Farm. "It is our intention to work it, if it is financially viable," he said.

Regarding the other site beside De Goede Hoop Estate, he said it belonged to several different people and he could not say what their intentions were.

"If they want to sell us the rights, we will see whether it is financially feasible. The government has drilled that deposit, and it reports that there is viable kaolin there," he said.



UNHAPPY ... Landowner brothers Mr Jeremy Wiley (left) and Mr Mark Wiley speak of their opposition to kaolin mining in the Noordhoek Valley. The proposed site which caused a storm of controversy is to the right and behind Mr Mark Wiley in this picture. RIGHT: This map shows three possible kaolin sites in Noordhoek, X being the "Chapman's Peak" location, Y the land beside De Goede Hoop Estate, which is owned by six different people, and Z Trentham Farm, owned by Serina. Picture: RICHARD BELL

Mr Tarrant disagreed with the description of the original controversial site as being "on the slopes of Chapman's Peak". It was simply in Noordhoek, he said.

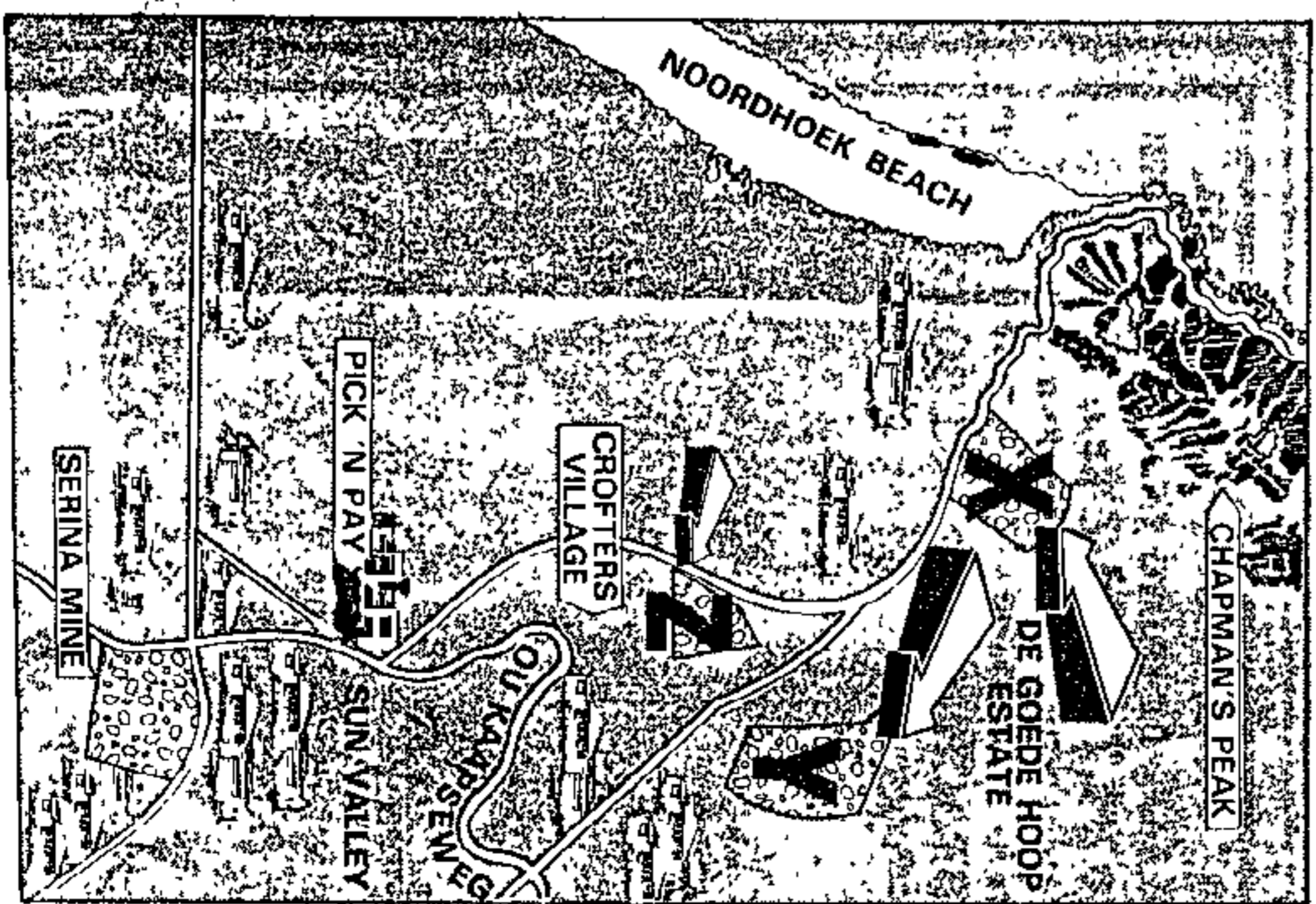
Mr Jeremy Wiley said the government seemed concerned at the possibility of a R600-million damages claim should a permit for the kaolin mining be turned down.

Yet he had sought legal opinion on this from senior counsel, and had been told that the state would not be liable to compensate anyone if it decided mining should not go ahead.

### Foreign exchange

Mr Tarrant said his firm had not even had any discussions with the government on compensation, "because we still expect them to issue us with a permit".

He suspected that the R600-million figure had come from "the value of foreign exchange we would lose if we don't mine that area".



# Moratorium call on kaolin mining

MGS  
30/1/91  
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By **ESANN van RENSBURG**  
Environment Reporter

**NOORDHOEK** could become known as "Kaolin Corner" if Serina mining company gets a permit for kaolin mining on the slopes of Chapman's Peak, according to landowner Mr Jeremy Wiley.

De Goede Hoop Development Company, of which Mr Wiley is a director, is the owner of land in Noordhoek and has been campaigning behind the scenes for the prohibition of opencast mining in the area.

Mr Wiley said at a Press conference this week that the area had at least three kaolin deposits and Serina, who own the mineral rights on the Chapman's Peak slopes, have publicly acknowledged their intention to secure mineral rights to the other deposits.

## 50 years

According to Mr Wiley this meant kaolin mining would be with Noordhoek for at least 50 years and it would lead to "very intensive mining activity within a five square kilometre area".

A spokesman for the Noordhoek Districts and Civics Association said they wanted a moratorium on kaolin mining on Chapman's Peak until other deposits have been fully investigated.

Mr Wiley said "Serina and its consultants, in not assessing the effect of the mining of the other two or three deposits in the Noordhoek amphitheatre

have in their report on the effect of property values, in particular, grossly mislead the authorities and other interested parties by isolating only the initial deposit and claiming that a mine would have little or no long-term effect on property values," said Mr Wiley.

Serina managing director Mr Carl Tarrant confirmed that his company had the mining rights to one of two other deposits — a small, high grade deposit on Trenthan farm — but said mining it would not affect property values.

Mr Wiley said he hoped government would deproclaim mineral reserves and ban all mining activities in the Noordhoek amphitheatre.

## More airlines to operate in SA - Durr

Star 7/2/91  
CAPE TOWN — Two more international carriers — Austrian Airways and Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific Airlines — are to start services to South Africa this year as the country's diplomatic, trade and tourist relations with the world improve.

The latest boost, announced last night by Minister of Trade and Industry and Tourism, Kent Durr, comes amid indications that South Africa attracted "well over" one million tourists last year, half from Africa.

This "magic figure", Mr Durr said, would create a new basis for growth in tourism.

### Gearing up

SAA is gearing itself for major expansions in expectation of the lifting of sanctions — which will see the airline flying to Australia and the US again.

An SAA spokesman yesterday said the airline was buying 11 new aircraft following indications by the Australian government that direct flights by SAA to Australia could resume soon.

The Star's Foreign Service in Perth reports that SAA's regional manager for the south-west Pacific, Trevor Henry, predicts flights will resume "within weeks". — Political Correspondent, Pretoria Correspondent.

## Aussie govt to ease visa restrictions

Star 7/2/91  
Star Foreign Service

MELBOURNE — The Australian government plans to relax tough and time-consuming visa restrictions on South Africans visiting Australia.

For more than five years South Africans wanting visitor or business visas have had to have their applications processed through the Australian High Commission in London.

This was because of an Australian ban on consular facilities at its embassy in Pretoria as part of sanctions against apartheid.

The ban meant inconvenience and delays of up to six months in getting visas approved.

The Australian Foreign Minister, Senator Gareth Evans, said the first sanction to be eased would be in the areas of people-to-people relations.

# Sports

LONDON — International moves to break down sanctions against South Africa gained momentum yesterday when the Commonwealth Secretariat confirmed that a special meeting of the nine-member Foreign Ministers Committee on South Africa would take place in London next week.

British Prime Minister John Major and, for the first time, his Australian counterpart, Bob Hawke, are putting pressure on the Commonwealth to ease sanctions and boycotts, particu-

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## Firm explains cooking oil spill on dam

Star 7/2/91  
By Jacqueline Myburgh

Mechanical failure and a thunderstorm were responsible for the cooking oil spill at an Edenvale Dam on Friday, Epic Oil managing director Trevor Wilkinson said yesterday.

At least three birds have died and fish are endangered as a result of the 75 000-litre sunflower seed oil spillage.

Mr Wilkinson said there was a total work stayaway at Epic that day, and the staff handling the oil when the accident occurred were voluntary workers.

The spill took place while oil was being pumped from a tanker into a storage tank. A pump system failed and oil was siphoned back on to the siding.

"Before the staff could react, there was a storm which washed the spilled oil into the stormwater drainage system."

Epic staff, in conjunction with the Edenvale Municipality, Department of Water Affairs and an expert on oil spillages, Greg Parton, have recovered most of the 15-ton spillage. A scientific adviser to Epic said there were no signs of dead fish.

Yesterday, 35 drums of oil which had been siphoned out of the dam stood on the banks.

Resident Peter Coates said he took a walk around the dam every morning, but now the smell had become unbearable.

He also remarked upon the disappearance of a family of Egyptian geese from the dam.

● Edenvale town clerk Pieter Jacobs said he was satisfied with the cleaning-up operations, and believed the spill would not have any long-term effects.

Heal  
rubb

# These are our worst nightmares

Star 7/2/91

(56)

**T**HE "population explosion" is the greatest perceived threat to the future of South Africa in the eyes of South Africans of all colours. Pollution, especially air pollution, comes second.

According to a survey — Project Ecos, just published in Johannesburg by MRA, the marketing survey firm — most educated whites, blacks and Indians are personally concerned about the unknown effects of ozone depletion and global warming.

Project Ecos is an on-going nation-wide survey which explores the South African public's awareness and knowledge of green issues and provides insights into why, when it comes to the environment, some people destroy and others conserve.

The first two phases of the study consisted of a series of group discussions and a nation-wide "area-stratified" random sample.

It tested nine groups, each consisting of 12 people.

Four groups were from the white community (well-educated adults, poorly educated adults, students, schoolchildren); three groups were from the black community (well-educated, poorly educated and schoolchildren); there was one Cape Town coloured group (well-educated professionals) and a similar Indian group from Durban.

Before the question of environment was raised among the respondents — they were interviewed in segregated groups and in their own language — they were asked what issues were most "worth working for" in life.

Not one spontaneously mentioned environment.

But when the subject of environment was mentioned, one in five of whites, Indians and coloureds said they viewed "environmental deterioration" as the most serious problem facing South Africa today.

Only eight percent of blacks agreed with this line.

Respondents listed, in the words of the survey, the following issues as being "worth working for": world peace, no war, success, money, money in the bank, independence, freedom, career, good employment, happiness, housing, food, family and honesty and integrity.

The survey found that "challenges on the political front

**JAMES CLARKE** looks at the results of an important survey on what South Africans think of their environment and their future.

(made) respondents unwilling to classify environmental and ecological issues as the most pressing they are facing. (But) ecology was seen as very important, with the majority showing concern and keenness to become more knowledgeable about the subject."

Most whites put security aspects highest on their list. Blacks, generally, put education at the top. Poorer blacks put food and housing as first priorities.

When it came to purely environmental issues the poorer groups saw air pollution and litter in their immediate vicinity as the pressing issues. The more educated the respondent, black or white, the more likely he or she was to look beyond immediate surroundings.

The second phase of the study was scientifically chosen to represent 90 percent of whites, and 90 percent of urban blacks.

Nearly all respondents showed concern and awareness and believed the planet was threatened but most felt the problems were "too big and confusing" for them to do much about personally.

They mostly held industry responsible for global damage and felt industry should be cleaning up the mess.

The great majority of all respondents thought industrial polluters should be exposed and even more thought they should be fined.

When it comes to development, said the survey, all the groups felt that Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) should be done on major developments and should be carried out by impartial and independent agencies.

While most named general pollution, pollution of air, pollution of water, litter, forest destruction and species extinctions as being issues which affect society, only a few thought the misuse of water, soil erosion and noise pollution were important.

When asked what environ-

mental aspects specifically threatened this country, most respondents felt South Africa's gravest threats were the same as the world's. "Only one or two felt different issues were involved".

Threats singled out by the better educated groups as specifically relevant to the South Africa situation were the threats being put on "declared natural areas like Kruger Park and St Lucia"; dumping of toxic waste (specifically mercury) and the lead content in fuel.

People generally were concerned at the failure of the education system when it came to environmental awareness and the white well-educated group was prepared to give money towards environmental care and said the money was best directed towards environmental education. The need for more information was repeatedly mentioned.

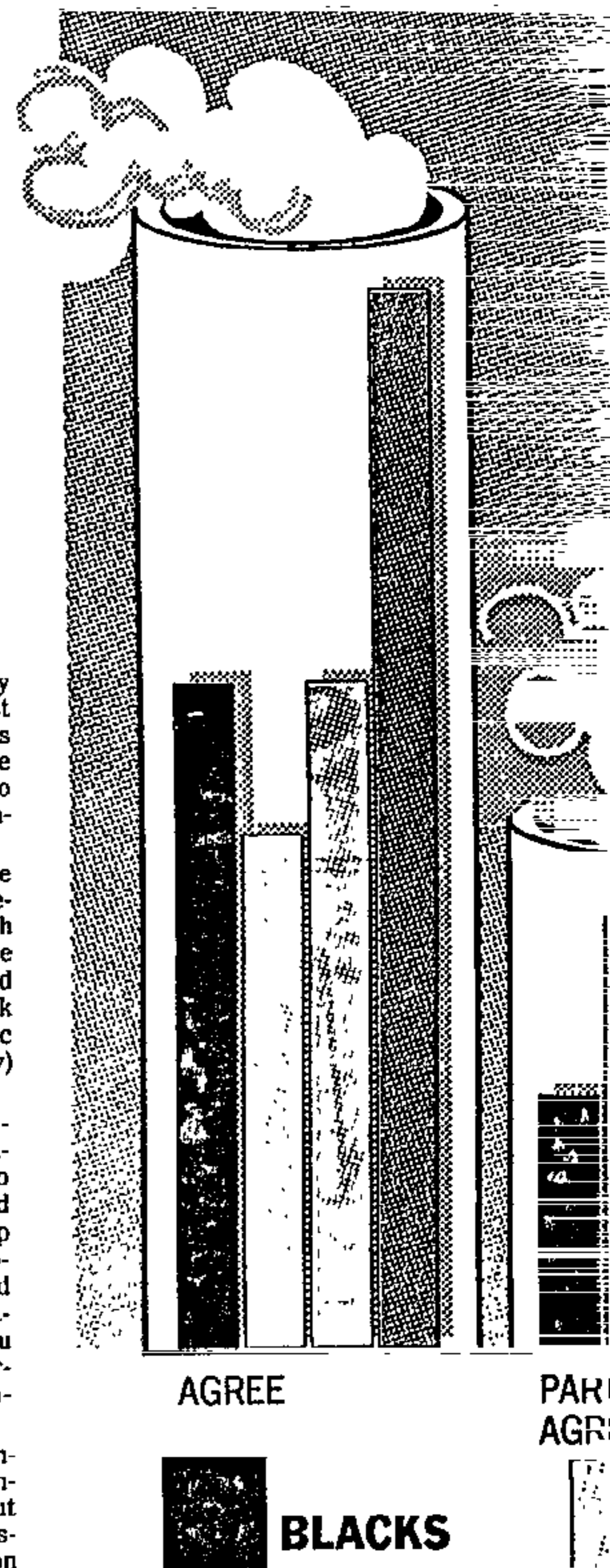
Most said they were influenced to care about the environment by their parents but were also influenced by newspaper articles and television programmes (specifically mentioning the SABC's 50/50 programme).

Blacks, coloured and Indians and low-income whites all declined to name issues which they felt posed little or no threat. But the "well-educated" white group and the students and scholar groups named vanishing species, vanishing black rhino (specifically), soil erosion, soil pollution and noise pollution as being "not particularly threatening".

Asked if they worried about what sort of world their children and grandchildren might inherit, most were worried about future educational standards and political aspects.

"Other race groups were more pessimistic than whites. They felt pollution could shorten their children's lives, that 'everything will be artificial' and 'all nature will disappear' and that the population explosion would spoil natural areas with children having to play on dumping sites."

The greatest ecological threat to South Africans by the year 2020 was perceived as the population explosion, with pollution second, followed by nuclear weapons, chemical waste being dumped in South Africa — and Aids. □



## What the e

**M**OST environment experts believe the greenhouse effect is Earth's biggest threat, with the ozone hole a close second.

Most experts (75 percent) questioned in the Project Ecos environmental awareness survey named air pollution as a major South African problem while 55 percent gave socio-political problems as another major challenge, followed by overpopulation (50 percent). Globally: 70 percent named

global threat... age and... as major... In... named... exploitation sources... pollution... One in... major... Most... follow... Locally... socie...

## Cleaner air

**M**ORE than one in two South Africans are prepared to pay substantially more for cleaner air. More than one in two are prepared to pay more for electricity if it means less pollution.

And 78 percent of white car owners are prepared to pay R500 to have their cars converted to cleaner fuel, while 72 percent want lead-free petrol.

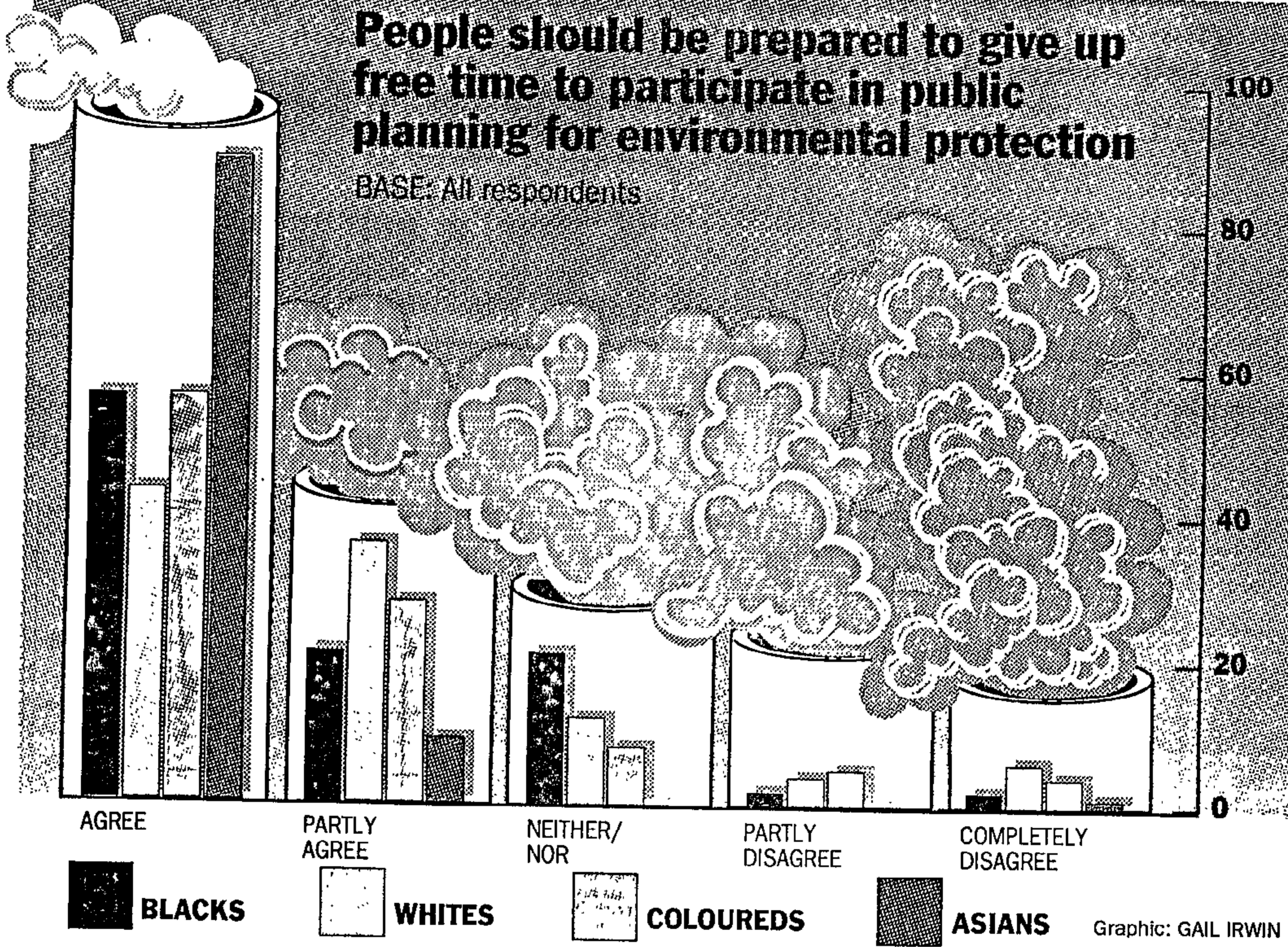
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# People should be prepared to give up free time to participate in public planning for environmental protection

BASE: All respondents



## What the experts think

**M**OST environment experts believe the greenhouse effect is Earth's biggest threat, with the ozone hole a close second.

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Globally: 70 percent named

global warming as a major threat and half saw ozone damage and air pollution generally as major threats.

In descending order they named overpopulation, over-exploitation of non-renewable resources and soil erosion. Water pollution came last.

One in five said Aids was a major global issue.

Most said "disaster" would follow inaction on these issues.

Locally: After air pollution, socio-political problems (apart-

heid, poverty etc) and overpopulation, around half the experts listed soil erosion and waste disposal as major threats. (The poll showed that the general public was mostly unconcerned about soil erosion).

Most professionals felt education and the mass media would be the most effective way to make people aware and to turn the situation around.

Some supported an environmental protection agency similar to America's. □

## Cleaner air is a vital issue

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And 78 percent of white car owners are prepared to pay R500 to have their cars converted to cleaner fuel, while 72 percent want lead-free petrol.

These were among the find-

ings in Project Ecos, a national survey to test South Africa's environmental sentiments.

Asked if they were prepared to pay more for electricity in order to have clean air, 52 percent of blacks, 56 percent of coloureds, 59 percent of Indians and 61 percent of whites agreed or partly agreed.

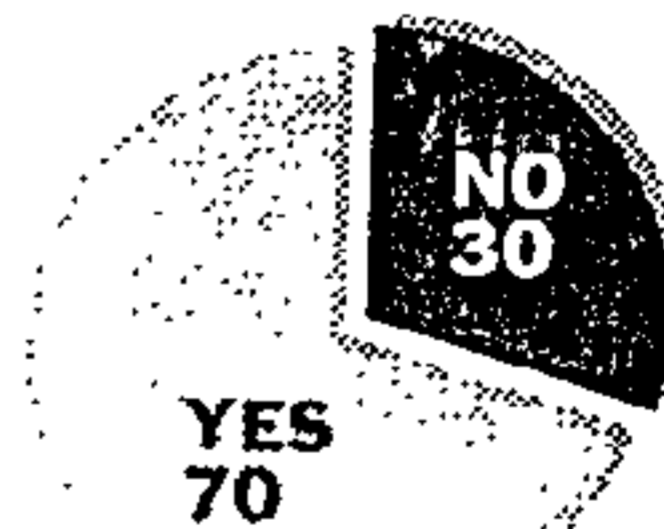
When it came to global issues the issue that most South Africans are aware of is air pollu-

tion — more than 90 percent of whites, Indians and coloured were aware of the problems, while among blacks the figure was 64 percent.

Acid rain interested 69 percent of whites but only 9 percent of blacks. Only 15 percent of whites and 2 percent of blacks were worried about it. Air pollution in general "personally concerned" 59 percent of whites and 31 percent of blacks. □

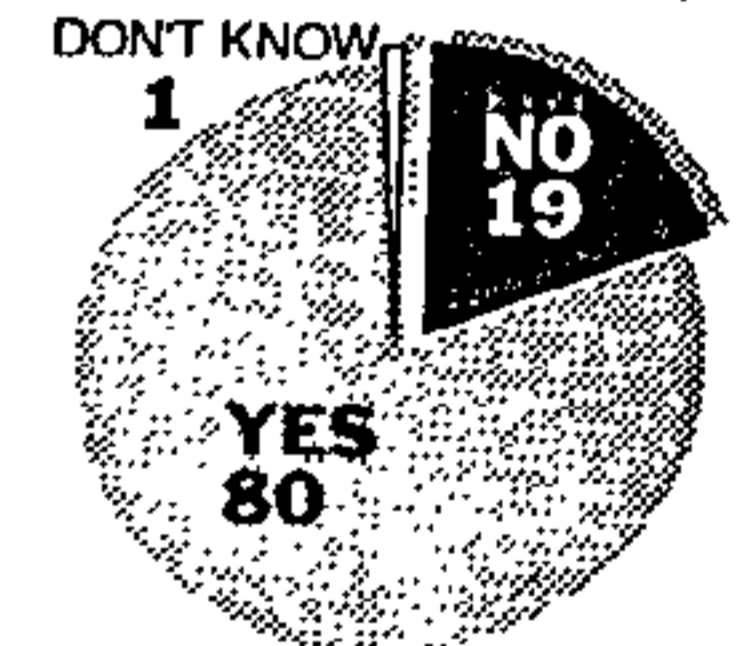
### Personally own motor vehicle

BASE: All white respondents



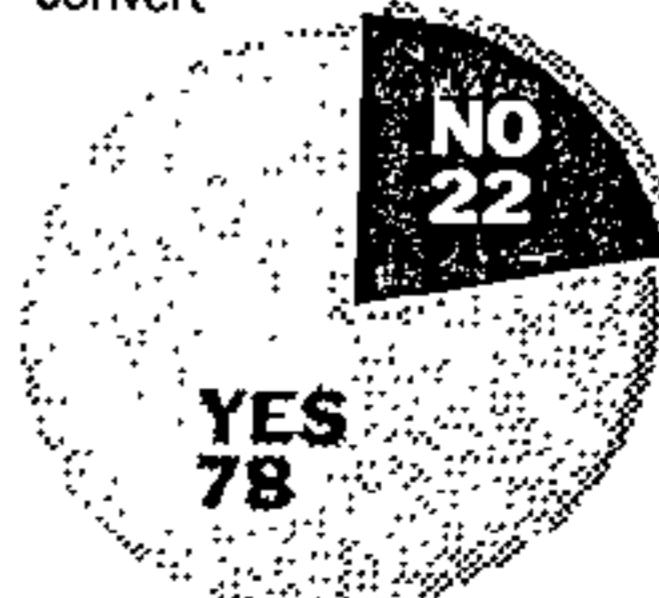
### Prepared to have vehicle converted

BASE: Motor vehicle owners



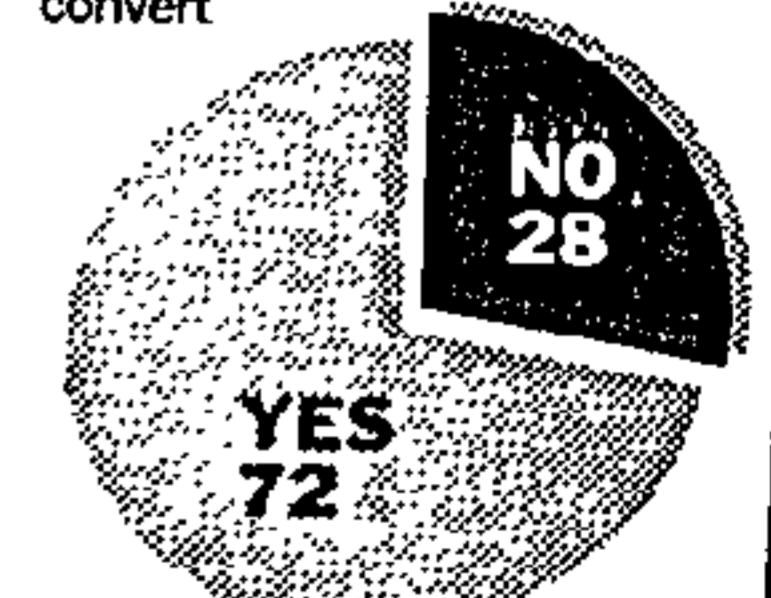
### Prepared to pay R500 to convert

BASE: Those prepared to convert



### Pay more for lead free petrol

BASE: Those prepared to convert



# 'Rare habitats being destroyed'

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Government foresters have come under fire again for destroying rare natural habitats, this time from the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa.

The society's executive director, Tony Ferrar, claimed that afforestation permits issued for Government plantations only considered the impact on agriculture and water production, with no reference to implications for nature conservation and tourism.

He also accused senior officials of the Department of Forestry of withholding information of vital public interest from the society.

Last month, similar criticism was voiced by conservationists in Zululand following the planting of pine trees at Langapan, outside Kwambonambi, an area con-

taining rare and valuable indigenous plants.

Mr Ferrar said the society was particularly concerned about the fact that the Forestry Branch of the Department of Environment Affairs could issue afforestation permits to itself.

"Indications are that Guidelines for the Application of Conservation Practices in Production Forestry are being ignored by the Forestry Department.

## Permits

"The society has also learnt that over the past two years at least 80 permits have been issued for afforestation on land supporting populations of threatened species.

"We have tried to verify this via the official channels but were denied access to the relevant information which only serves to confirm our worst fears.

"The Society finds this unacceptable and can only adopt a critical po-

sition if the Department of Forestry is not prepared to divulge information that is of such vital public interest."

Mr Ferrar urged members of the public to help the Wildlife Society by reporting harmful forestry practices to its conservation officers.

In Natal, conservation director Keith Cooper can be contacted at (031) 21-0909.

J M Harris, Chief Director of Forestry Development, said yesterday he was unable to comment on the criticism at short notice, and would have to study the complaints first.

However, commenting on the issuing of afforestation permits, Mr Harris said it was not true that the Forestry Branch issued permits to itself.

It was true that the issuing of permits was done by Forestry Branch officials, "but we scrutinise the applications a lot more closely than those submitted by private people".

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Star 7/2/91

# POLLUTION filters at the Highveld Steel works near Witbank are switched off at night to boost the productive capacity of the giant plant.

# Highveld air is polluted under cover of darkness

W/Week 8/2/14/91

56

This allegation was made to *The Weekly Mail* this week by employees at Highveld Steel, the largest producer of vanadium in the world.

The workers say this practice sends clouds of dangerous dust and grit into the air under cover of darkness, adding to the high levels of atmospheric contamination over the Eastern Transvaal Highveld.

But Leslie Boyd, the company chairman, denies that the plant's sophisticated filters are switched off to boost profits and productivity.

He insists that the operation of the filters has no effect on the efficiency of the plant's furnaces and that company engineers, therefore, have no motive for shutting them down.

However, a former employee in the industry told *The Weekly Mail*: "I know that the pollution control plant reduces steel production by 16 percent when in operation. Should the wind blow away from Witbank or the Pretoria Witbank highway, the pollution control-plant is switched off. The plant is also switched off at night."

The Anglo American Corporation, which owns Highveld Steel, has spent vast sums of money on controlling pollution at the plant and conducts a sophisticated public relations campaign to portray its steelworks as an environment friendly factory.

A recent advertisement says air pollution control technology has reduced emission of particulate matter from the furnaces to less than one percent.

Employees at a giant steel plant allege that its pollution filters are switched off at night, adding to atmospheric contamination on the Eastern Transvaal Highveld, writes **EDDIE KOCH**

It adds: "Highveld Steel has spent R120-million on anti-pollution systems that, in order to run and maintain, take R12-million a year. The result is that smoke from the kiln stacks at Highveld Steel is virtually as harmless as the dust of the earth ..."

Workers at the factory, including labourers, artisans and retired foremen, insist this is not always true.

The corporation's advertisement says the small amounts of soot that do get into the air are almost entirely biodegradable. But a former employee says huge clouds of ferric oxide, which is not degradable, are pumped out when the filters are shut down. He claims there is so much ferric oxide on the ground that it discolours the milk of cows which graze in the area.

Highveld workers who spoke to *The Weekly Mail* include members of the National Union of Metalworkers (Numsa) and the more moderate Boilermakers' Society. Both unions plan to campaign around the issue of air pollution and its effects on the health



of people living in Witbank.

A retired foreman explained that the filters sometimes trip out when the plant is running at full capacity and when this happens the furnaces shut off as well. An emergency generator then starts up but the furnaces can only be refired after an emergency team is called in to repair the malfunction.

This, he said, can lead to a few hours loss in production time. Highveld Steel is in effect a complex of metallurgical units and some 42 stacks that emit a combination of pollutants into the air.

Rand Carbide, a subsidiary of Highveld Steel, also shuts down its gas cleansing filters to ensure smooth production at certain times, according to some informants.

"The filters work well if there are vis-

itors to the factory. But when the visitors go they switch them off," says a Numsa shop steward.

The workers describe how thick layers of black dust and soot collect on the premises of the factory.

"We have complained about air pollution and the problems it causes to our health but they have done nothing. Workers will take action unless management does something to stop the pollution," says a shop steward.

A recent medical survey by Professor Saul Zwi of Wits University's Medical School suggests that children from Witbank suffer stunted growth and increased rates of respiratory diseases because of pollution in the air.

Particulate matter — the dust, grit, soot and tiny particles of coal — emitted from the furnaces is particularly

dangerous as it penetrates the linings of the lungs, often carrying with it dangerous amounts of carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide and nitric gases.

The district surrounding Witbank concentrates within a 90km radius a complex of coal-fired power stations, steelworks, petrochemical industries and metallurgical plants that have turned the region into one of the most polluted in the world.

The semi-official Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and private researchers have monitored levels of sulphur dioxide in the air over the Highveld which rival that of East Germany, the country affected most adversely by this form of pollution.

Anglo replies:

● All plants at Highveld making emissions are fitted with filter equipment. This equipment operates for between 96-98 percent of the total production time. The equipment is not switched off at night or when the wind direction changes, as alleged.

● Operating the filters, in any event, does not reduce the production capacity of Highveld's plants.

● Filter equipment is inoperative only during planned maintenance, which is carried out in the daytime when the necessary staff is on duty; and in the event of a breakdown.

● During the two to four percent of the total production time the filter equipment is inoperative, Highveld readily acknowledges that emissions are made into the atmosphere. These raw emissions — iron oxide dust, lime dust and coal dust — are not poisonous as alleged.

● Boyd said that he, as a third-generation steelmaker and a resident of Witbank for 13 years, had not experienced discoloured milk.

ation of Natal and KwaZulu. It will be chaired by Rob Deane, MD of Zululand Safaris and Bushlands Game Lodge. The association consists of representatives of 32 tourist bodies, including the provincial administration and KwaZulu government.

The initiative is in line with the tourist authorities' plans to relieve pressure on the Kruger National Park by developing the attractions of peripheral game parks.

Much needs to be done. Zululanders will have to be persuaded to contribute to a fund to popularise the region's attractions. Past experience shows this won't be easy. Some of the existing accommodation will also have to be upgraded. Natal Parks Board seems to have done a good job of game conservation but it will have to learn the niceties of promoting tourism — or let private enterprise take over.

Previous attempts at promotion were stymied by those who questioned the need to sell the area to South Africans, especially those outside of Durban and Natal. They argued that the SA Tourism Board does a good enough job of attracting overseas tourists.

Some game farms derive nearly all their income from foreign tourists. Deane, for example, says he earns 99% of his income from foreigners — Britons, Germans, Italians, Swiss and a growing number of Taiwanese. Most of them are reluctant to surrender this valuable custom in favour of domestic tour-

## TOURISM

### PROMOTING ZULULAND

**Long-slumbering** northern Zululand is finally coming out of hibernation. It's launching another attempt to attract more domestic tourists. FIM 8/2/91

This time the effort will be spearheaded by the Zululand branch of the Tourism Associ-

Continue →

## BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

FIM 8/2/91

56

ists but they realise that, without a boost from the local market, Zululand will not be able to counter the increasing competition from principal game parks.

The potential is certainly there. Northern Zululand offers the big five (lion, elephant, buffalo, rhino and leopard) in four reserves — Hluhluwe, Umfolozi, Mkuzi and Ndumu. In addition, it boasts SA's largest fresh water

estuary, Lake St Lucia, historic battlefields and resorts that introduce visitors to Zulu culture.

The area is also attracting overseas investment. The Zoological Society of London has reportedly formed a consortium with British financiers JHI International and Londolzi, a local safari company, to acquire 8 000 ha in northern Zululand for an hotel

and safari camp.

Peter Ruddle, MD of Mkuze Trails and manager of the Ngweni Hotel, says the property is at Phinda, 35 km from Hluhluwe on the road to Sodwana.

He believes the society intends using it to improve the genetics of its animals in captivity, particularly rhino, but says it may allow limited hunting for culling. ■

56 Cape Times 9/2/91

From page 1

A city fire control officer late last night described the fire as "still big", and burning a swathe down De Waal Drive into District Six and Deer Park.

More than 15 firefighting parties were still struggling to contain the blaze, he said.

Earlier yesterday smoke fanned by a south-easter billowed down over the entire city bowl. The only suburbs visible were Tamboers Kloof, Schotsche Kloof and the Bo-Kaap in the West, and a small part of Woodstock, Mowbray and District Six in the East.

Metro workers and the traffic department were kept busy administering eye-drops to dozens of civilians, firemen and forestry workers.

The lush gardens surrounding the Disa Park towers in Highlands Estate were completely destroyed by the fire, which came to within 10m of the three circular towers.

Mr Kelvin Alston, manager of the Disa Park flats, said: "This was the biggest scare of my life. The flames jumped the road and within metres were right down in the gardens.

"My biggest problem was to control the panic. People came running out of their flats and I was worried that a car would catch fire, blocking the road," he said.

He added that a part of the creche on the premises had caught alight.

"Concerned" Gardens MP Mr Ken Andrew received news of the fire during the no-confidence debate on the cabinet in Parliament.

He raced to the scene of the fire, and arrived in Vredehoek about 2.30pm.

"This mountain has a funnel effect on the wind and drives flames down the mountain. Four years ago we fought a major battle to prevent 150 braai places being allowed at Van Riebeeck Park, and now you can see why," he said.

Residents in the area were stunned by the speed at which the fire raced down the mountain, leapt across Table Mountain Road and came to within metres of their homes.

"At ten past two I was told by the fire department that there was no danger to our homes," said Mrs Lils Cloete of Frank Road, Highlands Estate.

"It was incredible — by the time I got home 20 minutes, later the fire was in our garden and metres from our home," she said.

The first thing she and her husband, Mike, did was to grab their insurance policies, photographs and other valuable documents, which they loaded in their car.

Residents in Oak Tree Village emptied their homes of prized possessions, while Dr Laura Hill of Mountain Road managed to move all her furniture within an hour.

Ms Charmaine Walmsley, also of Oak Tree Village, was at the dentist when her domestic servant called her to come home, but police stopped her from going up to her house in Mountain Close.

## Helicopter

Later Metro workers fetched Ms Walmsley's dog Shiba from the house.

Mrs Joan Parrott of Clifford Road, Vredehoek, said she was at the hairdresser when she received a call that the flames had reached her back garden.

While her husband George and firemen contained the flames, she removed all important documents and papers from the house.

Mr Parrott said a natural firebreak behind the house stopped the flames from causing major damage, and only destroyed the fynbos.

It was reliably learnt yesterday that a Court helicopter pilot had contacted emergency services at 8.30am to see if their services were required, but was "turned down". Court were only called in to help with observations over two hours later.

The source said it was feasible that a helicopter with a suspended fire bucket may have been able to quell the blaze before it ran out of control and "fogged" the city.

Professor Eugene Moll, of UCT's botany department, which is involved in ecological research on Devil's Peak and Table Mountain, last night criticised Cape Town's ecological management systems for "inept management of the ecology in the metropolitan area".

He said old vegetation should not have been allowed to pile up close to the city, and beds of short vegetation should be planted on the perimeters of the city to act as fire barriers.

City council spokesman Mr Ted Doman denied reports that the fire had been caused by a controlled fire getting out of hand.

Mr Doman said a fire break could not be built because the fire had started at Oppelskop, an inaccessible area with no "loose scrub" to use for a firebreak.

He said the fire would be halted once the wind blew the fire towards the existing firebreak, just above Walmer Estate.

Mr Doman said the council had received complaints about fire reports not being acted on immediately, and a full investigation would be conducted on Monday.

● Another big mountain fire raged in the Hangberg on the slopes above Hout Bay harbour last night but was soon brought under control, according to a Regional Services Council spokesman. A third fire between Kommetjie and Ocean View was also brought under control, he said.

# Flood warning for N Natal residents

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Residents of Northern Natal were yesterday warned that local flooding could quite possibly occur in their areas — particularly if there was more heavy rainfall overnight.

"We're expecting heavy rains in Northern Natal," said a Durban weather bureau spokesman. "There could be the possibility of local flooding in areas such as Vryheid and Richards Bay."

"However, we're not expecting whole towns to be washed away, otherwise a flood warning would have been issued. There may be one or two local bridges washed away, but that's about all," he said.

Meanwhile, Ladysmith officials were keeping their eyes on the level of the Klip River, a noted flood danger spot.

Mr Andries van Eck, town secretary, said yesterday afternoon that the river seemed to have subsided for the moment, but if they had heavy rains again they "could have problems".

● Some 2 200 telephone services in the Pretoria area are out of order as a result of the recent continuous rain and heavy lightning.

The areas particularly affected are Lyttleton, Waterkloof, Silverton, Pretoria North and Brits.

Post office spokesman Mr Willie Swart said yesterday that technical staff had been withdrawn from other work stations to assist with repair work.

Repair teams would also be on duty throughout the weekend to repair faults. — Sapa

56

Chit  
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9/2/91

# Afra — need for creative solutions

**T**HE establishment of the Kosi Bay Nature Reserve has led to widespread resistance from communities in the area to their forced removal from traditional land.

So says Richard Clacey, a co-ordinator from the Association for Rural Advancement (Afra), a development organisation established in 1979 to monitor forced removals in Natal and to assist communities in securing land rights.

Clacey said the KwaZulu Bureau of Natural Resources (KBNR) practices have "alienated large sections of the local community, without whose support the long-term interests of conservation in the region cannot be secured".

He rejected as "blatantly untrue" KBNR director Nick Steele's portrayal of Afra as an outsider bent on agitating resistance to the Bureau for political purposes.

"Steele refers to 'an alliance between Afra and a local political group or party called Isidindi'. Isidindi is not a political party. It was

formed as a grassroots community organisation to tackle the dispossession and poverty caused by the way in which the Bureau is going about the game reserve development programme.

"The name 'Isidindi' is the Tonga word for the small harvest huts you find at most homesteads in the area. It was an 'organisation of the stomach', which intended to address the problem that the Isidindi would be empty if they were forcefully removed and their fields and gardens taken away from them."

Clacey said the Bureau met representatives of the disaffected Kosi Bay communities last November.

Isidindi representatives told him Steele listened to their grievances — including a demand for a moratorium on the fencing of the game reserve until proper consultations had taken place — and undertook to report back to his government.

"At the end of December a very large community meeting was held at the Tembe Tribal

Authority Hall where the Tribal Authority was called upon to send a delegation to Ulundi to demand an end to the continuing fencing programme. The meeting also resolved to cut down the fences if no progress was made."

Clacey said Afra's approach to the nature reserve issue included a need to move away from the colonial conservation model of only preserving animal species and habitats, and towards a belief that conservation also included the survival of local human communities.

This is in line with the aims of reconciling conservation with the economic needs of indigenous people as outlined by the International Union on Conservation Strategy (IUCN) and the 1988 World Conservation Strategy.

He added the Bureau's attitude was characterised by the following:

- It considers African indigenous methods of subsistence agriculture destructive.
- It considers indigenous and conquered people

to be anti-conservation and a threat to the environment.

■ It believes conservation can best be served by game reserves free of human habitation.

"If there is an acceptance in principle by the Bureau that their administration of conservation areas will exclude alienation or dispossession of existing rights, this will be an important step to resolving the issue," said Clacey.

"It may be necessary to create more democratic and accountable interfaces between the community and conservation agencies such as the Bureau, other than the Tribal Authority System. This could entail the formation of a management planning committee consisting of elected community representatives to thrash out a conservation, land use, resource base and tourism management plan.

"Creative solutions must be found to ensure that conservation, tourism, land and natural resource use are planned and managed to ensure the local community is the primary beneficiary."

# Council to explain fire action today

CPT  
TALS  
11/2/91

Staff Reporter

THE man who decided not to call in helicopter water-bombers from the start to extinguish Friday's huge Table Mountain fire refused to say yesterday whether he had made the right decision.

Mr Peter Rist, director of the Parks and Forests Branch of the Cape Town City Council's Engineer's Department, said he would rather leave that assessment to his boss, city engineer Mr Arthur Clayton, who is due to issue a statement on the matter today.

Mr Rist said more than 300ha of fynbos and 100ha of plantation were destroyed in the fire. Council public relations officer Mr Ted Doman said he was aware of allegations that council staff had not reacted quickly enough, and these would be thoroughly investigated.

As controversy mounted, the Regional Services Council's fire service called in two helicopters to dump water on another fire near Sandy Bay late yesterday, after being started by flames fired close to Hout Bay on Friday evening. The fire burned up hundreds of hectares of veld. An RSC fire spokesman said late yesterday that it was "partly under control".

Among the questions which the City Council will look into today are:

- Why could Mr Rudolph Brunner of Oak Tree Village not raise the fire brigade at 223161 when he called "between 10.30 and 10.45am" on Friday to report the Devil's Peak fire? He

claims his call was unanswered.

- Why did the Parks and Forests branch only spot the fire just before 11am when Mr Barry Conn of Hout Bay says he saw it from opposite the Roeland Street fire station at 9.45am, and Mrs L Daniel of Tamboerskloof says she saw it "before 10am" from Jan van Riebeeck High School?

- Is it true that a helicopter firm was told of the fire by 10.30am, when it was about "the size of a tennis court"?

Mr Rist said yesterday he believed the Devil's Peak fire was started by human hand.

"It was reported by our staff at 10.57am," he said. "Our first report came from our own staff. This was followed within minutes by a report from the fire brigade."

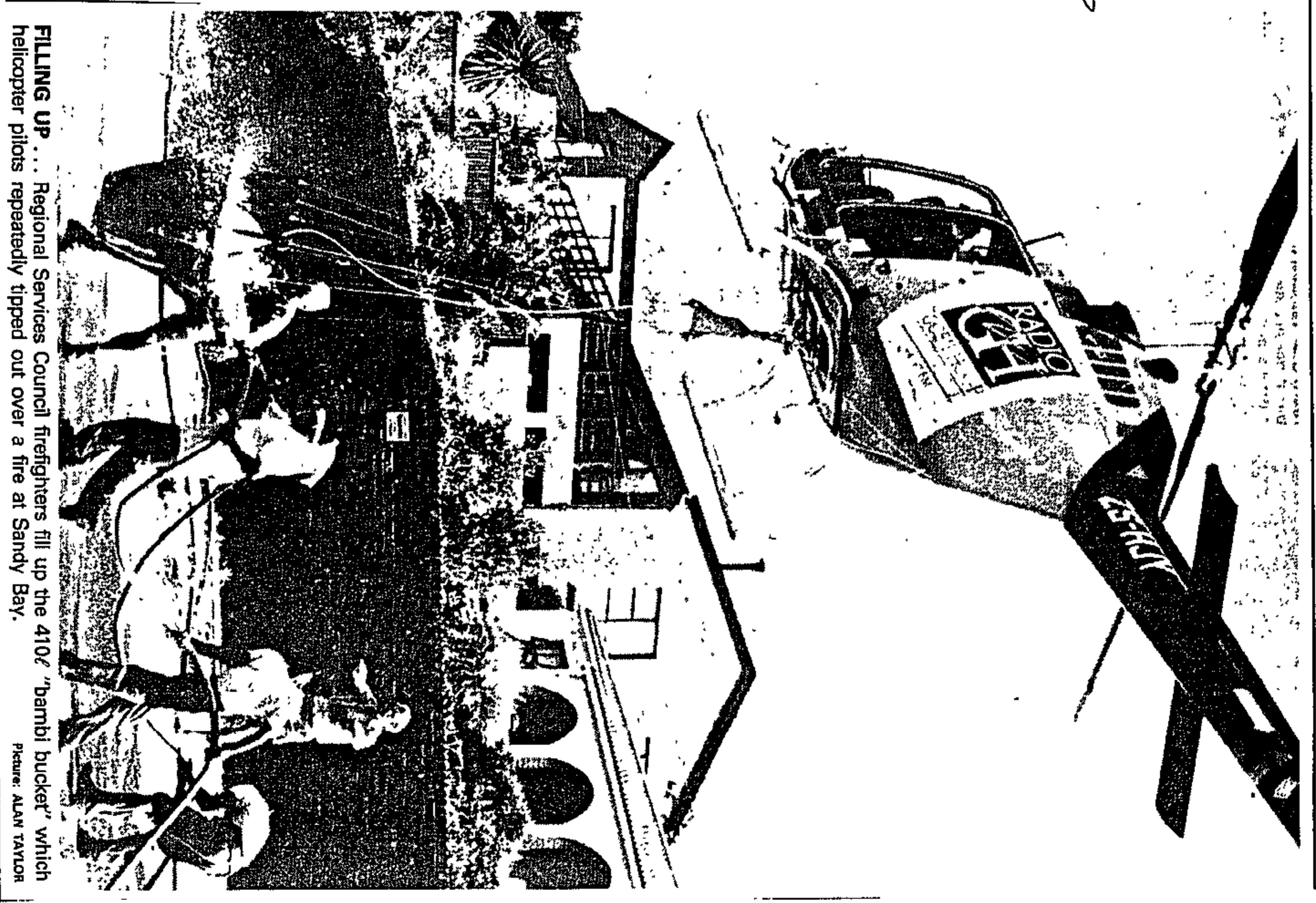
Within 25 minutes, the first team of "ground forces" had made their way to the fire from Van Riebeeck Park.

"I did order the helicopters, with buckets, but I decided the first priority was to get men there. Some of our men were ferried up by helicopter," Mr Rist said.

Only one helicopter had been available at first.

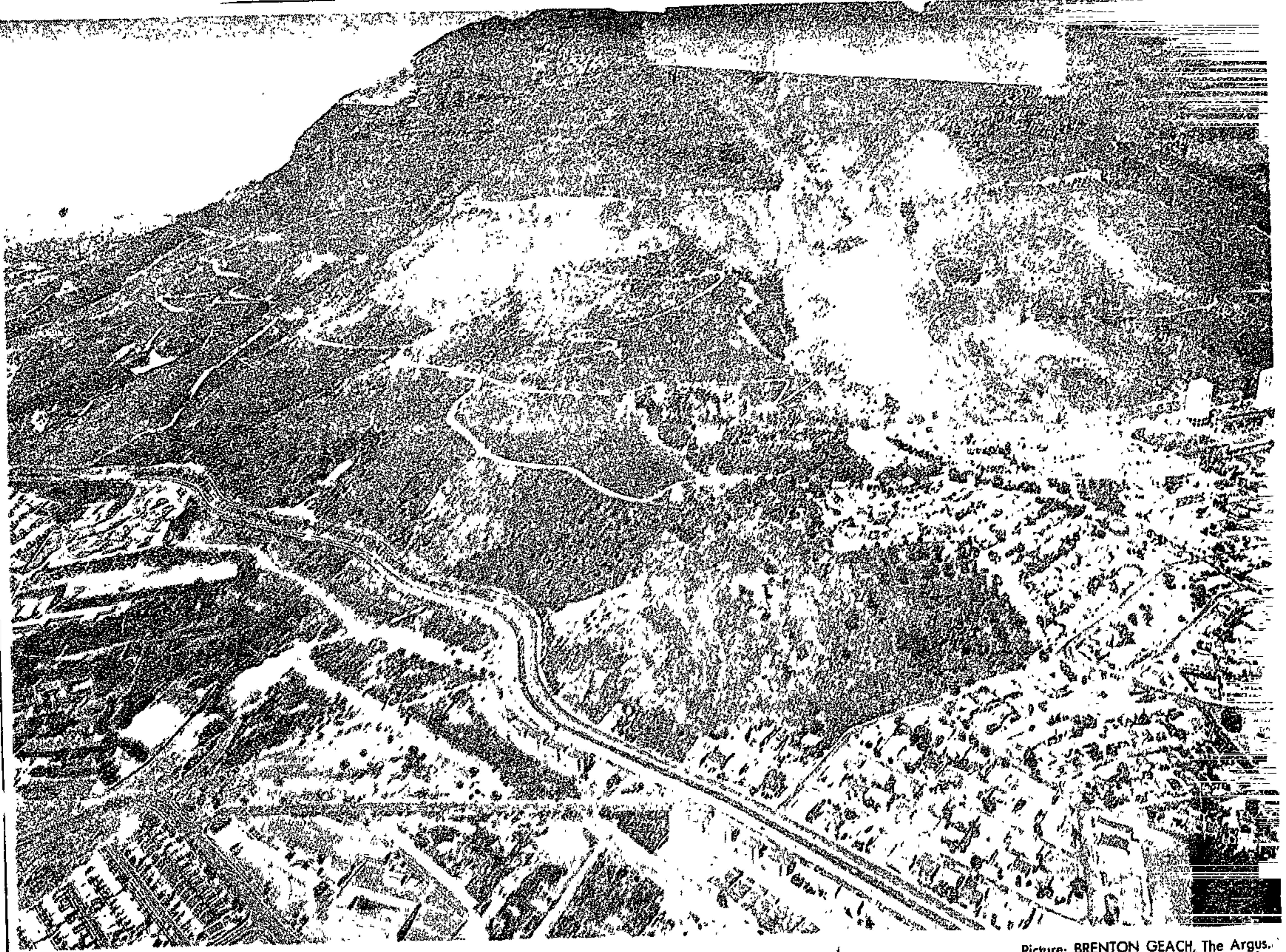
Mr Rist's account was backed up by the Cape Town Fire Brigade, which reported yesterday that its first call about the fire had come in at 11am.

- Firemen were yesterday still fighting a blaze raging in the mountains above Hout Bay since Friday.
- Another fire near Ocean View was "fully under control", an RSC spokesman said.



FILLING UP . . . Regional Services Council firefighters fill up the 4100 "bambl bucket" which helicopter pilots repeatedly tipped out over a fire at Sandy Bay. Picture: ALAN TAYLOR





Picture: BRENTON GEACH, The Argus.

**SCORCHED EARTH:** The 240-hectare wasteland left by the fire on Devil's Peak stretches from University Estate to Vredehoek. Burnt patches indicate where firemen fought holding actions against the blaze as it jumped De Waal Drive in several places.

ARGUS 11/2/91  
56

# Mayor calls for urgent look at fire procedures

## Devil's Peak 'a moonscape'

By JOHN VILJOEN  
Staff Reporter

FROM the air Devil's Peak after the fire resembles a moonscape.

The vastness of the destructive power of the fire was starkly evident when an Argus team flew over the mountain in a helicopter yesterday. The monster blaze had obliterated all in its path, leaving a lifeless wasteland.

Small plumes of smoke rising from smouldering tree trunks were all that remained of the smoke-cloud that shrouded the city.

The paths burnt into residential areas below and above De Waal Drive were terrifying evidence of how close the blaze came to developing into a major civil disaster.

The flames leaped across roads, scorching playing fields, igniting vacant grassland and threatening gardens.

One house standing alone beside De Waal Drive had been threatened by fire raging through tinder-dry vegetation on three sides. The flames must have licked the garden walls, but somehow the house survived.

The overwhelming impression gained from looking down at the many houses perilously close to blackened borders where firefighters had turned back the blaze was that the homeowners had been very lucky.

By CLIVE SAWYER, Municipal Reporter

AN URGENT reassessment of how mountain fires are handled and of the Table Mountain management system has been called for by the mayor, Mr Gordon Oliver, following the disastrous blaze on Devil's Peak.

A major row has developed over the time it took firefighters to respond after first sightings of the blaze on Friday.

Mr Oliver spotted the fire at 11am that day when it was "a wisp of smoke" high on the mountain.

"My first reaction was that a bucket of water from a helicopter could have prevented its disastrous spread," he said.

**ALARMED BY REPORTS**

Mr Oliver said: "I am alarmed by newspaper reports of offers of help from a private helicopter firm which were refused."

Allegations of fire department tardiness would need to be thoroughly investigated. Mr Oliver said he hoped the city council executive committee would ask for a report at its meeting tomorrow.

Questions about the effectiveness of the co-ordination of the response and the value of fire lookout posts on the mountain remained to be answered. All factors about decisions made during the response to the fire would need to be revealed.

While he could not comment on the effectiveness and co-ordination of the firefighting response, "I do understand, however, that the parks and forest team is the best-equipped to handle such fires".

The management of Table Mountain was discussed at a council meeting last month.

"There was a general feeling we had not addressed the problematic issue of its being under the control of so many different authorities. This matter will have to be reassessed in depth."

**TRAGIC**

Mr Oliver said it was tragic that so much valuable fynbos was destroyed.

"Just a year ago, I took a group of children up the mountain to plant fynbos as part of a Fairest Cape Association project. I was saddened to realise all that has been destroyed.

"Nature will heal itself, though this has disrupted the natural healing process following previous fires," he said.

● See page 11.

# Fires: vital hours 'wasted'

By CLIVE SAWYER,  
Municipal Reporter,  
and LIBBY PEACOCK,  
Staff Reporter

HOURS elapsed between the first sighting of the devastating fire on Devils Peak and attempts to combat it.

While official logs have not been made public, an account of events given by fire chief Mr Joop Hamel and eyewitnesses show that it was at least two hours before firefighters had been airlifted to the site to start battling the blaze.

Eyewitnesses reported seeing the fire between 9.45am and 10.15am but a reporter at the scene said that by 12.45pm, only 13 parks and forests department staff were fighting the blaze while 90 waited in Tadelberg Road to be airlifted on to the mountain and another 150 were in reserve.

Cape Town fire brigade staff, whose responsibility is to protect buildings, responded after 2pm after monitoring parks and forest department radio transmissions.

A helicopter pilot reported offering to help after seeing the fire at 9.45am, but his offer was refused. When the fire was at its worst in mid-afternoon, conditions were too turbulent for helicopter waterbombing.

A SA Air Force spokesman at Ysterplaat said pilots were put on standby at 1pm.

The split responsibility between Cape Town Fire Brigade, which protects buildings, and Parks and Forests branch, which tackles mountain fires, did not adversely affect the handling of the fire, Mr Hamel said.

It spread very rapidly because that part of the mountain had been cleaned of alien vegetation about eight years ago and there was "a lot of fuel for the fire", according to department of Parks and Forests director Mr Peter Rist.

"Seven or eight years ago we

cleared the area of alien vegetation such as pine trees and acacias. The trees were left to be there to prevent soil erosion on steep slopes.

Mr Rist "categorically denied" an allegation that the Kloof Nek branch of the forestry department fire brigade had been given details of the fire shortly after 10am on Friday morning.

"We had our first report at 10.55am" he said.

Natural causes for the fire could be "ruled out" and the fire "must have been caused" by man - accidentally or purposely.

To a question why helicopters were not sent in earlier to combat the fire, he said "our priority was to get men up to Devil's Peak. By the time they were up there, there was so much smoke and down drafts that we could not send helicopters."

He declined to give further details and said a full report was being prepared for the City Council.

The official council logs, detailing when the fire was reported and the time of various responses, will not be made public immediately.

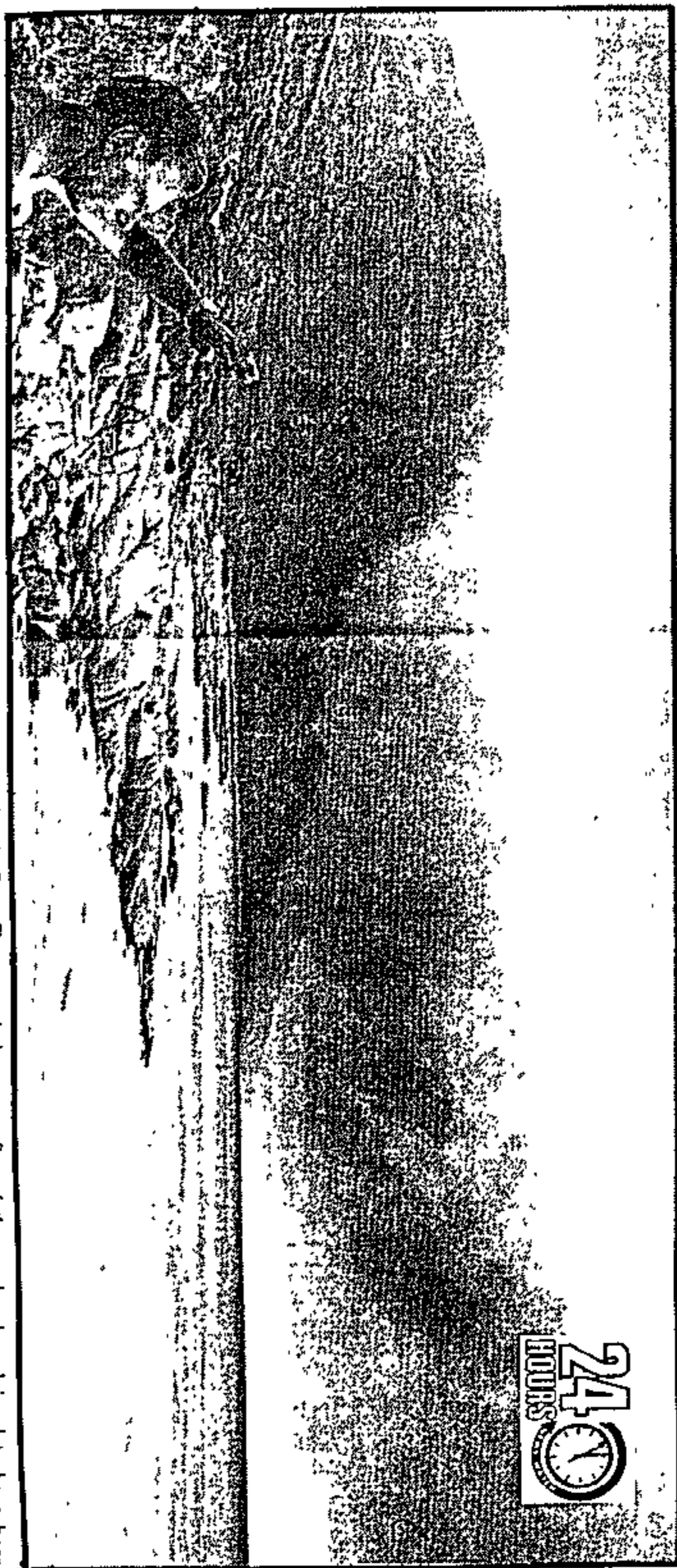
### Questions remain

Council spokesman Mr Ted Dorman said the fire was due to be discussed today by a corporate management team of heads of departments and senior officials.

A decision on releasing the "blow-by-blow" account would be made later.

While questions remain about what time reports of the fire were made and acted upon, Mr Hamel said he first knew of the fire when he saw it from the Cape Town Civic Centre about 11.30am.

"At that stage it was up to Parks and Forests to handle it because our responsibility is solely to protect buildings, usually no more than 100 metres above the building line," Mr Hamel said.



PALL: Thick smoke from a raging fire hangs over the Atlantic seaboard near Sandy Bay. The second disastrous fire of the weekend is claimed to have been started by two flames fired from above Hour Bay harbour. It swept from the slopes of the Korbonkeberg late on Friday night to threaten Llandudno and Sandy Bay. Witnesses said the blaze, fanned by high winds, started about 8.30pm on Friday and by midnight was 50 metres from houses in the Korbonkeberg, it crossed the mountain down to Sandy Bay, where it was put out with the help of repeated water dumping by a helicopter.

The fire brigade could not have helped to fight the fire in its initial stages because there are no water mains above Tadelberg Road.

"As it came lower, we picked up water from hydrants. It would be prohibitively expensive to put in water mains," he said.

The city fire brigade has no off-road vehicles.

City fire brigade staff monitored parks and forest fire department progress on council radio wavebands.

"At 1.50pm, my deputy suggested we concern ourselves with the fire and our response began about 2pm," he said. It was at that time, when the wind came up strongly, worsening the threat to the city, that a staff officer was told to

survey the situation and report back.

The fire was one of the worst the brigade has ever had to tackle, because it advanced on several fronts at once.

Previous fires had a single path and could be blocked, but Friday's fire raged downwards in five or six different places, he said.

Mr Hamel said Cocon, the council civil protection officer directed by the Town Clerk and the City Administrator, did good work co-ordinating the two fire branches, traffic department and other council staff.

Unlike previous fires, water pressure was sufficient to supply hoses throughout the operation, despite private garden hoses that were used to protect homes taxing supplies.

At 4pm, an appeal to off-duty firemen to report was broadcast, while a mutual protection agreement with neighbouring fire brigades was activated.

An officer who inspected the blanket of smoke in mid-afternoon by helicopter said helicopter waterbombing tactics would not work at that time.

Smoke was too thick for "hot spots" to be seen, and visibility too poor for effective flying.

At 5pm, the defence force offered a vehicle and 120 personnel.

"They were not trained firemen and would act under command of corporals, directed by our qualified fire staff."

From 6pm, "things slowed down" and the defence force personnel were used as a labour force to clear up equipment, but not as firefighters.

Off-duty firemen arrived between 5.30pm and 7.30pm, some of whom were scheduled to work Saturday shift. Most worked non-stop until going off duty late on Saturday.

Eye and lung problems plagued firemen.

"While there were goggles on the tenders, and Metro had spare ones, these steam up quickly and the user cannot see anything. Once they are taken off, conjunctivitis happens quickly, which we treat on the spot by putting saline solution in the victim's eyes."

"Superheated air caused pulmonary burns, and the amount of soot and carbon dioxide in the air impairs brain functions because of lack of oxygen in the blood."

Twenty-seven firemen were hospitalised with fire-related injuries and 10 spent the night

in hospital.

Mr Hamel paid tribute to the courage and dedication of his staff.

"Even the ones in hospital were insisting they be discharged to carry on the fight."

Asked if more adequate fire breaks could have prevented the dramatic spread of the fire, Mr Hamel said the placing and width of fire breaks was problematic.

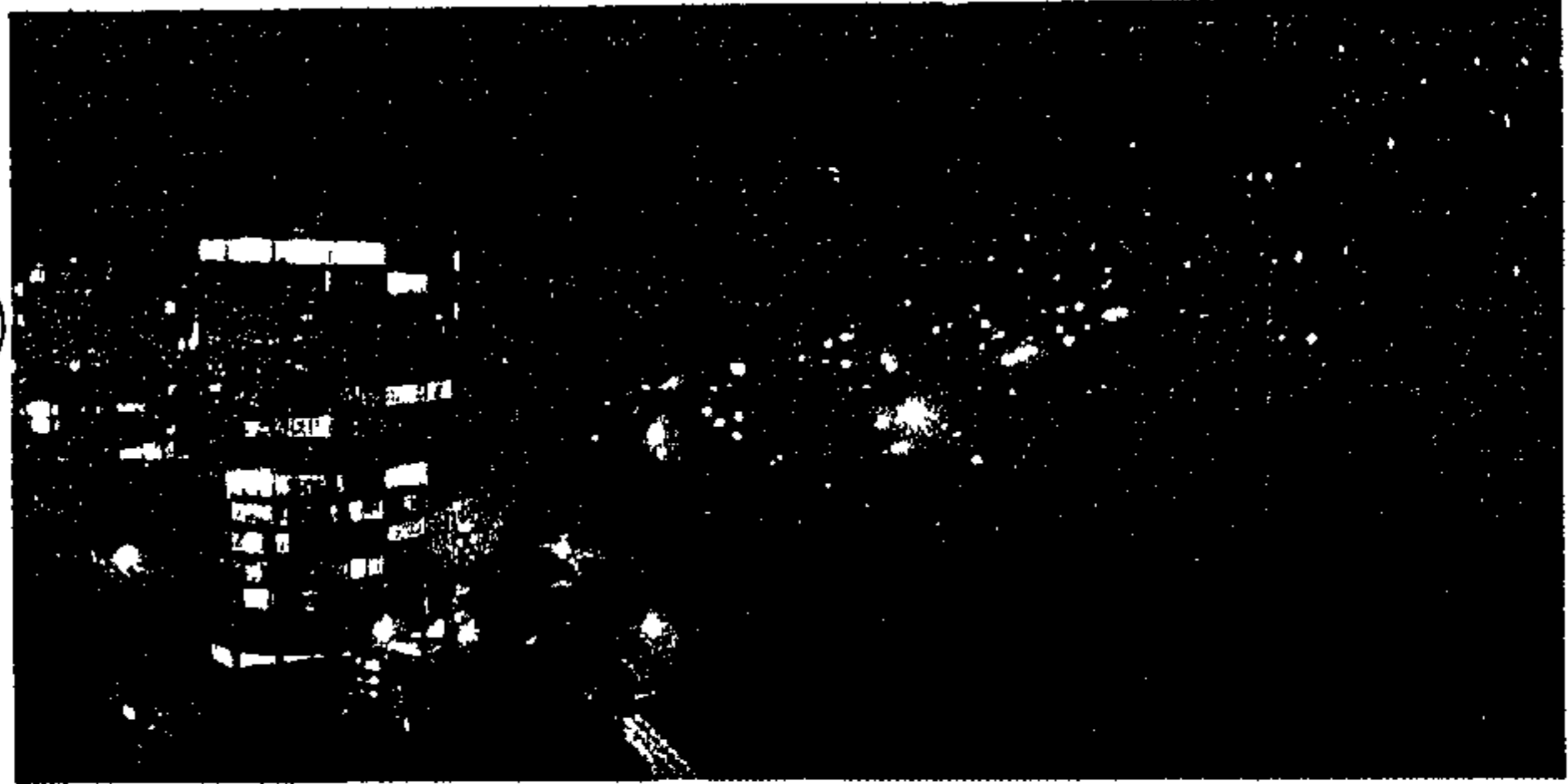
"Sparks can be blown more than 250 metres, causing the fire to jump. Making fire breaks that wide will cause severe erosion."

"Fire-resistant plants like bluegums can help, but once those catch fire they can worsen the situation, as evidenced by the bluegum blazes in Australia, which are almost impossible to extinguish," he said.

CAH TRIPS 12/2/81

# Houses saved 'by a miracle'

56



**CLOSE CALL . . .** Flames dot the mountainside above the Disa Park complex on Friday night, showing just how close the fire came to homes before being checked. Picture BENNY GOOL

**By WILLEM STEENKAMP**  
**RESIDENTS** on the slopes of Table Mountain expressed relief yesterday that, miraculously, no houses were destroyed in Friday's mountain fire.

The fire came right up to the back garden of Mrs Rosemary Beech's Oaktree Village home. She was still trying to clean her house of thick soot yesterday.

"My windows are all taped up at the back to prevent ash and soot getting in," she said, "but I'm pleased that at least I have a house left to clean."

Wisps of smoke yesterday marked still-smouldering spots behind the Oaktree Village house of Mrs Una Grainger, who expressed amazement at how quickly the fire spread down the mountain once the south-easter picked up.

"It was up there behind those trees," she said, pointing to a spot about 500m away, "and 15 minutes later it was on top of us."

## Too late

The fire, which came within two metres of her back fence, was only checked because residents had soaked their gardens and the surrounding veld before leaving, she said.

"The firemen did a very good job, though; we didn't think we would have a house when we got back."

Canadian immigrant Mrs Judith Boyd, Mrs Grainger's next-door neighbour, had "never seen anything like this before".

Forest fires occurred in Canada, she said, but the fire prevention system was highly organised there.

"I think a lot of this could have been prevented. The fire brigade were great when they got here, but by then it was far too late," she added.

The Tafelberg Creche in District Six, well below De Waal Drive, was surrounded on three sides by fire after the blaze leapt the road and raced down the slope into the playground.

A creche supervisor, who declined to be named, said she and other staff members evacuated the 40 children at about 3.30pm on Friday, after being "literally smoked out".

The groundsman sprayed the fire with a hose, and the school's eight fire extinguishers were also employed to douse the flames, she said.

## Officials probe handling of mountain blaze

**Municipal Reporter**  
**SENIOR** city council officials of all departments involved in fighting the Table Mountain fire met later yesterday to thrash out a response to criticism of the council's management of the blaze.

Among those present at the meeting — chaired by city administrator Mr Gys Hofmeyr — were the town clerk, Dr Stanley Evans, the city engineer, Mr Arthur Clayton, the director of parks and

forests, Mr Peter Rist, the director of security services, Mr Eric Bult, and representatives of the fire and traffic departments.

Brigadier Philip Delpert and Colonel J H Basson of the police and representatives of the SADF also attended.

City council public relations officer Mr Ted Doman said no statement would be made until the officials had reported to their political bosses on the council's

executive committee. Meanwhile, claims that the council should have known about the fire sooner than 10.57am have not stood up well.

The managing director of Court Helicopters, Mr Jeremy Labuschagne, said he had read reports about an early call from the company offering helicopter assistance to "emergency services".

"I found no substantiation for that," he said.

## Pik investigating Kurd refugees


**Staff Reporter**  
**SEVEN** Iraqi Kurd stowaways seeking asylum in South Africa declined to appear at a press conference about them yesterday.

The men, who had arrived in Cape Town by ship on Sunday, were afraid of retribution by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha explained. He declined to identify the men, or the part of Iraq from which they come.

On the issue of granting the Kurds asylum, Mr Botha said the government was investigating whether they were in danger of persecution in their own country because of religion, nationality, race, class or politics.

"They have permission to stay here temporarily... (so that we can) sort out the matters I have mentioned," Mr Botha said.

Labour Party MP Mr Miley Richards, acting as a spokesman for the Kurds, said he did not expect any trouble from local Muslims because Islam taught them to help those in need, irrespective of politics.



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# Hartbeespoort development stuns residents

By Louise Burgers  
Municipal Reporter

Major industrial development and pleasure resorts planned for the Hartbeespoort Dam basin have shocked residents who have vowed to fight an attempt by the Kosmos municipality to encourage development.

The Kosmos village council has applied to extend its boundaries west of the dam by incorporating several farms to attract developments such as townhouses, low-density cottages, upmarket hotels and retirement villages.

Though agreeing it would be unacceptable to permit economic activity that could affect the sensitive nature of the area surrounding the dam, the municipality did not preclude the establishment of "clean" industries such as laboratories and computer, pharmaceutical and other high-tech companies.

## 'Capital web'

The municipality has undertaken to create a development structure that could serve as a "capital web" to attract investment from developers.

Entertainer Jeremy Taylor, a resident in neighbour-

ing Broederstroom, accused the Kosmos municipality of trying to steamroll residents.

"Certain people want to turn the area into a playground. They just want to make money out of the area — they don't have to live here. The damage it's going to do to the area is incalculable."

He and Chris Martinus, the chairman of the Broederstroom Residents Action Committee, believe a redevelopment policy for the region should be drawn up.

Mr Martinus said objections to the Kosmos application were being lodged and a public meeting would be held on February 28.

## Fresh air

"They apparently want to create an industrial area. This is frightening for residents who want to preserve the rural character."

Action committee secretary Beverly Balusik said the region was a breath of fresh air they did not want to lose.

"We have a nature reserve on the banks of the Hartbeespoort Dam, a Cape vulture colony, a bird park and Iron Age sites. We are very concerned as to how this is going to affect the environment.

"This is a very special area. We cannot allow our cultural, historical and environmental heritage to be destroyed."

# SA's most critical environmental problem is under your feet

Sheila 14/2/91

**WHEN** Professor Michael Laker, one of South Africa's top soil scientists, submitted his report on soil erosion in South Africa to the United Nations' Environment Project (UNEP), recently, they thought he was exaggerating. He described how South Africa was losing its soil at a frightening rate and how the semi-arid Karoo, in the past 20 years, had advanced 70 km along a front of several hundred kilometres.

But, says the professor, "I found later that I was actually

underestimating the gravity of the situation."  
Professor Laker of the Department of Soil Science at the University of Pretoria says the public is totally unmoved by the crisis. Neither the media nor schools give attention to the subject.

Soil science departments at every university in the country are under pressure to bring in more students or possibly face staff cuts.

Such is the lack of interest that his paper to UNEP's 1989 global survey nearly did not

make it — he had difficulty finding funds to do the study.

Last week, at the Environmental Earth Sciences seminar in Johannesburg, Professor Laker made an impassioned plea for more attention to be paid to the national soil crisis.

This week he said big corporations were spending millions on wildlife — yet when he asked one to help galvanise South Africans regarding the soil crisis "they do not even bother to reply to letters".

Professor Laker points out that soil determines the human

carrying capacity of a land.

He said that apart from reducing South Africa's ability to grow food, soil erosion was also playing havoc with the country's hydrology by reducing the size of dams (filling them with silt) and wrecking the sponge areas which, over thousands of years, supplied water into the rivers all the year round. Now the vlees no longer hold water and

more and more rivers run dry.

He said apart from the likelihood of more urban water restrictions, the urban dweller could not escape the economic effects of desertification — the drying up of former agricultural land.

"Millions of hectares have been denuded to a condition of irreversible destruction," he says. SA's human-induced

soil erosion rate is among the world's worst.

Because South Africa has so many soil types, mainly on a highly erosive plateau which is lashed by torrential rains after prolonged droughts, it takes special skills to farm.

"Our soils are extremely vulnerable and very difficult to manage. The fact that we are so poorly endowed regarding high potential land adds a further dimension."

He said farmers were often guilty of "excessive intensification of land use" and of grow-

ing crops on marginal land.

The latter practice leads to crop failures, the land being left bare of vegetation and, therefore, even more vulnerable to being carried away by wind and rains.

The increase in population growth was also putting pressure on the land, as were non-agricultural activities.

He said agriculturalists, lacking knowledge of soil science, tended to generalise soil management systems and even use inappropriate models developed overseas.

"These have little or no value. The same is sometimes true of locally developed models. This is because South Africa has a critical shortage of soil scientists.

"Unless we can build up a strong team of soil scientists and make adequate funds available for research on soil erosion and methods to combat it, the problem will escalate.

"We must then accept that our soil resource will collapse and that South Africa's carrying capacity will decline sharply." □

# Seal <sup>ARGUS</sup> culling <sup>4/2/91</sup> to be stopped — for now

56

By **ESANN VAN RENSBURG**  
Environment Reporter

THE government has decided to temporarily suspend all commercial seal harvesting on the South African coast, the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar, said today.

"No further decisions on either harvesting or culling will be taken by the government until additional scientific research has been done and evaluated."

Mr Pienaar said the studies would include research into more acceptable methods of harvesting or culling and said the public would be kept fully informed of progress.

## TRAINING

The report of the independent scientific committee, chaired by South African Nature Foundation executive director Dr John Hanks, was made available today.

Among the most important findings of the committee were:

- There was no scientific reason for halting the proposed harvest of seal pups or bulls, provided scientifically recommended harvest levels were applied.

The committee strongly recommended that there should be no further harvesting until a system of licensing and training sealers was in place to ensure the highest possible standards of humaneness.

## 2-MILLION

- The committee noted that the seal population along the South African and Namibian coasts has grown from less than 100 000 at the beginning of the century to approximately 2-million, despite the fact that some 2 700 000 seals were harvested.

Despite the findings of the scientific committee that there was no scientific reason for halting the proposed harvest, the government had decided to suspend all such harvesting until after a further scientific report.

This report is expected within two years.

"Judging from the scientific report, a number of seals will probably have to be controlled in future. We do see seals as a resource for human utilisation," said Mr Pienaar.

# Govt won't pay out for seal venture

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By DANIEL SIMON

**THE** government has no intention of reimbursing a Taiwanese businessman with the R2 million he invested to harvest and process 30 500 Cape fur seals intended for dog food and aphrodisiac products.

This was said yesterday when the government announced it would "temporarily suspend" commercial seal harvesting in SA for at least two years.

No further decisions on harvesting or culling will be taken by the government until additional scientific research has been done and duly evaluated.

Environment Affairs Minister Mr Louis Pienaar said Mr Hsien Hsu took "a risk" when he decided to take part in the proposed venture.

Mr Hsien invested about R2m for permits to harvest the seals at Kleinsee and process the remains at a factory in Port Nolloth.

Following a huge outcry, former Environment Affairs Minister Mr Gert Kotze suspended the venture until an in-depth scientific study was completed.

Commenting on whether Mr Hsien stood a chance of receiving financial compensation, Mr Pienaar said: "The condition of the permit did not give him the absolute right to harvest the seals. The condition of the permit was subject to government's wishes."

He said future studies would include research into more acceptable methods of harvesting or culling.

Conservationists have welcomed the news as a "major victory".



*Hansard*  
11/2/91

(a) it is therefore not possible to give an indication at this stage what the nature of shortcomings are, if any; and

(b) apart from the aforementioned commission steps have already been taken to upgrade the management of the Department. In this regard there was *inter alia* an investigation and recommendations by an independent financial and management consultant Mr Leendert Dekker. Another consultant Mr Steve Rossouw has recently been requested to conduct a further investigation

(2) As far as the allocation and recommendation of housing loans under the individual self-build schemes are concerned, no irregularities have come to light. Parts (a) and (b) of this question thus fall away.

New questions:

\*1 Mr D J Dalling—Justice. [Question standing over.]

\*2 Mr J A Jordaan—Law and Order. [Question standing over.]

\*3 Mr J J WALSH asked the Minister of Development Aid.

(1) Whether officials of his Department seconded to the self-governing territories, participate in subsidized motor transport schemes the terms of which differ from those pertaining to similar schemes for such officials in the Republic of South Africa; if so, (a) which self-governing territories have schemes that differ from comparable schemes in operation in the Republic, (b) in what respects do these schemes differ from those operating in the Republic, (c) why do these differences exist and (d) what is the estimated additional cost of these differences for the 1988-89 financial year;

(2) whether any action is proposed to standardize subsidized motor transport schemes; if not, why not; if so, what action?

B22E

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

The MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AID.

(1) Officials from *inter alia* the Department of Development Aid seconded to self-governing territories participate in subsidized motor transport schemes of which the conditions of some differ from that applicable in the Republic.

(a) KwaZulu, KwaNdebele, KaNgwane, Lebowa and Gazankulu. Owagwado not have a subsidized motor transport scheme.

(b) The official kilometre lifespan of vehicles in Lebowa and KwaNdebele is longer and those of KaNgwane and Gazankulu is shorter than that applicable to vehicles in the Republic. A special allowance per kilometre is granted in some instances for maintenance and the models available to Departmental heads are more expensive than those of their counterparts in the Republic.

(c) These differences exist because the self-governing territories are empowered, under the provisions of the Self-governing Territories Constitution Act, 1971, to make and implement their own decisions in this regard

(d) The Department cannot calculate the estimated additional costs which occur as a result of these differences because it only has access to figures applicable to schemes that apply with respect to the Central Government departments.

(2) As long as the self-governing territories continue, under the provisions of the Self-governing Territories Constitution Act, 1971, to exist autonomously, these areas may at the utmost, only be advised to bring their schemes in line with that which applies in the rest of the Republic. Discussions with the Secretaries to the Departments of the Chief Ministers of the various self-governing territories have already been held in this regard. The erstwhile Minister of Education and Development Aid approached the Chief Ministers of the various self-governing territories through the respective Commissioners-General and has suggested that they take it into consideration to

*Hansard*  
19/2/91

scale down the benefits of their transport schemes in order to bring it in line with those which apply in the Republic.

\*4 Mr R F HASWELL asked the Minister of National Health:

(1) Whether she has received any petitions and/or submissions regarding a state lottery to finance health services; if so, (a) when, (b) from whom and (c) what was (i) the purpose of and (ii) her response to these petitions and/or submissions;

(2) whether she will make a statement on the desirability of a health lottery? B56E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

(1) Yes,

(a) 25 November 1990 and 20 December 1990,

(b) Mr A V Sacks and the Town Clerk of Pinetown,

(c) (i) to finance medical services, health education, housing and similar services

(ii) referred to the Minister of Justice as the Gambling Act, 1965 is administered by the Department of Justice;

(2) no.

Pietermaritzburg: capital city status

\*5. Mr R F HASWELL asked the Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing:

(1) Whether he or any member of his Department has held discussions regarding the capital city status of Pietermaritzburg; if so, (a) when, (b) where and (c) with whom,

(2) whether any decisions and/or recommendations emanated from such discussions; if so, what decisions and/or recommendations; if not, when can a decision be expected;

(3) whether he or any member of his Department intends holding discussions in this regard in the future; if so, when? B57E

B57E

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL HOUSING:

(1) No, (a), (b) and (c) fall away

(2) falls away

(3) no.

False Bay: pollutants

\*6. Mr A L JORDAAN asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:†

(1) Whether his Department exercises control over pollutants discharging into the sea in False Bay by way of river courses; if so, what control; if not, why not,

(2) whether the pollution levels in the sea in False Bay are monitored; if so,

(3) whether he will make known the results of this monitoring;

(4) whether research is being done on the long-term effects of this type of pollution; if so, what is the nature of this research;

(5) whether he will make a statement on the matter? *Hansard*  
19/2/91 B58E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY:

(1) Yes. The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry exercises control over point sources of pollution discharging into the sea in False Bay, or into estuaries, rivers and streams which flow into the Bay.

In terms of section 21 of the Water Act, 1956 (Act 54 of 1956) a general standard is laid down and any discharge of effluent must comply with that standard. In those cases where it is not regarded as essential that all the parameters be complied with, exemptions from certain requirements and subject to certain specific conditions, may be granted. The general standard and any exemptions are determined by the Department in consultation with *inter alia* the Department of National Health and Population Development and the South African Bureau of Standards. The 13 point sources of effluent discharge in False Bay, or the catchment area of the Bay, comply with the exemptions granted

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY



and the specific conditions pertaining to those exemptions.

(2) Yes, but not by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry

(3) Ongoing monitoring is done in the surf zone at areas within the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Cape Town by the Cape Town Medical Officer of Health and the Western Cape Regional Services Council. Pollution levels in False Bay have been, or are being monitored by a number of institutions, bodies or individuals. Results of monitoring done by the Municipality of Cape Town are published annually in its reports.

Additional water quality testing is carried out by various research institutions in terms of research contracts for the Departments of National Health and Population Development, Water Affairs and Forestry and Environment Affairs, as well as the Municipality of Cape Town. These results are published in the scientific reports on the subjects.

(4) Yes, a variety of bodies and institutions, as well as individuals are researching, or have researched, various facets of pollution in False Bay. The results of these investigations and research are made available to the Department and applicable results are used in policy determination and evaluation.

A research project to investigate the extent of urban storm water pollution and possible management strategies, is being done by the CSIR at the request of the Department and by consultants funded by the Water Research Commission.

(5) Yes.

The quality of the effluent from point sources, as well as the point and manner of disposal, within the False Bay catchment area and the Bay itself, are controlled.

The potential impact of the discharge on the water body, when compared with the actual quality of the water body and the contribution of diffuse sources, such as agriculture and urban development, is taken into consideration when conditions for effluent discharge are considered.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Control measures which are prescribed as exemption conditions, include the volume of effluent which may be discharged, the quality of the effluent and measures to prevent storm water pollution which may occur on the premises of the exemption holders. Effluent producers are also required to monitor the effluent quality and submit results to the Department. These results are audited by the Department by sampling the effluent at a lower frequency.

Should violations of the prescribed standards be detected, the Department acts immediately to determine the cause of the problem, as well as the way in which effluent producers will solve the problem. Although at present the Department has limited control over diffuse sources of pollution, such as storm water runoff from urban, industrial and agricultural areas, as well as runoff from the informal settlements between Strand and Cape Town, it is well aware of the contribution from these sources and is investigating management options for controlling these sources of pollution.

On the initiative of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, a co-ordinating committee was established on 14 December 1990 to address, *inter alia*, the problems surrounding storm water runoff to False Bay. Representatives of all local authorities situated in the catchment area of False Bay, sit on this committee, which functions under the chairmanship of the City Engineer of Cape Town. I believe that this step is a further positive contribution from the authorities to address the water quality problems that are being experienced in False Bay in a responsible, scientific and co-ordinated manner.

PT: posts filled by non-Whites

\*7. Mr J CHIOLÉ asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs and Public Enterprises:

- (1) (a) (i) How many posts in the Department of Posts and Telecommunications previously occupied by Whites have been filled by non-Whites since 1 October 1989 and (ii) how many non-Whites have since that

date filled vacancies which occurred after the White occupants of the posts concerned had been transferred to other posts and (b) which (i) post offices and (ii) posts were affected by this;

(2) whether it is proposed to offer a retirement package in order to encourage early retirement; if so, what are the details of this package?

B68E

THE MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

(1) (a) (i) 533 up to and including 13 February 1991 and

(ii) 38. The movement of personnel resulted from promotions to higher posts and transfers at own request or with a view to rendering a better service and more effective utilization of personnel.

- (b) (i)
- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Adelaide            | Amanzimtoti        |
| Arcadia             | Ballengoich        |
| Benoni              | Bergville          |
| Bloemfontein        | Boksburg           |
| Burgerspark         | Cape Town          |
| Cirrusdal           | Dalton             |
| Dundee              | Durban             |
| East London         | Estcourt           |
| Grahamstown         | Greytown           |
| Harding             | Hazyview           |
| Hillcrest           | Hornlee            |
| Howick              | Jacobs             |
| Jan Smuts Airport   | Johannesburg       |
| Kempson Park        | Kimberley          |
| King William's Town | Ladyismuth (Natal) |

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Marydale          | Middelburg (Cape) |
| Matabele          | Middelburg (TV)   |
| Menlopark         | Miller            |
| Middelburg (Cape) | Michelle Street   |
| Middelburg (TV)   | Mkuze             |
| Miller            | Moon River        |
| Mitchell Street   | Mossel Bay        |
| Mkuze             | Mtubatuba         |
| Moon River        | Nelspruit         |
| Mossel Bay        | Newcastle         |
| Mtubatuba         | Nieu-Bethesda     |
| Nelspruit         | Ottery            |
| Newcastle         | Parow-Vallei      |
| Nieu-Bethesda     | Pietermaritzburg  |
| Ottery            | Pietersburg       |
| Parow-Vallei      | Pinetown          |
| Pietermaritzburg  | Port Alfred       |
| Pietersburg       | Port Elizabeth    |
| Pinetown          | Port Nolloth      |
| Port Alfred       | Port Shepstone    |
| Port Elizabeth    | Potchefstroom     |
| Port Nolloth      | Presas            |
| Port Shepstone    | Pretoria          |
| Potchefstroom     | Queenswood        |
| Presas            | Rossllyn          |
| Pretoria          | Secunda           |
| Queenswood        | Silverton         |
| Rossllyn          | Sir Lowry Road    |
| Secunda           | Springs           |
| Silverton         | Stanger           |
| Sir Lowry Road    | Stellenbosch      |
| Springs           | Sullfontein       |
| Stanger           | Tzaneen           |
| Stellenbosch      | Uitenhage         |
| Sullfontein       | Umkomaas          |
| Tzaneen           | Upington          |
| Uitenhage         | Valhalla          |
| Umkomaas          | Vallis            |
| Upington          | Venning Park      |
| Valhalla          | Vereeniging       |
| Vallis            | Westville         |
| Venning Park      | White River       |
| Vereeniging       | Winterton         |
| Westville         |                   |
| White River       |                   |
| Winterton         |                   |

- (ii) Senior Inspector of Uniformed Staff  
Inspector of Uniformed Staff  
Administrative Officer  
Superintendent  
Postmaster, Grade 4  
Branch Postmaster

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

# Govt plans cost cuts on water irrigation

8 (2001  
20/2/91) MARIETTE DU PLESSIS (56)

GOVERNMENT was set for a multimillion-rand expenditure cut when the proposed commercialisation of its irrigation schemes came into effect this year, a Water Affairs and Forestry Department spokesman said yesterday.

The transfer of government irrigation schemes to new irrigation boards would allow for completed schemes to be operated at lower running and maintenance cost than the department's R44m in 1990, he said.

In addition to savings through rationalisation, overhead costs would be reduced through the use of co-operative services and infrastructure available locally.

Revenue received from levies on users totalled R30m last year. Department of Water Affairs chief engineer Piet Pretorius said if boards found they had to impose higher levies to meet their obligations, government would provide bridging finance to subsidise the difference until the boards were fully operational.

Before negotiations could begin on any transfers, those using the water would have to vote in favour of the transfer. This could include municipalities and farmers.

"Only then can an irrigation district be declared and instituted according to prescribed statutory procedures." Although the schemes would still be state-owned, with government remaining responsible for the allocation of water from dams and rivers, the boards would be responsible for financing the operation and maintenance, subject to regulations and supervision of the department.

reports on how a toxic waste dump has leached into a much-used stream

# OLD mines in the mountains around Barberton have created a major environmental hazard by dumping tons of waste laced with lethal amounts of arsenic in the open and allowing the poison to leach into local streams.

## Arsenic River

### A stream laced with toxic waste

Investigations conducted by *The Weekly Mail* this month uncovered a vast dump of arsenic-contaminated waste in the veld surrounding the plant of the New Consort Gold Mine, located some 20km from Barberton, that is causing huge amounts of the deadly poison to leak into local rivers.

New Consort is one of a number of mines in the Barberton area that produce arsenic as a byproduct of their smelting process. Environmentalists are concerned that contamination of the air and surface water around the mining belt, the oldest in the country, is becoming a serious hazard to the health of people living in the area.

Samples of sediment and water that washes off the dumps at New Consort, owned by the Anglovaal corporation, were sent to an independent laboratory that specialises in mining work.

The initial readings for arsenic were so high that they exceeded the upper limits of poison capable of being measured under the lab's sophisticated methods of analysis.

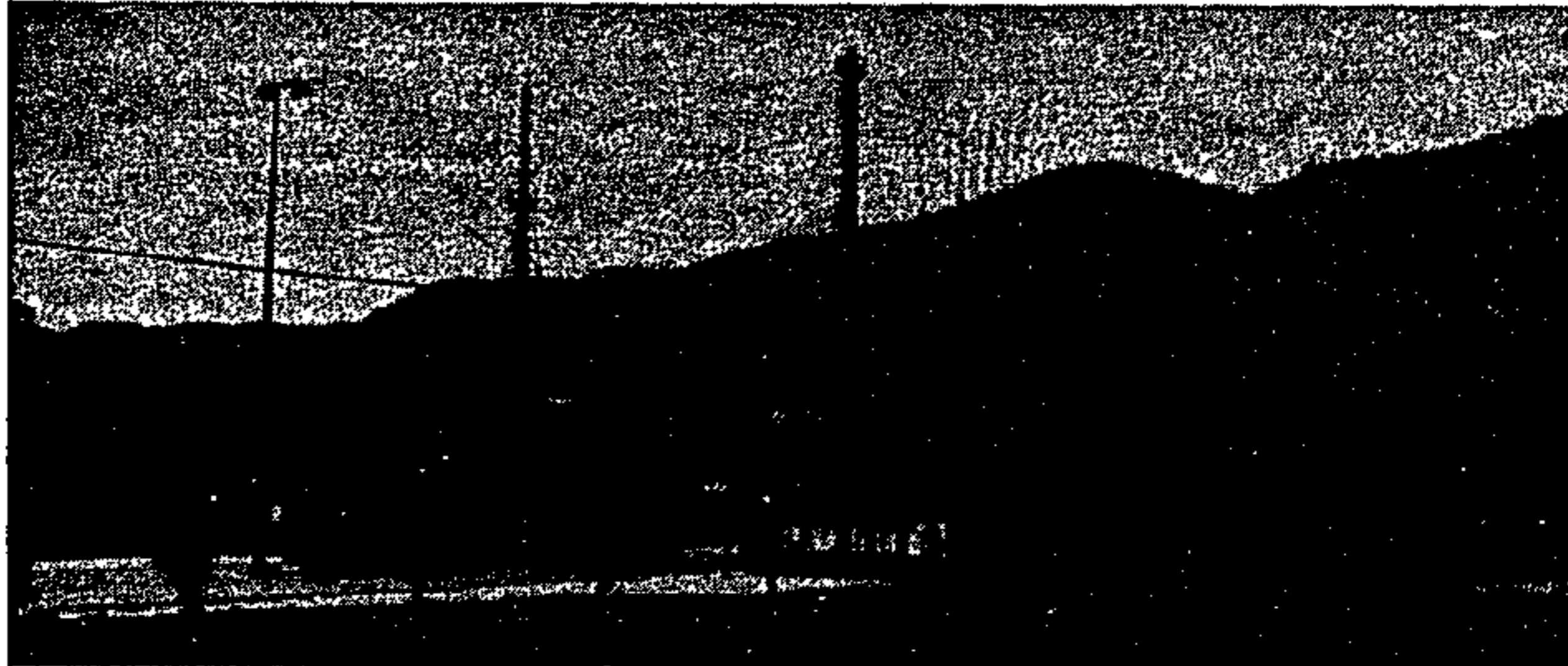
After "busting the gauges" in the laboratory, our samples were retested under a different technique and found to contain levels of arsenic that far exceeded the legal maximum for industrial effluent laid down by law in South African standards, which are themselves much more relaxed than those enforced in other parts of the world.

According to our tests, fast flowing water about a kilometre from the dump contained 0,96mg of arsenic for every litre — nearly double the legal limit of 0,5mg for industrial effluent that is meant to be enforced under South Africa law.

The sediment samples contained even more staggering levels of arsenic. The highest reading, taken from a sample of mud directly below the dump, revealed an arsenic content of 4 500 parts for every million parts of soil.

Friends of the Earth, a respected international environment organisation based in London, reports that very small amounts of arsenic, ingested over time, can cause malfunctions: skin lesions, muscle weakness as well as ear, nose and throat diseases.

The Noordkaap river, which runs through the New Consort dump and flows through the mining belt, flows through a heavily populated agricultural



Mining more than gold ... the New Consort Gold Mine near Barberton



Pool of poison ... high percentages of arsenic were found in samples of water washing off the dumps

regional region then, some 30km downstream, into the Crocodile River on whose banks is located the township of Matsulu, one of the biggest black settlements in the Eastern Transvaal.

The dump itself was not fenced and unprotected. Apart from a few old signs saying "Beware. Dangerous Ground" there is no warning that the dump is toxic and the public has easy access to the site. *The Weekly Mail* team was able to take samples on the dump and on the banks of the river without seeing any employees of the mine.

A report from Friends of the Earth says: "Arsenic causes death in doses of 70 to 180mg. But poisoning occurs in doses of between three to six milligrams per day if taken over an extended period. Chronic poisoning of this nature gives rise to muscular weakness, loss of appetite, nausea, skin lesions and inflammation of the mucous membranes in the eyes, nose and throat. It can also cause malignant tumours in vital organs of the body."

A World Health Organisation task force has also discovered that life-long exposure to water contaminated

with even tiny amounts of arsenic can increase the chances of people contracting cancer of the skin.

Anglovaal assistant public relations chief Julian Gwillim said: "We cannot comment on your results as we are unsure as to the timing and location of the samples taken by your laboratory."

"Eastern Transvaal Consolidated Mines has been monitoring, on an ongoing basis, arsenic levels in the mine area and their results indicate that they that they have not exceeded the SABS effluent standard."

But there is growing evidence that arsenic produced in the gold mines of the Barberton belt is one of South Africa's major — and little reported — environmental problems.

● In 1985 large amounts of arsenic were found in a dam near Barberton and the toxins resulted in the death of five head of cattle and severe illness in another 21 animals.

● More recent press reports describe a dam near Barberton which contains fish that have been blinded by exposure to heavy levels of the poison.

● The district surgeon in Nelspruit, a town not far from Barberton, has confirmed to *The Weekly Mail* that scores of workers from one of the gold mines in the area had to be tested for arsenic poisoning after being exposed to the toxin at a nearby mine late last year.

● Large areas of vegetation around the Fairview Gold Mine in the district have been stripped bare, apparently by arsenic vapours that precipitate from the chimney stacks of the mine's smelting plant.

● Employees from the New Consort mine also report that birds which fly over the mine's slimes dam frequently drop dead into the water from inhaling arsenic vapours. The anecdote is not improbable given the high respiratory rate that birds produce in mid-flight.

● Up until the late 1970s, the disposal of arsenic dust that accumulated in various parts of the mines was considered so dangerous that convict labourers were taken out of the nearby Barberton prison to do the job.

Mining engineers and environmentalists working inside the gold mining industry have agreed that air and water pollution from arsenic produced by mines in the area has created the potential for an environmental disaster.

"The gold-bearing ore in this area, as well as Botswana and Zimbabwe, is different to that on the Witwatersrand. It is located in rock with a high content of arsenopyrites," says a mining engineer who asked not to be named.

"The classic method of getting the gold out of the rock is to roast it in a huge furnace. This sends volatilised arsenic gases up the stacks and into the air and creates a fine arsenic dust that has to be disposed of. The mines try to sell some of this and treat the rest before they dump it. But it's an extremely dirty process which generates all kinds of problems."

The arsenic problem in this area is so great that Genmin has pioneered a unique method of using bacteria that grow on slimes dams to erode the sulphides in arsenopyrite ore. This makes it unnecessary to use the dangerous roasting method of separating the gold from the rock.

**White social old-age pensioners**

\*7. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Welfare, Housing and Works:

- (a) How many White social old-age pensioners were there during the latest specified 12-month period for which figures are available and (b) what was the total cost of these pensions during the said period?

*Hansard 26/2/91* B311E  
The MINISTER OF WELFARE, HOUSING AND WORKS:

- (a) 136 306 as at 31 March 1990.
- (b) R425 309 000 for the 1989/90 financial year.

*Reply substituting reply to Question No 3 on 12 February 1991, but by Mr R M Burrows (col 43):*

**Schools/colleges closed**

\*3. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

- (1) Whether any component executive departments of his Department have closed any schools or colleges of education in 1990, if so, (a) for what reasons and (b) what total number was closed;
- (2) whether the closing of schools or colleges in terms of a policy of rationalisation will continue in 1991; if so, for what reasons;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

*Hansard 26/2/91* B31E  
The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

It is accepted that "component executive departments" refer to the four executive departments of education.

- (1) Yes, (a) to ensure cost-effective use of facilities, (b) 47 schools and 1 college of education;
- (2) yes, to ensure further cost-effective use of facilities;
- (3) no.

*Written reply:*  
*General Affairs:*

**SADF:** persons failing to report for duty

46. Lt-Gen R H D ROGERS asked the Minister of Defence: *Hansard 26/2/91*

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

- (a) None *Hansard 26/2/91*
- (b) and (c) Fall away.

**Cape Peninsula: monitoring of oil spillage**

65. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Environment Affairs: *Hansard 26/2/91*

- (1) Whether any steps are being taken to monitor oil spillage from vessels into the sea off the Cape Peninsula; if so, what steps; if not, why not; *Sk*
- (2) whether there were any cases of oil spillage from vessels into the sea off the Cape Peninsula in 1990; if so, in respect of each such case, (a) what was the (i) nature and (ii) extent of the spillage, (b) what is the name of the vessel concerned and (c) what

follow-up action was taken by the South African Government? B181E  
The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) The Kuswag 7 oil pollution coastal patrol aircraft patrols the shipping lanes between Saldanha Bay and Richards Bay, flying an average of 60 hours per month. This coverage includes the sea around the Cape Peninsula. All oil spills spotted by the Kuswag 7 are reported to the Department of Environment Affairs. In addition, all coastal and port authorities and other bodies with jurisdiction along the coastline have been requested to report any oil spill sightings to the Department of Environment Affairs. All of these oil spills are recorded for monitoring purposes.
- (2) The following incidents of oil pollution were recorded from around the Cape Peninsula during the period 1 January to 31 December 1990:

DATE SOURCE	NATURE	POSITION	EXTENT	ACTION
10/1 Unidentified	Fuel oil	Minerton beach	0,3 t	Cleared
30/3 "South Island"	Bilge	30 nm S of False Bay	0,3 t	None
23/5 Unidentified	Tar	Minerton beach	0,1 t	Cleared
1/7 "Bubijan"	Crude	N of Robben Island	0,1 t	Kuswag vessel broke up the crude
29/7 Unidentified	Tar	Camps Bay	0,3 t	Cleared
27/12 Unidentified	Lube	Minerton beach	0,2 t	Cleared

In addition to the above reported spills, 38 incidents of oiled penguins, involving less than five birds in each case, were recorded along the Cape Peninsula coastline during this period. These incidents were not linked to any of the reported spills. All these birds were treated at the South African National Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB).

Whether any persons are currently serving gaol sentences for refusing to serve in the South African Defence Force; if so, (a) how many and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished? *Hansard 26/2/91* B320E  
The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:

- (a) and (b)

90. Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Correctional Services: *Hansard 26/2/91*

# Tropical wonderland's uncertain future

56  
26/2/91

In the heart of Maputaland, a pristine stretch of tropical bush beneath the southern Mozambique border, a conflict is brewing — a conflict with no easy solutions.

The region is a conservationist's dream, boasting 75 percent of the world's swamp forests and a priceless treasure of huge pans, crocodiles, hippos and birdlife, as well as southern Africa's last free-roaming elephant.

But efforts to conserve six ecological zones, making up Maputaland, have proved highly controversial because of the impact on the rural population living there.

The Tonge Tembe people, who have subsistence-farmed peacefully in the area for centuries, have been caught up in a political quagmire over whether they should remain, or move from areas earmarked for conservation reserves.

## L-shaped

To date, the conservation authority involved, the Kwazulu Bureau for Natural Resources, has managed to have three chunks of Maputaland proclaimed reserves. They are the Ndumo Game Reserve, Tembe Elephant Park and Kosi Bay Nature Reserve (including a long strip of coast).

They further intend having these areas consolidated into one huge L-shaped reserve, which would encapsulate all six ecological zones, ranging from coastal dunes to inland sand forest.

But the bureau, primarily concerned with conservation, has found itself pitted against rural organisations championing the cause of the farmers, who wish to stay in the reserves at any cost.

And while the respective organisations battle over their in-

In what is potentially one of South Africa's most beautiful tourist spots, conservationists have come up against a wall of resistance which could destroy their dream.

**HELEN GRANGE** reports.

terests, the rural people of the reserves remain uncertain over their future.

The Star, in interviews with many of the Kosi Bay farmers, has found a firm commitment to stay on the land, despite monetary compensation offered by the bureau for moving.

The bureau's case is simply that, should the Tonge population continue farming and allow increasing numbers of cattle to graze on the land, the beauty of Maputaland's coastal forests will soon become a memory.

The bureau, in its effort to limit grazing, has offered incentives to people to move off the land, an option already taken by a number of farmers.

Alternatively, the bureau has given the proviso that should farmers wish to stay, their plantations will be restricted and their cattle will have to graze elsewhere.

However, farmers who take the option to stay will undoubtedly face difficulties in coping with such restrictions, not to mention having to contend with the free movement of wild game should consolidation of the reserves come about.

The bureau's approach has been strongly criticised by the Association of Rural Advancement (Afra), an organisation representing farmers in the region. Afra claims some 2 000 people are threatened with removal from within the Kosi Bay Nature Reserve alone, a situa-

tion it deems immoral and insensitive.

"We support conservation of Maputaland's unique resources but not at the expense of the already impoverished local people," says fieldworker Richard Ciacey.

One suggestion is that the local people may be prepared to accept priority conservation areas if their traditional rights of tenure are respected, and if they had access to game meat, plant resources, honey, water and grazing land.

But, according to the bureau, present agricultural gains in the swamp forest will only be of short-term benefit — because the sponges will not sustain long-term agriculture.

## Tourism

The bureau has said it is prepared to negotiate the cultivation of peripheral strips of swamp forest, while conserving the central core of the forests — but claims this valuable compromise has also been bedevilled by political groups "wanting the entire swamp forest for agriculture".

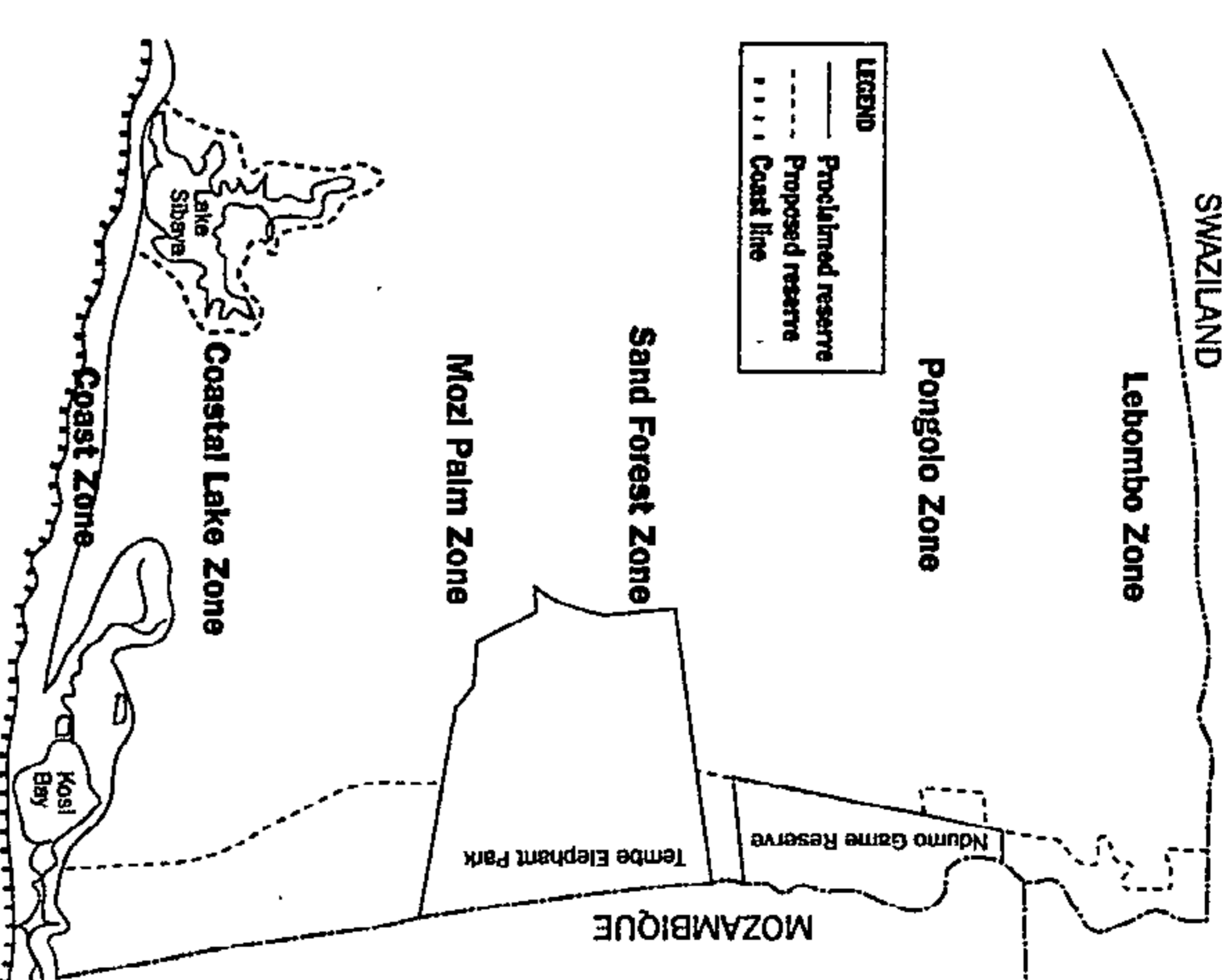
Ironically, the Tembe people are living on a potential tourist gold mine — easily more ecologically valuable and beautiful than the Kruger National Park.

The bureau has stated that the Tembe Tribal Authority, which presides over the community, would get 25 percent of all future tourist income.

But as long as the area is plagued with conflict, and negotiations continue to fail, consolidation of Maputaland reserves will remain a dream, and the region's potential for tourist growth will be stunted.

Another tragedy of the Maputaland paradise is the spillover of the war raging in Mozambique.

Elephants in the Tembe Elephant Park have taken the



brunt of Renamo/Frelimo skirmishes, and many are walking around riddled with bullets.

When the northern boundary of the park was closed in 1989, 25 percent of the elephant bulls had visible wounds, and eight percent of the population was lost in one year.

The bureau says it is important to the elephants that the L-

shaped consolidated reserve comes about so they can once again gain access to flood plains and vegetation outside the boundaries of the park.

Consolidation between the Tembe Elephant Park and Ndumo Game Reserve would also cut off the Mhangweni Corridor, a gateway for gun and drug traffic from Mozambique.

# Cape's own 'Alcatraz' becoming a tourist must

ROBBEN Island — in its time a leper colony, a naval base, a security prison and, more recently, venue for a meeting of the SA Cabinet — received 33 000 visitors last year.

With Table Mountain and Cape Point, the island is now a must on the tourist's Cape itinerary, says Alta van Wyk in the March issue of RSA Policy Review.

Robben Island has aroused world-wide interest as a result of its sinister and enigmatic image as the Alcatraz of SA, Van Wyk says.

But it has its brighter aspects too.

She says a decision taken a decade ago to close the two prisons on the island was reversed in 1986 when it was found that replacing them would cost R80m.

A subsequent decision was taken to make the island more accessible to the public, she says, although government is holding out against fullscale

commercial exploitation of what is, in effect, a unique 574 ha piece of the Karoo stranded in Table Bay.

Just one of Robben Island's fascinating historical features is the Herbert Baker-designed Church of the Good Shepherd. Not only is it a men's only church, it also has no pews — because the lepers would not have been able to sit on them.

A comprehensive conservation programme is being launched by the Department of Correctional Services — the old Prisons Department — and interest groups.

Nearly 4 000 jackass penguins have chosen the island as their home, making it the world's sixth largest penguin colony. It also boasts the biggest seagull breeding colony in the southern hemisphere.

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2288  
B 17/2/91  
PATRICK BULGER

# Pik announces 'interest Section' links with Soviets

CAPE TOWN — Diplomatic and consular relations between SA and the Soviet Union were brought nearer yesterday with the announcement that "interest sections" are to be set up in the Austrian embassies in Pretoria and Moscow — a major step in the direction of formal links.

Foreign Minister Pik Botha said in the absence of diplomatic and consular relations, current working contacts between the two countries would be maintained through these interest sections.

The establishment of limited formal contact between SA and the Soviet Union is further evidence of the thawing of relations between Pretoria and the outside world. Botha announced recently that six missions had already been es-

### Political Staff

established in Eastern Europe and seven in Africa.

Sapa-AP reports that Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin said in Moscow: "We envisage that consular and diplomatic relations will be established on the level of working contacts between the two countries."

He emphasised this move did not constitute diplomatic relations.

The Soviet Union cut diplomatic ties in 1956 over SA's policy of apartheid. It provided military aid to the ANC.

Churkin said the recent positive changes in SA, "including the

beginning of the dismantling of apartheid", prompted the change in the Soviet attitude.

The Soviet Union broke a longstanding refusal to do business with SA last year when it signed a deal to sell the next five years of its diamond exports through De Beers. The SA company, which controls most of the international diamond market, advanced the Soviet Union \$1bn on future sales.

The offices in the Austrian embassies in Moscow and Pretoria will study the situation in each other's countries and establish contacts, Churkin said.

The Soviet Union had informed the ANC beforehand, said Churkin, and it understood the move.

The decision to establish these offices was reached during meetings that had been held in Austria since Saturday, he said.

## Minister reports on oil pollution

### Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — Six cases of oil pollution were recorded around the Cape Peninsula last year and 38 incidents of oil-affected penguins were reported, Minister of Environment Affairs Louis Pienaar said yesterday.

All the oil pollution was cleared or broken up, he said in reply to a question tabled in Parliament by Colin Eglin (DP Sea Point). (MNA 27/2/91)

The 38 incidents of oil-affected penguins, involving fewer than five birds in each case, were recorded along the Peninsula coastline but were not linked to any of the reported spills.

Pienaar said Kuswag 7 oil pollution coastal patrol aircraft patrolled the shipping lanes between Saldanha Bay and Richards Bay.

They flew an average of 60 hours a month.

CCB revelations

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# Smog!

M642 6/3/97 (56)

## Pollution poses health threat

By CLIVE SAWYER, Municipal Reporter

POLLUTION from motor vehicle exhausts is threatening Cape Town residents and the environment, and acting medical officer of health Dr Nula Durcan wants action to clean up the city's air before it is too late.

The pollution, called photochemical smog, is the brown haze formed by sunlight acting on fumes from petrol-driven engine exhausts.

Apart from being ugly and smelly, photochemical smog causes smarting eyes, running noses and impaired lung function. It attacks vegetation, building materials, metals and rubber.

### Early warning signals

Dr Durcan said in a report tabled at a city council amenities and health committee meeting that "early warning signals of a deteriorating quality to Cape Town's air is an indication that planning should be initiated now to avoid serious environmental damage and health hazards developing".

"The institution of control measures will be a lengthy process and so planning should not be delayed."

Graphs contained in the report showed that nitric oxide levels exceeded the limits more than 40 times in one-hour periods during June last year.

At the same time, nitrogen dioxide exceeded permissible levels almost 30 times, and oxides of nitrogen levels passed the limit about four times.

Three years before, nitric oxide levels passed the limit about 24 times, nitrogen dioxide more than 10 times, while oxides of nitrogen levels were similar to 1990 levels.

Dr Durcan noted that in 1968 the city amphitheatre was coated in soot and sulphur dioxide from fumes emitted by three power stations, coal-burning locomotives operating on the Foreshore, coal-burning tugs — including the infamous Smokey Sue — as well as industrial and commercial incinerators and heavy fuel-burning appliances.

### Among world's cleanest

The council launched an air pollution control programme which improved the city within 10 years to "one of the cleanest in the world".

In spite of this success and a decade of relative cleanliness, motor vehicles now posed a photochemical smog threat.

In 1984, new measuring instruments found the potential existed for a photochemical smog problem in Cape Town.

In urban areas, motor vehicles were the largest contributors to oxides of nitrogen and hydrocarbon emissions. Ultraviolet light acted on these to form secondary pollutants.

Other causes were solvents from paints and the printing industry.

The problem is worsened by calm days with long hours of sunlight.

"As a rule when the guidelines have been exceeded a breeze has occurred around noon and carried pollutants around the Peninsula and out to sea," Dr Durcan said.

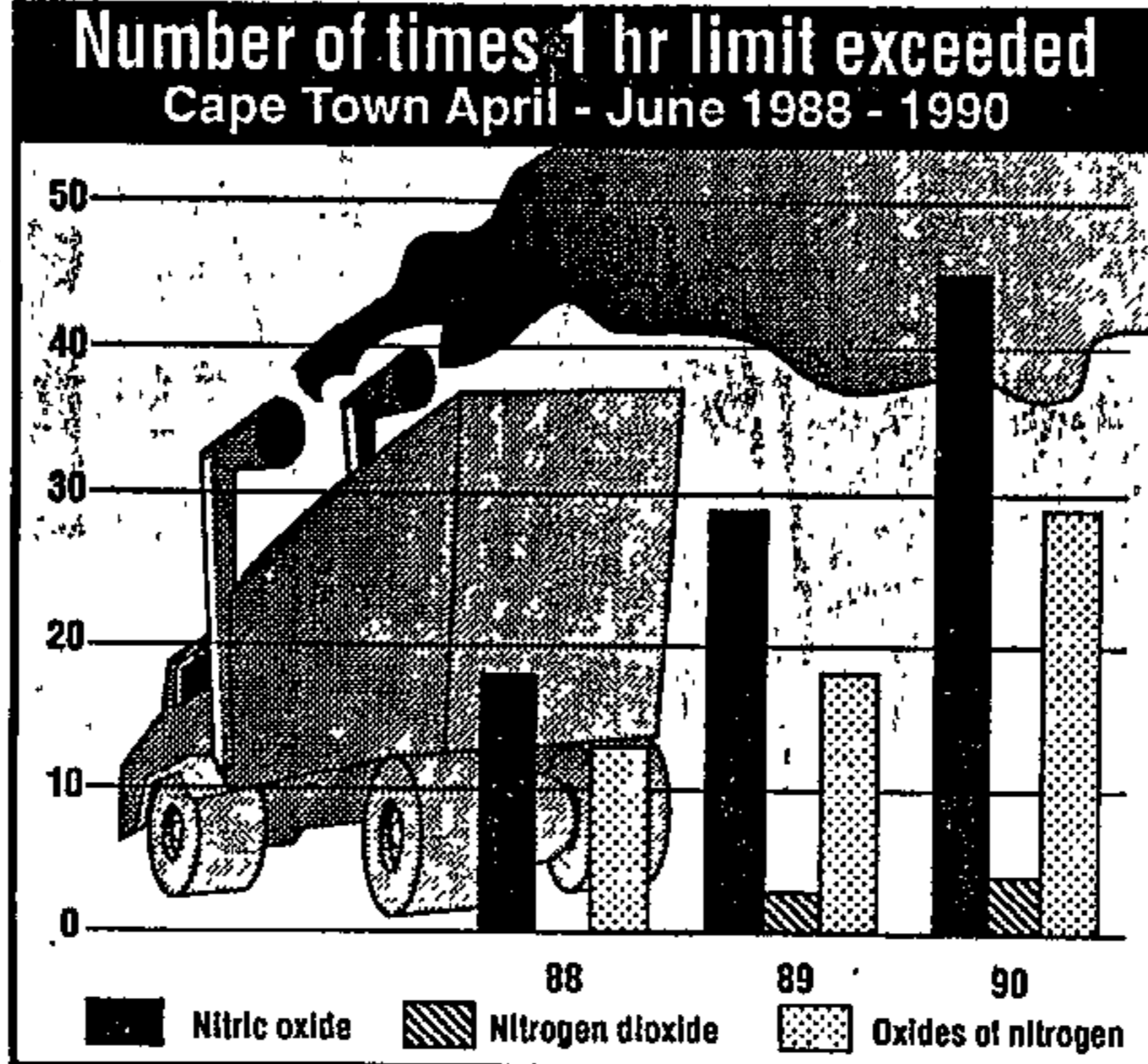
### Higher tolls and parking fees

Control measures had to be aimed at reducing production and emission of pollutants, for instance by encouraging the use of public transport and discouraging private vehicles by high tolls and parking fees.

In Cape Town, a possible solution would be removing lead from petrol and fitting catalytic converters to car exhausts.

Dr Durcan recommended the council ask the government to fund more research into photochemical smog, appoint a commission of inquiry, and take action to control the developing problem.

The matter was referred to the executive committee.



POLLUTION: Nitric oxide, nitrogen dioxide and nitrogen exceed permissible limits during autumn and early winter from 1984 to 1990.

## Queen wants FW at the Palace

The Argus Foreign Service LONDON. — The Queen wants to grant President De Klerk an audience at Buckingham Palace next month and she end more than 30 years of estrangement between the royal family and Pretoria.

But her wish to take tea with the Mr and Mrs De Klerk is causing headaches at the Foreign Office, who fear that other Commonwealth countries, particularly Zimbabwe, could take offence at any early royal seal of approval for South Africa.

Nigel Dempster writes in the Daily Mail that the Foreign Office's main

concern "is whether the Commonwealth summit in Zimbabwe later this year might not feel that Buckingham Palace was anticipating their readiness to end sanctions and the boycott of South Africa which is soon Mr De Klerk's first time being."

It is understood here that the Queen has already been in contact with senior Foreign Office officials and informed them of her wish to entertain Mr De Klerk, who arrives for a short visit in late April.

During his stay Mr De Klerk is due for talks with the Prime Minister, Mr John Major, Foreign Secretary Mr Douglas Hurd and other ministers.

## Emergency cases only as health cuts start

By VIVIEN HORLER Medical Reporter

STATE hospital superintendents are beginning to implement the slashing emergency measures announced this week with, in the words of one doctor, "my head in my hands".

Only emergency cases are being admitted to wards, non-essential operations are being postponed, and out-patients departments are closing early or being more selective about whom they treat.

At Khayelitsha day hospital, a 24-hour emergency health centre



P... R... S... P... S... B... G... M... A... RA... R... SP... Ear... Pro... Pa... Of... de... Tr... H...



# Water price in PWV to increase by 11,5%

THE cost of water in the PWV area will increase by 11,5% on April 1, the Rand Water Board announced yesterday.

Rand Water Board CE Vincent Bath said the tariff for industries, mines and municipalities would rise by 6,41c a kilolitre from 55,75c/kl to 62,16c/kl. Water to households outside municipal areas would increase by 10,82c/kl from 94,07c/kl to 104,89c/kl.

Bath said the board was able to limit its tariff increases to well below the inflation rate because of the relatively small in-

THEO RAWANA

creases in electricity tariffs announced early this year.

Planned capital expenditure levels, which gave rise to a relatively small increase in loan costs, also helped, he said.

A Sacob spokesman said the rise would have an effect on production costs of large users.

The total cost of raw water the Rand Water Board bought from the Department

of Water Affairs from April 1 would be 21,20c/kl. "Included in this amount is a levy of 7c/kl to provide finance for the construction of the portion of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project for which SA is responsible," Bath said.

No provision had been made in the latest tariff to absorb the increase in the levy which becomes effective on October 1.

Bath said the increase was expected to be 3c/kl and the Rand Water Board would adjust its water tariffs at that time.

Star 6/3/91.

## 11,5 pc increase in water tariff for Reef users

Municipal Reporter

Rand Water Board yesterday announced an increase of 11,5 percent for purified water supplied to municipalities, the mines and other direct consumers.

The tariff for major consumers will rise by 6,41c/kilolitre from April 1. The tariff for small consumers supplied directly by the board outside municipal areas will increase by 10,82c/kilolitre.

The cost for ratepayers will depend on tariffs charged by individual municipalities. There will be no immediate increase for the ordinary ratepayer as most municipalities budget for the yearly increase.

The board said in a statement to clarify the increase that a householder consuming on average 30 kl a month would pay an additional R2.

Board chief executive Vincent Bath said that although there had been considerable increases in the costs of chemicals, coal, transport, materials and raw water, the board was pleased it was able to contain its tariff increase to 11,5 percent.

**Chemical** (56)  
**spill poisons**  
**Venda river**

Northern ~~Transvaal~~  
Transvaal Bureau  
Star 11/3/91

THOHOYANDOU — Several hundreds of thousands of fish — some sticking their heads out of the water in a desperate bid for oxygen — have died in Venda as a result of chemical pollution of the Levuba river.

Nature conservation officials are monitoring the serious implications of the problem.

"We are now fairly certain the fish have been poisoned by a chemical substance and have collected specimens for laboratory analysis in order to identify the substance," Venda's director of nature conservation, Tuba van der Walt, told The Star yesterday.

Mr van der Walt was optimistic that the poison would rapidly become too diluted to pose a threat to wildlife downstream in the Kruger National Park.

A thorough investigation has been launched by a senior Transvaal Nature Conservation official.

# Ending the apartheid of the

Save the humans!  
environment  
South Africa - 12/3/91 (Southside) (56)

THE CAPE TOWN ECOLOGY GROUP is one of the oldest green activist groups in the city. Formed as a "child" of Koeberg Alert, the anti-nuclear lobby in 1987, the group is now at the forefront of progressive ecology.

Perhaps the best way to describe the Group's approach is the T-shirt worn by founder member Mike Cope with a picture of two dolphins, the one with a speech bubble reading: "Save the Humans."

Recalling the founding of the Group, Cope said: "We felt the need to view ecological issues on a broader level and recognised the connection between politics and ecology. Ecology is definitely a political issue because environmental issues are about where we live."

"Unfortunately, most political organisations in our country have not regarded the environment as much of an issue."

It is for this reason that the Group has embarked on an ambitious campaign to promote environmental concern among democratic organisations.

"Issues such as apartheid, poverty and injustice have tended to overshadow environmental issues, but it is often those most affected by poverty or lack of shelter that are in the frontline of the ecological crisis," said Cope.

The recent Food and Allied Workers' Union campaign on marine resources is a good example. The Group has been involved in the campaign since its inception, acting in an advisory capacity.

The aims of the campaign were threefold: to put an end to driftnet fishing in the southern Atlantic; to give the union and environmental groups a say in the management of the country's fishing resources; and, more importantly, to demand unemployment benefits for workers during the off-season or bad years.

The government has so far only conceded the first demand and the campaign is still in progress.

"South Africa is a land with fairly limited resources. For instance, there is not much arable



**The Cape Town Ecology Group is determined to place environmental issues on the agenda of progressive organisations. DAVID LEWIS finds out how they intend to do this.**

land and a lot of desert. Access to resources such as land is a deeply political issue," said Cope.

In fact, most of SA's population has, until recently, been denied any say in just how the country's land, water and air is managed, allowing these valuable assets to be squandered and polluted.

Said Cope: "There is the green maxim that goes, 'We haven't inherited the land from our grandparents, we are borrowing it from our children', and it is this change in emphasis that we are trying to share with groups such as the ANC, the PAC and youth groups in the Cape Town region."

The Group, in conjunction with The World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP) and The Call of Islam, is busy organising a conference on the issue of politics and ecology to be held in July this year with the slogan, "Ecologise politics and politicise ecology".

"The conference will bring together environmentalists, trade unions, religious organisations and community groups to debate these issues and will, hopefully, insert the environment once and for all on the agenda of progressive organisations," said Cope.

Last year the group sent out a questionnaire to 130 organisations in the Western Cape, asking for people's opinions on ecopolitics and its link to the struggle for national liberation. However, the response was anything but positive.

"Only 12 groups replied, indicating a dire need for a conference to prevent ecological issues from being sidelined," said Cope.

The Group's latest campaign will highlight the threat of alien invasive trees to Cape Town's water supply. The city is dependent on water from mountain catchments 40 to 80 kilometres away, and these catchments are exceptionally vulnerable to invasion by pine trees, wattles and hakeas, which cause a drop in available water.

Control of these plants passed from central to provincial government in 1989, but the province has not allocated any money to continue the containment programmes initiated by the Forestry Department.

"We are concerned that the supply of water from this area could be reduced by up to 50 percent, seriously threatening the ability of the city to provide water to all its inhabitants," said Cope.

The campaign is part of an ongoing programme to provide a "bioregional" perspective to Cape Town in which both the ecology of the area and its people are taken into account.

"We need an approach which sees the city and its environment as a whole. For far too long, things have been compartmentalised. This apartheid of the environment must now end."

You can contact the Cape Town Ecology Group by writing to them at PO Box 13118, Mowbray 7705, or by telephoning them at (021) 417-3855.

# 500 000 <sup>56</sup> fish die in <sup>103</sup> Venda river

By Dirk Nel *Stw 8/3/91,*  
Northern Transvaal Bureau

THOHOYANDOU — More dead fish were removed yesterday from nets in the polluted Levubu river in Venda, while clinics reported they were treating scores of villagers for stomach ailments.

Though no indisputable evidence was available, it is thought many of the patients unwittingly drank water from the river and ate fish before warnings about the situation had reached them.

The Venda Department of Nature Conservation has estimated the number of dead fish at about half a million.

No action appears to have been taken yet against the alleged culprit, a fruit farmer whose negligence apparently caused poison used for citrus trees to land in the river.

## Reprimand

No statement has been issued by the Transvaal Nature Conservation division, who are conducting an in-depth investigation into the cause and source of the pollution.

Yesterday there were rumours that the Minister of Environmental Affairs had sternly reprimanded officials of his department for not informing him of the situation's gravity.

It seems likely that both Venda and National Parks Board officials will push for a prosecution in terms of nature conservation legislation.

The threat to fish life in the Kruger National Park has apparently been averted by the rapid dilution of the poison as it was carried downstream. Yesterday no dead fish were found at the furthestmost nets erected by Venda conservationists about 40 km from the park.

# Fire 'four-fives'

Staff Reporter

A CITY COUNCIL firewatch was "either not at his post or asleep" on the morning a huge fire swept down Devil's Peak, Granger Heugh changed in a shock report released yesterday.

This is one of several bungalows attributed to the City Council after Mr Heugh was appointed by the council to conduct his own investigation into the recent blaze. The fire stripped the peak of tracts of fynbos and enveloped the city in a blanket of smoke.

In his report, Mr Heugh disclosed that:

- The fire started about 7am — nearly four hours before a report at 10.54am to the Kloof Nek forest station was acknowledged.
- The City Council's fire watch was "either not at his post or asleep" during the morning.

● A caller reporting the blaze "not later than 9.30am" was "cut short" and the call was neither recorded nor remembered at the fire station afterwards.

● When another council worker at the Lion's Head observation post tried to get in touch with the Kloof Nek station to report the fire, he found his radio did not work.

Mr Heugh concluded that the council "should place its own house in order by constantly reviewing its own fire-watching mechanisms and its rapid response resources".

The telephone which has the fire brigade's first-listed number in the front of the telephone directory (4814141) does not have a tape-recording device fitted to it, he discovered.

He listed the names of several people to whom he had spoken who had told him that they had seen the fire at various times from as early as 7.20am.

A Mr J E Lazarus of La Lucia saw it on his way back from Robben Island on the 7am ferry.

CPI TRUS  
8/3/91

(5) (RAB)

Another early fire-spotter, Mr Nico Vosloo, of Vredendoeke, said he had called the fire brigade on its unrecorded number "not later than 9.30am", but the person at the other end of the line had cut him short, said he was aware of the fire and told him it was being attended to.

This call was neither recorded nor remembered at the fire station, and there was no record of its being passed on to the Kloof Nek forest station either, Mr Heugh said.

"However, account must be taken of the fact that during the summer months calls are coming in copiously... it is perhaps understandable that a report of a small fire on Devil's Peak would not register itself in their minds."

Mr Heugh suspected that some reports were not recorded in the occurrence book at the fire station as the controlling officer had to wait for a lull in calls to make his entries.

"There would also be occasions when he might have to leave his desk momentarily to answer a call of

nature... when a call was answered by someone else who omitted to pass it on to him on his return."

Table Mountain was adequately served by a ring of observation posts, Mr Heugh found. The first warning of the fire should have come from the Lion's Head observation post, manned 24 hours a day in two shifts. Forestry official Mr Nicolaas Resandt, who had been on duty at this post from 7am, said he had seen no smoke until about 11am. He did not have a watch. When he tried to get in touch with the Kloof Nek station, his radio would not work, he said.

Executive committee chairman Mr Richard Friedlander said Mr Heugh's report would be "intensively investigated". The council wished to identify any deficiencies in its operations and systems and "urgently seek ways in which these can be improved".

Town clerk Dr Stanley Evans had been asked to take charge of ensuring that there should be no recurrence of any inadequacies.

The council would also embark on a programme to rehabilitate the affected area.

CPI TRUS

# Environmental health services in Soweto

*New Nation (formerly Nation) 8/3-14/3/91*  
**Inadequate service infrastructure, service disruption and health risks in Soweto**

This article has been adapted from an article which first appeared in Critical Health Number 28 of October 1989. It was written by the Centre for the Study of Health Policy, Department of Community Health, University of the Witwatersrand.



Several years ago Soweto, like many other townships, started a rent boycott in response to rising rent and service costs. At the same time, socio-economic conditions were getting worse, which made the charges more difficult to afford.

Other issues related to housing and environmental health services increased the residents' dissatisfaction. There was an overall housing shortage, as well as a controversial government charge for the transfer of home ownership to tenants of long standing. As far as water supply and sanitation services (sewerage and refuse removal) were concerned, the existing infrastructures were inadequate and poorly maintained. But these services were nevertheless expensive.

*It should be noted that the high service costs are linked to the separate tax base for Soweto and Johannesburg. Whereas taxes in Johannesburg benefit substantially from township labour and purchasing power, these taxes support Johannesburg services alone. In effect therefore, Johannesburg rates are subsidised by Soweto residents, and Soweto services are underfunded.*

*The local authority in Soweto tried unsuccessfully to break the rent boycott. One of its methods was to disrupt services intentionally and unnecessarily. The water supply was cut frequently and for long periods. Sewerage pipes were left blocked and leaking and refuse was removed irregularly or not at all. It was apparent that the intention of these cuts was to cause residents so much discomfort that they would have to start paying rents again.*

The Soweto Delegation emerged to represent the community in discussion directed at resolving the crisis. One of the Soweto Delegation's decisions was to commission PLANACT, a service organisation concerned with urban development, to evaluate housing and service provision in Soweto. PLANACT in turn requested the Centre for the Study of Health Policy to assess whether water and sanitation services in Soweto were a danger to the health of Sowetans.

This article briefly describes the Centre's findings. It shows how the health hazards caused by inadequate water supply, sewerage and refuse removal infrastructures were made worse by the local authority's deliberate policy of disrupting services. As these findings are applicable to other townships in similar positions, we make suggestions as to how communities could respond to the disruption of already inadequate services.

PLANACT's report indicated that the service infrastructure in Soweto was not adequate for the population it served. It emphasised that these inadequacies were exaggerated when the local authority disrupted services. There is no formal information on the overall health effects of this disruption. Yet, as we will explain, it is obvious that the service disruption must indeed have constituted a health hazard. The frequent and long cuts in the water supply seriously reduced the availability of water in Soweto. Residents had to walk far to collect water from distant supplies. In addition, the water shortage affected the functioning of the sewerage system. Toilets could not be flushed normally, but had to have water poured into the cistern by hand. This meant that often toilets were not flushed after each use. As a result, pipes blocked and then leaked and overflowed, contaminating yards and streets. This problem was made worse by the long delay before repairs were made.

When water supply and sewerage systems break down, the spread of infectious diseases will increase. Less water is used for washing hands, bodies, clothes, food and cooking utensils. Thus, although the initial quality of the water is good, the risk is greater that water-borne diseases (diarrhoeas) and water-washed diseases (diarrhoeas, dysenteries, worm infestations, skin and eye infections, lice) will be transmitted. As diarrhoea is a killer of children in developing countries, its certainly increased incidence in Soweto should be viewed with particular concern.

The risk of outbreaks of serious diseases such as polio and typhoid is also increased by cuts in water supply. Food-borne diseases, including food poisoning, may arise since food may be cooked less frequently and left standing longer.

Excreta-related infections may result from contamination of the environment by leaked sewerage. These diseases include both the water-washed diseases mentioned above and infestation by beef and pork tapeworms. Diseases transmitted by flies will also increase, particularly as flies can be expected to breed more readily in leaked sewerage and piles of rotting refuse.

Although household refuse collection had improved by the time this article was written, bins were in bad condition and few had lids. There was little attempt to clean up the unprotected piles of refuse which occurred in most open spaces. The fly problem associated with open refuse has already been mentioned; rats also breed more readily in such conditions and the threat of rat-borne diseases may be expected to increase. Unprotected refuse also increases the danger (especially to children) of poisoning and injuries, pollutes water and poses a fire risk. The polluting effect of refuse and sewerage is worsened when poor drainage allows stormwater to lie in stagnant pools.

In addition to the physical effects of service disruption, we must also consider the effects of mental and social stress. Daily life is filled with difficulties and indignities. Although it is difficult to measure the effects of such stresses, it is no doubt that the community's mental and social health was seriously endangered by the poor water and sanitation services. It seems too that those most at risk were the elderly, the disabled and mothers of young children.

The local authority's policy of service disruption therefore threatened the physical, mental and social health of the Soweto community. Unless Soweto is different from the rest of the world, we may say with a fair degree of certainty that this disruption led to an increased prevalence of disease. Therefore, in the interests of health, residents of Soweto and other townships need to address the problems of poor services and service disruption.

### A basic infrastructure at affordable costs

In order to protect a community from the health hazards described in this article there should be:

- an uninterrupted, plentiful flow of good quality water, supplied by tap to each property;
- a water-borne sewerage system or, in smaller townships, a suitable alternative (Note that the bucket system is hazardous and should always be opposed);
- regular and frequent removal of both household and community refuse; sufficient well-constructed bins should also be provided.

Although the communities have such services in name, poor maintenance (e.g. delayed repairs) is still a major problem. The opinion of an engineer would be useful in evaluating the water and sanitation services because of the complexity of the technical details.

Without these services, appropriately designed and efficiently maintained, urban populations face unacceptable health risks. We must also mention that many other environmental factors have an impact on health. For example, road construction, electricity supply, stormwater drainage and housing. Demands focussing on water and sanitation thus address only the most urgent of such factors.

Not only must basic services be adequate; these services must be provided at reasonable and affordable prices. In Soweto, whilst residents accept that there should be service charges, there is great resentment that the currently poor services should be provided at such excessive cost. Arriving at a charge which is fair depends on proper community consultation and involvement in planning. In Soweto, as in other townships, it may depend on the restructuring of the unequal tax base.

### Community action in response to service cuts

The residents of townships where services have been cut in response to a rent crisis may react in a number of ways to this threat to their health. Firstly, residents may choose to organise around the issue of health risks arising from service disruption. Secondly, they may decide to negotiate with the relevant local authority, if this seems to be an appropriate strategy under prevailing conditions. Thirdly, they may consider taking legal action against the local authority.

The community may also consider taking direct legal action against the various health authorities, it may be possible to lay charges against them in the event of neglect of their duties in terms of the law. However, the legal issues are complicated and to our knowledge, have never been tested in court. Expert legal opinion should thus be sought by any community wanting to take a case to court. Threats of legal action nevertheless remain a strong bargaining point.

Tugela River: effluent pipeline (56)

\*7. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry: *Hansard 12/3/91*.

- (1) Whether his Department has sanctioned the building of an effluent pipeline into the Tugela River for a certain company, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply; if so, (a) when is this pipeline to be built, (b) where will the pipeline actually discharge the effluent into the river, (c) what will be the nature of the effluent and (d) how many litres of effluent will be discharged into the river on a daily basis;
- (2) whether a study has been made of the possible effects this pipeline may have on the environment; if not, why not; if so, what were the findings of the study?

B359E

†The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY:

- (1) Yes.
  - (a) The completed pipeline has been in use since December 1990.
  - (b) The point of discharge is downstream of the confluence of the Mandini and Tugela Rivers, approximately 200 metres upstream from the John Ross Bridge.
  - (c) The effluent contains pollutants mainly of organic origin.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

447

TUESDAY, 12 M

(d) Approximately 44 000 cubic metres of effluent daily. (56)

- Hansard 14/3/91*
- (2) Yes. The discharge of effluent directly into the Mandini River was unacceptable as the assimilative capacity of the water is insufficient for the amount of pollutants discharged by the industry. Dissolved oxygen has been identified as the most critical variable as regards water quality. Aesthetical problems regarding colour and foam are still being investigated for possible improvements.

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry required that an impact study be done by an independent consultant to determine the effect of dissolved oxygen on the recognised water uses in the lower Tugela River downstream of the point of discharge. The CSIR who acted as consultant found that if the organic substances of the effluent in terms of the biological oxygen requirement be limited to 315 milligram per litre, there will be no detrimental effect on the dissolved oxygen in the water environment. This finding and subsequent recommendation was accepted by the Department.

*Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 180C (3) of the Standing Rules of Parliament.*



Johannesburg Hospital R189 164 900  
 Coronation Hospital R49 474 500  
 Grey's Hospital R39 005 000

**Medical waste: disposal**

86. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health: **SL6**

Whether any changes were introduced in the 1990-91 financial year by hospitals falling under the control of the provincial administrations in the system used to dispose of medical waste; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? **12/3/91**

B211E

**The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:**

Although the disposal of hospital waste (medical and clinical waste) is considered to be reasonably satisfactory, all provincial administrations undertook investigations to identify potential problems during the past year. These resulted *inter alia*, in the introduction of more uniform methods of disposal, increased use of standardised containers, renovation of incinerators and contracting professional firms for waste removal and disposal. However,

most improvements planned are subject to the availability of funds.

**Johannesburg North: service applications**

106. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs and Public Enterprises:

Whether any applications for (a) telephone services and (b) private post boxes were outstanding in the Johannesburg North constituency as at the latest specified date for which figures are available; if so, (i) how many in each suburb falling within this constituency and (ii) when is it anticipated that the backlog will be eliminated? **12/3/91**

B291E

**The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:**

(a) Yes, 512 as at 28 February 1991;

(i) and (ii) In addition to applications that are met on demand on a continuous basis where telephone numbers and cable leads are available, service will be provided as follows to waiting applicants in the areas indicated:

*Number of waiting applicants*      *When services are to be provided*

<b>Exchange area</b>	<b>Number of waiting applicants</b>	<b>When services are to be provided</b>
Bramley (includes the suburbs of Eltonhill, Winston Ridge, Kentview and Birnam)	77	Within the next three months as cable works are completed.
Rosebank (includes the suburbs of Fairway, Illovo, Melrose, Melrose North, Melrose Estate, Birdhaven, Dunkeld West, Parktown North, Parkhurst and Craighall Park)	209	Within the next five months as cable works are completed.
Randburg (includes the suburbs of Craighall and Blairgowrie)	178	Within the next five months as cable works are completed.
Linden (includes the suburbs of Victoria Park, Pierneef Park, Pine Park, Blairgowrie and Beaconsfield Estate)	48	Within the next five months as cable works are completed.

(b) Yes;

(i) 76 as at 25 February 1991 (Birnam Park 28 and Parkhurst 48).

(ii) The installation of additional private post office boxes at Birnam Park and Parkhurst is not possible because of

that vacant private post boxes exist at Saxonwold (28), Northlands (54), Bramley (449), Parklands (300) and Pinegowrie (975). The number of vacant post boxes at Northlands has increased since last year because some renters were allocated post boxes at the more conveniently situated Pinegowrie Post Office. By arranging that a number of renters at Craighall be provided with private boxes at more conveniently located offices, it was possible to provide all waiting applicants at that office with private boxes.

**Immunisation programmes**

123. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health:

- (1) (a) What sum of money was allocated to immunisation programmes in the 1990-91 financial year and (b) what immunisation programmes were undertaken?
- (2) whether these programmes could be implemented fully out of the sum so allocated; if not,
- (3) whether additional funds were allocated for this purpose; if so, from what source?

B213E

**The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:**

(1) (a) R4 150 500 and

- (b) expanded immunisation programme against tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus and measles,
- immunisation of contacts of rabies and
- immunisation against yellow fever for international travel purposes;
- (2) yes;
- (3) falls away.

**Tuberculosis**

129. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health:

In respect of each race group in each province in 1990, (a) how many cases of tuberculosis were (i) reported and (ii) hospitalised and (b) how many tuberculosis patients died? **12/3/91**

B361E

**The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:**

(a) (1) Notified tuberculosis cases in the Republic of South Africa by Population Group and Province, 1990. (As on 27 February 1991. Notifications for 1990 are still incomplete.)

Province	Indian	Black Coloured	White
Cape	32	13 587	16 960
Natal	453	9 247	196
OFS	1	9 481	633
Transvaal	52	13 462	487

(ii) Admission in a hospital with tuberculosis

Province	Indian	Black Coloured	White
Cape	0	2 430	2 724
Natal	183	9 273	97
OFS	0	3 031	75
Transvaal	13	1 922	142

(b) Notified tuberculosis deaths in the Republic of South Africa by Population Group and Province, 1990. (As on 27 February 1991. Notifications for 1990 are still incomplete.)

Province	Indian	Black Coloured	White
Cape	0	571	485
Natal	4	46	1
OFS	0	110	10
Transvaal	1	492	12

**Own Affairs:**

**Sea Point: rent-controlled premises**

11 Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Welfare, Housing and Works:

- (1) How many rent-controlled premises were there in the Sea Point constituency as at 31 December 1990;
- (2) (a) how many such premises were decontrolled in 1990 and (b) what is the (i) address and (ii) description of each of the properties concerned?

B154E

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version.

For written reply

General Affairs:

Mzunduze River: administration

69. Mr R F HASWELL asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

- (1) Which Government Departments, local authorities and/or self-governing territories administer the land traversed by the Mzunduze River and its main tributaries in the Pietermaritzburg area;

- (2) whether these Departments, authorities and territories are responsible for monitoring quality and/or maintaining minimum acceptable standards in respect of the water flowing in this river and its tributaries; if not, why not; if so, to what extent? *Answered 13/3/91*

B170E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY:

- (1) Land traversed by the Mzunduze River and its tributaries in the Pietermaritzburg area is administered by various authorities, which include the KwaZulu Government Service and local authorities such as Pietermaritzburg and Edendale. For the purpose of this reply I will deal with the principle role players involved and the control over water pollution as such

In the said area, all Government Departments and their agents administer the various acts for which they are responsible and accountable within the Republic of South Africa; which excludes the self-governing territory of KwaZulu, as the KwaZulu authorities and their agents administer their own acts within KwaZulu. The Provincial Administration of Natal and their agents administer the Provincial acts, while local authorities

administer their by-laws within their area of jurisdiction.

- (2) In the Republic of South Africa, excluding KwaZulu, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry is responsible for the management of water quality, including the Mzunduze River and its tributaries. This management aims at ensuring the adequate water of an acceptable quality for recognised water uses for agriculture industrial, urban, recreation and environmental conservation continues to be available. As far as KwaZulu is concerned, the Department has a working agreement with the authorities in KwaZulu regarding the monitoring of specific areas within that self-governing territory where pollution is likely to occur.

Enforceable quality standards are applicable to point sources of pollution only and the Department controls these sources to minimise their impact on the receiving water body and to maintain the quality required by recognised users. At present the Department has limited control over diffuse sources of pollution, such as storm water runoff from urban, industrial and agricultural areas, as well as runoff from informal settlements, but is well aware of the contribution from these sources. It is order to overcome this problem, the Department is implementing an approach whereby quality requirements in receiving water bodies are specified and point sources of pollution are controlled to such an extent that these water quality requirements are met, taking into account pollution from diffuse sources, which might not be controllable.

The Department, in co-operation with Umgeni Water, monitors the quality of the Mzunduze River and its tributaries at various points and for various purposes, such as assessment of river water quality, detecting trends in quality, as well as identifying and controlling pollution. Samples of the water are analysed to determine the physical, chemical, organic and bacteriological quality of the water. Other bodies and institutions might also be sampling the water in the river concerned, for purposes of their own. An investigation is presently being undertaken by the Department into the reported unacceptable conditions that prevailed in the Mzunduze River during the recent Duzi Canoe Marathon. Only when pollution sources have been identified can suitable management options be considered. *Answered 13/3/91 (56)* When the news reports on the alleged severe pollution of the Mzunduze River and the high percentage of the participants of the Duzi Canoe Marathon who were apparently adversely affected as a result thereof came to my attention, I immediately instructed the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry to carry out a full-scale investigation into the source(s) of the pollution, as it appeared to me that there were sources of pollution other than the informal settlements in the river catchment which could be responsible for the pollution. This investigation is still in progress. Once the report of the above-mentioned investigation comes to hand, it will receive the necessary attention and if justified, I will make a further public announcement in this regard.

Widow: SADF pension

170. Lt-Gen R H D ROGERS asked the Minister of Finance:

Whether, with reference to the reply by the Minister of National Health and Population Development to Question No 280 on 26 April 1990, further consideration has been given to an extent that these water quality requirements are met, taking into account pollution from diffuse sources, which might not be controllable. raising the pension of a deceased member of the South African Defence Force to 75 per cent of the pension paid to her late husband; if not, why not; if so, with what *Answered 13/3/91* B399E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

Yes. However, in view of the far-reaching financial implications such a step is not affordable at this stage. As soon as circumstances permit the matter will be given further attention. *Let's put peace first!*

- (1) Whether the Government has launched an advertising campaign entitled "Let's put peace first"; if so,

- (2) whether he was involved in approving this campaign; if not, by whom was it approved; if so, (a) what has been the cost of the campaign to date, (b) why was it launched and (c) which media are being used? *Answered 13/3/91* B423E

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.

(a) R1 698 303,11.

(b) The "Let's put peace first" advertising campaign is the first phase of a communication project with the aim of promoting political literacy.

In the first phase the logo and signature tune, which will also be used in the other phases, are introduced by linking them with a message stressing the necessity of peace instead of violence.

- (c) Television; radio; newspapers; magazines; outdoor advertising; and promotional items (stickers, T-shirts and posters).

Awaiting-trial prisoners

177. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Correctional Services:

What was the average number of awaiting-trial prisoners in custody on the last day of each month in 1990? *Answered 13/3/91* B487E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:

The figures concerning awaiting-trial prisoners who were incarcerated in South African prisons on the last day of each month during 1990, are as follows:

31 January 1990	—	20 780
28 February 1990	—	19 766

and timber

CURRENCY volatility has become one of the most important variables in the world paper and pulp industry, says Davis Borkum Hare analyst Pierre Greyvensteyn in a recent report.

He says currency volatility destroys the predictability of the business and erodes competitive relationships between sellers. In particular, it stimulates the cyclical movements of pulp prices, causing higher highs and lower lows.

Currency volatility is a

## Volatility erodes competitive edge

new phenomenon which emerged in the 1980s. The period 1944 to 1970 had stable exchange rates because they were pegged under the Bretton Woods agreement. Even in the 1970s, fluctuations in the world's major currencies were relatively modest.

Since 1985, the exchange rate of the overvalued dollar at the time has fallen significantly against most currencies. With the weaker dollar, American

exporters are deriving huge benefit by selling their goods abroad within the limits of their production.

### Fluctuations

However, the benefits of an advantageous exchange rate cannot last over time and so cannot be used as a basis for long-term commitment. When the dollar does change course, experience has shown that fluctuations of

10% to 20% in one year are common.

Greyvensteyn says US pulp producers in particular are reaping benefits from the weaker dollar. By lowering prices, their mills can operate at full capacity.

On the other hand, the fall in the dollar is forcing European, Canadian and Latin American producers to lower their prices to bring them into line with

the reference price — the dollar price of US pulp.

One way the industry can protect itself against currency volatility is to maximise the efficiency of the mill. Another defensive technique is to minimise debt levels.

In addition to currency hedging, another approach is to sell product in a basket of currencies such as the ECU. Buying into downstream businesses such as the Nordic pulp industry is another strategy, says Greyvensteyn.

# Industry committed to conservation

12/10/91 (4/3/91) 56

THE forestry and forest products industry has a vested interest in environmental conservation because it depends on the integrated functioning of nature for its raw materials.

Because of this, Forestry Council promotion committee chairman Bruce Mackenzie says the industry's continued activity in conservation can be counted on.

He says in creating an asset vital to SA, the industry has inevitably caused some changes to the environment, as have other industries.

### Counter

However, not all the changes caused by afforestation have been harmful. For example, trees synthesise certain airborne chemicals and so help counter the rising carbon dioxide level which is a factor in creating the "greenhouse effect".

Mackenzie says the forestry industry is acutely aware all reasonable measures must be taken to conserve the environment, but without unreasonably sti-

fling the progress so necessary to accommodate the SA's growing population.

He says it is precisely because the forestry industry is scientifically managed, and hence profitable, that it can increasingly afford to promote environmental conservation.

The Forest Act, introduced with the full cooperation of the industry, contains strict measures for the planting of trees in river catchment areas to conserve water resources.

The industry is the only dryland, or non-irrigating, user of land that is controlled in this way.

Its activities cover a vast and increasing area of land, which includes numerous natural and historical sites and features worth conserving.

All the large forestry companies have appointed conservation officers and they all include conservation practices in their operational policies, as do many of the smaller operators in the industry.

Twelve sites have been registered by forestry companies in the National Heritage project.

In addition, the Southern African Institute of Forestry, to which more than 400 foresters and related scientists belong, has a strong conservation ethic and spends at least a third of its time on conservation matters.

Mackenzie says the forest products industry, which produces sawn timber and pulp and paper products, is also doing its utmost to operate with the minimum possible impact on the environment.

### Spotlight

The kraft pulp mills, whose gas emissions have a characteristic smell, come under the environmental spotlight most often.

He says there is a tendency to assume that because the emissions are odorous, they are harmful to health. But these gases also occur naturally, arising from vegetative decay in marshy areas.

International health authorities concede that pulp mill emissions are not harmful to human health, but the pulp manufacturers are still taking positive steps to reduce them wher-



All the large forestry companies have appointed conservation officers.

ever possible.

Looking to the future, a multi-disciplinary group of experts from across the forestry industry last year drew up an industry-wide set of "guidelines for the application of conservation practices in production forestry", similar to codes already adopted by

individual companies.

The code lays down guidelines for the management of commercial forests to ensure the protection of the ecology, fauna and flora, and it focuses attention on the importance of environmental conservation within the industry.

## ENVIRONMENT

# Threatened: The dunes of Transkei

WJW 15/3-21/3/91

From PAGE 15 56

is valued by armaments manufacturers as a durable and lightweight material that can be used to make aircraft skins and warhead coatings.

The size of the reserves at Wavecrest is not yet known as Rand Mines' project proposal has not been made public.

However, it is believed they are at least as large as the St Lucia deposits, which are said to be worth R5-billion and capable of supporting a large mine for 30 years.

Sonwabo Mzezeli, co-ordinator of a co-operative project run by the National Union of Mineworkers in Transkei, says any attempt to conserve the Wavecrest forest would have to be ultra-sensitive to the needs of local people in order to succeed.

'I can say at this stage that those who are against the mine and want to keep the forest will have to carefully look at two questions: what is the use of the forest to the people and what is the use of the mine to the people? That is the place to start with protect-

ing nature.'

Exploration work in the forests has already entailed the construction of a large access road that is littered on each side with the remains of trees and shrubs that were uprooted to make way for this.

'The movement of exploration teams into the forests has also encouraged local people to take trees for firewood,' says Cooper. 'Their attitude is 'Why should we be barred from the area when these white people are able to go in and take out so many trees?'

Wells told *The Weekly Mail* that the Endangered Wildlife Trust had been commissioned by Rand Mines to conduct a preliminary survey to identify rare or vulnerable species of plants, birds and animals in the forests with a view to determine whether the forests were vital for the continued existence of the species.

He confirmed that this preliminary survey found no endangered species but that there were unique combinations of vulnerable animal and bird species.

The company was committed to a full-scale environment impact assessment that would take at least a year to complete before mining will go ahead, he said.

If the company then proceeded to mine, it would establish a scheme to rehabilitate the dunes according to the wishes of local residents.

He acknowledged it would take at least a hundred years for some of the hardwoods and other species to re-establish themselves in the forests.

He added that Rand Mines' feasibility studies had been held up as the Development Bank of Southern Africa was still working on a scheme to provide Transkei with funds to build infrastructure — roads and communication systems — for the mine and because 'there are still some legal t's to cross and it's to do?'

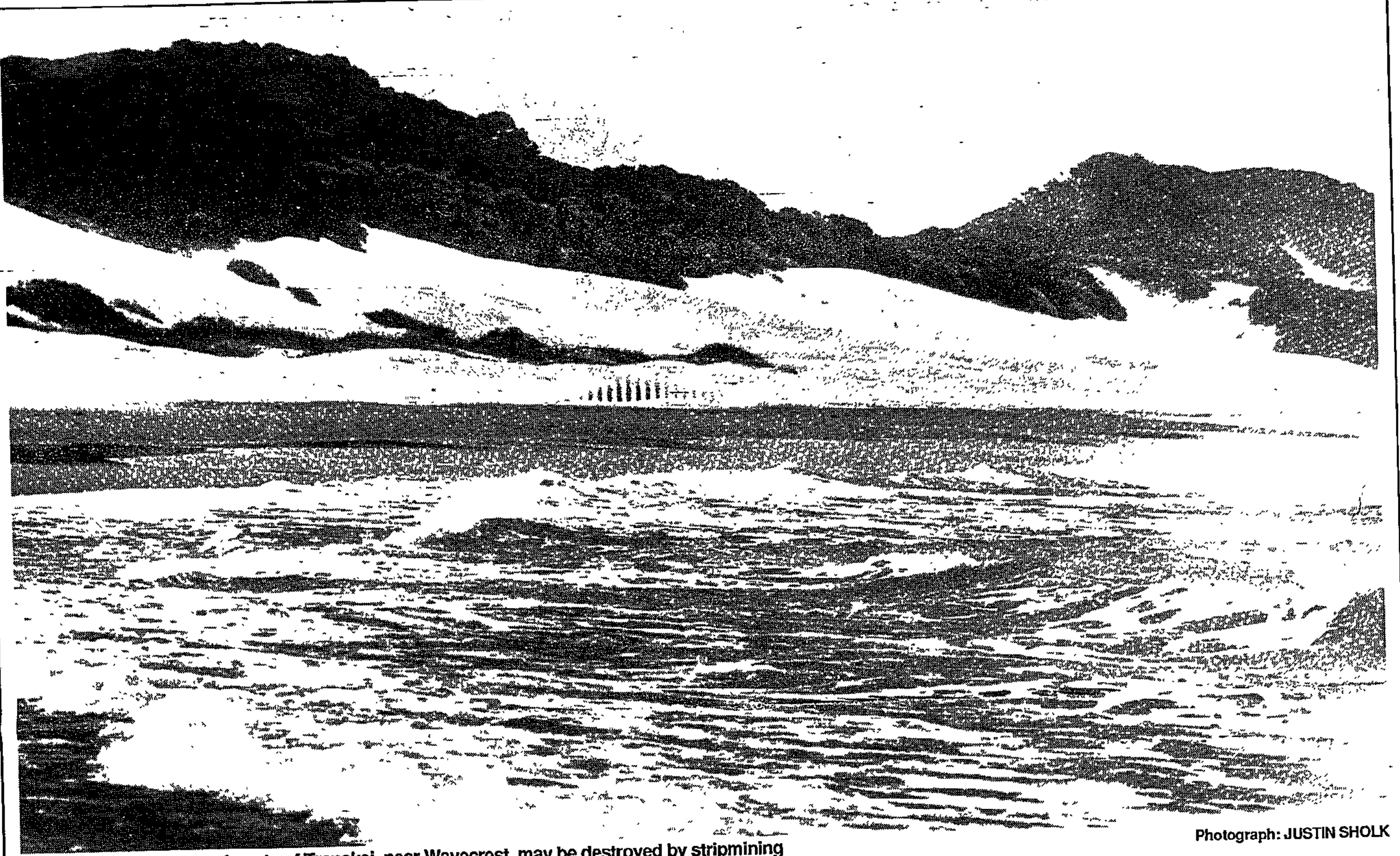


Mining these dunes will create jobs

Photo: JUSTIN SHOLK

# Review/Environment

INSIDE: UNSPOILT PLACES \* BIG STINK IN THE CITY \* THE POLITICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT



Photograph: JUSTIN SHOLK

Threatened ... The dune forests of Transkei, near Wavecrest, may be destroyed by stripmining

**P**LANS by a South African corporation to stripmine a pristine stretch of dune forest on the southern shores of Transkei for titanium threaten an ecological disaster.

Conservationists this week told *The Weekly Mail* that a project by Rand Mines to stripmine the Nxaxo and Kobonqaba forests would cause environmental problems that will eclipse those associated with a similar scheme at St Lucia in Natal.

The destruction of the Transkei forests, one of the few indigenous habitats of their kind left in Southern Africa, will have a disastrous effect on the rare combination of plant and animal life that live among the dunes," says Keith Cooper, of the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa.

Rand Mines has so far been able to proceed with exploration and prospecting in the Transkei forests, mining activities which have already caused extensive damage, without attracting the huge controversy that erupted last year over plans to stripmine the St Lucia dunes, one of the world's recognised heritage sites.

"It is important to preserve the St Lucia dunes but the impression has been created that these forests are the most pristine in the country," says Cooper.

"Yet those in Transkei, which host a unique and diverse combination of ecosystems, have been left out of the spotlight."

Cooper is chief conservation officer for the Wildlife Society as well as the country's foremost expert on indigenous forests.

Digby Wells, manager of Rand Mines' environment protection department, told *The Weekly Mail* the project was still in its exploratory phases and that the next phase in his company's feasibility studies would take place only in September.

"Once we have reached a position where we are satisfied the project is feasible we will then conduct a full environment impact study before proceeding," says Wells. "We have also convinced the Transkei govern-

## Stripping 'Kei of its natural assets

A stretch of Transkei's natural dune forests are in danger of being destroyed in the search for titanium.

By EDDIE KOCH

ment of the need to follow internationally accepted standards involved in an integrated environment management approach."

It appears that Rand Mines' exploration of titanium mining in Transkei, a process already well under way, has been able to go ahead without yet attracting serious opposition because the dunes are in a remote homeland area that lacks an established white tourist industry and other interest groups capable of leading an anti-mining lobby in the region.

The Nxaxo and Kobonqaba forests, located near a small holiday resort called Wavecrest on Transkei's southern border with South Africa, shelter at least nine rare or vulnerable mammals and birds as well as a unique combination of indigenous trees, says Cooper. The forests also contain ancient cycads.

The animal species include the rare blue duiker; tree dassie, a very rare species that occurs only in the forests; giant golden mole and samango monkeys. Rare birds that nest in the forests include the Cape parrot, Cape bird owl, the extremely vulnerable ground hornbill and the mangrove kingfisher, a species about which little research has been done and could be on the endangered list.

The forests contain some of the biggest specimens of white milkwood, yellowwoods, forest mahogany and quinine trees.

"The trees do occur in other parts of the country but never in these sizes and combinations. They are therefore unique and the Wildlife Society is determined to protect them," says Cooper.

Other conservation bodies are gearing up to protest against the Transkei mining scheme and to lobby the homeland government to find alternative ways of generating jobs in the economically depressed region that will allow the forests to survive.

The mining proposal, which promises to provide some 700 jobs over a 30-year period to local communities that have been shattered by the effects of chronic unemployment, highlights the burning need for conservation strategies that promote rather than retard economic development.

The destruction of indigenous and rain forests around the globe is ranked as one of the world's three top environmental crises. Close behind is an ecological crisis that conservationists call the loss of biodiversity.

Donella Meadows, professor of environment and policy studies at Dartmouth College in the United States, reports that the number of species of life on earth is somewhere between 10-million and 30-million. Only 1.7-million of these have been named and yet one species is being killed every hour in an unparalleled spasm of extinctions of a kind not seen in the last 65-million years.

"Biodiversity obviously has something to do with pandas, tigers and tropical forests," says Meadows. "But preserving biodiversity is a much bigger job than protecting rain forests or characteristic megafauna. It's the job of protecting all life — microscopic creepy-crawlies as well as elephants and condors — and all life's habitats — tundra, prairie and swamp as well as forests."

In South Africa the problem of deforestation is exacerbated by the sheer poverty of rural people and the lack of electrification in most of these depressed regions.

Dr Anton Eberhard, head of the Energy Research Institute at the University of Cape Town, has found that if the current rate of deforestation in these areas continues unabated then all forms of natural woodland will be denuded by the year 2020.

"Indigenous forests are one of the rarest habitat types in South Africa. Those at Wavecrest are very small but that is all the more reason to preserve them," says Cooper.

The forests dotted along the Indian Ocean coast "are hopping stones that provide important habitats for a number of rare species. Eliminate these hopping stones and this leaves one more space for them to hop into extinction."

The problem in Transkei for conservationists is that the area has a rate of unemployment higher than in most parts of the country, making the need for job-creation an urgent issue.

It appears the government of Transkei is in favour of mining at Wavecrest going ahead and that it has the support of the local chief and paramount chief. Many of the people who live on the green hills above the site are, however, opposed to the scheme as they fear they will be removed to make way for the mine, an anxiety heightened by the fact that Rand Mines is currently prospecting for titanium deposits among their homesteads.

Titanium is used as a pigment in paints and

ENVIRONMENT

# Whispering in the wilderness

**T**HE present state of the environment reflects the precariousness of its place within the presently rather jagged field of politics-making in this country. A number of papers, articles and statements have emanated from African National Congress circles. Most of these are well-informed and wide-ranging. However, the most comprehensive document, entitled "Future Environment Policy for a Changing South Africa", enjoys the status only of a "discussion paper". It was produced in November last year and that remains the position today.

A shorter document has been published by the Pan Africanist Congress entitled "An Environmental Policy for the PAC of Azania". It too is described as a "discussion document".

Within the white political sector, the Conservative Party poses a substantial threat to the place in power of the National Party. Yet, it has taken no policy on the environment. It was to have taken such policy on January 28 this year — but that programme was overridden by "political events".

The largest federation of labour in the country, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, has not yet taken any policy on environmental affairs. Certain of its affiliate unions, particularly those active in and linked with the chemical industry, have begun to address the issue. It is likely, however, that the greatest portion of this attention will be directed towards matters of health and safety.

**T**hese policy statements may be characterised as consisting of broadly phrased statements of principle, laudable in themselves, and liberally sprinkled with approving references to and positive statements of intention concerning international conventions; these statements therefore endorse the perspective that many critical environmental issues are trans-national (and, by implication, trans-political).

Few of these declarations have any regard to what will present itself as an acute political and policy dilemma — the conflict of interest between a dramatic upsurge in demand for material goods and comforts on one hand and a beleaguered resource and environmental framework on the other. That upsurge in demand will be an unavoidable, yet necessary, consequence of the process of democratisation.

The point of balance which is struck will be a political decision, reflecting the dominant values and interests. That environmental affairs are political has been recognised by many, including kaNgwane's former Chief Minister Enos Mabuza.

He is at once a conservationist and a politician. If a single priority can be distilled from all that he has said, it is that the most urgent need is to set aside the ravages of the long decades of apartheid and to bring about the restoration of all people to the position and rights which are inherently theirs.

Grand and comprehensive party policy statements are rich with promise. But at the end of the blustery day only a few small coppers will have been deposited, argues **KAREL TIP**

They are socio-economic and political problems which have to be addressed and solved first and only then will all the people of this country be receptive to the issues of conservation, ecological restoration and the like.

Mabuza is not alone in that approach. The environmental policy proposed by the PAC highlights the following:

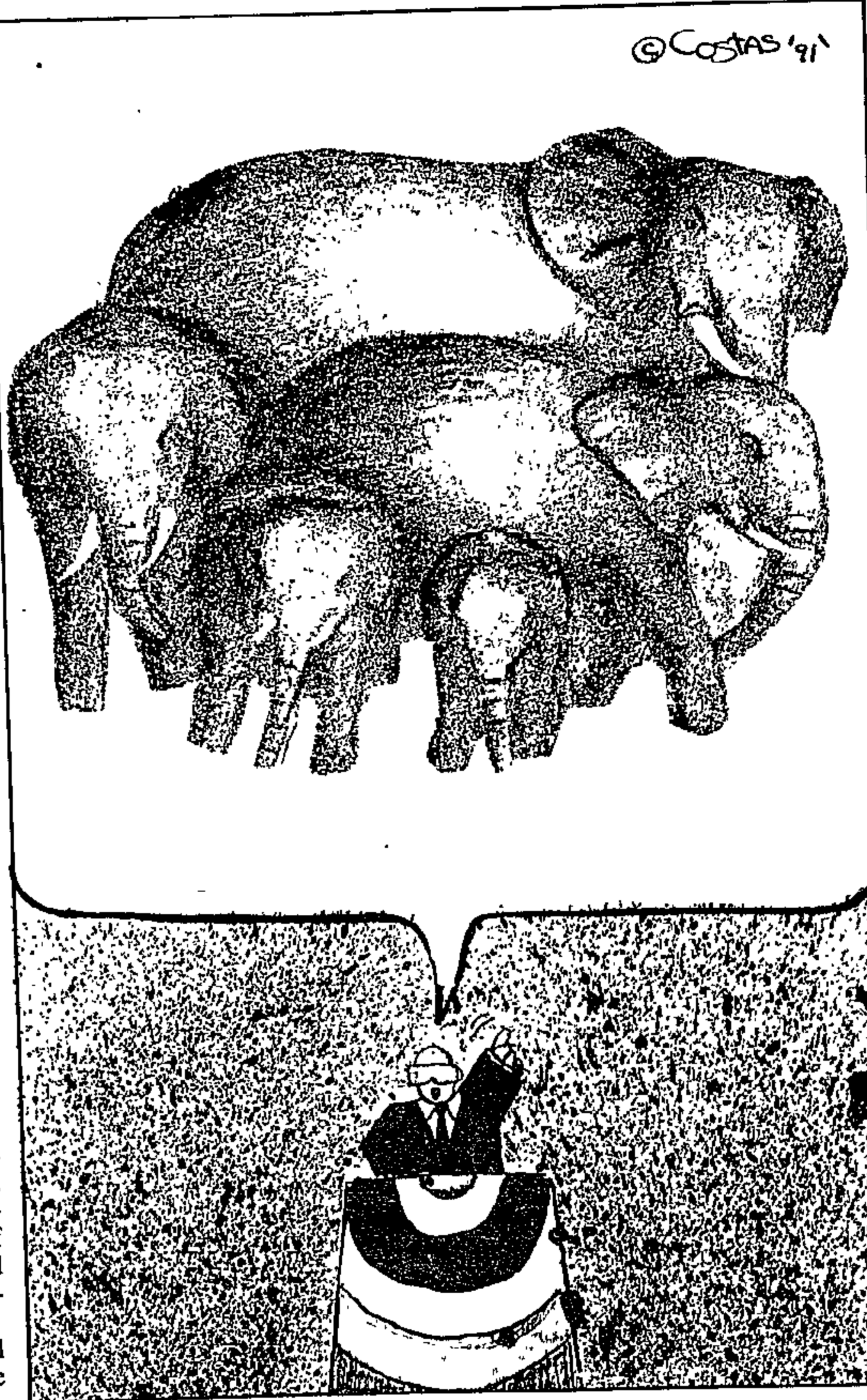
"The environmental policy of the PAC will adopt an holistic approach — one which takes into account relevant social, historical, economical, political and environmental factors. The PAC commits itself to the conservation of ecosystems and biotic diversity. The PAC accepts the concept of sustainable development: the wide and non-destructive use of resources, with the understanding that a prerequisite for sustainability is that disparities in social, economic and political development be ended."

The implication of that "prerequisite" is also that environmental issues occupy a secondary position in the scale of matters which require the attention of future policy makers.

**W**e have to recognise that we confront not only environmental degradation but also a legacy of massive political, social and economic degradation. This view has it, then, that the immediate points of impact of the policies of colonialism and apartheid (which did not trouble themselves with the environment) must first be redressed.

Correspondingly, the principal claims now being made relate to the capacity to cast a vote, to have a properly filled wage packet, to have a light switch which works, to have a restored family unit. A corollary of this view is that concerns with the environment are matters of comparative luxury which may properly be suspended.

We face the prospect of a keen conflict between demand and resource. The demands will be, among others, for the tangible fruits of political liberation. Such demands fall directly within the field of what has to be done by way of redress. However, this redress will in no material way be accomplished through no more than some measure of re-allocation of existing funds and resources.



Positive development is essential. The provision of greater material benefits will involve a conflict with the interests of the environment. How will that conflict will be resolved?

Assume an impoverished community and a proposal to establish a medium-size industrial plant, which will provide employment. Assume further that the capital resources for this enterprise do not extend to the provision of costly pollution filtering devices. The state will not provide funds; there will be demands on those funds for housing and other upliftment programmes.

Another example concerns land. The

dispossessed need land. Will the government of the future find it easy to say to those people that large areas of land must be reserved for the preservation of wilderness?

It is against that hard touchstone of reality that splendid phrases such as "the harmonious co-existence of man with nature" will have to be given content. Present indications suggest that the environment will come second.

Take as further example the position of the NEAC in Soweto. It has expressed itself in a "Position Paper 1990" in the following terms:

"While recognising that the first priority in any environmental programme is the survival of man and that man is a part of the ecosystem, we believe that we must also prepare for a post-apartheid South Africa. We must make demands now and plan to regain what has been lost to the ravages of apartheid ..."

That statement, too, places man as forming first part of a political system and then part of an ecosystem.

NEAC has sought to advance matters of the environment in a context where its complaints about pollution in black urban areas have gone unheeded, while similar complaints

made in respect of white residential areas have generally been attended to.

The government recently effected the passage of the Environment Conservation Act of 1989. The Act provides an elaborate administrative structure which is designed to facilitate co-ordinated action regarding environmental conservation between different government sectors as well as agencies in the private sector. The legislation still reflects a hands-off approach. For instance, as recorded in a memorandum produced at the time of the Bill, it was a "basic approach" that it is "not practicable to be prescriptive in respect of government institutions".

In a statement released by the then minister of environment affairs: "Probably the biggest single challenge facing us in applying our environmental conservation policy is to balance the ideals and expectations of the First World with the realities and needs of the Third World. We base our approach on sound economical, scientific and practical principles ... taking into account the health and well-being of all levels of our population and the long term objectives of conservation."

**A**nalysing that passage does not produce an answer as to who or what will be first when conflicting demands have to be determined. It seems clear that it will not be the environment.

The ANC too appears potentially to take the view that environmental matters will only be successfully addressed once freedom reigns. In its discussion paper it states:

"...it is impossible, in the political sense and in the socio-economic context, to pursue a rational environment protection policy under the apartheid political system."

It is interesting to examine the summary in that paper:

"The ANC's position on environment emphasises three key elements, namely: protection of environment; construction of environment; and management of environment."

To identify the three key elements as being "protection", "construction" and "management" of the environment, suggests a philosophical dimension of reification. It places the environment in the category of a remote object. If that is so, it will be all the easier for the ANC to allow the environment to pay a substantial part of the price of its important objects of socio-economic and political advance for the people of this country. But the environment is not something that can be repurchased.

The Democratic Party also has produced a comprehensive statement of environmental policy. However, this policy document fails even to begin to address the difficulty that the political/environmental cake is not indefinitely large. It nowhere suggests where it would make the slice.

As necessary as it may be for ideals to be set out in policy documents, it is more important for those ideals to be located in the realities of the debate which is unfolding in this country.

The problems attendant on the achievement of those ideals must be entrenched on the agendas of the parties and groupings, as well as on the agenda of whatever multi-party forum should crystallise in the future.

The process of politicisation of the environment must be engaged. To hold that the environment will be better off if protected from "politics" will be as foolish and counter-productive as was the attempt to do so with sport.

●Karel Tip is a member of the Wildlife Society Legal Committee

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Dr J Ledger's

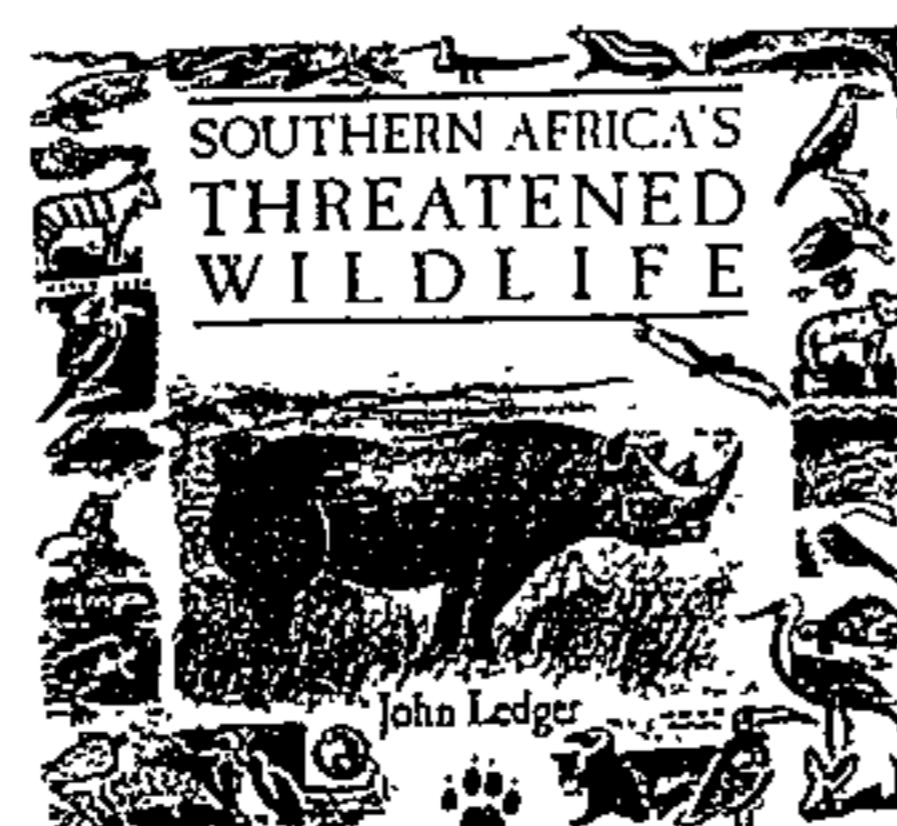
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PATRICK BULGER

THE East Rand Regional Services Council has applied for a 21% increase in levy rates.

This would boost the council's income by R26,19m and was almost certain to be approved by Finance Minister Barend du Plessis, a council spokesman said.

RSC chairman Leon Ferreira told an RSC meeting earlier this week increases had become inevitable.

The services levy — which is a tax on salaries — will be increased from 0,275% of salaries paid to 0,333%; the establishment levy — a tax on turnover — will go up from 0,11% to 0,133%.

Ferreira said the increase was the minimum amount needed to reconcile income with projected expenditure, and would help meet the backlog of

## RSC requests a R26m increase

R1,088bn the council had set as its ultimate target.

The increase is likely to meet opposition from the 33 000 East Rand employers. The council is preparing a brochure for distribution to businesses to defuse criticism and to show what projects are being completed with their money.

The R26,19m increase is roughly in line with the R22,63m the TPA has asked the RSC to set aside as bridging finance to make up for current expense backlogs caused by township residents' non-payment of services.

Ferreira said no final decision had been taken on the bridging finance. The increase in levy rates was to

make up for backlogs and was not linked to the bridging finance.

Last September the council agreed to make R27m available as bridging finance.

It went towards paying water and sewage costs as well as the partial removal of waste.

The TPA is likely to ask the council to put more money aside at the end of the month when council assistance with township running costs officially ends, the source said.

Certain capital projects were shelved to pay for the running costs.

The council's budget is R157,89m for 1991/2.

## Concern over Vaal Triangle air

AIR pollution in the Vaal Triangle could be linked to health disorders including bronchitis, chronic coughs and other chest illnesses, a survey of 10 000 children has shown.

The survey, conducted by the Medical Research Council (MRC), said concentrations of ozone and particle matter in the area were cause for concern.

In a statement released yesterday, the MRC said the first results of its research indicated the Vaal Triangle was a "potential problematic" environment because of its varied and complex sources of air pollution. These included major industries, burning coal and pollen.

A pilot study involving 31 teenagers in Vanderbijlpark showed that in 51% of the measurements taken, exposure to "particulate matter" was higher than US air pollution health standards.

"Among other things, cigarette smoke, industry and motor vehicles contributed."

WILSON ZWANE

They believed the extremely high levels of pollen and fungal spores in the Vaal Triangle put the allergic population of the area at risk.

Possible health effects caused by air particles included chronic coughs, bronchitis and other chest illnesses.

The Vaal Triangle Air Pollution Health Study was commissioned by the National Health and Population Development Department last year to investigate the effects of air pollution on health in the area.

The study is funded by, among other groups, the MRC, Eskom, Iscor, Sasol 1 and the National Health and Population Development Ministry.

Researchers will attempt to identify and quantify problems so that recommendations can be made to National Health and Population Development Minister Dr Rina Venter to improve the situation.

56

## Shock report on Triangle air pollution

Staff Reporter *Stu 20/3/91*

The first results of the Vaal Triangle air pollution health study have revealed that the concentrations of ozone and particulate matter in the area are causes for concern.

Researchers from the Medical Research Council (MRC) believe that, given the varied and complex sources of air pollution in the Vaal Triangle — from major industries and domestic coal-burning to a region rich in pollen — the situation is extremely complicated.

This makes the area a "potentially problematic environment", they have decided.

The MRC study was commissioned by the Department of National Health and Population Development last year.

More than 10 000 children have been involved in the first phase of the study, which dealt with air pollution.

Other results from the first stage show that the average sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide concentrations measured in the Sasolburg area from August to November last year were acceptable and should not pose a health hazard.



ECOLOGY

Risk-perception fascinates psychologists, but infuriates those concerned with cleaning the environment, for the environmental priorities of voters seldom square with those of scientists.

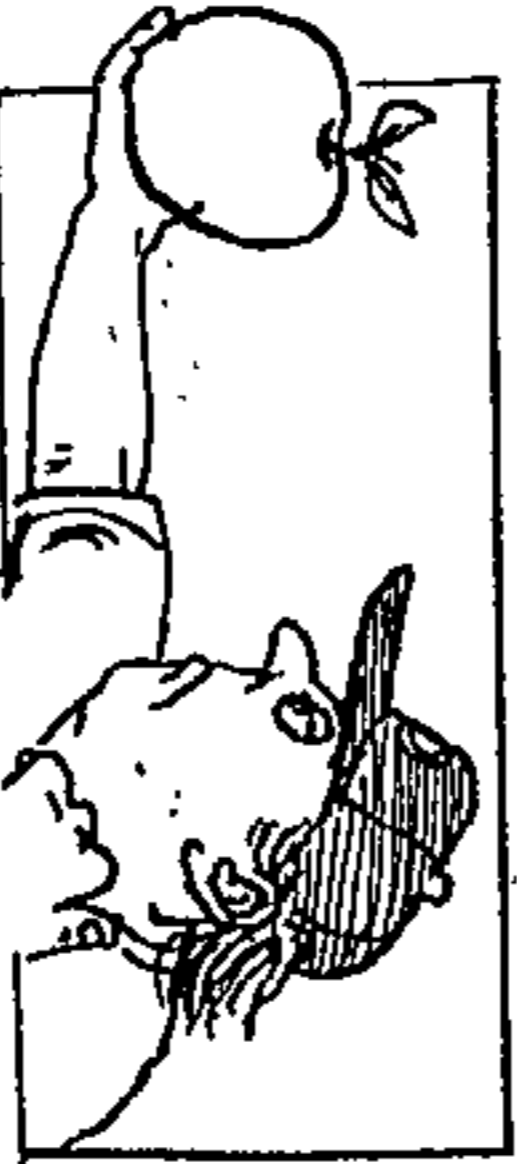
# Time to put green sense before sentiment

Star 21/3/91.

56

Which would you rather not be: a chain smoker, or the next-door neighbour of a well-run, hazardous-waste dump? Rational people should shun the first fate; voters generally would make more fuss about the second.

Risk-perception fascinates psychologists, but infuriates those concerned with cleaning the environment, for the environmental priorities of voters seldom square with those of scientists. Environmental spending sometimes seems intended more to pacify the public than to make the world a cleaner place.



## TOMORROW

Black families refuse permission for organ donation from dead relatives more often than families of other race groups, according to research.

Although people in rich countries live longer than ever, they are more fearful than their ancestors were about threats to their health from the world around them. Familiar risks are, anyway, less frightening than the unfamiliar, invisible risks more scary than visible.

And cigarette smoking, the cause of almost a third of all cancer deaths, seems safer (and more fun) than inhaling the carcinogens in the smoke from a nearby incinerator.

People are also willing to inflict on themselves much greater risks than they are prepared to have imposed upon them. Motorcyclists may tremble at the thought of being trapped in a lift; alcoholics may reject ice-cream made with milk from a cow treated with genetically engineered hormones. Such quirks may not mat-

ter when they influence the behaviour of an individual. It is different when quirks become votes, and the votes become government policy.

A recent review of America's green laws by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reckons that the cost of complying with them is already higher as a proportion of GNP than in any other country (except perhaps, western Germany) and would rise to at least 2.6 percent of GNP by the year 2000.

### Benefits

If environmental policies simply respond to public outcries, they may impose huge costs for little purpose. Work by Michael Gough at Resources for the Future, an American think-tank, concludes that the whole panoply of EPA regulations might, at best, prevent about 6 400 of

America's 485 000 annual deaths from cancer.

The same think-tank notes a dichotomy between green laws and expected green benefits: last year's Clean Air Act, it reckons, could cost America around \$30 billion (about R78.6 billion) a year by early next century, for environmental gains of less than half that.

More dangerously, misperceptions of risk can drive governments to policies that may be riskier than the alternatives. Thus Britain has bowed to EC pressure to stop incinerating sewage sludge at sea, where the fumes are well dispersed; it will now burn it on land, where people are likely to inhale the smoke.

William Reilly, the EPA administrator, wants a public debate on green priorities.

Congress expects the EPA to devote more than a third of its budget to cleaning up hazardous-waste dumps. Yet two

scientific reports have told the EPA that such sites should have lower priority than other environmental problems, including radon and threats to wildlife habitats, which voters care less about.

Radon, a natural but carcinogenic gas, endangers the health of far more people; habitat destruction is more difficult to reverse.

How to change public perceptions of environmental risk? Better public education is essential. Scientists can, if people will trust them, assess the level of risks.

But setting priorities will be easier if it is clear that policies to reduce risk are not costless. If they mainly take the form of tougher regulations on companies, voters will easily think that a cleaner environment is cheap. It is not, which is why priorities matter.

THE ECONOMIST

## Public servants want say in allocating increases

PRETORIA — The Public Servants' Association (PSA) will start negotiating next week with the Commission for Administration on how the R3,7bn Budget allocation for government workers' salaries and benefits will be spent.

PSA GM Hans Olivier said the association's main concern was how much of the money would be allocated to career differentiated pay hikes.

Finance Minister Barend du Plessis angered public servants by failing to give a detailed breakdown of the R3,735bn set aside in the Budget for public sector benefits.

There were more than 140 career groups in the service who had fallen far behind private sector pay levels, Olivier said.

The amount to be spent on across-the-board increases for all government workers would also be negotiated.

Olivier said a second

**GERALD REILLY**

major issue was whether last year's 10% non-pensionable allowance would be incorporated in basic pensionable earnings.

The benefits are not expected to come into operation from April 1 and will probably be introduced retrospectively later.

The announcement that MPs are to get increases of 27% has caused "unhappiness".

Last year MPs voted themselves a similar increase.

● Comment: Page 12

## Pollution threat to river

**WILSON ZWANE**

A RIVER running through Sandton faces a major pollution threat from domestic garbage dumped by residents of nearby Alexandra township.

The Sandton Chronicle newspaper reported this week that the Jukskei River was threatened with pollution from household garbage being dumped on Alexandra's Far East Bank area.

The refuse should have been deposited at the Linbro Park dump.

The newspaper asked who would take responsibility for ensuring the refuse reached the dump as, it said, the Alexandra Town Council had to all intents and purposes been taken over by the Alexandra Civic Organisation (ACO).

Sandton councillor Jo Marais, through whose ward the river flows, said the problem was growing.

"Not only is there seepage from the tons of garbage, but effluent from the nightsoil along the spruit is also a problem," Marais said.

She said Far East Bank residents were also suffering "as they have to put up with the stench and the flies".

ACO general secretary Richard Mdakane said yesterday his organisation was aware of the seriousness of the problem but said it lacked the resources to address it.

"ACO is involved in the development of the township but we are not a development agent. A regional body comprising, among others, Sandton and Randburg should be set up to address these environmental issues," Mdakane said.



**BUFFALO CORPORATION LIMITED**

**INTERIM**  
for the six  
31 Dec

# Say goodbye

# to St Lucia

Star 23/3/91

Now leading

conservationists support mining

**JAMES CLARKE**  
ST LUCIA lake is finished, say three of the country's top conservationists.

The three have come out in favour of mining titanium there — provided the environmental impacts are tolerable.

This is the latest development in a saga that witnessed the biggest public petition in the country's history; that collected some 300,000 signatures, enormous public anger against the former Environment Affairs Minister, and a R-million public relations campaign by the company that wants to mine St Lucia's hills.

The conservationists now argue that St Lucia — its lake and its drainage system — is dying. They say the conservation movement does not have the funds to save it.

**Surprise**

They claim the uranium mining company, Richards Bay Minerals, could at least help the situation.

Meanwhile, in a surprise move, Richards Bay Minerals, the company planning to mine at St Lucia, has appointed a popular former Natal ranger, Barry Clements, as its general manager in charge of public relations.

Mr. Clements (52), an experienced public relations man, is known to thousands because, for almost 10 years, he led wilderness. Leadership courses in the Zululand bush — courses designed for high school children who showed leadership ability.

He was also in the forefront of the 1960s battle to save La Lucia from

becoming a salt lake after various Government departments conducted uncoordinated activities in the region that resulted in the lake's fresh water supplies being blocked.

Mr Clements told me this week "I was appalled when I revisited Zululand recently to find the riverine forests, for which we had fought so hard, had long been swept away by floods.

"A large part of its catchment is in KwaZulu which is suffering from soil erosion, riverine destruction, deforestation overstocking... all of it resulting from over-population.

"I believe St Lucia has no chance of surviving the way things are."

How will old-guard Natal Parks rangers, as well as thousands of wilderness trail fans, react to Mr Clements becoming RBM's chief spokesman?

"If they know me then they will also know my principles have not changed. I have long been committed to bringing about a better working arrangement between industry and conservation

"We need industry. We need conservation. They are not incompatible, but both need to learn about the other."

Mr Clements has been at Rossing uranium mine in Namibia for several years.

What if the current environmental impact study finds RBM's mining plan will further wreck St Lucia?

"Then RBM will not mine," said Mr Clements. Endangered Wildlife Trust director John Ledger told Saturday Star "I go along with Barry Clements."

"St Lucia is a dying lake. It cannot survive unless we find funds to begin rehabilitative work throughout the region.

"The mine is its least threat. It could even be its salvation if it injects some wealth into the area."

**'Credibility'**

"In any event the area to be mined was long ago stripped of natural cover and planned to pine trees."

Dr Ledger said: "I believe this country's conservation lobby faces a moment of truth over St Lucia — if we want to win greater environmental battles in the future then we have to win our credibility at St Lucia. We must abide by the verdict of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment)."

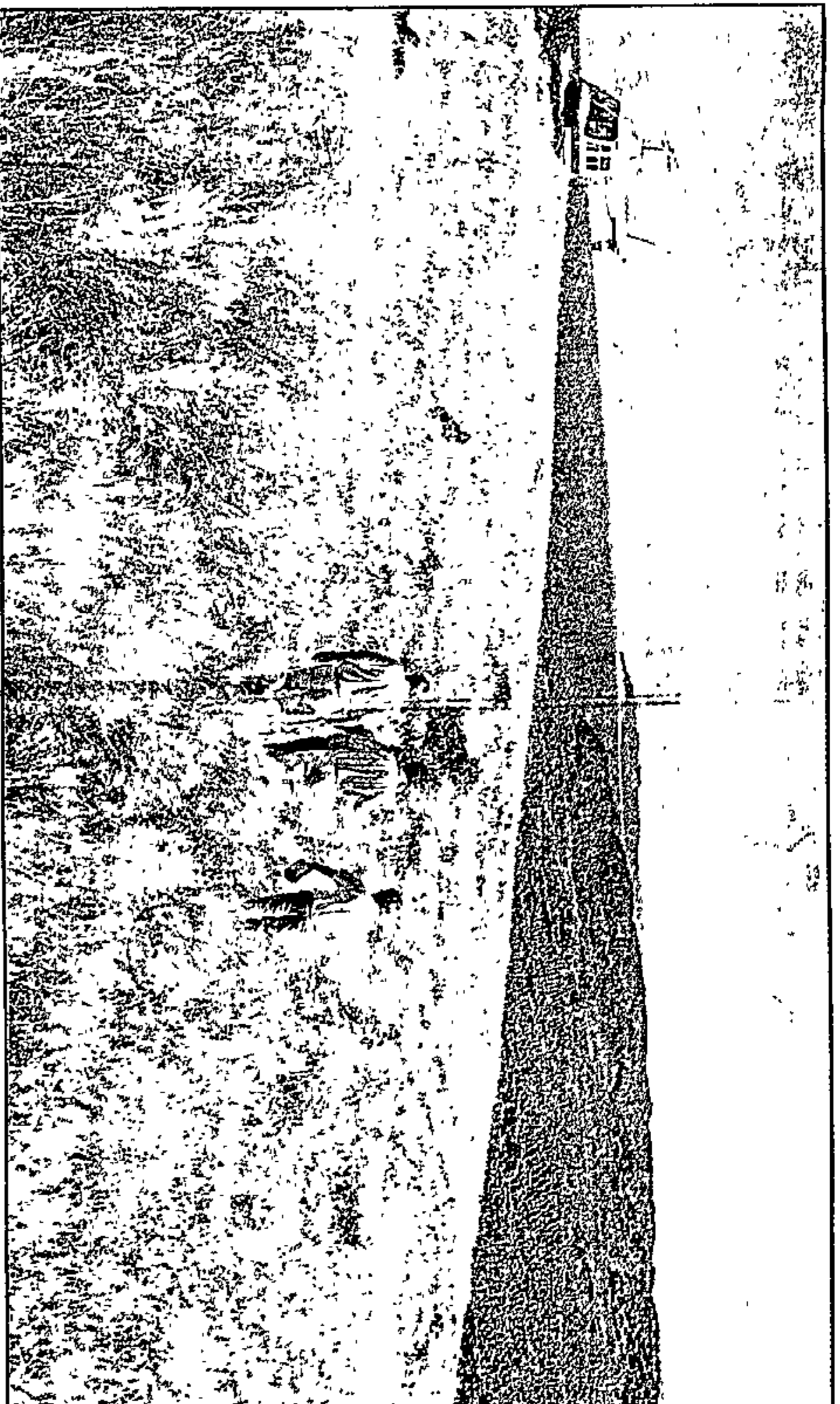
Some conservationists have expressed greater

concern about Rand Mines plans to mine titanium in the forested dunes near Waverest on the Transkei coast. They say Transkei dune forests are the least spoilt in the region and are ecologically and internationally more important than St Lucia's.

Wildlife Society conservation director Keith Cooper, an acknowledged expert on forests and coastal ecology, is also said to have expressed similar sentiments. He is known to be adamantly against open cast mining near Waverest.

He was unavailable for comment this week.

The EIA report will probably be completed around September.



ABOUT-TURN: Part of the long crest of high dunes at St Lucia lake. There has been intense public outrage at plans to mine titanium there. Now, three top conservationists say mining may help save St Lucia.

TOMORROW ONLY!

# Checkers SUNDAY SPECIALS

AT SELECTED STORES - SEE STORE LIST BELOW



Farmer Brown  
fresh whole  
chickens

# New environmental laws being drawn up

PRETORIA — Legislation was being prepared to provide for compulsory environmental impact assessments in certain cases, National Education and Environmental Affairs Minister Louis Pienaar said yesterday.

In one of his most wide-ranging speeches yet on his environment portfolio, Pienaar told a conference organised by Pretoria University's Institute for Strategic Studies that officials were preparing a preliminary list of the activities requiring assessments.

Draft legislation might be published during the first half of next year.

He said an environmental auditing policy to monitor the activities of industrialists and developers was also being studied.

Government favoured developers' voluntary participation in environmental impact assessments and the integrated environmental management procedure proposed by the Council for the Environment. However, the response had been disappointing.

SA's nature conservation record was good, with about 8% of the country already proclaimed protect-

ed areas and new areas being identified.

Pienaar warned, however, that soil erosion was continuing at an alarming rate.

The Karoo had spread 70km in the past 10 years and the desert was advancing along a 500km front in the north-western Cape.

Many rivers, streams and estuaries were biologically degraded, and many wetlands had been degraded or destroyed.

Pienaar said government intended to remain self-sufficient in the safe disposal of its wastes, including toxic waste.

While monitoring the situation, Environment Affairs was also maintaining a strict embargo on the importation of toxic wastes, and agreements with neighbouring countries had been reached for them to do the same.

An investigation into hazardous wastes was being carried out by the Foundation for Research and Development.

The results would be published during the second half of the year.

GERALD REILLY

Poor pay <sup>5.6</sup>  
 'impeding <sup>2/11</sup>  
 conservation'  
 8/Jan 28/3/91

Pretoria Correspondent

The "extremely unfavourable" salaries of nature conservation officials was "seriously impeding" nature conservation in the Transvaal, MEC for nature conservation Fanie Ferreira said yesterday.

In a document tabled before the extended Public Committee on Provincial Affairs, Mr Ferreira said while 15 percent of posts in the nature conservation branch were vacant, the main cause for concern were the numerous vacant senior posts.

"This must receive urgent attention in view of the ever-increasing environmental degradation and the serious consequences this has for the envisaged economic and social development programmes."

The goal of the TPA's nature conservation policies was to put 1,5 percent of the province's land under formal protection within five years. This meant about 35,000 ha of land had to be bought each year.

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Hospitals can't <sup>Star 28/3/91</sup>  
open to all races  
overnight - MEC

Pretoria Correspondent

Guidelines have been formulated for the opening of provincial hospitals to all races, but "practical arrangements" have prevented full implementation of the new policy, says MEC for health services Fanie Ferreira.

Replying to a question from Jac Rabie, United Democratic Party MP for Reiger Park, during the provincial budget debate in Pretoria, Mr Ferreira said "culture, language and eating habits of patients" had prevented the opening of hospitals "overnight".

He said the process of implementation of the new policy guidelines was at an advanced, but transitional, stage.

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## Wildlife says no to mining at St Lucia

THE Wildlife Society of Southern Africa this week expressed its opposition to mining activities at the St Lucia conservation areas *stew 30/3/91*

The organisation said besides opposing mining in nature conservation areas in principle, dune mining was a relatively recent mining practice in South Africa.

"Its rehabilitation characteristics have not had time to demonstrate adequate predictability of long-term environmental impact."

Executive director Tony Ferrar said this was particularly the case in areas supporting mature coastal dune forest and dune grassland, which were recognised as threatened habitats of high nature conservation value.

He said, given the two main-land use options, Wildlife preferred ecotourism to mining.

Wildlife has called for a thorough investigation of the St Lucia issue which "followed accepted Class One Integrated Environmental Management procedures". — Sapa.

● SEE PAGE 10.

# Dawid Kruijper can be a man again. His Bushmen have found that it pays to survive

ST. Louis 3/13/91.



Special To The Evening Post

**BUSHMAN Dawid Kruijper loves the tourists who pay money to see him and his family. Being put on show, he believes, is the only way he and his tribe can survive.**

His prayers to God and his ancestors, he said, have found him a home on a Cape game reserve. And the tourists have enabled him to support his family by buying the "Bushman" souvenirs they make.

"I am an animal of nature," he said in fluent Afrikaans. "I want people to see me and know who I am. The only way our traditions and way of life can survive is to live in the memory of the people who know us."

"And they can't know us if they do not see us. Nor can we eat if they do not buy our things."

Dawid — "I am a Bushman not a San" — and his tribe live on the Kaggga Kamma game reserve, perched on a bleak escarpment sandwiched between the Cederberg and the Koue Bokkeveld and overlooking the barren, sandy scrubland of the Great Karoo. But a plan is being considered which

will make them more than a "tourist attraction" and will give them freedom to roam the area as their ancestors did 200 years ago.

After a barrage of criticism that the Bushmen are being exploited like a "reek side show", reserve manager Johan "Jopie" du Preez said the game farm, in conjunction with the Wilderness Leadership School, wants to train members of the tribe as trail guides and game guards on the reserve. In that way, they can pass their unique knowledge of bush lore to wildlife enthusiasts.

"That is a happy option for them and us," said Mr. Du Preez.

Last year Dawid, 56, and his tribe of 28 — including a baby-in-arms — were on the verge of starvation. Dawid was in despair, and gnawing at him was his apparent failure to keep the death-bed promise he had made to his grandfather to keep the family together and to look after them.

"But how could I? We had nowhere to live, no food and no future."

"That was when I prayed to God and our forefathers for help. My call was answered."



**NEW HOME . . . Dawid Kruijper, members of his tribe and manager Johan du Preez look out over the Kaggga Kamma game reserve** **Picture: TERRY SHEAN**

The Bushmen were given a home on the game farm in January by sheep farmer Pieter de Waal and two partners who had heard of their plight after the Kalahari Gemsbok Park was proclaimed.

Criticism and accusations of exploitation erupted after the Bushmen were "paraded" down city streets during a visit to Cape Town this month.

Mr. Du Preez said: "Taking the Bushmen for a walk in the streets was a mistake and one we will not make again."

"In our defence, Dawid asked me to take him and his family to Cape Town. They wanted to see the sea, see how their ancestors are depicted in a Bushman exhibit in the South African Museum.

visit the Castle and they wanted to spend some of the money they have earned selling souvenirs to visitors to Kaggga Kamma."

Mr. Du Preez admitted the presence of the Bushmen had "put Kaggga Kamma on the map", but he said nothing had been done without the consent of the tribe — including the daily two-hour trip by tourists to their camp.

"They are happy to pay for their keep by talking to tourists, making and selling souvenirs and in the next few months, I hope, working as trail guides and game guards. And they will be able to hunt when we need to cull our game."

Mr. Du Preez said a school was to be

built for the children in the group and they were in the process of constructing better homes in which they could live for the winter.

"People say we are exploiting them. But that is a point of view with which neither they nor we agree. It is all very well and romantic to say they should be able to live as their ancestors did, foraging for roots and living in the wild."

"But they do not want that. They are westernised and want clothes, shoes and soap to wash, just like the rest of us."

Andrew Mur, Cape director of the Wilderness Leadership School, has visited Kaggga Kamma to see how Dawid and his tribe are being treated.

He said he was compiling a report for the Wilderness school on the Bushmen and would suggest that some members of the tribe be trained to act as trail guides.

"The farmers' motives are good," he said. "We need to recognise that the days when tribes of Bushmen could roam the country, hunting at will, are over. To me there seems to be a fair trade-off between the Bushmen and the farmers."

"No, I do not miss the Kalahari," said Dawid. "We were not happy there. This is our new home."

"Our ancestors were here and now so are we. Kaggga Kamma is our word for Place of Water. Here we have found not only water but happiness as well."



Mr Graham said the Regional Services had used a grader to make a firebreak to stop flames spreading to a forest of pine and bluegum trees. A Helderberg Village resident who saw "three riverlets of lightning strike the mountain and burst into flames instantly", said the fire was "disastrously handled".

"They shouldn't only use the municipal firefighters but should call in the help of local regiments on which taxpayers' money is being wasted," she said.

Commandant Gerrie Albertse of the Stellenbosch Commando said soldiers had started fighting the blaze at 2am yesterday and were expecting to fight through last night.

A third fire, possibly started near Soetwater around 1pm on Saturday, spread across to mountains above Scarborough coming to within metres of houses. It then spread to Red Hill near Simon's Town.

Scarborough resident Mrs Antoinette Wetmore said forestry fire-

fighters and local residents had battled from Saturday afternoon through the night to keep the flames from spreading to houses.

A forestry department spokesman of the Western Cape Regional Services Council said a firebelt had been built above Scarborough to "counter-fire" the blaze as it swept closer to the houses.

By late yesterday afternoon the Hangklip and Helderberg fires were under control, according to an official spokesman. Troops and helicopters had been withdrawn, and the situation was being monitored.

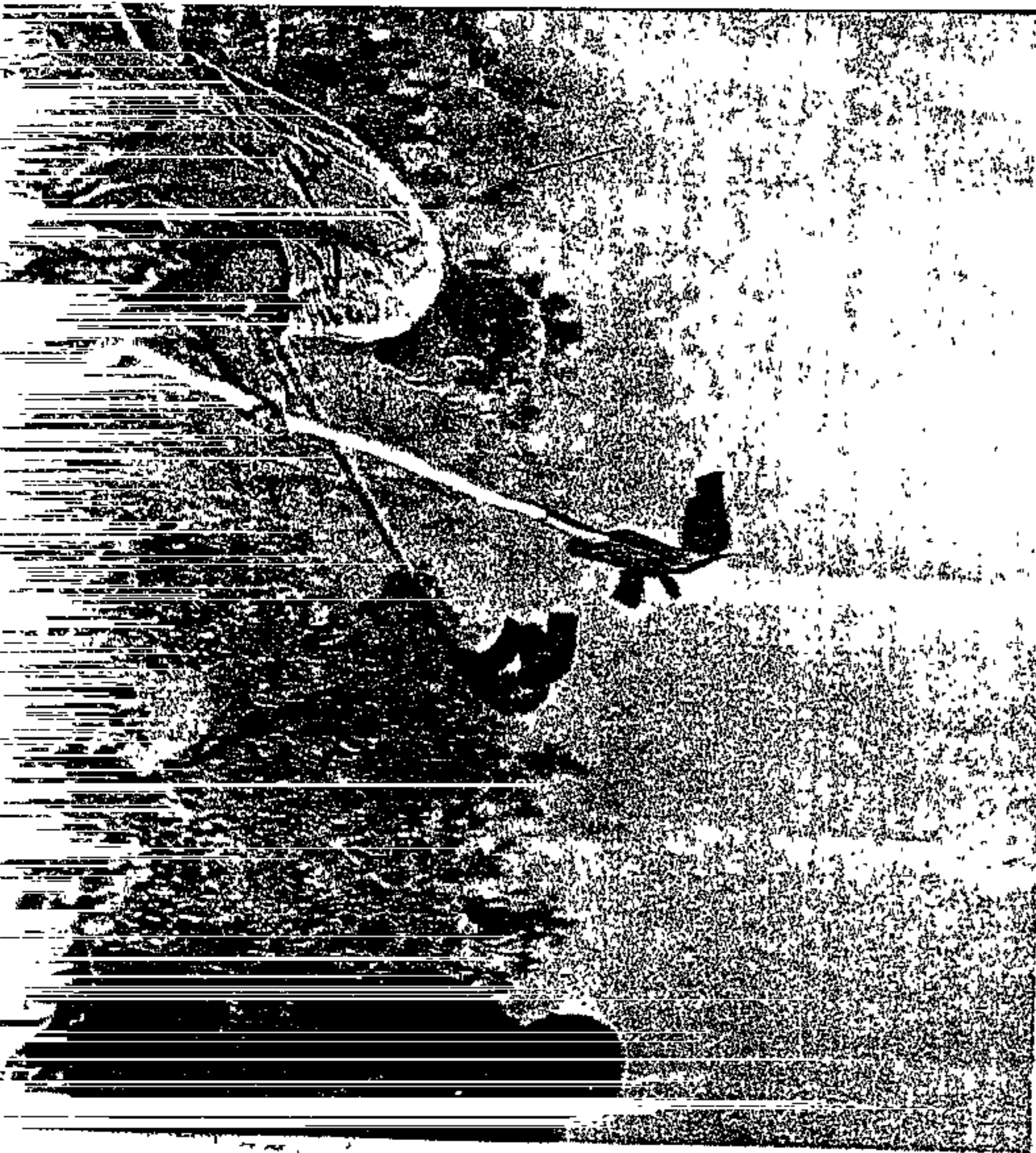
Late last night irate Scarborough residents said flames were heading down a nearby kloof.

An RSC spokesman said last night that the fire was being fanned by a now south-westerly wind. Some houses in Misty Cliffs could be threatened. A team was stationed on a mountain road between the kloof and the houses.

# Blighter battle

Staff Reporter

Two-day struggle to put out fires in Cape mountains



By late last night all blazes between Rooi Els and Kleinmond were out and being monitored, said Mr Geldenhuis. Residents were seen dampening their houses with garden hoses and frantically disconnecting gas cylinders as huge tongues of fire swirled and mingled with smoke. The area is thick with fynbos and alien vegetation. One resident, Mr Brian van Wilgen, watched helplessly as firefighters wearing gasmasks trained high-pressure hoses on burning bush metres from his home. A spokesman for the Caledon Regional Services Council said one house was damaged in Betty's Bay. Traffic police started redirecting traffic from the main Betty's Bay road early yesterday afternoon. Thousands of hectares of fynbos were lost and the

entire chain of mountains between Rooi Els and the Palmiet River in the south have been stripped or vegetation. The blackened slopes were still smouldering last night. Another helicopter fought a second fire on the Helderberg mountain where some 150 Cape Corps soldiers joined local firefighters and volunteers to contain the blaze. Somerset West resident Mr Phil Graham of World's View said the Helderberg mountain fire cut a path to within 300 metres of the area in which he lived. He said a house belonging to the Newton King family had to be evacuated but was saved by firefighters — including boys of the Somerset West Scouts who beat down the flames

To page 3

Can Times 11/4/91 (56)

Can Times 11/4/91 (56)

# Pringle Bay, Scarborough mountain fires put out

*capt 7/14/91 3/4/91 (56)*

**Staff Reporter**

THE mountain fires that raged at Pringle Bay and Scarborough on Monday were put out yesterday, fire department sources said, and there was no longer a danger to houses.

Mr Sass Maree, the chief director of the Overberg Regional Services Council, said yesterday that the fire around Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay, which had destroyed about 7 000ha, was out.

"The firemen left the scene about 9pm (on Monday) and went back to

Caledon, but were called out again to Pringle Bay, where two houses were threatened.

"The houses were evacuated, but the fire was put out by 11.30pm and the firemen went home," Mr Maree said.

The fire at Scarborough, which spread to Red Hill and came close to homes at Ocean View and Capri Village in Sun Valley, was contained by 4am yesterday, said a Western Cape RSC spokesman.

# Dangers! Mudslides

## Fire aftermath: Winter rain could wash away mountain slopes

By CLIVE SAWYER  
Municipal Reporter

**S**TEEP burnt-out slopes where plants have not regrown after the Devil's Peak fire could wash away in mudslides on to Tafelberg Road and De Waal Drive this winter, a leading environmentalist has warned.

### ECOLOGY

Mr Barrie Low, co-ordinator of the environmental education and resources unit at the University of the Western Cape, visited the area devastated on February 8 with an Argus team yesterday.

Urgent replanting, using fully grown bushes of similar type from Signal Hill, was needed to avert further ecological damage, he said.

"Fast growing grasses must be planted in time to catch the first rains. Action is needed immediately," Mr Low said.

During the visit, two City Council road gangs were hard at work with rehabilitative maintenance of Tafelberg Road in an effort to prevent it being blocked or washed away by heavy winter rains.

Kerbing and sandbags are being used to channel water to controlled drainage points. The rate of recovery of indigenous Renosterveld grass-

es varied from poor to "surprisingly good", Mr Low said. Above Disa Park Towers, some plants were growing back, but a wide area around the ravine below Oppelskop was near-desolate.

"Parks and Forests branch will have their work cut out to cope with all this," Mr Low said, indicating the barren and partly baked soil.

Sheet erosion, the loss of topsoil across a wide front, was very likely in the ravine below Oppelskop.

Artificial landfill created by soil dumping when Tafelberg Road was built had caused unusually steep slopes, and it was here that the risk of mudslides was at its highest, he said.

"The problem is not only potential mudslides but the irreplaceable loss of thousands of years' topsoil development," Mr Low said.

Given enough recovery time — at least 10 years without a major fire — the grasses would give way to shrubs, the total effect binding the soil together.

"The vegetation cannot handle these frequent fires. We cannot even be sure how much we are losing because of them," he said.

Some species might have been lost because of the fire. On the worst slopes, some of which are 60 to 70 degrees, terracing would be a solution

to erosion risks. This would be a huge, time-consuming and costly job, Mr Low warned.

Renosterveld would have to be transplanted on to these terraces.

"That some of the most badly hit slopes of Devil's Peak are north-facing worsens the problem, because the area is so dry," he said.

The worst risk areas for mudslides were steep slopes above Tafelberg Road and De Waal Drive.

"How badly they will be hit will depend on the winter weather patterns. Soft, soaking rain is what we need for good rehabilitation. A few heavy storms could mean a very bad picture," he said.

Coverage above De Waal Drive was very good in places, though there were some places above the road already damaged by previous erosion which posed risks of mudslides.

The reactive nature in which the environmental rehabilitation was being done underlined the need for an ecological master plan, implemented by a powerful statutory environmental council.

"A master plan for this kind of major fire, and what action to take afterwards, should have been in place already," he said.



CAPE Times (56)  
4/4/91

## Kotzé, Meiring see fire damage

Staff Reporter

WATER Affairs and Forestry Minister Mr Gert Kotzé and Cape Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring yesterday made a helicopter flight over the areas around False Bay and Stellenbosch that were devastated by bush fires at the Easter weekend.

With them went Dr Johan Neethling, the chief director of Nature Conservation, Mr Greville Ruddock of Nature Conservation, the man who co-ordinated all fire-fighting efforts over the long weekend, and the media.

The flight over the Rooi Els, Pringle Bay, Betty's Bay and Helderberg areas showed how about 7 500ha had been destroyed, with large patches of veld blackened. Smudges of smoke marked still-smouldering spots above Pringle Bay.

When the party arrived at the Jonkershoek nature reserve yesterday, Nature Conservation workers were busy with counter-fires in an attempt to contain the fire there.

This fire has destroyed about 3 500ha of fynbos so far.

At a briefing at Jonkershoek, both Mr Kotzé and Mr Meiring stressed that the co-operation between the public and Nature Conservation, Forestry and RSC officials had been instrumental in successfully containing the fires.

# Mandela

# GOES GREEN

U/Mad s/4-11/4/91

(56)

*A hunting trip converts the ANC leader to conservation*



Story: EDDIE KOCH  
Photos: JEREMY ANDERSON  
and TONY FERRAR

**T**HE picture on the left shows Nelson Mandela proudly posing with a blesbok he shot while on safari with game wardens from KANNGwane's wildlife department.

The African National Congress leader has developed a passionate interest in environmental issues since spending a two-week holiday at a Lowveld nature reserve hunting and learning about innovative approaches to nature conservation.

The KANNGwane Parks Board is renowned for its methods — including hunting and culling of overpopulated species — that allow nature conservation to be combined with rural development.

Mandela told *The Weekly Mail*, after returning to his office in Johannesburg this week, that he believed it was vital to promote environmental conservation and to devise new methods to protect this country's fast-dwindling plant and animal species.

He spent his annual leave at the Mthethanusha Game Reserve in KANNGwane and used the opportunity to hold extensive and wide-ranging discussions with some of the country's top ecologists.

"It is important for conservation and rural development to be combined," he said. "Nature conservationists must take into account the needs of people around the reserves. They need to encourage education programmes about protecting wildlife and always act in co-operation with the local communities."

The ANC deputy president also de-



**MINISTER OF FINANCE**

(1) and (2) No. The Commission did, however, recommend that although no concession was made, a limited degree of exemption must be granted in respect of benefits derived from share incentive schemes. When the Commission reported to the Commissioner for Inland Revenue and which are created for the benefit of all permanent employees of the company. The not only for new entrants. These recommendations were accepted, in principle, by Government. The matter is being investigated by the Commissioner for Inland Revenue in consultation with the Tax Advisory Committee and shall enjoy further consideration on completion of the investigation.

(3) The investigation will still take some time and I do not consider it advisable to make a statement before I receive a report back in this regard.

**Bedfordview: new police station**

\*12 Mr B B GOODALL asked the Minister of Law and Order:

Whether it is intended to build a new police station in Bedfordview, if not, why not; if so, when will building operations (a) commence and (b) be completed?

B620E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

Yes

(a) and (b)

The provision of the service is determined by the availability of funds. The projected tender date for a new police station in Bedfordview is September 1995.

A new planning of all South African Police being carried out with a view to reducing costs, i.e. state expenditure. This process can have an influence on the date.

Consequently, I cannot at this stage indicate when building operations will commence or be completed.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

**Abortion/sterilisation: legislation**

\*13. Dr Z J DE BEEK asked the Minister of National Health:

(a) Whether she intended to introduce legislation in regard to abortion and sterilisation during the present session of Parliament; if not, why not, if so, (a) what legislation and (b) when;

(c) Whether she has received any representations in this regard during the past 12 months, if so (a) from whom and (b) what was (i) the nature of and (ii) the response to these representations?

*Hansard 9/4/91* B623E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

(1) No, the majority of persons who reacted to any amendments of the existing Abortion and Sterilisation Act, 1975;

(2) Yes, representations in this regard have been received after an invitation for comments was issued to the general public on 20 March 1990.

(a) a total of 48 846 persons reacted to the invitation. This includes individuals of all population groups, several organisations and professional persons and

(b) (i) 98,62% of the persons that reacted to the invitation were against any amendments of the existing Act and

(ii) it is clear that the general public is not in favour of amendments of the Act. Therefore the decision was made not to amend the Act.

**Illegitimate children: rights of access to fathers**

\*14. Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Justice

Whether it is the intention to introduce legislation in terms of which rights of access will be granted to fathers of illegitimate children, if not, why not; if so, (a) when and (b) what is envisaged in this regard?

*Hansard 9/4/91* B644E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

The rights of a father regarding his illegitimate child are at present being investigated by the

South African Law Commission and it is appropriate to await their recommendations in this regard.

**Pension contributions: backlog**

\*15. Mr L F STOFBERG asked the Minister of Finance:

Whether there is a backlog at present in the payment of the State's share in pension contributions; if so, (a) since when, (b) how large is the amount concerned and (c) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

*Hansard 9/4/91* B649E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

No.

(a) Falls away

(b) Falls away

(c) 28 February 1991

**Unrest incidents: ANCISAP**

\*16 Mr L F STOFBERG asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) Whether the ANC has been granted permission for some of its members to accompany the South African Police to unrest incidents; if so, with effect from what date;

(2) whether an exception to the usual procedure has been made in the above-mentioned case; if so, why;

(3) whether the same concession has been granted to (a) Inkatha and (b) other political parties; if not, why not, if so, to which political parties?

*Hansard 9/4/91* B650E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) No, no general permission has been granted.

(2) After the declaration of the unrest regulations in accordance with section 5A of Public Safety Act, (Act 3 of 1953) on 11 November 1990, which also provided for the application of a curfew in Attendgeville, the ANC alleged that the curfew and the presence of the Operational Branch of the South African Police in Attendgeville was stirring up animosity

amongst the youth and residents of Attendgeville. In an attempt to refute these allegations it was agreed upon with the ANC that they would appoint two lawyers. The purpose of this was that they would accompany the Police to scenes of unrest after the Police had notified them of such incidents. In this way it could be shown to the organisation that the conduct of the Police was bona fide and taking place within their powers. However, it was found that the two lawyers were pursuing the Police everywhere without invitation and without good reason. In view of this the Regional Commissioner accordingly decided not to proceed with the procedure agreed upon. No occasion had arisen, before the pursuit referred to, for the Police to contact the two lawyers.

(3) (a) and (b)

No, because no such requests have as yet been addressed to the South African Police and neither has any such instance yet occurred where it was in the interest of the maintenance of law and order. If Inkatha, or any other political party deems it necessary to have discussions with the South African Police about this matter, they are welcome.

\*17. Mr R F HASWELL—Public Works and Land Affairs [Question standing over]

**Atmospheric Pollution Act: amendments**

\*18 Mr R F HASWELL asked the Minister of National Health:

(1) Whether her Department intends motivating amendments to the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act, No 45 of 1965, during the current session of Parliament; if not, why not; if so,

(2) whether she will consider introducing amendments providing for (a) stricter national and regional regulations and (b) economic incentives; if not, why not?

*Hansard 9/4/91* B654E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

(1) No, the Department of National Health and Population Development is waiting for the report of the President's Council

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

56 on a National Environment Management System; Hansard 9/4/91

(2) (a) and (b) fall away

Expenditure on personnel

\*19 Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Training: ~~54~~

What percentage of the total expenditure on personnel is spent on (a) educators and (b) all personnel in his Department who are above the level of school principal? Hansard 9/4/91

B661E

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

(a) 1,2%?

Note: Includes all educators on post levels 6 and 7

(b) 1,6%?

Note: Includes all staff above the level of Deputy-Director (Admin) and post level 5

Teachers: salaries outstanding

\*20 Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Training: ~~53~~

(1) Whether, further to his reply to Question No 91 on 8 March 1991, the teachers whose salaries were outstanding for longer than one month have been paid, if not, why not; Hansard 9/4/91

(2) whether any teachers at the Masiyile Senior Secondary School had salaries outstanding for longer than one month; if so, for what reasons were they outstanding;

(3) whether these teachers' salaries have been paid, if so, when, if not, (a) why not and (b) when is it anticipated that they will be paid;

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B665E

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

(1) Yes

(2) Yes

Appointment documents were not submitted unconsolidated to the regional office

(3) Yes—15 March 1991  
(4) No.

Dr Nelson R Mandela High School

\*21 Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Training: ~~52~~

(1) Whether he has, in accordance with the applicable quotas, supplied the number of teachers required to staff fully the Dr Nelson R Mandela High School in Cross roads, if not, why not, if so, (a) how many teachers have been supplied, (b) what is the average class size at the school and (c) in respect of what date is this information furnished; Hansard 9/4/91

(2) whether the necessary school desks, chairs and laboratory equipment have been supplied to the school, if not, why not;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B660E

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

(1) Yes

(a) 35 Teachers.

A quota of 1 225 pupils was allocated to this school, for which number 35 teachers are sufficient. The quota was exceeded due to the influx of 640 pupils. Funds are not available for the creation of a further 18 teaching posts for the pupils by which the quota has been exceeded.

(b) 50 Pupils.

If the 640 pupils by which the quota has been exceeded are omitted, the average class size is 35 pupils.

(c) 21 March 1991

(2) Yes. The school is equipped to accommodate 1 225 pupils. Funds, as well as space are not available for the purchase and placement of desks, chairs and laboratory equipment for the number of pupils by which the quota has been exceeded.

(3) No.

Pipeline effluent 56

\*22 Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry: Hansard 9/4/91

(1) Whether the effluent from the pipeline referred to in his reply to Question No 7 on 12 March 1991 is being monitored, if not why not, if so, (a) what is the frequency of this monitoring and (b) by whom is it being monitored;

(2) whether the results of the monitoring will be made known to the public, if not, why not, if so, (a) in what manner and (b) when? B668E

THE MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY

(1) Yes

(a) and (b) Samples are taken on a daily basis by the Company concerned, while grab sampling is conducted on monthly basis by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry as a control measure

(2) Yes.

(a) The results are made available by the Department during meetings of the Joint Co-operation Committee on Environment Pollution of the Maudini Town Board, which Committee can then make the information public

(b) The Committee meets three to four times per annum, but particulars can be obtained on an ad hoc basis at any time by the Committee.

SABC: educational television service

\*23 Mrs C H CHARLEWOOD asked the Minister of Education and Training:

(1) Whether his Department has taken any steps to establish, through the South African Broadcasting Corporation, an educational television service to Black schools throughout the country, if not, why not, if so, (a) what steps and (b) when is it anticipated that this service will commence; Hansard 9/4/91

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B670E

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

(1) Yes.

(4) The Department participates in an interdepartmental pilot project in co-operation with the SABC, through which an educational TV programme series is planned

(b) It is planned that broadcasts of the programmes will commence on Monday 1 July 1991. Hansard 9/4/91

(2) Not at this stage

Anti-Aids advertisements

\*24 Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health: Hansard 9/4/91

(1) Whether she has approached the Minister of Home Affairs with a request for free air time on radio and television for anti-Aids advertisements of any form and/or Aids information or education programmes, if so, what was the response, if not,

(2) whether she intends making such a request, if not, why not? B671E

THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

(1) No

(2) no, but the Department of National Health and Population Development does negotiate with the Board of Executives of the SABC regarding the Corporation's involvement in creating AIDS awareness and dissemination of knowledge. The matter has not been finalised, therefore information cannot be released at this stage

Kruger National Park: copper poisoning in animals

\*25 Mr E K MCCORROFF asked the Minister of Environment Affairs: Hansard 9/4/91

(1) Whether any reports of cases of copper poisoning in animals in the vicinity of Phalaborwa have been received from the Kruger National Park, if so,

(2) whether the source of the poisoning has been traced; if so, what are the relevant details,

(3) whether any steps have been taken to prevent such poisoning from occurring, if not, why not, if so, what steps;

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter? *56*  
B680E  
The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS: *Hansford 9/4/91*

(1) No reports had been made by the National Parks Board to the Department of Environment Affairs of copper poisoning in animals in the vicinity of Phalaborwa, but, following the submission of the question, enquiries were made, and an occurrence of possible copper poisoning during the early part of 1989 has now been reported

(2) In the investigation carried out by consultants on behalf of Phalaborwa Mining Company, the National Parks Board, the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, the Department of Health as well as Onderstepoort were consulted. The investigation proved inconclusive in determining the exact area of the occurrence.

(3) Steps have been taken by the Phalaborwa Mining Company to avoid dust distribution during repairs to dust control equipment, which might have been a contributing factor.

(4) Since 1989 there has been no further evidence of copper poisoning in the area concerned

#### Principal specialist: representations

\*26. Miss M SMUTS asked the Minister of National Health:

(1) Whether she has received any representations on the implementation of the post of principal specialist; if so, for whom,

(2) whether she intends to allow appointments to the post, if not, why not; if so, when? *9/4/91*  
B686E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH.

(1) Yes, The Medical Association of South Africa, The Committee of Deans: Medicine and The Public Servants Association of South Africa;

(2) yes, as from a date not before 1 July 1991.

Mr Joe Verster: SADF *RSU*

\*27. Lt-Gen R H D ROGERS asked the Minister of Defence *Hansford 9/4/91*

(1) Whether Mr Joe Verster has been employed by the South African Defence Force; if so, (a) why and (b) in what capacity.

(2) whether Mr Verster was instructed by his superiors to co-operate with investigations into the activities of the Civil Co-operation Bureau; if so, what are the relevant details;

(3) whether any disciplinary or criminal action is envisaged against Mr Verster as a result of his refusal to co-operate with investigations into the activities of the Bureau or for any other reasons, if so, (a) what action and (b) for what reasons?  
*Hansford 9/4/91*  
B688E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) Mr Joe Verster was reinstated in service in terms of his original contract of service

(a) It was done on legal advice.

(b) As an employee.

(2) Yes, he was instructed to co-operate

(3) (a) and (b) Yes. Civil proceedings have been instituted against him. The taking of criminal action rests with the Attorney-General.

#### Life orientation

\*28 Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of National Education:

(1) Whether a policy proposal has been made in his Department in terms of which *inter alia* Biblical instruction and Biblical science are to be replaced by a field of study called life orientation; if so, what are the relevant details,

(2) whether he will make the document concerned available to members of Parliament; if not, why not; if so, (a) in what way and (b) when;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B690E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION:

(1) No. The press report according to which Bible Education and Biblical Studies would be phased out, was incorrect. Bib-

lical Studies remains an optional examination subject and Bible Education remains a subject within the Life Orientation field for learners whose parents so desire

(2) No The working documents applicable to the revision of the policy regarding curricula for school and college education and from which wrong deductions were made, cannot be made available at present. A full statement will be made in the near future regarding school and college curricula

(a) Lapses

(b) Lapses

(3) A media statement was released on 28 March 1991 and is attached.

MEDIA RELEASE BY ADV LOUIS PIENAAR, MP, MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION, ON 28 MARCH 1991 CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF BIBLICAL STUDIES AND RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION AS SCHOOL SUBJECTS

According to the Minister of National Education, Adv Louis Pienaar, there is no basis to speculation that Biblical Studies and Religious Instruction may be omitted from a revised broad curriculum that is being developed for primary and secondary schools. He emphasised that these allegations derive from unjustified conclusions that were drawn from working documents of a technical committee and that no decisions on this matter have been taken by him or his department.

Mr Pienaar pointed out that more than three quarters of all South Africans are of Christian persuasion and that parents' preferences concerning Religious Instruction will be fully respected in the development of a revised broad curriculum. Religious freedom will likewise be respected

According to him, pupils will also be free to offer Biblical Studies as an academic subject for matric.

A new dispensation will therefore accommodate both Biblical Studies and Religious Instruction, and the continued presentation of these subjects is in no sense threatened. He indicated that announcements concerning a proposed revised broad curriculum for schools will be made in the near future.

\*29. Mr J van Eck — Law and Order [Question standing over.]

#### CCB: disciplinary codes

\*30. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Defence. *Hansford 9/4/91*

Whether members of the Civil Co-operation Bureau were subject to (a) the Military Discipline Code and (b) any other disciplinary codes applicable to servants of the State; if not, why not; if so, (i) to which disciplinary codes and (ii) to what extent?  
*9/4/91*  
B708E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(a) No, because they did not belong to any of the categories of persons referred to in sections 77(3) or 104(5) of the Defence Act, 1957 or Section 2(1) to the First Schedule of that Act

(b) No, because they were not "officers" as defined in the Public Service Act, 1984 (i) and (ii) fall away.

#### Ratio of educators to administrators

\*31. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of National Education: *Hansford 9/4/91*

(a) What is the ratio of educators to administrators in the education departments in the Republic and (b) what categories are defined as (i) educators and (ii) administrators in calculating this ratio?  
*9/4/91*  
B709E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION:

(a) The ratio of educators to administrators in the education Departments in the Republic in 1990 was:

Educators:	78,4%
Administrators:	21,6%

(b) (i) Educators on post level 1 to 5 were calculated as educators. These educators occupy ranks up to the level of Principal

(ii) On the grounds that administrators do not stand in a direct teaching relation to learners: Educators on post level 6 and 7, other personnel than educators, and service workers.



## The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (1) and (2) A Board of Inquiry has been convened to investigate the matter and the hon member can be assured that suitable corrective measures have already been taken.

**Rhinoceros horn/ivory: poaching/trading**

\*6 Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs

- (1) Whether, in the light of the penalties currently being imposed by the provincial authorities in the Transvaal, the Orange Free State and the Cape Province for poaching and trading in rhinoceros horn and ivory, he will avail himself of the powers granted to him in section 21 (1) and 21 (2) (c) of the Environment Conservation Act, No 73 of 1989, to identify such poaching and trading to be activities having a substantial detrimental effect on the environment, if not, why not; if so,

- (2) whether he will make regulations in this regard with penalties for the contravention thereof being laid down in terms of section 28 (e) of the said Act; if not, why not, if so, when?

Answered 9/4/91

(56)

B610E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) No. Poaching and trading in rhinoceros horn and ivory are being controlled in terms of the National Parks Act and the provincial nature conservation ordinances by the National Parks Board, the Provincial Nature Conservation Authorities and the South African Police. The National Parks Act and the ordinances of Natal and the Orange Free State have already been amended to provide for severe sentences (fines not exceeding R100 000 and imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years). I have been informed that the Cape and Transvaal ordinances will be amended accordingly in the very near future. I am, therefore, of the opinion that it is unnecessary to identify activities which may have a substantial detrimental effect on the environment in terms of the Environment Conservation Act when such activities are already being adequately controlled in

terms of other legislation. Should it become necessary in future to implement the measures of the Environment Conservation Act, No 73 of 1989, in this regard it will be done in consultation with the relevant authorities.

- (2) Falls away

**Environment Conservation Act: regulations**

\*7 Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

Whether the regulations arising from the Environment Conservation Act, No 73 of 1989, have been finalised, if so, when will they be promulgated, if not, why not?

B611E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

The way in which the question has been phrased makes it seem as though only one set of regulations can arise from the Environment Conservation Act No 73 of 1989. In actual fact, the Act allows for about 31 different aspects about which regulations can be promulgated, stretching over widely divergent fields, namely waste management, noise, vibration and shock, environmental impact reports and limited development areas.

Some of these regulations have already been promulgated such as the noise control regulations (April 1990). Others are being prepared such as those pertaining to waste management. In this instance however, due to legal technicalities, an amendment to the Act will have to be passed before regulations can be promulgated. The Department is giving attention to such a possible amendment.

The promulgation of regulations in terms of section 26 of the Act is subject to the identification of activities in terms of section 21 of the Act. Investigations into activities that should be identified, which include wide-ranging public participation, have come a long way, and a provisional list of activities should be available for comment later this year. With the approval of my colleagues regarding the activities on the list, as is required by the Act, the regulations could be promulgated early in 1992.

According to a recent legal opinion, regulations with regard to limited development areas

can only be promulgated after such areas have been declared. Prior to the declaration of limited development areas in terms of section 23 of the Act, such areas must first be determined. An interdepartmental committee is presently giving special attention to the coastal area for this purpose. Areas will be declared as they are identified and determined.

The most important single stumbling block preventing the promulgation of regulations under the Act is found in section 28(0)(iii) which reads, "Any regulations under this Part which may affect the activities of any local authority or government institution shall only be promulgated with the concurrence of such a local authority or government institution". This leads to the almost impossible situation where the approval of every local authority or government institution that may possibly be affected must be obtained before a regulation can be promulgated. It is urgently required that this section be amended to enable the implementation of the Act in practice. The Department is presently paying attention to this aspect.

**MIPs: daily police protection**

\*8 Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Law and Order

- (1) Whether any ordinary members of Parliament are at present receiving daily police protection, if so, (a) how many, (b) at what total monthly cost and (c) on whose instructions,

- (2) whether the justification for such protection is subject to regular review, if not, why not; if so, how regularly?

Answered 9/4/91

B612E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

- (1) and (2)

In addition to the permanent guard duties which the Special Guard Unit provides at Acacia Park, Laboria Park and Pelican Park, individual Members of Parliament are, from time to time, guarded at their private homes as threats or risks to which they are exposed or may be exposed, demand. For security reasons and in the interest of the Members and their families, I am, however, not prepared to divulge the number of Members who are receiving Police protection.

The Commissioner of the South African Police issued instructions according to which Regional Commissioners must, under specified circumstances, make police protection available to Members of Parliament. These duties are performed in the normal course of duties calculated separately. This necessity for the duties is regularly reconsidered. As soon as the need therefore ceases to exist the services are immediately suspended.

**Robben Island: prisoners**

\*9 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Correctional Services

How many prisoners were being held at the (a) maximum security and (b) medium security prison on Robben Island as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

Answered 9/4/91

B615E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:

On 8 April 1991, the figures were as follows:

- (a) 145 Security prisoners

- (b) 312 Non security prisoners in other words prisoners convicted and sentenced for common criminal offences and who are utilised as a source of labour for a variety of essential services on Robben Island

\*10 Mr G C Engel — Finance [Question standing over.]

**Margo Commission: recommendations**

\*11 Mr G C ENGEL asked the Minister of Finance:

Answered 9/4/91

- (1) Whether the Margo Commission made any recommendations on fringe benefits taxation in respect of new entrants to corporate share purchase schemes; if so, what is the gravamen of these recommendations;

- (2) whether he intends alleviating the fringe benefits taxation burden on such entrants; if not, why not;

- (3) whether he will make a statement on the attractiveness of such schemes to participants?

B618E

# Tanker to take on oil from stricken Alborz

By STEFAANS BRÜMMER  
Staff Reporter

THE Norwegian tanker Happy Fighter is due in False Bay at first light tomorrow to take on 222 844 tons of crude oil from the stricken Iranian supertanker Alborz.

A Department of Transport spokesman said weather was the only factor that could halt or delay the transfer.

A 20 knot south-easter was blowing in False Bay today, but the shipping forecaster at the weather office in Pretoria predicted the wind would swing to light north-west by tomorrow morning, freshening later. Sea conditions would be light.

The Alborz, at anchor at Roman Rock with a seriously damaged bow, has been described as a "pollution time-bomb" by shipping sources who believe her cargo should be transferred urgently.

The department has disclosed that the ship was initially refused permission to anchor in Table Bay because of "rough weather and the danger of oil pollution". She was also ordered out to sea when it was suspected she was not insured against oil spillage.

Director-General of the Department of Transport Mr Ronnie Meyer called a Press conference last night to "clarify certain matters" after The Argus reported how seriously the situation was regarded in some shipping circles.

## FIFTY MILES

A statement released at the conference said a department official had boarded the Alborz last Thursday, two days after she was refused permission to anchor in Table Bay, and found no documentary evidence that she was insured against claims for oil pollution.

The ship was ordered at least 50 miles from the coast, but was allowed into South African territorial waters when her agents proved she was insured.

The tanker has a Civil Liability Convention certificate (CLC), which covers it for claims in the event of an oil spill, and is a member of Tova-lop, a voluntary association of tanker owners, which provides cover for any further claims.

The department said permission was given to anchor in the calmer waters of False Bay for the damage to be inspected, subject to conditions. These included putting a salvage tug on standby.

Mr Meyer said all the equipment necessary to get the Alborz and the Happy Fighter together was available.

If all went well and the weather held, the transfer would take a minimum of 72 hours.

"We cannot say there is no risk but the firm (Pentow Marine) contracted to do the job has all the necessary know-how and experience.

"If the ship had been on the open sea it could have resulted in further damage or tearing of the hull and absolutely greater pollution than possible with any pumping operation," he said.

## MP OBJECTS

Mr Meyer gave the assurance that "at this stage there is no spillage. The crack which could possibly have extended has been contained. At this stage the ship is not sinking and is not breaking up."

The MP for Simon's Town, Mr Jannie Momberg, said he had not been told or consulted before the ship was brought into False Bay and he wanted "to reiterate my strongest objections against bringing tankers into False Bay".

He said he had been in contact with the Ministers of Transport and Environment who had reassured him that "the government is fully aware of the magnitude of the crisis", and the steps taken should avert the potential disaster.

Captain Bill Dernier, of the department's marine division, said there were two holes in the bow below the waterline on the starboard side and several cracks, with a major crack running horizontally between the two holes.

(56)  
Start 1984/1985

# Environment experts seek more money

The Council for the Environment would not be able to continue its activities efficiently unless its budget were at least doubled, the organisation said in its annual report tabled in Parliament yesterday.

The report also voiced concern that little had been done to implement the Environment Conservation Act of 1989.

The council is the official body that advises the Minister of the Environment on policy.

In the council's budget, controlled by the Department of Environment Affairs, R328 000 had been budgeted for the 1989/90 financial year.

"As a result of circumstances beyond (the council's) control, this amount falls far short even for the current financial year. It is clear that the council will not be able to continue its activities efficiently if this allocation is not at least doubled."

The committee for terrestrial and freshwater systems recommended authorities involved in road building publish their programmes at least five years in advance to allow time for comment on environmental impact.

The committee was particularly concerned with the environmental impact on potential farmland of the quarrying of marble in a special natural area of the OFS. — Sapa.

**Municipal Reporter**  
A YEAR after Cape Town was covered by a photo-chemical smog, one of the national guidelines for pollutant substances was exceeded again yesterday.

The Minister of Health, Dr Rina Venter, reported in Parliament last year that on April 17, 1990, Cape Town had experienced a photo-chemical smog in which guidelines for the nitrogen oxides, Nox or NO plus NO<sub>2</sub>, nitric oxide, NO, and hydrocarbons were all exceeded.

Many people complained of streaming noses and eyes on that day, when a strong temperature inversion had trapped car exhaust fumes and smoke close to the ground.

## Pollution level exceeds limit

*CAD Temp*  
*19/4/91*

(56)

A spokesman for the Medical Officer of Health's department said there had also been a temperature inversion yesterday (a situation when cold air is trapped by a warmer layer above it), but not at a very low level.

Just one of the several smog indicators that the City Council measures had exceeded its guideline briefly, so it would not be correct to say an-

other photo-chemical smog had been experienced, he said.

Hourly averages for the nitrogen oxides — which have a guideline limit of 1504 micrograms per cubic metre — had been as follows:

At 6am the reading was 474; at 7am 1 226; at 8am it was 1 566, which exceeds the limit; at 9am it was down to 1 171 again; and by 10am it was 539.

The spokesman said Nox was a good indicator of vehicle pollution. The concentrations of another chemical, nitrogen dioxide, NO<sub>2</sub>, was a better indicator of photo-chemical activity (which is when new noxious substances are formed by the action of sunlight on smog).

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

## Social old-age pensions

296 Mr B B GOODALL asked the Minister of National Health: *Haswell 1914/91*

- (a) What total amount has been budgeted to be spent on social old-age pensions in the 1991-92 financial year and (b) how much of this amount will be and/or has been allocated (i) to each (aa) own affairs administration, (bb) province, (cc) self-governing territory and (dd) independent Black state and (ii) for any other specified purposes?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH: *B764E*

- (a) R3 640 422 351 and

- (b) (i) (aa)

Administrations:  
House of Assembly R504 891 000  
House of Representatives 345 463 640  
House of Delegates 99 443 000,

(bb)

Provinces:  
Transvaal R558 593 000  
Cape 203 930 000  
Natal 140 884 700  
OFS 115 480 000,

(cc)

Self-governing regions:

Owagwa R42 606 000  
Kwandebele 39 800 700  
KaNgwane 60 677 100  
Gazankulu 111 658 500  
Lebowa 369 959 940  
KwaZulu 709 254 900  
and

(dd)

TBVC States:  
Transkei R190 839 764  
Bophuthatswana 65 845 583  
Venda 31 782 300  
Ciskei 49 312 224  
and

- (ii) amounts budgeted for attendance allowances are included in the above-mentioned figures.

## QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

## Air pollution levels

265 Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of National Health: *Haswell 1914/91*

- (1) Whether any results are available from tests for air pollution levels carried out by her Department, local authorities, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and/or any other research institutes in 1989 and 1990; if so, what are these results,

- (2) whether these results indicate an increase in the level of pollution over previous years; if not, what are the relevant details; if so, to what extent;

- (3) whether any action is contemplated in the light of these results, if so, what action? *56*

B715E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

- (1) Yes, results from tests for air pollution levels by various organizations are available for 1989 and 1990, sulphur dioxide was continuously measured at 115 and smoke at 150 monitoring stations. The details are available on computer. Since some parameters are measured hourly the result is too voluminous to produce in an answer. Details for any area can be supplied by the Department on request;
- (2) the results vary — most levels remain constant, a number decreased and in a few instances an increase was recorded. The levels are all within internationally acceptable limits and do not constitute a health risk or a risk to the environment;
- (3) no.

## INTERPELLATIONS UNDER NAME OF MEMBER

Burrows, Mr R M—  
*Own Affairs:*  
Education and Culture, 603, 1064

Jacobs, Adv S C—  
*General Affairs:*  
Home Affairs, 421

Carlisle, Mr R V—  
*General Affairs:*  
Home Affairs, 10

Landers, Mr L T—  
*General Affairs:*  
Justice, 251

Cassim, Mr M F—  
*Own Affairs:*  
Education and Culture, 345

Langley, Adv T—  
*General Affairs:*  
Defence, 281

Chetty, Mr K—  
*General Affairs:*  
Law and Order, 681

*Own Affairs:*  
Agricultural Development, 891

Eglin, Mr C W—  
*General Affairs:*  
Foreign Affairs, 429

Leon, Mr A J—  
*Own Affairs:*  
Budget and Local Government, 317  
Education and Culture, 109

Gerber, Mr A—  
*Own Affairs:*  
Education and Culture, 36, 460

Lorimer, Mr R J—  
*General Affairs:*  
Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing, 848

Haswell, Mr R F—  
*General Affairs:*  
Law and Order, 286

Momberg, Mr J H—  
*General Affairs:*  
Law and Order, 1042  
National Education, 574

Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing, 65

Herandien, Mr C B—  
*Own Affairs:*  
Housing, 125

Mopp, Mr P A S—  
*Own Affairs:*  
Health Services and Welfare, 495

Hoon, Mr J H—  
*General Affairs:*  
Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing, 567

Padiachey, Mr D K—  
*Own Affairs:*  
Education and Culture, 692

# Violence an issue for FW in visit

From PATRICK CULL

LONDON. — President F W de Klerk starts his three-day visit to Britain today which will focus on the continuing violence and the need for investment and help in the creation of a new South Africa.

Government sources noted the talks were taking place against the background of the violence.

There was concern at the violence, what appeared to be growing differences between the President and Mr Nelson Mandela and whether this would have a negative effect on the negotiating process.

Another source said that at present British investors were waiting to see what would happen about the violence before they made a decision.

If hard questions are going to be put to Mr De Klerk, then Mr Mandela is not going to have it any easier when he arrives in London on Wednesday and would be asked his reaction to Mr De Klerk's three-point peace plan.

## Sanctions

Meanwhile government sources said the decision by the Danish parliament to reject the European Community's decision to lift the ban on sales of iron, steel and Krugerrands, would not affect the ending of those sanctions by the other 11 EC members.

The source said the decision was obviously psychologically important, and it was hoped to set up meetings with the opposition Social Democratic Party, which had opposed the lifting of sanctions.

This morning, President De Klerk will hold a meeting with Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Overseas Development, Mrs Lynda Chalker, before meeting financiers.

In the afternoon he will meet MPs from all three parties before holding talks with British Prime Minister Mr John Major.

● The British Anti-Apartheid Movement announced a programme of activities aimed to tell Mr De Klerk to stop the violence and repression.

AAM chairman Mr Robert Hughes said in a statement President De Klerk had broken his promise to release all political prisoners and grant indemnity to exiles as well as repeal all repressive legislation.

The AAM will launch its campaign by presenting an open letter from MPs to Mr Major.

Major protests outside South Africa House and other venues were also planned for today.

CAE 7/15.22/14/91

116  
56  
270  
280





# Call for strategy on the environment

ARGUS 22/4/91

56

By VIVIEN HORLER  
Staff Reporter

THE Council for the Environment has called on the Minister of Environment Affairs to table its national environment strategy in parliament without delay.

The council, which is made up of environmental experts and exists to advise the minister, has drawn up a management strategy which it has recommended be adopted as formal government policy.

## Independent body

Professor Roelf Botha, chairman of the council, said today he hoped the strategy could be introduced in parliament by the Minister, Mr. Louis Pienaar, and adopted in the current parliamentary session.

The adoption of a national environment strategy is provided for in the current Environmental Conservation Act of 1989, and when adopted will enable the act to function properly.

Already regulations relating to

noise control have been promulgated in terms of the Act.

Professor Botha presented the council's annual report to the minister in Cape Town today.

The strategy model supported by the council for the structure of a future environmental protection body is an independent statutory central organisation outside the present government.

Professor Botha said the recommended policy had tried to set realistic and adequate goals for the use of environmental resources, both natural and cultural, to sustain the needs and aspirations of all South Africans.

To achieve environmental protection goals, such as the preservation of plant and animal life and essential eco-systems, it was vital that the interdependence of conservation and development be recognised.

"The policy recognises the growing interdependence of international economic and political systems as a major influence on environmental issues.

"Demography, agriculture,

communication and infrastructure, technology, finance and socio-political issues are key determinants in the creation and solution of environmental problems."

Another member of the council, Professor A E F Heydorn, said it was vital that the realities of the Third World be taken into account when formulating a national environment strategy.

## Last opportunity

"You can't build a healthy economy on a damaged environmental resource base," he said.

The current generation was probably the last which would have the opportunity to set aside areas for protection. If the natural environment was to be successfully protected, the aspirations and perceptions of all South Africans had to be taken into account.

"We cannot ignore the impact of vast population movements and the development of squatter areas in the shaping of the destiny of the country," he said.

## Water Affairs Minister warns of a dry Cape

*Bipay 23/4/91* (56)  
PRETORIA — Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Gert Kotze yesterday warned that new water sources needed to be developed if the western Cape was to avoid major shortages by the year 2000.

Visiting the Palmiet River in the Kogelberg, Kotze said rapid urbanisation and industrial development had placed heavy demands on water supplies.

He said the Palmiet was one of the

GERALD REILLY

cheapest and most important water sources in the western Cape and the last source which could still be developed to supplement Cape Town's needs.

He said the Palmiet River Environmental Committee had identified seven sites on the river where water supply schemes could be developed.



# 18 injured in city gas explosion

Staff Reporter

Nov 23/4/91

56

A powerful gas explosion today destroyed a central Johannesburg pawn shop and badly damaged several flats and a car, leaving at least 18 people injured.

The explosion happened at 1.30 am in Twist Street, Joubert Park.

Police officers on the scene at the Bing-Bong Bargain Bar, were today described as heroes by people brought to safety through the flames which engulfed the shop after the blast.

Confused occupants in Park Court flats above the shop scrambled from their beds and were brought to safety as the policemen braved the flames to rescue them.

Witnesses said the owner of the shop — Gerhardus Jacobs — went to the premises at about 1 am to check

on an alarm that had gone off. The explosion occurred as he was opening the front door.

The shop burst into flames, endangering the lives of residents in Park Court above the Bing-Bong.

Nine policemen in the vicinity rushed through flames to get to the flats, returning through the blazing shop with 13 people suffering from shock and minor injuries.

Colonel Frans Malherbe, police liaison officer for the Witwatersrand, said the injured were admitted to hospital.

Mr Jacobs was admitted to Johannesburg Hospital with severe burns.

Eyewitnesses said the policemen acted "very bravely" dashing to and fro through the flames to carry injured residents downstairs. The policemen were Ser-

geant Stuwien Sander and Sergeant Grant Smith, both from John Vorster Square, Sergeant Kokkie de Jager of Hillbrow Housebreaking, Sergeant Amos Ntsabalala, Constable Chris Hough and Constable Gordon Holmes of the Dog Unit at Langlaagte, Constable Andre van Staden of Radio Control, Brixton, Constable Francois Coetzee of the Hillbrow Police and Lance-Sergeant Martin Cloete of Business Watch.

Colonel Malherbe said the municipal fire brigade arrived soon after the blast, but the fire was so fierce that it gutted the shop within minutes.

A car parked outside was "a total wreck", and an adjacent hairdressing salon had its facade blasted away.

"After the initial blast, minor explosions were heard for a while. These were obviously caused by goods ex-

ploding in the shop.

"At this stage the police believe the explosion was caused by gas, but are still investigating," he said.

A Park Court tenant who lives on the first floor said he woke up after a "big bang"

Initially he saw nothing but 10 minutes later another 10 small explosions followed. He and his wife then rushed out of the building.

A woman on the fourth floor said she was woken up by a loud thundering noise. She thought lightning had struck the building, but when she looked outside she noticed black smoke was enveloping the building and she and her husband ran out.

A 65-year-old man living on the first floor said he slept through the explosion and only became aware of the chaos when the fire engines arrived.

Picture — Page 2

Mr P G SOAL: Mr Chairman, with respect, may I address you on that?

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! The hon member may address me, but he cannot stop the clock.

Mr P G SOAL: Mr Chairman, on a point of order: When the hon the Deputy Minister replied to the hon member for Houghton after he posed a follow-up question when the hon the Deputy Minister responded to Question 8, the hon the Deputy Minister invited him to ask that question when he had replied to Question 9. As the hon member for Houghton asked that question when there was still time available, I would ask you to allow the hon member for Houghton to ask his question

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! There are questions on own affairs that have to be dealt with, and the time for questions on general affairs has expired. I cannot extend the time, and neither can I stop the clock.

*Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 180C (3) of the Standing Rules of Parliament.*

\*9. Mr D J Dalling—Manpower. [Question standing over]

#### Medical Bureau for Occupational Diseases

\*10. Mr P J PALULUS asked the Minister of National Health:†

- (1) Whether the post of Director at the Medical Bureau for Occupational Diseases has been filled, if not, why not; if so, (a) by whom and (b) as from what date;
- (2) whether she will make a statement on the matter?

B803E

#### The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

- (1) No, the appointment of the candidate who has been nominated for the post of Director has not yet been finalised. The appointment will be finalised as soon as the recommendation of the Commission for Administration has been obtained;
- (2) no.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

#### Foskor: privatisation

\*11. Mr P J PALULUS asked the Minister for Economic Co-ordination and Public Enterprises:†

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 20 on 5 June 1990, the investigation by consultants into the feasibility of the privatisation of Foskor has been completed; if so,
- (2) whether Foskor is going to be privatised; if not, why not; if so, when;
- (3) what is the current value of Foskor's assets;
- (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B804E

#### The MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC CO-ORDINATION AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

- (1) Yes. The investigation has shown that the privatisation of Foskor may form part of stabilising and rationalising the phosphate industry in South Africa. This aspect, as well as the marketing of phosphoric acid internationally, and the position of the relevant role players in this regard are receiving attention at this stage.
- (2) No decision has yet been taken.
- (3) R363 677 000, based on share capital and reserves as at 30 June 1990.
- (4) No.

#### White Paper on Land Reform

\*12. Mr J CHIOLE asked the Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing:†

- (1) Whether any documents or copies of documents regarding the Government's intention or proposals in connection with the White Paper on Land Reform were furnished to the ANC, officials of the ANC or bodies allied to the ANC, or discussed with any such person or body, before the said White Paper was officially released; if so, what was the (a) nature and (b) purpose of the liaison concerned;
- (2) whether, after such liaison, any changes were effected before the said White Paper was released; if so, what are the relevant details?

B808E

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL HOUSING:

- (1) No
- (2) Falls away.

#### Mining at St Lucia

\*13. Mr R F HASWELL asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

- (1) Whether he has received an environment impact study on proposed mining on the shores of Lake St Lucia; if so, when will the study be made public;
- (2) whether he supports the creation of a park which incorporates and links Lake St Lucia with the Sodwana State Forest and the Mkuze Game Reserve;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on mining activities within the boundaries of our national parks?

B814E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) No. The environmental impact study currently under way will only be completed in the beginning of 1992. Any individual or organisation who still wishes to contribute to the study is free to do so. Interested and affected parties are also given regular updates on the progress of the study. It is also the aim to produce a draft report before the end of this year, which will be made available to the public for comment.
- (2) I support the creation of such a conservation area. However, before the area can be declared a conservation area all parties who have vested interests must be consulted. Such consultations are already under way for a considerable period of time.
- (3) Legally no mining activities may be undertaken within the boundaries of declared national parks and I subscribe to this. Regarding the St Lucia environment, I wish to reiterate that the area in respect of which mining rights exist is not situated within the boundaries of a national park or any other park or conservation area, but that the mentioned environmental impact study covers a wider area than only that to which mining rights are attached and thus also includes conservation area.

mental impact study covers a wider area than only that to which mining rights are attached and thus also includes conservation area.

#### Myburgh Park development project

\*14. Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing:

- (1) Whether the Cape Provincial Administration recently approved a housing development project in Langebaan known as Myburgh Park Phase 2 (and Extension); if so, when;
- (2) whether the area scheduled to be developed to the south-west, south and north-east of Stompneusrois was proclaimed a nature area in 1984 and deproclaimed in approximately 1989; if so, why was the status of this area changed;
- (3) whether he will comment on the opposition to the development of this nature area for residential purposes expressed by a Prof Retief, particulars of whom have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply; if not, why not; if so, what are his comments
- (4) whether it was brought to his notice that no application for the rezoning of this area from a nature area and/or land for agricultural use to land for residential use had been submitted and that the legal requirements for rezoning this land had allegedly not been met; if so, what steps does he intend taking in this regard;
- (5) whether the alleged marketing of this land up to the high-water mark is being effected in accordance with the provisions of Plan 1.069 in terms of which the permit for this housing development project was granted; if not, what steps does he intend taking in this regard?

B820E

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL HOUSING:

The Cape Provincial Administration is not responsible for rezoning within the jurisdiction of white local authorities. It falls within the area of responsibility of the Administration: House of Assembly. Because of the above

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

# SA dilemma: Not enough water, too many people

Arb's  
24/4/91  
56

## Minister warns that shortage could limit development

By **ESANN van RENSBURG**  
Environment Reporter

SOUTH Africa could face a serious water shortage within 25 years unless drastic steps are taken to prevent it, according to Mr Gert Kotzé, Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry.

South Africa's third-world population growth and deficiency in water could prove the most critical factors limiting development, he said in an interview.

With the water at its disposal, South Africa would not be able to provide for more than 80 million people.

### Below average

"We will either have to find more water or cut down on population growth."

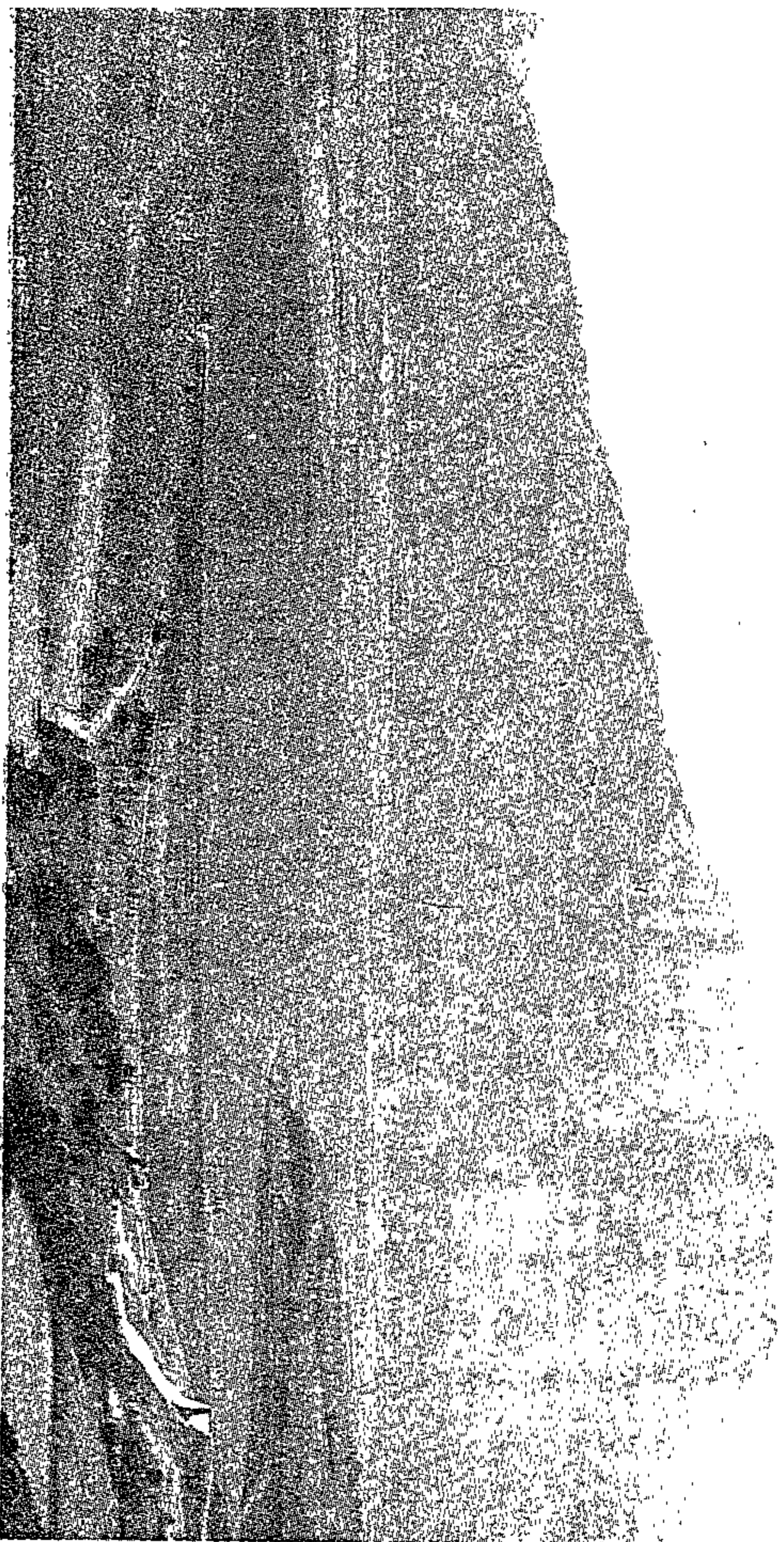
South Africa was a water deficient country with an average rainfall of about 497mm a year, well below the world average of 860mm.

The cost of providing water would increase because of the greater distances it would have to be transported to areas of increasing demand.

Resources were also unfavourably distributed in relation to regions of economic growth, said Mr Kotzé.

The driest 70 percent of the country, which included the plateau, had only 11 percent of the useable water.

The variation in run-off differed from season to season and year to year, which meant greater volumes of



Picture: Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

**PRECIOUS COMMODITY:** The Theewaterskloof Dam, one of the bigger reservoirs in the Cape, is only 13 percent full. It was built in 1980 and has a capacity of 432 900 million cubic metres.

## Laws to protect SA's water resources

BECAUSE of South Africa's relatively few water resources, they need to be managed closely, says to Mr G C Claassens, director general of water affairs and forestry.

Warning how seriously the

department regarded pollution of water resources, Mr Kotzé recently announced amendments to the Water Act. Sharply increased fines for pollution offences have been accepted by parliament.

A first offender can be fined R50 000 (or two years' imprisonment), up from a maximum of R10 000 (or 12 months). For a second offence, a maximum fine of R100 000 or four years' imprisonment can be imposed.

Mr Claassens said the new measures and the department's policy on pollution could leave no doubt of the government's firm stance on the issue and the punishment of offenders.

water had to be stored for periods of drought.

Other negative factors included high evaporation caused by high temperatures and low humidity, the flat topography which exposed water to evaporation and the heavy silt load carried by rivers which was caused by sparse vegetation and fragile geology.

By 2020, South Africa would have to find alternative water resources. He identified three possibilities:

- "The Zambezi River could prove a valuable source of water. But any scheme to lay a canal from the Zambezi through Botswana would be very complicated from an international point of view and very expensive. It is, therefore, not an option which is currently considered."
- The second alternative was to stimulate rain artificially. Research was being done at Nelspruit and Bethlehem where there were high concentrations of moisture in the air. "The research is very expensive and could take many years to conclude, but it is a real possibility."
- "If we managed to bring to the ground less than one percent of the moisture that moves in over the Transvaal lowlands daily, we could probably solve all our country's water problems."
- The third possibility was desalination. A project at Bitterfontein in Natal could provide experience leading to desalinating sea water.

## Good management is vital, says Kotzé

GOOD management of resources is the answer to future water supply, says Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Mr Gert Kotzé.

He said he was confident that President De Klerk's initiatives would improve relations between South Africa and its neighbours.

Botswana, Mozambique and Swaziland had maintained co-operation and liaison with South Africa on water matters through joint permanent technical committees.

Close co-operation had also been maintained with Lesotho which had resulted in benefits such as the Lesotho Highlands project, Mr Kotzé said.

Although there are many new water supply schemes being developed, and existing ones are being expanded and upgraded, the R5,5-billion Lesotho project has captured the nation's imagination.

One of the most ambitious multi-purpose water schemes being undertaken in the world, it took 40 years to plan and 108 contracts were awarded for its construction.

In terms of size, the project overshadows all previous water schemes, Mr Kotzé said.

### HIGHEST DAM

It includes construction of the highest dam in South Africa, as well as the longest tunnelling venture. It is designed to supply sufficient water to the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area well into the next century.

The first phase should be completed in 1996 and will feed South Africa with up to 18 cubic metres (the contents of an average swimming pool) of water every second through tunnels to the PWV.

It could take up to 30 years to complete all phases, but eventually up to 70 cubic metres of water a second should flow to South Africa.

Financing the project has been one of its most complex parts and international co-operation through the Development Bank of Southern Africa was an important and significant breakthrough.

Projects such as Lesotho Highlands were essential for the growing water needs of South Africa's people, Mr Kotzé said.

A rough estimate showed about nine to 10 million people would move to urban areas in the next few years. The additional sewage systems alone would cost about R4-billion.

## Need to conserve

PEOPLE generally think the Western Cape has a lot of water. This is only partly true, says Mr Gert Kotzé, Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry.

"We will have to make a dramatic effort to provide water for Cape Town in the next century and all options will have to be considered."

One may be the desalination of sea water.

Last week the levels in the four dams supplying Cape Town were reported to be at their lowest in several years.

Restrictions are looming in the area supplied by Clanwilliam dam which is down to seven per cent. The town clerk of Clanwilliam said heavy rains would not solve the problem and the dam wall would have to be raised.

Mr Kotzé said Cape Town's per capita use of water was slightly higher than elsewhere and people would have to learn to conserve water.

CAPE TIMES / 56  
24/6/91

## **Pollution levels published from today**

**TODAY** the Cape Times starts a daily check on air pollution. Every morning, we will publish the previous day's maximum readings of two pollution indicators.

The readings, along with the guideline levels for both of them, will appear with the weather information at the top of Page 2. The maximums are for each 24-hour period from 2pm.

One of the indicators, NOx, is a combination of several different chemicals, the nitrogen oxides. Its main components are nitric oxide and nitrogen dioxide.

NOx is a good indicator of emissions from motor vehicles, especially since the readings are taken on equipment in the City Hall building.

The other reading we will publish daily, with the help of the Cape Town City Council, is the maximum hourly average for NO<sub>2</sub>, or nitrogen dioxide.

NO<sub>2</sub> is one of several indicators of photochemical activity, which is a group of processes set in motion by the ultraviolet portion of sunlight interacting with pollutants such as nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons.

# Irish eyes smile on FW in Dublin

56  
280  
74

CAPL T14/S  
26/4/91

**DUBLIN.** — In a major diplomatic coup for President F W de Klerk, Irish premier Mr Charles Haughey yesterday ordered a complete review of all relations and contacts his country has with South Africa.

Speaking after their first meeting here, Mr Haughey said that despite the complexities involved, the reform process Mr De Klerk had embarked on was indeed "irreversible and fundamental".

"He needs support and full understanding.

"It is clear that South

Africa has now embarked on a definite process, the ultimate end of which is the complete and final abolition of apartheid."

At a press conference later, Mr De Klerk's comments clearly indicated he was pleased with the results of his first visit to Ireland, which has been in the forefront of international sanctions against South Africa.

On his overall impression of talks with Mr Haughey and Foreign Minister Mr Gerry Collins, he said: "For a long time, relations between Ire-

land and South Africa have been what could be described as 'strained' — that has changed fundamentally because of a new reality in South Africa.

"I would conclude relations now are warm, positive and constructive.

"I found my whole discussion with the Irish government to be particularly encouraging."

Mr De Klerk said bilateral relations and prospects of future trade had been dis-

To page 2

From page 1

FW cussed, in addition to wide-ranging discussions in which he had explained in detail the present situation in South Africa and difficulties in the way of getting discussions on a new constitution moving.

Mr Haughey had earlier said he looked forward to Ireland establishing diplomatic ties with a future democracy in South Africa.

He explained there was already a full and open channel of communication with Ireland through South Africa's embassy in London.

Mr Haughey said sanctions had not been discussed.

Mr De Klerk, on the third leg of his three-nation European tour, is due to return to London this morning before returning to South Africa this evening.

Meanwhile, a short powercut caused by Irish Electricity Supply Board workers striking for more pay disrupted Mr De Klerk's press conference.

About 150 members of the Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement and other groups yesterday staged a protest outside the Dublin offices of Mr Haughey, while he held talks over a working lunch with the president.

— Sapa

# Bid to arrest gill-net trawlers

By ESANN VAN RESNBURG  
and STEFAANS BRÜMMER  
Staff Reporters

CAPE nature conservation officials are on standby to arrest two Panamanian-registered trawlers which are gill-netting off the Transkei coast.

The Transkei government was expected to send a helicopter to try to arrest the vessels today, but if this failed, the Cape Department of Nature Conservation would send a patrol vessel from Port Elizabeth, said chief director Dr Johan Neethling.

He could not confirm the exact position of the trawlers, but said reports from ski-boat fishermen indicated the nets were

near the Umgazi River near Port St Johns and spanned about 20km.

"We are liaising with the Transkei Department of Foreign Affairs. We do not want to send our patrol boat on a wild-goose chase and are therefore waiting to see if the helicopter manages to arrest the trawlers," he said.

## OPERATE AT NIGHT

The trawlers operated at night and at daybreak disappeared over the horizon.

But another trawler carrying gill nets made the mistake of entering East London harbour this week to off-load and the crew were arrested, he said.

26/4/91  
56  
The Argus East London correspondent reports that the Spanish trawler Capitan Jorge II was boarded and raided on Tuesday.

The captain and crew were arrested on charges of illegal gill-netting.

They are expected to appear in court today.

# TURNING LITTER INTO RANDS

Fm 26/4/91  
56

**Living in** the clutches of the throw-away consumer society, it is difficult to imagine a country where you cannot buy beer in a can and there is no such thing as a nonreturnable beverage container.

Such a country exists. It is not Cloud Cuckoo Land but Zimbabwe, which, when it comes to recycling and re-using scarce resources, shows up SA as being a nation of fat cat litterbugs.

Making that observation brings down a ton of statistics from the packaging industry to underscore SA's prowess in recycling. Furthermore, claims Owen Bruyns, executive director of the industry mouthpiece, the Packaging Council of SA, Zimbabwe is a bad example to hold up.

Recycling is big business in SA, employing about 6 200 people in more than 150 plants. It is rapidly getting bigger, with a number of projects under way by major companies as well as developments such as the waste extraction plants being built at dumps run by Johannesburg and Randburg municipalities. Judging by what's happening overseas, growing concern over the environment will ensure that this trend continues.

Zimbabwe has been short of resources since Rhodesia declared UDI in 1965, creating an overwhelming motivation to conserve things such as bottles that we take for granted. At service stations and cafés, you normally cannot buy a soft drink to take away without handing in an empty.

I spent nine months there last year and, strange as it may seem, life carries on without nonreturnable beverage containers, plus there are major benefits. The roads are clean. So are the national parks. If you see a can or a dumpie lying along the roadside chances are it has been thrown there by a visiting SA or Botswanan tourist.

To my eye, SA's roads, cities and country areas are becoming increasingly littered despite the efforts of organisations such as Keep SA Beautiful and its various associates. That's debatable, says the organisation's chairman, Daan Kocks.

Bruyns questions just how serious litter is as an environmental issue. A survey by University of Cape Town researchers showed that professional ecologists rated litter only the 18th most serious of 19 environmental issues; the top three were population growth, water availability and soil erosion. Business leaders surveyed for the same study agreed with the ecologists on the first seven issues but rated litter as the eighth most serious.

The researchers suggested that this might be the result of public criticism of litter. They pointed out that only 24% of the business leaders polled opposed the statement "bottles used for beverages should carry a refundable deposit" and that many of those opposing it were in the packaging industry.

I can think of one other reason — littering can hit businesses right where it hurts by affecting the tourist trade. The Federated Hotel, Liquor & Catering Association of SA is trying to push the number of tourists visiting SA from 500 000 a year to 2m in five years. But where would you rather go on holiday, or shopping for that matter? Somewhere clean or where you trip over the litter?

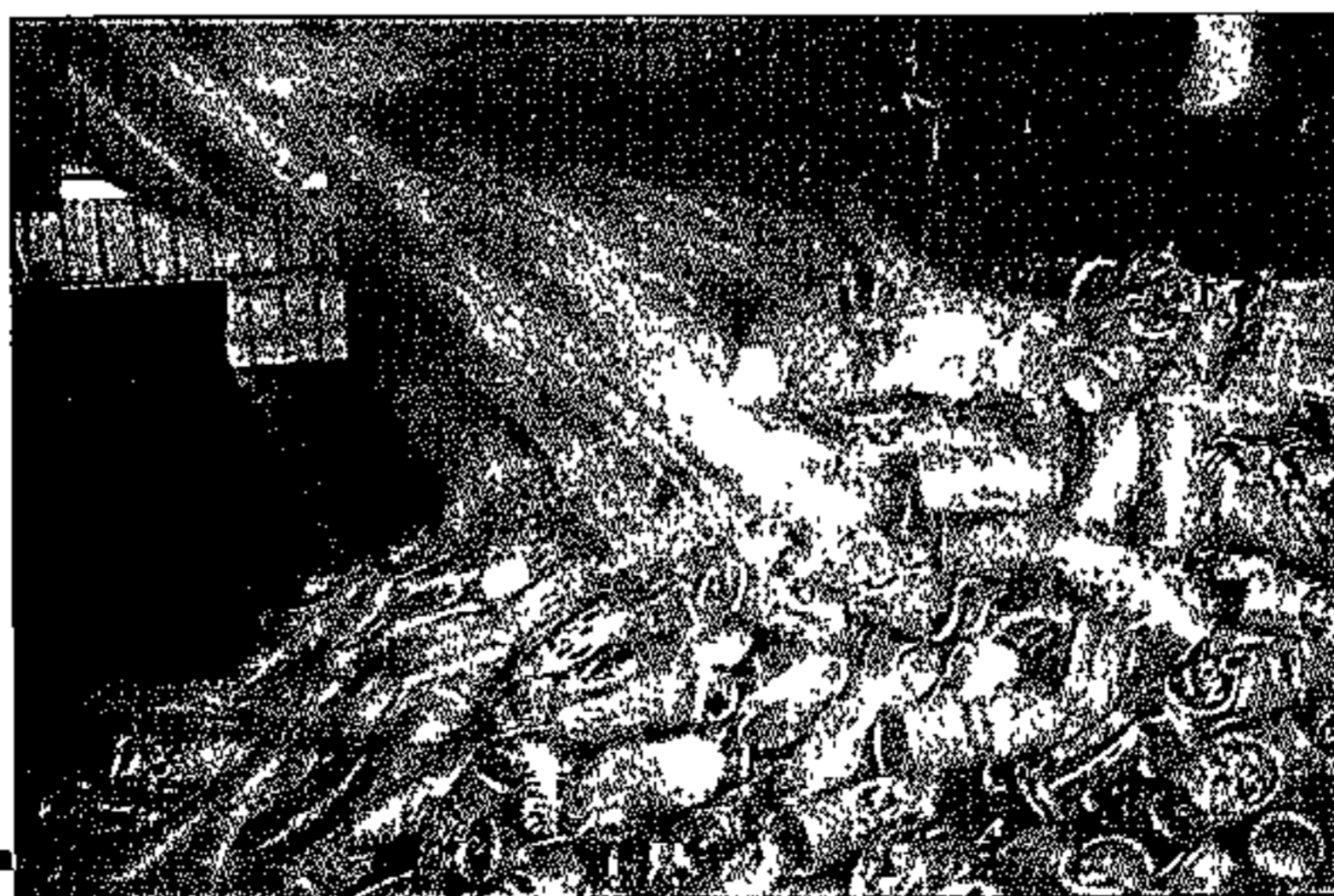
Litter represents a careless attitude to the environment with serious ramifications on what some people eventually believe they can get away with — if you can chuck a beer can out of a car window why not dump your rubble in the Braamfontein Spruit and your effluent where you choose?

Recycling is one key solution and SA is doing a lot. Council statistics show that firms recycle about 11% of the total tonnage of plastics produced annually, compared with about 2% in the UK and US. About 14% of glass, 21% of tin plate and 29% of paper and board produced annually in the country are recycled.

That's increasing and there is plenty of scope for improvement. Pulp and paper giant Mondi is putting in a R155m plant to recycle 85 000 t of newsprint annually and has set up a network — Paper Pick-Up — to collect the newsprint from households in 30 municipalities.

The packaging industry sees education as the other key solution. The industry policy is: packaging doesn't litter, people do, and it has thrown its weight behind projects involving schools, community organisations, Keep SA Beautiful and recycling schemes such as Collect-a-Can and Bottle Banks.

## Recycling ... getting canned at Metal Box



Bruyns says the biggest waste disposal problem concerns paper generated by uses other than packaging, so why pick on the packaging industry in general and nonreturnable beverage containers in particular?

Well, for starters, it depends on where you get your statistics. The Cape Town City Council estimates that half the 40 000 t of street litter it collects annually is packaging. Next, beverage cans and bottles are certainly the most visible and long-lasting bits of litter along roads.

Bruyns says mandatory deposit legislation has been tried in one state in Australia and several in the US and been shown not to work.

He says the main result is a sharp jump in costs to the consumer. The laws have dramatically reduced litter but haven't helped much to boost recycling.

Some SA bottlers run extremely successful voluntary deposit systems. SA Breweries marketing director Peter Savory says 75% of all beer sold is in returnable glass bottles — mainly the quart bottle, which is the cheapest way to buy beer.

Hennie Viljoen, president of the SA Federation of Soft Drink Manufacturers, says returnable packages — both plastic and glass — account for 70% of soft drink sales.

That being the case, surely it cannot be that difficult to widen the returnable net and provide similar incentives to get back the cans and dumpies? No, say industry executives, who maintain that the administration logistics and hassle for retailers and bottlers are too great.

"We are happy with our product mix, which runs completely counter to the trend overseas where, in the US, 80% of beverages sold are in nonreturnable containers," Viljoen says.

The trouble is that litter education programmes are long term — our children should be much more litter-conscious than we are — but meanwhile the cans and dumpies are piling up.

The public needs to be more litter-conscious and should support the bottle bank, collect-a-can, paper pick-up and other recycling schemes, but there's more that should be done to sort this one out by the packaging industry. Greater financial incentives are needed in one form or another to convince the public to bring those nonreturnable cans and bottles back for recycling or choose returnables over nonreturnable packages in the first place.

Brendan Ryan



## A direct attack on loss of water

SOME town and city councils are allowing SA's most precious resource — water — to seep away.

But in Johannesburg, a team from civil engineering firm De Leuw Cather joined forces with the city water and gas department to cut water loss.

DLC associate Dennis Behrmann says: "The Johannesburg-Soweto area was losing around a third of the water it bought from the Rand Water Board — 84-million litres a day.

"Over the past three years, we have helped bring that figure down to 19%."

The first step was to identify where the water loss was occurring.

Behrmann identifies a

number of loss-points; leaks; theft; fire hydrants used illegally to wash factory floors; construction sites where contractors tap directly into water supply lines; flushing out dirty water after repairs on a pipeline and reservoir overflows. 610-30/4/91.

In addition, he says, apparent loss may relate to accounting errors.

Domestic, industrial and bulk water meters, if not replaced or refurbished regularly, can give false readings.

"When looking into a water management system we ask for an open brief that enables us to investigate and advise on most aspects of the process," says Behr-

mann. (56)

In Johannesburg, the main problem proved to be leaks.

Behrmann says a level of 10% water loss is desirable in most situations.

Less than 10% would be so extraordinary it would warrant a check on the control systems.

Effective water management is of paramount importance, especially in the Reef area.

"The run-off capacity of the Vaal Basin is 4,3-million megalitres a year, of which only half can be beneficially exploited.

"This means the PWV area is using around 15% more water than the Vaal Basin can supply."

TOWNSHIPS are dormitory towns — reservoirs of cheap labour, dumping grounds for blacks (satisfying the demands of the racist Group Areas Act), pondokkie land for the dispossessed and displaced. They are divorced from natural beauty and the green heritage. They are plagued by criminal violence and gangsterism; by disease and vandalism. They lack basic amenities. They are occupied by poverty-stricken people in a bleak and unhealthy environment.

Township ecology equals the politics of dispossession. They must be destroyed. A new environment must be created which is conducive to the development of our peoples' humanity. Before any decision can be made the people who inhabit them must be consulted. Decisions on the future of these townships must also take into account present realities which paint a grim picture of millions who need shelter, those who live in magnum kennels in the urban areas. Do we have the resources to both destroy these human rubbish dumps and simultaneously build homes for the homeless in a friendly environment? Under the present regime this huge operation will not be undertaken. They are the problem and not the solution.

### Electricity

While the battle continues for the establishment of a democratic order that will dramatically change this dreadful legacy, we must bear in mind that re-

# From tribe to township. and from there?

CAPL-Towns 30/4/91  
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sources to effect change cannot be plucked out of the sky. Not only will workers be expected to maximise their productive capacity but industrialists will no longer be left to their own avarice. There can be no profit-making without social responsibility. In the meantime demo-

cratic forces and their environmental allies must identify issues around which campaigns should be launched.

Soweto and the PWV area, home to eight million people, are under a perpetual haze of carbon dioxide resulting in alarming growth of serious chest, ear, nose and eye diseases.

People are obliged to use coal and paraffin for energy, thus adding to the serious pollution. Although we have a national grid supplying electricity nationwide, few township dwellers have electricity. There are more than 200 townships but only 21 are provided with electricity. The principal cause of air pollution is Eskom and heavy industry emitting pollutants into the atmosphere through the use of low-grade coal. They

have done little or nothing to reduce this pollution because of the expense involved in cleansing their operations. Worldwide, this country is the worst offender in emitting substances that damage the ozone layer.

### Schooling

No environmentally concerned planning can be undertaken without compulsory integration of the black townships into the rich racist town councils. The regime wants this to take place on a voluntary basis. To us this means removing apartheid scaffolding and keeping the racist monument intact.

Schooling in townships is a disaster area. We are told we have an enlightened regime with a leader in the shape of Mr De Klerk who is enraptured by liberal "visions" for a "New South Africa." Why then are we presented with a budget that allocates four times as much to a white child as to a black child. Why should white schools only open their doors by consent of white parents? Why are millions of black kids out of

school because of lack of facilities when more than 200 white schools have closed down for lack of white pupils? Why should this generation be interested in the environmentally-related issues while those in control treat them like unwanted luggage?

### Secretary

Seek ye an old age home in the townships and you will not find. Compare the pensions of whites to those of blacks and you will despair or become insanely angry. That we do not seek to beautify the ghetto townships is evident from what I have already said, but do we voluntarily have to live surrounded by filth? The PAC does not think so. At Atteridgeville township on the outskirts of Pretoria, we launched a campaign to clean up the streets, which was led by advocate Dikgang Moseneke, deputy president of the PAC.

I am particularly proud that at our second conference after an enforced break of 31 years, the PAC decided on the creation of the post of secretary for the environment. We hope others will follow us in generating public concern.

We say that a new constitution must give the public *locus standi* — the legal right to go to court to protect their environment and quality of life.

We propose an environmental ombudsman, independent of the state and the private sector, to mediate in environmental issues.

□ Barney Desai is Secretary for Information of the PAC. This is an extract of a recent address in the PAC's environmental policy.

# Minister fumes at study on pollution

*S. Times 26/1/91*  
THE Minister of Environmental Affairs, Louis Pienaar, says criticism of him in a recent CSIR report on pollution is "unfair".

(56)  
The Report on Waste Management and Pollution Control in South Africa was instigated by the minister himself.

It said he acted on environmental issues only under pressure from environmental activists, and added: "It appears that the minister has not always handled the campaigns from action groups in the appropriate manner."

"The public is not aware of any proactive or positive steps which the Department of Environmental Affairs has taken on the prevention and combatting of pollution."

Mr Pienaar said this week: "This is not fair and these people are being too impatient. The department has not been dragging its feet. Since the new environmental Act was formulated in 1989, the department has been doing research to prepare the way for a new policy."

"The environment is dynamic, bringing new issues to deal with every

By PETA KROST

day. But while dealing with these problems when they arise, we are continuing with our research campaign."

However, the Endangered Wildlife Trust director Dr John Ledger said Mr Pienaar's department had a history of "not functioning properly and being bogged down by reports".

He added: "They have done many investigations but that is often where it ends. Let's hope this time the department will follow through with what they've started."

The report criticised the fact that pollution and waste management laws are administered by a plethora of government departments.

Mud slide threat to De Waal Drive and mountainside homes

# Council pushes to shore up Devil's Peak before rains

By ESANN van RENSBURG  
Environment Reporter

THE city council is hurrying to shore up Devil's Peak before the winter rains arrive.

The slopes are barren and dusty after the fire in February which destroyed the stabilising mat of vegetation; rain will transform the powdery mountainside into a vast tract of mud, threatening to slide into suburban gardens and on to De Waal Drive and Eastern Boulevard.

The council is placing logs and bales of hay along the contours and planting Namaqualand daisy and Italian eye grass seed in between to try and prevent erosion. Sluices, kerbs and drains are being built along Tafelberg Road.

## Stormwater damage

But, is this enough? Probably not, says Professor Eugene Moll of the University of Cape Town department of botany who believes suburbs on Devil's Peak are bound to face some stormwater damage this winter.

He wants a "proper conservation management programme" for Table Mountain and he believes this will come about only with "constant and continuing pressure" from the public and Press.

"Parks and forestry's attempts on Devil's Peak can be attributed largely to pressure from outside. I'm not sure the Cape Town City Council would have made the effort if it wasn't for the public outcry," he said.

He was impressed with some of the work the council was do-

ing on Devil's Peak, "but I am not entirely convinced their efforts will be enough to prevent a major problem this winter".

Warning about mudslides, he said a firebreak above the suburbs should have been burnt a long time ago.

"The vegetation was old and it fuelled the fire. The council should have taken away the alien plants in 1975, but there was no fire management plan."

Whether Cape Town faced a mudslide disaster this winter would depend on how heavy the rains were.

However, the suburbs to the east of Disa Park, which were below a huge catchment area, undoubtedly would face some damage.

Residents needed to be educated as much as the council, said Professor Moll.

He rejected statements by the Cape Town Medical Officer of Health that burning firebreaks close to residential areas was a health hazard. The polluted atmosphere in Cape Town was far more of a danger, he said.

## Part of Cape life

Residents near areas which needed firebreaks should not be compensated for the mess in their swimming pools or smells on their furniture when these were burnt, he said.

"People must realise that this is part of living in Cape Town. If the south-easter blows off your roof, you can't claim compensation from the council."

Criticising the council for not having a proper "conservation management programme, Professor Moll said the present procedure of "crisis management" was futile.



Professor Eugene Moll of the botany department at UCT.

**'The city council does not understand conservation issues; they need to be pressured,' — Professor Moll**

A long-term plan was needed and he said he hoped continued pressure would result in this.

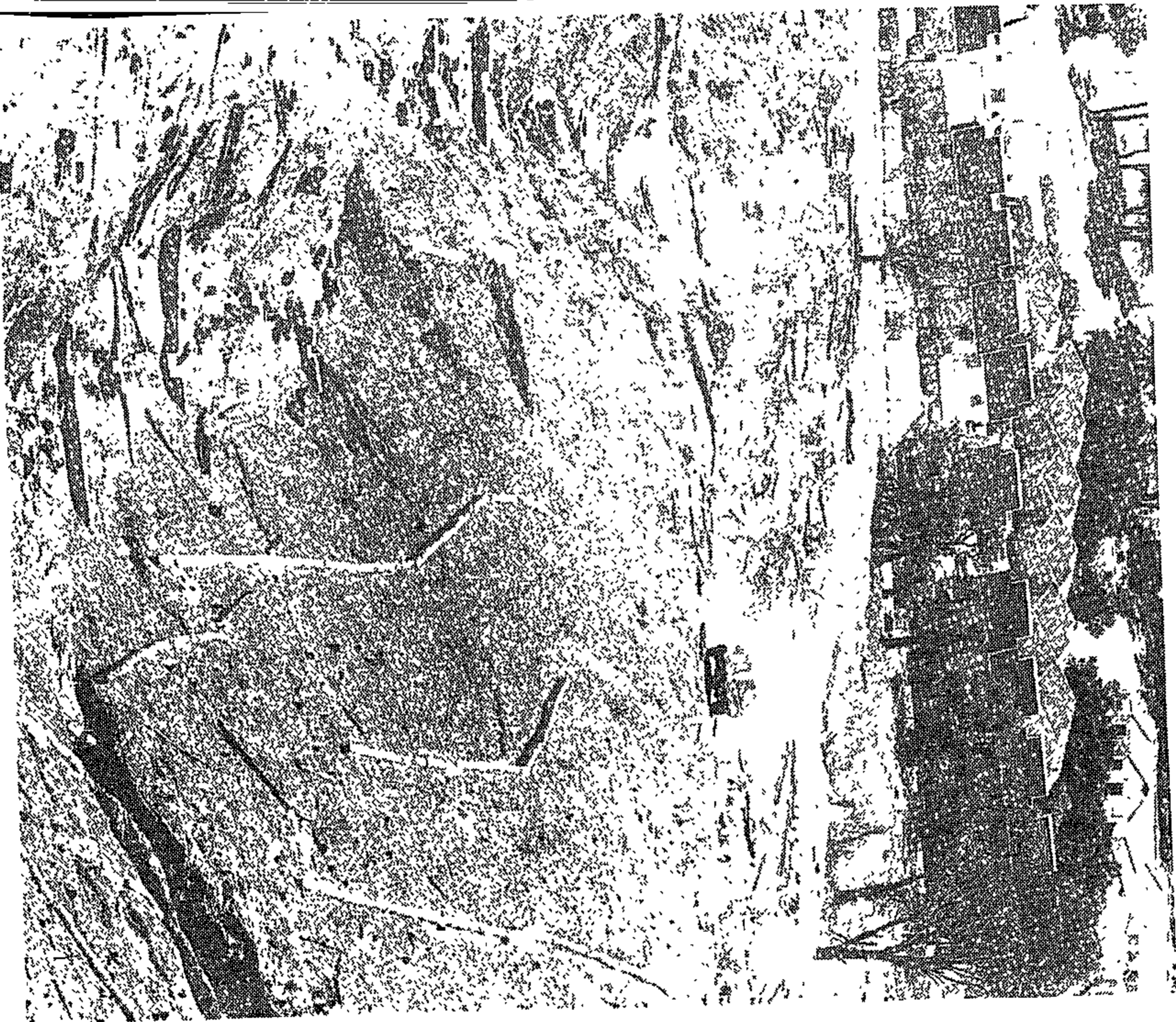
low profile. They are faced when they arise."

The authorities did not have a clear understanding of conservation issues.

He said he appreciated the efforts of the parks and forestry department, "but they don't have a lot of clout".

"Unfortunately, councillors get elected on political tickets and ecological problems have a

Constant pressure from conservationists, the public and the Press was the only solution.



Logs dumped on the slopes of Devil's Peak. Is it enough to prevent storm-water damage to suburbs below the mountain?



Picture: DOUG FITHER, The Argus

**ANTI TANKERS:** Earthlife Africa protesters take a stand against tankers being allowed in False Bay following the Alborz incident. The placard demonstration took place on Saturday at Glencairn. The crippled Iranian supertanker's cargo of crude oil has been transferred to another ship but she is still anchored in the bay.

## Another supertanker anchors in False Bay

By STEFAANS BRÜMMER  
Staff Reporter

ANOTHER stricken supertanker, the 261 000-ton World Eminence, has anchored in False Bay for inspection and possible repairs.

The vessel arrived just after dark yesterday after a conditional go ahead from the Department of Transport.

The Liberian-registered tanker was on her way from the Gulf to Europe when she developed turbine trouble. A surveyor boarded her off Durban and reported that she could not complete her voyage.

**'PURELY MECHANICAL'**

A Department of Transport spokesman said the ship's 21m draught was too deep for Richards Bay or Saldanha. False Bay was the only alternative. He emphasised that there was no pollution threat.

"It's purely mechanical," he said.



Picture: ROY WIGLEY, The Argus

(56) ART 6/7/91  
**TROUBLED TANKERS:** The 261 000-ton supertanker World Eminence, right, has joined the 245 000-ton Alborz off Simon's Town. The World Eminence has engine trouble and the Alborz has a cracked hull and had to have her cargo of crude oil transferred. The picture was taken from Muizenberg.

The ship was allowed into False Bay after an inspection yesterday and on condition she was linked to a large tug.

The relative calm of False Bay was needed for a full inspection. Repairs would be done if necessary, he said.

A spokesman for the salvage company Pentow Marine confirmed that the tug Wolraad Woltemade was on stand-by.

He said it was normal procedure in winter to bring tankers into False Bay where they were protected from north-west gales. In summer Table Bay was used.

#### **NO POLLUTION DANGER**

Simon's Town mayor Mrs Nicky Holderness said she had been assured by the Department of Transport that there was no pollution danger and she could not complain.

"This time we were advised and we were prepared. I have to accept the realities," she said.

There was a public outcry last month when the Iranian crude carrier Alborz was allowed into False Bay with a cracked hull. More than 220 000 tons of crude oil were transferred to another tanker.

# Sea pollution shock

Municipal Reporter

POLLUTION levels ten times that of safety bathing standards have been found at Mouille Point — while in False Bay a count eight times the recommended safety level was found.

This was according to a six-monthly report to the City Council submitted yesterday.

Graaff's Pool, a males-only rock pond on the Sea Point beachfront, was included among popular bathing spots that are polluted by faecal coliforms.

Faecal coliforms are found in human and animal faeces and indicate the likely presence of harmful viruses and bacteria. Bathing safety is measured against the European Community standard which pre-

scribes that one should not find more than 100 faecal coliforms in 100ml of water. In 34 spots monitored by the City Council, it was found that:

- Mouille Point beach had winter levels of over 1 000.
- Granger Bay had winter levels of over 700.
- At the Mitchell's Plain wastewater outlet, levels of over 800 were measured in winter, and over 200 in summer.
- Just over double the guideline level was measured at Graaff's Pool last winter, and Rocklands had just under double the guideline figure.
- Other places where the EC guidelines were exceeded in winter were Miltzenberg station, Miltzenberg Pavilion and the Zeekovlei outlet.

Yesterday Assistant city engineer Mr Henk Beekman said excessive winter levels at Three Anchor Bay, Rocklands and Graaff's Pool were caused by storm-water runoffs and were not related to the broken sewerage outfall pipe at Green Point.

Mr Beekman said extra storage ponds were being built to solve the pollution problem at the Mitchell's Plain outlet.

Yesterday Graaff's Pool regulars pooh-pooed the high coliform count in their favourite spot — while one added that he would keep his "mouth shut" while swimming in future.

Sprightly Mr Elias Epstein, 87, who described himself as "the Minister of Naked

Top page 3



**THIS WATER POLLUTED?** ... Seemingly sceptical of a City Council report showing that winter pollution levels of their favourite bathing hole — Graaff's Pool — were unacceptably high yesterday, were veteran swimming regulars Messrs Bill Glover, 86, Elias Epstein, 87, and Samuel Zauber, 79.

# Frantic bids for peace

By ANTHONY JOHNSON  
Political Correspondent

FRANTIC efforts were under way last night to arrange a last-ditch meeting between President F W de Klerk and Mr Nelson Mandela ahead of the ANC's May 9 deadline on breaking off all talks with the government.

There were strong indications that the two leaders might meet during the next 48

hours in a bid to break the impasse which is threatening to derail negotiations. Both sides spent yesterday in consultations.

The working group of the ANC's executive committee met in Johannesburg yesterday to examine the government's response so far to its May 9 ultimatum on curbing the ongoing violence sweeping the country.

The ANC said afterwards that no immediate statement would be forthcoming on what was decided at the meeting. However, ANC sources said that anything was possible before the Thursday deadline.

tee might meet today to discuss possible steps it will take if a compromise is not reached with the government by the cut-off date.

The ultimatum and the ongoing violence were also on the agenda at yesterday's State Security Council meeting in Cape Town.

Government sources were optimistic that ways might still be found to beat the deadline — particularly if last-minute negotiations succeed.

CAL-T. 7/5/91

● Violence stymies capital inflow — Pa

# UK paper spotlights SA

8/5/91  
ROBERT GENTLE

PRESIDENT F W de Klerk has voiced concern over the ANC's focus on strong central government, saying that while fundamentals and rules can be written into a constitution, economic policy cannot.

"And inasmuch as their programme tries to do that, I don't think it is acceptable," De Klerk said in a six-page survey on SA published in the London Financial Times yesterday.

The survey also said that the investigation into alleged share dealing irregularities on the JSE and the controversy over the recent merger of four banks to form Amalgamated Banks of SA was grist to the mill of critics like the SA Communist Party and those who thought activities of the financial sector have little beneficial impact on pressing needs in the economy.

"In a country that boasts an influential and unapologetic Communist Party, such perceptions are important," said the article.

Another article looked at ANC Deputy president Nelson Mandela's views that the world was moving too quickly in lifting sanctions and rewarding De Klerk, and concluded that Mandela's case "lacked conviction".

To Mandela's observation that "we are the victims, yet they reward the jailer for letting a

little more light into our hell hole", Michael Holman wrote, "Mandela might well direct his wrath on states much closer home" — a reference to increasing SA trade with Africa.

Asked about possible alliances between the NP and other parties, De Klerk said he could not see an alliance with the ANC so long as it remained allied to the SACP.

However, KIN BENTLEY reports that De Klerk hinted at a future alliance with the Inkatha Freedom Party.

De Klerk said a moderate alliance, which included the NP, stood an even chance of winning an election when "the real electoral process" started.

Asked whether, in terms of power sharing, he foresaw a time when the NP did not have "at least one hand on the tiller", De Klerk replied that the NP was a young and dynamic party which would play "a leading role", but "not in a dominating sense".

He said the NP, "because of its inherent strength", would have one hand on the tiller for a very long time.

## Highveld emits 50% of nation's air pollution

AIR pollution in the Transvaal Highveld amounts to almost half the national total, a new government report says.

The Environment Affairs Department commissioned the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to undertake a study into waste management and pollution control in SA.

The report's findings, which highlight "some major inconsistencies and discrepancies", will be used as a starting point to formulate new legislation between 1992/93 to control and manage waste and pollution.

In one shocking disclosure, the 420-page report states that "one South African power station, Lethabo (in the Eastern Transvaal), will on completion produce as much fly ash annually as the whole of France".

Waste production in SA is high "because of

the special circumstances relating to mining and power generation".

Solid waste stream, excluding agricultural waste and sewage sludge, amounts to about 300 million tons a year.

"The costs (of pollution) control are high but so is the potential cost of not controlling the pollution," the report warns.

Properly supported research was needed to decide on a course of action.

About 95% of all waste in SA is disposed of on land, the report said.

"It is therefore essential that effective control and guidelines should be created for safe and acceptable land disposal practices. Problems with illegal dumping and littering require immediate attention." — Sapa.

8/5/91  
B1 Day



APP. TRKS 8/5/9 (56)

# Sea water 'infected' toes'

By GLYNNIS UNDERHILL

A SOMERSET West man who developed an infection in four of his toes, claims it was caused by polluted sea water in Three Anchor Bay.

However, his doctor said the infection, which can be caused by a variety of bacteria, could be contracted "anywhere".

Mr George Georgu said he stood in polluted water when he pushed his boat out to sea at Three Anchor Bay a few weeks ago.

The day after launching his boat, Mr Georgu's foot began throbbing. He went to see a skin specialist and was prescribed anti-biotics.

"My foot throbbed to such an extent that I wanted to cut off my own swollen toes," Mr Georgu said.

## Bay pollution high

His doctor said yesterday that Mr Georgu had developed a skin infection, cellulitis, that can be caused by a variety of bacteria. The infection could be contracted "anywhere", said the doctor.

But Mr Georgu remains convinced that his infection originated in the polluted water at Three Anchor Bay — and two other frequent users of the launch area support his claim.

Mr Dudley Hardman and Mr Phillip Hawes have both developed festering blisters on their feet in recent months, which they say were caused by the water.

"You can smell the pollution down

there. The infection starts as a white blister and festers," said Mr Hawes.

Mr Hardman had the same complaint, and said that the state of the water was an "absolute disgrace".

Mr Georgu appears to have been the most severely affected by his infection. He claims to have developed swollen glands in his groin after the infection spread.

City Council spokesman Mr Ted Dooman appealed to members of the public to contact the council if they have a problem to report.

"We definitely want to know about these complaints," he said.

The Assistant City Engineer, Mr

Henk Beekman, said yesterday that it was not possible to treat the stormwater believed to have caused the controversial winter sea pollution levels.

Matter on the mountainside collected in the pipelines was carried into the sea at numerous stormwater outlets, said Mr Beekman.

He said there had been a general increase in the human and animal population which could have resulted in higher pollution levels.

"There is no question that the winter counts are unacceptably high for wading or entering the water safely, at some outlets," warned Dr John Sonnenberg, city councillor for Sea Point.

The health hazard from uncontrollable stormwater discharges was greater than from sewage discharge through a marine outfall of acceptable length and design, he said.

How safe is Johannesburg's drinking water? While official sources insist that the quality is good, some other experts beg to differ.

# Rand water tap tests differ

Star 8/5/91

**A** snap check by The Star on the quality of Johannesburg's tap water reveals it is "excellent" in the eyes of health officials and "contaminated" in the eyes of at least one independent technologist.

It indicated that official testing methods are controversial.

But generally it showed tap water on the Witwatersrand is far superior to that of some of Europe's major cities.

An international conference on water quality will be held at Kempton Park's World Trade Centre next week.

The Star's survey followed news that Europe was becoming increasingly alarmed at the amounts of nitrogen and dangerous organic material creeping through its water treatment plants into tap water.

Tap water samples were collected from central Johannesburg, Brixton, Troyeville, Berea, Soweto, Alberton,

Vereeniging and Potchefstroom and tested at an independent laboratory.

The laboratory tested the "oxidisability" of tap water, a test which indicates the amount of organic contamination getting through the treatment plants. The results appeared reassuring but a microbiologist (who wished to remain anonymous) said it showed Rand water could be "heavily contaminated" and that the testing methods were crude.

## Laboratory

A Johannesburg city health official rejected this and said the oxidisability test was of little value except for measuring "gross pollution".

The European Community recommends a maximum 2mg/l of organics yet local laboratories do not test below 10mg/l.

56

I asked Dr Lorraine Lotter at Johannesburg's municipal laboratory at Cydna why "less than 10" was good enough when the EC considers even 2,5 risky.

She said: "We don't share Europe's view regarding oxidisability. We would use such a test only for gross pollution as a coarse measure."

A European textbook on water purification states: "Oxidisability... is the only criterion of efficiency of the water purification process for the removal of organic matter from the water."

In Europe the test is used to measure how much organic matter is present and it characterises organic substances (trihalomethanes) which are precursors of cancerous tumours.

Dr Lotter says Johannesburg conducts tests for trihalomethanes on a regular basis.

The Star's snap tests included a nitrate/nitrogen test. All except one sample showed ni-

trate/nitrogen as "less than 0,1 mg/l", which is quite safe.

Borehole water, used as tap water in a central Johannesburg office, read 7,9 mg/l, higher than the SABS recommended limit of 5 mg/l. German health authorities tolerate 11,3 and Britain 20. Paris's tap water recently reached 50.

## Infants

According to a scientist at the SA Medical Research Council: "Drinking water containing in excess of 10 mg/l nitrogen can cause a (sometimes fatal) blood disorder called methemoglobinemia in infants under the age of six months."

The SA Water Institute said this week that "the quality of South African tap water is without question of an acceptable standard that need not be doubted."

JAMES CLARKE

# Air pollution on Highveld disgusting, says town clerk

By Julienne du Toit <sup>story</sup> 915191

The town clerk of Ermelo is disgusted at the air he has to breathe.

Pieter van Oudtshoorn, who is also chairman of the Regional Development Committee, was responding to a report on pollution by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

Among the CSIR's findings was that the total air pollutant flow in the Transvaal Highveld amounts to almost half of the national solid-waste stream when carbon dioxide is included.

(S6)

Conditions on the Highveld, which is one of South Africa's most industrialised areas, are very unfavourable for the efficient dispersal of pollution, according to the CSIR.

"We will support any action to stop the contamination of our air, ground and water.

"You can't see it in the air, like you can in Johannesburg, but it's there.

"With this air, we all have sinusitis. The farmers are complaining that their implements and fences rust up in four years now, when they used to last up to 15 years."

Mr van Oudtshoorn said that at a recent symposium on pollution, the Regional Development Committee and local authorities had met Sasol, Eskom and officials from the Department of Water Affairs.

"They wouldn't give any satisfactory answers to our questions," he added.

Mr van Oudtshoorn said many speakers would only say how much worse the pollution was in other areas.

Sasol communications manager Jan Krynauw said the company spent hundreds of millions of rands on ways to elimi-

nate pollution, either by research or by installing equipment.

"We can only move as fast as industry allows," he said.

The electro-static precipitators Sasol used were pioneering ones and reduced almost all of the sulphur emitted to below "nuisance-level values" so that it was nowhere near a health hazard, he said.

Eskom spokesman Greg Tosen, who is programme leader of environmental sciences, said Eskom's high smoke-stacks took most of the pollution above the surface inversion, where it

became dispersed and diluted.

The CSIR report mentioned that the soon-to-be-completed Lethabo power station near Sasolburg would produce as much fly-ash as the whole of France.

Mr Tosen, an atmospheric scientist, said 99,8 percent of the fly-ash was removed by precipitators and taken to ash dumps, where indigenous plants were grown on them.

Most of the town councils contacted on the Highveld and the Vaal Triangle are conducting studies into health hazards from pollution in their communities.

# New legislation on way to control waste and pollution <sup>(56)</sup>

New legislation to control and manage waste and pollution will be implemented by the Department of Environment Affairs within the next two years.

Existing policy was "fragmented" preventing effective control and management, said Koos Stander, environmental protection director for Environment Affairs.

Mr Stander's announcement this week follows the recent publication of the "Report on the Situation of Waste Management and Pollution Control in South Africa" by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

At present, dozens of laws

*Star 1015791*  
administered by different government departments, at both national and local level, control waste and pollution.

"This leads to confusion, administrative overlap and difficulty in pinpointing departmental responsibilities," the 420-page report stated.

"In general, the legislation and administration of pollution control and waste management has lost sight of the need to maintain a holistic outlook on pollution regulations."

Mr Stander said: "We can expect new environmental legislation between 1992/3."

The aim of the CSIR report was to highlight the fact "that a solution to the problem is an

integrated environmental management approach".

By October, the department will have held seminars in all major centres, at which the report's findings will be discussed in detail.

"Eventually, this report and the proceedings as described above will lead to formal policy formulation by the department in terms of the Environment Conservation Act.

"We want to get ... across to all the parties that this fragmented approach causes problems in effective environmental management, resulting in pollution and degradation of the environment," Mr Stander said. — Sapa.

# HOW GREEN IS MY VALLEY

Fm 10/5/91  
56

Ask the average businessman if he's *green* and he'll think you're referring either to his length of service with the company or the state of his health after a heavy night out.

Environmentalism, the First World's dominant sociopolitical issue, tends to be overshadowed in SA by apparently more pressing constitutional questions. But should it be? After all, a healthy environment and sound resource base form the foundation on which the new SA will be built.

Some business leaders are aware of this and there's clear evidence that green issues are creeping into corporate strategy. But much of the business community along with the public sector, most politicians and many consumers, remain largely illiterate on environmental issues.

The public has tended to trivialise the absolutist rhetoric of some green groups that have been regarded as a lunatic fringe. But greening gained considerable respectability when Anglo American Corp executive Clem Sunter joined the fray and it is now becoming a mainstream management function in big corporations.

At a "Greening of Business" conference in Cape Town recently, organised by the Fairest Cape Association, Sunter said businessmen also tended to be suspicious of green groups that lumped all environmental problems together and often presented them without qualification or conclusive scientific evidence.

However, some businessmen had become *blue greenies* — people who believed that for each environmental problem there was a technical solution.

Sunter said environmentalism was becoming part of mainstream business planning and no longer simply an aspect of social responsibility programmes. "We must confront these issues. We can't simply sweep them under the carpet."

But while leading industrialists have generally responded positively to greening, it seems that most small businessmen and the public sector are still ignorant and inactive on crucial environmental issues. Not only is the environment suffering as a result, but marketing opportunities, both domestically and overseas, could be slipping by.

Bates Wells Partners MD Darell van Zyl told the conference that businessmen and government were apathetic on green issues. "They get away with words and deeds that would have consumer lobbies overseas bay-

ing for blood."

Van Zyl said honesty in marketing was crucial to success in exploiting the changing scene. It was tempting to believe that the environmentally aware segment of consumers was small and could be ignored, but this was a mistake.

Marketers couldn't simply make cosmetic changes or run a green campaign. They had to be seen to be doing something positive. Consumers were generally a lot smarter than they are given credit for.

Pick 'n Pay chairman Raymond Ackerman agreed. He said consumers were not apathetic to green issues. After politics, environmentalism was the most crucial question facing the country.

He urged co-operation between businessmen, manufacturers and government to plot strategy in such a way that none of them was stigmatised.

Sappi MD Eugene van As said greening of business was a complex issue that needed to be seen in context. There was almost no way of avoiding pollution in industrial manufacturing but, at the same time, industrialisation benefited society; it represented progress and was necessary for economic growth and job creation.

"The issue is not whether or not industry should pollute, but how to deal with it," he added.

Anglo American Corp Chairman's Fund chairman Michael O'Dowd said the perception that someone other than consumers was going to pay for pollution was incorrect. "By and large there are no free lunches. The perception that somehow the cost can be absorbed by industry is a fallacy. If we want safer cars or green products we can have them, but they will cost more. One gets the unfortunate impression that consumers want green products but are not prepared to pay for them."

Roy Siegfried, director of the Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology at the University of Cape Town, said the state of environmental literacy was appallingly low as was the political will at all levels of government to act on these issues.



Sunter

He disagreed with Sunter that most businessmen were already reacting to the green revolution "Most big business yes, but not a vast array of small businesses." He argued that small businessmen generally had neither the literacy nor resources to address adequately the issues. "What to do about these small operators is the question. Don't worry about big business; they are born-again environmentalist."

Siegfried said the environmental movement could not be beaten; it needed to be joined. "Bring some reason to the debate. Sunter brought good sense to bear in what was seen until then as a lunatic fringe lobby. Join the environmental movement and try to influence it from within."

He also suggested more careful consideration by businessmen of spending on green issues. While it was all very well to donate money to various causes, far better returns could be achieved on investments in projects such as job creation and education. Young black mothers, for example, had to be persuaded that smaller families were in their interest; and the civil service, where decisions on environmental issues are made, needed to be better informed.

Award-winning environmental journalist Paul Myburgh said business leaders had to be totally committed to environmentalism. They needed to replace production for profit with production for need "We are drawing on the world's capital instead of living off the interest."

Ian MacDonald, senior research officer at the institute, said the attitude of businessmen towards green issues had up to now been equivocal. He urged business support for research aimed at reducing the current uncertainties about global environmental change.

"Either SA goes the First-World route and funds development and plans strategies to cope with change, or it goes the Third-World route and becomes the victim of unplanned and unpredicted change," he said.

In summing up the discussion, Southern African Nature Foundation CE John Hanks said poverty was a unifying theme in our green debate. Forty percent of the population lived in poverty and about one-sixteenth of them in extreme poverty.

High population densities in the homelands severely affected the natural environment; the resource base crucial to the survival of the people who lived there.

# Late salute to a maligned 'Minister of damn all'

Star 11/5/91

**T**HE former Minister of Environment, Gert Kotze — dismissed by many (including me) as an ineffective environment Minister — has done something for South Africa that deserves the thanks of every environmentalist.

It has now become apparent that in April last year he called in the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and asked that they go into the state of the environment and make recommendations.

The report has just come out — and it lays bare the sorry state of environment control. It also reveals, in passing, the extent to which the Department of Environment Affairs is hamstrung.

Indeed the former Minister himself once told a colleague: "I am the Minister of damn all".

The report reveals how the Department of Health is just not the appropriate department to administer the Clean Air Act. After all air pollution is not only about health it is about the environment as a whole.

The former Minister must have realised the report would, in fact, allow his department to vicariously criticise a "senior" department.

Being an independent body the CSIR was able to delve into the efficiency of other departments. Traditionally Government departments *never* criticise each other.

Mr Kotze's initiative was a neat sidestep of the rules.

The technical and legal teams



which produced the CSIR's 400-page report included Professor Andre Rabie (Stellenbosch) and Jan Glazewski (UCT) who have always been unequivocal in their criticism of environmental laws.

They were concerned that under environmental laws nobody can take an issue to court unless he can prove *locus standi* — that is, he must have a direct interest in the matter. So, for example, if the Government was about to allow farming in Kruger Park the Wildlife Society would be unable to appeal to the courts.

The CSIR team says this deprives the public of an important regulatory tool in terms of pollution control laws. Yet if *locus standi* provisions were "liberalised" it would probably not lead to a stampede on the courts.

Litigation costs preclude cranks from holding up projects simply by going to court, as has happened in the United States.

Sadly, had this report and its quite snappy recommendations come out last year Gert Kotze would have had quite a different image. Now he will not receive the accolade he deserves.

THE ENVIRONMENT: EDDIE KOCH reports on a warning issued to African ecology movements

**G**REEN activists be warned. Environment problems facing Southern Africa and the rest of the continent are not identical to the eco-crisis of the developed world. Ecology movements in Africa should not simply ape the policies of European and American Green organisations.

That's the message from Mohamed Sulman, head of the environmental unit at the London-based Institute for African Alternatives, who last week delivered the keynote address at the annual congress of Earthlife Africa.

Sulman pointed out that many European environment organisations have become ineffective and rootbound as established political parties, as well as industry, have responded in a creative way to the ecological crises facing the globe.

"Disillusioned by the prospects of a Green party in Britain many people abandoned action on the macro or society level and became Green individuals. They no longer buy aerosol sprays and they use only recycled paper," he said in a speech entitled *What Does it Mean to Be Green in Africa?*

"Instead of a Green movement of millions, we find millions of Green individuals. Practising Green virtues is important but not enough. To transform society the collective effort of all Green individuals is paramount."

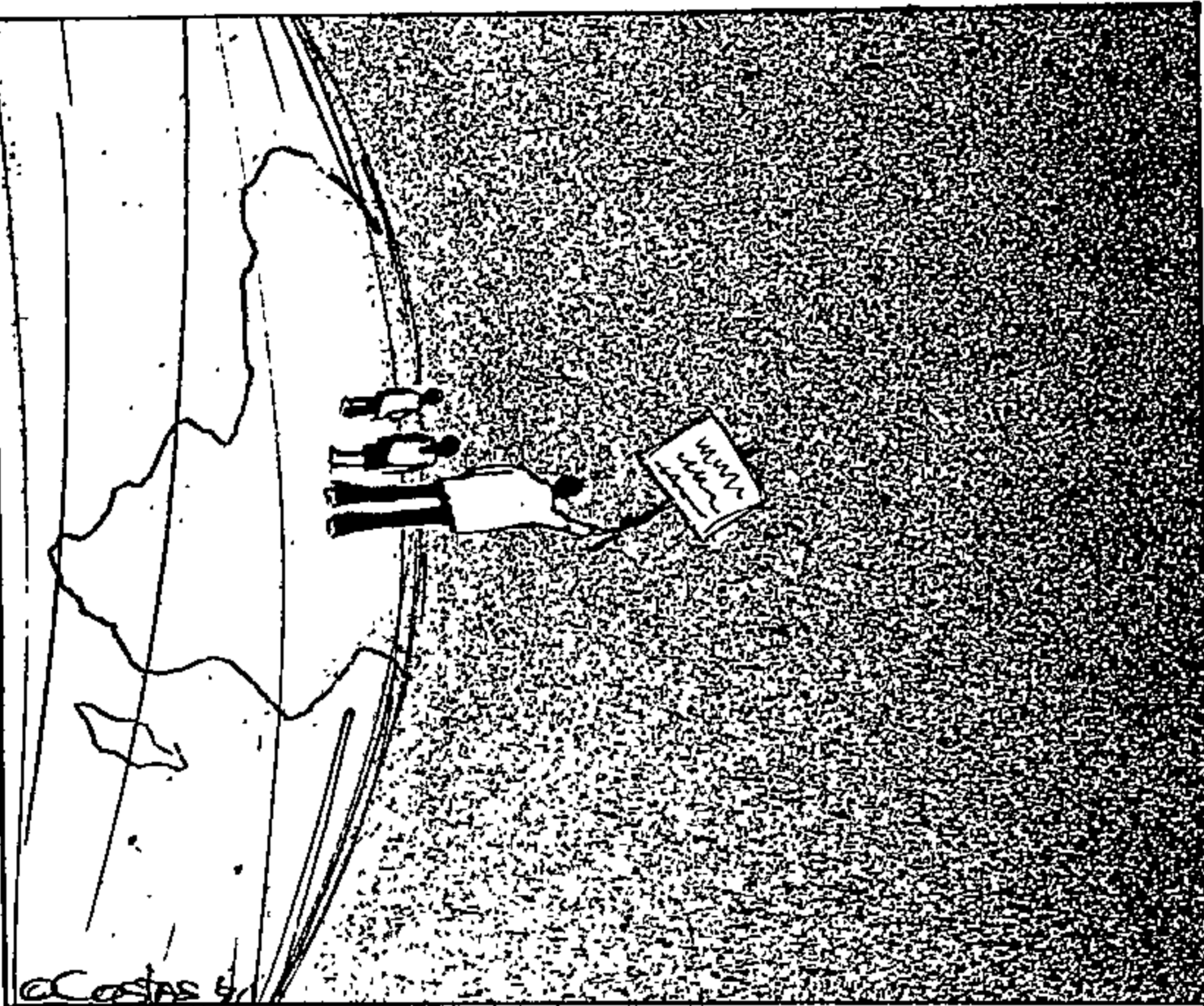
Sulman noted that Africa shared the great global catastrophes — the greenhouse effect, acid rain and the hole in the ozone layer. But the continent also experiences many specific problems which require indigenous responses by Green activists.

"The bells of global environmental degradation toll for us too ... At the same time, however, we must develop our intrinsically African framework on the environment, which should allow and help us derive country-specific Green objectives, programmes and activities," he said.

While the developed north is more concerned with pollution, acid rain, the ozone layer and the greenhouse effect, Africans are confronted by land degradation, poor water quality, desertification, drought and the devastating impacts of mining and monoculture.

"The north, having secured development at the expense of the global and local environment is now mainly concerned about the environment. Developing countries are concerned about development, less about the environment," said Sulman.

"To tackle development outside the realm of the environment means in the African context to allow continuation of the deep, all-encompassing crisis. Restoring land, biomass and water resources is equivalent to restoring the material basis of survival, no more, no less." He pointed out that African people have



Africa must develop own Green identity

by Eddie Koch 17/5-23/5/91

56

maintained a living balance with their natural environment and the resources on which they depended. They developed an intimate, organic relationship with nature, characterised by a high degree of sensitivity and respect for the workings of natural ecosystems.

But colonialism changed that by introducing economic systems based on intensive monoculture, deforestation and damaging mining operations. The ruling elites of newly independent states in Africa, determined to catch up with the developed world in terms of economic growth, tended to maintain these models.

"Colonialism upset this harmonious relationship between African tribal people and nature by imposing ever-increasing demands on natural resources. It introduced large-scale agriculture, usually based on monoculture, and began massive deforestation. Intensive mining operations began too, as colonialism ushered Africa

into the era of resource-intensive 'development'." It is essential, therefore, for Green movements in Africa to cultivate a return to positive cultural and educational values.

"A great environmental concern Africa-wide is the gradual but relentless destruction of Africans' positive cultural values: solidarity, self-help, equity, organic relation to nature ... The damage nature has incurred could not have happened had it not been preceded by a long process of alienation of humans from nature, an alienation primarily on the cultural and spiritual levels."

Sulman said Southern Africa's Green movements had to learn from the failures of movements and organisations in the developed world.

"A broad-based Green movement which has cultural significance and political influence would ensure the sustained effectiveness of its endeavours: while the environmental programme and slogans of a political Green party can easily be adopted or hijacked by other non-Green parties, leaving the Greens in disarray, as has happened to the Grünen in Germany after the last elections."

Other important organisational principals for African environmentalists outlined by Sulman include:

- "The prerequisite of people's participation at all levels of transformation: conservation, rehabilitation and development."
- Green movements of each individual African country should analyse their own specific environmental situation in constant co-operation and debate with people and their organisations before formulating appropriate national and regional policies.
- The formulation of sound and scientific population control policies which treat the continent's alarming rates of population growth as a development issue rather than simply an issue of birth control.
- The supremacy in the African context of biological diversity over monoculture and the heavy use of chemicals and pesticides.
- A move away from economic models that benefit the few on both a local and international level.
- "Global economic growth is a myth. Without power sharing, equity and fairness in resource utilisation, development and growth will always be to the benefit of the privileged few," he said.

"Developing Green movements in Africa must evolve a new system of project evaluation, one that is holistic and forward-looking. Every project must satisfy people's real economic, social and environmental needs. The poor should benefit from positive discrimination, to redress the regressive discrimination they have been experiencing for so many decades."

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

## INTERPELLATIONS

The sign \* indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

## General Affairs:

## Eastern Transvaal Highveld: atmospheric pollution

\*1 Mr C B SCHOEMAN asked the Minister of National Health:

Whether any investigation has recently been conducted into atmospheric pollution on the Eastern Transvaal Highveld; if not, why not; if so, (a) why and (b) with what result?

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\*The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

Mr Chairman, the answer to the question of the hon member for Nigel is yes. Very thorough investigation was carried out into atmospheric pollution in the Eastern Transvaal Highveld.

Eighty-three per cent of the country's electricity is generated by means of coal-fired power stations. Most of these power stations are located on the coalfields of the Eastern Transvaal. Prof Tyson of Wits and Drs Kruger and Louw, attached to the CSIR at the time, compiled a comprehensive report in 1988 on the pollution on the Eastern Transvaal Highveld at the request of the Department of National Health and Population Development.

In this report it was stated that the Eastern Transvaal had the potential to become the most polluted area in the world. I want to repeat that the statement was made that the Eastern Transvaal had the potential to become the most polluted area in the world. The statement was distorted by the media and it was disseminated widely, even overseas, that the Eastern Transvaal was the most polluted place on earth. In the latest CSIR report to the Department of Environment Affairs the matter was put right and it was stated unambiguously that the statement was untrue.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Answered

Prof Tyson's report was used to draw up an extensive research programme. Some millions of rands were spent from 1983 to 1990 on research in this sphere. It is impossible to discuss all the findings in detail but I should like to emphasise the following.

In the Eastern Transvaal more than a million tons of sulphur dioxide and almost half a million tons of ash are produced annually. Superficially this looks disturbingly high, but it must be related to other findings.

Measurements of sulphur dioxide and smoke concentrations at various places in the area indicate that the values vary between a third and half of levels which are internationally accepted as safe. In Witbank, for instance, they are even lower than in the city centre of Pretoria.

Researchers of the University of Pretoria could find no statistically significant influence by atmospheric pollution on the health of schoolchildren in this area.

Researchers of the CSIR could not find any significant effects of atmospheric pollution on either plants or aquatic life in the area. In this stage experiments are being carried out on corrosion in the area, but no negative results have shown up so far. [Time expired.]

\*Mr C B SCHOEMAN: Mr Chairman, a recent investigation by the CSIR into the management of waste and atmospheric pollution in the RSA, which is not yet freely available, as well as the opinion of local organisations and medical practitioners, especially of the Transvaal Highveld, are agreed that atmospheric pollution has an adverse effect on the population of South Africa.

If one takes into account that the Eastern Transvaal Highveld region together with the South-Eastern Transvaal Highveld, that is the Vaal Triangle, make out the industrial Ruhr area of South Africa, I am afraid that measures which exist at present to combat and control atmospheric pollution not only fall far short but are hopelessly inadequate as a result of an absolute lack of adequate physical planning and continuous high-level research. This opinion is largely supported by the CSIR, and I am referring to the CSIR management summary of 1 February 1991 in which reference is made to power stations and the burning of coal which contains 1,2% of

sulphur and 40% of ash and which are large sources of sulphur dioxide and ash and, although the dust is already controlled to some extent, the control of gases is at least conceivable at a high price. This is what the report says. I shall read it to hon members.

Die prys van sulke beheer is hoog, maar so ook die prys wat betaal sal moet word indien geen besoedelingsmaatreëls geneem word nie

In regard to the research the report reads:

Daar is tans nog min wetenskaplike inligting beskikbaar. Behoorlik ondersteunde navorsings is nodig.

[Interjections.] The question can justifiably be put: Why the unnecessary delay with research? Is this a lack of planning? [Interjections.]

The CSIR refers further to the fact that pollution on the Highveld makes out nearly 50% of the national problem. On the very important aspect of atmospheric pollution it is very clear that the responsibility of the Department of Health, that is control, monitoring and law enforcement, is being lamentably neglected.

The CSIR report points out that the Department of Health does not have a single attorney to assist in law enforcement, whereas the Department of Water Affairs has more than 10. Water Affairs has prosecuted more than 30 industries and local authorities in the last four years, whereas the Department of Health has not instituted any prosecution. [Interjections.] Can this really be true? Similarly, according to a report, only eight law enforcement officers are responsible for the administration of this law, whereas 2 000 permits have already been issued for the operation of certain scheduled processes during which toxic and offensive gases are released.

We seem to be living in a fool's paradise. [Interjections.] [Time expired.]

Mr R J LORIMER: Mr Chairman, it must be realised that a large percentage of the best farming land in the country lies in the Eastern Transvaal Highveld, in that approximately 50% of South Africa's high-production arable land and forestry resources are within this area. [Interjections.]

More or less 50 million tons of coal are burned by our power stations in the area, as well as by Sasol

2 and 3 For each ton of coal burned, more or less two tons of carbon dioxide are released.

The annual emissions of pollutants are enormous, because it is not only carbon dioxide that is released, but also various particulates like sulphur dioxide, nitrous oxide, carbon monoxide and various hydrocarbons. So all in all 125 million tons are released over the whole of the Eastern Transvaal Highveld area, of which 98% is carbon dioxide. Let me give a few statistics on this. There is something like 40 tons of sulphur dioxide per square kilometre per annum. Forty tons per square kilometre! This amounts to something like 600 tons a day.

This is as bad as the very worst conditions in the North-Eastern USA's highly industrialised parts and various industrial areas in Western Europe. The result is acid rain, in regard to which we compare unfavourably with both the USA and Europe. Now this inevitably has an effect on our soil and our agricultural potential

Agricultural land, of course, is limed every year to try to get the pH into line, but the effect on acidic soils harbouring natural vegetation is very substantial indeed. This, of course, means that the Kruger National Park, for example, is at risk. One cannot lime the whole area of the Park. In Europe a dieback of forests is occurring. [Time expired.]

\*The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH: Mr Chairman, I am quite aware of the report to which the hon member for Nigel referred. I think that what is of importance is that we have to examine how the relevant law works. What does this law say?

He is making a mistake if he says that no prosecutions have been instituted; one was instituted. [Interjections.] No, I think that when we speak here we must be accurate. I think the impression is being created that officers are hesitant to institute prosecutions, whereas this is not the case.

The crux of the matter is that we have to make an analysis of the systems that we use. The control of atmospheric pollution in South Africa is based on the best available method and not the atmospheric quality standards which are used in the USA and Japan. If hon members make an analysis of how this system actually functions in practice, they will see that one of the problem areas is that we should have more atmospheric

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY



pollution control officers to monitor this matter properly. It is also important for me first to give hon members a survey of how many monitoring units there are and what the strategy of the department is, because the hon member made an allegation here that we had no plan or strategy to deal with this matter. That is not correct. At the moment an entire monitoring network has been deployed in the whole of the Eastern Transvaal to deal with this matter.

(56)

† I should like to respond to the hon member for Bryanston. I cannot argue the issue of the pollution. What we have to control is the effect that it has on the health of the people. I can give the hon member the information which the monitoring stations are giving me. They show clearly that levels are within acceptable limits.

\* I cannot give hon members facts other than that the monitoring work which is being done shows us that levels are within . . . [Interjections.]

\*The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! The hon Minister may complete the sentence.

\*The MINISTER: Levels are within acceptable limits. [Time expired.]

\*Mr J CHIOLE: Mr Chairman, environment affairs throughout the world today revolve around the scientifically researched factual awareness that mankind is involved in one of the most deadly periods of survival in its history, that is to restore the dynamic chemical balance of the atmosphere which mankind itself has disturbed as a result of ignorance, lack of information and incompetence. Now, merely the fact that the hon the Minister of National Health is dealing with this interpellation is confirmation of the CP's criticism of the Government on the fragmentation of environmental conservation in South Africa.

Then she comes forward and plays down the true situation as it exists. Here we are saddled with one of the greatest atmospheric pollution problems in the world. Up to 57,5 tons of sulphur dioxide rain down annually on certain square kilometres in the Eastern Transvaal Highveld; almost twice as much as the 30 tons per square kilometre of East Germany. We have measured rain with a pH value of 4, which is almost a concentrated acid. Boundary fences on farms last for only two years, but this hon Minister's department deals with atmospheric pollution and

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

then they withhold the full facts on what is taking place.

On the other hand we see that the hon the Minister of Environmental Affairs' Committee for Environmental Management is sitting there, the environmental watchdog of South Africa and they do not even function. I want to tell the hon the Minister that this problem is so serious because her Government is too incompetent to do anything about it.

\* An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

\*Mr J CHIOLE: She has only eight inspectors for atmospheric pollution in the Department of National Health; not even enough to look at Vanderbijlpark, but she has to control South Africa.

Now the hon the Minister wants to lead us to believe that there is no adverse impact. No annual reports are issued by her on this subject. Meanwhile disturbing fish deaths are already occurring in the Olifants River, which is one of the arteries to the Kruger National Park, as a result of acid water and water pollution. The maximum fine for that type of pollution of the atmosphere is still only R500.

I want to ask the hon the Minister, whose health services are collapsing in consequence of a shortage of money, how much more she has budgeted for research into atmospheric pollution this year. [Time expired.]

\*Mr C B SCHOEMAN: Mr Chairman, I want to tell the hon the Minister that, if there was one prosecution after 2 000 permits had been issued in respect of toxic and offensive gases to firms who release them, this is very tragic. Then we are really living in a fool's paradise. Nowadays we are so obsessed with the idea of a new South Africa that the actual South Africa, which has to feed and carry us all, will already have been destroyed under this Government before that phantom of theirs is ultimately realised.

One point that emerged very clearly in this short debate today is the fact that South Africa can no longer afford a fragmented environmental management system. Not one of the various departments which have to deal with environmental management can manage its task thoroughly owing to a lack of either the necessary funds, expertise and the ability to monitor it effectively or the necessary control and law enforcement.

There is only one solution for South Africa and that is a national environmental management system with centralised management and responsibility. [Time expired.]

(56)

\*The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH: Mr Chairman, I gain the impression that hon members of the CP would like to take the credit for the Government's introduction of one system for environmental management. [Interjections.] That is true. The Government has already had this investigation undertaken by the President's Council. The Department of National Health supports the principle of atmospheric pollution control and waste management being combined in a new plan. We are waiting, however, for the recommendations of the President's Council, after which we shall come forward with a clear, new system of management for environmental affairs.

The hon member made out a case here for prosecutions. Nevertheless I think he knows that the department has the power to close a factory if it considers that to be in the interests of the health of the population of that area. We shall exercise this option. Surely one cannot institute a prosecution when one takes a measurement and the emissions of that factory comply with norms that are laid down. This is specifically one of the points of departure in pollution as a whole behind our monitoring. The hon member is working on assumptions which are not based on scientific research.

\*Mr C B SCHOEMAN: It comes from this annual report!

\*The MINISTER: Yes, show us the results that come from these gauging instruments. Show us what the monitoring stations have to say about atmospheric pollution. At this stage we have a comprehensive report. I want to mention only a few statistics. At the moment lead and sulphur dioxide monitors are operated at 150 sites by 37 local authorities.

The hon member wants to make the point that we have only eight atmospheric pollution control officers. He does not know how the system works. It is carried out by local authorities. Motor vehicle exhaust fumes are measured by five local authorities on 10 sites. [Time expired.] Debate concluded.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Poverty, hunger and unemployment

2. Mr J J WALSH asked the Minister of Finance:

- (1) Whether the Government intends taking immediate steps to combat poverty, hunger and unemployment; if not, why not; if so, what steps;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

(56)

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The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Mr Chairman, poverty and hardship in South Africa basically manifest themselves in the following two ways, firstly through insufficient income and, secondly, through insufficient access to certain basic services for which governments normally accept responsibility.

Although an element of cyclical unemployment may occur, unemployment, and therefore poverty, has largely embedded itself as a structural problem in the economy for which there is no short-term solution. A comprehensive multifaceted development approach has therefore been adopted to combat the problem of poverty.

Alleviation is dealt with at the following three levels—firstly, the restructuring of the economy to increase the growth, income-earning and employment potential; secondly, the addressing of urgent socio-economic development problems, including the human capital dimension, and thirdly, the implementation and extension of an appropriate safety net to assist vulnerable groups in society who do not benefit from the economic restructuring programme in the shorter term.

As far as the implementation of a safety net is concerned, the following measures have already been announced in the 1990-91 Budget. Firstly, there is a zero-rating of VAT on maize meal and brown bread. Secondly, the following amounts have also been voted for the improvement of old-age assistance allowances, namely R820 million, which represents an increase of R28 per month, for all population groups, from 1 April 1991; R155 million in order to remove the disparity between Blacks in the RSA and self-governing areas and R505 million to advance closer to the equalisation of old-age assistance allowances of all population groups—roughly 20%.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

# CSIR comes out smoking over pollution

THE Department of Environment, through a 400-page report on pollution, is strongly recommending a central environmental protection agency similar to the American system.

The report, pulled together by scientists, technicians and lawyers under the CSIR (the Council) was commissioned by the Department of Environment Affairs) paints a frank picture of the confusion, the lack of data and the lack of prosecutions in South Africa's attempts to control pollution. Air pollution control, in particular, is criticised.

The report says the Department of National Health's air pollution division has no lawyers and has never made a prosecution in the 26 years of the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act's existence. It recommends that the division be taken away from the Department of National Health and placed under a new central environmental department with broad powers. Contrary to Government statements that air pollution levels on the highveld have

been improving, the report carries a table, drawn up in 1990 by a former chief air pollution control officer, showing increasing levels in every major sphere — carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, solids, etc.

The CSIR team criticises the way the Act allows big industries to keep secret the gases and other material they put into the atmosphere. It says the Government's chief air pollution control officer "would be guilty of an offence" if he revealed to the public what pollutants it was inhaling.

The legal team behind the CSIR's report says there is no good reason for most of the secrecy. It is also concerned about the the secrecy under the Petroleum Products Act which gives extra privileges to the petroleum industry. The technicians who prepared the data say they had great difficulty obtaining some information. The investigators say the entire national air pollution inspectorate numbers only eight men. The Cape has only one.

Scientists find South Africa has more pollution problems than the Government has been admitting, reports JAMES CLARKE.

And the office is concerned only about health and not the environmental effects of air pollution.

It expects that the timber industry will begin to push for a broader-based attitude now that trees appear to have been damaged by acid fallout from sulphur emissions. It also expects future pressure from the international lobby because of the way pollution is being "exported" via the wind and rivers to neighbouring territories.

The report recommends a separate independent Government department whose primary interest is long-term environmental sustainability. It says that allowing industry to take the "best practicable means" (BPM) to abate air pollution allows too many fac-

ories to avoid cleaning up. The legal team says it would be better to insist on the BPEO — "best practicable environmental option".

It also suggests that industries monitor their own pollution and put in an annual report just as they submit annual tax returns — with similar penalties for evasion. Inspectors should be allowed to enter factories any time to make snap checks.

The CSIR says the public has the feeling that the air pollution inspectorate's relationship with industry is too intimate. The report — The Situation of Waste Management and Pollution Control in South Africa — says not only have the Government's air pollution officials failed to prosecute violators but "we are not aware of any substantial number of prosecutions brought under the land-related pollution and waste management sections".

It says the Department of Water Affairs has done best and employs 10 lawyers. But of the 40 prosecutions brought in six years, 30 admitted guilt. This high figure of guilt ad-

missions "could mean that companies are quite willing to pay the rather low fine and not incur unnecessary legal costs as well as bad publicity".

Other points from the report: ● There is a need for better-designed housing to minimise heating needs. ● Smokeless stoves or smokeless coal may be the best option to reduce township smoke. South Africa, the CSIR points out, actually exports stoves for smokeless fuel.

● Clean-air standards should be established. ● It should be made easier for the public to use the courts to fight environmental nuisances. ● An industry which seeks permission to pollute should address the public as well as the authorities.

● Environmental legislation needs consolidating. The CSIR's strong and often repeated plea for a central environmental authority coincides with similar calls made by many who gave evidence to the year-long President's Council hearing on the environment, which ended this year. □

# Office could make you sick and tired

By Julienne du Toit

Are there unnameable 'creepy-crawlies' in your office's air ducts?

Is the air you breathe at work giving you lung cancer, making your skin dry, giving you headaches, leaving you tired and apathetic?

The National Association for Clean Air discussed these questions and others at a conference in Midrand yesterday.

It was the first South African conference on indoor air quality.

In the keynote address, Dr Sherwood Burge of the occupational lung disease unit at East Birmingham Hospital in Britain said sick building syndrome was a fact, but difficult to pin down.

However, office workers who complained more of stuffy noses, dry throats, lethargy and headaches were found more in sealed airconditioned buildings than

Star 2115791  
naturally ventilated ones.

A paradox was that environmental measurements in "sick" buildings failed to take account of, among others, things like air change rates, formaldehyde — a suspected carcinogen used as glue for chipboard — carbon monoxide, ozone, carbon dioxide and visual display units.

## Organisms

Dr Burge said organisms grew in poorly maintained or infrequently cleaned chillers and humidifiers in air-conditioning, and that this was a possible cause of SBS.

Architect William Birrer criticised architects for spending too much time on designing striking facades and glossing over the interior of a building.

It was up to engineers to make the buildings habitable, he said.

The main sources of indoor pollution were to-

56  
bacco smoke, carbon monoxide and radon gas, said Dr Petra Terblanche, chief medical researcher of the Research Institute for Environmental Diseases.

Many of these resulted in serious diseases, including lung cancer, emphysema, pulmonary oedema and increased infection rates.

Asbestos, which causes lung cancer and asbestosis, could be found in many buildings as insulation on pipes or ducts, ceiling tiles, cement products and acoustical plaster, said Rudi Cronje of the National Centre for Occupational Health.

Richard Truter of Johannesburg's City Health Department said existing legislation regulating indoor air was inadequate.

He proposed an integrated self-regulatory approach in which equipment suppliers, designers and engineers cooperated to eliminate air quality problems.

## Air pollution not excessive, says Venter

CAPE TOWN — National Health Department monitoring stations showed clearly that eastern Transvaal air pollution was within acceptable limits, Health Minister Dr Rina Venter said in Parliament yesterday.

She said SA air pollution control was based on the best available methods, and the department's inspectorate was not reluctant to prosecute. However, more air pollution control officers were needed.

Research had shown that eastern Transvaal air pollution levels were a third to a half of internationally accepted safety levels.

Witbank readings were lower than

6/par 22/5/91  
Pretoria city centre and researchers had found no meaningful effects of pollution on the health of schoolchildren or plants and water life.

An investigation into corrosion caused by acid in the atmosphere had shown no negative results. (56)

But Joseph Chiole (CP Pretoria West) said the region had one of the worst air pollution problems in the world. Rain with a Ph of four, making it almost pure acid, had been measured.

The eight inspectors employed by the department were not enough to look after Vanderbijlpark, let alone the whole of SA, he said. — Sapa.

# Don't let forests strangle Natal, conservationists plead

Step 2/15/91

The Department of Forestry has produced a map which has shocked conservationists: it shows well over a third of Natal as being a "priority" for new afforestation.

Over 40 percent of Natal could be smothered with canefields and forests.

But when questioned about the vastness of the areas being allowed to go to timber production a Department of Forestry spokesman said the map's title was misleading. It "shows the global area within which some restricted afforestation will be possible."

The map, received by The Star this month, is titled "Priority areas for new afforestation" and is accepted by the timber industry as a guide to where plantations will be allowed. It includes grazing land and croplands and has led to a renewed call for a moratorium.

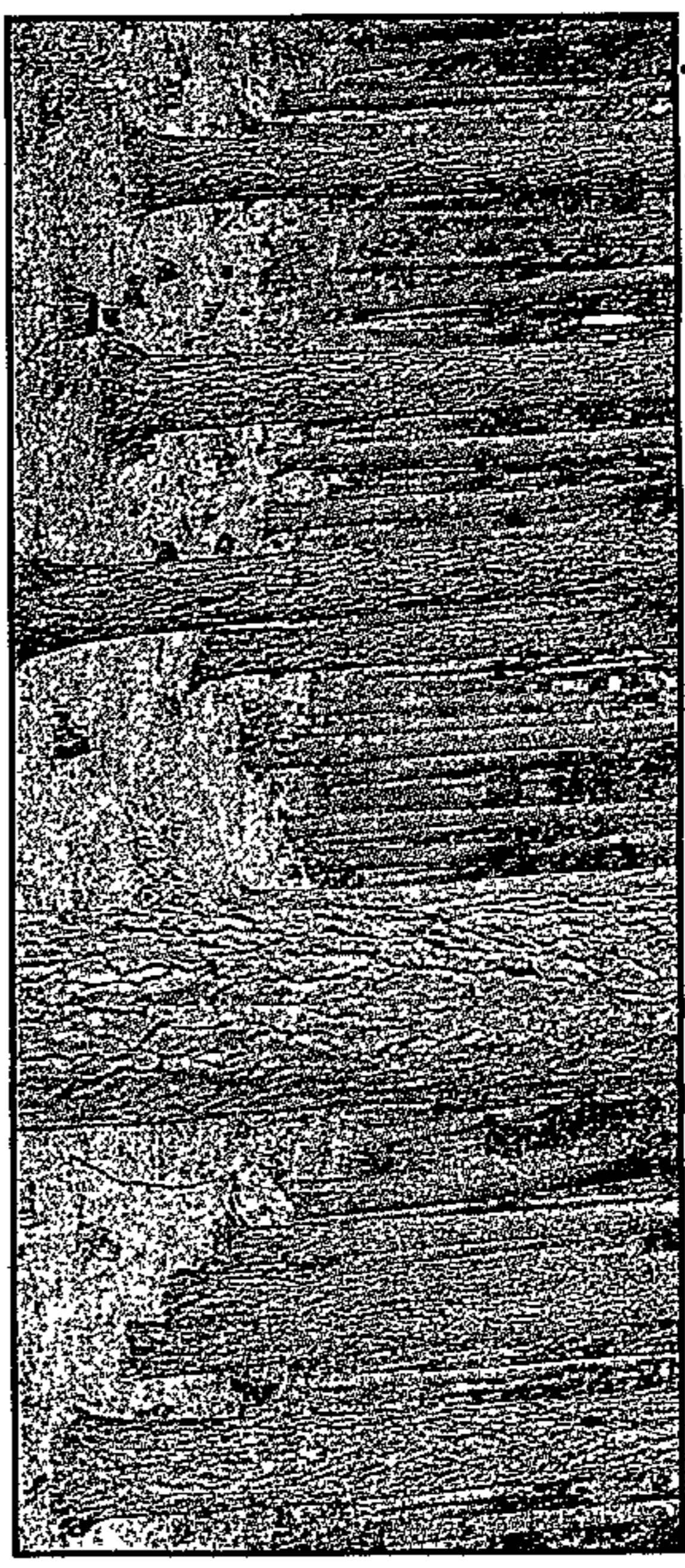
The department, some time ago, said plantations would be doubled to 2 million ha. Afforestation often permanently wrecks land for other uses.

Large areas of the Eastern Transvaal, where some streams are running dry, are also earmarked for future plantations.

Conservationists say too little research has been done into the effects on the water tables, runoff and crop potential.

"Worse," says Keith Cooper, Durban-based director of conservation for the Wildlife Society, "it will compress rural communities into smaller and smaller areas as has happened in the Dukuduku forest."

In a telephone interview Mr Cooper — an acknow-



Green cover-up . . . this mature pine plantation may be beautiful, but it could conceal several burgeoning environmental problems.

ledged expert on the country's forests — said the society was formally demanding a moratorium. Before any more land was turned over to water-hungry timber, a holistic view of the situation was needed.

"Trees can do permanent damage to the water table. There has to be a moratorium until a study has been done by all departments into the impact on water, food, wildlife and humanity."

"The Wildlife Society is asking for an environmental impact assessment (EIA) on the policy, followed by an integrated environmental management approach. We believe no more permits should be issued until then. Even those recently granted should be revoked."

"Permits are being granted mainly on mean annual runoff in the catchments. But what happens in a drought situation? We are already seeing streams drying up because of injudicious forestry."

He said most of the proposed plantations were in the high rainfall areas.

"The Drakensberg area is particularly delicate and Forestry is buying up as fast as it can about 50 000 ha down the length of the Berg. Imagine what this could do to our rivers."

The timber industry anticipates a world shortage of timber. "What we earn from timber will buy more food than can be grown on the same land," said one representative.

Professor Richard Fuggle of the Council for the Environment, speaking in his capacity as professor of environmental studies at UCT, says there should be a full disclosure of all the ramifications of opening up new forest areas. An EIA is needed as well as a sociological impact assessment.

He says the Environment Conservation Act of 1989 calls for these studies whenever land use is changed — but because the regulations have not yet been drawn up, the Act cannot be applied. It specifically mentions afforestation.

Dr D W "Dik" van der Zee of the Department of Forest-

of knowledge regarding the effects of plantations and says forests draw not much more water than cane. He also denies it is squeezing populations.

"Forestry villages will mushroom. Grazing land needs one permanent employee for every 130 ha. Forestry needs one for every 10 ha. With wattle bark production you need one for every 7 ha."

(Professor Fuggle says the sugar industry employs 10 times as many workers per hectare and that a reason for the current rural exodus in parts of Natal is because forestry is taking over canefields).

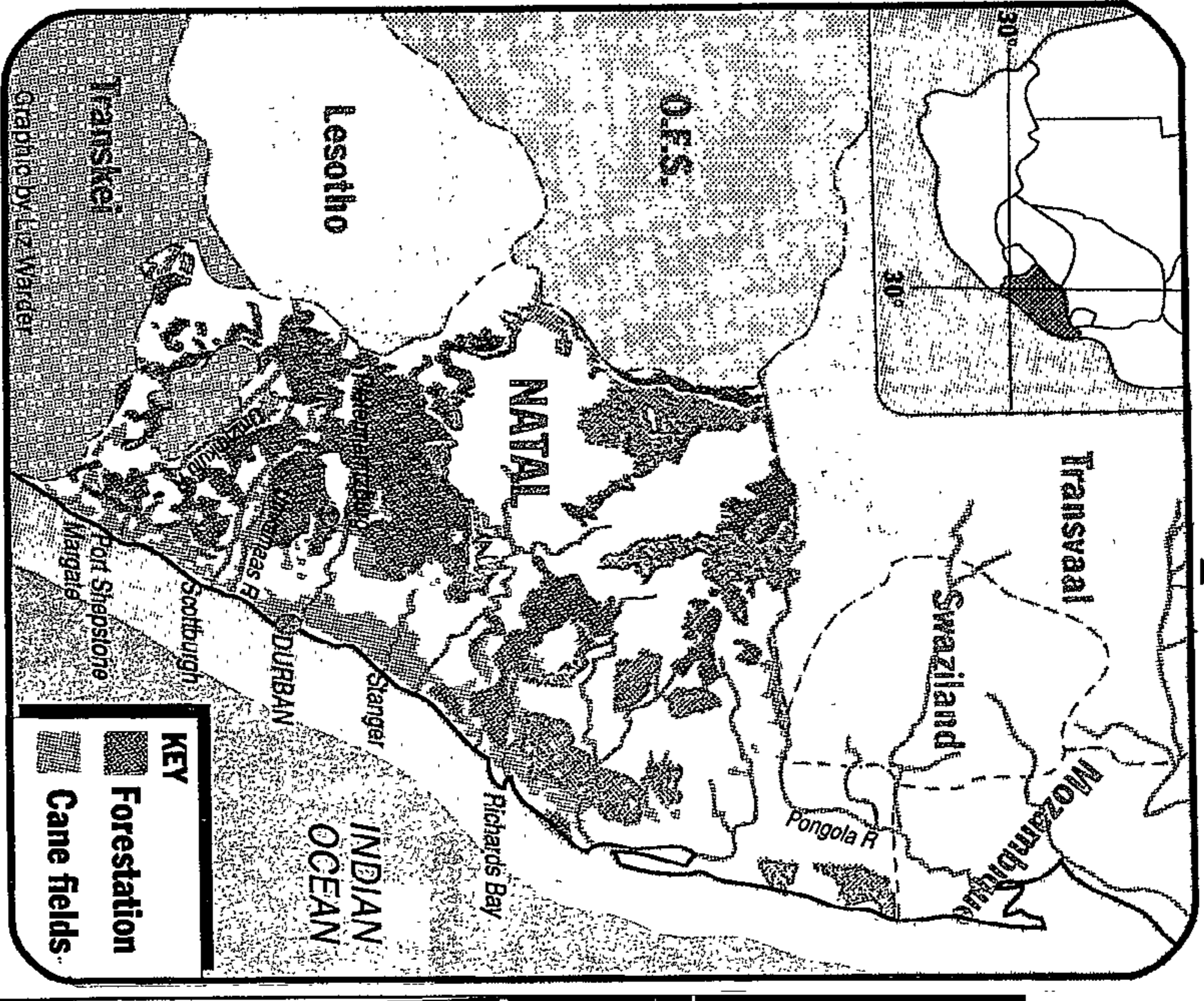
Dr van der Zee says companies are not buying up large areas along the Drakensberg but mainly around Newcastle, Utrecht and Paulpietersburg.

The forestry industry adheres to voluntary guidelines on the minimum distance that trees can be planted from rivers and indigenous forest.

He says kwaZulu locations and worked-out coal areas would be far better off under trees — and could mop up carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas given off mostly by coal burning.

Keith Cooper says: "Despite what my friend and colleague Dik van der Zee says there is deep concern about the future of the country's water and agricultural resources. For this reason alone there is an urgent need for a comprehensive study before any more afforestation permits are issued."

"But I accept absolutely the wisdom of planting degraded and eroded areas." JAMES CLARKE



Plotting progress . . . the map shows land earmarked for "new afforestation" in Natal, as well as canefields. It does not show existing forest plantations.



# Mudslides!

56 APRIS 23/5/91

By ESANN van RENSBURG  
and LINDA GALLOWAY  
Staff Reporters

MUDSLIDES, widely feared after the disastrous Table Mountain fire in February, turned roads into rivers of sludge, disrupted traffic and silted up gardens today.

Worst hit were Vredehoek, Devil's Peak and Freshaye where mud was knee-deep in the streets in some places.

Morning rush hour traffic ground to a virtual standstill as tons of mud flowed down Derry Street and Crassula Avenue into Roeland Street.

Traffic officers set up warning lights, slowed down traffic and closed roads where thick sludge made them impassable.

Mudslides on to De Waal Drive during the night, described as "quite serious" by a spokesman for the Cape Town traffic department, made driving hazardous for thousands of peak hour motorists.

## Debris

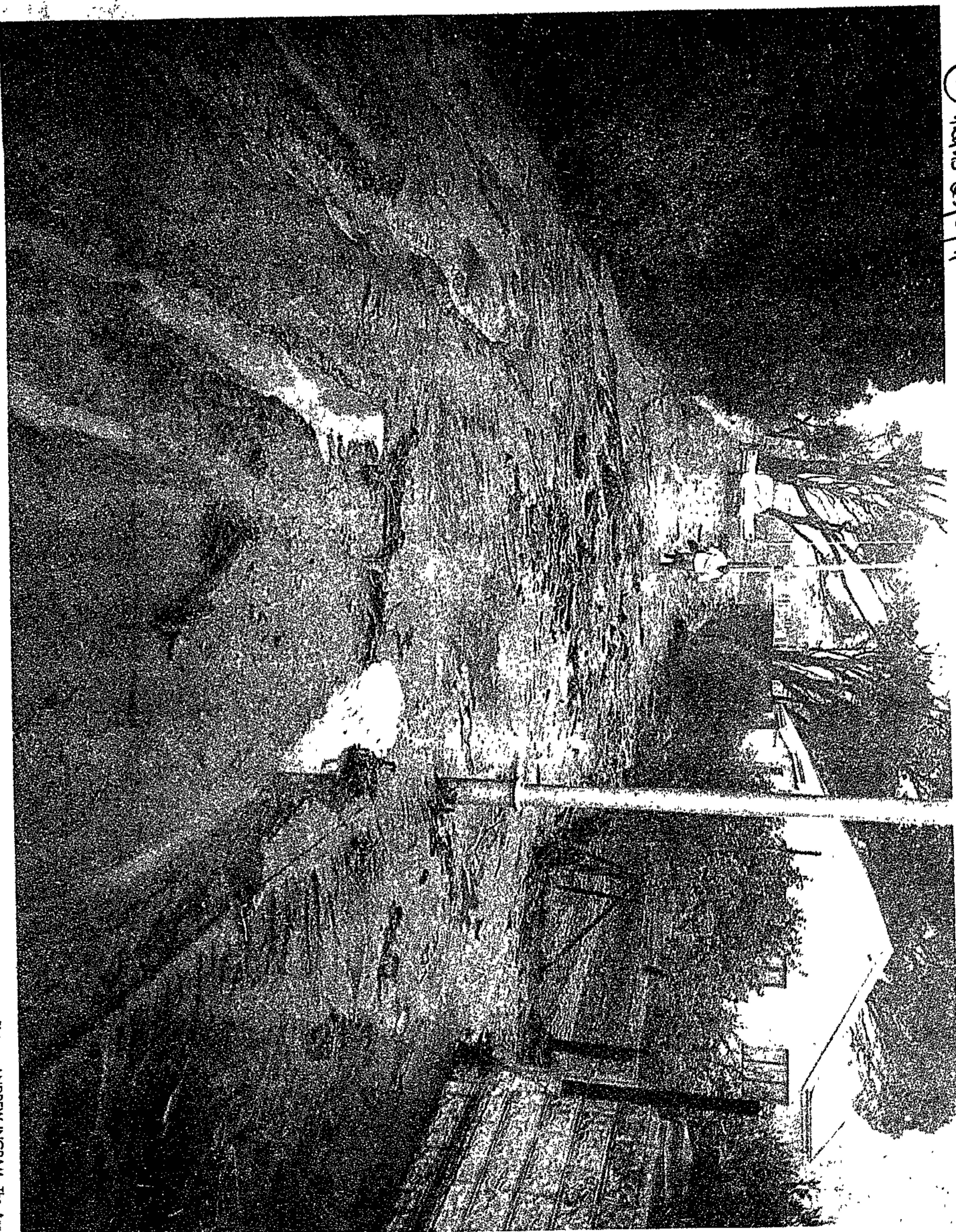
"I came to work via De Waal Drive at 6.30 this morning. Council workers were on the scene trying to clear up the debris," the spokesman said.

The mud rivers chose their own paths and flowed through gardens and public parks. As the rain subsided the sludge settled around car tyres and in driveways.

Some Vredehoek residents stood on pavements with brooms but no houses appeared to have been flooded.

Conservationists warned that serious mudslides were inevitable after the February 8 fire on Devil's Peak which denuded the mountainside of stabilising vegetation.

Council workers have been toiling round-the-clock to shore up the slopes with logs and other material.



Picture: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.

**RIVER OF MUD:** Tons of mud washed off the fire-damaged slopes of Devil's Peak by heavy rain today found its own paths, flowing through gardens and public parks. Here a pedestrian navigates a river of mud near the top of Derry Street. In some places mud was knee-deep in the streets. ● More pictures, page 14.

## **Bulldozers**

Regional Services Council bulldozers were sent at 3am today to create a path for water pouring off Karbonkelberg above Hout Bay Heights where a fire damaged the slopes on the same day as the Devil's Peak blaze.

A Hout Bay Heights resident said the water pouring off the mountain had threatened houses on the highest slopes of the suburb.

Mr Melvin Meyer of Neptune Road, Hout Bay Heights, said his dog woke him at 1.50am and he heard a gushing noise.

"I opened the top of the front stable door and everything outside was floating. I turned on the light and realised I was standing in water," he said.

The raging mud river tore down part of his retaining wall and forced out panels of a concrete wall.

Mr Meyer said the water-mark on the retaining wall was shoulder-height.

City Council spokesman Mr Ted Doman said the council had been working on Table Mountain in 15 places since the wind started blowing on Sunday.

"There are problems with mudslides on to De Waal Drive, in Vredehoek and in Fresnaye, but our workers are attending to it."

## **Few accidents**

Mr Doman said although people who had encountered the mud would not agree, the council was grateful there was less cleaning up to do "than could have been expected after all the rain we have had".

The traffic department confirmed a report of minor rock-falls on the coast road between Bakoven and Llandudno.

Cape Town Traffic Chief Mr Wouter Smit said "relatively few accidents have occurred since the rain started last night and only slight injuries were reported".

Mrs Barbara Maguire of Devil's Peak, whose garden and swimming pool were swamped, said it was the second time in 12 years this had happened.

Her mini-car was standing in bumper-deep mud and a guest's car parked in Derry Street showed a "high water mark" about half-way up the door.

In spite of clearing skies today, another cold front is on its way and will hit Cape Town by tomorrow afternoon, according to the weather bureau.

## Hout Bay <sup>(56)</sup>

### sewage row may land <sup>Star</sup> RSC in court <sup>23/7/91</sup>

By Julienne du Toit

Earthlife Africa and the Hout Bay Ratepayers' Association are threatening to take the Western Cape Regional Services Council to court to stop them pumping raw sewage into Hout Bay.

Recently the Western Cape RSC rejected a request by attorneys acting for Earthlife Africa and the ratepayers' association to submit the dispute to a professional mediator.

According to lawyer Perino Pama, reputable reports have shown that the present sewage pollution in the sea around the Peninsula as a whole exceeds safe bathing standards set by experts and the Government for when effluent is pumped into the sea by pipeline.

A recent six-monthly report by the Cape Town City Council found pollution levels to exceed these standards by ten times at Mouille Point, and by eight times in False Bay.

The Foundation for Research Development, in a Government report in March last year, highlighted eight danger spots for swimmers in False Bay and two in Hout Bay.

Mr Pama, who represents Earthlife Africa and the Hout Bay Ratepayers' Association, said the response by the Western Cape RSC had been to say that a pipeline discharging raw sewage into the sea was the most viable system.

### Collapsed

This was despite the fact that the Green Point sewage outfall pipeline recently collapsed and caused "untold damage", he said.

The Camps Bay sewage outfall pipeline, according to a press report this month, is in danger of breaking up in high seas and is being shored up with car tyres.

In Peru, a three-month cholera epidemic has broken out as a result of sewage being pumped into seas and rivers.

American federal legislation forbids coastal cities from considering ocean dumping, and the disposal of sewage sludge on land is becoming a more popular option. This is the system Mr Pama's clients would like the Western Cape RSC to consider.

"Unfortunately, governmental and quasi-governmental institutions which should be protecting the environment for future generations are often the prime culprits, and South African law is quite deficient in redressing this," said Mr Pama.

He has received funding and support from Pick 'n Pay, Checkers, the Wildlife Society, the Hout Bay Ratepayers' Association and Earthlife Africa to challenge the disposal of raw sewage by pipeline in Hout Bay.

Mr Pama said the case would set a precedent for similar court actions in the future.



# Mudslides could mean 'disaster'

(56) 24/5/91

By PETER DENNEHY

UNLESS more was done immediately to stabilise the slopes of Table Mountain, Cape Town's upper suburbs could be faced with a mudslide and flooding disaster, Dr Douglas Hey warned yesterday.

Dr Hey, chairman of the Cape Peninsula Protected Nature Area Committee, said his committee had met yesterday and resolved that he must ask the Administrator for more funds.

"The rain gets a lot heavier than what we have just had," Dr Hey said.

Dr Hey said it would be cheaper to stabilise the mountain now than to clear out all the drains if there was a major disaster.

A council spokesman said that 81,5mm had fallen on top of the mountain in the 24 hours preceding 7am yesterday, and nearly 200mm had fallen in the past four days. Sometimes more than 100mm fell in 24 hours, he said.

Each year about 2 000mm falls on the mountain.

Mudslides in Vredehoek had been worse than expected, Cape Town City Council spokesman Mr Ted Doman said yesterday as hundreds of council workers cleared silted-up streets.

Mr Doman said council officials had known since the huge mountain fire on February 8 that there was a danger of mudslides when the first winter rains came. Workers had been continually trying to secure the mountain-side ever since.

## Irate resident

Dr Hey said yesterday that they had done a fine job, especially taking into account their limited time, funds and manpower.

But their efforts were not good enough for irate Vredehoek resident Mr Louis Strydom, who said: "This mud just goes to show that Professor Eugene Moll of UCT is right when he says those who are managing the mountain don't

have a proper plan for it.

"The way we are going, in a couple of years we won't have a mountain. We will just have dongas. So much money is made from the cable-car. Some of that should go into the mountain."

Professor Moll said yesterday that he believed debris from Devil's Peak had ended up in blocked drains as far down in the city as Darling Street.

"This is part of what I predicted," he said. "I hope that this has been the worst of it."

He said the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Mr Gordon Oliver and Mr Frank van der Velde, had expressed their concern about the mountain on Wednesday.

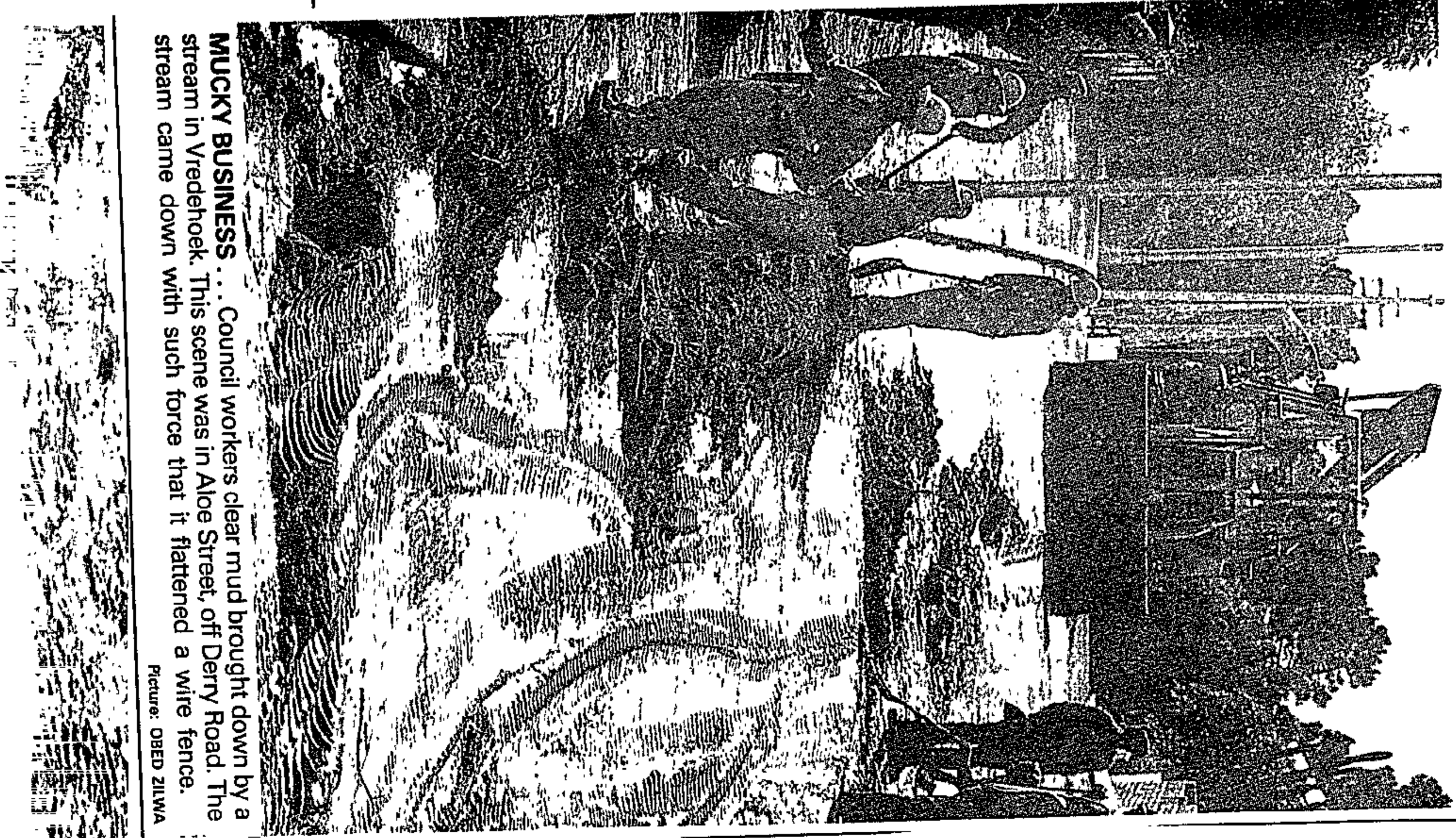
They had invited him to a walk on the mountain with them, but he had to decline as he is going overseas today.

Mr Wouter Smit, Cape Town's traffic chief, said he knew of at least one accident directly related to the mud at the Jutland Avenue turnoff from De Waal Drive to Gardens.

Mud had come down as far as Roeland Street, he said.

**MUCKY BUSINESS** ... Council workers clear mud brought down by a stream in Vredehoek. This scene was in Aloe Street, off Derry Road. The stream came down with such force that it flattened a wire fence.

Picture: OBEED ZILWA





# BRINGING OFFENDERS TO BOOK

An unmistakable sign of the onset of the Highveld winter is the brown shroud that hangs over Johannesburg and much of the Vaal Triangle in the early mornings.

It's an appropriate time for the CSIR to make public its most intensive study on pollution so far: "The Situation of Waste Management and Pollution Control in South Africa" commissioned by the Department of Environment Affairs.

Among a number of hard-hitting findings, the CSIR objects to the confidentiality surrounding the present system of air pollution control and the lack of legislated ambient general air quality standards. It wants major changes in the way the controlling department — the Chief Air Pollution Control Officer (Capco) — is run.

What standards should be introduced and the economic costs of meeting them are topics worth studies in themselves, according to Petro Terblance, chief medical researcher for the Medical Research Council (MRC). "You've got to be pragmatic. US air standards are very conservative and set to protect the health of the most sensitive individuals."

The MRC is co-ordinating a programme to monitor air quality in Sasolburg, Vereeniging, Vanderbijlpark and Sharpeville. It will soon add Edenvale and Kempton Park to the project which is sponsored by the Department of Health and companies like Eskom, AECI, Sasol, Iscor, EMSA, NCP and SAA.

Initial work carried out by the MRC points a finger at arguably the major source of sulphur and total suspended particulates (TSP) pollution in residential areas — coal smoke from the burgeoning black townships and squatter camps. This is no respecter of municipal boundaries and controlling it poses a serious problem to the practical enforcement of general ambient air standards.

Measuring the pollution to which a small sample of schoolchildren in the suburbs of Vereeniging and Sebokeng were exposed over a 12-hour period revealed 23% of the Vereeniging sample exceeded the limit of 260 mg/m<sup>3</sup> of TSP compared with 100% of the Sebokeng sample. Some of the Sebokeng children were exposed to four times the limit which is a US standard.

The reason is the coal stoves used in almost all black homes. There is an intense debate under way in which Eskom argues that, instead of it being forced to spend about

R6,5bn on cutting its sulphur emissions, the money should be used to electrify the townships.

The CSIR study suggests it won't be that simple. There are about 2m stoves in use, increasing at a rate of about 40 000 a year. Bought on HP over 24 months, each stove represents an investment of about R5 000. The CSIR reckons any stoves displaced will be sold to someone else — most likely the squatters flocking to cities and now burning coal in oil cans.

A better solution would be to follow the European example and develop a cheap, smokeless fuel for coal stoves to replace the low-grade coal being used now.

A gloomy situation painted by some experts is that, while heavy industry is spending between R200m-R300m a year on pollution control equipment, this is undermined by blacks spending about the same on new coal stoves.

Ruling legislation — the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act (45 of 1965) — aims at controlling pollution at source through a concept known as the Best Practicable Means which Capco says is the most appropriate option, "provided a few minor shortcomings be corrected."

An example of a major industry often cited for causing air pollution is Highveld Steel & Vanadium but the group maintains it is working to acceptable standards.

It spends R35m in operating costs — mainly electricity charges — annually on its air pollution equipment which has a replacement capital value of R260m. MD Trevor Jones says the installed plant works to acceptable cleaning standards and reduces stack particle emissions to 150 mg/m<sup>3</sup> "of air which still shows as a visible plume of smoke." Surprisingly, Jones says Hiveld does not measure directly what is still going out of its stacks but the condition of the cleaning plant is monitored daily.

The CSIR acknowledges the permit and Best Practical Means system has been effective in preventing major degradation but says it may fail to bring about major desired improvements in air pollution. The CSIR appears concerned that Capco may have too cosy a relationship with the industries it is supposed to be controlling.

The report says it appears there has never been a prosecution for air pollution. It adds that while air pollution is best controlled as close as possible to source, ambient air stan-

dards are required by which to judge success or failure.

The CSIR finds it unacceptable that the Best Practical Means standards are variable and entirely dependent on the subjective evaluation of Capco. Also, Capco is undermanned with eight inspectors to cover the whole country though about 2 000 permits for noxious and offensive gases have been issued.

Capco rejects the cosiness charge by saying the success of air pollution abatement cannot be judged by the number of prosecutions but by progress made through close liaison between the control authority and industry.

"Industrial emissions in areas like Witbank, Pretoria, the Vaal Triangle and Cape Town have progressively been reduced by a policy of realistic goals and the cost effective use of funds for abatement rather than expensive litigation," Capco says.

It adds that its system of issuing a notice to an offender, demanding compliance with pollution regulations or face closure, has been effective. Only two factories have had to be prosecuted. Capco concedes manpower is a problem but says all major industrial sources have stack monitors and the results are checked. Hiveld, for one, does not. Which others don't?

Capco maintains it carries out extensive ambient monitoring showing pollution levels are dropping and within acceptable standards. Tell that to anyone having seen, and smelt, what the Witbank, southern Johannesburg and other Highveld industrial areas are like on a winter's morning.

Penalties are laughable with the fine for a first air pollution offence set at a maximum R500. These should be jacked up to realistic levels. That will make smaller firms think twice about chancing their arm but, whether the fine is R5 000 or R50 000, these amounts are still no financial deterrent to the giant industrial undertakings.

Public pressure is a good way to get at them, by hitting their corporate profiles, and better still is peer pressure. That's why organisations like the Eastern Transvaal Highveld Air Pollution Liaison Committee are valuable — its members include the major polluting industries in the area.

Capco's views on co-operation versus confrontation are entirely understandable. Corporate executives often have a knee-jerk reaction to heavy outside criticism. A balanced, reasonable approach is usually far more successful but, if nothing happens because of corporate inertia or an unreasonable resistance to change, legal action and associated publicity should be applied without delay.

Capco should publicise the issuing of notices to offenders. The watchdog should be seen using its teeth.

Brendan Ryan



Pollution ... are the controls really effective

Growing public concern on environmental issues has attracted the attention of many organisations. Both the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress recently released discussion documents outlining their stance on the question. Thus far, however, little has been heard from the South African Communist Party as to its position on the environment. To gain a clearer understanding of the SACP's approach, **FARIEDA KHAN**, of the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science, spoke to Garth Strachan of the Western Cape region's working group.

5b 25/5/91

# CP: How we'll clean up our capitalist trash

**FK:** Does the SACP have an environmental policy?

**GS:** We don't have, at this point, a fully articulated environment policy.

**FK:** What are the reasons for this?

**GS:** We are emerging from 40 years of underground struggle in which the first priority was obviously the destruction of apartheid. Our priorities at this point are to rebuild our legal structures. But in so doing we obviously have to pay attention to the future democratic transformation of South Africa and its long-term socialist transformation.

**FK:** Are there any future plans to formulate an environmental policy?

**GS:** As from July, which will be our 70th anniversary, the Communist Party will be drafting a new programme for the present phase of struggle. This will obviously include an environment policy and lead up to the adoption of a strategic programme for the transformation of South Africa at our December conference.

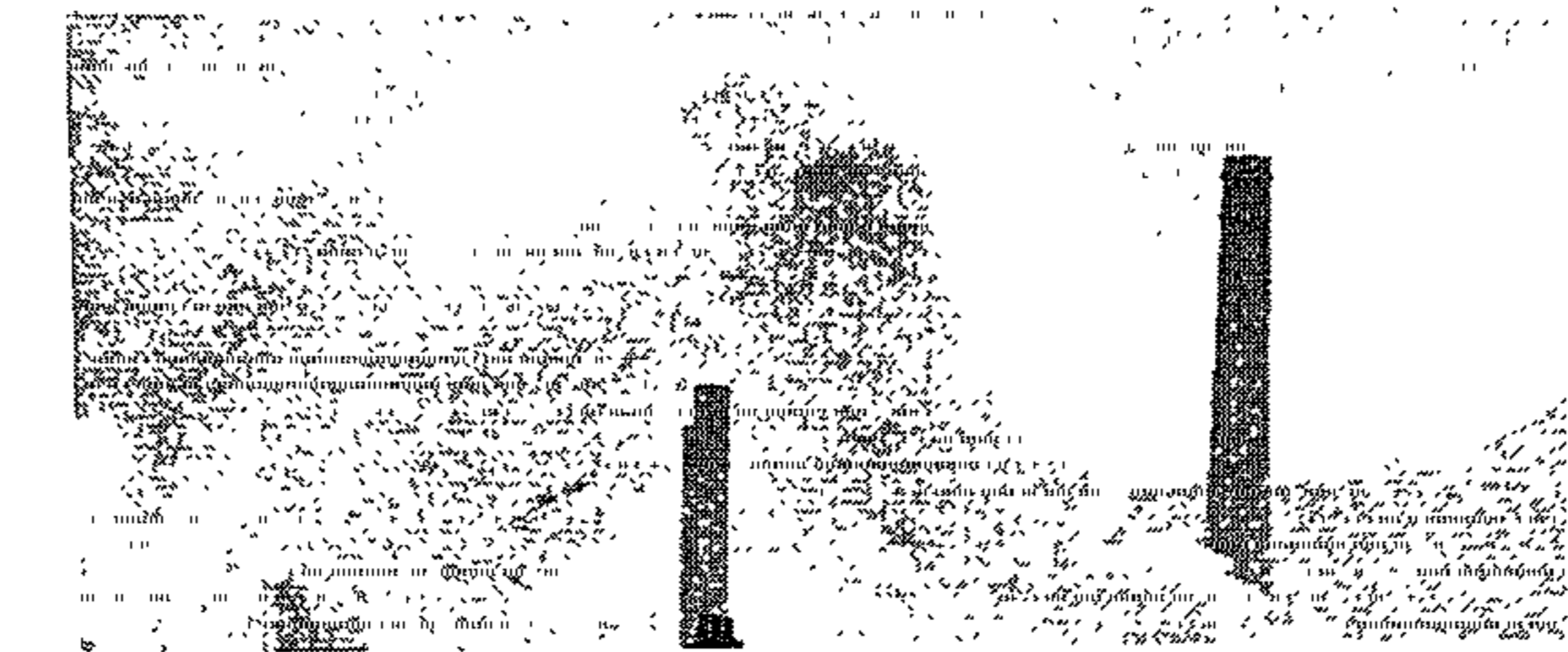
**FK:** Which environmental issues do you regard as especially relevant within the South African context?

**GS:** I can't pre-empt the environmental policy, which still has to be widely discussed prior to its adoption.

However, the guiding principles for the adoption of such a policy are:

Firstly, we clearly have to protect our environment for future generations.

Secondly, the racial and capitalist systems of government have done very little to protect our environment. The extent of environmental degradation here has, apparently, been one of the worst in the world. That environmental degradation has been for the benefit and material gain of the small white section of our population and to the cost of the overwhelming majority of South Africans who suffer from the most appalling environment and living con-



**CLOUDED OVER:** Capitalism to blame for massive environmental degradation worldwide.

ditions. The townships themselves are blights on the environment, not to mention the conditions that our working class must work under. Those are some of the principles and perspectives which would guide the adoption of SACP policy.

**FK:** You say that the greed underlying capitalism has led to massive environmental degradation in South Africa and elsewhere. Surely, in the light of the growing evidence of the massive extent of the environmental degradation which has taken place in Eastern European countries, this is a somewhat short-sighted view?

**GS:** It is clear that capitalism alone hasn't been responsible for the degradation of the world's natural environment. However, we need to blame capitalism. First and foremost, capitalism as a system is guilty of the rape of our natural environment — there are so many examples of that. But we also need to accept that ... the Soviet Union in particular has been guilty of serious, perhaps even criminal neglect of environmental questions in Eastern Europe. Those of us in South Africa who support socialism need to ex-

amine the very serious errors made in socialist countries regarding economic planning in order to be able not only to compete economically with capitalism, but to compete in a way which serves the interests of the working people — including through adequate protection of the natural environment.

Having said all that, we are still convinced that socialism and a socialist economic reconstruction of our society *does* have the possibilities for the protection of the environment and that the serious errors of the socialist countries were a distortion of the fundamental democratic character of socialism which led them to making the kind of mistakes they made.

**FK:** In undertaking post-apartheid economic reconstruction and in attempting to redress historical inequalities, don't you think that South Africa will face similar problems with regard to the effect that unrestrained industrialisation and development could have on the environment and natural resources?

**GS:** Clearly, in efforts to democratise and reconstruct our society, eco-

omic restructuring is going to be primary — an economic reconstruction which doesn't only serve the interests of a few but will begin to actually address the very serious imbalances which a century of capitalism and exploitation have brought to us. That's going to be a massive and long-term programme. We have obviously been left a legacy of a terribly lopsided and one-sided economy and in attempting to restructure, there will obviously be a temptation to answer the immediate material needs of the massively underprivileged and exploited section of our population. Clearly there will have to be a very careful balance. It should be realised that the restructuring and development of the economy which serves the short-term interests of the mass of our people through environmental degradation, leads to the long-term suffering of our people and therefore will be counter-productive.

**FK:** How do you see the future role of the SACP within the environmental arena? For example, is your organisation amenable to liaison with mainstream environmental organisations?

**GS:** The SACP would very much like to develop strong working relationships with all democratic organisations in civil society. One of the mistakes in Eastern Europe was that the Communist Party failed to recognise the necessity of establishing a role for itself in civil society. We would like to see a dynamic and active civil society which would not only *not* exclude a multiplicity of organisations, but would actively seek to encourage them.

We would like to see the development of a much stronger environmental lobby in South Africa, with independent positions and constituencies. We would hope we could develop a strong working relationship with such organisations.

# The moving mountain

56  
~~25/15/01~~  
25/15/01

**W**ARNINGS that devastating mudslides would follow the first winter rains to hit the fire-ravaged mountain slopes above Cape Town have proven all too accurate.

Before the rains came, UCF botanist Professor Eugene Moll had called for action because the mountain-side had been denuded of cover in the fire and little remained to bind the soil.

Co-ordinated action to preserve the Peninsula's distinctive landmark was demanded from all sides.

By the end of this week, several days of driving rain had sent muddy torrents coursing down the slopes into residential areas, blocking

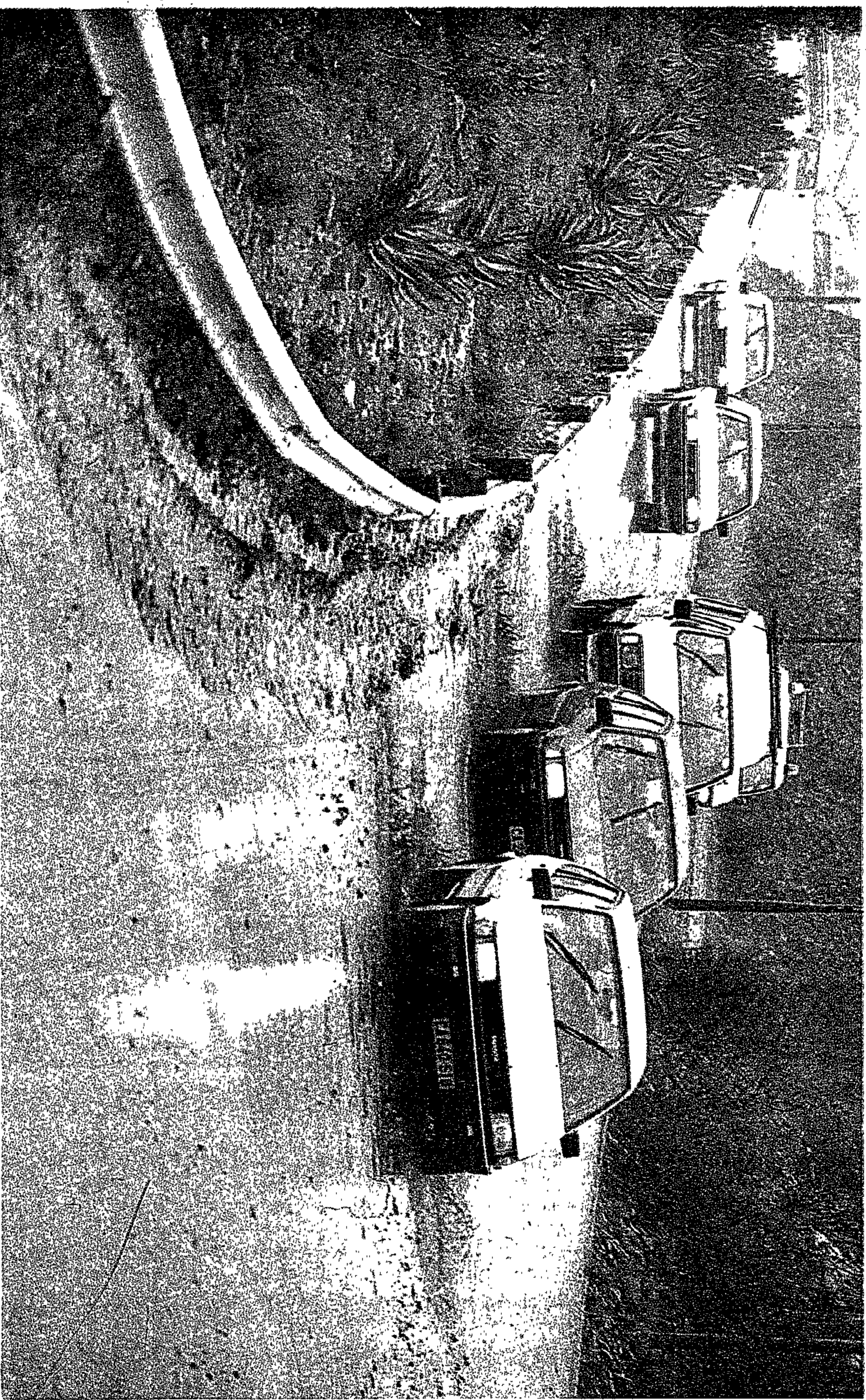
drains and swamping gardens.

Council workmen were hard at work clearing blockages, shoring up slopes and hoping it wouldn't get any worse.

On the other side of the mountain, Hout Bay was also taking a battering as thick sludge washed off the slopes into the gardens of Disa Road residents.

By yesterday rains had pushed up dam levels — for some weeks a cause of great concern as the Indian summer turned into a dry winter. Rivers were flowing strongly once again.

But the weather prophets have forecast more rain ... and those on the mountain slopes hold their collective breath.



□ **SHORING UP:** Council workmen tote sandbags up the sloping areas of upper Cape Town to help keep the muddy torrent at bay. Topsoil, newly sprouted grass and rocks were washed through the Vredehoek and Devil's Peak areas as the first rains of winter redoubled their fury. The floods gushed through gardens, carrying away lawns and plants and choked up drains and whole streets. The spectacle was being repeated on the other side of the mountain, with Hout Bay also under siege.

□ **WET RIDE:** Cars tiptoe along a muddy De Waal Drive. The flood poured across both carriageways at several points along the road, and traffic was reduced to a crawl. According to Cape Town's city engineer Mr Arthur Clayton no reports of problems on the city's roads had come in. But further out, on the N1, the situation was even worse. Visibility was down to virtually nil at one point and cars had to pull over until the worst of the storm had passed, one motorist said.



# Sasol ash-heap falls, <sup>Stev 2575791</sup> 'contaminates' water <sup>(56)</sup>

THE collapse of part of an ash heap at Sasol's huge Secunda petro-chemical plant in the Eastern Transvaal Highveld has caused a slug of agriculturally hazardous water to enter the Vaal system.

And it has triggered a toe-to-toe fight between Sasol and farmer Paul Reynolds on the Water-val River which feeds the Vaal.

Mr Reynolds is 40 km downstream from the ash heap. Pollution struck just as he was about to plant wheat and was preparing land for potatoes.

Sasol technicians told him to go ahead and irrigate "and see what happens".

"I refused," he said last night. "It would ruin my soil. It would be the equivalent of dumping around 12 tons of salt on each hectare." Experts at Potchestroom and Pretoria universities agreed.

Sasol told the farmer it would release a slug of fresh water to flush the river but it would take

**JAMES CLARKE**

until June 14 to reach him.

Mr Reynolds said "I cannot alter my schedule because that will affect the harvesting time which is critical. I stand to lose R200 000 — and that would break me."

A Sasol spokesman told the Star "there is no chance that the brackish water presents any danger to crops". He said the alkaline water "accidentally seeped through an ash heap".

He said a full investigation revealed no threat to crops or soil. In a written statement he said Mr Reynolds had been using the water when Sasol visited him yesterday.

Mr Reynolds said: "I was forced to use it on my rye grass which is already growing. It's my winter fodder and I simply have to risk irrigating it."

Sasol said farmers downstream need not worry about the pollution.

# Interdict sought on sewage plans

ET 27/5/91

Municipal Reporter (Sb)

ATTORNEYS for the environmental group Earthlife Africa were instructed to seek an interdict against the Regional Services Council to stop raw sewage from being pumped into the sea at Hout Bay.

Funding for the action has come from Pick 'n Pay, Checkers, the Wildlife Society and the Hout Bay Ratepayers' Association, attorneys said yesterday.

No court date had yet been set for the interdict.

Recently the RSC, which is building a R7m pipeline 1,8km out to sea from Badtamboer beneath the Sentinel, rejected a request by attorneys acting for Earthlife Africa and the Hout Bay Ratepayers' Association to submit the sewage dispute to a mediator.

The RSC says a pipeline is the most viable solution to the problem of sewage disposal.

Earthlife Africa claimed government and quasi-government institutions "which should be protecting the environment" were "often the prime culprits" in not doing so.

It said South African environmental law was deficient as individuals could not take legal action against polluters, and they seldom had enough money to bring applications in the Supreme Court.

concerned, the costs were borne by the relevant pension funds with no cost to the State.

**Swaniesville attack: SAP parity**

\*4. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) Whether he or the South African Police have been informed of the allegations that the Police aided hostel dwellers in a recent attack on squatters in Swaniesville; if not, why not; if so,
- (2) whether an investigation is being conducted into these allegations; if not, why not, if so, what progress has been made;
- (3) whether any persons have been (a) arrested and (b) charged in connection with this incident; if not, why not; if so, how many in each case;
- (4) whether, on the day of the above attack, a large number of hostel dwellers moved through Swaniesville without being stopped; if so, why were they not stopped?

B1028E

†THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) to (4)

This matter is being investigated thoroughly and as a matter of urgency.

The investigation is twofold in nature and is concentrated on the following aspects:

- (1) the accusations of alleged aid by the South African Police to hostel dwellers during an attack on squatters in Swaniesville on 12 May 1991; and
- (2) the attack by a group of persons on residents in the Swaniesville squatter camp during which numerous persons were killed and injured and property damaged.

Hon members will have understanding for the fact that the investigation is a process which takes time. Almost 350 statements have already been taken. The investigation is nevertheless already in an advanced state and is expected to be finalised shortly.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

when is it expected to be delivered; if so, when was it delivered;

- (2) whether the automatic exchange is ready for service; if not, (a) why not and (b) when is it expected to be ready for service; if so, when will or did it come into operation?

B1029E

†THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC CO-ORDINATION AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

- (1) Yes, during October 1989.

(a) and (b) Fall away;

- (2) Yes: The Hoedspruit town area was automated on 27 September 1990. The automation of the farm lines will commence during April 1992 and will be done progressively. The project is expected to be completed during the first half of 1993.
- (a) and (b) Fall away.

†The DEPUTY MINISTER for Environmental Management:

meetings

\*6. Mr J CHIOLE asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:†

- (1) (a) What was the object in establishing the Committee for Environmental Management and (b) how many meetings did this committee hold from 1 April 1990 to 30 April 1991;
- (2) whether, in the light of the object for which the committee was established, the above-mentioned number of meetings is sufficient; if not, what steps are contemplated in this regard;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B1045E

†THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) (a) The Committee for Environmental Management was established under Section 12 of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No 73 of 1989) to advise the Director-General on any matter affecting activities which may influence the protection and utilisation of the environment and to co-ordinate and promote the

implementation of the provisions of the act

- (b) One meeting was held by the Committee during the period 1 April 1990 to 30 April 1991.

- (2) Yes. In light of the fact that most of the deliberations and co-ordination took place at subcommittee level, as is provided for in section 14(4) of the Act, it was not considered necessary to hold more meetings of the main committee

(3) No.

†Mr J CHIOLE: Mr Chairman, arising from the hon the Minister's reply—from which I must deduce that this committee is the watchdog of the environment—I want to ask for when the next meeting of the committee has been arranged, when the last meeting was held and how many meetings the subcommittees have held. [Interjections.]

†THE MINISTER: Mr Chairman, a date for the next meeting has not yet been fixed as far as I am aware, but I shall advise the hon member as soon as I know.

\*7. Mr P G Soal—Law and Order. [Question standing over.]

†Education renewal strategy: report

\*8. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of National Education:

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 16 on 23 April 1991, the report of the integrating committee in regard to the education renewal strategy will be made available as a public document; if not, why not; if so, when will it be made available;
- (2) whether this report will have the status of a White Paper; if not, what status will it have;
- (3) whether he will issue comment on behalf of the Government at the time of the finalisation of the report; if not, why not?

B1055E

†THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION:

- (1) Yes: The report will be released on 4 June 1991.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

# Cleaning-up rivers — expert called in

By **ESANN van RENSBURG** (51)  
Environment Reporter

CONCERN about water quality in Cape rivers has prompted the Department of Water Affairs to ask for advice on whether to set new standards.

After several complaints about dirty rivers, strong smells from water near trout farms and drastically reduced fresh water fish catches this summer, the department has consulted Dr Jackie King of the University of Cape Town Freshwater Research Institute about the problem.

Rivers most affected by sewage, pollution, bulldozing and faeces-rich

effluent from trout farms are the Elandspad and Smalblaar rivers in Dutoitskloof, the Witte River in Bain's Kloof, the Holsloot River in Steteynskloof in the Boland, and the Berg, Eerste and Louwrens rivers running through Franschoek, Stellenbosch and Somerset West, according to Mr Mark Anderson of the Cape Piscatorial Society.

He said a code of ethics was needed for trout farmers.

"We need stricter water quality enforcement by the department, a moratorium on bulldozing and a ban on water extraction from mid-January to the end of March."

It might be time to re-evaluate river water quality standards which applied to rivers in ecologically sensitive areas, said a spokesman for the Minister of Water Affairs.

"The standards were set years ago and might be inadequate."

Dr King estimated that a proper study could take up to four years, but the department insisted it needed a preliminary result sooner.

Regional director of Water Affairs Mr James Butler said he wanted to be able to make certain deductions by August or September in order to make changes before next summer.

It would be a costly process and the operating economics of the trout farmers had to be taken into account, he said.

"We cannot simply stop all trout farming. It would result in massive costs to the department."

His department had planned to ask the government for money to fund the consultation.

Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Mr Gert Kotzé said he looked forward to the completion of the study and, if necessary, to fast action to ensure safe water quality standards in Cape rivers.



# Shearing a polar bear causes it to die

(56)  
Star 29/5/91

South Africa has changed World Environment Day to National Environment Week, reports JAMES CLARKE.

**S**OUTH AFRICA may be setting a new world trend for the United Nation's World Environment Day next Wednesday.

The Department of Environment Affairs says a day is not enough and, with Cabinet approval, has declared National Environment Week.

The week begins on Monday and its theme centres on our most serious environmental problem — soil erosion.

In a statement the department, which, ironically, has no powers at all to control soil erosion (just as it has no powers over most environmental matters including air or water pollution) warns that South Africa's annual soil loss is 300 million tons a year.

Using the title "Soil is life" for its environment week campaign, the department has, once again, put out a colourful theme poster — a custom it began several years ago.

It has also prepared free information kits on soil erosion — with the co-operation of the departments of Agriculture, Water Affairs and Forestry.



Moving sand . . . Karoo desert has spread 70 km in 20 years.

Ignorance and greed are among the main reasons for veld degradation, the department says, listing some shock facts:

- The Karoo has spread 70 km in the last 20 years.
- Bush encroachment has made 3 million ha of bushveld "useless for farming".
- Some 60 percent of grazing is in poor condition, 30 percent in reasonable condition and

only 10 percent in good condition.

The UN believes as much as 500 kg of soil per head is lost annually in the world. South Africa's figure of 300 million tons indicates a loss per capita of nearly double the world average.

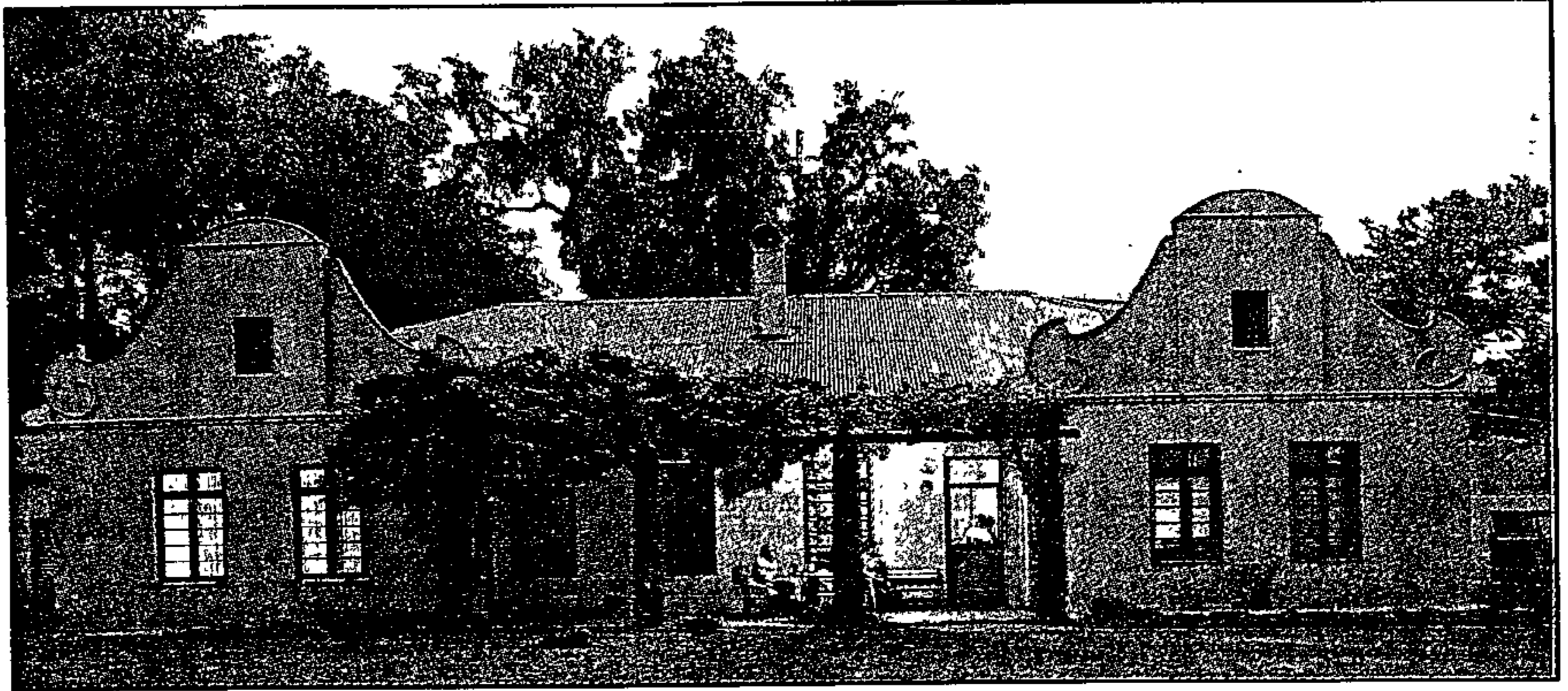
Among solutions to erosion is the suggestion that urban areas cease to canalise their streams, as this increases the velocity downstream, which then creates washaways.

The campaign advocates the planting of tree screens which, apart from producing fodder, fruit and timber, will limit wind erosion.

The department says a survey by the SA Institute of Agricultural Extension indicates that six out of 10 cattle farmers over-estimate the grazing capacity of their farms. One in four farmers over-estimate by as much as 50 percent, and 40 percent of sheep farmers do the same.

For the sake of schoolchildren, the department is promoting the idea of protecting the country's plantlife by using the analogy that "if you sheared a polar bear it would die".

It says that without veld cover, the soil is "beaten to pieces by raindrops", which descend at 50 km/h to break up the soil and allow it to be carried to the sea by streams and rivers. □



Panel power . . . most of this Karoo farmhouse's electricity needs are supplied by solar panels and batteries.

## The sun has enough power for Africa

Star 29/5/91

Twenty million South Africans do not have electricity — but can we afford to give everybody electricity?

The question was raised at a conference last week when the feasibility of Eskom's commitment to bring electricity to every house in the land was discussed.

Rural areas are the problem. It costs R20 000 a kilometre to string up an Eskom power line.

But Dudley Filippa of Johannesburg asks: "Who needs pylons?"

He offers as proof the above picture of a well-lit Karoo farmhouse many kilometres from a powerline.

Mr Filippa, of BP Solar, says that for R40 000 one can install a system, which uses solar panels and storage batteries, to run everything in the house except the kitchen stove and hot water system.

"It can run a colour television set, all the lights, the dishwasher, washing machine, refrigerator, power drill, welding machine . . .

"Maintenance is negligible. The batteries last five years and the photovoltaic panels 20 years."

On a much smaller scale a single R1 000 panel, the size of a desktop, runs six lights (15 W fluorescent tubes) all evening, or three lights and

a black and white TV set.

The R1 000 battery will last five years. That's the main running cost. It works out at R16 a month — a third of what farmers normally spend with diesel generation.

Mr Filippa says solar power is more reliable than wind power because the sun shines most of the day and provides energy even in overcast conditions.

JAMES CLARKE

# River of sludge <sup>(5b)</sup> hits ARGUS 3/5/91 Vredehoek

by SHARKEY ISAACS  
Staff Reporter

ROADS in Vredehoek were turned into rivers of sludge after heavy rain caused a topsoil washaway down the slopes of Devil's Peak.

It was the second mountain soil washaway in a week.

Water spewing from a blocked stormwater gully at the top of Derry Street yesterday carried thick mud, stones, logs and branches into streets amid growing fears of a major landslide from the fire-denuded slopes of Devil's Peak.

A river of debris gushed towards the Aloe Street home of Mr Ivor Hayward, manager of the Greenmarket Square flea-market, about 1.45pm yesterday.

"The whole street was a river of sludge, water and debris, including big rocks. Part of it came towards my house as it hit the corner kerb.

"I quickly repacked paving stones to block its path and managed to divert some of it but muddy streams still filtered through into my yard. A municipal worker also came to my aid and he helped further by digging a trench.

"It was really incredible. There was nothing happening when I returned home about 1pm after packing up at the market and 45 minutes later there was this flood."

Mrs Barbara Maguire, also of Aloe Street, found her swimming pool awash with mud for the second time in a week.

She said: "The city council workers have been marvellous. The trouble is they should never have allowed people to build so close to the mountain because it spoils the natural flow of water."

Large stones were also strewn across the intersection of Derry Street and Bella Donna Avenue.

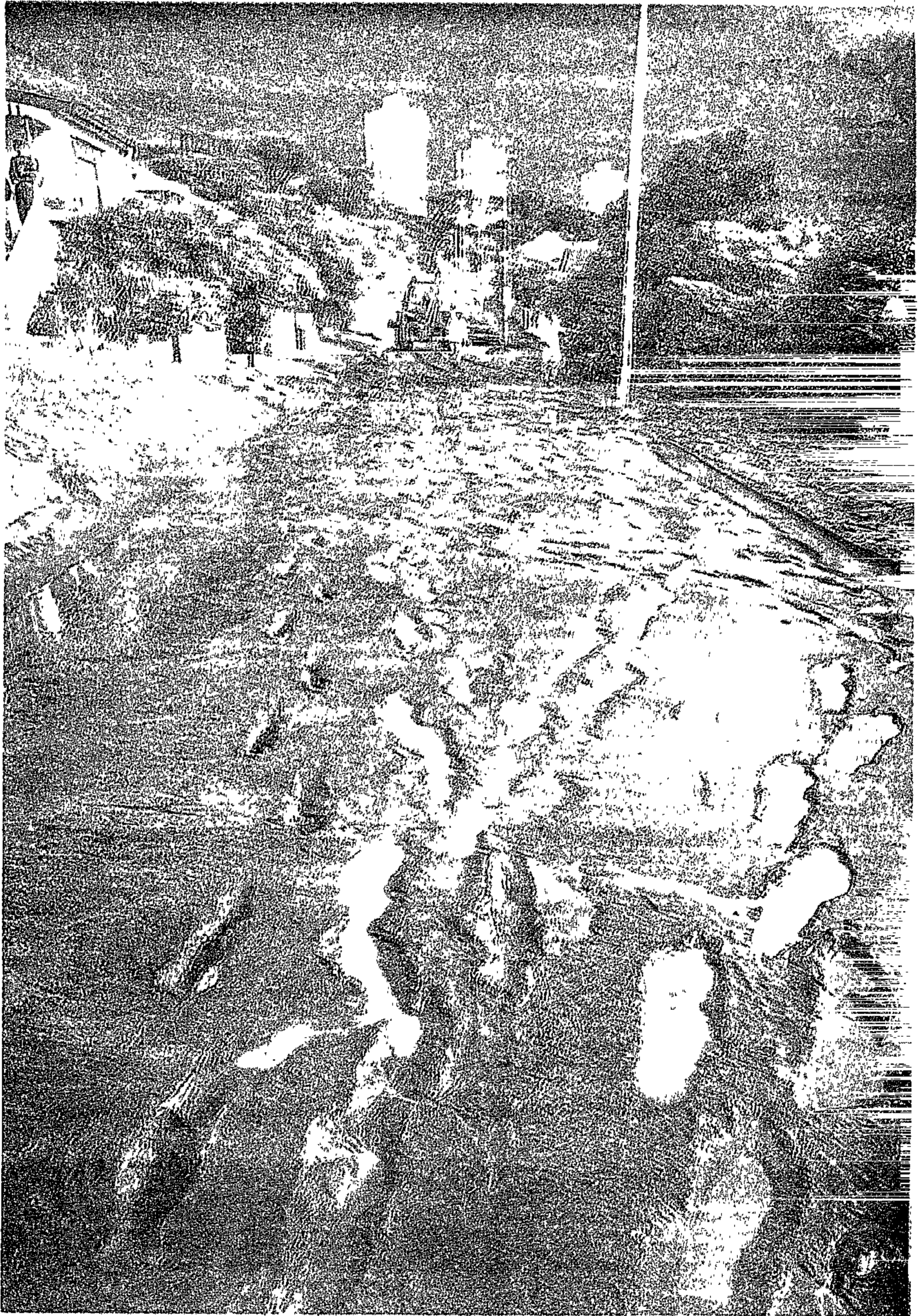
Parts of Derry Street, Bella Donna Avenue and Aloe Street were closed to traffic while teams of municipal workers cleaned up the roads and removed a jammed log from the blocked gully. Others diverted floodwaters with sandbags.

City council spokesman Mr Ted Doman said topsoil, washing down the mountain despite efforts to stabilise the slopes after February's fire, had carried the log into the gully and blocked it.

He said: "It was all over in 15 minutes."

● Last week another log carried by a more severe washaway jammed a gully stormwater pipe off Aloe Street, sending a continuous jet of mud and rubble into the area.

● More mud — page 2.



Picture: DOUG PITHEY, The Argus.

**TOE-SQUELCHING MUD:** City council workers leave their mark in the silt that clogged Derry Street in Vredehoek yesterday after heavy rain washed topsoil off the slopes of Devil's Peak.



Pictures: DOUG PITHEY, The Argus

**SILTSLIDE:** Water laden with silt is diverted by sacks filled with sand, as workmen struggle to clear a blockage caused by a jammed log in Derry Street, Vredehoek.

ARGUS  
56 31/5/91

## Plan to curb Devil's Peak washaways

By CLIVE SAWYER  
Municipal Reporter

QUICK-GROWING annuals whose seeds were sown on Devil's Peak after the first rains may save the slopes from further washaways of silt, says city engineer Mr Arthur Clayton.

Contacted by The Argus as more soil choked Vredehoek streets in yesterday's down-pour, Mr Clayton said it had been expected that stormwater would carry heavy loads of silt into the area in the wake of the February fire.

However, it was incorrect to call the washaways "muds-

lides", he said.

"If a thick layer of soil is saturated, then you would get mudslides, and while there is a possibility of this later in the year, it has not happened yet," Mr Clayton said.

Anti-erosion measures had stood up well to the battering of the first winter rains.

Despite last week's rain which brought silt into Bella donna, Derry, and Barnham roads in Vredehoek, moisture had not soaked deep into the soil.

The mixture of renostervel and annuals seeds which had been planted would also pay off, Mr Clayton said.

# Old allies now foes in St Lucia mine row

STL was 2/6/91

56

By TERRY VAN DER WALT  
TWO leading conservationists, who are former colleagues, this week clashed over mining at St Lucia on the Natal north coast.

A former director of the Wilderness Leadership School, Barry Clements, who now works for Richards Bay Minerals (RBM), is pitted against the school's vice-chairman, Dr Ian Player, who is playing a key role in the campaign to stop the proposed mining venture.



IAN PLAYER

Mr Clements, a professional conservationist for 13 years, was appointed manager for RBM to clear up "misconceptions" about the company's controversial R400-million plans to strip-mine the dunes at St Lucia. A ruling will be made by the government early next year.

RBM claims the misconceptions arose after conservationists and the anti-mining lobby misinformed the public of its plans.

RBM had only claimed that the unspoilt area was not ecologically important after minerals were discovered there.

Mr Clements contends that almost 60 percent of the area RBM plans to mine is covered by commercial pine forests which have helped accelerate the drying up of wetlands to just a few pockets.

But Dr Player countered: "It is true that there are pine forests there, but if they were removed, the area would return to normal very quickly.

"Anything that could affect the hydrology of the area would be fatal to the lake. South Africa is desperately short of conservation areas and this generation has its last chance of setting aside a decent chunk of country."

His views were echoed by Dr George Hughes, director of the Natal Parks Board, which is expected to finalise the consolidation of the greater St Lucia Wetland Park in the next few months.

"The board's policy is simple," he said. "We don't like strip-mining wherever it takes place and would not like to see the mining of the eastern shores of St Lucia."

RBM expects to generate about R6-billion in revenue over 17 years at the state-owned area at St Lucia, which it hopes to start mining in 1996.

An environmental impact assessment has been carried out and a draft report should be released soon to interested and affected parties — including RBM, lobby



BARRY CLEMENTS

barrage of criticism. "RBM is completely to blame for the lack of response and the flack they got, but the anti-mining body embarked on a total misinformation campaign. "The end result is that a large proportion of those who signed the anti-mining petition believe that, if they stopped the mining at St Lucia, the lake would be saved," Mr Clements said. "This is not the case at all, he contends.

Mr Clements said the lake was largely dependent on what happened in its catchment area — such as pressure from population growth, poor farming methods and the damming of the Mkuzi and Hluhluwe rivers.

Lake St Lucia and its catchment area of 9 000 square kilometres has been

severely degraded by human interference, he said. RBM chief ecologist Paul Camp has said that conservationists and self-appointed experts have criticised the rehabilitation programme without understanding the natural cycles that drive vegetation has to complete before reaching the mature forest stage.

And RBM chief public relations officer Piet Maré says the term "mining of the eastern shores of St Lucia" has also created the impression that mining operations will be carried out right on the water's edge.

"The area to be mined, should we get the go-ahead, is a 17-kilometre long, saw-sage-shaped ridge running parallel between the lake and the sea.

"It starts 10km north of St Lucia Village and ends 3,5km south of Cape Vidal," he said. "It covers 1 200ha although the prospecting lease area covers 3 460ha."

# Fight to save St Lucia from mining hots up

56

By James Clarke

3/6/91

There is a high probability that the fight to save St Lucia from being mined for titanium will become an international issue.

Last week the president of the International Wilderness Leadership Foundation, Vance Martin, was among a group which saw the Minister of Environment Affairs in Cape Town and asked him to intervene — now.

The site is deemed to be a wetland of international importance.

The mining company — Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) — is spending millions of rands on a public relations campaign to obtain permission to mine St Lucia's high dunes using open-cast methods over a period of 20 to 30 years.

Meanwhile it has warned that if it loses the right to mine, the public may end up being liable to pay it millions of rands in compensation.

The state of play at present is that an environmental impact assessment is being prepared.

Conservation groups have asked the new Environment Minister, Louis Pienaar, to use his powers to end the battle now.

They have formed a coalition and, backed by Vance Martin and Dr Ian Player, they asked the Minister at the weekend to use his powers to stop RBM.

Lawyers have advised them that the Minister can "make certain declarations under existing legislation which would determine not only the mining issue but would be a major step towards putting into practice stated Government policy for the region".

The delegation which saw the Minister comprised Dr Player, Gary May and Andrew Muir of the Wilderness Leadership School; Mr Martin; Oliff d'Oliviera of the Zululand Environmental Alliance; and Jeremy Ridl of the Wildlife Society.

Mr d'Oliviera said the meeting marked the beginning of a

new combined push by various non-Government organisations.

"It is our belief that the Minister can take these steps without cost to the Government either in the form of compensation for expropriation of land or as a result of the loss of rights by the mining company.

"The Minister was receptive and indicated a desire to remain impartial until he had the opportunity to consider all the facts properly."

Meanwhile Endangered Wildlife Trust director Dr John Ledger, who shook his supporters earlier this year when he told The Star he favoured mining — he said St Lucia was "doomed" unless funds were forthcoming — now says he opposes mining.

He claimed in a Natal newspaper that his views had been "misrepresented".

The Star's report on his promoting statements was faxed in full to Dr Ledger, inviting him to "add or subtract anything you like". The final version was published with his full co-operation and approval.

By STEFAANS BRUMMER  
Staff Reporter

PRESSURE increased today for the owners of the damaged bulk carrier Kashee to transfer its cargo of iron ore as public fears mounted about the threat it could pose to False Bay.

The giant vessel anchored in the bay more than a week ago after its bow had been badly damaged in a storm off Cape Point. There is a 5x15-metre hole under the waterline and the Kashee is down by the bows.

Department of Transport officials say the vessel is safe in the relative calm of False Bay, but they believe she could break up in the open sea.

However, they are upset that the owners have taken no action to resolve the problem. Today they were putting pressure on them to transfer the cargo to another vessel.

### Catch-22

A representative of Four Winds Shipping of Cyprus, the owners of the vessel, arrived in the city at the weekend to try to resolve the Catch-22 situation.

Repairs at sea will be difficult and expensive and could involve the time-consuming transfer of the iron ore. But leaving the relative safety of the bay to reach a harbour for offloading and repairs could be riskier.

"If the Kashee steams out to sea there is a good chance she will break up and sink," said Captain Bill Dernier, an officer in the Directorate of Shipping (Department of Transport).

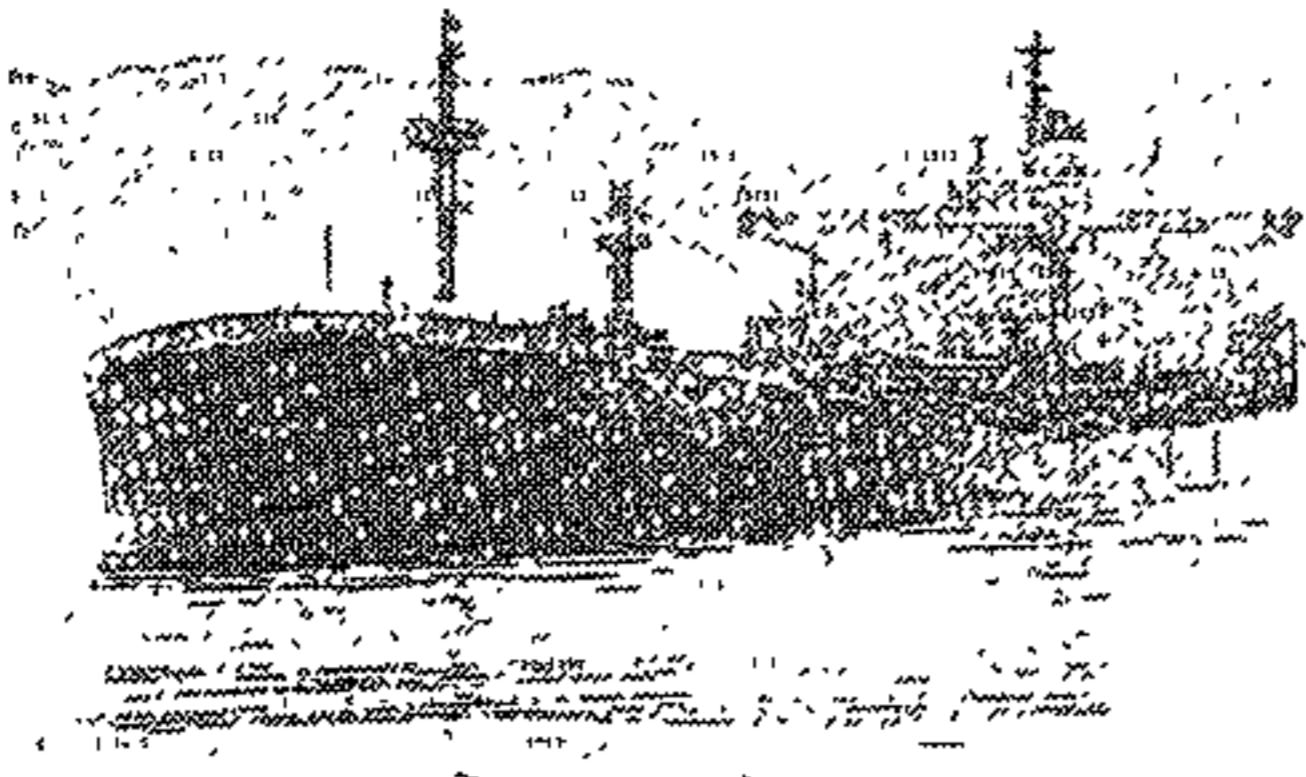
Departmental spokesman Mr Don Boyd said an ultimatum was being prepared. "Today sometime we're going to confront them," he said.

### Legal advice

Assistant Director of Shipping Mr Cecil Coetzee said legal advice could be sought.

He said the vessel was not in danger of sinking but his department wanted to force the issue because the owners were taking their time and "treading water".

The department wanted the process speeded up because "one does not want a big ship like that lying there indefinitely".



THE bulk ore carrier Kashee lies low in the water in False Bay.

Captain Dernier said an "ultimatum is too harsh a word" but the department wanted the ship out of False Bay and "pressure" was being applied to get the owners to transfer the cargo so repairs could be done.

The Kashee's bow has dipped since her arrival in the bay, sparking public fears that she might founder. But a spokesman for salvors Pentow Marine said her pumps were working around the clock to get rid of water.

### Moved closer

She had not "settled any more" since Thursday, he said.

On Saturday the Kashee was moved closer to shore, about three kilometres east of Fish Hoek, so that she could be afforded "the full protection of the bay".

Captain Dernier said this was for the safety of divers and to stop plates from flexing and tearing further.

# False Bay jitters

## Transport Department demands action over ore carrier

## Boycotts aid conservation aims

Star 5/6/91  
Boycotts are becoming powerful weapons in the hands of conservation groups.

When Botswana recently decided to dredge the Okavango Delta — partly for a new diamond mine — a threat to call a world boycott of diamonds killed the plan.

A worldwide boycott of ivory by Western nations has brought prices tumbling — and now tourist boycotts of Mauritius and Thailand are being considered.

South Africa's Dolphin Action and Protection Group (DAPG) — a pressure group based in Cape Town which looks

at the whole marine environment — has warned that a tourist boycott of Mauritius might be called unless Mauritius stops aiding Taiwanese trawlers which carry driftnets.

The DAPG has published the activities of the Taiwanese trawlers at Port Louis, Mauritius, saying tunny, caught in driftnets — also known as "walls of death" — are being offloaded.

In helping the driftnet fishermen, Mauritius is negating South Africa's recent ban on boats carrying driftnets from entering its waters.

Nan Rice of the DAPG

(56)  
says the nets are banned over most of the world and their use is stripping the seas around the South Atlantic and Indian Ocean.

Meanwhile the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in Switzerland is calling on tourists not to visit Thailand following evidence the country has become the main laundering point for illegal wildlife products and is thus aiding the extinction of elephants and rhino in Africa.

"Thailand is the wildlife supermarket of the world," says the WWF.

JAMES CLARKE



# Garner Thomson looks at the role of the environment in Africa's conflicts

## Greenwar's vicious downward spiral

Sp 6/1/91

56

**T**HE dramatic role of the environment on Africa's crippling factional disagreements and full-scale wars is the focus of a new and ground-breaking report by the international information and policy studies group, the Panos Institute in London.

Written by 11 Sahelian writers, it sounds a note of warning in a bid to "move beyond theoretical concepts and to present the perspectives and experiences of people for whom accelerating environmental decline and increasing conflict have become a reality."

The issue of what Panos has dubbed "Greenwar" has been surprisingly neglected, says the institute's president, Jon Tinker.

"The Greenwar cycle is a vicious downward spiral, in which

environmental degradation leads to communal tensions, which lead to local disputes, which lead to violence, which leads to civil wars and inter-state wars — which, in turn, cause yet more environmental degradation and yet more famine."

The report blames the Greenwar factor for much of the starvation facing at least 15 million Africans in Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Mozambique, Angola and elsewhere on the continent.

"There is a direct causal link between deforestation and soil erosion and years of miserable civil war," says Mr Tinker. "Cut down trees today and you may have tanks there tomorrow. Deforestation and desertification are a direct cause of warfare right across the Sahel. Like Emperor

Haile Selassie, Colonel Mengistu was driven out of Addis Ababa by the devastated Ethiopian environment."

But Panos warns that the Greenwar factor is showing itself in a number of countries other than those of the Sahel. "The environment is a major contributing cause of current wars, civil wars or threats of wars in Palestine, the Punjab, Sri Lanka, Peru and elsewhere."

The writers of the report stress that they are not suggesting that all wars are caused by environmental devastation, or that such degradation always leads to war. But the environment is "an important and growing strand in the complex web of causality which ends in war", they say.

For all the devastation that has

already killed, injured and displaced millions of people, Panos believes there is still time to act.

Says Mr Tinker: "The lesson of Greenwar is that a peaceful world is impossible if we continue to devastate our environment."

"One way of avoiding wars, perhaps the best prospect for international peace-making in the post-Cold War era, is to tackle severe environmental stress, especially in regions where there are already deep-seated religious, ethnic or political tensions.

"Ecology has become an essential subject, not just for ministries of the environment, but for foreign ministries and defence ministries as well. When we start by making war on our environment, we end up by making war on one another." — The Star Bureau. □

# Overseas trading partners may demand better 'green' standards from SA exporters

ARGUS 8/6/91

BLAISE HOPKINSON, Business Staff

(56)

SOUTH Africa could lead the African continent in the "green" revolution and become a leading world player on the environmental stage, says a visiting British academic.

Mr Peter James, a guest-lecturer at the University of Cape Town's Graduate School of Business, said this week even if South African industry didn't choose to pursue high environmental standards for itself, its trading partners might require them.

"Many South African exporters will find that their manufacturing facilities will be subject to an environmental audit by their overseas customers," he said.

Regarding the debate of whether transitional South Africa could afford international environmental standards Mr James said it was a question of whether the country could afford not to have them.

With the environment a key issue in international diplomacy the return of South Africa to these circles meant it could have a strong voice and become the spokesman for the continent.

Concern as to the management of the environment by many African

countries had become a major issue among world powers and the need to develop a trade-off between economic growth and environmental protection was crucial.

Mr James warned that South Africa would have to comply with international standards and would also have to adapt to the "internationalisation" of environmental issues.

"South Africa is quite far behind many of its trading partners as far as environmental issues are concerned but this, in itself creates opportunities," he said.

While many very established industrial nations were locked into "bolt-on" solutions to, for example, pollution, South Africa could "leap frog" this and bring in new, environmentally acceptable technology from the start.

Other opportunities existed for South African manufacturers to find environmental solutions which would be applicable elsewhere in the world, particularly in the mining field.

Mr James, a senior lecturer at the University of Stirling, is in Cape Town to teach at the GSB's Retail Distribution Programme.

# Directory for green fingers

GREEN groups who want to communicate their activities and network with other groups locally and internationally can do so through the next update of The Green Pages, a comprehensive directory of organisations, groups, publications and projects involved in environmental issues.

All those involved in "green" issues are invited to list their activities, services or projects for free in The Green Pages.

Directory project director Bev Geach says: "This year's Green Pages will be a major networking resource comprising 200 pages of information.

"Our data-base already contains comprehensive information on over 1 000 groups, organisations and projects, as well as a wealth of information on services and resources. The directory will take a holistic, integrated approach to the environment, and will include a wide variety of categories, with special emphasis on education, sustainable development and grass-roots projects," she adds.

The Green Pages will publicise the energies

(56) being channeled into environmental issues on the Southern African sub-continent, says Ms Geach, and offers an opportunity for all those involved in green issues to communicate their activities and network with others not only locally but internationally as well.

The Green Pages directory will include a comprehensive listing of major international environmental groups.

Listing categories in the directory will include: alternative energy, animals and anti-violence, botanical and horticultural, conservation and wildlife, environmental development and rural advancement, economic/social, educational, farming, fishing and forestry.

Also included are government/parastatal organisations, medical, outdoor, publications and electronic media services, new age, political, private sector initiatives, science and research and women's groups.

For more information, telephone (011) 331 1712.

Argus Correspondent

19/9/91  
ARGUS 11/6/91

# Smog in city too high <sup>CT 11/6/91</sup> <sub>(56)</sub> again

Municipal Reporter

POLLUTION indicators monitored daily by the Cape Times yesterday exceeded national guidelines for the fourth time in four weeks.

The highest hourly nitrogen oxides (NOx) reading, at 9am yesterday, was 2316 — well over the 1504 guideline.

Also at 9am, the nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) reading was 377, just one microgram per cubic metre above the guideline level of 376.

Dr Michael Popkiss, Cape Town's Medical Officer of Health, said air pollution had been evident on 15 days between April and June last year, with photo-chemical smog probably occurring on nine of those days.

"We will have to start looking at ways of stopping the pollutants from getting into the air, as one can't always rely on the weather to disperse it," he said.

He hoped a commission of inquiry would be held into what should be done.

"Without anticipating its findings, I think we may need legislation that catalytic converters should be attached to vehicle exhausts."

Dr Popkiss said that within the next year the council would acquire equipment to measure different pollutants to indicate the health risks associated with air pollution.

## Transvaal ranks among world's dirtiest regions

B10<sup>an</sup> 11/6/91. DARIUS SANAI (56)

EVERY city has its pollution problems, to the extent that motorists in Tokyo and Mexico City can buy air from vending machines and cyclists in many capitals wear filtering masks.

The municipality of Los Angeles, prompted by its photochemical smog, leads the world in pioneering car exhaust regulations.

But the Transvaal should not be one of the world's most polluted areas: the concentration of industry to surface area is lower than in many other industrial regions.

Rhineland-Westphalia in Germany, the West Midlands in Britain, the Lorraine in France and areas in Ohio and Pennsylvania in the US all have higher concentration of heavy industry than the PWV area.

The relative lack of cars and the good "drainage" of pollution on the Highveld provide further evidence that the region is more polluted than it should be.

One expert points out that the entire car population in SA is less than in the metropolitan area of Los Angeles. Many major polluted areas, including Sheffield, Nancy, Milan, Cologne-Essen, Los Angeles and London, are in smog-inducing basins.

The reason offered by government for the thick smoke in the Transvaal has been that the pollution is highly visible, emanating from coal-fires in the townships.

Coal fires were outlawed in London in 1948. In SA many township residents do not have a choice as their homes are not electrified.

# Highveld pollution as bad as it smells

IN THE southern Transvaal the shroud of pollution in winter is so dense that one Heidelberg resident likened it to a poisonous fog, slipping along the region's plains and valleys.

The polluted areas of SA are different from many others, though, in that the pollution is attributed to a different cause.

"The smoke from coal heaters in the un-electrified townships is the main cause of the pollution we see in the Transvaal in winter," said Department of National Health air pollution officer Martin Lloyd.

He said Eskom had urged government to provide electricity to townships to help overcome the problem.

## Sources

Meanwhile, the Department of Environmental Affairs has instructed the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to investigate the effects of several types of pollution, ranging from littering to the use of toxic chemicals.

Lloyd said pollution from cars was increasing in SA, but not quickly enough to merit the strict emissions laws imposed by the US and European Community countries, which require catalytic converters to be fitted to all new cars.

But a cursory glance at industrial sites in the Vaal Triangle suggests other sources of pollution. Several plants emit clouds of smoke that range from reddish-brown to black in colour. The smoke hangs in a pall over the area, joined, according to Iskor di-

DARIUS SANAI

rector of works Gerrie Hoffman, by a drainage of smoke from the higher Witwatersrand.

The polluted areas often smell — again suggesting that the largely odourless coal-fire smoke is not the sole pollutant. The smell is also trapped inside a temperature inversion that makes pollution more noticeable in winter than summer.

Lloyd said his department set emissions limits for all factories and that plants breaking these limits could be closed down.

But he said there were no plans to cut pollution levels drastically, as these were mainly within safe limits.

In Vanderbijlpark, the Iscor steel-making plant emits several types of smoke. One cloud of red-brown dust rises from a large blast-furnace structure; other clouds are white and grey in colour.

"The white clouds are steam, and perfectly harmless," said Hoffman. The cloud of red-brown comprises iron oxide, a by-product of making steel.

Hoffman admits that the iron oxide emissions should be reduced, and says that Iskor will introduce a new filter system next year to eliminate the emissions.

The plant has been operating since 1952. Why has it taken 39 years to introduce such measures?

"The pollution control is limited to the capability of the equipment," Hoffman said. A filter had been fitted 12 years ago by

an overseas company but was found to be ineffective. "We have also been scaling down activity at the plant to meet emissions requirements," said Hoffman.

"Also, this plant is the 12th largest steel works in the world and employs over 20 000 people. The pollution is very noticeable but we have to care for our employees."

Sasolburg's contribution to the atmospheric grime can be seen 30km away. Plumes of grubby smoke rise from several chimneys: the pollution is more dispersed than in Vanderbijlpark but no less imposing.

Sasol One is the main contributor, and Sasol spokesman Jan Krynauw points out that the plant will be closed down and refitted this year.

## Agenda

"It was built in times when pollution was not high on peoples' agenda and it has been retrofitted with filter bags to reduce ash emissions."

He said Sasol was in the forefront of anti-pollution technology in SA.

The most noxious polluter in Vaal Triangle is Samancor's Meyerton plant. Besides the columns of smoke, the plant has a putrid odour hanging about it. On several occasions last week the smell drifted to Vereeniging, mixing with the other types of pollution there.

Samancor spokesman Lang Geldenhuys said the smell was due to phosphorous pentoxide, a "harmless" by-product of the

plant's vanadium refining process.

But, as a Vereeniging taxi driver asked: "How can they say it is harmless if it smells like this?"

Pollution is no longer quantified by the physical damage done to people: a "harmless" stench is disabling enough for people who have to breathe it in every day.

"The problem with measuring the effects of pollution in SA is that not enough figures have been available," said Prof Saul Zwi of Wits University.

Zwi conducted a survey into the effect of pollution on white children in the Witbank area in 1985; he found that they suffered more coughing and wheezing than children in unpolluted areas of the Transvaal.

However, Zwi said that the figures released by government indicated that pollution in SA "was not as bad as it looks" and better than in some highly industrialised areas in Europe.

He believes that the invisible industrial pollution, comprising sulphur dioxide and nitrous oxides, may combine with the smoke from township fires to make Transvaal pollution look worse than it is.

There are 540 000 people living in the Vaal Triangle, including 350 000 blacks who, until now, have had virtually no way of forcing factories to cut emissions or government to provide them with electricity.

And the wafts of malodorous gases and particles that loom over their daily lives do not appear to be either innocuous or transient in their nature.

# Row looming over proposed dam in Kogelberg area

ARCUS 27/6/91

By **ESANN van RENSBURG**  
Environment Reporter

THE United Nations has at last agreed to consider South Africa's argument for the Kogelberg to be declared a biosphere reserve.

Dr Johan Neethling of the Directorate of Nature and Environmental Conservation said he had heard the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) would consider the application for the area to be given this special conservation status.

He said South Africa had tried for years for United Nations' permission to apply, but for political reasons this had always been denied.

However, the breakthrough brings the directorate into direct conflict with the Department of Water Affairs which wants to build a dam in Kogelberg reserve to supply much-needed water to the Cape Peninsula and Dr Neethling believes a confrontation is looming.

In biosphere reserves, a holistic approach is made to conservation which emphasises the interdependence and harmony between man and his environment.

Dr Neethling said it provided for balanced conservation in developed areas and this was exactly what the Kogelberg needed. It would mean community involvement from towns such as Rooi Els, Pringle Bay, Betty's Bay and Kleinmond which fall in the proposed Kogelberg conservation area.

The heart of the Cape floral kingdom would be destroyed if a dam was to be built, said Dr Neethling.

The directorate would be failing the public, the taxpayer and its duty if it sat back and did not highlight the problems of constructing a dam in the Kogelberg, he said.

It would constitute an irreversible act of destruction and one which could lead to international criticism of South Africa's inability to protect its natural environment.

Dr Neethling said a dam in the Kogelberg would lead to deterioration in water quality, increased development which would increase threats of fire, and spreading of alien vegetation.

It would destroy recreational possibilities, be unsightly, occupy the core of the proposed biosphere reserve and rob the Kogelberg of all its exclusive qualities as a wilderness area.

Although a dam in the reserve would be the cheapest option for providing much needed water for Cape Town, it would provide only enough for 10 years, he said. "We will then have to find new water resources and the Kogelberg will have been destroyed."

A spokesman for the Department of Water Affairs said it would be a pity if certain parties were to stir up emotions over the proposed dam in the Kogelberg prematurely.

"We are busy organising a meeting next year where all concerned can state their views and where an acceptable solution can be worked out without damaging nature in any way."

In regard to Africa, too, this argument is surely on South Africa's side, because Africa said the boundaries of the colonial time must remain. [Time expired.]

\*The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, there is nothing to which I really need to reply, because the hon member was then caught out with Cyrus Vance.

\*An HON MEMBER: Give us a Pik show then!

\*The MINISTER: They know just as well as we do that the political party in that area . . .

\*Mr SPEAKER: Order! The hon the Minister must resume his seat. A few years ago I gave a ruling to the effect that hon members were not to call one another by their Christian names or nicknames or shout them out across the floor. I ask hon members to bear that ruling in mind and to apply it. The hon the Minister may proceed

\*The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, the simple fact is that this Government is taking the interests of the inhabitants of Walvis Bay fully into consideration. That party is not doing so. The party which is their counterpart in South West Africa agreed to that Namibian constitution. That party—their brothers—agreed that Walvis Bay should be a part of Namibia. That is a simple fact. [Interjections.] That constitution was unanimously accepted. The CP is in fact in conflict with their counterparts and colleagues there in Namibia

The fact of the matter is that this Government puts one question above all others, namely what is in the interests of the people of Walvis Bay. That is why the MP for Walvis Bay was included in the delegation and why we will not make any arrangements which will have a detrimental effect on those interests. [Time expired.] Debate concluded.

## QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply

General Affairs:

Air pollution in Pretoria

\*1. Mr J CHIOLÉ asked the Minister of National Health:†

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

(a) What is the highest (i) level of sulphur dioxide and (ii) smoke concentration measured in the city centre of Pretoria to date, (b) when was it measured and (c) how does it compare with internationally accepted safety norms?

B1101E

†The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

(a) (i) 99 microgram per cubic metre annual winter average and

(ii) 47 soiling index units per cubic metre, annual winter average

(b) the highest record sulphur dioxide annual winter average was measured during 1959 and the highest annual winter average for smoke concentration during 1964 and 1965 and

(c) accepted international safe levels for annual winter averages are:

Sulphur dioxide: 80 micrograms per cubic metre.

Smoke: 25 soiling index units per cubic metre.

†Mr J CHIOLÉ: Mr Chairman, arising from the hon the Minister's reply, what has the Government done to reduce these exceptionally high levels?

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, the hon member's question astounds me. Had the hon member listened to what I said, he would realise that we take great pains to keep these levels within normal and internationally accepted standards. I can give the hon member the following additional information. Smoke and sulphur dioxide has been measured on Church Square since 1959 and as from 1975 there are also points in Pretoria West, Capital Park, Arcadia, Scientia North and Scientia South. Over the years the smoke and sulphur dioxide levels at these stations have shown a sustained decrease and the annual winter averages for 1990 are as follows: Sulphur dioxide measured in micrograms per cubic metre was 20 on Church Square; Pretoria West, 23; Capital Park, 17; Arcadia, 11; Scientia North, 18; and Scientia South, 17. The smoke concentrations, measured in pollution index units per cubic metre, were 12 on Church Square; Pretoria West, 15; Capital Park, 9; Arcadia, 10; Scientia North 6; and Scientia South, 4.

The hon member asked what we are doing to reduce these unacceptably high levels. He asked what the highest level was. The highest level was measured in 1959, namely 99 micrograms. At present it measures 20 and 23, and in his constituency 23. I do not think there is any problem.

56

Mr R J LORIMER: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, may I ask her what international standards she abides by, because there tend to be quite a number of them. I would also like to know whether we have established any standards ourselves above which we would regard the air pollution prevalent in our skies as being totally unreasonable.

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I would gladly provide the hon member with the details. The answer which I have available is that we use accepted international safety levels, but I will provide him with the details of which international standards we apply.

†Mr J CHIOLÉ: Mr Chairman, further arising from the hon the Minister's reply to my question, I would like to repeat the question. What is the Government doing to reduce the levels? [Interjections.]

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I think it is clear from the reply which I gave to the hon member that the achievement we have attained is evident, but there is a sustained attempt and continuous monitoring of these pollution levels to ensure that there is a progressive decrease. I think the hon member will agree with me that the achievement which I referred to, is clear evidence of what the Government is doing to keep it under control.

†Dr J J VILONEL: Mr Speaker, further arising from the hon the Minister's reply, I would like to ask her whether she would agree with me that if the CP and the ANC were to burn fewer documents and objects, there would be less smoke. [Interjections.]

Release of prisoners: Govt/ANC agreement

\*2. Adv J J SPRINSLLOO asked the Minister of Correctional Services:†

(1) Whether the Government has concluded an agreement with the ANC on the release of certain prisoners; if so, (a) when and (b) what is the nature of this agreement;

(2) (a) how many prisoners were released in terms of this agreement before they had served the full term of imprisonment imposed upon them and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

B1402E

†The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:

(1) (a) and (b)

During the State President's speech on 2 February 1990 the unbanning of previously prohibited organisations was announced and this led the way to discussions between the Government and the ANC. These discussions led to the Groote Schuur Minute of 4 May 1990 and the Pretoria Minute of 6 August 1990 and the contents of both these documents were made known publically. Arising from this, norms and mechanisms were established in terms of which the release of security and security-related prisoners would be dealt with as well as the guidelines for the defining of political offences in the South African context. The basis for the authority for release is founded in the Constitutional Act and the Prisons Act. No new authorities were added.

Various categories of offences for which indemnity has been granted were announced in the *Government Gazette* in course of time and every prisoner (irrespective of his political alliance) who is of the opinion that the motive for his offence(s) could be regarded as being political and who has committed himself to peaceful solution is given the opportunity to apply for release. This process is still ongoing and many applications are still being received. This mechanism is only available in those cases where the offences were committed before 8 October 1990.

(2) (a) and (b)

As a result of the aforementioned up to and including 11 June 1991, 1 036 sentenced security and security/unrest-related prisoners on various sides of the political spectrum were released in terms of the various categories and in consequence of applications.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY



with the cleaning-up—  
11 332 people  
1 464 vessels  
4 062 radios  
2000 kilometre oil booms  
54 oil recovery skimmers  
84 aircraft

Although the reply to the first part of your question should thus be no, I would like to reply as follows:

(1) South Africa and Cape Town have limited facilities and good contingency plans for dealing with a major oil spill.

(a) (1) 4 Kuswag dispersant spray vessels carrying ± 85 t of dispersant each, an additional 160 000 litres of dispersant in stock, 1 reconnaissance aircraft, 760 m of oil containment boom, 1 oil skimmer, oil sorbent materials, held by the Department of Environment Affairs in Cape Town.

Other specialised equipment held by organisations such as the Navy, Portnet, etc are listed in the contingency plans and are readily available. General, less specialised, equipment held by other bodies is also listed in the plans.

(ii) 26 coastal oil spill contingency plans have been compiled for the whole South African coastline. These plans contain all the information required to deal with an oil spill at sea. A comprehensive plan exists for the Cape Town area.

(b) Department of Environment Affairs.  
(2) Research has, and is, being carried out by the Sea Fisheries Research Institute to determine the impact of oil spills on the marine environment, including the impact of clean-up measures on marine life. These projects include the assessment of the effects of oil on rock lobster and sand prawns as well as on other organisms. The effects of dispersants and other chemical agents have also been determined. A wide range of research projects was un-

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

dertaken, the results of which were used during the compilation of the contingency plans.

Maritime disaster: impact on Cape tourist industry **56**

\*4. Mr J H MOMBBERG asked the Minister of Trade and Industry and Tourism:

(1) Whether any research has been done on the impact an oil spill or a toxic maritime disaster will have on the Cape tourist industry; if not, why not; if so, what impact will it have;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B1118E

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND TOURISM

(1) The natural environment is probably one of the most important elements of the attractions of a region that give rise to tourism. A recent inquiry into a strategy for tourism development has found, among others, that there is an increasing interest for holiday experiences which are related to the interaction between man and nature, for instance, walking, mountaineering, diving, surfing, etc.

This implies that the preservation of the natural environment, apart from other obvious reasons, is also of the utmost importance for the promotion and maintenance of a healthy, growing tourism industry. For this reason there is close and continuous deliberation between myself and my colleagues at the Ministries of Environment Affairs and Transport regarding all events on our coast which may pose the slightest pollution threat. For instance, consultations took place very recently in connection with the damaged ore carrier "Kashee" lying at anchor in False Bay.

(2) I have already referred to the inquiry into a strategy for tourism development which has been undertaken jointly by Satour and the Development Bank of Southern Africa. The results of this inquiry are contained in a report which is presently under consideration. Aspects pertaining to the environmental impact on tourism were also considered. In the meantime I

do not intend to make a further statement on the matter.

De Aar: assault of Coloured boys

\*5. Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) Whether the South African Police are investigating the alleged assault on three Coloured boys at the De Aar municipal swimming pool by a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply; if not, why not; if so, (a) what progress has been made in this regard and (b) what is this person's name;

(2) whether the Police are taking steps to prevent further similar right-wing attacks on civilians; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

B1121E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER.

(1) Yes.

(a) After the investigation by the South African Police had been completed, the case docket was handed over to the Attorney-General who decided to charge two persons on charges of assault. These persons have already appeared in the Magistrate's Court in De Aar and the case has been postponed to 16 July 1991.

(b) Mr D J Bothma

(2) Yes, the functions of the South African Police are, *inter alia*, the maintenance of law and order and the prevention of crime. This implies that the task of the South African Police is at all times directed at, *inter alia*, protecting all persons against attacks by other persons, irrespective of who may be responsible for such attacks. This principle is applied consistently.

In De Aar regular patrols are carried out in the town, also at the swimming pool, and duties are performed at galas and other public gatherings there, in order to maintain law and order. Should law and order be disturbed in any manner—also attacks on civilians—the Police will take steps to act against any transgressions of the law.

Incident at Ventersdorp squatter camp: SADF involvement **2**

\*6. Dr F HARTZENBERG asked the Minister of Defence:†

(1) Whether the South African Defence Force made use of any national servicemen to assist the South African Police or to perform any other function on 11 May 1991, during the action against the farmers who gathered near a squatter camp at Ventersdorp; if so, (a) what was the nature of the deployment of the national servicemen by the Defence Force and/or Police and (b) what units were involved;

(2) whether national servicemen will be considered again for possible future action of this nature;

(3) whether he will make a statement in this connection?

B1124E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) Yes.

(a) In support of the SA Police.

(b) The Danie Theron Combat School and the SA Defence Force Equestrian Centre.

(2) It will be determined by circumstances.

(3) No.

Attacks by dogs

\*7. Mr A E DE WET asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) Whether serious attacks by dogs on human beings are reported to the South African Police; if not, why not; if so, (a) how many such attacks were reported during the latest specified 12-month period for which information is available and (b) how many of these attacks were by pit bull terriers;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B1151E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) (a) and (b) Yes, but only in so far as criminal offences result therefrom. This means in effect that, *inter alia*, those cases where dogs are incited by persons to

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

## 'Green lung' in Gardens threatened by purchase of square by developers

By CLIVE SAWYER  
Municipal Reporter

(56) AR&G 12/6/91

HOPES of preserving a "green lung" in lower Gardens may be dashed if the City Council does not finalise a deal to buy Dunkley Square by the end of the month.

Negotiations between the council and the owner of the square have stalled over the price. The council set aside funds last year to buy the square, next to Barnet, Wandel and Dunkley streets.

However, if the deal is not finalised by June 31, the land could be bought by private developers.

"At the moment the square is untidy and derelict, with dust, rodents, rubbish and vagrants," said Lower Gardens Civic Association spokesman Mr Richard Pooler.

Residents had been pressing the council since 1982 to preserve the land as an "arboreal delight".

Excitement greeted plans announced last year to buy the square to turn it into an attractive Chelsea-style park with parking space.

Mr Pooler said he was "fed up" because the council appeared to be dragging its heels.

The square would not be suitable for commercial development because it was too small.

The land is owned by the Ladies' Christian Home, which backs on to the square.

An accountant acting for the home in said he could not comment on the matter and referred inquiries to chairman of the board Mr Howell Edwards, who is away until the end of the month.

# Pollution threatens the upper Liesbeeck

CT 12/6/91  
56

By JILYAN PITMAN

A SIGN has been erected at the Liesbeeck River near Bucksburn Road, Newlands, which declares that swimming is not permitted in the river because of pollution.

Mr Barry Berkovitch, a resident in Newlands who often walks in the area, said: "I would like to know why the council put up the sign in the first place — does this mean it has now discovered the river is polluted, or has the river become more polluted? Can the river be polluted so far up?"

Professor Gerrit Marais, professor of water resources and public health engineering in the department of civil engineering at UCT, who lives in the area said: "Swimming here is probably safe because the water is being renewed all the time, but the council is quite right in putting up the sign as there is always a risk."

Professor Marais added that all water sources running through densely inhabited areas would be polluted and contaminated in some way.

"Human and animal faeces are always a problem. These get

washed into the water at intervals by the rain and if the river is not flowing strongly bacteria breed. Fortunately, the Liesbeeck flows fast at times."

## Student research

Professor Bryan Davies, professor of zoology at UCT and director of the Freshwater Unit at UCT, who lives in the area, said something new was happening to the river system there.

He said: "The river is highly perturbed at the moment and the reasons for this are not clear. A detailed analysis needs to be made."

Professor Davies said his second-year zoology students, who studied the river every March, noticed this year a significant drop in insect species. Fly and dragon-fly larvae, the normal constituents of a healthy system, were absent above De Waal Drive.

"This was prevalent particularly between Kirstenbosch gardens and De Waal Drive. This was the first time in the 10 years we have been investigating the river ecol-

ogy that my students recorded this. Perhaps herbicides and insecticides are responsible, or the indigenous vegetation along the river banks is being disturbed.

"The worst place for faecal contamination is just above the Josephine Mill where people have lived for a long time. The council is quite correct to erect the sign — the water is indeed polluted."

Professor Davies added that the presence of trout was one of the causes of problems in the river: "Trout are voracious predators which feed on insects. They should not be there in the first place — they have destroyed unique animal communities in the river. Anything that is not indigenous will alter the delicate system."

Mrs Joan Kantey, councillor for the area, said: "One can't accept pollution as part of urbanisation. Walks should not be advocated along the Liesbeeck until this problem has been addressed."

## Rivers in 'bad shape'

She said: "Vagrants who live on the banks along the Liesbeeck River in all suburbs should be moved: every suburb should have a night shelter. Pollution by dogs is a subject we should address as well."

Mr Bill Harding, a senior officer in the scientific services branch of the city council, said: "The rivers along the Peninsula are in bad shape. Everyone must help change the situation since it is everybody's bad housekeeping that has caused it. The public should report any kind of pollution to us so we can follow up on the matter."

Mr Owen Kinahan, chairman of the mill management committee of the Josephine Mill in Newlands, said: "We are concerned about human excrement below the Westerford bridge, the pungent effluent from Ohlsson's Breweries and the general pollution from the rugby crowds."

One resident in Newlands wanted to know where the Pietmyvrou had gone. Has pollution killed off this shy, sensitive bird which heralds summer in the Cape, or has it been driven off by the building operations that constantly take place?

# SA has 'comprehensive plan' for oil spills

By ANTHONY JOHNSON (5b)  
Political Correspondent CT 12/16/91

THE Department of Environmental Affairs has a "comprehensive plan" to deal with a major oil spill for the Cape Town area.

But Cape Town had "limited facilities" for dealing with such a disaster, the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar, acknowledged yesterday.

He was responding to a question from the MP for Simon's Town, Mr Jannie Mom-

berg, on whether South Africa in general and Cape Town in particular, had any facilities and contingency plans for coping with an Exxon Valdez-type of marine accident.

Mr Pienaar said he could "state with confidence" that no country in the world had the facilities or contingency plans that could cope with a marine accident like the one which occurred off the Alaskan coast.

Mr Pienaar said that research was being

and had been, carried out by the Sea Fisheries Research Institute to determine the impact of oil spills on the marine environment, including the impact of clean-up measures on marine life.

"These projects include the assessment of the effects of oil on rock lobster and sand prawns as well as other organisms.

"The effects of dispersants and other chemical agents have also been determined."

CT. 13/6/91

# Call to clear smog question

56

## Municipal Reporter

THE city's pollution watchdog wants more smog monitoring in Cape Town.

The Environmental Advisory Committee, headed by UCT scientist Professor Richard Fuggle, made the call after three days of high-level air pollution in the city.

Yesterday's average nitrogen oxides reading was 1 560 — 56 higher than the guideline of 1 504.

The secretary of the Edgemead Residents' Association, Mrs Dulcie Perks, said yesterday that children at local schools were experiencing chest problems because of black soot that is descending on houses in Bothasig and

Edgemead.

She rejected claims by academics that the smoke posed no danger to health, and demanded that action be taken to curb the pollution by a petrol and a fertiliser company in the area.

The Advisory Committee may recommend that the council finance "a post-graduate school at UCT" to expand pollution monitoring. A report this week suggested that the Minister of National Health be urged to appoint a commission of inquiry into the control of photochemical air pollution.

● City smog levels on opposite page

# Plea to unions around the world

THE Brussels-based International Confederation of Free Trade Unions has urged union movements throughout the world to ensure that each day becomes environment day.

Speaking on the United Nations-designated World Environment Day, ICFTU general secretary Mr John Vanderveken said environmental protection could only be achieved with the full participation of workers and trade unions as equal partners with governments and industry.

The ICFTU official, in a statement to *Sowetan*, said: "The Gulf war showed the environmental consequences of naked military aggression by another dictatorship in the Middle East.

"It is no mere coincidence that the countries with least respect for human and trade union rights are overwhelmingly the ones with least concern for the environment," he said.

Vanderveken said trade unions in the front-line and the battle to protect the environment had to be fought all hours throughout the year. - *Sowetan Reporter*.

# Class action in pipeline over sewage in the sea

Wm 14/6 - 26/6/91

By GAYE DAVIS: Cape Town

HOUT BAY residents are preparing to go to court to stop a pipeline spewing raw sewage into Hout Bay harbour. If they succeed, they will set an important precedent, opening the way for American-style class actions.

South African civil procedure does not allow for class actions, in which one person brings a court action on behalf of all the people affected. Yet individuals seldom have access to the kind of money needed to bring a supreme court application.

Nor are environmental rights entrenched in the constitution, which means it is doubly difficult for people affected by pollution to act against those responsible.

"Government and quasi-governmental institutions which should be protecting the environment for future generations are often the prime culprits and our environmental law is quite deficient in addressing this," said Perino Pama, attorney acting for Earthlife Africa and the Hout Bay Residents' Association.

He hopes the case will set a precedent for similar class actions.

The Western Cape Regional Services Council (RSC) turned down a request from residents and Earthlife Africa that the pipeline issue come before a mediator and the matter will now go to court.

Recent reports have indicated that sewage pollution has exceeded standard levels for safe-bathing standards in areas around the Cape Peninsula.

A Cape Town City Council report found pollution levels 10 times above recommended safety levels at Mouille Point, while in False Bay a count of eight times the safety level was found.

"Local authorities should pay attention to the growing public outcry against disposal of raw sewage by pipeline," said Pama. "This form of disposal is a short-term option which takes very little account of the damaging effect on the environment and on the Peninsula's tourist industry."

The RSC maintains that pipelines are the most viable solution for sewage disposal.



WATER NIE GESKIK  
VIR SWEM OF  
BRANDERPLANK  
RY NIE  
WATER UNSUITABLE  
FOR SWIMMING  
OR SURFING

POISONOUS SEA ... Pollution levels 10 times above recommended safety levels have been found off Cape Town's beaches



**Weekend Argus**  
**INQUIRY**

Choking brown haze passed acceptable levels three times in Cape Town this week, foreshadowing a problem that could last years. The city health department is committed to fighting smog — which may be carcinogenic — before it becomes a major health threat.

Municipal Reporter **CLIVE SAWYER** investigated.

- CHOKED:** Under clear wintry skies, smog blankets greater Cape Town.
- FLASHBACK:** Last week's headline on our inquiry detailing Cape Town's battle against filth.





# The dirtiest Cape

# And now

56  
Aegis 15/6/91

**W**ELCOME (*cough, hack*) to the Mother (*urg, choke*) City for our tourist (*wheeze*) draw-card, the Smog, (*cough, cough*) I mean Green, Season.

Ten years ago, Cape Town congratulated itself on its efforts to clear the blackening skies above the city by removing coal-burning tugs, locomotives and power stations from service.

Black smog, caused by coal-burning engines and power stations, hit Cape Town on 50 days in 1980 and 51 days in 1981.

The last coal-burning tug was removed from service in 1980.

The city drew a collective sigh of relief in 1982 as the last steam locomotive chuffed sadly away to the scrapyard, following Table Bay power station, inefficient harbour incineration systems, and other pollutants into hazy oblivion.

In 1981, the eighth and final "smokeless zone" was declared in the city, making the stretch from Settler's Way to Bakoven theoretically smoke-free. Council research indicates the smokeless zone programme has succeeded.

That relief was as short-lived as a smoker's lung, however.

Reading Medical Officer of Health's annual reports from 1980 onwards, the looming cloud of photochemical smog can be seen taking over the airspace.

The 1980 report noted that Cape Town had the potential for photochemical smog, while in 1983 the report said "it remains to establish the content of the brown haze which accumulates on windless days". It was hoped new instruments would help.

In 1981, the Cape Town Metropolitan Air Pollution Control Committee was set up, with the medical officers of health from the city council and the Regional Services Council, their air pollution control officers, and a central government health official as permanent members.

The committee itself did not do research, which was done by the University of Cape Town's community health department.

In 1986, the report noted that existing air pollution control legislation did not cover photochemical smog, acid deposition, lead in the air, chemical emissions, radioactivity, dust from industry and odours.

The 1988/89 report said that the "perceived notion" that visible pollution was getting worse could not be confirmed by measuring instruments, but there was no doubt when conditions were right, a layer was visible.

In 1989/90 the report was frank: "The perceived notion that visible pollution in Cape Town is getting worse certainly has some substance."

By then, the public had noticed anyway, particularly those with allergies or asthmatics, because their eyes were smarting, their noses running, and the burnt odour could be smelt as the sun warmed the beige fumes.

From April to June, the months of the "green season" meant to draw tourists, thousands of commuters had seen the sickly brown haze hovering each windless day.

"We're aware of an increase in the number of episodes of smog," said Medical Officer of Health Dr Michael Popkiss.

This week, the acceptable guideline levels were exceeded for the sixth time in four weeks.

Environmental advisory committee spokesman, University of Cape Town scientist Dr Richard Fuggle, said the problem had reached such a scale that a postgraduate section should be set up to expand pollution monitoring.

A report on the photochemical smog problem, compiled by the city health department and metropolitan air pollution control committee, was adopted by the council in February.

This report called for an urgent inquiry into the growing problem, as well as more government funding for research.

"This year is not really different from last year, and so far we seem on the road to the same pattern as last year," Dr Popkiss said.

Last year there were 15 visible episodes from April to June, nine of which were thought to be photochemical smog.

Created by a process called inversion, the haze is caused by ultraviolet rays in sunlight acting on a combination of nitrogen oxide and non-methane hydrocarbons, to produce nitrogen dioxide and peroxyacetyl nitrates.

"They tend to occur on days which are calm and which have a temperature inversion. With a temperature inversion you get a blanket of warm air under which slides a layer of cold air, possibly off the sea or off the mountain.

"The strength of the inversion is described in terms of the size of the temperature difference, and then it's called high or low depending on whether the warm air is close to the ground.

"Hence a strong low level inversion is one in which the temperature difference is big, and the warm air being relatively low, he said.

If the temperature difference was big and the inversion low-level, the pollution builds up in a

small layer of cold air and can't get out.

"Once the pollution has built up there is nothing we can do about it. We have to prevent the pollution getting into the air first, we need to control emissions. If we could forecast the weather we could forecast smog," he said.

The villain of the piece is the petrol-driven engine, Dr Popkiss said.

"The major cause of photochemical smog abroad and almost certainly here is the motor vehicle. Industry does contribute, of course, but the motor vehicle is the major cause. We'd like to do research here to prove conclusively where its coming from," he said.

"All new cars should be compelled to be fitted with catalytic converters, which would ensure that the exhaust did not contain all the oxides of nitrogen and non-methane hydrocarbons," he said.

A cut was needed to the total number of vehicles.

In Mexico City cars have different coloured number plates, with only certain colours allowed on the road on any day. In Athens cars have odd-and-even numbers.

"But this is only done in cities where smogs persist for days. In Cape Town we have not reached that stage yet, but smogs are a warning signal — one day we could get those smogs without inversion," Dr Popkiss said.

The main health problems caused by the smog were direct irritation of the mucous membranes of the eyes and upper respiratory tract.

Photochemical smogs were also implicated in a high incidence of chronic lung disease.

Some of the particles in the smog could be carcinogenic, he said.

However, photochemical smog was not yet a serious health risk in Cape Town and his department's objective was to ensure it did not become one, Dr Popkiss said.

Rapid urbanisation posed a further problem, said council air pollution control officer Mr Derrick Oxley, unless electricity could replace wood and other fuels in townships.

Ironically, the high price of coal cuts potential pollution in areas where there is no electricity.

"Rapid population growth will inevitably aggravate the problem because of the concomitant increase in release of pollutants from increasing number of motor vehicles and factories," Dr Popkiss said.

A hampering factor, despite repeated calls for a co-ordinated metropolitan approach to the smog problem, has been the tangle of seven health departments.

It is not fair, however, to lay blame for the looming haze solely at the door of the health bureaucrats. The fault for the fumes lies squarely at the driver's door of the motor car.

"Leave your car at home," said National Association of Clean Air (NACA) Western Cape chairman Mr David Brook.

"Mr Brook, who is also Milnerton Town Council town engineer," said the government should make lead-free petrol and catalytic converters compulsory.

"Even then, the high cost of new cars means that motorists are keeping older vehicles on the roads longer, and these cars worsen pollution unless regularly tuned and kept well-maintained," he said.

Milnerton is notorious for its oil refinery and fertiliser factory.

Dr Popkiss said the refinery, and the Heechst and Fedimis factories, played a minor role in pollution by emitting nitrous oxides.

"Both are monitored by Department of Health officials. We meet these officials regularly and have been assured both the refinery and factory

meet standards required at present," Mr Brook said.

However, the legislation setting standards for emissions at the refinery and fertiliser factory, now under review by the President's Council, was probably outdated.

"A new Clean Air Act will hopefully mean upgrading of both facilities. In fairness, both work on improving themselves constantly," Mr Brook said.

The new Act, submitted to the Minister of Health in June 1989, is pending while the President's Council deliberates a an integrated pollution control strategy.

Echoing the call for an integrated approach, Mr Brook said a health official had noted at a recent NACA seminar in Stellenbosch that there were 16 health departments and 80 pieces of legislation attempting to control pollution.

His organisation had appealed "at the highest level" for a government investigation of the causes and components of photochemical smog, and for government funding to combat the problem.

"But even with an integrated approach, lead-free petrol and catalytic converters being fitted to new cars, Cape Town is stuck with photochemical smog for the next few years," Mr Brook said.

# Conservation probe

ALGUS

## NEW ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES ON THE CARDS

FRANS ESTERHUYSE

Weekend Argus Political Correspondent

Aug 15/16/91

BIG changes in conservation policy and new measures for environmental control are on the cards if the Cabinet accepts the findings of a major investigation now nearing completion.

The report of the probe, by a President's Council team, is scheduled to be debated in the council in September, after which it will be handed to President De Klerk for government consideration and possible action.

The investigation looked into an effective environmental management system for South Africa.

At open hearings of the investigating committee since early last year a wide range of environmental issues were dealt with and some drastic and far-reaching proposals were submitted by authoritative bodies and individual experts.

The issues range from control of tobacco smoking to car fumes, acid rain, soil erosion and major environmental pollution to the concept

of environmental control through a single state department instead of a fragmented system.

It is the first PC inquiry in which all three specialist committees of the council — social, economic and constitutional — are involved.

President's Council chairman Dr Willie van Niekerk told Weekend Argus this week that the recommendations, if accepted by the government, could result in a big change in the present system of environmental management.

Although he is not prepared to disclose any of the findings or recommendations at this stage, Dr Van Niekerk made it clear the investigation covered such a wide spectrum of environmental affairs that the recommendations would be far-reaching in some respects.

Major facets covered by the investigation include: the present state of affairs, economic aspects of environmental control, legal aspects including recommendations for new legis-

lation, and a management system for the environment.

Dr Van Niekerk said that since the investigation began early last year, an "enormous" volume of oral and written evidence had been received by the investigating committee, including evidence from state departments, universities and from South African embassies abroad about the international environmental scene.

The recommendations will offer "practical, workable modus operandi" for environmental management.

Issues dealt with in evidence to the PC at open hearings included:

- The electrification of 20-million South African homes which do not have access to electricity — at a cost of R6 billion;

- A call from the botany department at the University of Stellenbosch for steps to prevent the "new South Africa" from becoming a man-made desert as had happened in some other African countries;

- The challenge of improving urban living standards at the end of this decade when 80 percent of the country's people are expected to live in city areas;

- The threat posed to South Africa's conservation effort by a lack of suitably qualified professionals in the State's service;

- A warning from a Rhodes University geography specialist, Dr Alex Weaver, that South Africa's water is running out — he says water demand will outstrip supply by the year 2020;

- A proposal from the SA Chamber of Business (Sacob) that a single body be established to manage environmental matters;

- A proposal for the establishment of a national environmental research council to report directly to the State President;

- The effect of changes — mainly for the worse — in the state of the global environment;

- A recommendation from a member of the Medical Research Council that control of tobacco smoking be made a priority.

# These pollution views are decidedly off-putting

Star 15/6/91

**A** GOVERNMENT spokesman gave a business reporter this week a number of views on air pollution which deserve scrutiny.

Two other men, one with Iscor and the other an academic, also repeated some popularly held views among those who should be calling for cleaner skies.

The points the three made:

- There are no plans to cut air pollution levels "drastically" as they were within safe limits.

- Iscor's pollution may be very noticeable, but Iscor has to care for its employees.

- Pollution looks worse than it is.

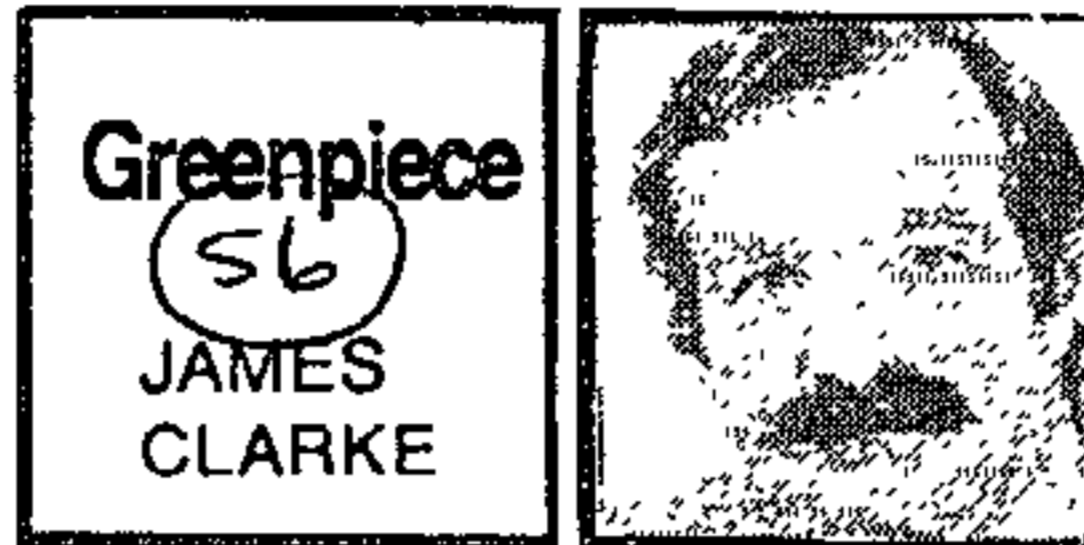
The truth is we don't know what air pollution is doing to us because there is no data. We do know that boys brought up in places such as Witbank appear to be, on average, significantly shorter than platteland boys. And we do know acid rain is beginning to damage forests and corrode concrete and steel.

But we do not know what it is doing to us...

A recent CSIR report says the Department of Health employs no lawyers and has never prosecuted anybody under the 1965 Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act.

In fact, if it were not for Eskom, there would be almost no continuous air pollution monitoring going on anywhere in South Africa.

The larger industries are allowed to keep secret all that they put up



their stacks — and the man who is being paid to look after the public's health, the chief air pollution control officer, would actually be committing a criminal offence if he revealed what the major industries are quietly putting into the air we breathe.

To say there is no need to curb pollution because it is at safe levels is dangerously shortsighted and I wonder if the department can be forced, through the courts, to do the job we are paying it to do?

One must also consider this: at the moment we are in a pretty deep recession with many Eskom power plants closed and many industries ticking over. When the economy picks up we could end up with an Eastern European atmosphere.

As for Iscor saying it cannot cut pollution because it has to care for its employees — this is rubbish. Its employees at Vanderbijlpark and Pretoria West work and sleep in a decidedly unhealthy atmosphere.

And as for saying "pollution looks worse than it is" — the most dangerous pollutants are the invisible, and secret, ones.

# February mountain fire 'to cost R1m'

(56) CT 15/6/91

By CHRIS BATEMAN

IT will cost over R1 million to "rehabilitate" the charred Devils's Peak and Table Mountain slopes after the devastating fire which consumed over 230 hectares of fynbos, threatened homes and choked the city bowl on February 8 this year.

This was confirmed yesterday by town clerk Mr Donald Geyer, who said the initial cost of shoring up dongas and preventing mud slides had been R600 000.

"We need at least another R200 000 over the next few months to continue this preventative work," he added.

If operational costs of clearing mud slides, unblocking drains and sewage pipes were added the figure could easily exceed R1 million, Mr Geyer said.

Present work by the parks and forests, sewage, roads and cleansing departments concentrated on the stabilisation of the mountain.

The entire project was aimed at

completion by spring.

The director of parks and forests, Mr Peter Rist, confirmed yesterday that a council disciplinary hearing had found Signal Hill fire watchman Mr Nicolaas Resandt guilty of failing to report the fire. He was given a severe reprimand.

Mr Rasandt, whom city ombudsman Mr Granger Heugh found was either asleep or not at his post when the fire broke out, has been transferred to a mountain rehabilitation team.

Mr Rist denied that Mr Resandt had been reinstated because of "union pressure".

Senior city council officials declined to comment on what improvements were being instituted to improve the council's fire watch system following severe criticism by Mr Heugh.

However, Mr Geyer said he would comment more fully on a detailed investigation into Mr Heugh's recommendations in a fortnight's time.

Staff Reporter

LEAD-FREE petrol, which would cause far less pollution than at present, would cost motorists close to 10c a litre more.

According to Mr Carel Snyman, the National Energy Council's chief energy specialist, South Africa was bound in the long term to offer motorists the option of unleaded petrol.

This is already done in many overseas countries. In some of them, unleaded petrol is subsidised through a system of fuel levies in such a way as to make it artificially cheaper than the leaded variety.

In SA, more than half of all new cars sold at present had been designed to tolerate unleaded petrol, he said.

Pollution from exhausts could also be significantly reduced by fit-

## Cost higher for lead-free petrol

56

CT 17/6/91

ting "catalytic converters" on to exhausts, but this could be done only where unleaded petrol was used.

All petrol in SA at present is still "leaded".

"Lead is added to petrol to get the right octane level," Mr Snyman said. "Unless the octane level is right for the engine, you can get 'pinking' or 'knocking', which can be very damaging, especially when the engine is labouring at high

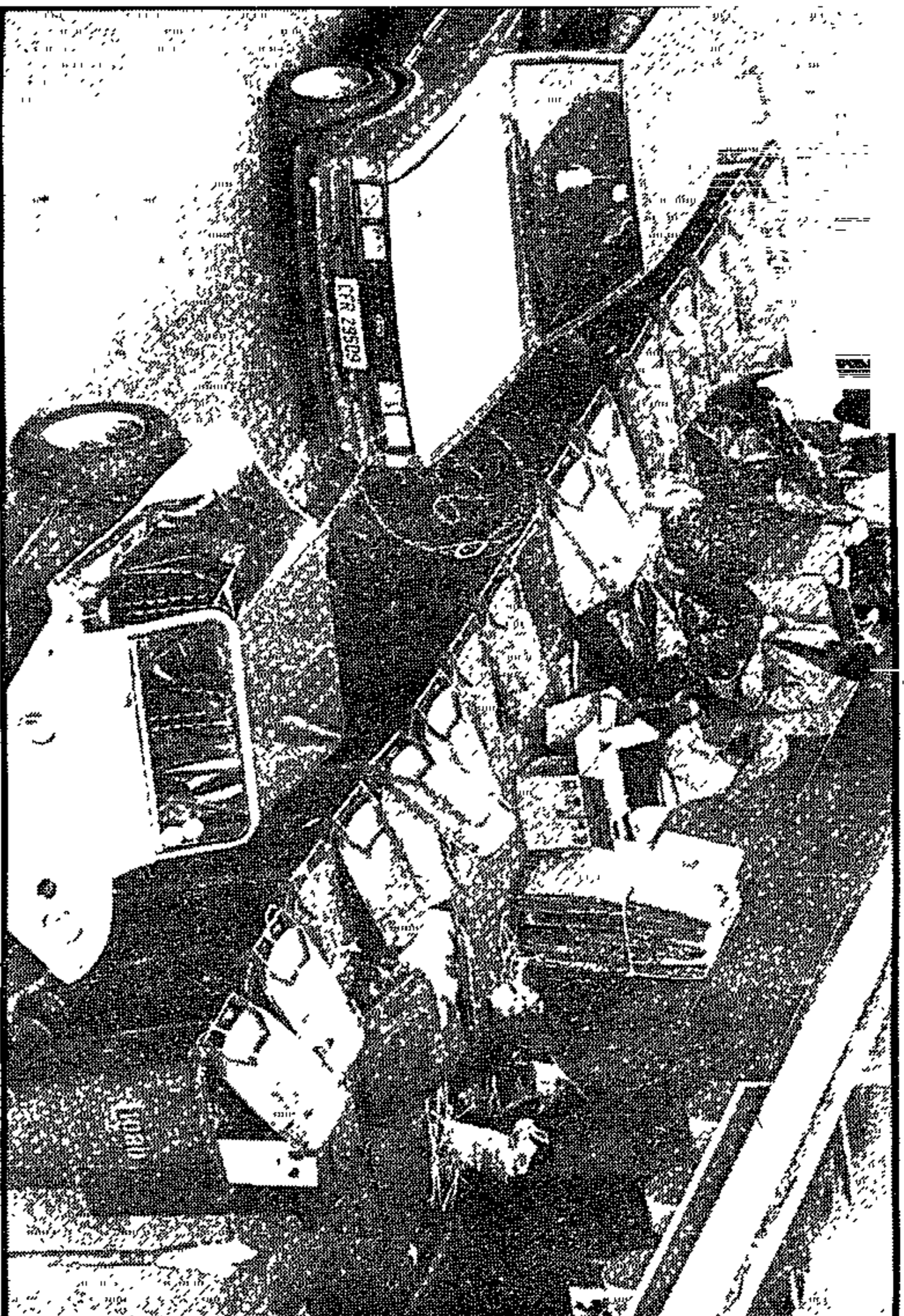
temperatures."

There were alternatives to putting lead in petrol, he said. Various types of ethers or a magnesium product could be used instead. It was likely that different refineries in SA might eventually use different non-lead additives.

Unleaded petrol had to have its own tanks, pipelines, tankers and filling station pumps to keep it "uncontaminated".

"We have a large third-world component of our economy, and we have to balance issues such as clean air with others such as affordability of transport," Mr Snyman said.

"You can't force people to do things they can't afford," he said. "If you do, you will deprive some of transport which they could otherwise have afforded."

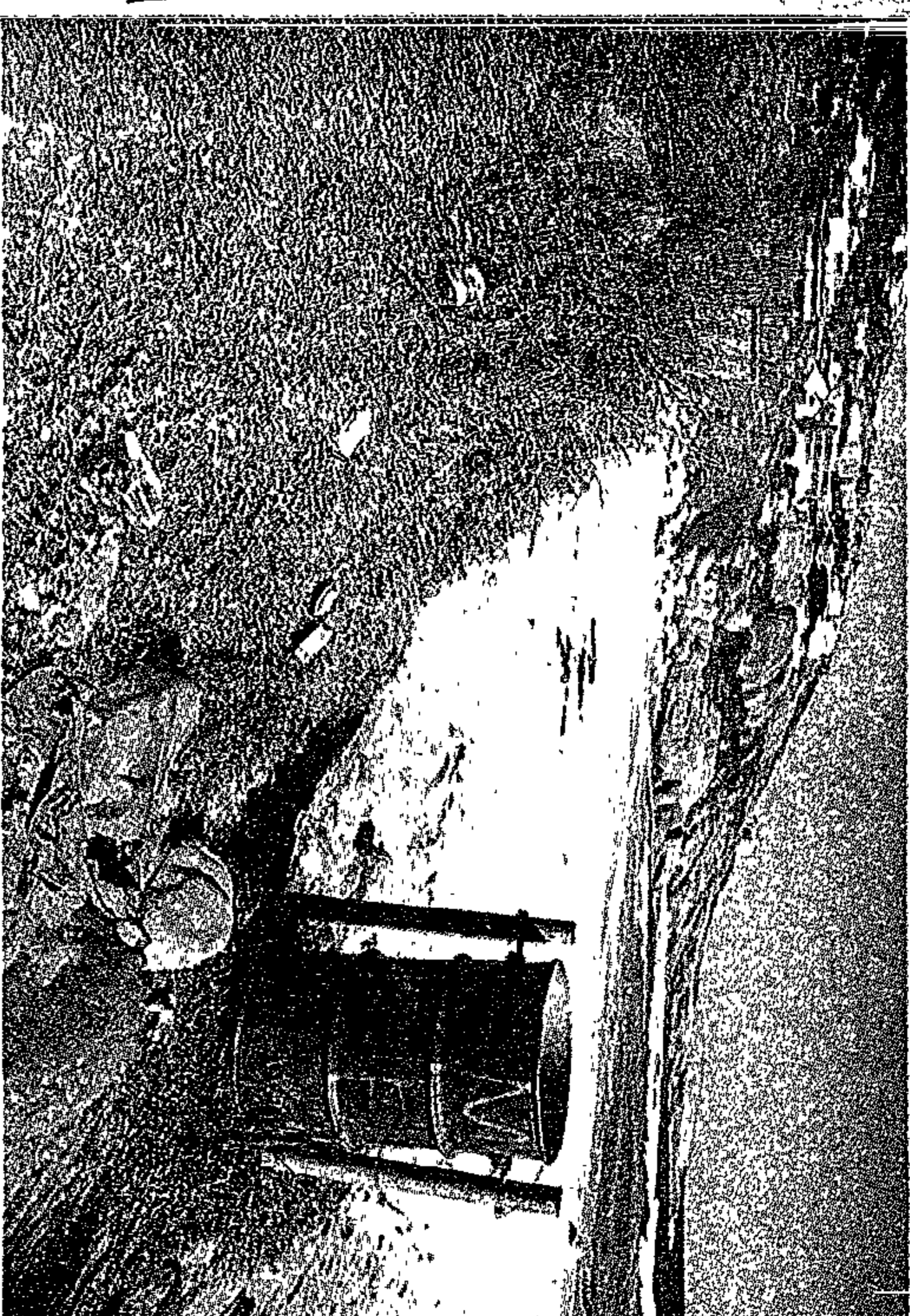


☐ **LITTER LOUITS:** Visit the Cape's beautiful beaches say the travel brochures — they don't mention the litter louts who foul the beaches though. The scene at Llandudno, right, is typical of many beaches, where people can't be bothered to take the extra step or two to dump their rubbish in the bin or scavengers tip it out again.

☐ **SCAVENGERS:** Many street people depend on scavenging to eke out an existence. It's those who scrounge through refuse bags and bins and leave rubbish on the street who are compounding Cape Town's dirt problems.

Weekend Argus  
**INQUIRY**

56  
April 8/16/91



# The dirtiest Cape

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Are we becoming myopically complacent in priding ourselves on the beauty of Cape Town? If you take a long, hard, look, as Weekend Argus has done, you will see why visitors are pointing a critical finger at our mounting litter problem.

**F**AIREST Cape or foulest? Cape? Mother City or mother of all messes? When you weigh up Cape Town's pollution, litter and rat problems against the pluses of its scenic beauty and history, the rising tide of grime and garbage is tipping the balance heavily in the wrong direction.

Take a walk through central Cape Town and then do the same at picture book Stellenbosch or pristine Somerset West and you'll be struck that there's something missing in the latter two — and that's litter.

And though the Cape Town clean-up campaign has been launched, with threats of littering fines, it appears to have had very little impact.

Take just one step from the Argus building, into either St George's Mall or Berg Street and you can't miss the man-made mess of gutter garbage.

Take a spin along De Waal Drive and look at the choking yellow quilt of smog and pollution in layers over industrial and residential suburbs alike.

Take a stroll along the Peninsula's beaches and ten to one you'll be picking your way between the debris left by litter loots.

Take a walk through Parliament's Company Gardens and you'll see almost as many rats as squirrels. A park attendant told the story of the worried woman who asked: "What's happened to the fluffy hair on the squirrels' tails?"

"I told her: 'They're not squirrels madam, they're rats.'"

Rats romping on the rocks across from the President Hotel at Sea Point have shocked other readers. "They're as big as small cats, just running everywhere," a caller told Weekend Argus.

There are more rats around because there's more around on the streets for them to eat, say pest control firms.

And thought the "Cape Doctor" winter winds may clear dangerously high exhaust fumes and the pollution from industry, it can do little more than redistribute the layers of litter.

The Mayor of Cape Town, Mr Gordon Oliver, who is director of the Fairest Cape Association, in association with the Chamber of Commerce, was "honestly very concerned and

# RATS GET BOLDER AS CITY CHOKES IN GARBAGE

determined to lick the problem of littering".

He said fines were now on the cards for offenders. "We will speak once, may be twice, then we will be issuing fines."

The fines will range from R20 up to R200.

Anti-littering and education campaigns are all very well, said a health department spokesman, but fines or the threat of community service will drive home the message harder.

"It's probably pointless fining most litterers because they simply don't have the money to pay the fine. The way to get the message home is sentencing them to community service, street sweeping and litter gathering," suggested one health department spokesman.

A problem as big at the litter loots, said municipal officials, is the financial cutbacks which have resulted in fewer and fewer people to clean the streets. Some streets are swept only once in three months, or even six months.

In central Cape Town, the growing number of hungry and homeless street people, estimated at 700 or more, compound the litter problem as they forage through rubbish bins and bags for food and leave the droppings to attract rats.

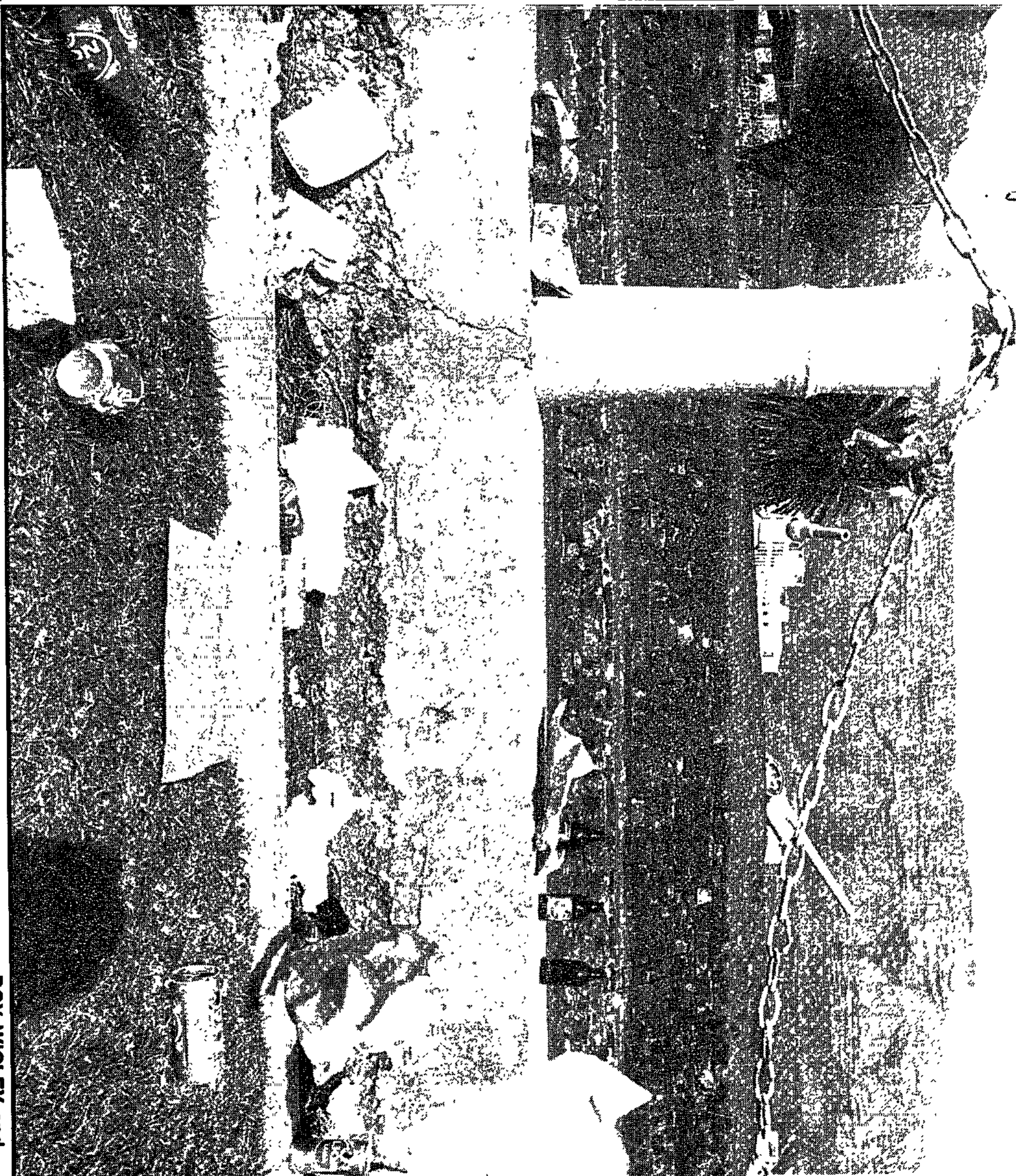
The bonus spell of Indian summer weather has been a major factor in keeping rats on the streets, according to pest control firms.

At the Red Cross Children's Hospital the normal number of rat-bite cases is six a year. But the head of the trauma unit Dr David Bass said there was the unusual situation recently of two small babies lying in cots side by side, both with rat-bite injuries.

"There was a nasty one, a 10-day-old baby with rat bites on the scalp. The other baby had bites on its feet."

And at the central public health clinic a woman restaurant worker was treated for a rat bite after cornering one in the kitchen.

"Don't ever corner rats," said pest control firm manager Mr Leon Minnie, "They will turn on you and attack, they have teeth like razors; a rat can jump three metres." He said he had been down into the city sew-



8/6/91 Argus

ers with municipal officials and seen rats as big as cats.

Another manager of a pest control business, Mr Mark Lichtman, said Cape Town's Streets were not kept as clean as in the past. "We used to have daily refuse removal, now you are lucky if it is taken twice a week. Some roads are swept twice a month and in other areas you are lucky if they are swept once in the three months. That brings the problems of

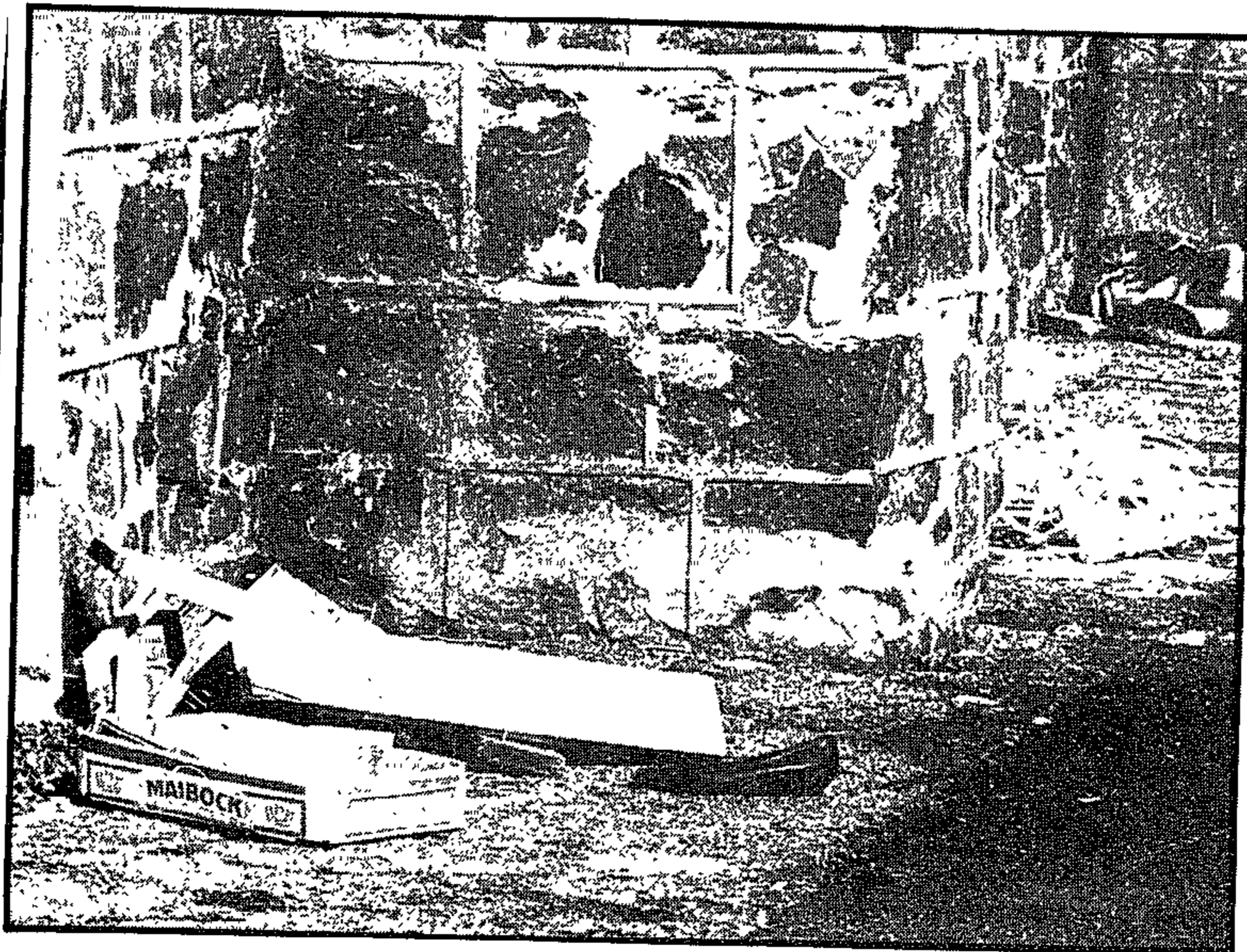
flies, cockroaches and ants as well. I would advise people to be more careful about where they put their litter and to lobby councillors for more refuse removals.

The director of the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce, Mr Alan Lighton, said the Chamber was right behind in the Mayor in efforts to combat littering. "We need to clean up the city, it's a very big problem and everyone must take responsibility."

Pictures  
**ROY WIGLEY and BRENTON GEACH**  
 **DUMPING GROUND:** Classic Cape Town view; Table Mountain, the historic Castle — and loads of litter. The Castle moat has become just another dumping ground for trash.

The Argus

8/6/91



□ **CONTRAST:** Recently restored St Stephen's Church in Bree Street. In gross contrast to the pristine paintwork and newly-pointed masonry is the debris and human excrement left by drunks who live behind the church.



Arend Hoogervorst calls for an annual State of the Environment report from the Government

# We must have facts, not theories, to

Star 18/6/91

56

**A**FTER hearing months of evidence on a national environmental management strategy, the President's Council will soon present its report and recommendations.

Many august bodies, companies, corporations, government departments, non-government organisations, pressure groups and individuals have been presenting their side of the story or have tried to hedge thinking to favour their own point of view — rather like a battery of prosecution and defence lawyers all trying to influence the jury to vote in their favour.

The subject of this effort is the environment — that oft-quoted entity that no one can define but on which everyone has an opinion.

It is surely time that a "State of the Environment" report (along the lines of the US Council on Environmental Quality's annual statutory report on environmental quality) was produced by the Government, spelling out our assets and liabilities in environmental terms.

Information on soil, water and air is scattered among a dozen different government departments, universities, libraries, data banks, and research institutions — either gathering dust or being used for singular and specific purposes. In many cases, bodies are duplicating research efforts and wasting the critically short scientific manpower.

The environmental interest groups are criticised for their sometime extreme stands yet the authorities find it difficult to produce figures, research and documentation to refute claims.

It would be so much easier if there were a freely available environmental balance sheet or set of environmental accounts that antagonists and protagonists could consult and subsequently argue sensibly on differing policies and approaches.

Obtaining figures from the authorities can be likened to drawing teeth. Sometimes they come out with a flourish. Sometimes you have to dig deep.

A central data reference point would make life so much easier and would contribute substantially to that fundamental principle of public accountability.

As a former civil servant I can think of many possible reasons why we do not have an annual

## save our world

"State of the Environment" report — lack of funds, lack of skilled manpower, lack of time, lack of priority — even lack of interest.

A report of this nature would probably expose a great many inadequacies in the current treatment of the environment.

It might also expose the quiet work, done over the years, that has made some of South Africa's conservation scientists world leaders in their fields.

Plans, policies, strategies, programmes and analyses should all be based upon facts. Do we have enough hard facts? No, not enough

theories or opinions but hard facts — the sort of facts needed to create a blueprint for future South African environments?

I don't believe we have.

I think it is now time that a body like the Department of Environment Affairs began to perform its proclaimed co-ordinating job and publish an annual "State of the Environment" report.

● Arend Hoogervorst, formerly of the Department of Environment Affairs, is now a senior environment officer with AFCL. The views expressed here are his own. □

## Checking the environmental accounts

Firms which are concerned about their impact on the regional or global environment are now calling for annual "environmental audits".

Some firms are going to the extent of undergoing voluntary annual environmental inspections.

These are conducted by external environmental auditors who can make the findings public — just like public companies have to do with financial audits.

But, warns Eagle Bulletin, a South African environmen-

tal newsletter for professional environmentalists, some firms are being ripped off by underqualified "auditors".

It advises firms which want audits to first set corporate objectives or a corporate environmental policy.

Once standards are set, the auditor can devise environmental balance sheets.

The simplest type of audit is known as a "site audit" and simply checks progress on a problem site. An "activity audit" checks an activity throughout a group of com-

panies or at different sites; a "corporate audit" looks at an entire group's performance against set objectives, and an "issues audit" checks a corporation's impact on specific issues such as, say, the greenhouse effect, or on rain forests or Third World resources.

The newsletter recommends various publications to firms before they go for environmental auditing. (Eagle Environmental, PO Box 3266, Johannesburg 2000).

TRENDS REPORTER

Star 19/6/91

56

# Controversial sewer at Green Point to go ahead

JACQUELYN SWARTZ

Weekend Argus Reporter

(5b)

ARG 29/6/91

WORK has begun on the R20,5 million project to reinstate Green Point's controversial marine outfall sewer.

The pipe was damaged in a severe storm in July 1989.

There was fierce opposition to the project by members of the public and environmentalists after two failures of pipelines there in the past.

However, the city council eventually decided last year to replace the damaged outfall pipe rather than build a land-based treatment plant.

This followed an intensive study by specialist consultants and reviewing all available treatment options. Public opinion was also widely canvassed.

The pipe will be trenched into the seabed rock and be entirely encased in concrete, secure from wave action and the dragging of ship's anchors.

Work is due to be completed by mid-1993, but the council will be able to use the partially-completed pipe by the middle of 1992 to discharge waste water one kilometre from shore.

Underwater construction will begin in earnest in September as weather and sea conditions improve.

The contractors will occupy a small portion

of the grassed area north-east of Green Point lighthouse between the sea wall walkway and the pavement adjacent to Beach Road.

The contractors have promised to try to limit the impact of the project on the community.

The walkway along the beachfront will also be obstructed briefly while a concrete pumping line is installed.

City councillor for Green Point, Mr Clive Bilski, said: "We have a system we feel is secure and are confident that this is the best and cheapest method.

"The main reason I voted for it is that the old pipe worked very well — it was because of the design and stormy conditions that it failed.

"I feel it is the best solution for the money involved. A land-based system would cost at least twice as much. It would need far more maintenance and personnel to supervise it and would therefore be costly not only from a capital point of view."

He said the land-based option would have cost the ratepayers a fortune.

Rates throughout the Cape Town area would have to be put up by at least five percent in the event of such a project, he said.

Mr Bilski said there would also be the problem of where to put such a plant.

"Imagine having it on Green Point Common. It would take up a lot of space."

# Dune mining open for

By Barry 1916/91

RICHARDS Bay Minerals has come off the defensive. The company has reversed its public relations policy in the face of mounting opposition to its plan to extend mineral sands mining operations into the environmentally sensitive St Lucia area.

## Mistakes

The company is now inviting journalists, conservationists and its fiercest critics to see how dunes are mined and rebuilt. Visitors are shown mining operations and dune rehabilitation, and then taken to see the prospecting and proposed mining area in St Lucia.

"It's not a brainwashing exercise," says Barry Clements, the company's new GM for public relations. "We bring people here, show them what we're doing, warts and all, and let them make up their own minds."

"We don't hide anything and we admit our mistakes. But it gives us a chance to present the facts, which are often not what people think they are. Yes, we've made mistakes, but we also have a lot to be proud of."

Clements, 52, is RBM's trump card in this new open-door policy.

A prominent conservationist himself, he was a Natal Parks Board game ranger and then spent eight years at the Wilderness Leadership School, ending up as director.

Clements is now in direct opposition to his mentor at the Wilderness Leadership School, conservationist Ian Player, who is totally opposed to dune mining at St Lucia.

Clements supports the St Lucia operation, provided there is a proper rehabilitation programme such as the one RBM has had in the Richards Bay area since operations started there 14 years ago.

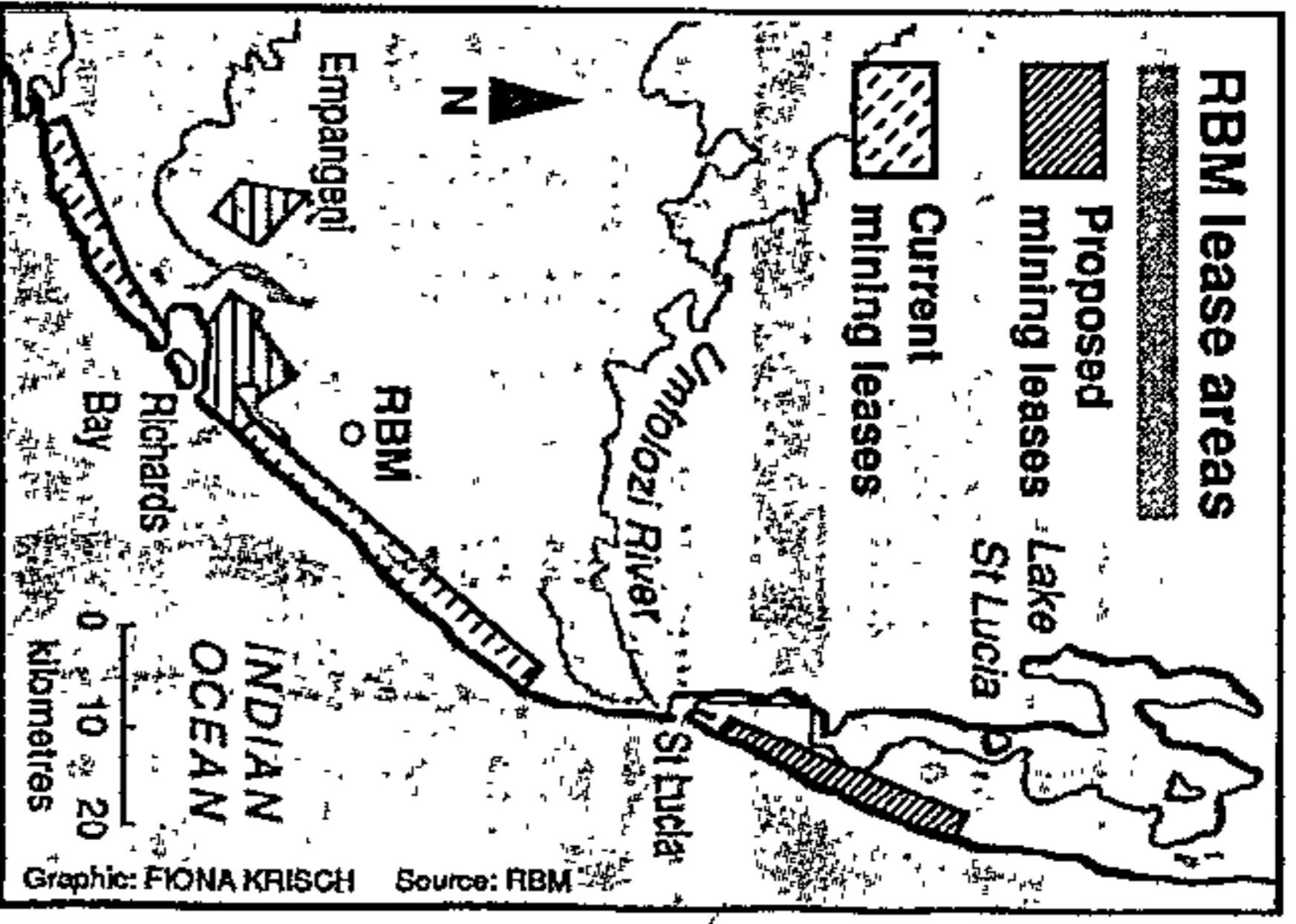
He is also no stranger to public relations, or to mining controversy and public perceptions. After four years promoting the idea of technicians at the Natal Technikon, he moved to Rössing Uranium mine in Namibia in 1982.

There he found the same problem as at RBM: an operation disliked or feared by the public and by conservationists, and a management not doing enough to counter public perceptions he believed were often based on misunderstanding.

His answer, too, was the same as at RBM: open up, show people what is happening and tell them the facts as you see them.



CLEMENTS... "a lot to be proud of"



"Rössing now has a 90% positive Press," he says. Rössing is owned by RTZ, a 50% shareholder in RBM. Clements was consulted by RBM last year, and proposed a programme the company started implementing. He was hired from May 1 this year to head RBM's public relations team.

Clements says there was some initial uneasiness, but he had no difficulty persuading RBM management to invite people in. In lectures to visiting groups, he is utterly frank about the switch in policy, and why it was undertaken.

He says RBM mined dunes for 14 years with few problems; it had an excellent dune rehabilitation programme and good relations with the local community, for which it built schools and clinics.

Then, with the application to extend operations into St Lucia, the storm broke. There was opposition from the Natal Parks Board and the Wildlife Society. Petitions were circulated around the country and between 200 000 and 300 000 protesters' signatures collected.

Whether or not the St Lucia mining goes ahead will depend largely on an environmental impact study, to be published late this year or early next. RBM has promised to abide by its findings. The current public relations offensive suggests the company is hoping for a favourable report.

That will start the fight anew, not end it. Numerous conservationists want St Lucia left alone; they believe pine forests and other exotic vegetation should be removed and the area left to return to its natural state.

He says he would not support coal mining in the Kruger Park, but believes RBM will leave its St Lucia area better than it found it. And he shrugs off suggestions that he has sold his soul to commerce.

"I have achieved more for conservation since I have been in industry than in the 13 years I was a professional conservationist. Criticise us by all means, but only after you have come here and seen what we do."

## Fight

Grassland is restored within three years and many of the dunes are, however, planted with casuarina trees, which provide charcoal.

At Richards Bay the dunes were 60% eucalyptus plantations, 20% secondary grassland and 20% indigenous vegetation. In the 1200ha target area in St Lucia, 56% of the dunes are pine forest.

There are also cash considerations, or RBM would not be interested in St Lucia. Operations in the current Tisand mining lease will run down by the turn of the century, which is estimated to bring in about R6bn during the 17-year life of the operation.

2031

WEDNESDAY, 19 JUNE 1991

2032

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL HOUSING:

(1) No.

(a) The Department of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing does not keep statistics because the matter does not fall within the scope of its activities.

(b) The Minister of Justice has already given a written reply to a question in the House of Assembly, that the Department of Justice has already made substantial progress with an investigation into dogfights and attacks on people and that proposals with regard to all dogbreeds are being considered.

(2) and (3) Fall away.

2033

THURSDAY, 20 JUNE 1991

2034

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

USA/RSA embassies: staff details

378. Mr L F STOPFBERG asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

(1) Of how many (a) accredited and (b) non-accredited members of staff does the American (i) embassy and (ii) diplomatic representation in the Republic consist;

(2) of how many (a) accredited and (b) non-accredited members of staff does the Republic's (i) embassy and (ii) diplomatic representation in the United States of America consist;

(3) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

B971E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) (a) (i) 41 with diplomatic titles

47 administrative or technical personnel

(ii) 21 with consular titles

17 administrative and technical personnel

(b) (i) 124 locally recruited at embassy

(ii) 80 locally recruited at consulates

(2) (a) (i) 35 with diplomatic titles

10 administrative and technical personnel

(ii) 36 with consular titles

6 administrative and technical personnel

(b) (i) 59 locally recruited at embassy

(ii) 73 locally recruited at consulates

(3) 20 May 1991

Lesotho Highlands water project: cost

412. Mr J CHIOLÉ asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

(1) (a) What is the estimated total cost of all the phases of the Lesotho Highlands water project and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished;

(2) whether it is one of the objects of the above-mentioned water project to supplement the water supply of the PWV area; if so, how many persons is it estimated the PWV area can accommodate (a) with and (b) without the additional water than can be supplied by the said water project;

(3) to what extent will the Lesotho Highlands water project affect the flow of the Tugela River approximately 50 kilometres from its mouth during the winter months, expressed in cubic metres per second?

B1085E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY:

(1) (a) Without the financing costs being taken into account, the estimated total cost of all the phases of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project amounts to R14,960 milliard. The RSA is, however, only bound to the first phase of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project of which phase 1A, which is presently under construction, will cost R5,9 milliard without the financing costs being taken into account. This sub-phase shall commence water supply to the RSA by 1996 and is estimated to satisfy the water requirements until the year 2004.

(b) February 1991.

(2) (a) Yes, the purpose of this project is to supply water to meet the increasing demands in the entire Vaal River supply area, which includes the Eastern Transvaal coal fields, PWV Area, Western Transvaal and Free State gold fields and various lesser users.

Population projection is but one of

56

the various methods which can be employed to estimate future water demands, but water itself is not the limiting factor for the growth of the PWV Area, as water can be imported from elsewhere. With the rise in the standard of living of communities there is an increase in the water demand per person and the total demand can thus increase for many years even if the population remains constant. Should there be no supplementation of existing water supply sources in the future and should there be no implementation of water restrictions, it is estimated that about 12 million people in the Vaal River supply area could be supplied with water.

The following figures give an indication of the order of size of population growth for which provision was made in the water demand projections and the water resource development proposals:

Year	Million people
1980	8,6
1990	10,7
2000	13,5
2010	17,3
2020	22,4

According to expectations, about 65% of these people will be residing in the PWV Area.

(3) Not at all.

**Vote No 28: Programme 3**

456. Mr J J C BOTHA asked the Minister of Development Aid:—

Whether, with regard to Vote No 28—Development Aid, he will subdivide the amount of R5 504 477 000 under Programme 3—“Assistance to governments of self-governing territories”, according to aims; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

B1184E

57

The MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AID: The aims of the allocation of funds are described in detail on page 28-9 of the Department's Vote.

The amounts involved are as follows:

1. Manpower assistance	R189 174 000
2. Additional amount	R5 303 986 000
3. Project Aid	R11 317 000

The further subdivision of the aim Additional amount is not possible.

**Prisoners/hunger strikers: particulars**

457 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Correctional Services:

(1) Whether he will furnish the names and other particulars of (a) all prisoners who have been refused release by the Government and (b) the hunger strikers who are not political prisoners; if not, why not, if so.

(2) (a) in respect of the prisoners who have been refused release by the Government, (i) what are their names, (ii) of what crime or crimes was each convicted and (iii) on what date did each apply for release and (b) in respect of the above-mentioned hunger strikers, (i) what are their names and (ii) of what crime or crimes was each convicted?

B1185E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:

(1) and (2)

Due to the extensive information required by the hon member with regard to each individual case, it cannot be provided within the scope of this reply. However, should the hon member be interested in the details of a specific case he is most welcome to approach my office where after I will make the information available to him on a personal basis.

I would however like to mention that since 2 February 1990 and up to and including 18 June 1991 a total of 1 040 security and security/unrest related prisoners have been released in terms of the various measures available but particularly as a result of the categories announced by the Government, the

58

granting of special remission by the State President and as a result of the approved applications

Since 7 November 1990 a total of 6 272 applications for release by prisoners have been registered at the office for Indemnity Immunity and Release in Pretoria. It is important to note that 5 152 of these applications were received after 30 April 1991. At least 90% of the applications received after 30 April 1991 fall outside the guide-lines for defining political offences and in fact appear to be designed to frustrate the process.

Out of the total number of applications received

— 621 prisoners were released;

— 583 applications have been referred to the consulting bodies for advice (363 of these applications were refused by the State President but nevertheless referred to the consulting bodies of judges for review and advice. The consulting bodies have already concurred with 155 of these refusals);

— 2 502 applications were refused;

— 79 were duplicate applications;

— 109 were applications by prisoners who committed their crimes after the cut off date of 12h00 on 8 October 1990; and

— the remaining 2 315 of these applications are at present being dealt with

It is important to note that the applications of those who clearly fall outside the guide-lines for defining political offences are refused whilst the applications of those who nevertheless claim that they fall within these guide-lines and where doubt may exist are referred to the consulting bodies for advice.

**Own Affairs:**

**Education budget: details**

85. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

What (a) amount and (b) percentage of the education budget of his Department was spent in (i) the Republic (ii) the Orange Free State and (iii) Natal on (aa) pre-primary, (bb) primary, (cc) secondary and (dd) tertiary education during the latest specified 12-month period for which figures are available?

B1114E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

(a)		(b)	
(i) (aa)	R83 278 million	(i) (aa)	1,50%
(ii) (aa)	R7 049 million	(ii) (aa)	0,13%
(iii) (aa)	R15 671 million	(iii) (aa)	0,28%
(i) (bb)	R1 277 725 million	(i) (bb)	23,09%
(ii) (bb)	R129 539 million	(ii) (bb)	2,34%
(iii) (bb)	R155 018 million	(iii) (bb)	2,80%
(i) (cc)	R1 205 002 million	(i) (cc)	21,77%
(ii) (cc)	R92 386 million	(ii) (cc)	1,67%
(iii) (cc)	R143 991 million	(iii) (cc)	2,60%
(i) (dd)	R130 041 million	(i) (dd)	2,35%
(ii) (dd)	R5 600 million	(ii) (dd)	0,10%
(iii) (dd)	R14 186 million	(iii) (dd)	0,26%

Information in respect of Public Ordinary School Education and teacher training only, according to the 1990/91 printed budget (CSS-sector)

**Certain school's management board meeting: pamphlet**

88. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education and Culture:—

(1) Whether, immediately prior to a management board meeting at a certain school, particulars of which have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, a pamphlet was distributed on the grounds of this school; if so, (a) in terms of what regulations and/or directives, (b) with whose permission, (c) what are the particulars of the incident and (d) what is the name of the school concerned;

(2) whether his Department is contemplating any action in this regard; if not, why not; if so, (a) what action and (b) when;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B1201E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

(1) Yes,

# Institutions ride a Trojan horse, country's estate agents warned

Argus 26/6/91  
BY MAGGIE ROWLEY

Business Staff

THE war between the banks and building societies was likely to intensify with spin-offs in the form of cheaper bonds for homebuyers as the major players jockeyed for position in the home loan market, said Mr Scot McRae, MD of Camdon's Realty at the Sapoza conference this week.

Mr McRae said the war had already resulted in the recent reduction in bond rates, albeit small, which had had a distinct psychological effect on the property market.

As the home loan war heats up a further drop in bond rates this year could be seen, provided the fight against inflation showed signs of succeeding, he said.

He said a further manifestation of the bond war was the "almost unseemly haste" with which financial institutions had been acquiring equity stakes in the major estate agencies.

"I believe those agencies that have sold off more than a quarter of their equity to an institution have admitted a Trojan Horse into their camps. They

(58)

have invited interference in the running of their business and those agents who do not believe the institutions will exercise their rights under the agreements are deluding themselves.

"Institutions will inevitably demand to make their presence felt on the boards of those agencies.

"More than 25 percent of equity amounts to eventual control of your organisation. While being insufficient to force an issue unilaterally, a stake of this size is large enough to block any moves or decisions with which the institution finds fault and to bring about undue influence on decisions generally.

"The public will be left with a clear impression in dealing with such agencies that they have no choice but to accept the bond of the institution that holds a major share. This is an extremely unhealthy situation, which works against the estate agency ultimately."

He said a direct effect of the institutional moves into the market would be the rush into referrals and franchising groupings.

# Anglo faces charge over polluted stream

Staff Reporter

Star 21/6/91

Anglo American Prospecting Services (AAPS) has been served a summons on behalf of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry on a charge of polluting a stream in the eastern Transvaal.

The case will be heard in the Nelspruit Regional Court on Wednesday.

An Anglo American spokesman last night confirmed that a summons had been received.

According to the department, the stream, which flows into a dam belonging to Luke van Johnston, turned yellow and all the fish in the dam died.

The water was rendered unfit

for humans and animals.

It is claimed that the Bien Venue mine, situated in the catchment area of the Crocodile River near Barberton, discharged a high concentration of zinc and other heavy metals into the stream and dam.

The department said it was expected that no aquatic life would be able to survive in the dam for a considerable period.

“Even after remedial steps have been taken, experts advise that it will take a long time before the dam is rehabilitated to its original status.”

The pollution was a result of AAPS tipping waste-rock and other excavated material downhill towards and into the stream, said the department.

Rain and other water was allowed to seep through the rock

dump and into the stream, polluting it.

AAPS allegedly failed to design, modify or construct all mineral, tailings and waste-rock dumps so that rainwater precipitated towards it was prevented from flowing into the stream, according to the department.

Anglo American chief communications officer James Duncan said: “As soon as we became aware of the difficulties, we undertook publicly to give these our urgent attention and have been engaged in a major, corrective project approved by all parties and costing more than R2 million.”

“We are more than happy to speak fully on the Bien Venue issue after the court case in Nelspruit next week.”



CT 21/6/91

## Smog level reading far too high <sup>(56)</sup>

THE "nitrogen oxides" (NOx) air pollution monitoring reading was way above the national guideline level at 9am yesterday.

Yesterday's maximum hourly NOx level, measured in conditions of heavy mist, was 2 746 micrograms per cubic metre of air. The guideline figure is 1 504.

However, the highest hourly "nitrogen dioxide" (NO<sub>2</sub>) level reading, at 302, was below the acceptable guideline figure of 376.

This indicates that there was probably no photochemical smog (where sunlight forms new chemicals from the pollution) in the city.

Air pollution control officer Mr Derrick Oxley said yesterday that there was no doubt in his mind that there was some correlation between the presence of water molecules in the air and the absence of photochemical smog.

"We had a particularly low temperature inversion. Even the tops of the smaller buildings were sticking through the mist," he said.

## Polluted stream: charges laid

ANGLO American Prospecting Services (AAPS) had been charged by the Department of Water Affairs with polluting a stream and a dam near Barberton in the Transvaal, a statement said yesterday. (56)

It was alleged that the Bien Venue Mine, owned by AAPS and situated in the catchment area of the Crocodile River, discharged a high concentration of zinc and other heavy metals which resulted in a stream and a dam, owned by Luke van Johnston, being polluted.

Fish in the dam died and the water was rendered unfit for drinking, the statement said.

AAPS is due to appear in the Nelspruit Regional Court on June 26 to face the charges which fall under Section 23(1) a and the contravention of regulations of the Water Act, Act 54 of 1956. v. D. 21/6/71.

Anglo chief communications officer James Duncan said: "In our opinion, it is in contempt of court to comment on the pending case at this stage."

But an Anglo statement said yesterday it had "engaged in a major corrective project approved by all parties and costing more than R2m" after it became aware of the pollution from its Bien Venue Mine. — Sapa.

# Foul way to mis-treat the harbour

56  
ARGUS 22/6/91

JANIS FRASER Weekend Argus Reporter

THE plastic containers and metal beer and cool drink cans sit on the layer of thick, oily slime. It's so dense that it prevents them dipping below the filthy, sluggish surface.

There are no waves, just a flat grey expanse of pollution coating the water like tar, looking solid enough to stand on.

On the other side of the harbour the waves are breaking — not foaming with white surf though, but heaving up chunks of polystyrene foam along with the plastic and debris.

The big refuse hoppers stand half empty on the quayside, around many of them a litter of rubbish which people could not be bothered to drop inside.

The strategically strung nets are bulging, not with fish, but with a harvest of litter louts' throwaways.

It's a gross sight, and it's not some rundown banana republic harbour or decaying eastern European sea port either. It's Cape Town harbour at its very un-fair — just when we are patting ourselves on the back for the magic of the Victoria and Alfred development.

"The dirtiest place we've seen," was how the international yachtsmen described the harbour as they lay moored in floating rubbish at M-berth before the start of the BOC Challenge.

"Like parking a Porsche in a garbage dump," said Australian yachtsman Kanga Birtlest.

"Yes," says Portnet's public relations officer Barend de Klerk. "It's a huge problem and there are 12 full-time cleaners working from 7 am until the clearing up job is done, every day of the week. We took 60 cubic metres of floating rubbish out near the BOC yachts. People think we are not doing anything. It's a battle."

The problem is two-fold. Cape Town harbour is man-made, and a mass of storm water drains spew straight into it.

In wet weather they carry the litter and debris from pavements and gutters from around the city centre, along the increasing clutter of fallen leaves and twigs as street sweeping is pared back.

At the same time, depending on the wind direction, the harbour acts as a trap for the floating litter and debris washed off the beaches. To compound the situation on blustery days, litter left on the dockside blows into the water.

But the major element of the problem is educating the litter louts. It's a seemingly impossible task which Cape Town mayor Mr Gordon Oliver says the council is determined to lick.

He's warned that fines are on the cards and during his present official trip to the East he is investigating how Singapore managed to obliterate littering.

Mr de Klerk said the city council had finally agreed to rubbish traps being placed across the mouths of storm water drains.

There are other ingenious clean-up measures as well. Portnet's mechanical engineering department is building a scoop to fit a craft which will collect flotsam and jetsam.

In conjunction with Stellenbosch University they are designing and building a dragnet to pick up submerged items missed by the drain nets.

Littering and rubbish dumping at the harbour by ships' crews and by businesses has become a cleaning nightmare.

Portnet hires large bins from the municipality and places them beside ships in harbour. Getting people to actually dump their litter inside the bins is another matter.

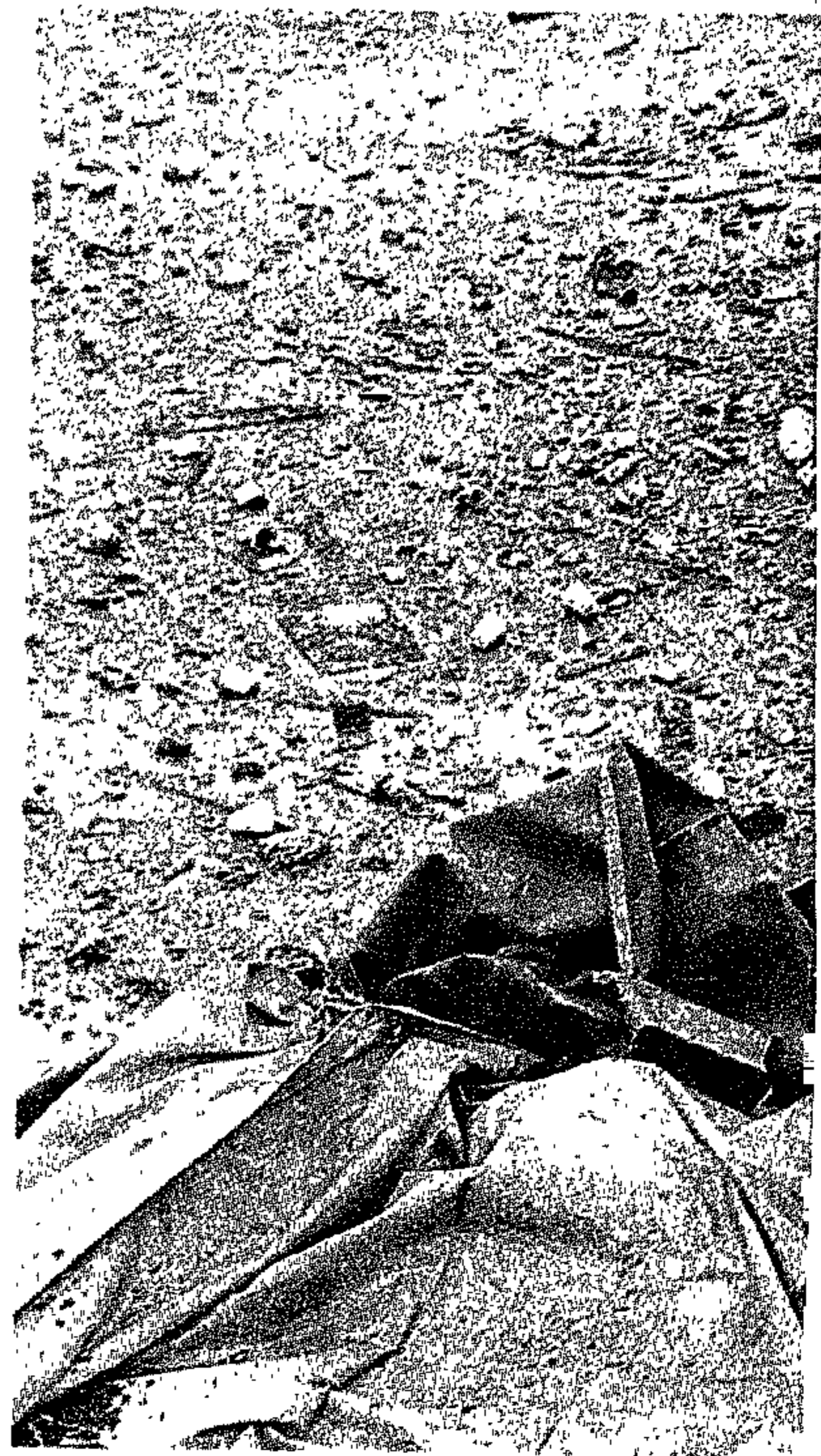
Preventing ships from tipping their bilge oil into those rubbish bins is a further headache.

There's a unit on 24-hour standby to deal with clean-ups. Portnet has a skimmer to lift oil from the surface of the water and has built a floating boom to contain pollution in a small area.

In desperation over the increasing heaps of metal and wood from ships which is abandoned on the quayside, Portnet recently held an auction which had scrap dealers flocking.

All this just to clean up man-made pollution.

□ **SUCH FILTH:** Do you walk on it or sweep it up? What looks like a dirty expanse of tarmac is actually the filthy surface of the water in Cape Town Harbour after refuse floods in from storm water drains.



Pictures: BAREND DE KLERK.

□ **THE DAY'S CATCH:** Nets strung across stormwater drains with their haul of litter washed down to pollute the harbour after every heavy rain.

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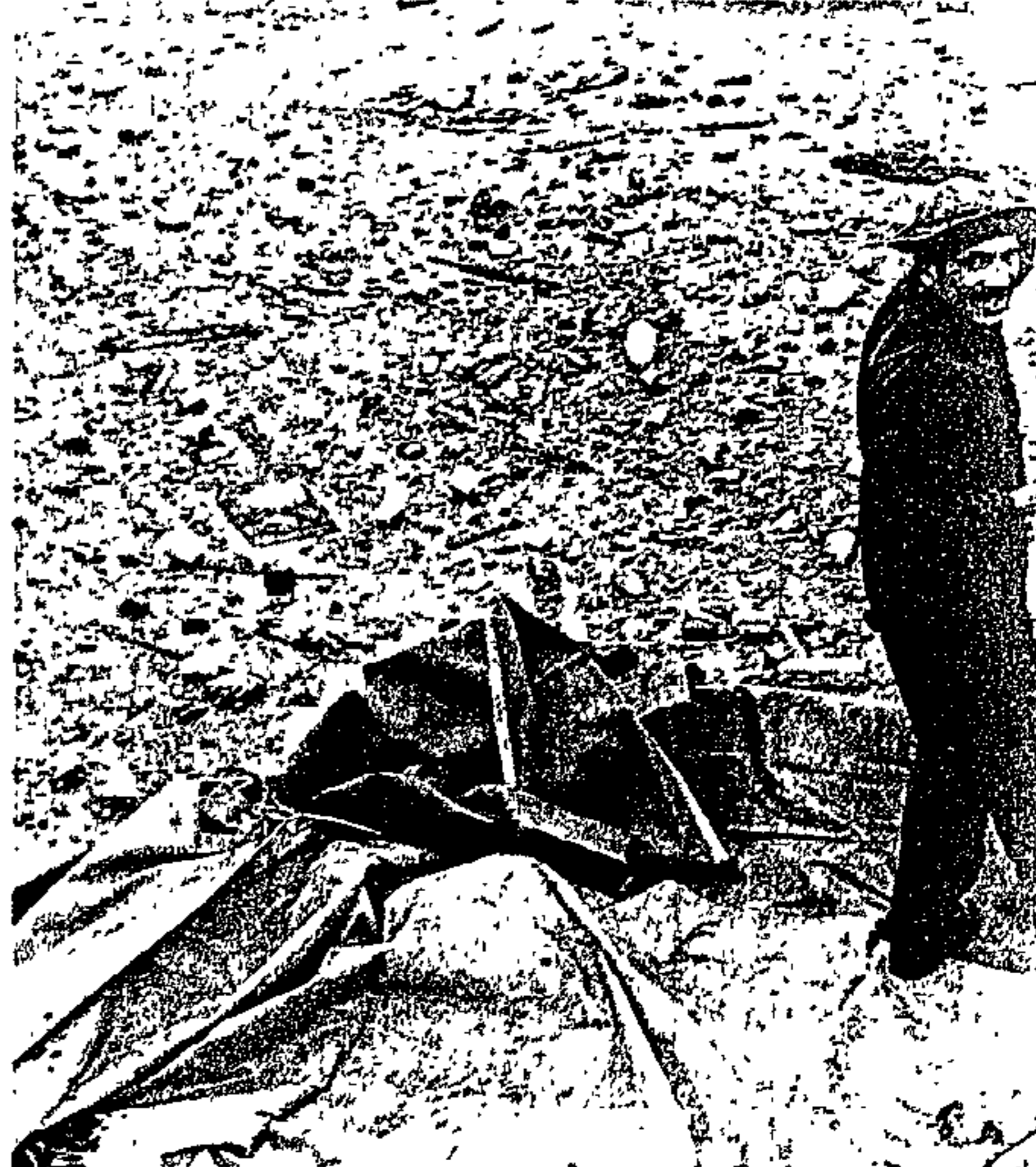
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## Settle back this July, and enjoy a Cocktail with Tom Cruise.



Pictures BAREND DE KLERK

□ **THE DAY'S CATCH:** Nets strung across stormwater drains with their haul of litter washed down to pollute the harbour after every heavy rain.

# 1 Swamps City

# Under water

From page 1

**Deluge**

Trains were also delayed when a farm dam wall burst and flooded the Muldersvlei railway. The line between Mbekweni and Dal Josafat stations was also flooded, said Miss Olwage.

In Vredehoek, where overflowing mountain streams had washed sludge down Devil's Peak, council workers used front-end loaders and trucks to clear Derry, Chelmsford, Aloe and Belladonna roads.

A spokesman for City Tramways said buses were diverted from Foreshore routes yesterday morning because of fears that the strong winds would blow them over.

Regional Services Council spokesman Mr Fred Mostert said there had been rockfalls and mudslides on the Noordhoek side of Chapman's Peak but the road had not been closed.

Part of the Rondebosch golf course was under water yesterday after the Vygieskraal River burst its banks.

One house and a cricket field were flooded in Boshof Avenue, Fernwood Estate, Newlands.

Traffic in Claremont was severely disrupted during the morning peak period due to "ponding" at the intersection of Edinburgh Drive and Paradise Road.

A spokesman for the DF Malan weather bureau said Kirstenbosch had the highest rainfall in the 24 hours ending at 8am yesterday, with 209mm.

Newlands recorded 208mm and Grootte Schuur 109mm, the airport 42mm, Franschoek 88mm, Paarl 120mm, Stellenbosch 57mm, Simon's Town 74mm, Cape Aghulhas 37mm and Somerset West 60mm.

**THE deluge of the past two days has turned Khayelitsha into a virtual swamp, flooding 500 shacks and marooning more than 1 000 people.**

The township was hardest hit a day when heavy rain disrupted the lives of thousands throughout the Peninsula and Western Cape.

In Khayelitsha much of the shackbreaking work in restoring some order in the squatter racks of Sites B and C was left to the women and children as most of the men had gone to work.

A Cape Times team visited the area yesterday and saw scenes of chaos and devastation.

In Site C a woman pleaded for help as she removed barrow loads of sand from her shack. Reporters and photographers pitched in to help.

Close by a mother carrying an 18-month-old baby on her back failed to clear her flooded shack. The baby slipped from her back and fell into the flood

water before she was able to catch the child. The baby was pulled out frightened but unhurt.

Everywhere women frantically dug trenches around their homes as the light faded and fears of another downpour mounted.

Mr Graham Lawrence, the town clerk of Lingeletu West, under which Khayelitsha falls, said council workers were helping residents but were fighting a losing battle against the flooding.

## Swept away

In the Boland a bridge was washed away and in the Peninsula and on the Cape Flats trains were delayed and traffic disrupted as heavy rain and strong winds continued.

But after the damage of the past few days the weather will clear today, says the weather bureau.

Yesterday the flooding Berg River swept away a 20-metre section of the bridge on the main Franschoek-Paarl road about 8am, forcing motorists to

divert by nearly 30km to reach the Peninsula road network.

Western Cape District Road engineer Mr Clyde Barnes said the possibility of temporarily repairing the bridge was being investigated. But constructing a permanent structure would take about three years and could cost R3,5 to R5 million, he said.

On Table Mountain, the Hely Hutchinson dam, which was 70% full last week, was overflowing.

The Wemmershoek Dam has increased its capacity from 41,8% to 57%, the Voelvlei from 55,2% to 57,3% and the Steenbras Lower Dam from 50,3% to 54,2% over the past week.

Cape Town train services were severely disrupted when water flooded railway lines, causing a breakdown in electronic signals.

Spoornet spokesman Miss Yvette Olwage said peak-hour trains were delayed for 100 minutes on the Khayelitsha line, for about 40 minutes on the Bellville line and between 10 to 20 minutes on the Cape Flats and Simon's Town lines yesterday

To page 5

56

~~307~~

Cl 25/6/91.

# Surge in city <sup>(56)</sup> pollution levels <sub>17/26/6/91</sub>

THE level of nitrogen oxide in the central city air at 9am yesterday exceeded the national guideline level for the eighth time since the Cape Times started monitoring the readings two months ago.

The highest hourly average reading was 1 648 micrograms a cubic metre, which is 144 above the guideline.

Councillor Arthur Wienburg has given notice of his intention to propose a motion relating to air pollution at Cape Town City Council's monthly meeting tomorrow.

He will ask that the amenities and health committee should investigate the desirability of lobbying the government to:

- make unleaded petrol available to South African consumers;
- encourage its use by means of a preferential subsidy;
- reduce the level of lead in petrol immediately;
- legislate in favour of compulsory use of unleaded petrol by 1996.

# Navy

56  
CT 26/6/91

# dumps diesel

By DAVE MARRS  
and ANDRE KOOPMAN

**THE Navy has admitted causing an oil slick 25 nautical miles long and 300 metres wide off Port Elizabeth when its biggest ship pumped diesel fuel into the sea.**

Last night the Department of Transport said it had warned the navy that if a similar offence should occur, it will be prosecuted under the Oil Pollution Act, department spokesman Mr Don Boyd said.

The warning was issued after the department had taken legal

advice, he said, adding that the navy was not exempt from prosecution under the act.

In a statement released in response to a Cape Times inquiry yesterday — over a month after the incident occurred — the director of naval public relations, Captain R Erleigh, admitted that the combat support vessel SAS Tafelberg had pumped a mixture of bilge water and about seven tons of contaminated diesel oil into the sea.

This had happened after the Tafelberg had "experienced an ingress of diesel fuel" into its engine room bilges on May 22, while it was "more than 10km" off Port Elizabeth.

The bilge water and contaminated diesel mixture was

pumped overboard over a two-hour period "in the process of sorting out the problem", he said.

The SAS Tafelberg was in transit between Simon's Town and Durban as part of a task force when the incident occurred.

The slick, which Captain Erleigh said was immediately reported to the Department of Environmental Affairs, is believed to have broken up at sea and did not wash up on Eastern Cape beaches.

"The slick was extremely lightly visible from sea level and was in fact only detected by a commander of the task group during an inspection by helicopter," Captain Erleigh added.

To page 7

From page 1

## Navy dumps oil

56  
CT 26/6/91

Dr Lyn Jackson, of the environmental affairs oil pollution control group, confirmed last night that the department had been alerted about the incident.

While she did not have all the facts at hand, she assumed that no action had been taken, since diesel oil — "which is much more volatile and lighter than crude" — would have broken up before reaching the coast.

She confirmed that diesel fuel is "much more toxic" than crude, and the slick could have had an "acute effect" on marine life if it had reached

the shore.

● The Cape Times was also alerted to an incident that occurred last week, in which witnesses alleged that a naval patrol boat was purposely steered through a flock of cormorants feeding in the water about 400m off Muizenberg.

Captain Erleigh confirmed that an initial investigation had revealed that "the boat was in fact steered through the flock of birds".

He said no birds were injured, but a formal investigation has been ordered and disciplinary action could follow.

# Tafelberg spill: Public should be told — DP

Staff Reporter

(56) CT 27/6/91

THE oil spill by the navy's SAS Tafelberg should have been publicly disclosed immediately, the Democratic Party's spokesman on environmental affairs, Mr Rupert Lorimer, said yesterday.

Mr Lorimer said the implications of the spill for marine life were "very serious indeed".

"These sort of accidents cannot be allowed to occur. I would have preferred immediate public disclosure to have taken place," he said.

He was reacting to the disclosure that the combat support vessel had dumped diesel oil overboard off Port Elizabeth on May 22, leaving a slick 40km long.

The navy had informed the Department of Transport of the spill.

Yesterday the director of shipping for the Department of Transport, Mr Willem Kempen, said his officials were preparing a letter warning the navy that it would be prosecuted if a similar incident were to happen again.

The Oil Pollution Act provides for a maximum fine of R200 000 or five years' imprisonment for the master of the ship.

However, the navy is protected by law from civil action arising from such incidents.

Asked if it was usual practice to issue a warning rather than apply the letter of the law, Mr Kempen said factors such as the avoidability of the spill and action taken to prevent damage to the environment were taken into account.



## Unleaded petrol to be investigated

A COUNCIL sub-committee is to investigate the desirability of asking the government to make subsidised unleaded petrol available now, and make its use compulsory by 1996.

It will also look into the feasibility of asking for legislation to make it compulsory for all new petrol engines to be fitted with catalytic converters which reduce the noxiousness of exhaust emissions.

Mr Llewellyn van Wyk said we could not begin to deal with airborne poisons like carbon monoxide, nitrous oxides and hydrocarbons, which were emitted by exhausts, unless lead were removed from petrol first.

"Catalytic converters get choked by lead," he explained.

"Without lead we will consume more petrol," Mr Van Wyk said. The lead content could be reduced up to a certain level, but beyond that it became prohibitively expensive. (5) CT 28/6/91

# Council urgently calls for unleaded petrol <sup>(56)</sup>

## Municipal Reporter

UNLEADED petrol and the compulsory fitting of catalytic converters are to be the subject of an urgent City Council investigation.

The amenities and health committee was told yesterday to report back within three months on whether or not to call on the government to make using unleaded petrol compulsory by 1996.

Proposing the move, Mr Arthur Wienburg said lead was poisonous and a "significant number" of Peninsula children had been found with too-high lead levels in their blood.

Highly lead-polluted air caused aggression, hyperactivity, decreased IQs and learning disabilities in children.

About 90 percent of airborne lead came from the exhausts of petrol-driven cars.

Petrol companies said that using unleaded petrol would cost from five to 10 cents more a litre.

"One must weight this cost up against the cost of care and rehabilitation of children suffering from lead poisoning," said Mr Wienburg.

Mr Llewellyn van Wyk said acceptable levels of carbon di-

oxide, nitrous oxide and hydrocarbons often were exceeded.

It was not enough to fit catalytic converters to cars because these quickly became choked if leaded petrol was used.

The rest of the world used unleaded petrol and if South Africa did not follow suit, it would isolate itself from state-of-the-art engine technology. It was time for action, because "maintaining and recording air pollution levels will not do a damn thing," said Mr Van Wyk.

Mrs Joan Kantey said Health Minister Dr Rina Venter had turned down a council request to appoint an inquiry into photochemical smog.

The motion, calling for unleaded petrol to be made available immediately, subsidies to encourage its use, its use becoming compulsory by 1996 and the fitting of catalytic converters to petrol-driven cars, was passed unanimously.

## Poster crackdown

THE City Council will crack down on people putting up posters without paying a deposit, said utilities and works committee chairman Mr Leon Markovitz. — Municipal Reporter

## City pollution soars again (5)

Municipal Reporter

BOTH city air pollution indicators yesterday registered the second highest levels recorded since the Cape Times began monitoring them just over two months ago.

The highest nitrogen oxides reading yesterday was 2951 micrograms per cubic metre — close to double the national guideline of 1504. ET 29/6/91

The nitrogen dioxide was 481 micrograms per cubic metre — far above the 376 guideline.

To kill or not to kill, that is the issue

56 29/6/91

# Whalers face-to-face

IS there any difference between killing a cow, a lamb, a horse — or, for that matter, a whale?

This was one of the thorny questions which observers at the recent International Whaling Commission in Reykjavik had to consider in the light of evidence that numbers among some species of whales had increased sufficiently to allow exploitation.

The morality and ethics of killing whales have been debated, often bitterly, since the seventies when "Save the Whales" became a catchword throughout the western world.

## Borne the brunt

Every year since 1949, whaling nations, which make up the International Whaling Commission, meet annually to discuss the status of whale stocks in all oceans and whether certain species of whales can be exploited.

This year, the venue was Reyk-

javik, Iceland, a traditional whaling country just south of the Arctic Circle.

For several years now, Iceland, which is almost totally dependent on exporting fish products, has taken the brunt of the anti-whaling campaign.

Recently, conservationists organised boycotts of its fish in the United States — Iceland's major market.

For this reason alone, Iceland was delighted at the chance to state its case to the international media, who came face to face with the harsh realities of survival in the higher latitudes.

While the whalers might have seemed confused by the inability of anti-whalers to see their point of view, they were never as hostile as the bitter rain and ice-laden wind which swept from the frozen Arctic wastes across the grey North Atlantic to Reykjavik.

For many journalists, it was the first time they had to confront whalers and their wives who firmly and sincerely believe they have a right to exploit a ma-

Report, picture by **GRAHAM LIZAMORE** who attended the recent International Whaling Commission in Iceland.

time resource on which they are dependent.

While delegates, journalists and conservationists packed the ultra-modern Saga Hotel, it was reported that fin whales and a pod of pilot whales had been sighted not far from where four whaling ships were ominously tugging at their mooring lines.

The IWC debate centred on the results of the scientific assessment of whale stocks and the ethics of hunting and killing whales. These questions were debated against a background of what can simply be described as "vested interests."

The handful of active whaling nations, Japan, Iceland and Norway, insisted that certain species of whales could be exploited without endangering the species. Iceland claimed that, because it had a vested interest in con-

tinuing whaling, it would be suicidal for the industry and the country to over-exploit any species of whale. In 1915, Iceland became the first country to ban whaling, a ban which held for almost 20 years.

## Alternative work

Arctic-hardened, no-nonsense Icelandic whalers scoffed at protest groups who insisted that stocks of North Atlantic fin and minke whales would be endangered if quotas to hunt them were issued.

Gunnlaugur Konradsson 45, who has not hunted whales for three years, says aggressively in broken English: "We go out now in fishing boats and we see more whales than before the whaling ban. Our scientists tell us the stock is in good condition, yet we are not allowed to hunt!"

Depending upon the parameters they set, scientists will produce different results, it seems.

Johannsson has nothing but contempt for the "easy-life" conservation groups like Green

Peace or the Environmental Investigation Agency.

"They sit in warm offices living off the publicity they get from our honest labours," he said to nods of approval from the three other whalers standing on his vessel, still armed with a heavy harpoon gun.

For years, they lived off whaling, but since Iceland agreed to a temporary ban on whaling three years ago, he has eked out an existence from a small fish quota.

"Where must we suddenly get the money to buy larger fish quotas," he demanded.

Small villages have slumped into dole-dispensing depots and Icelanders born of a proud Viking tradition resent what they see as outside interference.

More than 80 percent of Icelanders insist they have a right to hunt whales.

They are acutely aware that Iceland's 250 000 population has no resources except what they take from the sea. Like fish, whales are seen as no more than a resource.

ENVIRONMENT — 1991

JULY — SEPT.

# Turning on the great tap-water controversy

Is our water safe for drinking? The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research says it is. But some experts disagree.

Are we unwittingly drinking poisoned water? According to our environmentalists and microbiologists it is virtually impossible to enjoy clean water.

South Africa legally enforced The Water Law in 1956, but the law has not been amended to accommodate the growing population.

In 1989, the CSIR completed a study to pinpoint the extent of trihalomethanes (THMs), a toxic substance, in drinking water.

Trihalomethanes are chemical by-products formed when contaminated waters containing organic material are chlorinated for disinfection purposes.

These by-products can be carcinogenic when ingested over periods of time, according to leading American scientist and toxicologist Dr Arthur First.

High levels of THMs would suggest the water purification process is inadequate, says a South African water researcher who does not wish to be named.

The Government has not yet prescribed a set standard as to what concentration of THMs is acceptable in drinking water.

The USA model promulgates a maximum level of 100 THMs per litre of drinking water, but

European countries set far more stringent THM levels, according to water engineers.

In the CSIR study, four municipalities were found to have THM levels higher than 100 micrograms per litre.

Interestingly, when the tested tap water had chlorine added (1 milligram per litre of water), eight municipalities recorded THM levels above 100.

Scientists concluded that THM levels rise when chlorine is added to tap water containing increased levels of dissolved impurities.

## Sewage

Indeed, water from the eight sites which breached the 100 levels were contaminated with treated sewage effluents.

The identity of the eight contaminated municipalities was not revealed.

On average, South African tap water contained 45 micrograms of THM per one litre of water, the study showed.

When the water was chlorinated, that figure jumped to 74, below the acceptable US limit, but far above most European standards.

While the CSIR concludes that our tap water is safe, Richard Mathias, an independent water tester and health shop owner, disagrees.

"The Rand Water Board says the water is of good quality, but they have reduced the bacteria count to nothing through heavy chlorination.

"Apart from the high chlorine content, water picks up minerals such as calcium, mercury, iron, aluminium as well as crop sprays from intensive agricultural farming, which can be highly carcinogenic.

"Other problems with drinking ordinary tap water can cause health problems because of all the dissolved heavy metals in the water.

"Kidney stones can be formed because of too much calcification," he says. According to media reports, lead is another worry.

Water leaving the treatment centres is relatively lead-free, but pipes and solders containing lead are corroded by water.

Lead levels at the user tap can be much higher than those found at the treatment plant.

Even more damaging were comments from Paul Polasek and Claude Mangelot, two water engineers who declared that South Africa's water purification technology was "in the Stone Age."

Their comments were printed in a technical paper delivered at a South African conference on water last year.

Mercury, another deadly toxin, was discovered in samples taken from taps in Soweto and Bellevue last year.

In Bellevue's water, levels of mercury were twice those considered safe in European cities.

High dosages of mercury can damage the central nervous system and cause birth defects.

Non-fatal symptoms include mental deterioration and severe inflammation of the digestive tract, according to the World Health Organisation.

At the time, Dr Lorraine Lotter, a senior researcher at the City Health Department's laboratory, confirmed the council did not check water for contamination by mercury and other heavy metals.

However, Dr Lotter subsequently said she would arrange for the city's laboratory to test for mercury.

In an attempt to protect themselves, consumers are investing in filters which cost between R50 and R2 500.

Water purifiers are now becoming common kitchen appliances in some areas.

Richard Mathias has offered to test your water free of charge on Wednesday nights between 5 and 6 pm at his centre in Benmore Gardens.

For further information, telephone 011 883 3602.

LANA JACOBSON

Spk 117191

56

# Minister rejects city plea for smog probe

Municipal Reporter

HEALTH Minister Dr Rina Venter has congratulated the Cape Town City Council on the success of its air pollution programme, but says it is still too early to appoint a commission of inquiry into photochemical smog.

She was responding in a letter to the council's request in April for funds for photochemical smog research.

The council also asked her to appoint a commission of inquiry "at the appropriate time" to hear evidence from all affected parties about introducing measures to control photochemical pollution.

Dr Venter said it was premature to appoint a commission now because so little was known about the extent of the problem, locally and internationally.

But she said decisions would have to be made as soon as sufficient evidence was available.

Regarding lead in petrol, she said removing it completely would cost the country "several thousands of millions of rands".

Expenditure on this scale could be justified only "if the health effects of the additional lead in the environment ... are sufficient to warrant it".

She assured the council that this important topic "will continue to be addressed and action will be taken timeously to ensure that our environment is not allowed to deteriorate to the extent of some of the major cities of the world".

• The council is to buy new equipment to measure photochemical smog.

56 ET 2/7/91

# Support for daylight saving

PRETORIA — A proposal to give SA an extra hour of sunshine in summer was likely to get overwhelming support, the chairman of a lobby group for extended daytime said yesterday.

President F W de Klerk last week announced a President's Council committee would study the feasibility of putting the clock forward.

It would call for memoranda on the issue and assess the response and advantages of such a step.

Durban city councillor and National Action Group on Summer Time chairman Malcolm Prentice said his group had been formed earlier this year and the response had been "more than enthusiastic".

Hundreds of letters had been received in support of the idea, Prentice said, indicating it was likely the vast majority of South Africans would favour an extension of daylight in the summer months.

The advantages included more daylight leisure time, a probable decrease in twilight crime and fewer traffic accidents because evening peak traffic would operate in daylight.

Most letters expressed amazement

GERALD REILLY

that it had taken SA so long to seriously consider the obvious advantages of daylight saving.

Prentice said summer time would not make the day any longer or the night shorter. It was not stealing time from anyone.

Sacob economist Bill Lacey said questionnaires had been sent to Sacob's affiliate chambers to test their views on the issues.

Sacob was likely to support the idea, he said.

The demand for daylight saving was strongest in the eastern part of the country. Areas in the west already had about 50 minutes more daylight than eastern areas.

Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut executive director Joe Poolman said the system worked in the UK and European countries and there was no reason why it should not work in SA.

There were no major obstacles but some distinct advantages, including a "likely significant energy saving".

But the AHI had not taken an official stand on the issue so far.



## Official to talk on smog

at 3/7/91

Municipal Reporter

(56)

AIR pollution control officer Mr Derrick Oxley will address a meeting of City Bowl residents in the City Hall reception room at 8pm tonight on the city's growing smog problem.

The meeting was called by the Upper Table Valley Ratepayers' Association, which has expressed its concern about increasing levels of exhaust and other fumes "which more and more frequently exceed health safety levels".

Vice-chairman Mr W G Combrink said residents of his area, on the foothills of the mountain, were often able to see the "dense pollution to which residents of other suburbs and city workers are subjected".

## City's pollution level 'too high, too often'

CT 4/7/91

Staff Reporter

(56)

CAPE TOWN had reached the stage where pollution guidelines were being exceeded "too often" and the situation was becoming "frightening", the council's air pollution control officer Mr Derrick Oxley said last night.

He was speaking at a meeting in the city hall's reception room.

"Last year the guidelines were exceeded on nine occasions. This year, so far, the guidelines have been exceeded on 12 occasions," Mr Oxley said.

"In June last year the guidelines were exceeded on three occasions and this year in the same month it was nine," he added.

It seemed that the months April, May and June were the worst for pollution. This could be that the mist which occurred as winter approached provided a nucleus for particles causing photo-chemical smog.

# Another <sup>ARG 5/7/1</sup> mudslide <sup>(5b)</sup> on Devil's Peak

## Staff Reporters

TONS of topsoil and material used to shore up the fire-ravaged slopes of Devil's Peak washed on to De Waal Drive in torrential rain today.

Conservationists' worst fears about the effect of the devastating fire on the mountain in February were confirmed by the biggest mudslide of the winter.

De Waal Drive was turned into a muddy river as water roared off the mountain across the incoming lane to the city.

Cars travelled at a snail's pace attempting to avoid huge pools trapped at the edge of the road and fountains of murky water spurting from stormwater drains unable to cope with the deluge.

Motorists were confronted by at least eight fast-flowing streams rushing across the road between District Six and the Mill Street off-ramp which was under at least half a metre of water.

Mrs Renate Martin of Pepper Tree Road, Vredehoek, said she heard a rumbling sound about 9.45am today.

"I looked out of the window and saw the mountain was coming down.

"That's what it looked like. All the poles the council put up in the river bed were coming down, with a mass of mud. Some of the poles were flying through the air, above the roofs.

"Some of the poles flew over our garage roof and landed in the back yard.

"Just up the road there's a house where the mud is running through the back door and out the front door.

"When there was that fire on the mountain I phoned the council and they said it would be too expensive to send a helicopter. If you think now of how much they've spent, trying to secure the mountain.

"I walk up there every day, and you could see those poles wouldn't hold. They're just pinned in place with two iron stakes, but when the water comes down there's nothing to hold the stakes," Mrs Martin said.

A spokesman for the City Engineer's department said they had mounted an emergency operation to clear a blockage in the stormwater drains at the top of Vredehoek.

Soil and debris which washed down in the last rains had been cleared but more material had come down overnight and blocked the drains.

The ceiling of a Sea Point flat crashed down, narrowly missing the occupant.

Mrs Yvonne La-Raine Hodge of Alice Court in Main Road was getting ready for a bath when she heard a "massive crash".

"I rushed out and saw that the ceiling in my entrance hall had crashed down filling my flat with water about 20cm deep.

# Could our tap water be too clean for our health?

**T**HERE has been a lot of talk lately about whether our tap water is clean enough. On the other hand it could too clean.

Contamination by heavy metals aside, there is a theory that municipal water can be so sterile that it is actually unhealthy.

At a Swaziland conference in the 1970s a scientist suggested that over-purification in South Africa could be detrimental to health.

Rural children, brought up on "natural" water, seemed more disease resistant than urban children — especially when it came to polio, mumps and measles.

Urban dwellers, by drinking sterile water, tended to avoid mumps and measles in childhood (when their system is more able to cope) only to be stricken in adulthood, with far more serious results.

Some months ago I wrote about how, when it came to chlorides in tap water (which indicate the presence of faecal matter) the European Community had settled on a limit of 25 milligrams/litre and the World Health Organisation on 200 mg/l.

South Africa tolerates 600!

Now I hear the WHO is considering moving towards our figure.

The WHO standard, which allows 2.2 faecal coliforms per 100 millilitres, was recently described by Hillen Shuval, Israeli environmental health expert, as outdated and unscientific.

At a recent conference in London he said: "Westerners are neurotic

Greenpiece

56  
JAMES  
CLARKE



about infinitesimal amounts of faecal matter and that their standards are handicapping the Third World.

He studied 1 000 health reports from 50 sites where the count was 1 000 faecal coliforms per 100 millilitres — almost 500 times the WHO's standard — and found no health effects whatsoever.

And a British delegate felt 10 000 coliforms would be safe in low-humidity hot climates.

US and European delegates were unimpressed by Dr Shuval's argument, but in Africa he should receive a more sympathetic ear. Western standards are likely to inhibit the development of irrigation schemes that make use of partly treated effluent.

For one, the EC is likely to bar Third World vegetable imports grown in water with 1 000 coliforms/100 mg. Yet they consider it perfectly safe for people to swim in water with 2 000 coliforms/100 mg.

If "neurotic standards" inhibit African efforts to improve its own nutritional standards then, I imagine, it will cause much more sickness than would slightly questionable water.

# Help needed to save mountain

SHARON SOROUR  
and SHARKEY ISAACS

Weekend Argus Reporters  
CAPE Town city councillors have called for national funding to rehabilitate and conserve Table Mountain after disastrous mudslides brought on by the heavy rains and the Devil's Peak fire.

Ward 5 councillors Mr Llewellyn van Wyk and Mr Louis Kreiner, and executive committee member Mr Leon Markowitz said Table Mountain was part of the country's national heritage and as a national monument should be treated as such.

The council had spent "hundreds of thousands of rands" trying to cope with the present crisis following the February fire and

had had to do it on a "shoestring budget".

Mr Van Wyk said: "Every year funds from Province for the rehabilitation and conservation of the mountain have been reduced. This year they were reduced to R250 000 and we have been told there will be no subsidy at all next year."

The burden of looking after the mountain landed on the council.

Mr Van Wyk said the public use of the mountain for recreation was increasing but upkeep suffered because of subsidy cuts.

The city council and its advisors had indicated the urgent need for funding.

Dr Douglas Hey, Chairman of the Cape Peninsula Protected Nature Area Advisory Commit-

tee, said: "We must put things in their proper perspective. The devastating fire which left topsoil on the slopes on Devil's Peak defoliated was the real disaster, not the flooding."

"The fire happened at an awkward time just before the winter rains and nothing except the replacement of the vegetation is going to check the flooding."

"The fire left the topsoil exposed and there has not been enough time for the vegetation to recover. Not even grass has had enough time to grow back."

What needed to be done was to replace the vegetation "as fast as possible" and to build barrages across the gulleys to slow down the fast-running mountain streams.

(Sb) ARGUS 6/7/91

SHARON SOROUR and SHARKEY ISAACS

CAPE TOWN'S mountain slopes will take "several seasons" to stabilise, the acting city engineer has warned after storms again devastated Devil's Peak.

As council workers stogged to stabilise muddy mountain slopes and clean up after yesterday's downpour, a councillor warned of "enormous problems" facing the city.

More than 200 workers turned out on the mountain on Friday when an avalanche of rock, logs, mud and water cascaded down the fire-ravaged slopes of Devil's Peak flooding houses, sweeping away cars and blocking roads.

Tons of topsoil and material used to shore up the mountainside were washed away by torrential rain - confirming worst fears about the consequences of a devastating fire during February this year.

About 40 council workers had been on stand by throughout Thursday night to avert further crises, said Ward 5 city councillor Mr Louis Kreiner.

Tons of topsoil and material used to shore up the mountainside were washed away in torrential rain, confirming worst fears about the consequences of the devastating fire.

Mr Kreiner said a barrier which had been set up in a Devil's Peak ravine had collapsed.

Acting city engineer Mr Henk Beekman said the barrier was set up to cope with normal rainfall and it had collapsed during a cloudburst above Tafelberg Road.

"Further remedial work will be done and we will continue with the work we have been doing even though continual rain has stillied our progress."

The slide started as water rushed down the steep slopes above Tafelberg Road, channelling into a stormwater gully, in which hundreds of logs had been placed to curb water flow. The water and mud swept away the logs and sent rocks cascading down Oak Tree Village townhouses at the top of Vredehoek were worst hit as the slide gathered momentum. Several were flooded and council workers battled to dig trenches and pack sandbags to divert floodwaters from others.

Derry Street and Upper Mill Street bore the brunt of the devastation, with several unoccupied cars swept away by the muddy water.

Mr Beekman said the mountain slopes would take several seasons to stabilise.

"We have had an unusual amount of rain... water levels in dams like Wemmershoek shot up from 36 millimetres to 76 millimetres in two weeks."

Ward 5 councillor Mr Llewellyn van Wyk said there was no doubt "everyone" was very concerned and fingers could not be pointed at the council.

"We were anticipating that something like this could happen because of the fire and the council did everything in its power to avert this kind of disaster."

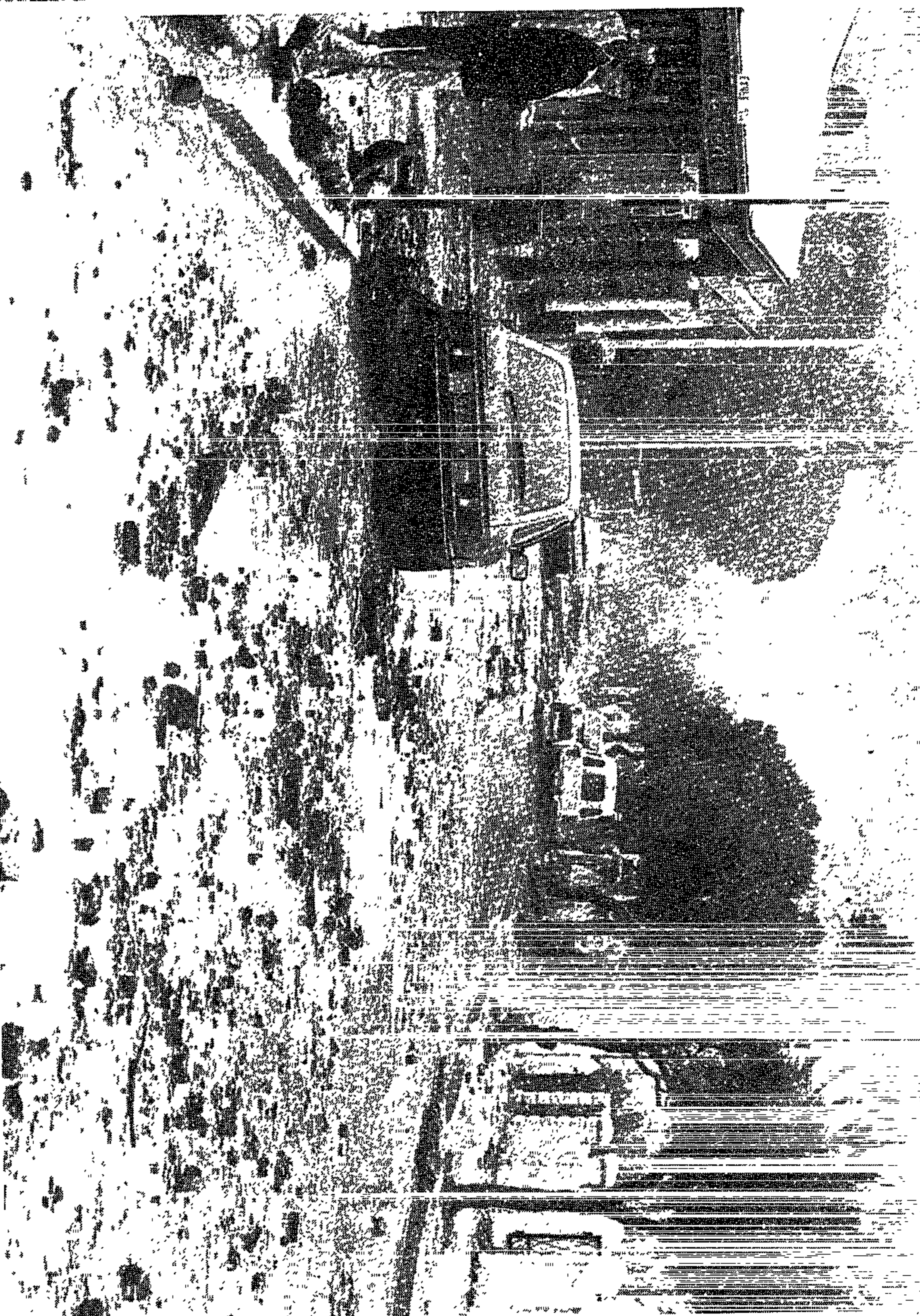
When asked if the council was winning in its battle against the sliding slopes he said: "Efforts by the council to avert a crisis cannot be described as unsuccessful as geological engineers were appointed to specifically address the problem and a considerable amount of money was spent."

# Mud menace slithers on

Argus 6/7/91



**DIGGING IN . . .** Traffic Officer Cassie Vermeulen shovels mud in Derry Street yesterday.



**DEVASTATION . . .** Derry Street in Vredehoek yesterday morning after heavy rains caused mud and debris to sweep through the suburb from Devil's Peak. Pictures: BENNY GOOL

# Mountain mud chaos

Staff Reporter

**FLOOD-PREVENTION** barriers on Devil's Peak, which were swept away by torrential rains yesterday morning, will be rebuilt.

The barriers — put up by the city council to stop a mudslide on the fire-scarred mountain — parted under a deluge early yesterday sending tons of soil, rocks, logs and other debris surging into Vredehoek.

Worst hit was Oak Tree Village, where town-house residents were yesterday mopping up their flooded homes.

Below the Villa, the mudslide swept away

cars in Derry Street, and blocked lower roads with a trail of rock and mud.

Acting city engineer Mr Henk Beekman said earlier rains had saturated the ground above Tafelberg Road, and a cloudburst above Devil's Peak yesterday morning caused a mudslide.

This flooded across Tafelberg Road and down into the catchment area, he said, dislodging a large amount of debris.

Flood-prevention barriers, constructed after the huge fire on Devil's Peak in February, were also swept away in the deluge.

Worst hit were residents in the upper part of Oak Tree Village.

"My front door was smashed off its hinges," said a shocked Mr Mike Double. The mud and

water rushed through his home, and burst through the back door.

The lounge and kitchen were knee-deep in water which had damaged expensive hi-fi equipment.

Dozens of city council workers, assisted by bulldozers, were called in to help clear roads, blocked stormwater drains and flooded homes.

Traffic policemen also joined in, moving away rocks and shovelling mud off the streets.

"Never seen anything like this," was the reaction of many residents and workers there yesterday morning.

Mrs Sandra Lowry of Durbanville, who works at a hairdressing salon in Derry Street, said the flooding "sounded like a waterfall". Her car was moved three metres by the

water, and was only stopped by the parked car of a colleague. Mrs Jean Grant. Mrs Lowry's car had to be towed out of the way by a council truck, because it would not start.

A car belonging to Mr Steven Kruger, the postmaster of the Herzlia Post Office, was swept some five metres and damaged by logs.

Vredehoek resident Mr Simon Shiffman, who grew up in the area, said he had never experienced flooding on such a scale.

"It was like a river," he said. "The water was too powerful for what they (the city council) were doing."

Mr Beekman said the council would continue to clean up at the weekend and would put up more barriers on the mountain.

150 or 6/1/91

# Could our tap water be too clean for our health?

Star 6/7/91

**T**HERE has been a lot of talk lately about whether our tap water is clean enough. On the other hand it could be too clean.

Contamination by heavy metals aside, there is a theory that municipal water can be so sterile that it is actually unhealthy.

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# Mudslides: <sup>(56)</sup> <sup>ARC 9/7/91</sup> Bungling and apathy blamed

By SHARON SOROUR  
Staff Reporter

MISMANAGEMENT and apathy — not only the devastating Devil's Peak fire and heavy rain — are to blame for the state of Table Mountain, according to leading University of Cape Town botanist Professor Eugene Moll.

He said problems started well before the February fire which ravaged hundreds of hectares of vegetation.

"The fire is not the only problem. A mountain needs to burn and natural fires to occur.

"This could have been a 'natural' fire but even though it wasn't, if the vegetation is 30 years old, it will burn and a mountain — any mountain — erodes," he said.

Most of the erosion, caused by heavy flooding, was on the lower slopes of the mountain where the council had removed gum trees to limit foreign plants from the area.

"And they piled brushwood in rows for burning but it was never burnt for various reasons, including the sensitivity of Capetonians to soot and ash. People don't want ash in their swimming pools," he said.

There was no scientific ecological

slopes of Devil's Peak that further mudslides would not occur.

"They are in for a torrid time if we have more rain. But they are also part of the mountain and should ensure the City Council does its job properly.

"It's our own apathy that has contributed to the problem we face now."

He said the Cape Peninsula Protected Nature Area Advisory Committee operated only in an advisory capacity to the administrator and had no power.

"Part of the problem is politics. The committee is only an advisory one. And in South Africa there is a tendency not to rock the boat. The blame is at the highest level of government."

Meanwhile, Cape Town mayor Mr Gordon Oliver has joined other city councillors in appealing for government funding to conserve and rehabilitate the mountain.

Mr Oliver said: "I really cannot call on them urgently enough ... we just have not got sufficient funding to cope.

The mountain was "our national heritage and a national monument and I do not believe the government has taken this seriously enough."

# Township smog delays aircraft over Peninsula

Staff Reporter

WOOD smoke from townships combined with early morning mist to form heavy smog which closed D F Malan Airport and caused an already-delayed flight from Johannesburg to fly in a holding pattern over the Peninsula for 47 minutes.

The flight, SA 393, originally due to land shortly after 6am, got to Cape Town after 8am and landed at 9.15am yesterday.

South African Airways spokesman Ms Janie van Vuuren said D F Malan airport had closed overnight because of fog — delaying the scheduled 4am flight from Johannesburg — and had re-opened at about 6am. But smog closed in again after the Airbus had left Jan Smuts at 6.15am.

A spokesman for the weather office said smoke hastened the forming of fog in high humidity conditions.

Fires were generally lit in Crossroads and Khayelitsha in the late afternoon and early morning.

"The smoke itself won't close the airport, but there is a tendency to fog if there is smoke," he said.

The problem was not specific to Cape

Town but occurred where airports were sited close to informal settlements.

Ms Van Vuuren said the aircraft circled for 47 minutes, "which is a long time, but the alternative was to divert to Port Elizabeth or fly back to Johannesburg which would have resulted in even longer delays.

"We apologise for the inconvenience to passengers but unfortunately there is nothing we can do about the weather."

● A weather office spokesman says today's berg wind conditions are "totally normal for this time of year".

"In fact," he said, "some places along the West Coast get their highest temperatures of the year around this time."

A maximum of 25 deg C was forecast for today, but the temperature could revert to winter chilliness tonight when a "weak" cold front arrives, and along with it a 20 percent chance of rain tomorrow.

"But in the meantime," the spokesman said, "enjoy the warm weather. In winter one does want a nice day from time to time."

● Several people telephoned The Argus to comment on the vapour trails the aircraft left in the clear morning sky over the Peninsula as it waited to land.

NATIONAL WORLD PUBLICATIONS  
1152  
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# Floods in Vredehoek again — Ravensmead too

Adg 10/7/91 (56)

By STEFAANS BRÜMMER  
and HANS-PETER BAKKER  
Staff Reporters

WATER, mud and rocks flooded and littered Vredehoek for the second time in less than a week today.

Rocks and debris also blocked a stormwater drain at the top of Roeland Street and caused a flood of muddy water, rocks and logs to stream down Roeland Street, causing traffic to slow to a crawl.

The water also tore large chunks of tar out of upper Roeland Street. The chunks, according to a bystander, floated "like boats" on 20cm of water, causing further blockages lower down.

Mr Brian Levett, manager of a flooded Roeland Street service station, blamed the City Council for allowing drains to block.

He said the council had not cleared the stormwater drains after the previous flood.

Oak Tree Village, worst hit in Friday's mudslide down the fire-ravaged slopes of Devil's Peak, was not flooded again, but muddy water rushed down a badly eroded gully above the townhouse estate.

Lower down council workers packed sandbags to divert water from streets and a bulldozer cleared another street that had been turned into a mud-bath.



Picture: WILLIE de KLERK, The Argus

**MORE MUD:** Cars crawl along a muddy De Waal Drive into town today.

Deputy city engineer Mr Henk Beekman said: "It's not as bad as last week, but water and mud are streaming down."

He said residents could expect recurrences of the flooding because "we are in winter now", but the council was doing its best to stabilise the fire-damaged area.

"Gabion retainer baskets" — high-tension wire baskets filled with stone to catch solid material but allow water to pass through — had been placed in

the kloof above Oak Tree Village, but the system had to be extended.

Mr Beekman said stormwater intakes had been cleared.

At many places Tafelberg Road was virtually impassable, with mud, sticks and rocks barring the way.

Parks and Forest officials anxiously watched the erosion barriers along the slopes of Devil's Peak

One official said the barriers were holding well and that today's flooding was not as serious as last week.

● Heavy rains also caused flooding in Ravensmead, with Marion Crescent under almost a metre of water.

A visitor said residents were up in arms because the same happened "every week"

She said a petition was being planned "One cannot just continue like this."

announcement was made

page 8.

The targets . . .



Leopard

Lion

Rhino

Elephant

Buffalo

# SA bags top spot

(56)

APR 10 7 91

**The Argus Correspondent**  
**PRETORIA.** — South Africa has become the world's leading trophy hunting country with an estimated 3 500 foreign hunters spending about R100-million here annually.

All trophy hunting in South Africa was on private land and was proof of the "abilities and enterprising spirit" of game-farm owners, said Dr Piet Mulder, head of the Transvaal Directorate of Nature and Environmental Conservation.

He was addressing a group of private landowners and Transvaal Provincial Administration staff at the Sabi Sand Game Reserve.

"Thanks to the private landowners, the Lowveld is the only

place in Africa where the so-called Big Five — elephant, buffalo, lion, leopard and rhinoceros — can be hunted," he said.

Early last year South Africa was presented with the International Wildlife Conservation Award of Safari Club International, the largest nature conservation and hunters' association in the world.

At the same function, Mr Fanie Ferreira, MEC, also praised the efforts of Lowveld landowners in attracting foreign revenue to the country via their game and nature conservation efforts.

He was, however, of the opinion that even more could be done to attract trophy hunters to South Africa.

Mr Ferreira said that there were in the region of 2.5-million registered bow hunters in the United States of America. A South African trophy hunting safari could be marketed to them for the same price as a similar expedition in Alaska or Canada.

"Nonetheless, only a handful of bow hunters come to South Africa annually. It is clear that this highly profitable market has not yet been properly developed," he said.

In giving credit to the private sector for its efforts in nature conservation, Mr Ferreira said that the combined area of the Transvaal's 1 450 exempted properties — game farms and private nature reserves — amounted to some three mil-

lion hectares. The nature and environmental conservation directorate has some 200 000 hectares under its control.

"In the Lowveld between the Sabi and Olifants rivers, some 400 landowners have established more than 300 000 hectares as conservation areas. This outstanding achievement can be judged to value when one considers that it is, after the Kruger and Kalahari Gemsbok national parks, the third biggest conservation area in the country.

"As far as can be determined, nowhere in the world does private enterprise play such a vital role in the conservation of a country's natural resources as in the Transvaal, but especially in the Lowveld," he said.

# Development Bank to make R4bn available

THE Development Bank of Southern Africa will make R4bn available for development projects over the next three to four years.

Bank spokesman Frans van Rensburg said yesterday funds were for development in SA, the independent homelands, self-governing states, Lesotho and Mozambique. *Blom 10/7/91*

Loans would be granted to national, regional or local government structures or their development agents.

Van Rensburg said almost R1bn had been disbursed in the past financial year, an increase of 36% compared with 1989/90.

Bank loans could be repaid over periods as long as 40 years, as most projects were infrastructural.

The bank's Lebowa project manager Alwyn Coetsee said Lebowa had applied for R750m worth of loans for the development of water schemes, transport and energy infrastructure.

Coetsee said 22 water development projects, valued at R181m, were in the identification phase, with a further five approved for funding of R60m.

He said water schemes required mas-

JONATHON REES

sive subsidisation due to the high costs of building a dam wall, laying pipelines, and technical support.

The bank had recently supported small water development schemes where communities took responsibility for initial development and maintenance.

The SA government would provide R500m to the bank this year and next year through the Industrial Development Corp.

Funds were also generated on the capital market.

The bank had provided R600m for the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme since 1986, Van Rensburg said.

Financing was available for rural and agricultural development, business and entrepreneurial development, human resource development, bulk infrastructure development and urban development.

Van Rensburg said development funds were also made available by the Independent Development Trust, Urban Foundation, SA Trust Corp and the Small Business Development Corp.

# Tummy bug risk at Hout Bay

Staff Reporter

A SCIENTIFIC study of two popular Cape Town beaches has found that it's healthy enough to swim at Camps Bay — but taking a dip at Hout Bay could leave you with diarrhoea or a sore throat.

The findings were disclosed yesterday in a paper to the Epidemiological Conference at the University of the Western Cape by Dr Yasmín von Schirnding, of the Medical Research Council.

Information for the study was collected from 6 000 people for the past two bathing seasons at the two beaches and the finding was based on information gathered from 1 000 people in the first phase. The results were therefore preliminary, said Dr Von Schirnding.

The seawater pollution, however, was insignificant, she said. At Hout Bay the symptom rates for gastro-intestinal, respiratory and skin conditions were higher among swimmers than at Camps Bay, but the risk ratios for other symptoms were not large enough to be noticeable.

The rates were still within the acceptable limit, however, and there was not a statistically significant difference between symptoms experienced by swimmers and non-swimmers.

Swimmers were defined as people who entered the water above waist height and non-swimmers were those who went in up to the waist or did not enter the water at all.

The study, a collaboration between the MRC, the CSIR and Pretoria University, is the first stage of a programme to develop water-quality criteria for South Africa.

After people had been interviewed on the beach, follow-up telephone interviews were conducted three to four days later to determine if any symptoms had occurred.

● Cape sunbathers take big risks, need education' — Page 3

ES 10/7/91

# President's Council set to release environmental plan

LINDA GALLOWAY  
Staff Reporter

ARG 11/7/91

A COMPREHENSIVE environmental management plan for South Africa is to be released by the President's Council after an 18-month investigation.

President's Council chairman Dr Willie van Niekerk said the report, to be debated by the council in September, contained far-reaching recommendations on the management of air, soil, water and sea pollution and the disposal of solid waste.

At present there is no central environmental pollution control and monitoring is done at national, provincial and local authority level.

The air pollution control officer for the Department of National Health and Population Development, Mr. Lionel Tucker, said the fragmentation caused many problems.

Mr Tucker is responsible for certain areas and institutions in the Cape while the Cape Town City Council and Regional Services Council also have areas under their control. There is no formal liaison between them.

Dr Van Niekerk said the fragmentation of pollution control was one of the items dealt with in the report and he believed it "has to stop now".

The investigation was the first which involved all three committees — social, economic and constitutional — of the President's Council and evidence was heard from 188 individuals representing 50 institutions. More than 170 memorandums were submitted.

"I am convinced this will be a major document for the future of the environment," he said.

# Ecology 'think-tank' planned for city

LINDA GALLOWAY  
Staff Reporter

ARGUS 11/7/91

(5b)

A think-tank conference entitled "Politicise Ecology, Ecologise Politics" takes place in Cape Town this weekend.

The conference, at the University of the Western Cape, is the first of its kind and has been organised by Eco Programme, a joint project of the World Conference on Religion and Peace (South Africa), and the Cape Town Ecology Group, an organisation promoting awareness of environmental issues.

Participants will include community, environmental, educational, political and religious organisations, trade unions, government agencies and Greenpeace.

Eco Programme's aim is to merge concerns of different constituencies into an approach to the environment which is "holistic, fundamental and able to create a non-racial, democratic South Africa that is also a healthy and beautiful place for all its people".

Workshops and group sessions will focus on the environment and politics, the environment and development, organising around the environment, ecophilosophy, religion, global perspectives, the energy problem, rural issues, health issues and the role of the media.

Speakers include Ugandan environmentalist Mr Yash Tandon, and Mr Yemi Katarer and Mr Sam Moyo from the Zimbabwean Environment and Research Organisation (Zero).



# Campaign launched <sup>(5b)</sup> against development

By CLAUDIA KING

LOCAL environmentalists are mounting a campaign against the possible development for housing of a large portion of land in the Silvermine reserve behind Peer's Hill in Fish Hoek.

Town Clerk Mr Doug Smit told the Constantiaberg and False Bay Review that the developers had not yet made a formal application to develop the land but had undertaken an intensive and impressive environmental impact assessment which had just been released.

"They have also still to approach the Department of Nature Conservation to have the land excised from the nature reserve," he said.

Though the Cape Times was unable to obtain a copy of the report, Mr Jim Langridge who belongs to the Fish Hoek Alien Vegetation Control Group and

the Silvermine River Society, said part of it appeared to claim that the nature of the ground had changed, become covered with alien vegetation and was therefore worth nothing.

## Roman Dutch law

"I know this is not true because in other areas where the aliens were removed, the fynbos came back. The whole area from the proposed bypass site to the river and up to Peers Cave should be allowed to revert to the original fynbos," Mr Langridge said.

Another environmentalist who leads the Alien Vegetation Control Group, Mr Tom Keane, said they were up against a fund of Roman Dutch law regarding property rights which tended to allow the owner of property to do what he wanted.

He feared that if the development went ahead it would be

linked with the proposed bypass road, the canalisation of the Silvermine River and the kaolin mine at the top.

"Each on their own is not so great but it's a different story when they're grouped together. We could easily lose a valuable potential tourist resource," said Mr Keane.

## Concerned

Another concerned resident, Mr Peter Meaker, said the public should be made aware of the amount of development that was already taking place in this vicinity.

"People are very concerned that the nature area will get spoilt and shortly look like the mountain on the other side of Fish Hoek," he said.

Mr T Knoesen, MD of the Ryan Group which owns the property, would not comment.

# Beach sewage appals Hout Bay residents

5b

ALG 12/7/91

**STEFAANS BRUMMER**  
Staff Reporter

HOUT BAY residents are appalled by what appears to be human faeces washing ashore, adding to tension between the ratepayers' association and the Regional Services Council over sewage disposal.

Yesterday, Hout Bay beach was littered with hundreds of balls of sand-encrusted excrement driven ashore by south-westerly winds.

Professor Rob Millar, chairman of the sewage subcommittee of the Hout Bay Ratepayers' Association, said the faeces came from a sewage outlet at Badtamboer, on the Sentinel side of the harbour, which did not comply with the Water Act.

He claimed it had been happening "for several years" because the septic tanks serving the harbour community and leading to the outlet were not functioning properly.

Mr Rory Gilmore, chief of the RSC's directorate of engineering services, admitted the Badtamboer outlet contravened the law, but said it had been tolerated because "they know we are working towards getting the situation worked out".

The pipeline for a new outlet more than a kilometre offshore between the Sentinel and Chapman's Peak had already been laid and would go into operation later.

He said the harbour community's sewage went into large communal septic tanks and the overflow went into the sea at Badtamboer. "You

don't normally get any solids coming from the septic tanks, just fluid."

He denied the tanks were not working.

"They are functional, but the type of discharge is not acceptable," he said. This was one reason why the new system was being developed.

Professor Millar said the ratepayers' association was concerned the new system would not solve the problem, only hide it. Yesterday's beach pollution was "a vivid demonstration" of pollution that could still happen once the new system came into operation next year.

Because of marine pollution European countries had had to abandon pipelines and switch to land-based systems at great cost. "Here we are going the old-fashioned route and we are going to have to pay for it ultimately," he said.

Professor Millar said that, in respect of the new marine outlet, the ratepayer's association was pushing for additional land-based processing before sewage was released into the sea.

Mr Gilmore said the decision to construct the new marine outlet instead of a land-based system was based on "the expert advice of our consultants and the CSIR and we were convinced, and are still convinced, it is the best option for the area, ecologically and economically".

"The stuff that goes into the sea will be very finely macerated. It will be liquid with fine particles that will be easily assimilated and digested by the natural processes of the sea."



**RAW SEWAGE?** . . . Professor Bob Millar, chairman of the sewage subcommittee of the Hout Bay Ratepayers' Association, inspects what yesterday appeared to be human sewage deposits washed up at Hout Bay beach.

Picture: RICHARD BELL

## 'Faeces' washes up

By CHRIS BATEMAN

**BALLS** of what appears to be human faeces have washed up on Hout Bay beach — prompting an investigation by the Regional Services Council.

Horrified joggers reported the pollution to Professor Bob Millar, chairman of the sewage subcommittee of the Hout Bay Ratepayers' Association, yesterday.

Prof Millar believes the faeces have come from an overflow pipe for septic tanks in the harbour.

Recent research on water quality by UCT showed that the incidence of symptoms such as diarrhoea and a sore throat were higher among Hout Bay swimmers than at any other Peninsula beaches investigated.

Yesterday Professor Millar showed reporters several deposits of squash

ball-sized rounded faeces (shaped by wave action) along the high-water mark on Hout Bay's main beach.

"This pipe — which is illegal — overflows all the time because the septic tanks do not work properly and the RSC are taking the easy way out," he charged.

He said RSC studies had shown that the south-westerly weather conditions (prevailing yesterday and on Wednesday) brought pollution on to the beaches for about 20% of the year.

"The sheer volume now on the beach just could not be accounted for by dogs," he added.

The Chief Director of Engineering Services for the Western Cape Regional Services Council, Mr Rory Gilmore, promised an immediate investigation but said he had never heard of such an incident before.

cr 12/7/91

(56)



# 'Berg water 'now polluted'

Own Correspondent <sup>star</sup> 15/7/91 <sup>(56)</sup>

DURBAN — Faction fighting, which has resulted in people seeking refuge in high altitude areas of the Drakensberg, the growing of dagga and the encroachment of cattle to these previously unpopulated areas is threatening many popular hiking trails and a significant portion of Natal's water supply.

Director of the KwaZulu Bureau of Natural Resources (KBNR) Nick Steele revealed that extensive dagga plantations and the migration of cattle heights of 2 000 m and more, were causing serious slips and washaways in the Upper Tugela area of the northern Drakensberg between Cathedral Peak and the Royal National Park.

One of the major concerns of the KBNR, which administers the conservation needs of the region, is that this area of the Drakensberg, particularly the Mweni Valley and Ubsingata Valley, produces about 24 per-

cent of Natal's water and nine percent of South Africa's water.

"It is now evident that the quality of water coming down from the mountains, especially from the Mweni River Valley which feeds the Woodstock Dam, is deteriorating rapidly," said Mr Steele.

"Extensive siltation and persistent *E.coli* counts in the water paint a scary picture of previously clean mountain river water now being polluted."

He said that faction fighting over the past few years had been one of the major reasons for the increase in people moving higher into the mountains.

It is believed that this area of the Upper Tugela extending as far as Weenen is the largest dagga growing area in the southern hemisphere.

Mr Steele said there was an urgent need to attract the tribesmen moving up the valleys back down the mountainside to lower lying areas by developing home industries.

ASSISI — Religious leaders from the Middle East — including David Rosen, the former Rabbi of Sea Point, and Shaikh Ikrama al-Sabri, the Imam of the Al Aqsa Mosque — have been wrestling with the important issue of peace, justice and security in Palestine and Israel.

The gathering, organised by the World Conference on Religion and Peace, took place a short distance from the shrine of the remains of Saint Francis of Assisi (d 1447). Franciscan spirituality has been a moving testimony to the quest for a civilisation of peace and universal fellowship. The choice of Assisi was no coincidence.

For the three days of this gathering I joined the group in confronting "the other", pleading with them, and yes, also listening to their pain, scars, fears and aspirations. The ownership of land, Zionism and racism, the universality of Islam and the parochialism of its adherents, God and community

Isolated in Assisi, it seemed as if the world out there was waiting for us, as if the future of the entire universe hinged on us and our choice of words.

Hours were spent debating whether a message, which we later presented to the Pope, should refer to "the Palestinian people or the state of Israel" or statehood for the Israelis.

### Environmentalists

I suspect that the recently concluded ANC conference had a similar wrestling with words and that the underlying assumption was that the world rotates on the conference's axis.

Meanwhile, St Francis weeps, for he was also a great lover of nature. He is regarded as the saint of the environmentalists. This dimension to his spirituality received scant attention from us, and I suspect from the ANC conference for it is regarded as of no great urgency.

In South Africa, as in Palestine/Israel, environmental issues do feature on the agenda of liberation movements. However, they seldom feature as more than a perfectly legitimate stick with which to beat a minority regime or the occupying power. While there are few places in the world where environmental problems are so intrinsically linked to

government policy as in South Africa and Palestine/Israel, it is no longer adequate to argue that an end to minority rule or occupation is going to solve all the environmental problems.

A recent study commissioned by Hivos, a Dutch institution, indicates how South Africa shares severe ecological problems as in the rest of the world. South African farmers, white and black, lose 20 tons of top soil for each ton of crops they produce — not the worst figure in the world, but five times the USA rate. Our country's south-western deserts are creeping to Pretoria, expanding across 2½ kilometres of exhausted pastures a year.

### Ecological damage

Clearing of the land for agri-business has resulted in large-scale deforestation and where timber is farmed commercially these forests

# St Francis weeps as environment timebomb ticks

CT 15/7/91 (56)



**VIEWPOINT**  
by FARID  
ESACK



**WORLD'S WORST ...** Hartbeespoort Dam, the most polluted body of water of its size in the world.

often skew the ecological balance.

The ecological damage from poisoned strip-mined hillsides caused by mineral extraction is immense. In the Umgeni River mercury concentrations have been recorded at 1 500 times the level at which the US Environmental Agency declares materials toxic. As with much else in South Africa, it is the blacks who suffer most. Blacks continue to pay the price for asbestos mining.

The Sappi chemical paper and pulp mill has devastated the Elands and Crocodile rivers, and, according to Sechaba, the Hartbeespoort Dam is the most polluted body of water of its size in the world.

Our country and its people have been ravaged in more than just one way, and there is a lot of healing waiting to be done. Our land, seas,

rivers and mountains are waiting too.

While we continue to dismiss environmental issues as trendy European issues imported alongside feminism, abortion, etc, and we continue to act as if the world rotates around our end-of-conference communiques, the environmental timebomb ticks away, as indiffer-

ent to our words as we are to its ticking.

The last decade has seen a rapid growth of interest in and commitment to ecological issues by a large number of activists engaged in extra-parliamentary politics. That they mostly come from the white community is regrettable. The contribution of this sector of the activist community is truly immense in this regard and there are increasing signs that people in the leadership of political movements are beginning to listen.

### Commitment

The coming conference on the Environment and Politics organised by WCRP (South Africa) and the Cape Town Ecology Group at UWC is a significant milestone in this regard. This first major environmental event organised by struggle organisations is an ambitious attempt to bring political organisations, trade unions, religious movements and academic institutions together to discuss the challenges posed to our country's ecological future.

One can only hope that the conference will eschew the debilitating and by now rather boring "blame it all on the state" syndrome and move on to what we can do now to create a greater awareness of the issue among our own people. If our clout is a fraction of what we believe it to be, then we could go a long way in curbing the substantial collection and individual damages we inflict upon our common environment.

shows that  
to stay

11A 564A

These have already begun but are still in their infancy and will continue well beyond December.

These will focus on such issues as the leading role of the party, its relation to the South African working class, black and white, the meanings of terms like "democratic socialism" and "social democracy", communist attitudes to religious belief and the place of moral values within Marxism.

### Colleagues

What is certain is that the ANC-SACP alliance is as firm as ever it was, if not firmer, and is likely to remain so for the foreseeable future. The fact that nearly 90% of the ANC delegates voted Joe Slovo on to the NEC is eloquent proof of that.

That the 2 224 delegates to the ANC conference have evinced this kind of support for the communists in their leadership, constitutes an unmistakable signal to President De Klerk and his constitutional advisors.

From now on they will have to debate and negotiate with communists and prepare themselves to accept them as colleagues in a new Parliament.

To do this effectively, they will need to rid themselves of the bigotry which has clouded their view of what communists really are — hitherto.

For the negotiations to prosper, their futile plotting to prise the ANC from its alliance with the

for the politicians. But they really matter. The ANC's needs are here.

in the of the can

# Silvermine River hit <sup>(S6)</sup> by pollution <sup>27/12/91</sup>

Municipal Reporter

SIGNS warning that the Silvermine River is polluted and may not be swum in have recently been erected close to the river mouth by Cape Town City Council.

Clovelly and Fish Hoek conservationists said yesterday that there were two incidents last month in which sewage had spilled into the river from a Fish Hoek sewerage pump station just a few hundred metres from the mouth.

Conservationists said the pollution was probably caused by stormwater flooding into the sump of the pump station, which then caused the overflow.

Mr Jim Langridge, chairman of the Silvermine River Society, who is a retired engineer, said he had asked the Fish Hoek town engineer to provide stand-by diesel engines to back up the electrically-run pumps at the pump station.

"That number five station may be overloaded, or there is some sort of snag there," Mr Langridge said. A certain amount of pollution was also caused by 100 or so squatters living near the banks of the river higher up, he said.

No comment could be obtained from the Fish Hoek municipality or Cape Town City Council yesterday.

Two other conservationists, Mr Tom Keane and Mr Jack Fudge, said pollution incidents of this sort seemed to occur each winter.

# R2,3m for mountain restoration

(56)

16/1/91

By PETER DENNEHY  
Municipal Reporter

THE expected cost of restoring the fire-ravaged eroding slopes of Devil's Peak and tidying up after the Vredehoek mud-slides is likely to double to a massive R2,3 million.

City Engineer Mr Arthur Clayton said yesterday that to date about R1,1 million had been spent in trying to keep soil and debris from being washed off the mountainside since the massive February fire.

"Our teams will still be busy up there every day for months, and the total rehabilitation will stretch over some years, although later on we will not need to work on it every day.

"In the next few weeks, one of our committees will consider approving the expenditure of a further R1,2 million.

"This is not all restoration work, it includes the cost of cleaning up every time the drains are blocked."

Cleaning-up costs were incurred by the roads, sewerage and drainage, cleansing and mechanical engineering branches, while staff from the parks and forests branch and those with a private contractor were busy on the mountainside.

More heavy downpours were expected this winter and this would almost inevitably lead to more cleaning-up costs being incurred, Mr Clayton said.

# Sewage: Pumps idea <sup>(5)</sup> rejected <sup>of 14/7/91</sup>

**Municipal Reporter**

ADDITIONAL pumps at a pump station to control sewage flow in Fish Hoek is not the way to prevent pollution of the Silvermine River, says the Town Secretary, Mr Mervyn Marshall.

He was responding to a suggestion from local conservationists that such a plan might help prevent future spillages.

Last month sewage flowed into the river twice via overflow pipes, and now signboards have been put up warning people not to swim in the river.

"You have to provide for overflows due to pump failure, blockages, or excessive rain," Mr Marshall said.

"In such an event, the sewage either flows into the stormwater drains and then into the river, or else it spills into the streets.

"It is not just Fish Hoek that has such an overflow provision. It is standard for virtually all sewage systems."

Fish Hoek had not considered it necessary to put up warning signs on its side of the river because spillages were not frequent.

~~instead a Cape Town D. Court magistrate yesterday suspended the sentence of Trust Bank manager Piet Graan and ordered him 1 800 hours' community s~~

~~Van Graan, of Welgelen Table View, admitted stealing most R500 000 over six ye~~

~~Magistrate Mr W A de commented while imposing sentence that, as a first offender, Van Graan would probably have served much of a jail sentence — had one been imposed before being released on~~

~~Van Graan, 29, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment~~



# South Africa braced for ecotourists

Star 17/1/91

Conservation-ists used to be worried about the animal carrying capacity of the wilds. Now they're worried about the human capacity.

South Africans, after years of having the country's wildlife refugees more or less to themselves, are about to witness an unprecedented influx of nature-hungry foreign "ecotourists".

Ecotourism — the attraction of visitors to unspoiled natural areas — has, according to Satour's vice-chairman, Noel de Villiers, become a worldwide trend with more and more people seeking the globe's last wild places.

The trend is having an impact on conservation: until now, the major concern in managing game reserves was to judge animal carrying capacities — how many elephants or lion can an area hold before numbers have to be reduced.

Now ecologists are working out how many tourists an area can accommodate before "house full" signs have to go up.

It is becoming apparent that South Africa does not have enough wild places to satisfy the expected demand.

Mr de Villiers says South Africa is poised to become the world's most popular ecotourism country.

But conservationists such as Ian Player say South Africa is becoming desperately short of relatively unspoiled places and has very little true wilderness left.

He says Scotland has more true wilderness than South Africa.

Tourism will inevitably take over from mining as a foreign exchange earner, yet

mines are being allowed to wreck wild areas for temporary gain.

The ecotourism trend could influence the Richards Bay Minerals debate. The 50 per cent foreign-owned company wants to mine St Lucia's hills for titanium.

The mining company says it will provide scores of jobs. But, judging by Satour's argument, mining cannot rival ecotourism when it comes to job creation, especially permanent jobs.

Mr de Villiers says the prospects of ecotourism coming to South Africa on a big scale are now certain. The problem will not be how to win tourists but how to accommodate them without creating too much impact on wild places.

Writing in the latest edition of *Bushcall*, a Johannesburg-based independent wildlife magazine, he says: "South Africa has the people, the skills and the resources to become the world's number one ecodestination."

He believes ecotourism could become the job-creator South Africa needs.

He points out that the need to achieve a jobs growth rate of at least six to seven per cent a year in order to provide 250 000 to 300 000 new jobs a year is particularly important in rural areas.

"We have a direct need for foreign currency to replace declining receipts from gold and we need to create a climate that is conducive to peace, understanding and goodwill.

"Tourism can be the strategic factor that enables us to address these issues. Every 30 additional tourists creates one direct and two indirect job opportunities.

"Every additional 1 million tourists could therefore account for as many as 300 000 jobs while bringing in R2.5 billion. Because of the multiplier effect, that money will circulate between four and five times through the economy, injecting a massive amount of new money into the system."

The benefits of ecotourism "are almost instantly available. Moreover, if tourism is

based on the eco theme, which inevitably it has to be, then a vast proportion of the income earned would find its way back into the environment."

Mr de Villiers says conservation "is a serious business and its pursuit needs hard-nosed commercial decisions.

"It is not enough to accord the subject the usual platitudes that are solemnly directed at bunny huggers."

He called for more attention to environmental conservation and for communities "at all levels" to be drawn into the concept of conserving areas rather than exploiting them for short-term gain.

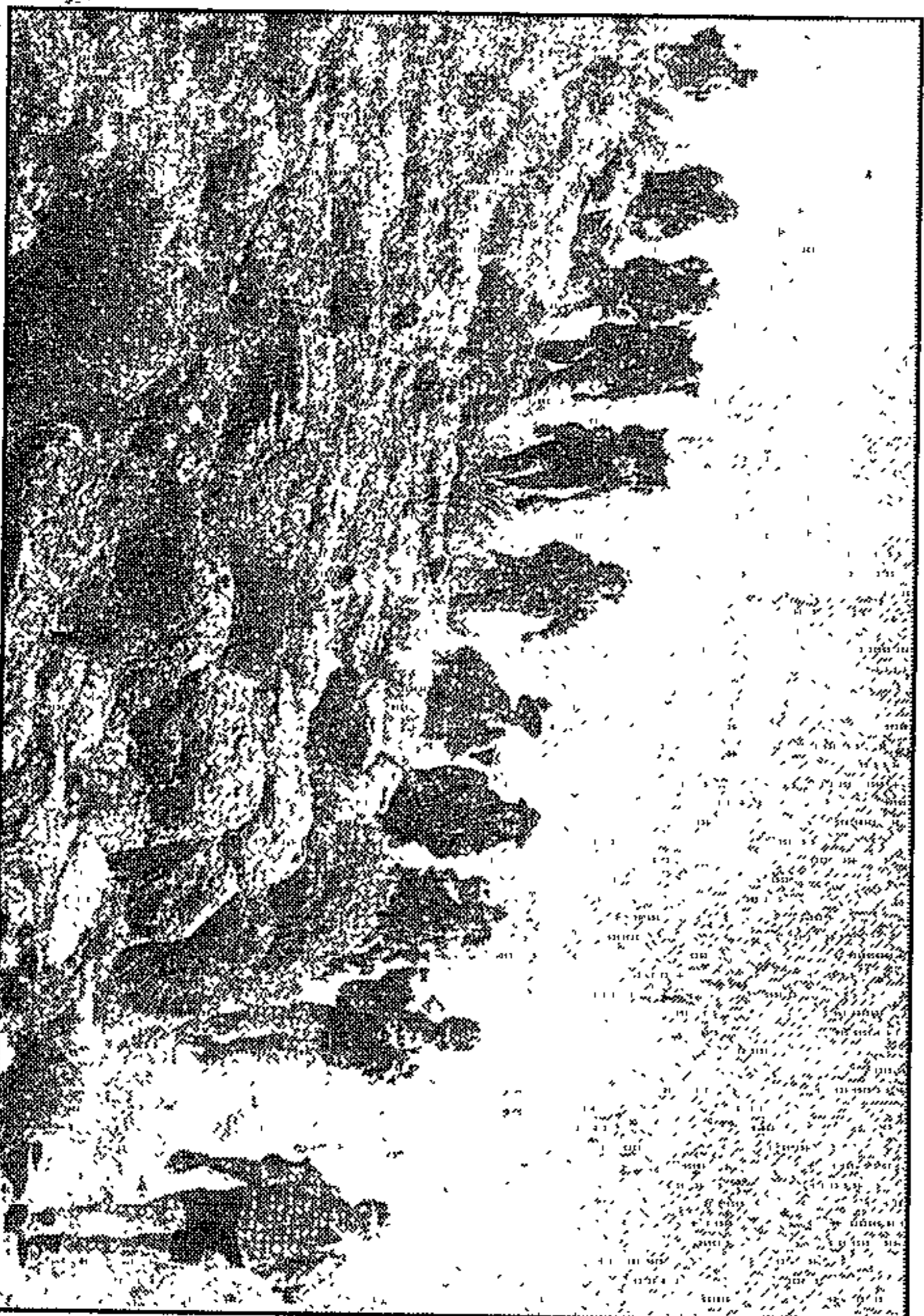
Rupert Lorimer, DP spokesman on environment, is quoted in the magazine saying: "Tourism, particularly ecotourism, could be the saviour of the South African economy."

Colin Bell, managing director of a large ecotourism business, Wilderness Safaris, added a word of caution: "Ecotourism is the way to go but South Africa still has a lot to learn in this field.

"Ecotourism works best where conservation has become part of the way of life of local communities."

Sharon Montgomery of Namibia's Save the Rhino Fund said: "The most important aspect of ecotourism is that the local people must benefit from it."

JAMES CLARKE



Here they come . . . South Africa is poised to become the world's most popular destination for ecotourists — the foreign visitors seeking out unspoiled natural areas.

star 19/7/91

# Cape-to-Kenya reserve possible, says Clarke

Staff Reporter

With improving relations between east Africa and South Africa, the time is approaching to revive General Jan Smuts's idea of a contiguous international wildlife park stretching from South Africa to Kenya, James Clarke, The Star's environmental specialist, said in Johannesburg yesterday.

The purpose of 21st century national parks would not be exclusively to protect wildlife — they would also protect ecologically sound human activities such as farming, fishing, logging and hunting.

"When it comes to Africa and the other parts of the world whose ambience has not been wrecked by over-development, visitors are as fascinated by rural life as they are by wildlife and grand scenery."

Mr Clarke said Britain had long recognised this, and its national parks incorporated farms and even villages.

He told the Johannesburg central Rotary Club

that tourism was set to burgeon as a global industry.

"Already, according to a recent Government statement, South Africa makes R9 billion a year through tourism.

"Africa is the world's most exciting tourist destination. Its attractions are unparalleled.

"Anthropologically, eastern and southern Africa constitute the world's most important and fascinating region — the cradle of man.

"The region's wildlife has no equal. It has beautiful undiscovered beaches, jungles, and a colourful human fabric.

"When it comes to tourism, South Africa's biggest rival is Kenya. Yet we should not be rivals. We should be planning now how to cooperate in attracting maximum tourists with the minimum environmental impact.

"We must avoid undercutting each other to the point where we start accepting cheap pay-back-home package tours which are more of a pollutant than a blessing."

S6

# Environmental issues can't be shelved

By Julie Clarke

56

The environment cannot be separated from post-apartheid society's needs — and there is no need for "environment" to have a separate protective clause in the new constitution because, like race equality, the environment should naturally be considered in all we do.

These were some of the sentiments voiced at the World Conference for Religion and Peace's environmental conference at the University of the Western Cape which ended this week.

Of the 230 delegates who attended, several made the point that environmental issues could not be shelved until after "more important" issues had been settled.

The sincerity of delegates

from the ANC, PAC, SACP, trade unions, religions, non-government organisations and universities shattered preconceptions that political activists were ignorant of environmental issues.

The conference attracted speakers from Zimbabwe and Holland, but it was South Africans who stole the show.

## Affected

The conference title was "Ecologise politics, politicise ecology" and its ending statement began: "We who come from the length and breadth of this land, from many cultural backgrounds, including rich and poor, believe that a peaceful and just society can be sustained only if its ecological basis is sound."

Cosatu-Fawu member and SACP executive, Mosey Peter-

son, said: "We are all too aware that as a labour movement we are directly affected by the state of the environment."

He then cited the crash of the fishing industry as a case in point — overfishing had led to no fish, and that meant no jobs.

He advocated one national environmental body which would have a holistic view and set standards. But in the interim he asked environmental movements to help the masses to understand the issues and assist them to articulate their environmental concerns.

Japha Lekgetho of Soweto, an ANC environmental spokesman, saw environmental issues as being as important as economic growth. "All development must be sustainable."

He emphasised the need for community involvement and described how environmental issues such as neighbourhood clean-ups had united communi-

ties and led them into greening projects.

Then teachers and schools became involved and, eventually, people combined to campaign against injustices and this led to getting rid of the "illegitimate community councils" and getting electricity more cheaply straight from Eskom.

## Destruction

Nacht's representative, Buti Msimanga, said national health and environmental health were synonymous.

PAC member Solly Skosana focused on the land issue and described how apartheid had "killed people, land and the environment". He said "the system" had not changed and the destruction continued.

He felt that policies which did not take ecology into account were dangerous.

A conference aiming to 'ecologise politics and political ecology' drew over 200 delegates from a wide range of political, religious, union and other organisations.  
**DAVE LEWIS** reports:

# THE 'GREENING' OF POLITICS

## ecology conference

South 18/7-24/7/91

56

**T**HE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON Environment and Development held at the University of the Western Cape last weekend saw 231 representatives from a wide range of organisations discussing the links between environmental degradation and the political situation in Southern Africa.

The three-day conference, hosted by the Cape Town Ecology Group (CTEG) and the World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP), aimed to "ecologise politics and politicise ecology".

"The conference represents a breakthrough. For the first time groups such as the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) and the African National Congress (ANC) found common ground around the issue of the environment," said conference organiser Phakamile Tshazhane.

"There was also a wide range of religious groupings represented, from Hinduism to Judaism, as well as many people from rural areas such as Kuruman and Tlangu," he added.

The conference opening was marred by the last-minute withdrawal of key international speaker Vandana Shiva of India due to ill health, but other international environmentalists filled the gap.

mental groupings had been wary of engaging with South African environmental organisations. However, recent political changes in the country had made participation possible. He cautioned against the attitude that environmentalists could continue their work without assisting the democratic process in the country.

Thobeka Thammage of the South African Women's Environmental Collective in London focused on environmental abuses affecting women around the world, and on the fact that many contraceptive methods endanger women's health.

She drew particular attention to the environmental problems facing rural women in Africa, and to the fact that development programmes in the Southern African region had ignored the extra burden carried by women as a result of the migrant labour system employed by the South African mining industry.

**T**HE NEED FOR "greater grassroots participation in the development decisions affecting people" was the message conveyed by Yemi Katarere of the Zimbabwe Environmental Research Organisation (Zero), who spoke about development problems in general and the lessons to be learnt from the Zimbabwean experience.

Debate at the conference centred on issues such as the land question, with many delegates feeling that a new

constitution would alleviate the inequalities that had resulted in land degradation in the homelands.

Solly Skosana of the PAC reiterated the view that land apartheid had not disappeared and that a constituent assembly was the only mechanism in which environmental concerns over land distribution would be able to be addressed.

There seemed to be consensus among delegates that unequal land distribution was a major cause of environmental problems in South Africa and that the land itself needed protection under the law.

**S**PEAKING ON BEHALF OF the ANC, Cheryl Carolus criticised the lack of political involvement by environmentalists in the past and made the point that her decision to get involved in politics had arisen out of a desire to empower herself and to regain control over her environment.

The issue of workers' involvement in environmental issues was taken up by Nosey Peterse of the Food and Allied Workers Union (FAWU), who told delegates: "You can talk about environmental degradation but while you talk workers are losing their jobs because of environmental degradation."

"You cannot have a fishing industry without fish or agriculture without soil," said Peterse, who then added that a sustainable environment would mean thousands of jobs in the future. He urged delegates not to intellectualise about workers but rather

*"The interesting thing was that political groupings were not only represented in their official capacity but also by individuals, and many groups found their members were already aware of the environmental dimension of the political situation."*

to do something practical about the problem.

A statement adopted at the end of the conference declared: "A peaceful and just society can only be sustained if its ecological basis is sound, and this means working with the people of the country striving for a democratic government and justice in access to land and the common wealth.

"Ecologically sound practices and projects can only succeed through grassroots participation where the people concerned retain control of those things that affect their lives."

Delegates agreed that full grassroots participation would have to involve a change in perception and values towards seeing "the interdependence of all living things". Inspiration for such



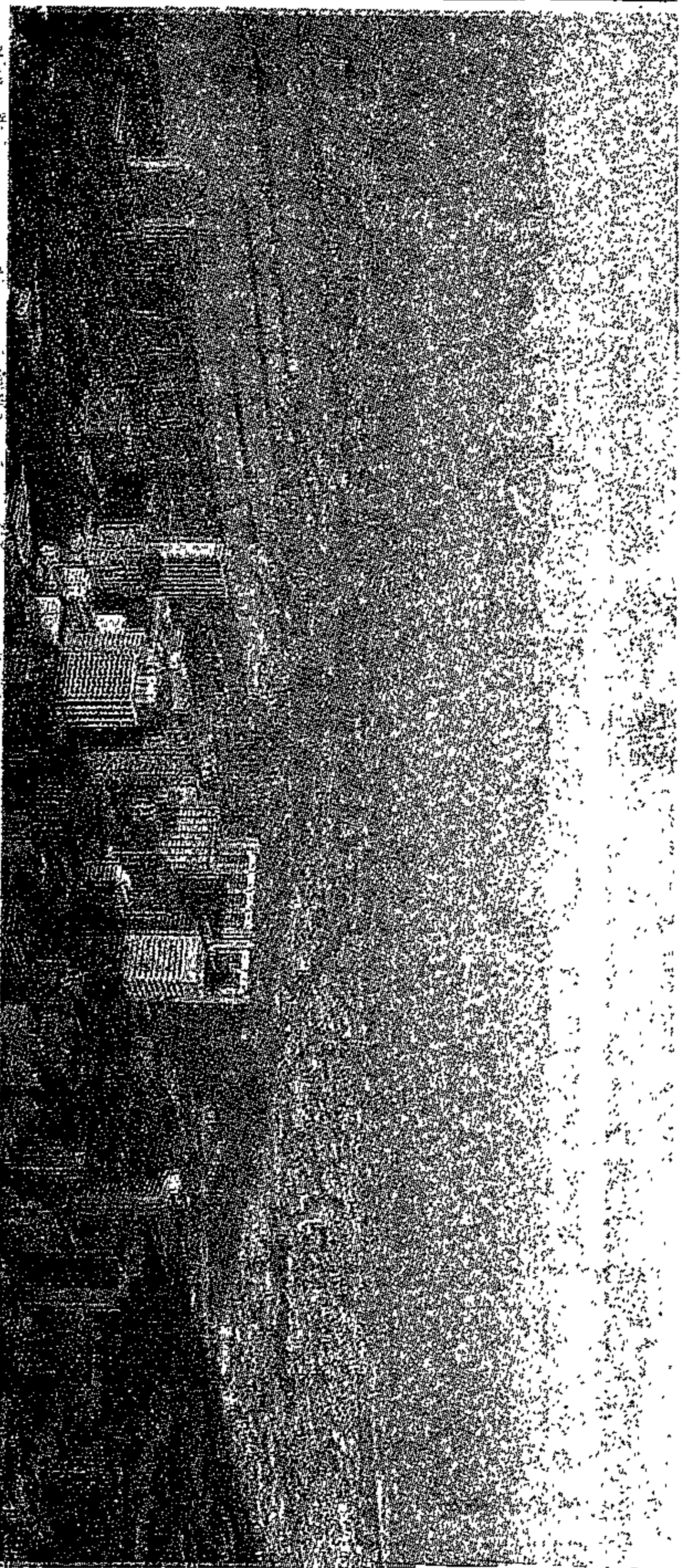
Henri Laurie PIC: SHAMIEL MANIE

values existed in "many religious and spiritual traditions, in particular indigenous African belief systems".

CTEG spokesperson Henri Laurie said the conference was significant in that people from backgrounds that were potentially divisive had shown a willingness to work together.

"The amount of goodwill was remarkable and the delegates showed an enormous degree of solidarity on the environmental issue," he said.

"The interesting thing was that political groupings were not only represented in their official capacity but also by individuals, and many groups found that a significant proportion of their members were already aware of the environmental dimension of the political situation."



**MURKY HAZE . . .** Both publicly monitored air-pollution indicators exceeded their guideline levels yesterday. It was the 15th time this year that the nitrogen oxides (2.021 at 7am yesterday) had been over the suggested limit of 1.504. The 376 guideline level of the other indicator, nitrogen dioxide, is exceeded less often, but yesterday at 10am a level of 383 micrograms per cubic metre was measured.

56

CT 18/7/91

Picture: ANNE LAING

# 'Shoot rhino to fund their conservation'

APR 18/11/91



Argus Africa News Service

**HARARE** — Hunters should be charged one million Zimbabwe dollars (R880 000) for the right to shoot a black rhino, an endangered species of which Zimbabwe has the world's largest number in the wild.

This suggestion was made by Mr Ephraim Chafesuka, chairman of Campfire conservation project which operates in communal areas in Zimbabwe.

The local population would benefit from hunting and photographic safaris as well as from culling operations, he said.

Zimbabwe is thought to have about 1 000 black rhino, mostly in the Zambezi Valley. About 800 have fallen victim to poachers in the past seven years.

He told the national news agency that the black rhino should be placed on a spot hunting quota. He said there were international hunters willing to pay the price.

The money should be split between the community in whose area the rhino had been living, with some going to a proposed insurance fund for wildlife protection officers and

some used to pay rewards for information about poachers.

The rhino would be paying for the protection of its own species.

Most of the poachers cross into Zimbabwe from Zambia where they are engaged by international dealers in rhino horn most of which goes to the Far East where it is sought for its supposed medicinal properties.

Zimbabwe has been battling to protect its rhino population through Operation Stronghold for which money and equipment has come from wildlife

enthusiasts all over the world. More than 400 poachers have lost their lives in contacts with game guard units. The poaching gangs come armed with automatic weapons and know the reception they will get if spotted in Zimbabwe.

Mr Chafesuka said people in the Zambezi Valley and neighbouring areas were willing to allow some of the rhino to go to a captive breeding centre to be set up by the National Parks department.

Hundreds of rhino have already been moved from the valley to safer areas inside Zimbabwe.

## City pollution nearly treble guide figure <sup>5b</sup>

POLLUTION levels for the city were a staggering 290% higher than the recommended guideline yesterday.

The NOx guideline (all the nitrogens), which is pegged at 1 504, was almost three times higher at 4 376. <sup>CT 19/7/91</sup>

The NO<sup>2</sup> (Nitrogen Oxide) reading was 559 yesterday, far above the 376 guideline. <sup>30 b</sup>

The pollution levels for Wednesday were also significantly higher than the guidelines.

Reacting to several Cape Times reports on pollution levels, the Wildlife Society yesterday said increasing pollution over the city was the result of "very poor transport and pollution control planning that is a symptom of the whole of South Africa's recent development".

# Meiring: Turn mountain into national park

By ANTHONY JOHNSON  
Political Correspondent

(56)  
21917/91

TABLE MOUNTAIN should be declared a national park as a matter of urgency, Cape Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring proposed yesterday.

Declaring that the "time for molly-coddling administrative empires has passed", Mr Meiring said the best way to preserve "this national treasure" as a natural and tourist resource would be for the mountain to be managed by a single authority.

He told the annual meeting of Fedhasa that he was confident that the multitude of authorities and private owners involved with the protected nature areas on the Peninsula mountain chain would support the idea.

The management of the mountain system was one of the most complicated tasks imaginable. "Divided control aggravates matters considerably and undoubtedly creates the greatest management problem," he said.

While the various authorities were doing their best to manage the mountain chain, it was obvious that a single management authority would be in a much better position to do this effectively.

The recent erosion and floods off Table Mountain placed a question mark over the ability of the present system.

The MP for Caledon and chairman of the parliamentary standing committee for environmental affairs, Mr Lampie Fick, last night welcomed Mr Meiring's proposal.

Mr Fick said that despite the attempts of the various management bodies, Table Mountain was undoubtedly moving in the direction of an environmental disaster area.

"The National Parks Board is the one organisation with available expertise, the legal authority and a proven record of successful management," he said.



# Council urges conservation of City Bowl areas

(56)  
APC 19/7/91

**CLIVE SAWYER**  
Municipal Reporter

TWO upper Table Valley areas should be declared urban conservation areas, the City Council executive committee has recommended.

Included in the areas are Gardens above Mill Street, western Tamboerskloof and parts of Higgovale, Vredehoek and Devil's Peak Estate.

A decision to ask the Administrator for the proclamation was made at yesterday's committee meeting and follows a 1988 decision to conserve the areas.

The plan was kept on ice while the opinion of about 2 200 property owners and residents was canvassed.

Response to the proposal, which forces developers to negotiate with local authorities to preserve standards of any planned buildings, was mostly enthusiastic.

It was welcomed by the National Monuments Council and the Upper Table Valley Ratepayers' Association.

There were eight written objections: that developers' and property

owners' rights were affected, that there were few buildings worth preserving and that costs of maintaining old buildings were high.

Commenting on these, city planner Mr Neville Riley said the Upper Table Valley was one of Cape Town's oldest and finest residential areas and had been badly affected by insensitive development.

The intention of the proclamation was not to block development, but ensure it was "reasonable".

The environment would not be "frozen" and renovations in progress would not be blocked.

The high cost of maintaining old buildings had to be accepted by buyers, who would keep the option of restoring them or not.

Conservation architects found 10 areas worthy of conservation and these had been consolidated for administrative ease, said Mr Riley.

Conserving whole areas, rather than individual buildings, guaranteed the stability homeowners wanted.

Urban conservation areas protected property rights, rather than taking them away.

# Clear the air, save tourism — Meiring

**CLIVE SAWYER**  
Municipal Reporter

TABLE Mountain must become a nature reserve with one management body and Cape Town's air must be clean to save tourism, says the Administrator, Mr Kobus Meiring.

At the Federated Hotel Liquor and Catering Association (Western Cape) annual congress Mr Meiring said management of Cape Town's beautiful assets had fallen far short.

Cape Town had not come into its own as a tourist city because of mismanagement.

"The erosion on the slopes of Table Mountain, the flooding of suburbs and the resultant losses puts a question mark over our capacity to manage and conserve our national treasures," Mr Meiring said.

The mountain needed single management because "the time of mollycoddling administrative empires" had passed.

The mountain should be declared a nature reserve and local authorities, and the 179 pri-

vate and corporate landowners in the protected area should hand control to a single body.

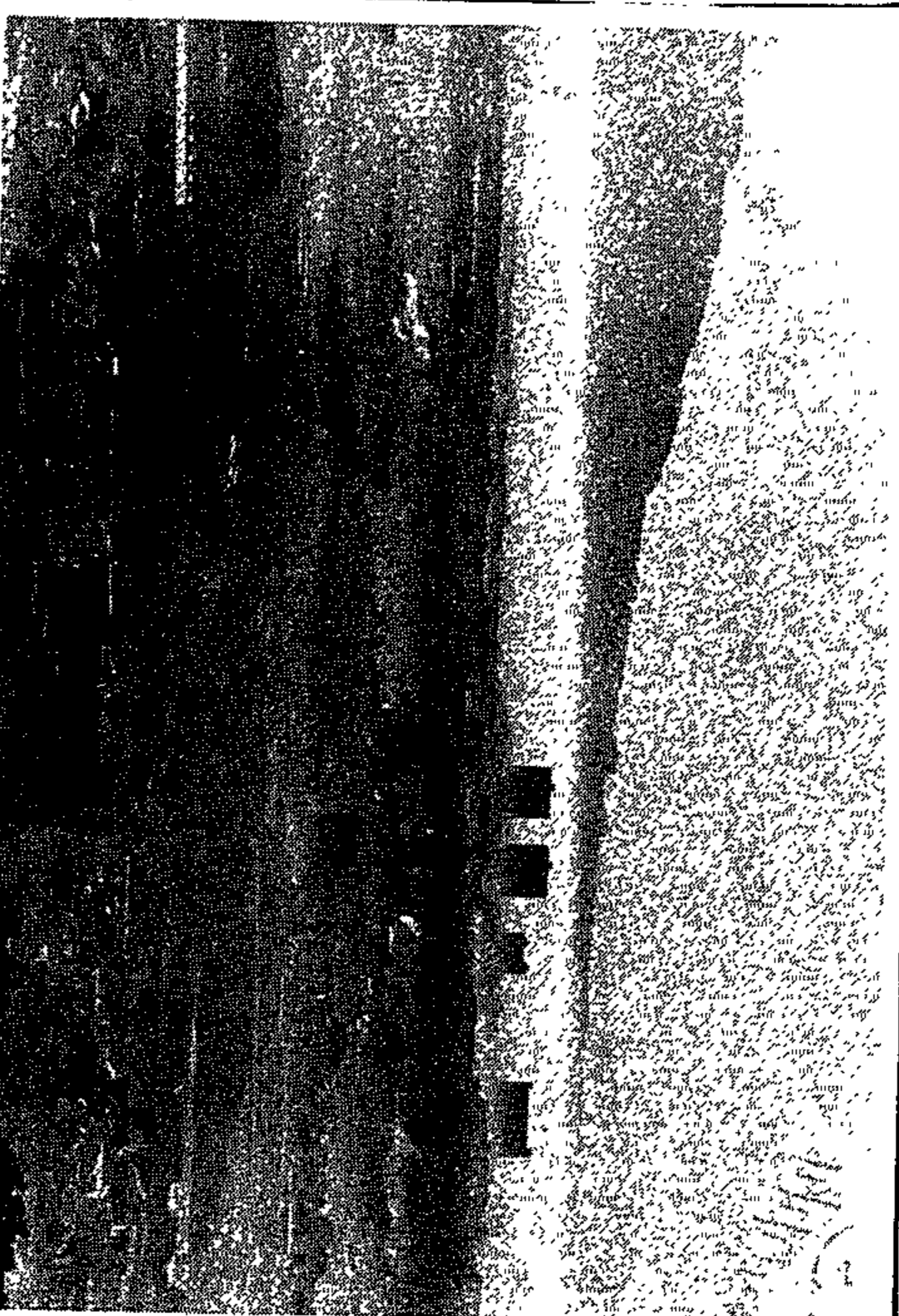
Mr Meiring said he believed all the bodies involved in mountain management would welcome his call.

It was crucial to declare Table Mountain a nature reserve because this would make it legal for a government body to administer privately owned land without buying it.

Indiscriminate destruction of flora and the "blue-grey cloud of smoke hanging increasingly often over the Peninsula", the pollution of rivers and the sea cast doubt on public commitment to environmental conservation.

"Our ability to make Cape Town a true tourist city is linked to our ability to strike a balance between development, utilisation and conservation."

High crime figures and increasing violence in greater Cape Town were disturbing and were also damaging tourism, Mr Meiring said.



Picture: ROY WIGLEY, The Argus.

(56) A229 19/7/91

**RECORD SMOG:** Air pollution levels hit an all-time high yesterday when the nitrous oxide level was measured at 4 376 cubic centimetres. City Medical Officer of Health Dr Michael Popkiss said while there was less visible pollution than on Wednesday, yesterday's was the worst yet. Air pollution indicators exceeded their guideline levels substantially. Nitrogen oxides went over their levels for the 16th time this year while nitrogen dioxide, less often in excess of the guidelines, was also too high. Dr Popkiss said a new measuring instrument, costing R150 000, would be in use during next year's April to July smog season. New equipment would boost accurate research on the smog, he said.

## Meiring calls for air cleanup as smog rises

Municipal Reporter

**RECORD** air pollution levels were measured in Cape Town yesterday, coinciding with a call from the Administrator, Mr Kobus Meiring, for the city to clean up its air.

Nitrous oxide levels, an important part of photochemical smog, was measured at 4 376 cc

yesterday morning, said Medical Officer of Health Dr Michael Popkiss.

Although the smog was not as visible as on Wednesday, it was worse.

Mr Meiring told the regional congress of the Federated Hotel Liquor and Catering Association yesterday that Cape

Town was wasting its natural resources by allowing filthy air and by mismanaging Table Mountain.

"The blue-grey clouds which appear more and more often over the Peninsula cast a shadow over our ability to establish environmental awareness in the broader community," he said.

## SA ranked among the best on world conservation list

DARIUS SANAI

A LOCAL affiliate of the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWFN) has ranked SA among the world's best nature conservation countries.

SA Nature Federation (SANF) spokesman Brenda Crook said yesterday SA's record of protecting flora and fauna was "the best in Africa and among the best in the world". *Blomay 19/7/91*

The extensive National Parks system and government's commitment to ensuring that all major ecosystems were represented in formally protected areas contributed to the satisfactory conservation situation in SA, she said.

A recent report by the SANF said SA, which ceased whaling in 1976, also had some of the most progressive legislation in the world protecting its marine life.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Friends of the Earth, a Dutch-based international environmental organisation, said an ecology conference last week in Cape Town found that SA was lagging behind the rest of the world in several aspects of conservation.

He said air pollution was a major concern in the highveld, adding that unleaded petrol needed to be made available in SA.

He said SA's climate was conducive to soil erosion, with droughts followed by heavy rain. In addition, the homelands policy and a dearth of education programmes in overcrowded areas had also led to "disastrous" soil erosion.

Crook said although highveld pollution levels were high, levels of acid rain — caused by the precipitation of a combination of pollutants — were not as high as in world problem areas such as Norway and Canada.

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## Chamber joins call for mountain as national park

CT 20/7/91 Staff Reporter (SL)

CAPE TOWN Chamber of Commerce yesterday joined the Administrator's call for Table Mountain to be declared a national park.

Mr Kobus Meiring made the call this week.

In a statement the chamber said Table Mountain was "the second most popular tourist amenity after the Kruger National Park" and it was "absolutely vital" that proper funding was made available to ensure that its full potential was realised.

Devastating fires, floods and mud slides had ravaged the rich but delicate mountain eco-system this year and the situation "should not be allowed to deteriorate further", the statement said.

# Council's eye on pollution

ET 20/7/91 (56)

## Staff Reporter

THE managers of two Milnerton factories could be called to task for what ratepayers believe are unacceptable contributions to major pollution levels.

NOx (all the nitrogens) levels monitored by the Cape Town City Council yesterday dropped to double the acceptable guidelines after reaching triple levels on Thursday.

Mr Hans Linde, the council's principal inspector of pollution control, yesterday viewed the pollution from a traffic control helicopter and is reliably known to have targeted three factories for further investigation.

Mr Linde yesterday declined comment until the Medical Officer of Health, Dr Michael Popkiss, returned to work on Monday, but the factories are known to be (in order of pollution contribution) Kynoch Fertilizers, Caltex Refineries and Hoechst.

Mr Cliver Thorpe, regional general manager of Kynoch Fertilizers, admitted his factory emitted nitrogens.

He estimated its contribution to total NOx levels as "maybe three per cent of the greater Cape Town area".

He said vehicles and "running en-

gines" were far bigger contributors to NOx levels than any factories.

Sophisticated pollution reduction equipment had been installed and the company had begun a multi-million rand campaign for further improvements.

"Our approach is to minimise the process that causes the pollution."

However this was hampered by competitors not adopting the same strategies and producing fertilisers more cheaply, he said.

Mr Thorpe expressed willingness to meet with ratepayers and said one such meeting was "already scheduled".

A Hoechst spokesman said their factory generated fumes from burning oil in the polyester fibre manufacturing process but expressed "total surprise" at his factory being targeted.

Mr Dave Brook, town engineer for Milnerton, said his council shared ratepayers's concerns and held regular meetings with Kynoch and Caltex.

The present air pollution act "only stipulates that they must do all they can within the best practical means," he added.

"I think most people are satisfied with Caltex's efforts after several meetings with ratepayers," he added.

# Bitter pill for township

Oppress 21/7/91  
SB  
Messina dumps lethal

## drugs in Nancefield



**HARD TO SWALLOW . . .** Messina Advice Office worker Eaglet Chipu with some of the poisonous drugs found at the dump.

**By ELIAS MALULEKE**  
A PHARMACY is dumping lethal drugs a few metres away from Messina's Nancefield township.

The dump is a playground for children and a hunting ground for scavengers.

The owner of the pharmacy, Jan Naude, said he was not aware the drugs were being dumped on the site and would investigate.

Naude said as far as he was aware, old drugs were burnt and not dumped in Nancefield.

City Press also discovered that the SADF, a

private hospital, restaurants and butcheries were also using the site to dump their refuse.

Messina town clerk JA Kok - who used several four-letter words when approached for comment - said his council was not to blame for people who exposed themselves to danger.

The dump was "fenced

in", and if people went there they did so at their own risk, he said. The dump is, in fact, not fenced in.

Nancefield residents told City Press the dump was a health hazard and a breeding ground for flies.

They demanded that the dump be moved to a place where children could not reach it.

Children have been seen playing with drugs and bullets they had found there. Residents claim the bullets are dumped by soldiers who live in the SADF barracks in the town.

Messina Advice Office director Jacob Matomane said the dump had been in use for two years, and residents had unsuccessfully campaigned for its removal.

"Since the consumer boycott of white-owned businesses was suspended, the situation has worsened," he said.

Rosina Matome said she was shocked when her seven-year-old son came home with a handful of pills. He told her he had found them on the dump. "The dump must go because it is going to kill our children," said Matome. A spokesman for the Nancefield council, CJ Malan, said the dump was the responsibility of the Messina Town Council and had nothing to do with the local council.



# Gem row threatens PWV water project

(Business Times)

Times 21/7/91

1227

56

INTERNATIONAL contractors on the R6,5-billion Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme are trying to avert a three-week hold-up on the project which could add millions to the cost.

The Supreme Court in Maseru ordered on Friday that work be halted in an area of 200m<sup>2</sup> around the Katse Dam pending the outcome of an urgent application for compensation claimed by two diamond-mining firms.

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) and the contractors have until August 12 to reply.

Contractors from Italy, France, Germany, the UK and South Africa have skilled staff and equipment worth millions on the site of the dam and three tunnels which will help divert water northwards from the Maluti Mountains to the PWV.

## Hitch

LHDA chief executive Masupha Sole was in meetings on Friday, but a transport contractor supplying the site said the injunction halting work had not been served.

Group 5 managing director Peter Clogg said: "It's unbelievable that this kind of legal hitch could hold up such a huge project."

Group 5 is a member of the international consortium led by Italy's Impregilo which is building the R1,4-billion dam.

The companies which have applied for R565-million compensation for the loss of their alluvial diamond rights are Swissbork and Rampae Diamonds, both represented by Josias van Zyl. Their rights apparently cover most of the streams and riverbeds in the Maluti Mountains where Katse Dam is being built.

The 180m-high dam is the key structure in the project, which is due to supply the first water to the Vaal River system by 1996.

Mr Clogg says construction is going well and is either on or ahead of schedule.

By IAN SMITH

A long stoppage would have serious repercussions and if vital work missed the proper season completion could be set back by up to a year.

Even a short hold-up would

hit small sub-contractors, many of which have bought expensive equipment and cannot afford downtime.

"Many would not survive the shock," said a contractor.

One solution would be a negotiated settlement. But there will be arguments about of compensation and who should pay it.

Nama  
'bride'  
causes  
blushes

# Historic pact at Kuboos

By WILLEM  
STEENKAMP

Staff Reporter

OF all the speeches and gestures at the signing of the Richtersveld National Park contract at Kuboos on Saturday, the most sincere came from the community.

National Parks Board (NPB) Chief Director Dr "Robbie" Robinson was exhorted to enter a traditional "mat house", where he found a Nama bride.

The bride, Mrs Rebecca Domroch, presented Dr Robinson with a hide, on which was stitched a map of the Richtersveld and park, and the kudu's head logo of the NPB.

Resident Mr Willem de Wet explained to Dr Robinson that the community had accepted him, and that he should hang the hide in his office "to make you think about the Richtersveld and take care of it".

A blushing Dr Robinson accepted the gift, and then delighted the crowd by kissing Mrs Domroch.

Later, Mr De Wet explained that of all the outsiders, Dr Robinson was trusted by the community because he was once moved to tears during the talks.

"When someone gets tears in his eyes with us, then we trust him."

THE lives of the Nama residents of the Richtersveld changed irrevocably at the weekend when they gathered in the small town of Kuboos for the historic signing of the contract proclaiming the Richtersveld National Park.

The 162 000-hectare park has been the source of controversy since March 1989, when local resident Mr Willem de Wet obtained an interdiction in the Supreme Court, Cape Town, preventing the proclaiming of the park.

He argued that residents were not opposed to a park, but had not been consulted. He added that traditional semi-nomadic stock farming would disappear, and residents would be forcibly removed from the area.

The new contract emerged out of negotiations involving the community, the National Parks Board (NPB) and the government. The unique agreement, in which the community would remain on the land, have a say in the running of the park and benefit economically from it, was to be signed at Kuboos last November.

Festivities were planned, but the Minister of Local Government and Agriculture in the House of Repre-



**SIGNED AT LAST** ... Richtersveld resident Mr Willem de Wet signs the contract proclaiming the Richtersveld National Park at Kuboos on Saturday. **Picture: WILLEM STEENKAMP**

sentatives, the Rev Andrew Julies, refused at the last minute to sign the contract, plunging the community into confusion.

On Saturday the ceremony went ahead, without Mr Julies. The signatories were his replacement, Mr

David Curry, Mr De Wet, his father Paulus, the chairman of the Northern Richtersveld Management Committee, Environment Affairs Minister Mr Louis Pienaar, and NPB chief director Dr G A "Robbie" Robinson. On hand were Labour

Party leader the Rev Allan Hendrickse, Water Affairs Minister Mr Gert Kotzé, Health Minister of Health Services and Welfare Mr Chris April, NPB chairman Prof Fritz Eloff, Steinkopf MP Mr Abraham Baile, Surplus Peoples Project repre-

sentative Ms Lala Steyn and a host of local leaders. But the hundreds of Richtersvelders gathered for the signing were subdued. One man who should have been there — Mr Willem de Wet's brother Pams — died in December.

Human-rights lawyer Mr Henk Smith described Mr Pams de Wet as "the backbone of the community", and numerous speakers referred to Saturday as "Pams' day".

Mr Willem de Wet pointed to the sky and said in the poetic Northern Cape way: "I feel, for both of us, like the shining clouds up there."

The people were subdued for another reason: They are suspicious.

Uncertain whether they will lose their land anyway, and whether the development promises will materialise, they have adopted a cautious wait-and-see attitude.

With Mr Julies's refusal to sign last year fresh in their memories, their fears mounted when it appeared Mr Pienaar would not arrive to sign the contract.

But the minister arrived with minutes to spare. He left soon after the signing, in a move described by a disgruntled Richtersvelder as "a slap in the face" on a day they marked as a breakthrough for themselves and for the country.

66 0721/191



# New bid to clean up storm water

56

Staff Reporter

Star 23/7/91

A new method of taking urban waste out of storm water before it pollutes streams, dams and wetlands is being implemented for the first time in the country at the AECI's new office park in Sandton.

The method, known as a gross pollutant trap, is widely used in Canberra, Australia and some other overseas cities.

It involves the creation of a concrete pond at the storm water discharge point.

A trash grid or rack is placed across the pond and

traps large items of urban waste. The pond, made of stackable precast blocks, also allows silt contained in the stormwater to settle.

This can then be removed by trucks using ramps.

Consultant on the project, Rodney Corin, said the method was relatively cheap.

## Press to sit in on Exco

Staff Reporter

THE City Council has taken the unusual step of inviting all councillors and the media to a special Executive Committee meeting at which the effects of last February's Devil's Peak fire will be discussed.

Oct 23/7/91

Council spokesman Mr Ted Doman said a presentation on the remedial measures taken to "rehabilitate the mountain" would also be discussed on Thursday.

Meanwhile, reports from the municipal ombudsman Mr H Granger Heugh's investigation into the fire will be discussed at a council meeting next Tuesday.

# City smog: MoH calls for probe

56  
ET 23/7/91

Staff Reporter

A LEADING pollution expert has called for greater research into the city's deteriorating air quality.

University of Cape Town professor and director of the Energy Research Institute Richard Dutkiewicz, warned yesterday. "We need to do a lot more research — and quickly. Things are going to get worse."

Cape Town's Medical Officer of Health Dr Michael Popkiss, said yesterday that the monitoring of the pollution levels, which had exceeded national guidelines 16 times this year, would be a motivation for a commission of inquiry.

Recording the daily pollution, Dr Popkiss predicted, could result in an inquiry at the end of next year's "smog season".

The winter months of April, May and June are generally considered the smog season, but this year it has been extended into July, said air-pollution officer Mr Derrick Oxley.

He attributed the extension of the smog season to the mild weather.

In a communication to the Town Clerk last month, Health Minister Dr Rina Venter said it was "premature to appoint a commission of inquiry into

photochemical pollution in view of the paucity of information".

"There is no doubt that in common with most of the large cities of the world, our cities are suffering increasing vehicular pollution and decisions will have to be made as soon as sufficient evidence is available," the communication said.

Professor Dutkiewicz said there was "too little" research into the city's photochemical pollution and the "brown haze".

The coastal city of Sydney, Australia, has a similar brown haze which research has attributed to the burning of fossil fuels, he said.

In Cape Town the cause has not been established, he said.

Mr Dave Brook, town engineer for Milnerton, said vehicle exhausts were the main cause of pollution and a national move to catalytic converters and unleaded petrol would be an extremely costly affair.

The priorities of this country, he said, had "to be balanced by what we can afford and what the benefits will be".

Dr Venter estimated that the transition to catalytic converters and unleaded petrol would cost in the region of "several thousands of millions of rands".

# SA 'green buys' often easier on pocket

Consumer Reporter

Star 23/7/91  
A Housewives' League price survey of a major retailer's Green Range has found the environmentally friendly products are also very often the most friendly to the pocket on the shelves.

The price survey of Pick 'n

Pay's Green Range is contained in this month's edition of the League's Rand and Sense booklet.

"In a country like South Africa where conservation issues tend to be entrenched in the upper income groups, the success or failure of a product

must ultimately depend on itself," League vice-president Jean Tatham said.

The range, now part of the group's normal marketing, was compared with competing brands on their shelves. The prices were also compared with similar items at other su-

permarket chains.

"There was the usual wide variety of prices but definitely no indication of loading," Mrs Tatham said.

Prices for the environmentally friendly products compared favourably with other products on the shelves.

56

# Unique park born after 18 years

Pretoria Correspondent

The tiny community of Kuboes in the northern Richtersveld was witness at the weekend to the signing of an historic agreement for the establishment of South Africa's first true mountain desert national park — ending 18 years of negotiations.

The agreement was signed by Louis Planaar, Minister of National Education and of Environment Affairs, David Curry, Minister of Local Gov-

ernment, Housing and Agriculture; House of Representatives, Dr G A Robinson, chief executive director of the National Parks Board, Paulus de Wet of the management committee of the Northern Richtersveld and Willem de Wet, a resident of the Richtersveld rural area.

Attempts to establish a national park in the Richtersveld, acknowledged as an area containing South Africa's oldest and youngest rocks, its most varied geological formations and an exceptionally high percentage of endemic plant species, started in 1972.

In that year, South Africa, as part of its contribution to the International Biological Programme, recommended the proclamation of a large conservation area.

In 1975, the National Parks Board also accepted in principle that a national park should be proclaimed in the Richtersveld.

Negotiations were initiated time and again, only to be halted by objections from various parties involved and it was not until the contractual agreement was agreed upon that all parties concerned were happy to accept.

In terms of the agreement the people of the Richtersveld will not to have move out of the territory.

Nomadic stock farmers will retain their pastoral rights and communities in the 1 162 000 hectare park will not be adversely affected.

Farms adjoining the Richtersveld have, however, been set aside for stock farming and if people wish to leave and resettle on these farms they will not be hampered in any way.

Another plus for the establishment of the park is that it will create employment and entrepreneurial opportunities

in the area, highlighted by Mr Curry in his address at the signing function when he said that 11 tourists created one job opportunity.

Speaking after the signing, Dr Robinson said that once fully operational, the park would provide many job opportunities and the ripple effect generated in terms of provisions, services, curios and so on would also assist in increasing employment.

Now that the agreement has been signed, Dr Robinson is of the opinion that it will be gazetted "within the next three to four weeks and then we will start to get things going".

Star 23/7/91

56

# City council may seek state's aid <sup>(S)</sup> to restore fire-ravaged mountain

CLIVE SAWYER  
Municipal Reporter

ARGUS 25/7/91

CAPE TOWN City Council may make a formal request to the Minister of Environment Affairs for funds to restore Table Mountain after the Administrator turned down a similar plea.

The future of mountain firefighting is to be discussed at this month's council meeting on Tuesday when a summary of two reports is tabled, while today city engineer Mr Arthur Clayton is to

give a presentation on the effects of the fire.

The reports, by the engineering and legal services departments of the council, are the result of an independent investigation by ombudsman Mr Granger Heugh into the events surrounding the devastating February 8 Devil's Peak fire.

The first report includes measures already taken to improve response to fires and reports of fires and will recommend

changes to the firefighting system.

Changes to be recommended include other methods of fire detection, including "non-human" means, a council source said.

The legal adviser's report examines various internal legal issues.

The reports were examined by council standing committees behind closed doors earlier this month. A decision to disclose details publicly followed.

# SA firms are going green, for their own good

By James Clarke

A couple of years ago if a company "went green" it was usually because its public relations people said it was good for the image.

Nowadays South African companies are being driven to it by their overseas customers. They have started asking for details regarding the environmental policies of their South African suppliers.

A few weeks ago a South African furniture manufacturer was formally asked by his British buyers for a certificate to prove his factory was not fouling the environment.

The British also wanted proof that its raw material was obtained from forests managed along sound environmental lines.

The firm, in mild panic, went to the CSIR which, fortunately, had recently inaugurated a service to help industry and commerce conduct environmental assessments.

## Exploiting

The service advises firms on how to conduct "environmental audits" and set up environmental management policies. The Germans too are seeking assurances from South African suppliers regarding their environmental ratings.

Behind it all is growing international concern for curbing environmental damage, particularly to the atmosphere. There is also concern about the way some industries might be exploiting Third World environments.

Another stimulus causing South African companies to turn green is the desire to reduce risks and the costs associated with risks. Sappi, after the collapse of one of its settling dams at Ngodwana paper mill last year, knows all about that one.

Yet another stimulus is the very real threat that sooner or later global laws will come into force forcing South Africa to join in a universal clean-up of gasses and other pollutants, or face sanctions.

International pressure and local public pressure for better environmental



Going green . . . CSIR's environmental boss Dr Dirk Grobler.

behaviour has led the CSIR to establish the new division called Environmental Services.

Heading it is former Water Affairs scientist, Dirk Grobler (42).

In an interview he explained the recent radical change in the CSIR's role.

The CSIR was established almost 50 years ago as a statutory research and development establishment to advise Government and industry on how to make the best use of South Africa's natural resources. Until recently 90 percent of its funding was from Government.

Today the CSIR receives only 45 percent of its income from the State — the rest is earned from contract work on the open market.

The CSIR Environmental Services has access to the various strategic units which have all been renamed: Aeratek (Aeronautic Systems Technology), Boutek (Building Science and Technology), Ematek (Earth, Marine and Atmospheric Sciences and Technology), Foodtek, Forestek, Watertek and so on.

Its new role has led to a much slimmer CSIR which still, nevertheless, employs some of South Africa's top scientists and technologists.

Manager of Environmental Services, Dr Grobler, after years as a water quality hydrologist in Water Affairs, now finds himself running a fast growing business unit.

Under him are a dozen professional environmental project managers and their support staff. The unit includes

heavyweight scientists such as ecologist Dr Graham Noble who for years was involved in the running of the national co-operative science programmes.

Another staff member is project manager Tina James who was behind the CSIR's recent bombshell report on the parlous state of South Africa's waste and pollution control measures.

The biggest call Environmental Services gets from industry is for help in applying the "integrated environmental management" (IEM) process, and for environmental policy development as well as for advice on conducting environmental audits.

"International and public pressures are making it almost obligatory for firms to agree to environmental audits," says Dr Grobler.

"These are similar to financial audits except that they assess the firm's progress against its stated environmental objectives.

"Big corporations such as Eskom can audit themselves. They can afford to employ their own full-time environmental experts as, in fact, Eskom does. They then bring in outside auditors to do checks.

"Smaller firms obviously have to use outside auditors."

## Dismantled

CSIR's Environmental Services is gearing itself to assist firms in applying environmental principles which control and monitor a development's impacts from cradle to grave.

Take a power station: it should ensure that all negative environmental and sociological impacts are monitored and limited from the time the first sod is turned to when the structure is obsolete and has to be dismantled.

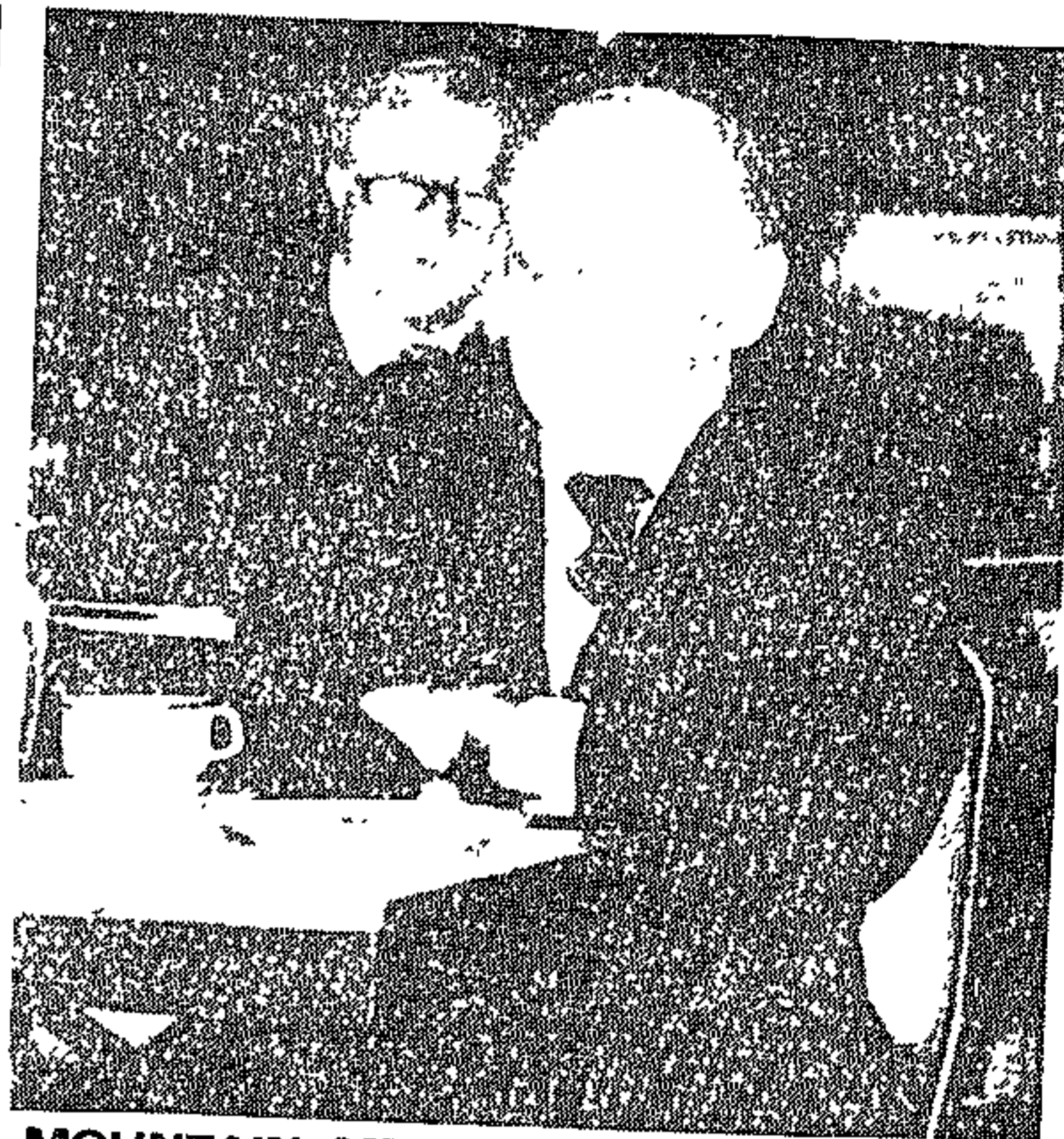
Some generating companies now publish exactly what they will do at the death. Some, for instance, intend to remove all structures except the reactors which will be buried under artificial landscaped hills.

Dr Grobler commented: "What firms are realising is that environmental care is cost-beneficial and not non-productive spending... everybody benefits."



**FLOODS AND FIRE** ... Deputy Mayor and keen outdoorsman Mr Frank van der Velde argues against a suggestion of permits for hikers on Table Mountain at a city council presentation on the management of the mountain yesterday.

Pictures: BENNY GOOL



**MOUNTAIN MEDITATION?** ... Councillor Rupert Hurly gave some serious thought to the fire- and erosion-battered Table Mountain at a city council presentation yesterday.

# Toll proposed for mountain funding

Oct 26/7/91

56

Staff Reporter

A PROPOSAL that Table Mountain road be made a toll road was one of the suggestions offered at a city council presentation yesterday.

The presentation was arranged to discuss the damage which fire and rain has caused to Devil's Peak this year.

The suggestion of a toll road came after the city engineer, Mr Arthur Clayton, said double the present funding levels were needed to enable Table Mountain to be managed effectively.

The Devil's Peak fire is expected to cost the council R2.7 million in remedial and maintenance work by June next year, Mr Clayton said.

Other suggestions to help raise money for work on the mountain included adding a surcharge for cable car rides and pro-

claiming the mountain a national park for it to qualify for greater state funding.

The council's chief engineer for drains and sewage, Mr Mike Lief, said after the presentation that nearly 10 times more rain fell on Table Mountain in the past two months than the average over the same period for the past 25 years.

He said the Devil's Peak fire damage on February 8 and 9 this year contributed to the worst storm water disruption in the city bowl since 1974.

"I think we're coping better than we were now — we have more defences in place," he added.

His inter-departmental teams had initially been unable to cope with the "colossal loads" of debris brought down by the storm water, and four homes and several roads had been flooded.

Since then four major and several minor "gabions" (stone debris catchment walls) had been built, and his teams were continuing to work "flat out" with double the labour force in some areas.

"The problem is drainage pipes are designed to cope with virtually any amount of clean water but not the huge debris loads," he said.

Mr Clayton said the council was falling behind on "essential Table Mountain management operations" and increased funds were vital to enable it to "keep up".

Mr Clayton said the provincial administration had reduced its contribution to the council's mountain management budget, after initially agreeing to subsidise this by 50%.

"We've been advised that this amount will be reduced further."



26/10/91  
56

## Van der Post due at environment conference

ENVIRONMENTAL guru and renowned SA author Sir Lourens van der Post will be the guest speaker at the Southern African International Conference on Environmental Management in the Cape in October.

The conference will bring together decision-makers in business and industry, as well as academic, non-governmental organisations and about 20 of the world's leading environmental policymakers.

Speakers include a former Canadian

Business Day Reporter

cabinet minister, a director of the International Chamber of Business, senior international representatives from Shell and BP, senior members of BAUM, the German environmental business association, and the UN Environment Programme.

The conference is the initiative of the Industrial Environmental Forum of Southern Africa which was created in 1990.

## Mountain fire: Fire station 'acted promptly'

CAPE TOWN'S central fire station acted promptly in passing on information about the fire that destroyed almost 400 hectares of vegetation on Devil's Peak in February, according to the city's legal adviser, Mr. Barney Botha.

In a report prepared for the city council, Mr Botha found there was no real evidence that calls were made to the central fire station before the call at 10.56am.

He said the call was passed on to the Parks and Forests fire station at Kloof Neck at 10.59am.

Mr Botha said the officers on duty at the time impressed him as efficient and experienced, and he found no reason to suspect that they had not acted correctly.

Another report, prepared by the city engineer, has proposed an overhaul in the system of selecting and training fire lookout staff. — Sapa

# Devil's Peak fire: Council supports its fire-fighters

CLIVE SAWYER  
Municipal Reporter

ARG 27/7/91

TWO internal City Council investigations on the February 8 Devil's Peak fire have come out strongly in support of council fire-fighting staff and systems, although recommending some changes.

Reports by deputy city engineer Mr Dave Bradley and director of organisation and methods Mr Koos Marais, and by city legal adviser Mr Barney Botha, are to be tabled at a council meeting this week.

The reports were commissioned after an independent investigation by ombudsman Mr Granger Heugh found human error and system failure played a role in the fire which devastated fynbos and blanketed Cape Town in smoke earlier this year.

The new review of standing instructions and existing procedures for fire-watching and fire-reporting duties said these were "well-documented and fundamentally sound".

Improvements, including monitoring communication and reporting routines followed by the control room and lookout staff, and random exercises to test fire detection capabilities were being implemented.

Equipment has been changed so that all calls to the Central Fire Station are recorded.

There were still other weaknesses, such as calls to satellite fire stations not being taped and fire calls having to be taped and redirected instead of being transferred.

There was a multiplicity of phone numbers, authorities and control rooms to which fires might be reported, although the possibility of a single fire report number was being investigated.

These deficiencies had been known for some time and it was hoped to improve the system as part of a planned new station at Brooklyn.

However, plans for this station had been dropped and the council was considering moving the communications control to Epping fire station.

Sophisticated technology for early detection of mountain fires was being investigated.

Staff manning the Fire and Rescue and Parks and Forests control rooms were well-trained and fully competent, said Mr Bradley and Mr Marais.

Legal adviser Mr Botha said there was "no cogent evidence" that any calls were made to the central fire station before 10.56am on February 8.

A call was passed on to the parks and forests station at 10.59am and was followed by a spate of them, according to Mr Botha's report.

The officers on duty were efficient, capable, experienced and fully conversant with what to do when getting a fire report, said Mr Botha.

The executive committee considered it "unfortunate" that earlier public reporting on the fire reflected on the capabilities and diligence of these officers.

However, Mr Botha's report said there was reason to suspect the log book at the central fire station was not always up to date.

He agreed with Mr Heugh's finding that there was a fire evident early in the morning, but that it died down and flared up again about 11am.

Mr Heugh said the fire watcher may have been absent or asleep.

A review is being done of the 12-hour lookout system and the selection and training of lookout staff.

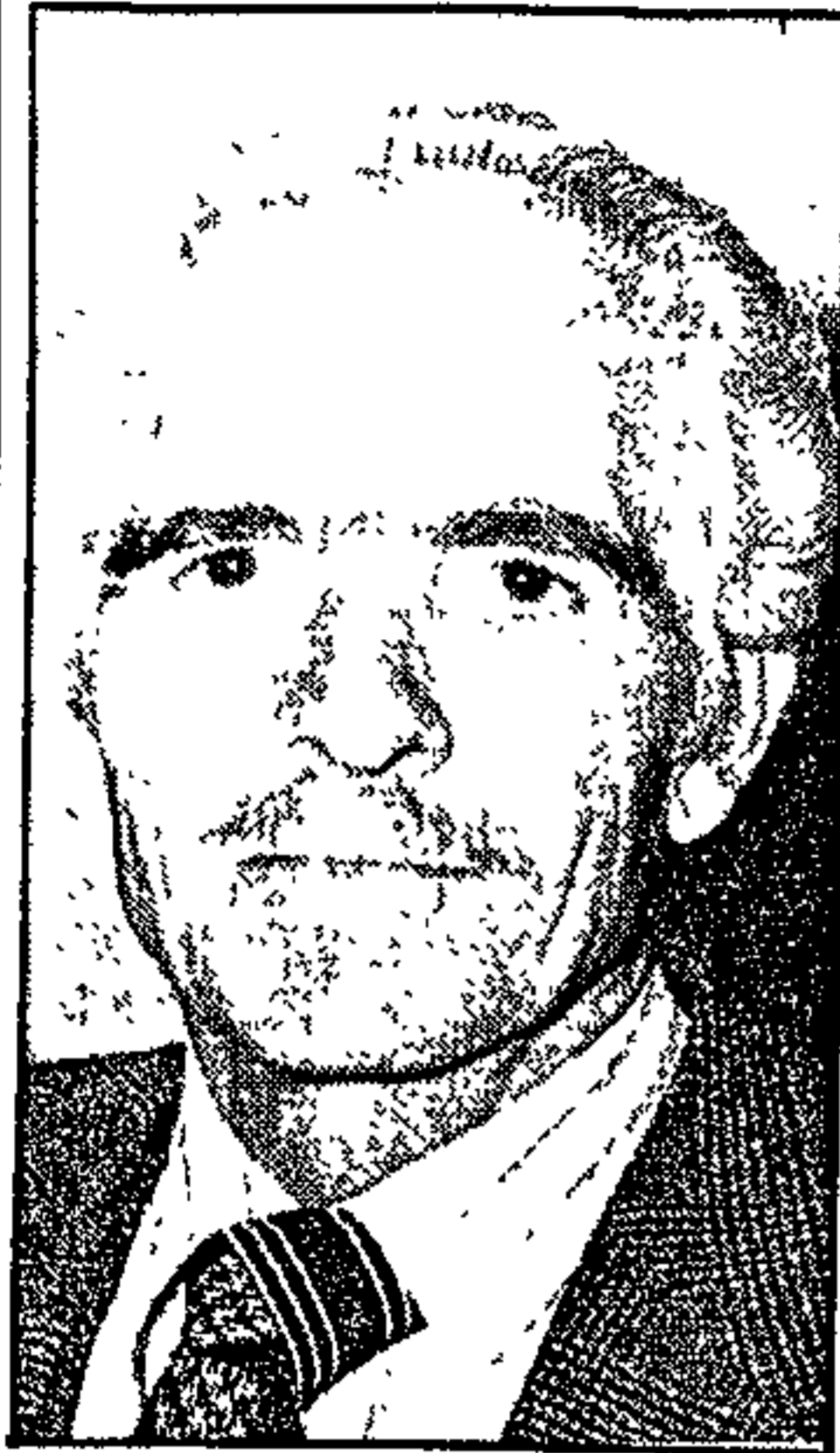
An executive committee report said Mr Bradley's and Mr Marais' investigation would continue.

# Strange environment for Kotze

ster 31/7/91

56

3/11



Gert Kotze

**T**HE RESIGNATION of Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Gert Kotze has been hailed in environmental circles as long overdue, since the Minister had had little understanding of environmental matters.

Mr Kotze was Minister of Environment and Water Affairs from 1987 to November 1990, when his portfolio was changed to Water Affairs and Forestry.

During the past four years Mr Kotze has come under fire on a number of issues, in particular the proposed culling of 30 000 seals on the Cape's west coast. Environmentalists attacked him for not stepping in to halt the dune mining at St Lucia in northern Natal.

Nan Rice, secretary of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group, endorsed Mr Kotze's res-

JACQUELINE MYBURGH reviews Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Gert Kotze's recent career.

ignation, saying his environmental portfolios were "obviously beyond his scope".

Adding weight to this opinion, Wildlife Society director Tony Ferrar said Mr Kotze had showed little inherent understanding for the issues, carried little weight in the Cabinet and was not serviced by his staff.

The hallmark of Mr Kotze's latter-day career was the measure in which South Africans became more aware of "green" issues.

Despite criticism from many quarters, he did notch up some achievements:

● The promulgation of the En-

vironmental Conservation Act.

● The principle of integrated environmental management was adopted as a mechanism for developers, but no legislation to enforce it was created.

● The creation of the first Agreement Park in South Africa — the West Coast National Park near Langebaan, which incorporates local inhabitants.

● The reintroduction of elephants into the Knysna forest.

Mr Kotze will remain MP for Malmesbury. Sources say this is to avoid a by-election in a constituency which would almost certainly fall to the Conservative Party. □

56 ARG 1/8/91

# 'Apartheid to blame for crisis in ecology'

VIVIEN HORLER, Staff Reporter

ONE of South Africa's leading ecologists says apartheid and the attitudes that developed under it are to blame for the country's ecological plight.

Professor Eugene Moll, head of the botany department at the University of Cape Town, says there is unquestionably an environmental crisis in the country.

Delivering his inaugural lecture on campus last night, Professor Moll said: "It was only when the country was on its knees economically, when almost total erosion of the very fabric of South African life had occurred, that the realisation dawned that the dogma had caused the dog-gas, and that a shift in paradigm was a prerequisite if life, any life worth living, could continue in South Africa."

Professor Moll, who was one of the first people to predict winter mudslides on Devil's Peak after February's fire, said he believed that attitudes formed under apartheid had stunted ecological development.

"Ecologists and conservationists did not question nor challenge the prevailing dogmas, neither within science nor where politics affected the environment.

"On the contrary, the apartheid mind-set drove South African plant ecologists to become obsessed with classification, which required the collection of large data sets that had to be carefully manipulated to form the desired units.

"This brand of ecology has been unable to answer real ecological questions and provide the understanding that will enable us to meet the present environmental crises, just as apartheid hasn't offered lasting economic and social solutions."



Highlighting the current environmental crisis, Professor Moll said levels of pollution over Cape Town and Highveld towns were unacceptably high.

"Throughout the country what little fresh water we have is becoming more polluted daily by contamination with agricultural chemicals and industrial waste. We pump great quantities of effluent and sewage into the sea and even False Bay is becoming hazardous to health.

"Natal seas are so contaminated from PCBs and agricultural pollution from DDT,

Professor Eugene Moll ... the apartheid mind-set drove SA plant ecologists to become obsessed with classification

Lindane and Dieldrin that dolphin reproduction is threatened.

"Back on the land, overgrazing and erosion are real concerns and according to one reference we lose an estimated 20 tons of soil for each ton of crops produced from both black and white farming areas.

"Desertification is becoming a reality in the more arid western part of the country where some have estimated that the Karoo is advancing eastwards across 2,5km of exhausted pastures annually.

"Bad planning has allowed urbanisation to spread over prime agricultural land and into key water catchment areas, imposing severe health risks.

"A recent Worldwatch Institute report states 'South Africa has treated mining like a sacred cow, fearful of disturbing the cash flow ... The extent of ecological damage from mineral extraction is massive, from poisoned streams to strip-mined hillsides'."

"If the New South Africa is to seek a way forward it is imperative that the principle of environmental democracy be implemented.

"We have the right to know what quantities of potentially destructive poisons are discharged into our life support systems. Freedom of information and public participation in government decision-making is essential.

"Hopefully from now on development will mean real progress, that new wisdom will bring true wealth in a healthy, environmentally happy and caring South Africa."

# Perilous highveld ozone trends

By Julianne du Toit

Ozone on the ground has tripled in the Johannesburg and Pretoria regions since the 1960s, but it is decreasing steadily 20 km up, according to a meteorologist at the Pretoria Weather Bureau.

Both trends are dangerous. Ozone high in the stratosphere protects the Earth from solar radiation, but at ground level it threatens health and crops — and ozone on the ground will never rise and replace the ozone in the stratosphere.

Mark Zunckel, who has been measuring the ozone in Irene, near Pretoria, for 2½ years, said he had found levels had risen to about 40 parts per billion.

International standards, which are used as guidelines in SA, state that above 120 parts per billion, ozone can cause respiratory ailments.

Ozone has a sweetish smell, and although it is present at ground level in minute quantities it is so corrosive that a whiff of pure ozone could kill almost instantly.

In the Vaal Triangle, the ozone pollution levels have approached 120 parts per billion. And these levels were measured in winter, when ozone levels are usually low.

The levels would probably increase in summer, said Dr. Petro Terblanche of the Medical Research Council, who is to release a report on the subject soon.

Greg Bodeker, who is doing his Masters thesis on global ozone depletion at the University of Natal, explained that an increase of ozone on the ground is caused by anything electrical — car spark plugs, electrical substations, even appliances with high voltages — which split up oxygen atoms. As free oxygen radicals they join up in unstable sets of three to form ozone.

Ozone is also produced by burning fossil fuels, which give off nitrogen oxides, and unburnt hydrocarbons. These react with each other to produce ozone.

Ozone damages lungs, and makes eyes itch, burn and water. It also lowers resistance to colds and pneumonia.

Ozone may be the main pollutant that damages plants and weakens some materials such as rubber.

"It's nice from far and far from nice," said Mr Bodeker.

Staff Reporter

APARTHEID had been a major contributor to the present environmental crisis, Professor Eugene Moll of UCT's Botany Department said in his inaugural lecture yesterday.

Prof Moll said levels of pollution over the Highveld coalfields and in Cape Town were unacceptably high; great quantities of effluent and sewage were pumped into the sea; too much soil was lost through erosion; urbanisation had spread over prime agricultural land; and squatter chaos was occurring in the cities. In addition, Table Mountain was not managed properly despite two decades of effort.

The topic on which he spoke yesterday evening in the Education Building was "Dongas and dogma: Assessing apartheid's ecological impact".

Was it fair to blame this on apartheid? Often, the answer was "yes", Professor Moll said.

"I believe that the South African mind-set developed under the apartheid regime has stunted our ecological development. Ecologists and conservationists did not question or

## 56 Apartheid 'stunted' ecological progress

challenge prevailing dogmas either within science, or where politics affected the environment."

Like politicians, plant ecologists had become "obsessed with classification, which required the collection of large data sets that had to be carefully manipulated to form the required units."

Where individuals tried to get information about environmental pollutants, they were denied access to it

or prevented by legislation from publishing it.

"Environmental regulatory systems were designed to facilitate and protect the acquisition of wealth by a select few, at the expense of both the environment and the majority of the population.

"It was only when the country was on its knees economically ... that the realisation dawned that the dogma had caused the dongas."

It was imperative that in the New South Africa we should have an "environmental democracy" in which we would have the right to know, for example, what quantities of destructive poisons were being discharged into our life-support systems.

# Report: Cut cars in city, cut pollution

(56) CT 2/8/91

Staff Reporter

**SLASHING** the number of cars entering the city daily — about 42 000 during peak hours — may be one of the measures introduced to reduce the high level of pollution in central Cape Town.

This is one of the findings contained in a report — one in a series — by the Metropolitan Public Transport Study (commissioned by the city council) on transport and the environment. The study is expected to take three years to complete.

It finds that air pollution in the city is caused not only by industrial and commercial activity. Topographical conditions also make the city bowl an ideal trap for pollutants.

The report argues that growth of the central city has led to an increase in photochemical smog.

The reduction in the number of petrol-driven vehicles called for an appropriate transport policy which must include an "inevitable improvement" in the present transport system. Over the past 10 years there had

been a 20% increase in the total number of commuters using all forms of transport entering the central business district between 7am and 9am, while the number of cars showed an even greater increase.

An increase in smog "should not be taken lightly as it poses a very real threat to public health", the report warned.

A steering committee — including the Provincial Roads Engineer, the Cape Town City Planner's Department, the Cape Town City Engineer's Department and the Western Cape Regional Services Council — has been appointed to handle the technical aspects of the public transport study.

The study will proceed in four phases and these are: Identifying and defining the problems of the present transport system; investigating policies for future land use and movement in the Western Cape; preparing public transport proposals, and the design of a detailed public transport system for the city.

People who wish to comment, can write to the Public Transport Hotline, PO Box 536, Rondebosch 7700.





# Trapped in a bowl of photochemical smog . . .

56

AGUS 3/8/91

**CLIVE SAWYER**

Municipal Reporter

CUTTING the number of petrol-driven cars entering Cape Town will help fight air pollution problems, a metropolitan transport study says.

The city bowl was a "perfect trap for pollution" and photochemical smog should not be taken lightly because of the risk to public health, the report said.

The number of cars entering the bowl is 42 000 a day — an increase of 35 percent on 1981. Since 1983 vehicle registrations have increased 32 percent.

Public transport had to be improved to provide an alternative to

private cars, the report said.

Installation of catalytic converters in cars was a difficult solution to apply because it would succeed only if lead-free petrol was introduced.

It would take a long time to implement this solution because South Africans kept their cars for a relatively long time.

Diesel engines, properly adjusted, are significantly less polluting than petrol engines. They produce much less carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and aldehydes.

Further reports will cover the taxi conflict, road safety, road congestion, personal safety, particularly on trains, and the "quality of service" on public transport.

# Anti-erosion curbs 'waste of money'

(Sb)  
CTS/8/91

By PETER DENNEHY

CAPE TOWN City Council's initial post-fire mountain erosion control measures, costing R600 000, were largely a waste of money, outspoken botanist Professor Eugene Moll says in an academic study published at the weekend.

The remarks were made in a study of alien vegetation on Table Mountain, conducted by Mr Mark Botha and Mr Richard Roth under the guidance of Professor Moll.

"Ad hoc solutions (to erosion) have proven ineffective and expensive, as seen in the recent control measures taken to prevent erosion after the 1991 fire on Devil's Peak," the study says.

"The first wave of erosion control barriers, costing R600 000, were largely destroyed or rendered useless after the first rains of the season."

The report says anti-erosion measures were directed "primarily at protecting private property at the base of

the affected area".

It claims that the root of the problem upstream was not adequately addressed. Erosion had been aggravated by the canalisation of run-off water, "again designed to protect Tafelberg Road but with no consideration for geomorphological effects downslope".

City Engineer Mr Arthur Clayton said it was not true that R600 000 worth of barriers had been largely destroyed.

"Much of that was spent on the stone gabions, which were very successful. It is true that quite a few of the timber structures were destroyed, but they were a minor proportion of the expenditure and the material was virtually on site already."

Mr Clayton added that attempts had been made, with a great deal of success, to protect the urban areas, the mountain and the road simultaneously through the prevention of sheet erosion and the encouragement of growth.

# Tribal war threatens SA's water

In a bizarre twist of politics, faction fighting in Natal is now threatening a substantial part of South Africa's water supply.

Interneccine warfare is causing people to move higher and higher into the Drakensberg where new dagga fields and cattle encroachment are being witnessed at unprecedented heights on mountain slopes.

They are threatening one of the most magnificent areas of South Africa — the Upper Tugela area of the northern Drakensberg between Cathedral Peak and the Royal National Park. The area in question is 47 000 ha in size and to make matters worse the land is highly erodable.

Much of this part of the Drakensberg, a popular hiking area, is under the control of the KwaZulu Bureau of Natural Resources (KBNR), which is empowered to administer the region for conservation purposes.

KBNR director Nick Steele says that extensive dagga plantations and the migration of cattle to previously un-

thinkable heights of up to 2 200 m is causing serious "slips" or wash-aways of soil, which are becoming easily discernible from the lower slopes.

A major concern is that this area of the Drakensberg, predominantly two large valleys, the Mnweni Valley and the Ubusingata Valley, produces about 24 percent of Natal's runoff and 9 percent of South Africa's water.

## Moving

The quality of water coming down from the mountains, especially from the Mnweni River Valley which feeds the Woodstock Dam, is deteriorating rapidly.

Faction fighting over the years is a major factor in substantial numbers of people moving higher up the mountains into inhospitable areas.

A multi-departmental committee, the Tugela Steering Catchment Committee, involving various private sector representatives and governmental bodies, including the bureau and the Natal

Agricultural Union, was started some years ago by the Bergville Farmers Association to rehabilitate the area because of its critical catchment situation.

Mr Steele says there is an urgent need to attract the more xenophobic tribesmen moving up the valleys, back down the mountainside to lower lying areas by developing home industries, but there are problems.

"The major tribe in the area is the Mangwane tribe who, along with the amaZizi tribe, were given this area as a so-called native reserve by the British. It acted as a buffer zone between the marauding Bushmen and the white farmers. These people have been there for decades and the bureau fully understands their sense of belonging," says Mr Steele.

But some of the tribesmen's attitudes towards conservation efforts and development or social upliftment projects are negative, even hostile, he says.

TRENDS REPORTER

Star 7/16/91

Star 7/18/91

3600

56

## 'Environment comes first'

LINDA ENSOR

CAPE TOWN — It was time that SA realised that economic development and the environment were inextricably linked, Medical Research Council's Dr Yasmin von Schirnding said yesterday.

Von Schirnding, who has just returned from an international environmental conference in Sweden, said while SA was gaining acceptance internationally there was a danger that the country could soon face environmental sanctions.

She said one of the main conclusions of the conference was the necessity to strive for sustainable development rather than short-term economic goals.

"The environment needs to be planned for to ensure that development does not take place at the expense of the ability of future generations to enjoy the benefits of the quality of life we are presently enjoying."

Von Schirnding is planning to discuss the findings of the conference, organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Environment Program, with Health Minister Rina Venter and organisations such as the ANC and the PAC.

## Steel stocks up despite exports and SA demand

Brent von Melville

STEEL stocks are still increasing despite inroads into export markets by SA steel producers and reports by Iscor that domestic demand had been holding up better than expected over the past several months.

Latest Central Statistical Service (CSS) figures indicate that stocks of primary steel products for May this year showed a 12% increase from the comparable period last year.

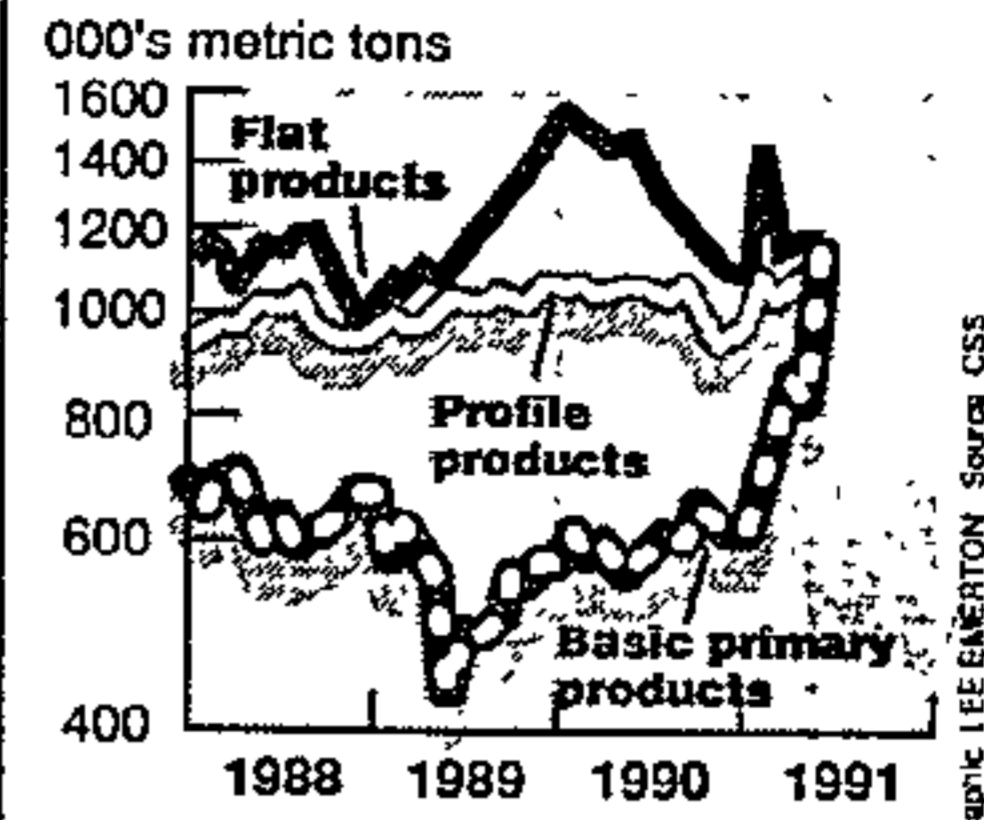
The largest increase in stocks was recorded for basic primary products, which jumped 105% to 1,2-million tons (May 1990: 573 670 tons) while profile products increased 5,2% mainly due to an increase of 26% in stocks of wire rod and wire.

The only decrease was in stocks of flat products, which showed an 18,7% decline. However, the decline came off a high stock level recorded last May of 1,8-million tons.

Flat products are produced by Iscor and Highveld Steel & Vanadium (Hiveld), and are used mainly in the motor industry and durable consumer "white" goods (such as large household appliances).

One steel analyst suggested little could be read into the decline in stocks of flat products — which are

### Steel products on hand



differentiated into slabs (stocks of which dropped 18%), plates (down 16,5%), sheets (down 19%) and tin plate (down 23%). It was likely stocks would again show increases for June and July "particularly in view of the problems with the motor industry".

"Generally the domestic steel market is still in the doldrums and producers are struggling with excess stocks of steel. The durable goods market is depressed and steel merchants are curtailing orders."

There had also been some overbuying ahead of this year's second hike in the basic steel price, following January's 16,5% rise.

## Slowing economy hits civil engineering

PRETORIA — SA's economy has slowed down so much that the civil engineering industry finds itself in a parlous situation with many companies facing bankruptcy, says C D Roux of Con Roux Construction.

Roux told the 11th Annual Transport Convention at the CSIR in Pretoria on Tuesday that the industry's current crisis stemmed from a number of factors.

These included completion of the current toll road building programme and the general reduction in road expenditure, as well as a reduction in construction by Eskom.

Gerald Reilly

Also, regional services councils had switched from providing new services to subsidising existing ones.

The gravity of the situation was illustrated by labour figures. In 1970 employment was 73 000. By 1975 it had increased to 130 000; and by 1986 had declined to 85 000.

"Apart from normal staff turnover, a staggering 164 000 workers have come and gone because of the ravages of gross domestic fixed investment in construction fluctuating between 3,8% and 8,9% of GDP."

Roux said as SA's acceptance by

the rest of Africa increased, there would be a growing market for civil engineering in sub-Saharan Africa.

Roux said infrastructural development had to at least keep pace with population growth.

However, this was not happening in SA, particularly in the field of road construction and maintenance.

"And the chickens will come home to roost within five years if warnings are ignored."

"Neglect of an asset of about R53bn would have serious repercussions, which would affect socio-economic development and stability," he said.

8/8/91 BY AUDREY D'ANGELO

Business Editor

56

PAARL-based packaging firm Bakke, which has spent R6,5m on switching its polystyrene foam operation from CFC gases to environment-friendly hydrocarbons, has in fact turned the clock back to the late 1960's.

MD Ernest Snoek explained yesterday that Bakke was one of the first companies in SA to start using CFC gases.

"Everyone, all over the world, switched to CFC gases when the technology was developed, before anyone knew anything about their contribution to the greenhouse effect. Now the wheel has turned full circle and we have gone back to hydrocarbons again."

Demolition . . . TPA officials dismantle shacks at the Ivory Park squatter cam

# Residents told to seal homes in Sandton poison gas scare

Star 8/8/91

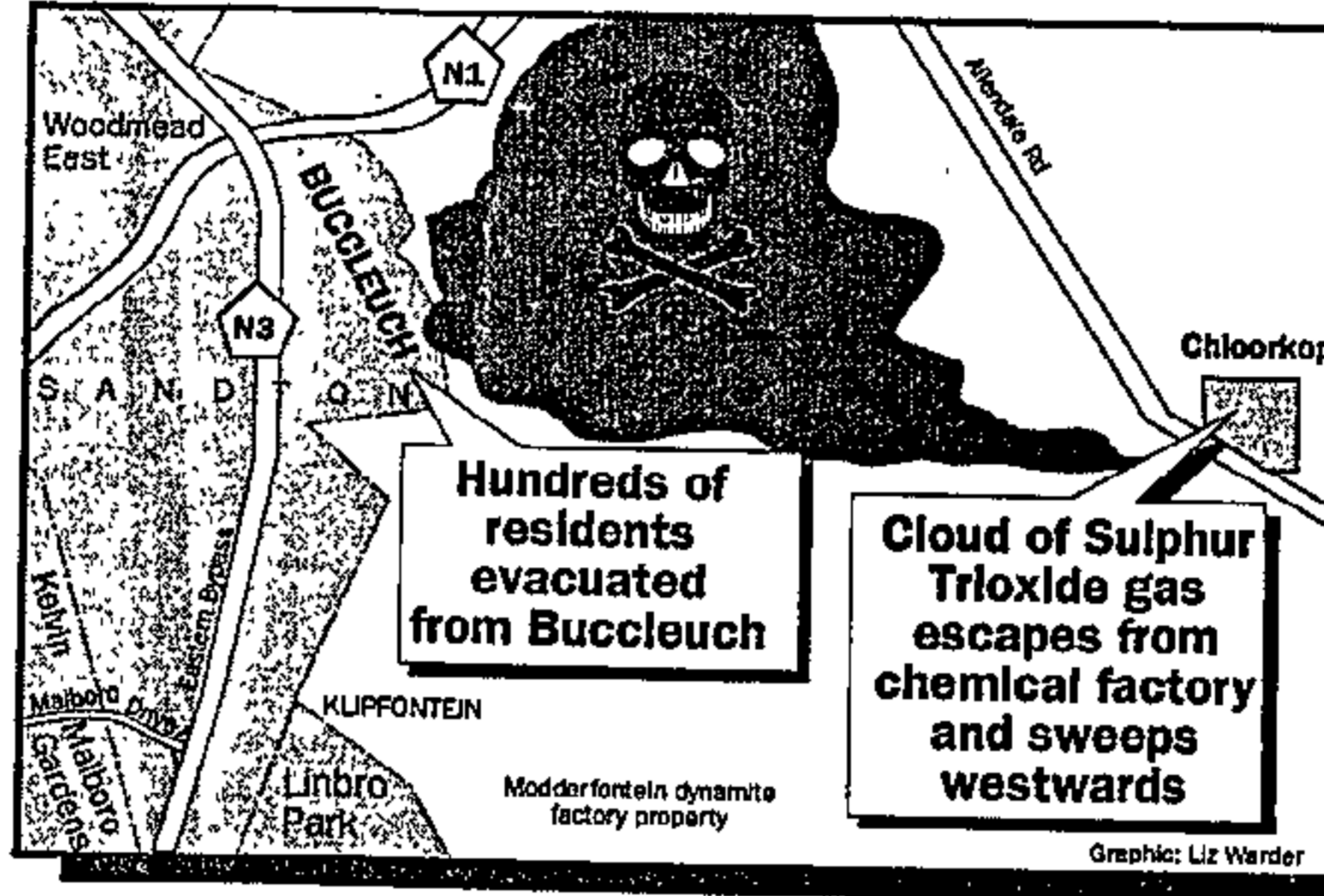
Staff Reporters

Hundreds of residents of Buccleuch and Kelvin were told to seal their houses or evacuate the area late yesterday afternoon after a highly poisonous acid gas leak, drifting in cloud form, was detected over the Sandton suburbs.

Sandton management committee chairman Bruce Stewart said a broken pipe at the National Chemical Products (NCP) factory in Chloorkop was responsible for the leak of sulphur trioxide, "a potentially dangerous gas in concentrated form, which is converted to sulphuric acid when converted to liquid".

After a spate of callers had alerted Sandton's crisis control centre at about 6 pm, the fire department mounted a door-to-door campaign warning residents of the danger, particularly in low-lying areas near the Jukskei River, and advising them to close doors and windows.

Asthmatics and people with babies were advised to leave the area until the danger had passed, said fire



chief Pine Pienaar.

"We did not have to evacuate anybody," said Mr Pienaar. "We told them that if they felt uncomfortable, if they had respiratory problems or small children, they should go and visit some friends for a while and call us later to see if it was safe to come back."

He said several families did this and there had been no panic.

Apparently the areas worst hit by the cloud, which Mr Pienaar said smelt "like

a gun that has just been fired," were the low-lying areas near the river.

Roy Pithey, chairman of NCP, said that at about 5.30 pm a gasket failed at the Chloorkop plant causing about 60 kilograms of sulphur trioxide to escape.

Mr Pithey said the gas did not disperse over a wide area as there was no wind last night. However, a ghostly white cloud of noxious gas drifted towards the Sandton suburb of Buccleuch.

● To Page 3 ■

# Anglo firm gets suspended sentence for dam pollution

By Clyde Johnson  
Lowveld Bureau



Star 8/18/91

NELSPRUIT — An Anglo American company that negligently allowed a stream and dam to become so polluted that it killed all fish and other aquatic life was yesterday sentenced to a fine of R10 000, conditionally suspended for five years.

Regional Court magistrate Mr Bertus le Roux found Anglo American Prospecting Services — represented by company director Anthony Gordon Knowles — guilty of unlawfully and negligently polluting public or private water and making it unfit for the propagation of fish and aquatic life and for other legitimate purposes.

The conviction follows an incident on November 7 1989 when, during a storm, waste

rock and other material from the disused Bien Venue mine flowed into Revolver Creek.

In the process, water flowing through a nature reserve belonging to Luke von Johnstone became so polluted that hundreds of fish died.

Although it is nearly two years since the spillage, there is still no sign of aquatic life in the dam.

Passing sentence, Mr le Roux said South Africa was a country rich in minerals, but short of water.

"The Lowveld, in particular, has become a pollution target with developers, and there is a great need for cleanliness and decency towards nature."

Mr le Roux complimented Anglo American Prospecting Services for having budgeted R3 million for the removal of the mine dump.



# Poison gas alert in Sandton

56  
Star 8/8/91

● From Page 1

Mr Pithey said: "We isolated the leak within 15 minutes and alerted the Sandton Fire department. We were unable to detect any sulphur trioxide at ground level, we only saw what was a white cloud. We are not aware of any inconvenience to any people."

As the massive emergency campaign swung into action, the Sandton Commando of the South African Defence Force and local traffic department was called out, a bus service to evacuate residents was placed on standby, regular radio reports were issued and the Johannesburg Hospital was immediately alerted.

"It could have been ugly if the gas had been more concentrated, and if they hadn't stopped the leak as soon as they did," Mr Pienaar said.

The traffic department set up roadblocks on streets leading to Buccleuch to warn people of the danger of entering the area.

Jeanette Boers, a Buccleuch resident, said she had not felt it was necessary to leave the area. She said some people had panicked and were running down the suburb's main thoroughfare, Gibson Drive.

Mrs Boers said she had seen a "whitish cloud".

Mr Pienaar said that, although the gas could still be smelt at about 8.30 pm, the danger had passed by then.

Calling for more stringent checks at the nearby factories, local councillor Jo Marais stressed that this was the first leak she was aware of in the last 20 years.

"People were aware of this situation when they built and it is no good beating a drum about relocating at this stage as it is financially impossible," she said.

Ratepayer chairman Axel Joosting said residents had lived with the situation for many years and had a "good relationship" with the chemical factory proprietors.



**H**OW MUCH should the average SA business budget for environmental management in the coming year? Should it be in the thousands, tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of rands? Should it be in the millions?

Any business which has not budgeted for environmental management could be caught unprepared by the rising green wave. The gas leak at Buccleuch on Wednesday is just one more example of this. A number of large organisations in this country are already committing significant resources to ensuring their activities are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner. At least two have committed millions.

Yet even that is small fry. Chemical companies in the developed world are expected to be spending between 3% and 4% of turnover on health, safety and environmental protection within a few years. In the US alone, that is \$10bn a year.

That is all very well, the sceptics say, in a developed country. But we are a Third World country with far more pressing needs, like basic nutrition, housing, health care and education. First we need economic growth, then we can worry about the environment. Right?

Wrong. In fact, the environment is even more relevant in SA than in many developed countries.

**T**o start with, we need to break out of the poverty trap we are sliding into, and to do that we need strong economic development. Economic development cannot be sustainable, however, if it is at the expense of our natural resources. We have only to look at the devastating effect that an "exploit now, pay later" attitude is having on parts of eastern Europe to see that it can happen all too easily in SA.

Unfortunately, while this argument is logical, it may be too abstract to convince a businessman of the need to commit resources now to environmental management. Perhaps more persuasive is the fact that if his organisation causes an environ-

mental disaster, it could put the organisation out of business.

The cleanup of the Valdez oil spill is officially estimated to have cost Exxon \$2.5bn, and unofficial estimates put the cost at double that. Yet neither of these figures include the further \$9bn in claims which have been lodged against the company by people affected by the spill. Union Carbide was nearly crippled by the Bhopal disaster. The Shell's reputation for many years. The spill at Ngodwana put Sappi's name on the front pages of national newspapers for four consecutive days — a feat which would have been impossible if it had been good news about the company. Businessmen need to ask whether their organisations have any environmental time-bombs lurking in the cupboards?

A second reason for businesses to become more environmentally responsible is because their stakeholders expect it of them. These stakeholders include customers, employees, shareholders, insurers, government bodies and pressure groups. Even trade unions have begun joining in action against companies believed to be environmentally irresponsible. Pressure for business to dem-

# Businesses that neglect to go green could go under

DI SOUTTER and DAVE MÖHR

B/2001  
9/1/91

onstrate sound environmental management is starting to come from overseas. Several multinational companies are introducing identical environmental standards for their subsidiaries all over the world — whether in Quebec or Kwamashu.

Overseas companies having to comply with stringent environmental requirements are going to resist competitive products imported from "Third World" countries with lower standards. Some SA exporters have already found environmental criteria influencing the acceptability of their products — such as tender documents specifying that a proportion of the product must consist of recycled material. International finance for local projects is also starting to come with green strings attached.

**I**t has been said that pollution is nothing but the resources we are not harnessing. JM proved this by saving hundreds of millions of dollars in its worldwide Pollution Prevention Plus programme. Cost saving is an automatic by-product of implementing many environmental manage-

ment principles, such as using fewer resources more efficiently, and recycling as much material as possible. Incorporating pollution prevention technology at the design stage is invariably more cost effective than end-of-pipe pollution control.

Becoming environmentally friendly is also politically expedient. All political parties in this country have expressed their support for greater protection of the environment. The ANC believes environmental principles should be included in the new constitution — à la Namibia. Businesses which are not proactive in developing environmental management systems now are likely to find themselves forced into doing so by the inevitable tightening up of environmental legislation.

So, if we accept that being environmentally responsible is in business's own best interests, how does one start to introduce environmental management into the organisation? Getting the chief executive's personal commitment is the most important factor.

In the words of Robert D Kennedy, chairman and CEO of Union Carbide: "Unless we (CEOs and senior management) personally commit ourselves to environmental action and leadership, the rest of the organisa-

tion won't take the company's environmental goals seriously. The workload for managers these days is very, very heavy. They don't have time to do everything they're asked. So they learn to read the signals: which directives require action and commitment, which are simply for the record".

□ Define a statement of environmental goals — a vision of where you want to be. Only by nailing your colours to the mast will you allow your managers the courage to make the right decisions when it comes to the crunch.

□ Get commitment to change from everyone in the organisation. Education, training and, above all, communication are the necessary tools here.

□ Find out where you are now in terms of environmental performance. Auditing your current environmental status will give you a sound base on which to plan your future activities.

□ Develop a strategic environmental plan. This should include the allocation of money, resources and responsibilities, the setting of standards — which are appropriate to SA's unique conditions — and the development of environmental management procedures and practices, and

□ Establish environmental measurement and evaluation programmes. Environmental auditing, the term everyone is starting to hear, is an essential lynchpin in the environmental management process. These audits are independent, objective assessments to ensure the organisation is meeting its own environmental goals as well as legal requirements. They provide management with feedback which enables it to improve and adapt the entire environmental management system.

**S**everal SA organisations are already a long way down the road to implementing sound environmental management systems. Some have only just started. Many have not yet begun

□ Sourter and Möhr, based in Cape Town, run Strategic Environmental Audits.

# City seeks cash to buy land at Noordhoek

CLIVE SAWYER, Municipal Reporter

LAND above Noordhoek will be incorporated into the city-controlled Silvermine Nature Reserve.

The City Council has asked the Western Cape Regional Services Council and Cape Provincial Administration for money to buy the 105 hectares. The RSC approved its incorporation last month.

City administrator Mr Gys Hofmeyr asked the RSC for R650 000 to help buy the land.

Incorporating the land in the reserve would improve fire management and nature conservation in the area, he said.

A RSC report said the land was on a mountain-top and it was unlikely any form of development would be approved in the area. The land was in the Peninsula protected natural environment area.

Mr Hofmeyr said it was not included in the reserve because the land was privately owned and outside the municipal boundary.

It was overrun with alien vegetation but there was also a "considerable variety" of flora worth conserving.

There was excellent potential for clearing alien vegetation and for natural regeneration of indigenous vegetation.

No fire-protection measures existed on the land — a great hazard to the western area of the reserve.

Mr Hofmeyr said the council would also ask the Provincial Administration chief directorate of nature and environmental conservation for financial help to buy the land.

# Greening of the City awards made

Staff Reporter

(5b)

IT IS of vital importance that Capetonians maintain and improve the city's natural and unique assets, Mayor of Cape Town Mr Gordon Oliver said at this year's presentation of the Greening of the City awards yesterday.

CT 9/8/91  
His council was extremely conscious of its obligations in this respect, he said.

One example of the council's

innovative policies is provided by one of the eight "award of merit" winners, the Standard Bank of South Africa, for its landscaping of Merriman Square.

This square used to be a desolate and under-used area of council-owned property beside the Standard Bank's building on the Foreshore, just across from the Civic Centre.

The bank provided seating there, and planted trees, shrubs

and groundcover.

Another notable winner of a "special mention" was the mural by the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of South Africa, in Klipfontein Road near the Red Cross Children's Hospital.

The merit award winners were: Standard Bank for Merriman Square; Warbler Court residents in Bridgetown; Haweplein residents in Factreton; Baltic Timber Company; Lantana Primary School in Mitchells Plain; Spoorinet for landscaping Oswald Pirow bridge; Shell for Taronga Motors in Crawford; and the V&A Waterfront for the entire Pierhead development.

COAL FOR THE WORLD <sup>stay</sup> 10/8/91.

# world — but dare we go on burning it?

It is quite a thought that South Africa — third biggest coal exporter in the world — will be exporting coal long after the Middle East's oil has dried up.

Our 55 billion tons of exploitable coal should last 300 years. Oil won't see out next century. And we have another 120 billion tons of coal which might one day become economically exploitable.

But will the public tolerate coal's continued use?

The short answer from the industry is that it would be crazy not to.

I noticed that the coal men who met at a "Coal in the Environment" conference organised by Naca last week, were keenly aware of coal's deteriorating image and clearly understand public concern over acid rain and global warming which are partly caused by coal burning. There's also coal's role in ill health, sinkholes, water pollution...

The universal feeling among delegates was that we cannot possibly eschew such an abundant resource. Somehow we must learn to burn it in such a way it does not wreck the atmosphere. Most experts felt the acid rain problem has been "solved" and that future coal-fired power stations will not release sulphur.

The big worry now is carbon dioxide from coal. It accounts for a third of man-made carbon dioxide which in turn accounts for half the man-made greenhouse gases.

(56)  
Greenpiece  
JAMES  
CLARKE



This can be curbed but the process is expensive — although I doubt it is as expensive as the industry would have us believe.

Interestingly, at two environmental conferences in Johannesburg last week — one on minerals exploration and the other on coal — the following conclusion was drawn:

When it comes to development (or the continued use of coal) the deciding factor will not be facts, but public perceptions.

In a way this puts an enormous responsibility on the public. Through ignorance it could stop a proposed development which in fact might well have been of great benefit to the country.

On the other hand the public's negative perceptions of mining's impact on the environment has been ingrained by the industry itself.

But things are changing.

Dr Roland Merrilees, a project evaluation consultant who spoke at the minerals conference said: "In the 1970s it was the dark greens (environmentalists) versus the non-greens (industrialists).

"Now we are all light green."

JEQUASSA

# Probe into pollution controls

12/18/91  
DAVE LOURENS

GOVERNMENT is investigating the tightening of controls on the disposal of toxic waste.

Many recent cases of illegal toxin dumping had illustrated a deficiency in the national policy on toxic materials, the Environmental Affairs Department said in a statement.

Environmental protection director Koos Stander said the department was exploring new legislation. SA currently had 23 sets of legislation on pollution.

Standar hoped to attend an Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development working group in Paris next month to investigate how to bring SA's environmental protection laws in line with international trends.

He said the international community was paying attention to the development of uniform control measures for restricted and prohibited chemicals.

The Paris session would investigate the implementation of a "prior informed consent" procedure. This would require exporters of potentially harmful chemicals to obtain the permission of the recipient country before exporting dangerous chemicals.

Standar said it was essential for SA to attend the Paris session as decisions with implications for trade, commerce and the environment could be taken.

# Protect St Lucia wetlands: Expert

One of world's great wildlife spectacles

The Argus Correspondent

DURBAN. — World authority on wetlands, Australian Max Finlayson of Slimbridge waterfowl research centre in England, says the St Lucia area in South Africa should be protected from mining.

Dr Finlayson, 37, is scientific adviser to the Swiss based Ramsar Bureau for international wetland protection.

The bureau was established as a result of 75 governments — including South Africa — signing an agreement to save the world's last few unspoiled wetlands.

The South African government asked for St Lucia to be listed under the Ramsar agreement but withdrew from the Ramsar agreement three years ago.

The huge but shallow St Lucia estuary, one of the world's great wildlife spectacles, is a vital landfall area for migratory birds many, from Europe and Asia including Siberia.

Richards Bay Minerals, a subsidiary of RTZ in Britain, says South Africa can earn billions of rands by allowing the company to mine the hills on Lake St Lucia for titanium.

It has promised to replant indigenous vegetation.

Dr Finlayson said: "The mining people argue that the 20km of dunes they want to mine is only a small part of the region. If it is such a small bit why can't they leave it alone?"

He said the mining company says it will re-establish indigenous forest where now there is pine. "But they have not proven they can do this."

He said what they have done so far at Richards Bay, where the dunes have been removed, the sand sifted for titanium and then replaced, is not replace indigenous forest but simply to "revegetate".

"Anybody can do that," he said. "We need to know how impor-

tant the dunes are to the ecology of St Lucia and the Natal Parks Board should demonstrate the importance of St Lucia as a conservation area."

Dr Finlayson said its "obvious value" was not only to South African resident birds but to the "migratory chain". Annually hundreds of thousands of economically important birds make landfall there.

He said the Ramsar agreement (made at Ramsar in Iran in 1972 and ratified in 1975) did not preclude human activity in wetland and advocated "the wise and sustainable use of wetlands".

"The Ramsar agreement is very strong on this issue.

"South Africa should show Mozambique how to sustain and use this whole wetland system so that everybody scores."

"But put a mine in the middle of it and Mozambique might well want to do the same."

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ARG 12/8/91

# Zululand 'one of the last' great sites to be developed

The Argus Correspondent . (56) ARG 12/8/91

DURBAN. — Zululand is set to become one of the main tourist destinations in South Africa with the construction of a luxury hotel, game camp and private game lodge starting soon in the area around Lake St Lucia, Mkuze and Hluhluwe game reserves.

The Boma Hotel, the Natal Parks Board's Hilltop Camp in Hluhluwe Game Reserve, and the Phinda Resource Centre, the largest private game reserve in Natal, will provide about 600 more beds for tourists in the area.

The new developments are expected to bring in millions of rands of foreign currency into the area.

Conservationists believe it could be the beginning of the realisation of the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park they have campaigned for over the past 30 years.

"We are sitting on a tourism goldmine," said Mr Oliff D'Oliviera, chair-

man of the Zululand Environmental Alliance and the Campaign for St Lucia.

"The area is one tenth the size of the Kruger National Park but is of a far greater diversity and would offer the tourist, especially international visitors, much more.

"It is a unique area in that it ranges from a marine reserve and sanctuary through lake and terrestrial systems to a wilderness area. Over and above this it is an area which has been declared a world heritage site and is one of the most unusual wetland areas in the world."

"Zululand is probably the last undeveloped tourism area in South Africa," said Mr Rob Deane, regional chairman of the Tourism Association of Natal and Kwazulu.

"Zululand's attraction is its ruralness and the fact it has not been developed. There must be a regional plan for its future otherwise we could destroy it."

By James Clarke

The St Lucia area should be protected from mining, says a world authority on wetlands, Australian Dr Max Finlayson (37) of Slimbridge Waterfowl Research Centre in England.

Dr Finlayson is scientific adviser to the Swiss-based Ramsar Bureau for international wetland protection. The bureau was established as a result of 75 governments — including South Africa — signing an agreement to save the world's last few unspoilt wetlands.

The South African Government asked for St Lucia to be listed under the Ramsar agreement but withdrew from the agreement three years ago.

The huge, but shallow, St Lucia estuary — one of the world's great wildlife spectacles — is a vital landfill area for migratory birds, many from Europe and Asia including Siberia.

Richards Bay Minerals, a subsidiary of RTZ in Britain, says South Africa can earn billions of rands by allowing the

# St Lucia area vital to birds,

## says expert

Star 12/18/79.

(S6)

company to mine the hills on Lake St Lucia for titanium.

It has promised to replant indigenous vegetation.

Interviewed in Johannesburg, Dr Finlayson, who had visited South Africa to see for himself, told The Star: "The mining people argue that the 20 km of dunes they want to mine is only a small part of the region. If it is such a small bit, why can't they leave it alone?"

He said the mining company had stated it would re-establish indigenous forest where now there was pine. But they have

not proved they can do this."

He said that what they had done so far at Richards Bay, where the dunes have been removed, the sand sifted for titanium and then replaced, was not replace indigenous forest but simply to "revegetate".

"We need to know how important the dunes are to the ecology of St Lucia, and the Natal Parks Board should demonstrate the importance of St Lucia as a conservation area."

Dr Finlayson said its "obvious value" was not only to South African resident birds but

to the "migratory chain". Hundreds of thousands of important birds made landfill there.

He said the Ramsar agreement (made at Ramsar in Iran in 1972 and ratified in 1975) did not preclude human activity in wetland and advocated "the wise and sustainable use of wetlands".

"The Ramsar agreement is very strong on this issue.

"Mining, in my view, is not a sustainable development. It is not 'wise use'. By no stretch of the imagination can it be."

Dr Finlayson, who ran the Kakadu National Park near Darwin, Australia — a wetland park incorporating an entire river system, the size of Kruger Park — said the proclaimed St Lucia area must be extended to include the coastal wetlands which stretch from there right up through Mozambique.

"South Africa should show Mozambique how to sustain and use this whole wetland system so that everybody scores.

"It has tremendous tourist potential.

"But put a mine in the middle of it, and Mozambique might well want to do the same."





# Report backs kaolin mining at Noordhoek

(56) APR 14/8/91

**STEFAANS BRÜMMER, Staff Reporter**

PROSPECTS of controversial kaolin mining at Noordhoek came a step closer today with a long-awaited environmental impact study which says negative effects "can be largely overcome".

The study, by consulting engineers commissioned by Serina, the company which holds the kaolin mining rights, will be used by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs in making a final decision whether to grant permission for the site to be worked.

The proposed mine has been the subject of intense controversy since 1980.

The study, released today, suggests measures to control the environmental impact of mining and concludes: "If the impacts are successfully controlled, potential impacts such as loss in the value of property and the nuisance factor posed by dust and noise can be largely overcome."

"There are positive aspects related to the proposed operation resulting from employment opportunities and benefits to the local and national economy."

The study found that the mine would be able to provide 85 to 90 percent of South Africa's kaolin needs for ceramics and paper and would be viable for 17 years, replacing production at the nearby Brakkekloof mine, which had a remaining life span of four years.

Cashflow into the local economy would be about R5 million a year and the mine would provide employment for about 120 people from the area.

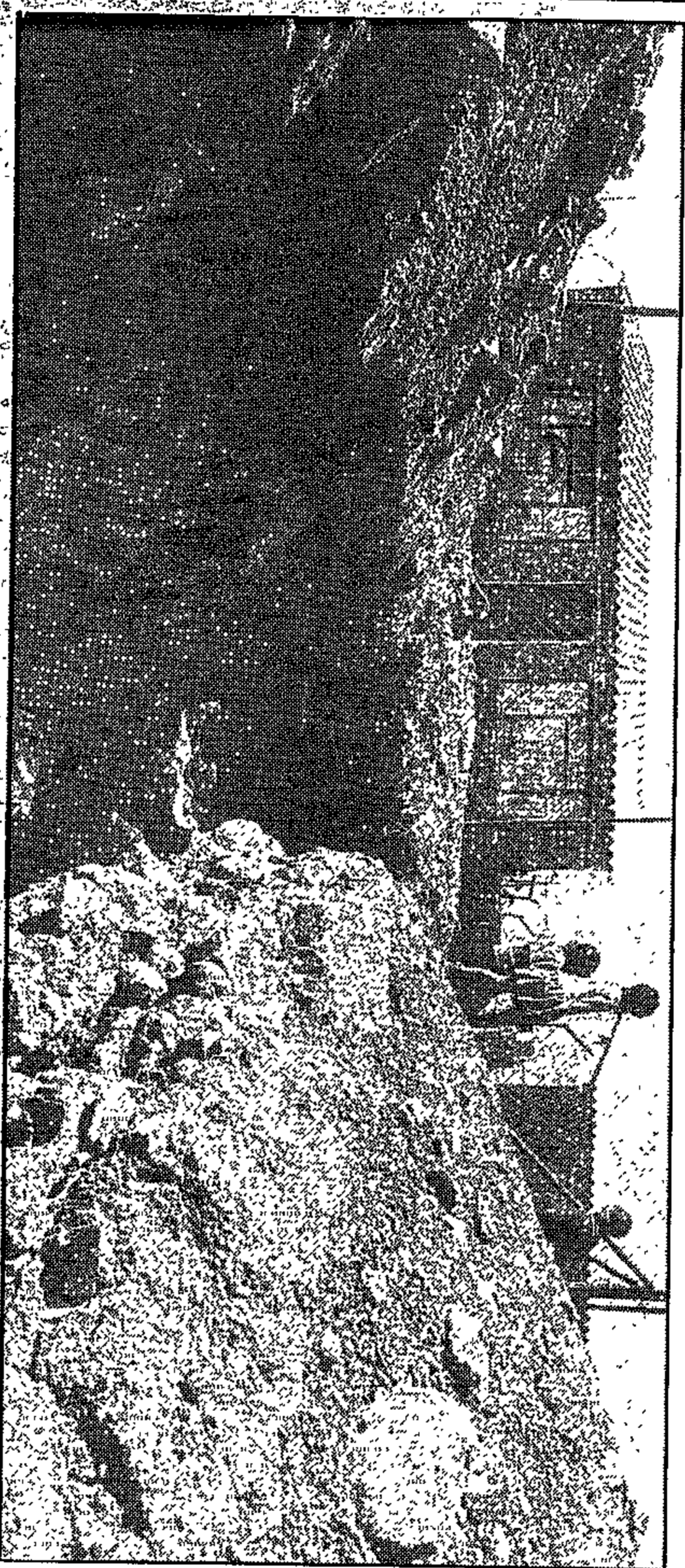
During the pre-development phase the "negative perceptions about the proposed mining" could be anticipated to result in neighbouring properties changing hands at about half the normal market price.

As distance increased the negative effect would decrease. Property prices would continue to be influenced throughout the construction phase, recovering with time, "provided the mine is operated according to sound environmental management principles".

The study recommends that an "environmental control manual" be drawn up to provide day-to-day details on environmental management and that a committee comprising environmentalists, residents' representatives and authorities monitor the operation.

Mr Carl Tarrant, managing director of Serina, said his company accepted the study's impact-control recommendations "in principle" and agreed to implement them "to the best of our ability."

He said Serina was committed to "ensuring that the development is an environmentally responsible one".



Accident in waiting . . . Soweto children play near the unmarked trenches.

Picture: Sean Woods

## Naledi trenches

are 'dangerous'

Naledi Extension residents are up in arms against the Soweto City Council (SCC) and Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council, and have threatened mass action because of "dangerous trenches".

The trenches were dug to replace underground water pipes and to install individual water meters.

"The council has no regard for our safety. This kind of thing is totally unheard of in white suburbs," said Ebenezer Maphathe, vice-chairman of the Naledi Extension Civic Association. 141891

The SCC said it was unaware of the problem. — Staff Reporter.

# Powerlines for trees; residents appeased

By Shirley Woodgate

The launch of an environmental impact study in Sandringham to test the effect of replacing trees with powerlines has drawn tentative approval from residents.

Announced by council management committee member Paul Asherson last night, he said the independent study would cost about R25 000.

"While I am not prepared to ride roughshod over residents' wishes, we must also be aware of costs. This study, affecting some 800 trees, will go a long way towards making a final de-

cision."

The replacement of trees — in the valley near Huddle Park and Royal Johannesburg golf courses — with powerlines from Kelvin to an Orchards sub-station, has raised a storm.

But Mr Asherson maintains the cost of putting the lines underground will be R3,5 million and the council is not prepared to foot the additional bill.

Reacting to the appointment of an environmental impact study team, Val Kleyn of the Tree Society of Southern Africa welcomed the move

Star 14/8/91  
101  
56

# Proposed Chapman's Peak mine impact study finished

CAPE TOWN — A comprehensive environmental impact study on the proposed kaolin mining project behind Chapman's Peak has been completed by consulting engineers at a cost of hundreds of thousands of rands.

The two-year study, undertaken by Steffen, Robertson & Kirsten and presented to the authorities, details the measures which should be adopted to minimise the impact of the proposed mine at Noordhoek on the environment.

The proposed mine has

15/8/91  
LINDA ENSOR

elicited a storm of protest from action groups such as the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group, which collected 50 000 signatures in a petition.

Concerns of these groups ranged from the proposed mine's visual impact, noise and dust levels, heavy vehicle traffic, effluent disposal and the effect on property prices and the tourist industry.

Assistant Government Mining Engineer: Cape Town region Hilton Mulke said yesterday no mining permit had as yet been granted to kaolin mining company Serina — ultimately owned by Sanlam — as the conditions attached to the permit had yet to be determined. If the permit was granted, these conditions would stipulate what environmental measures had to be adopted.

But Serina MD Carl Tarrant said he had been given an undertaking by the authorities that the mine could proceed once these conditions had been worked out. He said the environmental impact study and other preparatory work had cost Serina R800 000.

Serina presently mines kaolin, used in paper and

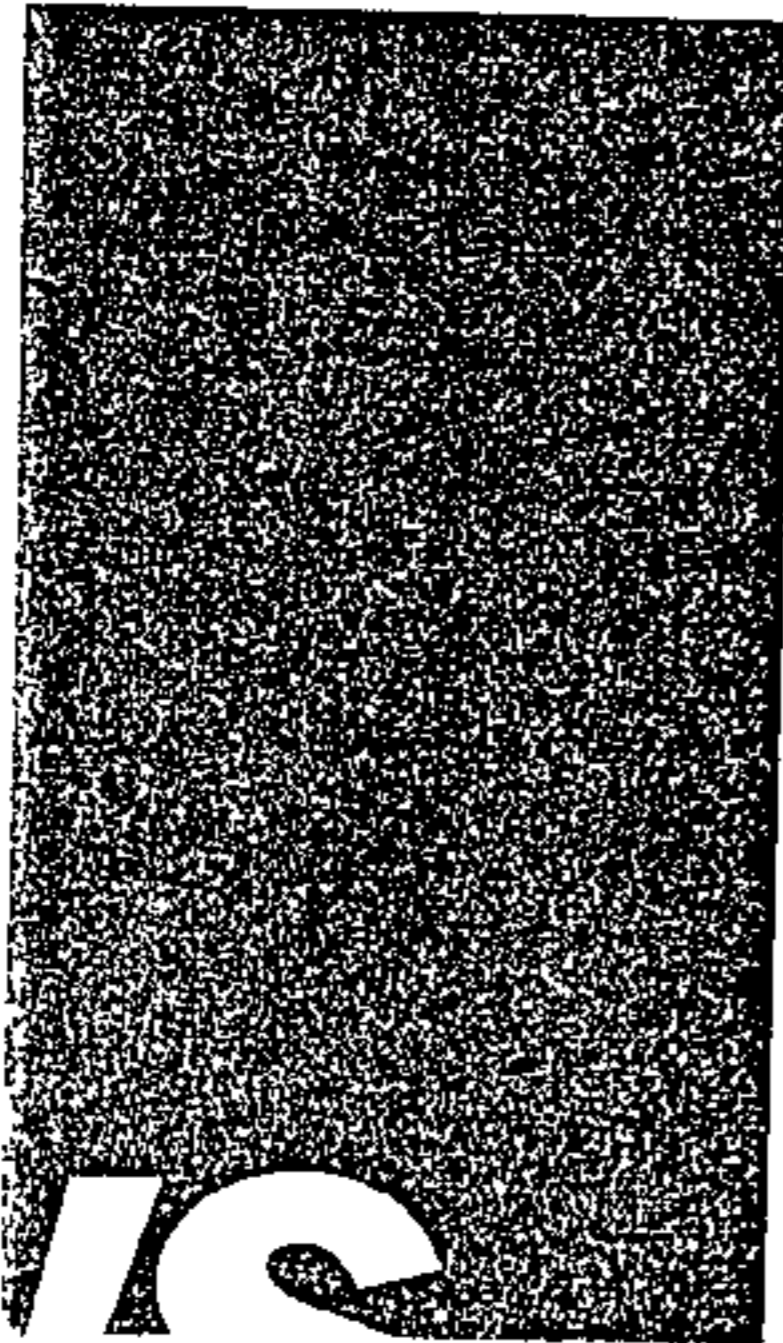
ceramic manufacture, at Brakkekloof, about 7km from the proposed mine, and supplies about 90% of South African demand. The proposal is for Noordhoek to replace Brakkekloof when this mine comes to the end of its life in a few years time.

## Degraded

Steffen, Robertson & Kirsten environmental scientist Mary-Jane Muller said at a presentation yesterday that the impact of the mine could be largely overcome if the environmental measures proposed were implemented. Even with these measures property prices would initially drop but should recover over time. If the measures were not implemented, property prices could drop by 20-40%.

The impact on surface water was unlikely to be great while the site of the proposed mine was in an ecologically degraded state and mining would not affect the fauna and flora.

The study said a major drawback would be the mine's visual intrusion on the landscape and the intrusion of noise. Provided control measures were in place, dust should not be a health hazard.



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# Noordhoek<sup>(5b)</sup> mine meeting ends on lost cause note

ARG 15/8/91

STEFAANS BRÜMMER  
Staff Reporter

CONTROVERSY about the proposed kaolin mine at Noordhoek has flared again after the release of an environmental impact study — done on behalf of mining company Serina — that claims negative effects “can be largely overcome”.

After the release of the study yesterday company officials held a meeting in Noordhoek with representatives of the residents and with property developers, Simon's Town MP Mr Janie Momberg and other interested parties.

Battle lines were drawn at the small church hall meeting, but tempers were kept in check as the opposing sides testily waded into the thorny issues of development versus conservation.

The study, which suggests measures to control the impact of mining in the area, concludes: “If the impacts are successfully controlled, potential factors such as loss in property values and the nuisance factor posed by dust and noise can be largely overcome.”

It recommends that an “environmental control manual” and a committee comprising environmentalists, residents, representatives and authorities be instituted to monitor Serina's compliance with control measures.

Asked by Mr Momberg for assur-

ances, Serina managing director Mr Carl Tarrant said his company accepted the measures “in principle”, and that they would submit to the committee if it consisted of “reasonable” people.

After the meeting Mr Momberg said he wanted to convey the “total objection” of his constituents to mining at the site.

But he added: “We cannot put our heads in the sand like ostriches”.

He said his personal feeling was that the mining permit would be granted to Serina in spite of objections, which he wanted to be “stringent”.

Save Chapmans Peak Action Group spokesman Mr John Butterfield said: “It seems Serina is determined to go ahead with its plans, which casts a bit of doubt on its purposes with the impact study.”

He said Serina had not sought a decision on whether they should mine, branding the report “not a feasibility study, but a mining report”.

Mr Butterfield said it seemed alternative deposits in less-sensitive areas had not been considered.

It seemed the study's data on alternative deposits were still based on the outdated 1977 government geological survey.

He was worried that permission to mine the disputed site would set a precedent for further mining in the valley.

“There are deposits “patchworked all over the place.”

## FIABERG & FALSE BAY

# No council backing for kaolin mine firm

(56)  
CT 15/8/91

By CLAUDIA KING

THE Fish Hoek town council decided this week not to support an application by Serina to mine kaolin on the perimeter of the company's Harrington Road property after residents objected "vehemently" to the scheme.

The council approved the application in April on condition that it was advertised at Serina's expense and drawn to the attention of abutting residents and of the Fish Hoek resident's association.

Since then at least 20 people living in the vicinity of the mine have submitted written objections and a petition to the council.

The town clerk, Mr Doug Smit, told the Constantiaberg and False Bay Review that the mining company could apply to the relevant government ministry to extend its activities but he believed that without the council's backing, this would not be granted.

Most residents opposed the idea because of the additional dust they believed would be generated by mining. Others were afraid the expansion could lead to the devaluation of their properties while some were concerned about noise, blasting and subsidence.

The conditional nod given early also stipulated that Serina should erect material which would provide 80% screening on either side of the Harrington Road fence and that suitable trees should be planted and maintained along the council-owned verge.

Serina was also to reinstate the area fully after the completion of mining and to donate R10 000 towards playground equipment in Sun Valley.

## Transport of ore may not be allowed

PLANS by kaolin mining company Serina to mine kaolin in Kommetjie and transport it to their Fish Hoek plant for processing may not be allowed after a legal finding of the Fish Hoek town council.

The council resolved recently that according to the Town Planning Scheme Regulations, it would be illegal for ore from Kommetjie to be transported to Fish Hoek for processing.

This is because the plant is zoned for agriculture and would be used for industrial purposes if this took place.

Engineers reported that the remaining residue would be taken back to the mine.

# Guideline for kaolin mine plan

(56) CT 15/8/91

By PETER DENNEHY

THE Department of Mines is expected to lay down conditions under which kaolin may be mined by the open-cast method at Chapman's Peak by the end of September.

This was said yesterday at a press conference by independent consulting engineers Steffen, Robertson and Kirsten, who presented their newly-completed environmental impact study on the proposed Noordhoek mine.

Environmental scientist Ms Mary-Jane Muller said the overall goal had been to guide rather than impede development. Among the recommendations made were:

- The hole on the surface of the 27ha site must never be more than 4ha wide.

- Mined areas must be progressively refilled, leaving a depression of no deeper than one or two metres.

- An environmental committee with local representatives on it

should be set up to ensure compliance with requirements.

Mr Fanie Geldenhuis, a partner in the consultants' firm, said mining could begin in 18 months to two years. Serina Kaolin (Pty) Ltd already has mining rights on the site, but the department may yet impose binding conditions on its mining permit.

A further presentation of the environmental report was made to representatives of interest groups in Noordhoek yesterday afternoon.

This meeting was attended by Mr Carl Tarrant, managing director of Serina, landowner Mr Mark Wiley, Mr Ian Brownlie and Mr John Butterfield of the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group, Mrs Nikki Holderness and MP Mr Jannie Momborg, among others.

Mr Tarrant said in a letter included in the environmental report that his company accepted, in principle, the recommendations made in the report, and agreed to implement them to the best of its ability.



# Langebaan study 'completed'

CRIS/8/91 Staff Reporter

(56)

AN environmental impact study for the controversial phase two of the Myburgh Park development at Langebaan has in fact been done, a spokesman for the developer said yesterday.

Mr Jacques Verster, a spokesman for developer Mr Corneels Nortje, corrected a previous statement he had made. In fact, the impact study had been completed and the construction phase of the Integrated Environmental Planning Procedure was now being

implemented, he said yesterday.

He added that a report drawn up by Professor Gideon Retief on phase one had not been used to motivate phase two. The professor's plan had been resubmitted because the developer wished to underline a sound environmental principle mentioned in the report.

Mr Verster said that at Langebaan a fine example of a marriage between development and nature conservation had been achieved.

# R80-m plan to boost eco-tourism

Star 15/8/91  
Own Correspondent

DURBAN — A South African company and a London-based international merchant bank plan to raise R80 million in investment capital for eco-tourism projects in southern Africa. Conservation Corporation has already bought an ecologically strategic 14 000 ha in Zululand, and a 46-bed luxury lodge is to open there next month.

Conservation Corporation is to be advised by Hambros Bank Limited, it was announced today. The investment capital will be sought both domestically and internationally.

South African partners in Conservation Corporation include JHI International (an affiliate of the JH Isaacs Group), David Varty (of Londolozi Game Reserve) and Cape Town-based financiers, Masterbond Trust. The ownership of Londolozi and JHI International will not be affected.

The first project — Phinda Resource Reserve — is a consolidation of 14 000 ha of private game land which connects Mkuzi Game Reserve, the Sodwana State Forest and the Lake St Lucia system.

Alan Bernstein, chairman of JHI International, will be managing director of Conservation Corporation. He described the new company as a significant private-sector initiative to combine conservation, tourism and financial skills. It would facilitate major conservation and tourism development projects throughout southern Africa.

An organisation whose  
Xhosa name means 'plant-  
ers of the home' is aiming to  
help green the Cape Flats.

**DAVE LEWIS reports:**

**A**BALIMI BEZEKHAYA or "planters of the home", a food gardening and greening project working on the Cape Flats, celebrated Arbor Day last Saturday by distributing over 1 000 trees.

In cooperation with local civic structures, Abalimi Bezekhaya distributed 1 000 trees with organic fertilizer to individual households in Khayelitsha.

Instruction on the proper planting and care of the trees was provided free of charge.

The project's Arbor Day activities focused on a new site and service area in Khayelitsha known as Harare.

At present, Harare consists of over 2 500 households living mostly in informal shack dwellings.

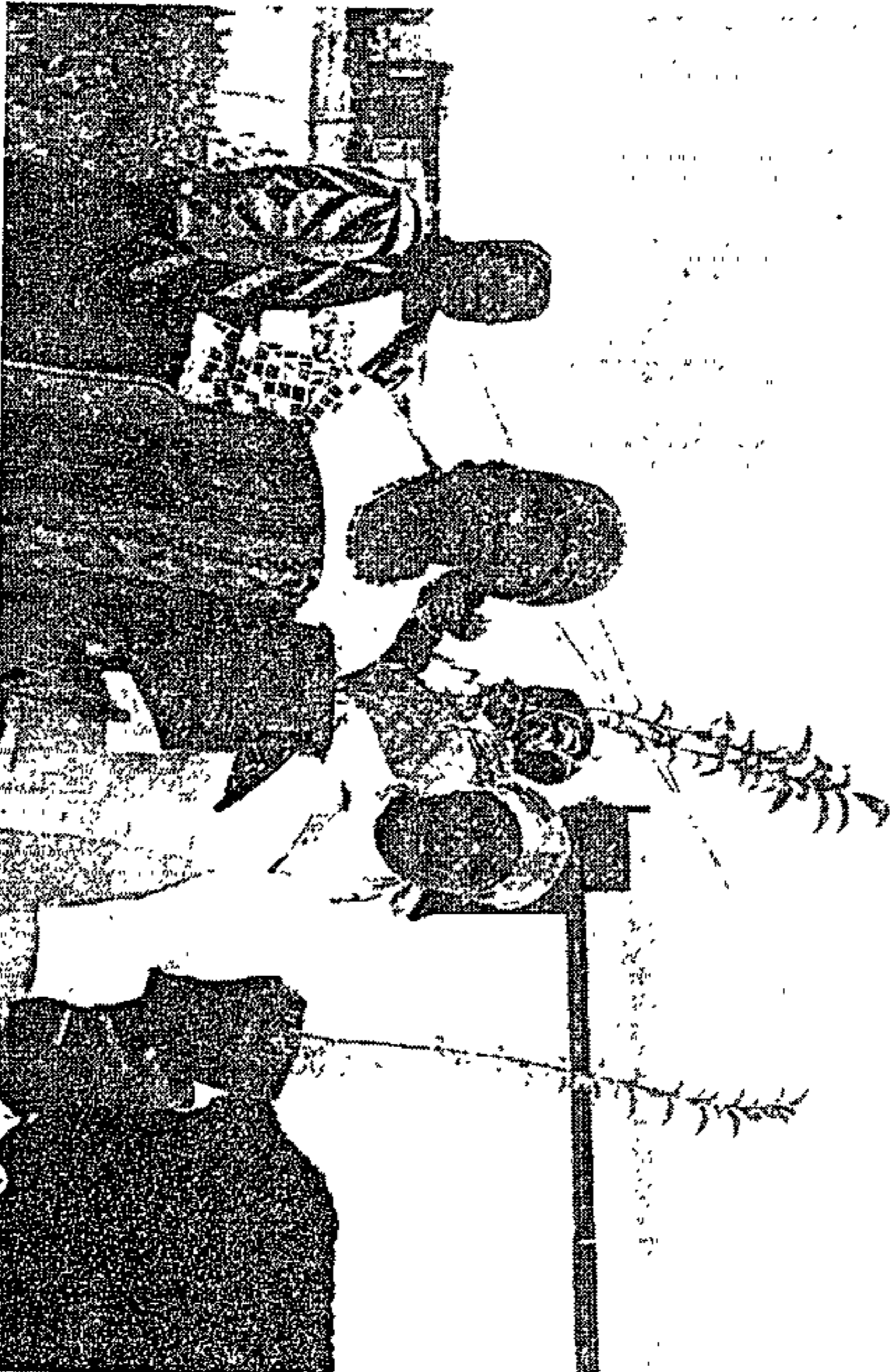
"People in the Harare section approached our project to assist them with planting trees.

"It is a permanent site and thus there is a great need for trees," said Ms Fiona McKay,

August 15 to August 21 1991

# Khayelitsha is greener by thousand trees

South 15/8 - 21/8/91



Khayelitsha residents with the plants distributed by Abalimi Bezekhaya

PHOTOGRAPH Janet Perrott

coordinator of the project.

The project's main motivation is to support township residents who are struggling to take charge of their environment and help them to transform it into a greener and healthier place to live in.

"We consulted with civics who were positive about the programme. Last year trees were planted in public places in Khayelitsha, which was a bit of a disaster.

"This year we are giving trees only to people who will look after them," said McKay.

Tree planting is an ongoing and essential part of improving the environment.

The trees provide protected microclimates which allow gardens to thrive despite the harsh winds, cold and heat of the Cape Flats.

A long-term goal of the project is to make it possible for a large proportion of the communities of Cape Town to produce a significant amount of their own household fruit and vegetables. A further 1 000 trees are being distributed through the project's two non-profit People's Garden Centres in Nyanga and Khayelitsha.

Township residents can obtain all the necessary gardening and greening resources from these well-stocked and low-cost centres.

Their addresses are: Khayelitsha Garden Centre — contact Christina Kaba, E 505, Scott Street, Village 1 (Phone: 361-3497).

Nyanga Garden Centre — contact Mbude, Sithandathu, Nyanga East (Phone: 34-2307). □

**A** PANTING but enthusiastic group of pupils and teachers from Ned Doman Secondary School in Athlone rests on a rock high on Steenberg Peak, Silvermine. Below them the built environment disappears into a vista of sea and distant mountains.

They are members of the fledgling Hiking and Ecological Society which aims to foster an awareness of the environment.

They are led by a core of dedicated teachers: Sedick Dawood, Moira Fahrenfort, Malcolm Pedro and Max van der Ross, who happily give up one afternoon a week and some weekends.

Ned Doman Secondary school has pupils coming from diverse areas, ranging from Silvertown to Manenburg to Guguletu. What these areas have in common is a lack of green space and recreational facilities.

So instead of pouring concrete over the open space, the society has created a garden.

Dawood, explains: "We want to inculcate a sense of greenery in the urban environment. Even though the concrete jungle is a problem to us, we are still trying to show that the two are compatible."

"Hopefully, when the garden flowers, the pupils will carry this over to their homes."

Pupils are given their own seed to take home. Once the seed has been planted and germinated, the seedlings are brought back to the school.

"We also plan to use the garden as a resource," Dawood continued. "One of the trees we planted on Arbor Day was a logan tree."

Besides working in the school garden, the society introduces other environmental concepts to their keen members.

"We teach the kids that they must not litter and must not waste electricity or water. We also pick up papers once every three weeks after school, and sell them as a fund-raising effort."

Funds raised go towards subsidising the end-of-year camping holiday.

It is the hikes which attract the pupils the most.

Pupils are always asking when they are going on more hikes, and are disappointed if the hikes last only a morning.

This year the society has gone on six hikes, as far afield as the Elands Pad hiking and kloofing trail in Du Toit's Kloof.

Before the hikes pupils are made aware of environmental issues such as not vandalising the environment by littering or breaking off

# Hiking a hit in Athlone eco-project

South  
15|8-21|8|91.

(56)

A school in Athlone has launched a project to increase children's environmental awareness by encouraging them to enjoy what the environment has to offer. MASHA PANSARI joined them on a hike:



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Before the hikes pupils are made aware of environmental issues such as not vandalising the environment by littering or breaking off plants.

They are also taught the value of working together and sharing. Each pupil brings different items of food or drink which they share.

But for the pupils, the best thing about the hikes, besides resting, is getting out.

"It's good for me to get away from home," declares Alexander Joseph, a standard nine pupil. "It's tight out there.

# Hiking a hit in Athlone eco-project

South  
15/8-21/8/91.

56

**A school in Athlone has launched a project to increase children's environmental awareness by encouraging them to enjoy what the environment has to offer. MASHA PANSARI joined them on a hike:**



**IN THE FRESH AIR:** From left, Shikiri de Beer, Petula Williams and Carmen Fillis

"I'm always repeating life at home. I come home from school, clean up, do my school work, sleep. It's the same thing every week. It's boring!"

Tasmien Samaai, a standard six pupil, agrees. "I come on the hikes because I want to get out of the house — and away from my brother."

"And I like to go out to different places and see nature," adds Carmen Fillis, standard eight. "Hikes keep me busy."

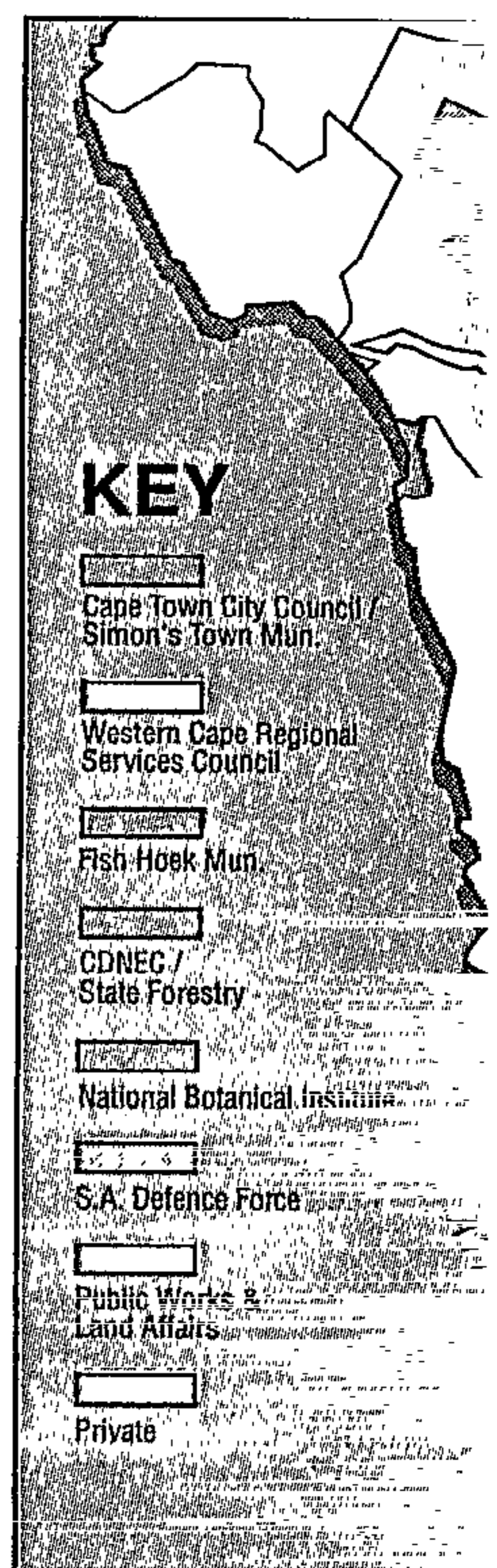
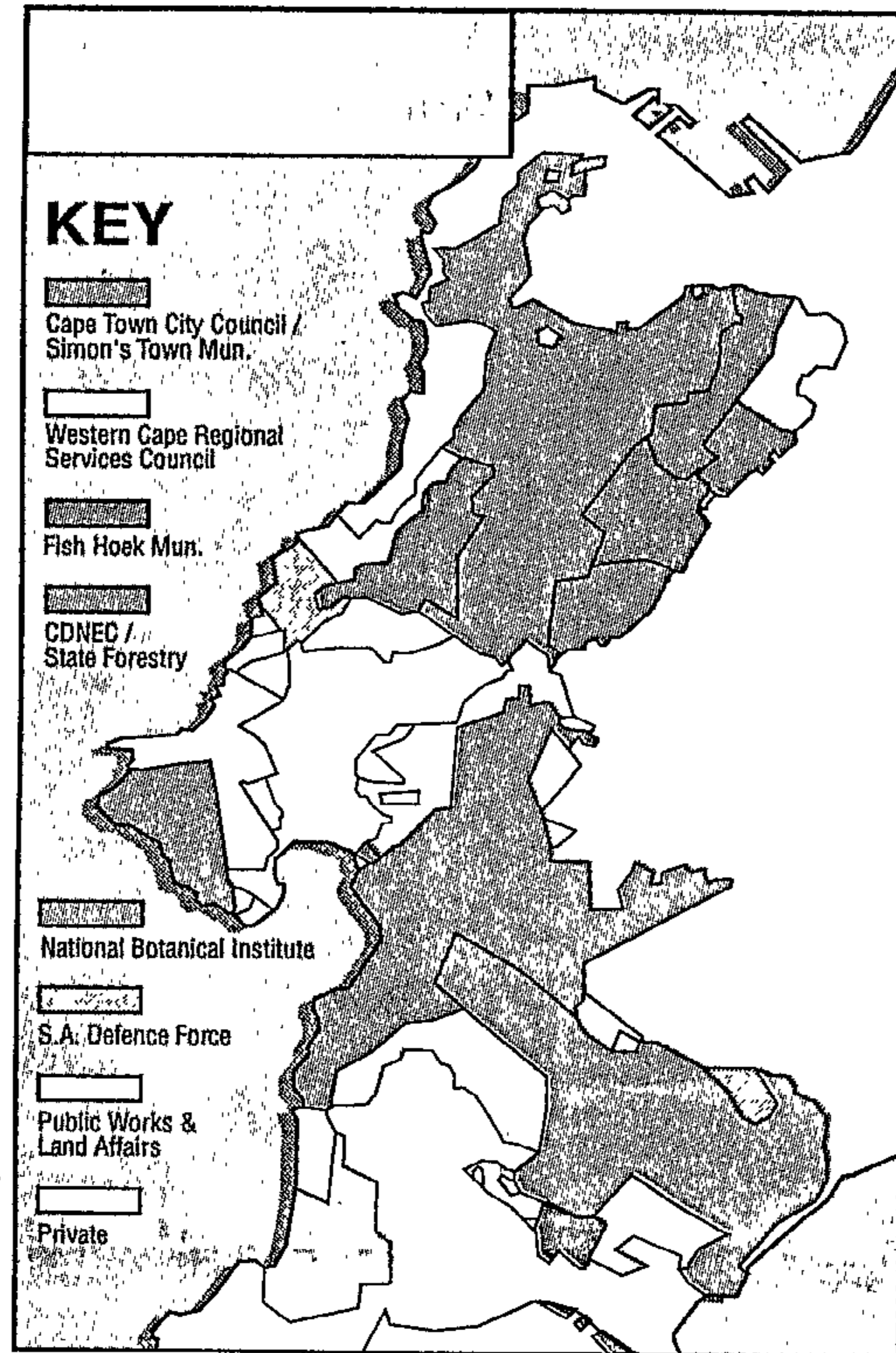
"These hikes are really a breakaway for them," confirms Dawood. "Sometimes we underestimate them: we think that these kids don't have any stress.

"These hikes are a relief for them. I think the whole school should have one period, say, every Wednesday, when all the kids should be taken, compulsorily, up to the mountains.

"It could be that our academic problems are because they're just in a rut the whole time."

# Visions of Verwoerdian Bantustans Visited on

□ **JIGSAW:** A horde of local and central government authorities and corporate and private landowners control parts of Table Mountain. Cape Town City Council controls Newlands Forest, Lion's Head and Signal Hill and parts of the north face of the mountain, while the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry controls Cecilia Forest. The Cape Provincial Administration department of nature and environmental conservation controls a stretch from Devil's Peak to Constantia Corner while the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs controls Rhodes Estate. Kirstenbosch is the domain of the National Botanical Institute, while the Western Cape Regional Services Council reigns over the slopes above Hout Bay. The Defence Force possesses Llandudno Corner and the Noon Gun area on Signal Hill. Further south, Fish Hoek and Simon's Town municipalities also hold pieces of the jigsaw.



Map: BOB GRIERSON, The Argus

es in



□ **GORDON OLIVER** ... just adding another bureaucracy.

**I**T looks like one of the old, crazed, Verwoerdian Bantustan visions of a myriad independent countries, a map drawn by a child on LSD.

The psychedelic chunks and splotches, however, represent the administrative fragmentation of Table Mountain.

Finding this map was itself an illustration of that fragmentation: Weekend Argus contacted the City Council and Western Cape Regional Services Council until, on the third try, it was provided by the Provincial Administration.

This week, Mayor Mr Gordon Oliver added his voice to calls for more sensible

## Melting pot of our heritage ruined by too many cooks

**CLIVE SAWYER**  
Municipal Reporter

and uniform control of the mountain.

He disagreed with Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring's call for the running of the mountain by the National Parks Board.

"This will just add another bureaucracy. If the money is available, give it to the City Council because we have the expertise to handle the mountain."

Walk along Tafelberg Road, just below the blockhouse: rounding the corner, you will leave City Council ground, pass into Provincial Administration department of nature conservation territory and, not much further on, walk on to the turf of the

Department of Public Works affairs.

Mr Oliver and deputy van der Velde said part of the management problem was of conservation.

Just outside council vegetation is flourishing, conservation measures do not match the city.

Historical reasons lie in the mountain fiefdoms.

Land bequeathed "to the diamond magnate and Cape Cecil Rhodes is controlled by the Department of Public Works and

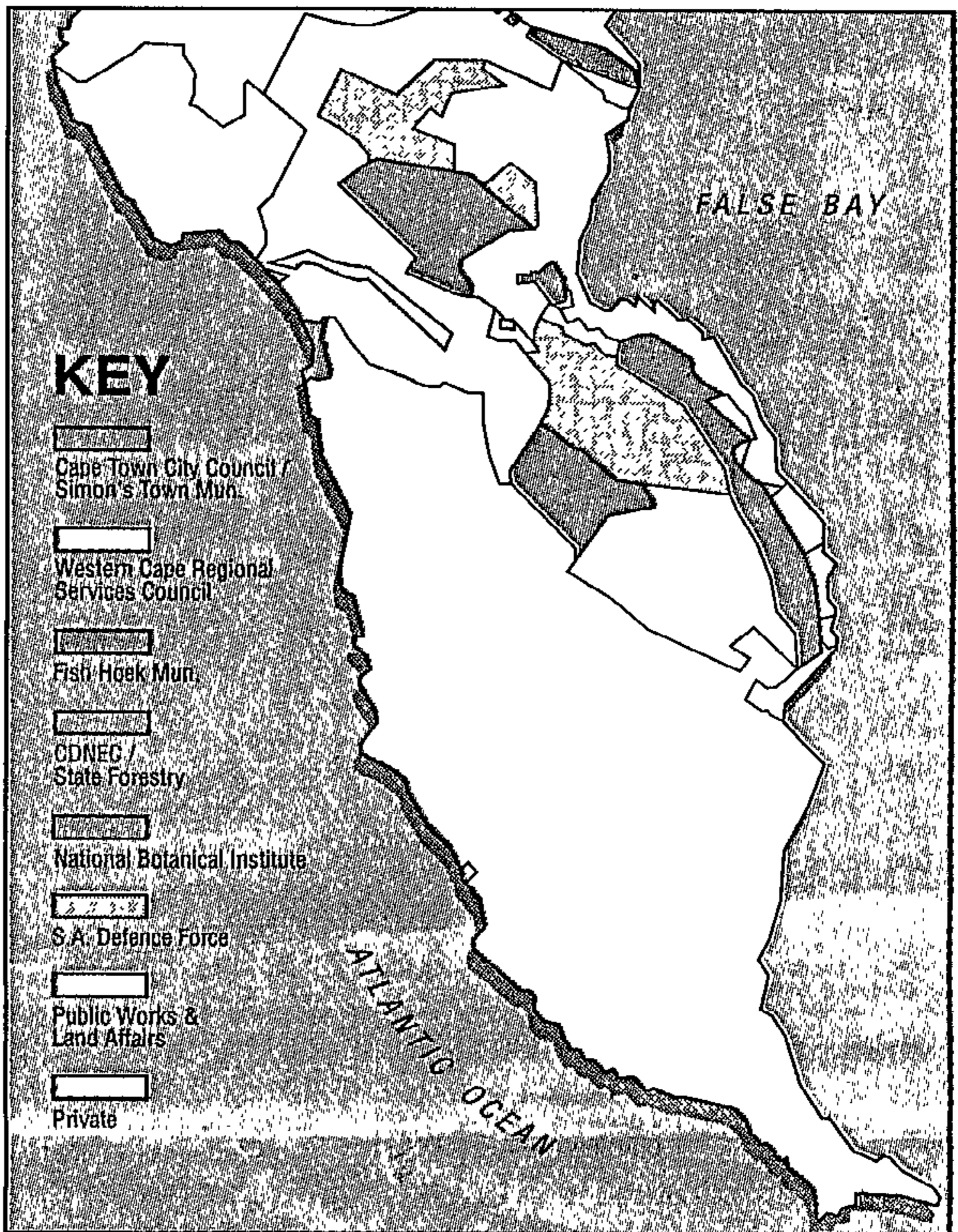
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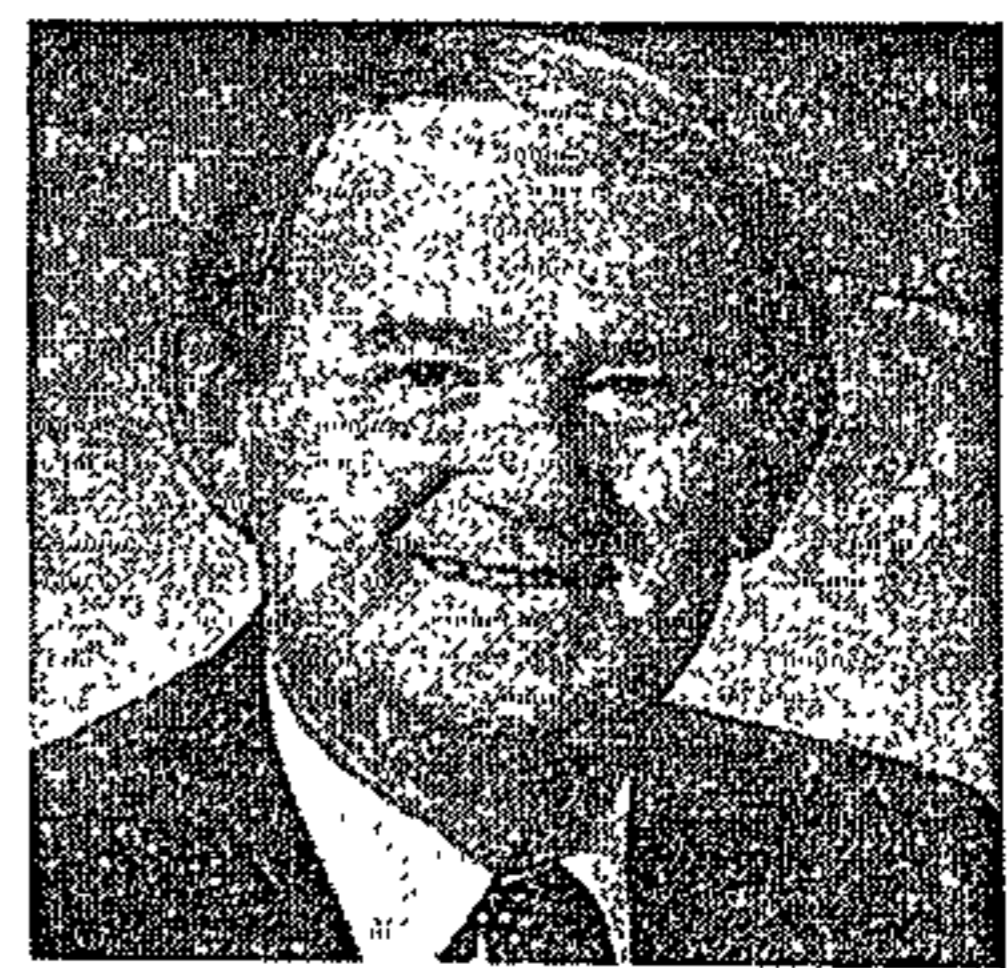


Map BOB GRIERSON, The Argus



## Melting pot of our heritage ruined by too many cooks

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ARG 17/8/91



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Department of Public Works and Land Affairs. Mr Oliver and deputy mayor Mr Frank van der Velde said part of the split management problem was differing standards of conservation. Just outside council boundaries alien vegetation is flourishing, while anti-erosion measures do not match those done by the city. Historical reasons lie behind the multiple mountain fiefdoms. Land bequeathed "to the nation" by diamond magnate and Cape Prime Minister Cecil Rhodes is controlled by the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs. However, the Cecilia Forest plantation

is controlled by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry. On top of the mountain, legislation splits "catchment area" land away from local authorities. The Western Cape RSC inherited former Cape Divisional Council land, including the Cape Point Nature Reserve. The Defence Department occupies the Noon Gun site and Llandudno corner, abutting respectively City Council and RSC ground. The comic opera range of fiefdoms would be amusing, but for one thing — bitter experience with past mountain fires has shown that sweeping infernos know no boundaries.

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Cecil Rhodes is controlled by the Depart-  
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However, the Cecilia Forest plantation

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# Noordhoek mine war rages on

(5b)  
**SORCHA VASEY** *AR 17/8/91*

Weekend Argus Reporter

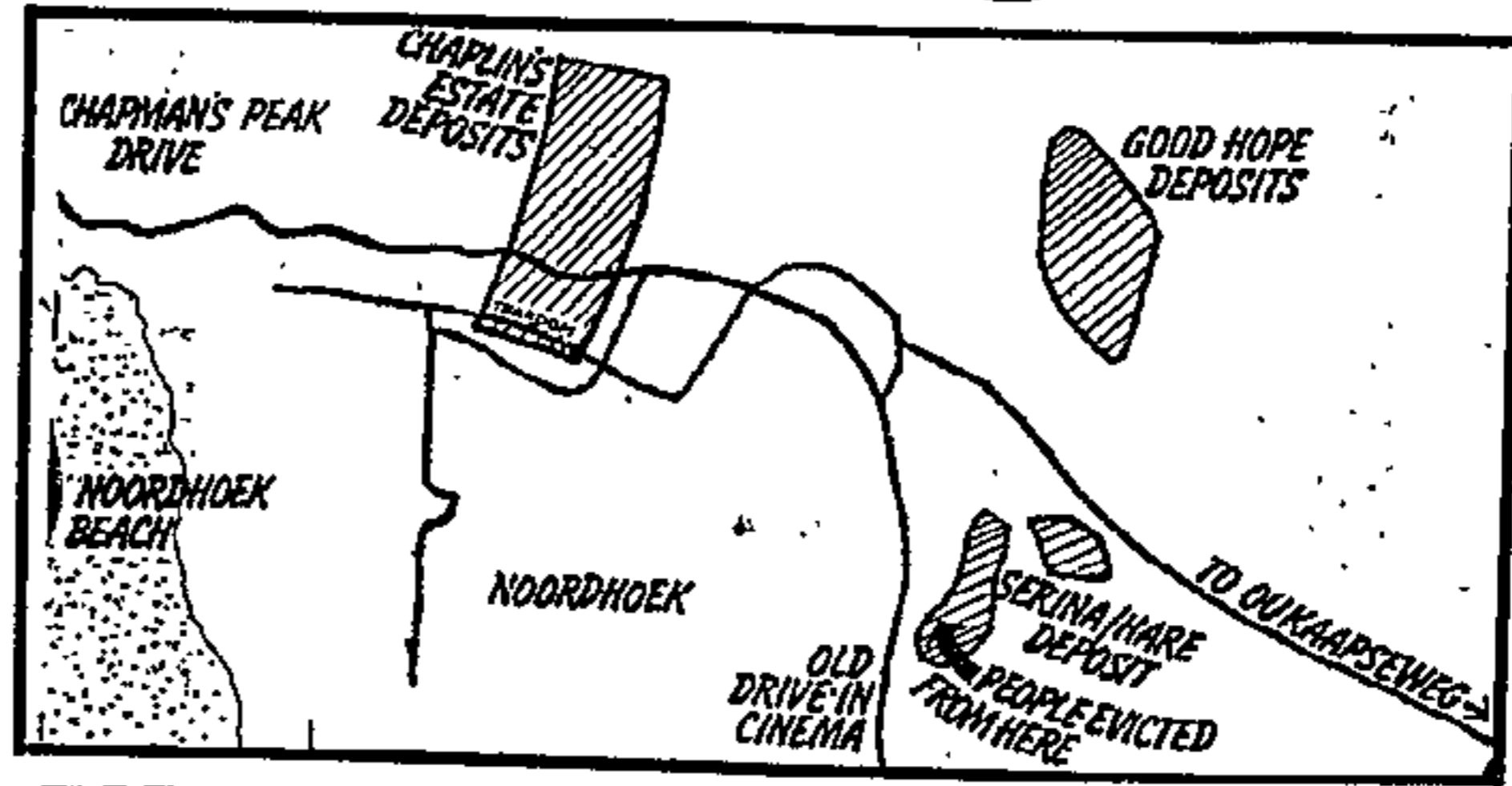
**S**ERINA "has been kicked out of Fish Hoek and there's no way we're going to allow them into Noordhoek", says Mr John Butterfield, spokesman for the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group.

The release of an environmental impact study on kaolin mining, by consulting engineers commissioned by Serina, has opened new wounds with Noordhoek residents.

"We can't accept the resignation and apathy of South Africans. Things are changing and we aim to set a precedent," says Mr Butterfield.

"Two years ago, we were told to forget about saving Noordhoek. Today, we have even more support and Serina is still seeking approval.

"There are numerous inconsistencies in the report. It doesn't ask if mining will have an negative effect — it just presumes they are going to mine." The study concludes: "If the impacts are successfully con-



□ **BEACH MINES:** Three of the four deposits of kaolin earmarked for mining in the Noordhoek valley. The fourth deposit is at Imhoff's Gift, near Kommetjie.

trolled, potential factors such as loss in property values and the nuisance posed by dust and noise can be largely overcome."

Mr Butterfield says there are several other less environmentally sensitive areas, stretching from Somerset West to Saldanha, which are geographically favourable.

"There is a massive deposit near Klipheuwel on land owned by the municipality. Serina was given conditional approval to

mine the area.

"Several strict measures were imposed, including a levy per tonnage to be used for conservation. Serina decided not to go ahead and turned their interests to Noordhoek," says Mr Butterfield.

Serina MD Mr Carl Tarant said his company would mine Noordhoek before they turned their interests to other areas.

The government proclaimed Noordhoek a mining reserve in 1982.



# Group gears to stop kaolin mining

THE fight to stop kaolin mining in Noordhoek is far from over, according to the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group.

Chairman of the group Mr Ian Brownlie said yesterday that thousands of rands had been spent by the group in drilling test boreholes at alternative kaolin sites.

Samples from these had been sent for analysis in Germany as part of "well-advanced" preparations for legal action.

56 CT 16/8/91  
The issue of possible alternative sites was raised at a meeting in Noordhoek on Wednesday, attended both by representatives of the mining company Serina Kaolin (Pty) and by objectors.

The Serina MD, Mr Carl Tarrant, said his company already had mining rights to the Noordhoek (or Chapman's Peak) site, and intended to mine it, even if there were other deposits to go on to afterwards.

Mr Brownlie said his group

would be seeking comment on the environmental impact study released on Wednesday.

Mr Fanie Geldenhuis, one of the engineering consultants who drew up the study, said he expected that by the end of September the Department of Mines would announce conditions under which it would grant a mining permit.

"That is not going to happen," Mr Brownlie said. "We have petitioned ministers."

# Power stations break legal pollution limits

SEVERAL Eskom power stations are belching out levels of air pollution higher than legal limits, say sources close to the power utility.

They said pollution levels at the older stations were often checked by simply looking at the density of smoke emerging from smokestacks.

The sources described the coal power stations of Arnot in the Witbank/Middelburg region, and Matimba in the north-western Transvaal near the Botswana bor-

BIP 19/18/91  
der, as being "permanently" over their licence limits. He said figures indicated that Duvha, also in the Witbank/Middelburg region, generally operated about 65% over its limit.

BRENT VON MELVILLE

An Eskom environmental spokesman confirmed that certain older power stations frequently exceeded their limits.

Because these stations were using older

technology, the limits set for them were different to the limits for newer stations. But the sources said not even the higher limits were being achieved.

The Eskom spokesman said limits varied from about 100 micrograms a cubic metre for stations such as Lethabo in the Vereeniging area, and Tutuka near Standerton, to 500 micrograms for the older stations such as Arnot and Duvha. But the

☐ To Page 2

## Pollution

BIP 19/18/91  
sources said levels at some older stations were not scientifically verifiable.

Most of Eskom's coal-fired capacity (of 34 413Mw) is in the eastern Transvaal highveld. Major pollutants emitted by coal-fired stations are sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen and particulate matter, or haze.

Despite several contraventions, Eskom has not been penalised. Air quality is controlled by a 1965 Act. Licences are granted by the National Health and Population Development Department.

A recent Eskom-sponsored survey found that Eskom accounted for about 42% of sulphur dioxide emissions (of about 2,8-million tons) into the atmosphere, while

☐ From Page 1  
other industry and commerce accounted for 54%, domestic 3% and vehicles 1%.

Eskom accounted for 36% of nitrogen oxide emissions, while other industry contributed 37%, vehicles 26% and domestic 1%. Of particulate matter Eskom contributed 20%, industry 52%, domestic 24% and vehicles 3%.

The Eskom spokesman estimated that it would cost between R1,5bn and R2bn to install scrubbing equipment in older stations. But he said "scrubbing" the stations, while reducing sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide emissions, would only replace air pollution with solid waste pollution.

# SA thirst still far from being quenched

Star 21/8/91

(56)

At end of the World Water Decade of the 1980s, 12 million South Africans still had inadequate access to safe water — and more than half the population had inadequate sanitation facilities.

To meet these basic needs over the next 10 years will cost at least five times more than the huge Lesotho Highlands water scheme.

These were the findings at a recent meeting convened by Water and Sanitation 2000, an ad-hoc group of water sector professionals worried about the lack of public awareness of the absence of policies and strategies to deal with water supplies.

There is now a plan to bring together all interested parties to work out strategies.

Two independent sets of estimates presented at the meeting by the professional group and Department of Water Affairs representatives, put the cost of providing all South Africans with adequate water and sanitation by the year 2000 at between R10- and R30 billion.

The scale of the problem dwarfs even the Lesotho Highlands Project which is regarded as one of the largest water projects currently under construction anywhere in the world.

At the meeting it was also agreed

that there was an urgent need to address the problem of fragmentation in water affairs.

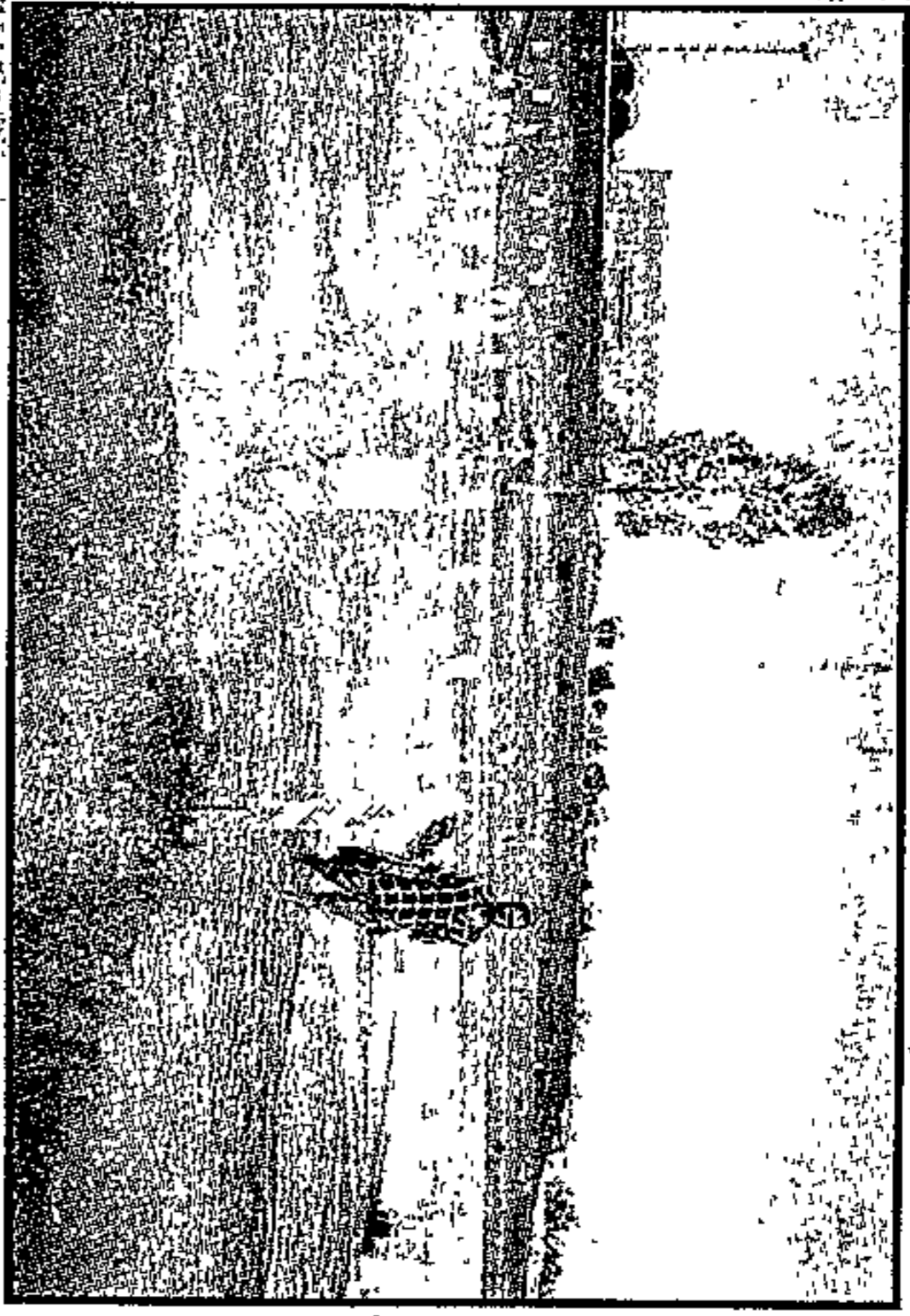
Areas with the greatest needs — largely the homelands — have the least capacity to meet them.

The meeting was also attended by government departments, community service and research organisations.

All interested parties have been invited to a meeting on September 26 to hear the conclusions reached and to help initiate a new strategy.

For more information telephone the Water Institute at 728-4303 or Ethel Nupen at Watertek (012) 841-2231.

TRENDS REPORTER



Only for some . . . access to safe water is a basic need yet many South Africans are denied it.

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# Cut petrol consumption in Cape Town — report

CLIVE SAWYER  
Municipal Reporter

(56)  
ARC 22/8/91

**PETROL** and diesel consumption in Cape Town must be cut to prevent further economic and environmental damage to the city, a metropolitan public transport study says.

The report said there had been a long-term growth in liquid fuel use since the early 1970s.

Benefits from cutting fuel consumption would include reduced vehicle operating costs, foreign exchange savings and a cut in the potential for atmospheric pollution, the report said.

Petrol consumption increased by 42 percent and diesel by 18 percent between 1982 and 1989. The growth matched the growth in registered vehicles in metropolitan Cape Town.

Further benefits included decreasing the transport part of the costs of goods and services, the report said.

"This could have the effect of improving the competitive stance of

metropolitan Cape Town and lowering the rate of inflation in the area."

Oil was a "non-renewable resource" and there was doubt about the stability and price of imported supplies. This meant it should be conserved.

Measures to do so should be focused on metropolitan areas such as Cape Town.

These would include ways of eliminating the need for long trips, improving public transport, increasing vehicle occupancies and improving traffic control measures.

"Undue reliance on private transport is not sensible in the context of attempting to reduce fuel consumption."

The report is part of a series being produced by the metropolitan public transport study team. The three-year project was initiated by Cape Town as the core city of the metropolitan transport area.

# Mandela at 'Going Green' launch

By Stan Hlophe

22/8/91

ANC president Nelson Mandela officially opened the launch, at the University of the Witwatersrand this week, of a book about people, politics and the environment in SA.

He said the book, "Going Green", broke new ground in environmental literature because it was people-centred and dealt with unusual issues in the conservation of land, water and nature.

Mr Mandela said the indigenous people of South Africa had been perceived as obstacles to environmental management — in keeping with colonial trends.

"It has been traditional for our people to live in harmony whereby our customs and taboos protected the environment," he said.

He accused the SADF, which he said was the largest landowner in the country, of having left a terrible legacy.

Major issues were the availability of land, adequate sanitation, non-toxic water and air free from pollution.

He warned that environmental issues would not be resolved without the participation of those concerned.

The ANC, he said, regarded that as part of its struggle.

The book, edited by Jacklyn Cock and Eddie Koch, investigates the environmental challenges facing South Africa and demonstrates that these issues are deeply political.

The authors point out that environmental concern cannot be confined to preserving wilderness areas or endangered species.

They say the crisis is embedded in people's lack of access to power and resources and cannot be resolved until these underlying causes are addressed.

The major concern of a new environmental policy must be to ensure all South Africans can live in health and safety.

# Conservation idea is good for business (56)

B Day 23/8/91

CONSERVATION is good business, says Owen Wiggins Trust (OWT) advertising manager Gideon Langart.

OWT is the developer of top-of-the-market resort village Port Owen, on the Cape west coast.

"The people who buy in our developments are buying, in addition to bricks and mortar, an interest in the ecological environment in which it is located.

Port Owen was the first resort marina in South Africa and as such has proved a phenomenal success.

OWT sold its first 800m<sup>2</sup> waterfront site in December 1978 for R13 000. Late last year a similar plot fetched R150 000.

A major ingredient in the developer's recipe for success is its commitment to

conservation. Where changes are introduced, the objective is to enhance the natural environment while making it usable.

Port Owen features 3,4km of manmade waterways capable of carrying ocean-going yachts.

## Ecosystem

These were formed using mesh-lined crushed rock — a more expensive option than concrete, which lends itself to the development of a natural ecosystem.

The dredging operations carried out in the course of creating these waterways led to the creation of an island — now the location of Port Owen's new "millionaires' row".

Access to the island will be by means of a road bridge and the 48 water-

front plots are priced from R250 000.

Growth of the village is limited by its boundaries — the Berg River to one side and an ecologically sensitive salt marsh which is protected in terms of an international treaty signed a few years ago.

The region houses some 120 species of bird life, including many migratory birds that come from as far afield as Siberia.

The island will hold 186 plots and 300 timeshare units, a land value of R16,8m and a timeshare value of R183m at current prices.

The marina includes 750 residential sites and berths for more than 500 yachts and small craft.

Sell-out of the resort is expected to take another 20 years.



A white-crested cormorant at the Port Owen marina.

C

# Overseas investors are optimistic about future

B/Day 23/8/91

OVERSEAS investors are optimistic about South Africa's long-term future and demand for investment property is strengthening, says Syfrets group property finance GM Brian Button.

"The perspective is that property in SA is among the best investments in the world," he says.

## Confident

"Whereas local investors are hesitant, adopting a wait-and-see attitude, overseas investors are confident SA's problems are on their way to being solved and are eager to snap up good properties at bargain-basement prices."

Demand is generally strongest in the coastal areas, perceived by investors as being more stable and further away from trouble spots.

"Johannesburg is a boom or bust city. There are a lot

of inquiries parallel to the development opportunities there — but the property market on the Reef is cyclical.

"Even Durban is favoured over the Reef, despite the unrest of the past few years in Natal.

"In fact, it also outranks Cape Town because its proximity to the Reef enables it to offer more industrial development opportunities."

Durban and Cape Town remain the focal points of the investor's interest in SA coastal property.

While entrepreneurs say Port Elizabeth's future as an industrial centre is assured, especially with the lifting of sanctions, investors consider it too dependent on the volatile motor industry to be a safe bet.

But wherever they put their money, Button says, investors are becoming selective of the tenants occupying their properties.

"No company dependent on tax concessions will at-



BRIAN BUTTON

tract a second glance from an investor — and investors won't go into subsidised areas because they are perceived as lacking long-term security.

"Subsidisation has a worrying effect on the investment potential of properties.

"No one can deny that some tax concessions are

necessary, but government's decision to link subsidisation to profitability is welcome.

"Straight subsidisation encourages inefficiency, and because it cannot be relied on in the long term its presence is a deterrent to property investment."

Today's investor looks for properties housing viable tenants with proven track records who can be expected to continue paying rent on a steady basis.

In selecting office developments, investors are sensitive to gearing.

"Space oversupply is not a major problem provided sophisticated investors recognise that, because of the cyclical nature of the property industry, it is difficult to time projects perfectly," Button says.

"Developers who are too sensitive to the risk of medium-term oversupply can risk missing the boat in the long term.

"By developing later in

an inflationary environment their projects can be less competitive than buildings completed during a glut, and because they risk being too late to take up the slack when demand for space catches up with supply.

## Gearing

"In today's investment climate, a well-located development will have little difficulty in finding a backer — provided the level of gearing is right."

Developers must balance the costs of building later, in an environment in which building costs increase at close to 20% a year, or holding onto empty space during an unfavourable letting market.

"High gearing, because of the unpredictability of interest rates, can play havoc with the medium-term viability of a project and is a deterrent to investors," says Button.

## Attractive features can be spoiled by loading capacity

B/Day 23/8/91

IF A development overloads the carrying capacity of a coastal environment it degrades rapidly.

The features which attracted people are destroyed — sometimes irrevocably — and the long-term ecological and socio-economic consequences can be devastating.

Haphazard development has dealt a death blow to many parts of the overcrowded Natal South Coast and the Wilderness area and the pressure of population expansion coupled with the projected growth of the tourist industry could put more areas at risk if developers and government do not act to prevent it happening.

The committee for coastal and marine systems of the Council for the Environment, headed by Dr Allan Heydorn, has established

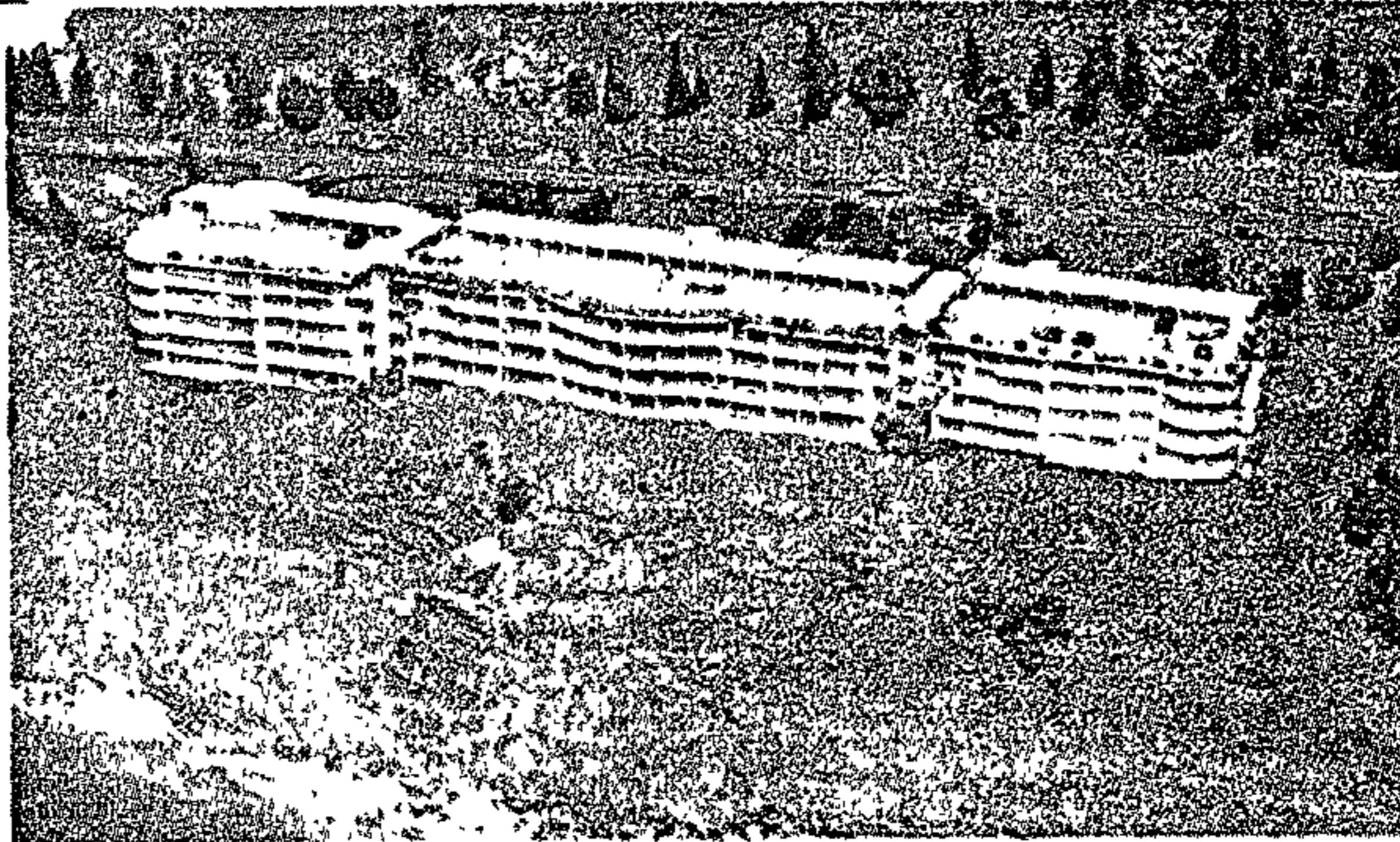
the foundations of a comprehensive policy on coastal zone management (CZM).

Heydorn says: "We are not anti-development. Economics and conservation are mutually dependent and any policy must take into account the needs of people living in the coastal zone or wanting to use it for recreation.

"But development must be carried out in a way that is sensitive to the environment. This is in the interests of the developer and the nation.

"The aim of CZM is to ensure development in the coastal zone is regulated to benefit the greatest number of people while at the same time safeguarding the environmental features and ecological processes of the coast."

Developers ignore the



1 Chapman's Peak Drive overlooking Hout Bay.

implications of CZM at their peril.

Developments which destabilise the natural vegetation of a coastal dune area, for instance, can leave them vulnerable to driftsand, and waves can destroy structures built too close to the high tide mark.

Sound financial planning takes environmental issues into account.

The new Time Projects development overlooking Hout Bay — 1 Chapman's Peak Drive — was nearly the scene of an environmental disaster when the original developer destabilised the cliff face to the point of collapse before abandoning the project and part of the Port Alfred Marina development — designed as an exclusive holi-

day playground — is under liquidation as a result of bad financial planning.

In its first report on CZM, which outlines its principles and objectives, the committee defines the coastal zone as the narrow strip which includes such features as coastal lakes, lagoons, estuaries, dunes, beaches, rocky shores and some offshore islands.



# Threat of bad publicity keeps developers in line

BIDAY 23/8/91

56

ENVIRONMENTAL conservation is about more than conserving South Africa's natural heritage simply because it is beautiful.

It is a bottom-line affair with direct impact on property values, yet government legislation does not enforce even the most rudimentary controls on developers.

The Environmental Conservation Act promulgated in 1989 recommends developers carry out environmental impact studies (EISs) — but this is not specifically required of any development, nor does the Act lay down any channels intended to promote public participation.

Chairman of the committee for coastal and marine systems within the Council for the Environment Allan Heydorn says: "SA politics

have other priorities at this stage.

"Government's attention must be focused on such Third World priorities as the need for housing and food — while environmental conservation is regarded as a long-term priority.

"But far-sighted developers are learning it is in their interests to carry out EISs.

## Intrinsic

"The natural environment can add to the intrinsic value of a project and at the same time a study can help them avoid costly mistakes."

He says a coherent policy for coastal zone management must be drawn up and management of the policy must be centralised rather than devolved among individual local authorities with varying, often short-term objectives.

Sapoa executive director

Brian Kirschmann says current legal requirements are adequate.

"Sapoa recognises the importance of conservation. Its environmental committee is represented on the Council for the Environment.

"But in view of the trend away from regulation it would be counterproductive to enforce tighter controls over developers.

"If restrictions became too tight, developers would simply sidestep them, as has happened in the Retirement Villages Act. This is now so stringent nobody is developing retirement villages any more," he says.

Kirschmann says Sapoa — backed by the Council for the Environment — can bring enough pressure to bear on offenders that even those who are not members can be brought into line.

"Our members carry a

lot of clout and no developer who wants to deal with them would be wise to buck them," he says.

"If a member abused the environment the Sapoa council would censure him."

## Censure

He says on their own these measures are inadequate, but an ongoing process of education, reinforced by censure and bad publicity when a developer behaves irresponsibly, will do more to bring about a change of heart in the long term.

The real issue, says Heydorn, is in the planning of regional development programmes.

"In terms of government policy, necessary and desirable development is encouraged — but in keeping

with environmental principles," he says.

"Along these lines, ecologically harmful developments need to be restricted and development should, as far as possible, be concentrated at focal growth points with undamaged areas left to flourish in between."

At the same time, developers must learn the lesson they consistently resist absorbing — to plan for extreme conditions rather than trusting to luck.

"Too many developers build according to the mean and when a flood or sandstorm hits them their asset is damaged — sometimes beyond repair.

"Scientific EISs can enable them to prepare for the worst, and while this may involve greater initial capital outlay, in the long term it is more cost-effective," he says.

Advertisement | Conservation Idea IS



# Motor vehicles are city's 'chief polluters'

Staff Reporter

56 CT 23/2/91

PHOTO-CHEMICAL pollution is a major cause of concern in the city, but there is no evidence that smoke emissions from large industrial plants materially affected the atmosphere in the peninsula, Dr Michael Popkiss, the Medical Officer of Health, said yesterday.

Dr Popkiss was reacting to a report that more than 100 companies in Durban had been fined for air pollution in the past 18 months.

Dr Popkiss said motor vehicles are Cape Town's biggest problem.

"Industrialisation in the peninsula

has slumped during the recent recession, but the use of motor vehicles on the peninsula's roads is escalating," Dr Popkiss warned.

He said that pollution levels from industrial plants were constantly monitored to ensure they are kept within the legal requirements.

Funds to promote research into photo-chemical pollution were badly needed, but had not been forthcoming from the government.

Health Minister Dr Rina Venter earlier this year turned down a call for more funds and research to tackle photo-chemical smog.

# MEDIA WAVES

MARK GEVISSER's fortnightly look at broadcasting, publishing and advertising



## The Tragedy of the Dancing Chairman

**A**t the concluding ceremony of the "Jahlan! Freedom of the Airwaves" conference held in the Netherlands last week, 42 South African media activists and specialists watched, with a mixture of delight and disbelief, as a choir of blue-eyed burghers sang freedom songs, with a northern-European determination and a metropolitan to-and-fro-ing roughly approximating the toy-i-toyi.

All the South Africans present eventually joined in this bizarre victory-dance. But one man, skulking on the verge of the celebration, looked very uncomfortable: Professor Christo Viljoen, chairman of the government-appointed Task Group on Broadcasting. Viljoen had just told the conference that he supported an Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) that would take airwave control out of the hands of the SABC and "promote a multiplicity of voices". The SABC, he said, "should be a public broadcaster, independent of vested interests and government, and owned by the people".

But Viljoen, himself still vested in the grey suit of both state and professional interest (he chairs the SABC, after all), did not join "the people" in their victory dance — until someone rushed over to where he was standing by the doorway, and forcefully pulled him into the melee. There was much sniggering at the image of the Stellenbosch professor unhappily dancing the toy-i-toyi — but no-one said "Welcome Comrade!"

The image of the spurned Dancing Chairman sums up perfectly the role Viljoen currently plays: hovering uncomfortably on the periphery of the democratic movement's demands, and trying, without much success, to win his enemies over.

The tragedy of the Dancing Chairman is this: all those present at the conference, from the free marketers of Radio 702 and Capital Radio to comrades from the African National Congress's Radio Freedom,

**O**UR country has a high reputation internationally for conservation. But the concern for the flora, fauna and wildlife did not extend to the well-being of the majority of the population, an objective which must surely be the purpose of our concern for the environment. Rather the indigenous people have been perceived as the "problem", the "obstacles", and even the "threat" in environmental management.

This is in keeping with the colonial and apartheid ethic. Intrinsic in apartheid is environmental degradation. The ethic of our rulers respects neither nature nor humankind. We do not need experts to point to the consequences: they are visible in the geography of our country and in what we see around us.

● Contrast the swimming pools of the white suburbs of Johannesburg with the stand pipes and absence of indoor plumbing and sanitation in the townships and squatter camps.

● Witness the consequences of increases of 400 to 500 percent in population density over a decade, in some of the areas created by the establishment of banustans and forced removals: our land stripped bare, the soil eroded, as people have struggled against poverty and deprivation.

● Look at the black townships built downwind, and white suburbs located to protect residents from the poisonous matter that spews forth from the chimneys of industrial plants like Sasol, while inadequate pollution regulations add to the profits of companies.

● Consider the coal stoves polluting the townships, and in the rural areas the soil eroded and the land barren as trees are cut down for fuel and women have to walk nine to 10 kilometres a day in search of wood. Yet our power stations operate under capacity.

● We have a nuclear power station constructed on a geological fault, in an area where wind patterns can create a hazardous situation and with a population density higher than would be considered safe in other countries. The decision was motivated

## The danger that knows no racial boundaries

Nelson Mandela committed the ANC to far-reaching green policies at the launch this week of a book on environmental struggles. This is an extract of his speech

**BY NELSON MANDELA**

ed by strategic considerations rather than energy needs of our country, and any debate on questions of safety was muzzled by legislation prohibiting discussion of such issues. And how are we going to deal with the nuclear waste?

There are plans now under way to build more nuclear power stations in our country. Can we allow this programme to go ahead? Should such decisions not await a democratic government and a society in which there can be free and informed debate?

The list of examples where people have been ignored is endless, and it is these images which we need to consider, at the same time as the projections of national parks and South African wildlife.

But a lesson apartheid South Africa has yet to learn, hopefully before we have a major catastrophe, is that noxious fumes, the destruction of natural resources, nuclear emissions and pollution of water do not respect racial boundaries. The clouds of smoke affect black people in the townships first, but they also drift into the white suburbs.

The uncontrolled storage of toxic waste will affect the air we breathe and the water

we drink, regardless of which racial group we belong to.

Traditionally our people lived in harmony with and respected their habitat. Traditional customs and taboos protected the environment and the concept of sustainable development was implicit in our practices. Our ancestors knew that the preservation of the fertility of the land and the non-destructive uses of resources was necessary for survival. That is the environmental ethic we have to rediscover and promote.

It is also the ethic we have to promote in our relations with our neighbours. The South African Defence Force, which is, incidentally, one of the largest land owners in our country, has left a terrible legacy in southern Africa: defoliation and destruction of the land and natural resources of Angola and Namibia; the war that still continues in Mozambique; military involvement in poaching and ivory smuggling.

The well-being of all the people of South Africa is going to depend in large measure on how we manage our environment. Economic growth, however rapid, will not suffice, unless that development is sustainable and our resources are conserved for future generations.

For the majority of South Africans, the major environmental issues are: availability of land, so that it does not have to be stripped bare in order to provide food and fuel; providing adequate sanitation and clean non-toxic water for irrigation and for the health of our people; ensuring that the air we breathe is free of pollution. These issues cannot be resolved without the participation of those most concerned.

The African National Congress sees the preservation and the rehabilitation of the environment as part of our liberation struggle. This is why what are called third generation rights — or more popularly, green rights — are included in our proposed Bill of Rights.

Like all other human rights they are inalienable.

● *Going Green: People, politics and the environment in South Africa* is edited by Jacklyn Cock and Eddie Koch (Oxford University Press, R44,95)

## Air-pollution (S) levels in city up

CT 24/6/81  
THE windless conditions in Cape Town yesterday, together with a low-level temperature inversion, drove up one of the air-pollution indices for the first time in over two weeks.

The highest hourly average reading at 8am for the nitrogen oxides was 1562 micrograms per cubic metre — 58 above the national guideline level of 1504.

# VAT-weary consumers

Star  
on Reef  
24/8/91  
face new

## water shock

DEREK TOMMEY

THE cost of water in the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area could jump by more than 20 percent when the new tariff comes into effect on October 1.

The only factors that could stop such a huge increase would be the resumption of payments for water by the non-paying local authorities, or a substantial subsidy from the Government.

Several factors, including the introduction of VAT, a Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme levy and losses arising from the non-payment by black authorities are imposing a heavy burden on the Rand Water Board (RWB).

### Committed

This money will have to be recovered from consumers, say informed sources.

Already the RWB is committed to imposing a levy of about 6 percent on water bills from October to help finance the Highlands Water Scheme. On top of this, it will have to levy VAT. These alone are expected to increase the tariff by around 15 percent.

But the losses arising from the non-payment of bills will also have to be taken into account.

At July 29, 11 black local authorities owned the RWB nearly R16 mil-

● TO PAGE 2.



## Water hike

● FROM PAGE 1.

lion, and this debt is increasing at a rate of nearly R3,4 million a month.

This situation is expected to worsen because a number of municipalities, including Brakpan, Alberton and Rustenburg, want to transfer to the RWB the responsibility of supplying water to black local authorities.

The move comes about because of difficulties experienced over payments for water supply.

Altogether, about 8 percent of the water being supplied by the RWB and about a third of the amount supplied to black local authorities, is not being paid for.

The RWB has a number of choices to improve its financial situation. One is to cut off

water to the defaulting authorities.

However, even this would mean that the water rate would have to be raised by another 5 percent or so to cover fixed costs already incurred. This would push the October increase to above 20 percent.

This lack of potable water could result in epidemics in the affected local authority, spreading through the whole PWV area and rendering inadequate essential medical services.

And on the political side, the cutting off of water could result in considerable unrest.

However, if the RWB were to continue supplying water to the non-paying areas, it would have to finance this by a further 5 percent increase in tariffs. This could bring the total increase in the water tariff in October to between 24 percent and 25 percent.

# 'Green' Opels grow in popularity

STimes 25/8/91

56

THE Delta Motor Corporation, which produced Opel passenger cars in South Africa, would like to see the local introduction of lead-free fuel as soon as possible.

The company says it is ready to produce environment-friendly cars equipped with catalytic converters and run on lead-free fuel.

"Opel engines used here have been designed to run on lead-free fuel. And by adding a catalytic converter, we could easily produce cars compatible with lead-free fuel," said Rolf Mentzel, engineering and quality assurance manager at Delta.

He said Delta would like to see local availability of lead-free fuel as soon as possible. "Pollution on the Reef is a huge problem, and cleaner exhaust emissions can improve the situation drastically."

In Europe, environment-friendly models are becoming increasingly popular as car buyers become more aware of the impact of pollution on the environment.

## Increased

Motor manufacturer Opel has seen German sales soar after its decision to adapt and develop vehicles that are environment-friendly. Market share has already increased by almost two percent in only three years.

The company has addressed six aspects necessary for cars to have as little effect as possible on the environment.

Engines have to be as fuel efficient as possible, while the toxins in exhaust gases need to be cleaned up by using catalytic converters. Water-based paints, asbestos-free spare parts, a high level of recyclable components and a reduction of noise also need to be addressed.

According to Mentzel, Opel in Germany is completely committed to producing "green" cars. "Already, lead-free fuel is used widely in Europe, in conjunction with cars fitted with catalytic converters. Opel was the first manufacturer to fit these converters to all its cars sold in Germany."

Thanks to advanced engine design and aerodynamic body shapes, Opel cars also boast a high level of fuel efficiency; while water-based paints are already in use. Brake pads and clutches for Opels no longer contain asbestos, Mentzel claims.

He pointed out that while lead-free fuel was not yet available in South Africa, all locally produced Opels could be adapted accordingly.

# Mine effluent ruined my land

S/Time  
25/8/91

56

By STEPHANIE HULL

**AN ELDERLY farmer claims his land was destroyed by pollution from a nearby coal mine.**

Mr Francis Hopkins, 65, plans to take legal action against Eskom and Genmin in his quest for compensation. He will also submit an affidavit to the attorney-general of Natal. He claims the companies are responsible for a flood of polluted water from a Newcastle colliery which contaminated his water, destroyed part of his grazing, caused the death of thousands of chickens and forced him to stop farming the land.

Mr Hopkins will demand more than R900 000 in damages as well as restoration of the land, which could cost as much as R3-million.

"They have destroyed my dream," said Mr Hopkins, who is on the verge of bankruptcy.

In hospital until last week with a heart condition, he is determined to ensure that those responsible restore the land.

According to the retired horticulturist, the 80-hectare farm on which he was farming thousands of chickens and some cattle was thriving until a year ago.



FRANCIS HOPKINS  
Ailing and angry

He became aware that there was a problem when frogs deserted his dam and small animals disappeared from the veld.

Then his cattle became reluctant to drink from the dam.

## Suffered

In August last year and again this January, his wetland area was flooded by a huge volume of water which, he claims, came from the Kilbarchan Colliery, owned by Eskom but run by a Genmin subsidiary, Trans-Natal Coal Corporation.

He claims the water has been intermittently running on to his farm ever since and that he was told by Kilbarchan that there was nothing it could do to stop the flow.

## Elderly farmer demands massive damages

He commissioned Natal University scientist Professor Martin Fey to analyse his ground and surface water.

Dr Fey found that the dam and two of the three boreholes on the farm were severely polluted. He told Mr Hopkins it would take many decades to remove salts from the wetland, and that the boreholes might never recover.

Mr Hopkins said: "I would have liked to settle this matter out of court, but all the colliery has done to date is offer to buy my farm for R290 000.

"There's no way that amount will cover the losses I have suffered, but even more perturbing is that there is no guarantee they would restore the land if they bought it.

"I want to ensure that they either give me the millions needed to make this land arable again, or undertake to do so themselves."

Mr Johan Kriek, the senior manager of Natal mines at Trans-Natal, said when Mr Hopkins told him that "allegedly polluted" water from the mine was running on to his property, it was investigated and the flow was stopped. He denied that any water was still flowing.

He said Trans-Natal had offered to drill a new borehole and rehabilitate the polluted portion of the property "without accepting responsibility for the alleged pollution". The offer was rejected.

A spokesman for Eskom said that in terms of Trans-Natal's contract to run the mine, Trans-Natal was responsible for environment management and legal action against Eskom would be inappropriate.

## Richards Bay oil spill contained (56)

DURBAN — Clean-up teams laboured throughout last night to head off oil pollution of the Richards Bay harbour following a minor spill there.

The cleaning-up operation should be completed by noon.

The emergency began when about 70 tons of heavy marine oil spilled into the harbour area

after a bulk carrier crashed into a quay wall while being berthed during the morning.

The tank contained about 700 tons of oil. The crew managed to seal the hole soon after the accident when one of the men went over the side to hammer plugs into the gash. — Own Correspondent.

16/8/72  
2/8/72  
2/8/72



# Bridging those

# troubled waters

Star 2/18/91

56

According to the City Health Department, hundreds of competent engineers ensure our drinking water complies with the best health standards in the world. However, scientists are divided on how safe our drinking water really is.

**C**OULD South Africans be slowly poisoning themselves by drinking tap water?

In the Vereeniging area in the mid 1980s, the composition of water in a cup of tea was 65 percent treated mining and industrial effluent; 15 percent treated sewage (domestic) effluent; and 10 percent "natural" run-off (ie subjected to atmospheric pollution), according to a source in the Department of Water Affairs. Is it any better today? Hardy.

The Johannesburg City Health Laboratory has admitted lead, arsenic and mercury are among the toxic metals present in our water. While parts per million are probably insignificant, the body nevertheless stores and accumulates these metals which can lead to innumerable medical problems.

## Filtered

In the high density PWV area, our water is continually recycled. While most of the pollution is filtered out, the chemicals that dissolve in the water remain.

These can only be removed by evaporation (distillation) or by reverse osmosis, whereby only the pure water molecules get through, leaving behind even the toxic dissolved salts.

These methods, while technically possible in South Africa, are too expensive, according to the authorities.

As a result, every time water is passed through an urban cycle, the dissolved solids increase.

This not only adversely affects health but also industry, as corrosion costs the country

more than R100 million annually. Health costs are harder to calculate. Can pure water be so economically unrealistic?

Mr J van der Westhuizen, director of water pollution control for the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, says the re-use of water makes economic sense and cannot be avoided.

"Re-use of water inevitably results in an increase in total dissolved solids but these are continually being monitored and controlled.

"Through the blending operations in the Vaal River system, the total dissolved solids content of our drinking water is kept at a safe level for human consumption and cannot be detected by taste.

"Removing the total dissolved solids will cost at least R3 per kilolitre — about R90 per month on an average domestic consumption of 30 kilolitres extra on our water bill — and will achieve little in terms of the usability of that water.

"Toxic heavy metals are continually being monitored and are well within accepted world health standards," he says.

Part of the purification technique is to chlorinate the water to "kill the bugs".

However, a secondary, more sinister problem is the trihalomethanes (THMs) created in the process.

These THMs are chemical products formed when chlorinated water is chlorinated for disinfection purposes. However, THMs have been proven to be carcinogenic when ingested over long periods of time.

A spokesman for the CSIR says: "Some of these compounds have insidious effects on the health, for instance compounds

which produce cancers. THMs might be one such case..."

Mr van der Westhuizen says: "Chlorine is the single most important chemical used throughout the civilised world to render drinking water fit for human consumption and to prevent the spread of water-borne diseases.

"The acceptable concentration of trihalomethanes in drinking water and its long term effects is a disputed subject between learned people. However, the benefits of chlorine to sterilise water far outweighs the possible detrimental effects of trihalomethanes."

However, another top official of the Dept of Water Affairs says: "We are aware of the dangers of THMs and consult with various health authorities. It is important we trace the origin of these compounds which are growing by the year."

While the authorities say our water is safe to drink, what determines the safe limit?

## Action

A senior Cape Town City sewage engineer says: "If there is an absence of any sort of water related illness, this is deemed safe." Comforting thought indeed!

These custodians of our health are not setting out to poison us. They are doing the best they can in an increasingly complex and expensive world.

If we take the problem to its root, we can virtually lay the blame at our own feet for, accepting the situation in the face of the above facts. Let's be more aware of the dangers and take action to protect ourselves.

CAROLINE HURRY and ROGER G C METCALFE



To drink or not to drink? Suzanne Sara of Hyde Park is not taking chances. The bottom of the bottle of mineral water on the right, which was bought from a Johannesburg cafe, was coated in a green substance. Picture: John Ho.

# 'Mining at Milnerton' alleged

By PETER DENNEHY

CONSERVATIONISTS claim gravel is being "mined" in a fynbos area within the Milnerton Racecourse.

This was denied yesterday by Mr Mike Louw, deputy manager of the racecourse, who said all the work done there was solely to improve drainage.

Mr Barrie Low, director of education at Kirstenbosch, said he felt that mining was taking place in a threatened habitat containing rare plant species, as the extracted gravel was being used to offset course development costs.

Mr Hennie Smith, chief inspector of mineral affairs, said he did not consider this a mining operation.

"We are trying to work out a programme to satisfy both parties," Mr Louw said.



FYNBOS ... UCT botanist Dr Clive McDowell with some of the fynbos that is threatened by drainage work at Milnerton Racecourse. (S) CT 28/8/91

# Creating a balanced approach to poisons

Star 28/8/91

(56)

Campaigns led by fanatic conservationists will not save the world from ecological disaster.

This was said by Dr Pat Pullinger, president of the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Association of SA (AVCASA), when he delivered the opening address at the association's conference on the agvet chemical industry and the environment.

Dr Pullinger said: "There has to be a balance, a bio-diversity.

"Bio-diversity today has a much wider meaning. We must manage our food production with all factors in mind."

Dr Pullinger said industry and conservationists have a joint responsibility for the environment and should work together to ensure its future.

He said the consumer "finds himself between two warring factions":

● The agricultural industry which tells him if he wants food

tomorrow, chemicals have to be used to grow and protect crops.

● The conservationists who blame chemicals for the decline of the environment, calling the chemical industry "the poison kitchen" of the world.

"I believe the answer lies in responsible co-operation. We must stop confusing the consumer with wild and often scientifically unfounded pronouncements.

"Paracelsus, a physician and naturalist, said some 400 years ago: 'All things are poisonous — it is the dose that makes a thing poisonous'.

"In this lies the answer to our problem. Safety must be achieved by determining a risk-free residue level not just in what we eat but also in the environment.

"Let's work out solutions to balance adequate food production and care for the environment."

TRENDS REPORTER

# Moves to keep South Africa in the wet

The Government is intensifying its drive to protect wetlands. In some important catchments 90 percent of the wetlands have been destroyed.

W ITH Lake St Lucia threatened by a proposed opencast mine and Nyivlele in the Transvaal badly hit by successive droughts, the Government is intensifying its drive to protect wetlands.

Environment Affairs Minister Louis Pienaar announced in Pretoria at the weekend a programme which will be a co-operative venture between his department, those agencies responsible for the management of wetlands and wetlands researchers.

In some important catchment areas, he said, 90 percent of the wetlands which, among other things, keep rivers flowing throughout the year, have been destroyed.

The intention of the new programme is to stimulate agencies to implement the provisions of the Ramsar Convention

on wetlands of international importance especially with regard to waterfowl habitat.

South Africa was the fifth signatory to this international agreement.

There was a story recently that it had pulled out. The misunderstanding arose from the fact that it pulled out of the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau, a British body which advises Ramsar. A spokesman for the department told The Star: "We remain a party to Ramsar. There's never been a question of us pulling out."

(South Africa — before the question of mining St Lucia became widely known — had St Lucia listed as a specially protected "international wetland" under the Ramsar agreement. Its status as an internationally important wetland remains unaltered, I was told.)

In his statement Mr Pienaar said the publication of a national policy on wetland conservation was of cardinal importance and was being formulated, as was an inventory of wetlands and their status.

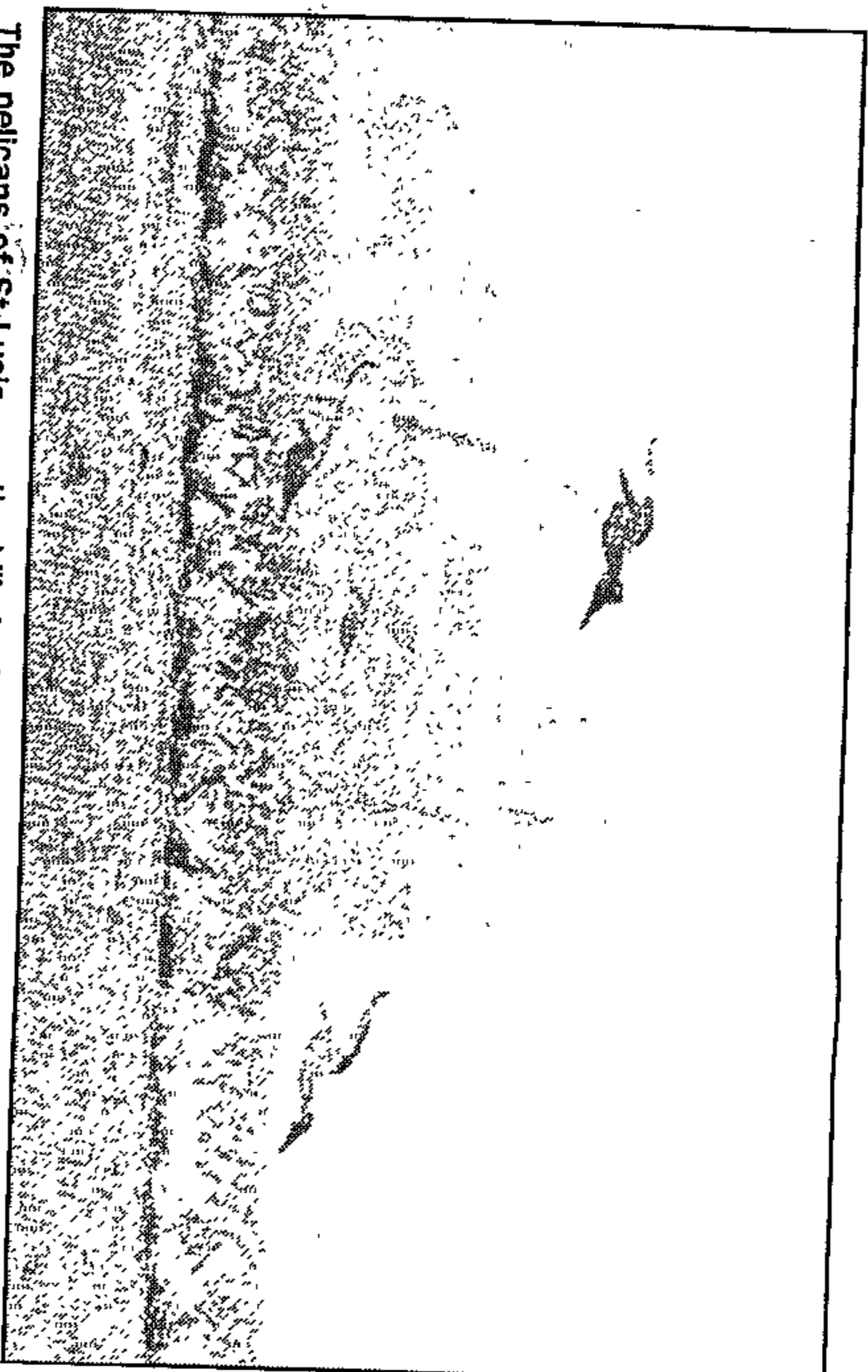
"Wetlands have been misconceived as waste land for too long in South Africa," he said.

"The resulting developments have caused the degradation, loss or destruction of a large number of our wetlands.

"To what extent no one knows for sure, but studies have indicated that over 50 percent of South Africa's wetlands have been destroyed by technological developments as well as population pressure."

Mr Pienaar said a large percentage of the country's remaining wetlands was in poor natural condition.

SAPA AND JAMES CLARKE



The pelicans of St Lucia . . . the hills in the background are threatened by opencast mining. St Lucia is recognised as a specially protected "international wetland".

# Moves to keep South Africa in the wet

The Government is intensifying its drive to protect wetlands. In some important catchments 90 percent of the wetlands have been destroyed.

**W**ETLANDS OF THE Lake St Lucia threatened by a proposed opencast mine and Nylsvlei in the Transvaal badly hit by successive droughts, the Government is intensifying its drive to protect wetlands.

Environment Affairs Minister Louis Pienaar announced in Pretoria at the weekend a programme which will be a co-operative venture between his department, those agencies responsible for the management of wetlands and wetlands researchers.

In some important catchment areas, he said, 90 percent of the wetlands which, among other things, keep rivers flowing throughout the year, have been destroyed.

The intention of the new programme is to stimulate agencies to implement the provisions of the Ramsar Convention

on wetlands of international importance especially with regard to waterfowl habitat.

South Africa was the fifth signatory to this international agreement.

There was a story recently that it had pulled out. The misunderstanding arose from the fact that it pulled out of the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau, a British body which advises Ramsar.

A spokesman for the department told The Star: "We remain a party to Ramsar. There's never been a question of us pulling out."

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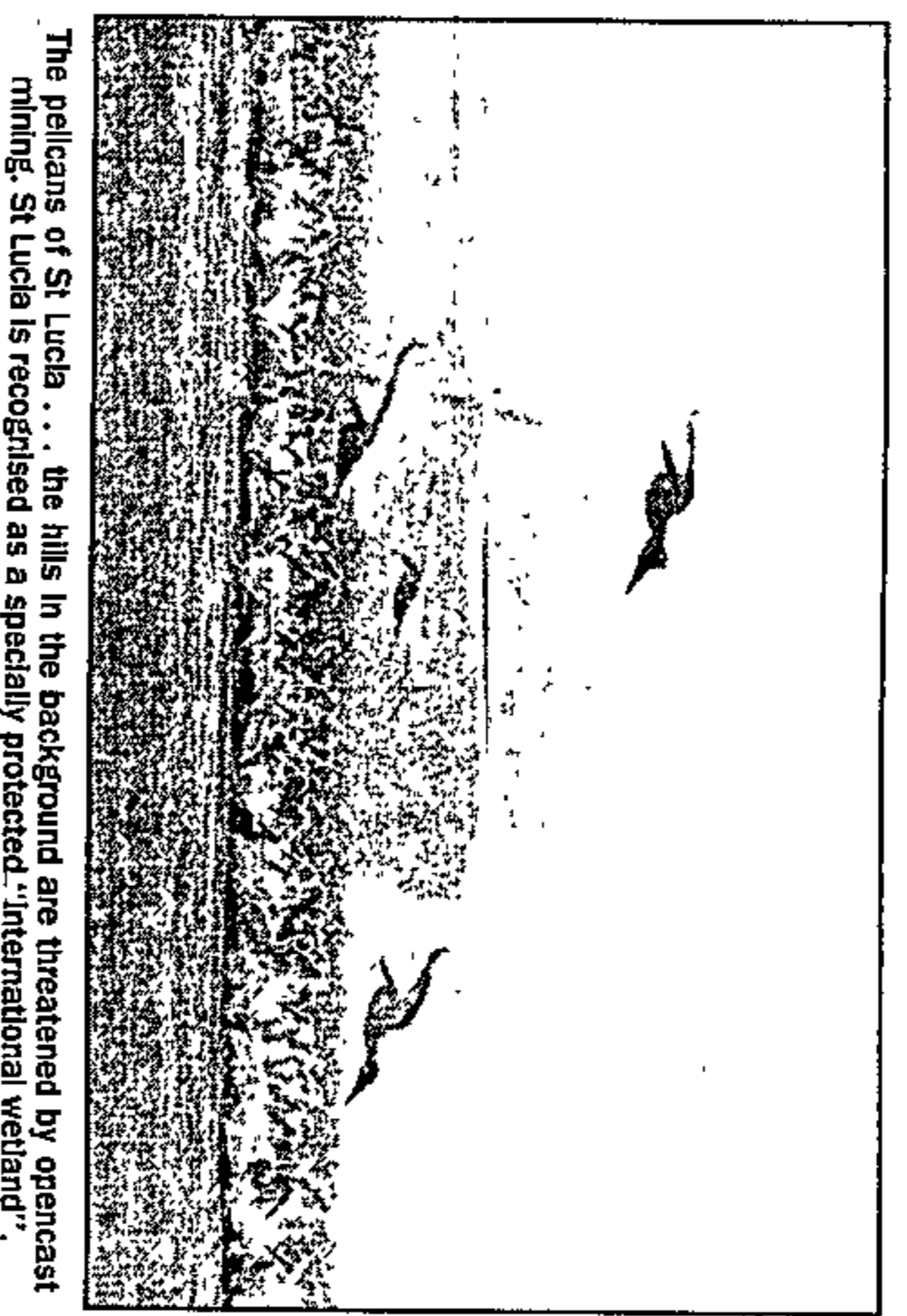
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The pelicans of St Lucia . . . the hills in the background are threatened by opencast mining. St Lucia is recognised as a specially protected "International wetland".

## Creating a balanced approach to poisons

Campaigns led by fanatic conservationists will not save the world from ecological disaster.

This was said by Dr Pat Pullinger, president of the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Association of SA (AVCASA), when he delivered the opening address at the association's conference on the agvet chemical industry and the environment.

Dr Pullinger said: "There has to be a balance, a bio-diversity. 'Bio-diversity today has a much wider meaning. We must manage our food production with all factors in mind."

Dr Pullinger said industry and conservationists have a joint responsibility for the environment and should work together to ensure its future.

He said the consumer "finds himself between two warring factions".

● The agricultural industry which tells him if he wants food tomorrow, chemicals have to be used to grow and protect crops.

● The conservationists who blame chemicals for the decline of the environment, calling the chemical industry "the poison kitchen" of the world.

"I believe the answer lies in responsible co-operation. We must stop confusing the consumer with wild and often scientifically unfounded pronouncements.

"Paracetamol, a physician and naturalist, said some 400 years ago: 'All things are poisonous — it is the dose that makes a thing poisonous."

"In this lies the answer to our problem. Safety must be achieved by determining a risk-free residue level not just in what we eat but also in the environment.

"Let's work out solutions to balance adequate food production and care for the environment."

TRENDS REPORTER



56  
~~56~~

## R30 000 donated for trails

Star  
28/8/91

South African Breweries (SAB) recently handed over R30 000 to the National Parks Board to finance educational trails in unspoiled natural areas for 500 children of all races.

It is the fifth such cheque from SAB in five years. Three more will follow.

Adrian Botha, SAB spokesman, said the brewing industry depended on clean water and good soil for its products hence its concern for encouraging an awareness of environmental matters.  
TRENDS REPORTER

# Oil spill fouls protected birds

(56)

ARG-29/8/91

**The Argus Correspondent**

DURBAN. — Natal Parks Board officials have launched a rescue operation at Richards Bay after oil spilled from the bulk carrier CSK Everest entered the sanctuary.

Dozens of birds, including pelicans and flamingos have been affected and mangrove trees have been hit, said board spokesman Mr Mike Milton. Fishermen said dead birds had been washed out to sea.

More than 70 tons of oil spilled into the harbour on Sunday when the Everest hit the quay.

Mr Milton said the oil, which had escaped over the floating booms being used to contain it, was driven by a north-east wind and went over the sluice gates in the sanctuary area on the high spring tide.

The board had reinforced staff with men from Durban in an attempt to save the birds and clean the area.

Pelicans had been seen covered in oil. Efforts were being made to reach them, Mr Milton said.

Flamingoes with oil on their legs

had been spotted. About 10ha of mangrove trees had been hit.

Harbour officials had been able to prevent more oil crossing into the sanctuary on the high tides and were standing by to hold it off again.

# Anti-kaolin group wants top-level talks

HANS-PETER BAKKER  
Staff Reporter

THE Save Chapman's Peak Action Group has demanded to meet the Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister.

A meeting in Sun Valley last night was called to discuss the group's continuing struggle against a controversial plan by Sanlam subsidiary Serina to mine kaolin in the Noordhoek Valley.

Other demands which the often vociferous audience supported included the "immediate" extension of the September 30 deadline for objections to the project, the

launching of another campaign to petition against the mining, and the questioning of Sanlam's involvement in the mining plans.

The meeting also demanded an independent, impartial body to conduct an environmental impact assessment, following the group's rejection of a comprehensive two-year study, released earlier this month and undertaken on commission by Serina.

The report, which suggests measures to control the impact of mining in the area, concludes: "If the impacts are successfully controlled, potential factors such as loss in property values and the

nuisance factor posed by dust and noise can be largely overcome."

Serina managing director Mr Carl Tarrant said last night his company had spent a lot of time and money on the report.

"We accept that we are not welcome. We appreciate that we are not your number one hero in this area, but, accepting that we will mine here, we give our assurance that we are working at minimising the negative effects."

He added Serina had a permit to mine in the area, "but the government must determine the conditions under which we can exercise our right".

56

ARC 29/8/91



# Developers in ecological row

Staff Reporter

THE developers of the controversial Myburgh Park housing development at the Langebaan Lagoon said yesterday that plans to extend the village into a nature area at the lagoon would be ecologically beneficial.

Owners of plots in phase 1 of Myburgh Park, at Meeuklip along the northern shore of the lagoon, have objected to the developers, Leisureland, building some 30 houses along the lagoon about 2km away.

They claim they were promised the area would not be developed.

Mr Theo Crous, a town planner commissioned by Leisureland, said yesterday that the sensitive area earmarked for phase 2 of the development was ecologically unsound because of pollution and abuse by man.

Leisureland planned to restore it environmentally, he said.

However, objectors disputed Leisureland's declaration of environmental awareness, saying the company was money-motivated.

The objectors were preparing court action to challenge the development of the second phase, he said.

# Concern as spilt oil washes into Natal sanctuary

Star 29/8/91 (Sb)  
Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Natal Parks Board (NPB) officials have launched a rescue operation at Richards Bay because oil which spilt from the bulk carrier, CSK Everest, has escaped from booms into the sanctuary area.

Birds have been affected and a large area of young mangrove trees hit, NPB spokesman Mike Milton said yesterday.

More than 70 tons of oil spilt into the harbour on Sunday after the CSK Everest crashed into a quay and ruptured an oil tank.

Mr Milton said the oil went over sluice gates in the sanctuary area during the high spring tide

on Tuesday.

The NPB had reinforced local staff with men from Durban in an attempt to save the birds and clean up the area.

A number of pelicans have been seen completely covered in oil. Efforts are being made to reach them.

Egrets have also been affected, and flamingoes with oil on their legs spotted.

About 10 ha of mangrove trees have been hit. Young trees about 2 m high are covered for a metre up with oil.

Harbour officials have been able to prevent more oil crossing into the sanctuary on the high tides. Yesterday morning they were standing by to hold it off again.

# SA poised to fight wildlife trade

Staff Reporter

(56)

SOUTH AFRICA is poised to join a global monitoring programme to combat illegal trade in wild animals — a major threat to wildlife in Southern Africa.

CT 30/8/91

Southern African Nature Foundation campaigns officer Miss Kim MacDonald said yesterday that recent seizures of contraband ivory and rhino horn were "but the tip of the iceberg", and major rackets were dealing in

birds, reptiles and invertebrates.

The SANF and the Endangered Wildlife Trust will fund a Traffic (Trade Records Analysis of Flora and Fauna in Commerce) office in Johannesburg from January 1992.

It will collect, analyse and publicise data on wildlife trade, and monitor the implementation of the UN-sponsored Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species

It will aid many conservation

authorities, and the SAP Endangered Species Protection Unit.

Traffic International, located at the World Conservation Monitoring Centre in England, will coordinate the SA office as well as the Southern African head office in Malawi and another in Tanzania. Both will open soon.

The SANF will be embarking on a major programme in an effort to stimulate public awareness and generate funds.

# Donated pesticides threaten Africa

(S6) CT 30/8/91

NEW YORK. — Thousands of tons of dangerous pesticides are sitting in deteriorating containers in Africa because developed countries donated far more of the chemicals than needed, an Environmental Protection Agency official says.

"Consequently they've got a major disposal problem," said Ms Janice Jensen, a pesticide chemist with the EPA Office of Pesticide Programmes. "Many of these containers are 20 years old and

they're starting to deteriorate," Ms Jensen said on Wednesday at a national meeting of the American Chemical Society.

Most industrialised nations are reducing their pesticide donations to Africa, but Japan, to support its pesticide industry, is still donating more than African countries need and shows no sign of levelling off, Ms Jensen said.

In many cases, the Japanese offer vehicles to African nations

on condition the countries also accept the pesticides, Ms Jensen said.

The irony is that many developing countries need more pesticides than they have, said Mr Bhushan Mandava, an Asian pesticide expert.

In Asia, pesticides are used on only 10% to 20% of the land, he said. In industrialised countries pesticides are used on about 80% of the land. — Sapa-AP

Star 20/8/91

# Hay fever threatens Reef health

By Brian Sokutu

Witwatersrand hospitals are bracing for a hay fever epidemic as the level of airborne pollen yesterday soared to six times more than the safe level set by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The University of the Witwatersrand's pollen laboratory yesterday recorded a count of 362 pollen grains in a cubic metre of air. According to the WHO, counts higher than 50 are hazardous to health.

Dr Ann Cadman of the pa-

laeontology department, who is a researcher at a pollen laboratory, said the spread of hay fever could be traced to trees, mainly those imported from the northern hemisphere, which relied on wind-blown pollen for fertilisation.

Few indigenous trees relied on wind pollination.

Hay fever spread rapidly when dry winds spread wind-borne pollen.

Dr Cadman said a pollen count was taken daily.

"In spring, the spread of pollen, particularly in the urban

areas where many of these imported trees are planted, is worse.

"The only way out for us is to avoid planting imported trees such as ash, plane and cypress, which are wind-pollinated."

There were ways of minimising pollen-related allergies.

"People should take anti-histamine medication or have desensitisation treatment if they prefer not to move to Namibia or the Karoo."

In summer and autumn, grass pollen caused itching eyes, she said.

# Langebaan fighting 'rape' of the virgin lagoon

(56)  
ARG 31/8/91

**JOHAN SCHRONEN**

Weekend Argus Reporter

CONSERVATION-CONSCIOUS West Coast property owners are out to halt a R20-million housing development, Myburgh Park, on the ecologically sensitive banks of Langebaan Lagoon.

The vast development could be stopped dead if an urgent Supreme Court application for an interdict against the developer succeeds.

Mr Micky Schuurman-Stekhoven, who heads the movement against the "rape of Langebaan", said that while the bulldozers "drone on the virgin land", opponents of the scheme will fight the development.

"It looks like we will see them in court. We have enough monetary pledges, including one from a very high-profile businessman who has stuck his neck out tremendously before in support of nature," said Mr Stekhoven.

Former Constitutional Affairs and Planning Minister Mr Chris Heunis's firm of attorneys, Heunis and Heunis in Somerset West, handled a rezoning application for developer Mr Corneels Nortje, shifting the zoning from agricultural land to township development in three months.

Mr Heunis also owns a plot in Myburgh Park. The rezoning follows an earlier rezoning application by previous owner Retco — which took three years — to have a smaller and carefully considered portion of the farm developed for housing.

Retco's development was limited to an area behind a rocky hill on Stompneusrots farm and would not have been visible from the nature area.

The Retco development proposal also was strictly moulded to an environmental impact study by Professor John Grindley of the University of Cape Town and Professor Deon Retief of Stellenbosch which strongly advised against development below a gravel road which runs parallel to the waterline and creates an even more sensitive margin of dune area on the banks of the lagoon.

This was strongly supported by the Provincial Administration and Langebaan municipality.

However, in 1989, new owner Mr Nortje sold prime plots. New owners allege they were told they were buying on the border of a nature area.

In the meantime, Mr Nortje applied for a revised rezoning based on an impact study by his own town planner.

The new scheme included some erven on the lagoon side of the gravel road near Langebaan yacht basin.

Mr Nortje's argument in support of the new development is that he would spread only 800 units in "sprinkled clusters" over the whole farm in a park-like development with many green open spaces and boardwalks to the lagoon.

The previous proposal accommodated 1 200 closely packed erven in an area hidden behind a hill out of sight of the sensitive nature area and stayed well clear of the greater lagoon-side dune area, leaving those areas totally untouched.

The owners of the properties sold on the basis of the original development layout formed the Meerklip Association of Myburgh Park, chaired by Mr Schuurman-Stekhoven.

He said they would carry on fighting, "no matter how long it takes".

# West Coast is an abused area, says ecologist

CLIVE SAWYER

Weekend Argus Reporter  
ENVIRONMENTAL management is urgently needed on the West Coast, says a leading local ecologist.

While conservation management at upmarket development Jakkalsfontein has not been affected by a recent change of developers, environmental management was urgently needed for the rest of the West Coast.

Mr Barrie Low, commissioned by Faircape to survey plant life in the area, said the upmarket development of Jakkalsfontein had not been affected by the recent change of developers, and remained a good example of conservation management on the West Coast. However, as a whole, the area was one of worsening environmental abuse.

Mr Low said measures to control abuse of the area by buyers would remain in force.

## JAKKALSFONTEIN 'SHOWS' WHAT IS POSSIBLE THERE'

Faircape sold the development at the end of June as part of a bid to stave off its financial woes. By then, it had sold R14 million worth of plots and houses.

In his survey, Mr Low found 20 rare species unique to the area, while another 57 species not previously identified there were discovered.

Plans for 150 houses at the development are to meet requirements of Provincial Administration Department of Nature and Environmental Conservation.

A conservation management plan for the 1 000ha area, part of which will remain a permanent nature reserve, is being drawn up.

"Between Rietvlei and Lange-

baan Lagoon, this level of environmental protection is a one-off," said Mr Low.

Much of the rest of the West Coast was being devastated by marginal strip farming and indiscriminate cattle grazing.

Consistent measures by which coastal development could be judged were needed, as was an integrated environmental management plan.

"Also urgently needed is a team of environmental, botanical and other experts to assist the Provincial Administration in its approach to tackling conservation in this and other areas," he said.

Mr Low said he thought the "Wiley law" which required that

no development be allowed a kilometre from the shoreline, but which was not written in to the recent Environmental Protection Act was unrealistic.

"Certainly no development should be allowed on foredunes, and probably nothing 200 to 400 metres from the shoreline, but to set a fixed distance without checking local conditions does not make sense," he said.

A continuing West Coast problem was Rambo-style "dunebusting" in 4x4 vehicles — and sometimes in ordinary cars. Effective enforcement was needed.

"Fortunately there is now legislation specifically designed to stop this, but a high level of en-

forcement has to be maintained," he said.

The Western Cape Regional Services Council recently gave funds to enable a graduate researcher to start work in the area between Milnerton, Bokbaai, the West Coast Road and the N7.

"This means pre-emptive ecological work to find which sites should be kept for conservation and community use," he said.

The RSC was "visionary" in granting this money, because it gave conservationists a rare opportunity to guide development.

The researcher is based at the endangered plants laboratory at Kirstenbosch.

The need to protect coastal vegetation is underlined by some precious phenomena along the cold coast — in the coastal strip between Melkbosstrand and Bloubaergstrand there are three major examples of coastal vegetation: Strandveld, renosterfeld, and proteaveld, all within about 2 km.

56  
AKG 31/8/91

Staff Reporter

CONCERNED officials gathered at Boulders Beach yesterday to discuss the plight of the threatened penguin breeding colony there following another savage attack on the birds this week.

Conservation experts, provincial authorities and Simon's Town city council officials met to thrash out a solution to the problem of growing conflict between people and penguins at the beach near Simon's Town. (S) CT 31/8/91

## New measures to protect penguins

The officials decided to introduce foot patrols to protect the breeding colony from human predators. First offenders will be fined R1 500 and second offenders R3 000.

The city council and Armscor have offered a reward of R500 to bring the people responsible for mutilating the pen-

guins to book.

"Six penguins have been maimed and killed within the past five months and the authorities are taking all possible steps to prevent this sort of thing happening again," said Mr Nigel Farquharson, municipal environmental officer for Simon's Town. "We have had cases of pen-

guins being killed by being hit over the head with iron bars, being slaughtered and skinned, and walled into their nests by some sick individuals."

From next week, he said, foot patrols consisting of volunteers as well as a paid guard would patrol the breeding area after the Institute for Maritime Technology offered to install a shelter to house the guards.

The city council is investigating the possibility of fencing in the central breeding area.



# CSIR takes on St Lucia mining investigation

star  
3/18/91  
OWN CORRESPONDENT

(56)

DURBAN — In a shock move, the CSIR has been given control of the environmental impact study into the controversial St Lucia mining proposal.

3/18/91  
The move coincides with the release this week of 23 specialist reports, completing the first phases of the investigation. The reports are about four months behind schedule.

They were criticised yesterday by environmentalists as being "wishy-washy" and based on "possibility and probability", rather than conclusive fieldwork.

The appointment of the CSIR was confirmed yes-

terday by Sydney Gerber, chief director of environmental conservation at the Department of Environment Affairs. He denied speculation that the original consultants had been "sacked", saying it was a matter of "strengthening the team".

The CSIR Environmental Services is to take charge of the second and third phases of the environmental study.

Jeremy Ridl, Wildlife Society spokesman on the St Lucia mining proposal, said he was not an expert, but he had found the reports inconclusive.

He believed Richards

● TO PAGE 2.

## St Lucia (56)

● FROM PAGE 1.

Bay Minerals (RBM) might well be unhappy, as the reports did not say mining could go ahead without irreparable harm to the environment.

Other environmentalists who had seen the initial reports had agreed with him that they appeared to lack the kind of data which came from thorough fieldwork, he said.

He stressed, however, that he was not a scientist and said the society had lined up a number of experts to study the reports.

Jack Goedhals, senior

general manager at RBM, denied that the company had appointed the CSIR because the reports failed to come out in RBM's favour.

3/18/91  
He said the reports were being distributed to interested and affected parties, and the type of comment being made by Mr Ridl would become part of the exchange between the consultants, Coastal Environmental Services (CES), and the interested parties.

This would tend to widen the scope of the investigation and was one of the reasons why the CSIR had been appointed.

● See Greenpiece  
— Page 13.

# Big bucks are softening views on St Lucia mining

Star 31/8/91

**R**BM IS pouring millions of rands into softening South African public opinion regarding titanium mining at St Lucia — and succeeding.

More and more conservationists are being taken on "the crayfish trail" by RBM and told how an open-cast mine could help finance the Greater St Lucia Park.

RBM says Lake St Lucia is doomed unless it gets some cash — and mining could provide it.

The theory originally came from John Ledger of the Endangered Wildlife Trust, who favours mining. I see that his journal gets very generous colour advertisements from RBM. Barry Clements, former Natal ranger, agrees. He is RBM's PRO.

The mine has been flying dozens of wildlife lobbyists down to St Lucia. This week it announced it would double its annual donation to the SA Nature Foundation to R10 000.

The tragedy is that wildlife conservation cannot compete with industry's wealth and its public relations machine. On just one day this month, RBM held four simultaneous pro-mining presentations.

Fair enough. RBM is fighting for its shareholders. But who's fighting for St Lucia's shareholders?

This week two conservation lobbyists told me the fight against RBM was lost. They really believed St Lucia was doomed without RBM.

They argued that if RBM were allowed to mine, in 20 or 30 years'

Greenpiece  
Sb  
JAMES  
CLARKE



time we would all be able to enjoy a peaceful St Lucia again.

"The area they want to mine is not indigenous anyway; it's planted with pines," said one.

The fact remains that pines can be felled tomorrow and the natural cover would quickly move back. As for saying St Lucia is doomed without cash from RBM — it's rubbish.

The Government, which is entirely responsible for the ecological deterioration of St Lucia, owes it to South Africa to restore the place. It also owes it to the world, because St Lucia is a sanctuary for migratory birds from Siberia, Europe and Africa.

The two conservation lobbyists were worried that if conservationists ignored the findings of the environmental-impact assessment — assuming the EIA indicates mining won't hurt — it would discredit the conservationist lobby which has been calling for mandatory EIAs.

EIAs are an important tool. I would like to see them become obligatory. But there are places where mining should be unthinkable and EIAs irrelevant.

# Going green at the grassroots

(56)

2119-310191  
South Africa's environmental challenges are beginning to appear on the agenda of political groupings. In this excerpt from a new book, **JACKLYN COCK** explains why the mix of First World and Third World problems is attracting interest

U N TIL very recently the dominant understanding of environmental issues in South Africa was an authoritarian conservation perspective. This focused exclusively on the preservation of wilderness areas and particular species of plants and animals. Within this perspective "overpopulation" was often identified as the main environmental problem. It was people who were perceived to be responsible for destroying trees and creating waste.

Only very recently has an alternative progressive perspective begun to emerge. This perspective views environmental issues as deeply political in the sense that they are embedded in access to power and resources in society. It is critical of the victim-blaming approach of the overpopulation perspective and insists on the need for development to overcome poverty. It draws on the ideology of "green politics" to emphasise the importance of linking the struggle against social injustice and the exploitation of people with the struggle against the abuse of the environment.

The legacy of the authoritarian conservation perspective is that many South Africans view environmental issues with suspicion. Farieda Khan has pointed to "the negative environmental perceptions and attitudes of many black people, ranging from apathy to hostility" (Khan, 1990:37). In the past, conservation projects often disregarded human rights and dignity. The establishment of many game reserves meant social dislocation and distress for local people. As a rural worker has stated, "If conservation means losing water rights, losing grazing and arable land and being dumped in a resettlement area without even the most rudimentary infrastructure and services, as was the case when the Tembe Elephant Park (near Kosi Bay) was declared in 1983, this can only promote a vigorous anti-conservation ideology among the rural communities of South Africa" (Richard Clasey, a rural field worker quoted in *The Weekly Mail*, 6 October 1989).



First World, Third World ... Women in Khayelitsha near Cape Town collect firewood

Photo: JUSTIN SHOLK

## THE STATE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The "progressive developmental perspective" rooted in the ideology of "green politics" (Capra and Spretnak, 1984; Bahro, 1984; Porritt, 1984; Tobias, 1989) links the struggle against such poverty and social injustice with the struggle against the abuse of the environment. In South Africa this connection means that environmental issues are deeply and fundamentally political.

The leader of the Conservative Party, Andries Treurnicht, believes ecological issues are "not so important that they will be basic to our policy" (*Idasa Newsletter*, October 1990). Recently the Ecology Party was formed with the aim of operating outside "politics" to promote environmental awareness. The Democratic Party spokesman on the environment, Rupert Lorimer, has commented that this is not really feasible because "ecology is not the only issue" (*The Star*, 28 October 1989). In fact, ecology is the issue, but it is deeply embedded in a mass of other issues concerning the distribution of power and resources in South Africa. Green politics here has to be firmly anchored in the needs of the majority of our people. For the majority of our people environmental issues mean no clean

water, no electricity and no proper sanitation. These are the issues which need to be addressed as a matter of urgency. This can be done only by a democratic government which is accountable to the people and which prioritises their interests.

## PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

In South Africa, although the new Environmental Conservation Act has been hailed as an improvement, we desperately need more effective state regulation, control and protection of the environment. Our natural resources are exceptionally diverse, with over 240 species of mammals, 887 different species of birds and over 20 000 species of flowering plants. These diverse resources are not adequately protected.

Clearly we need something like the American Environmental Protection Agency. This was founded on two principles:

● People and nature have rights to exist unendangered by pollution and should be enabled to do so by regulatory protection.

● This can be done only by means of a framework which is set up to control polluting industries whose imperatives have been to compete for markets and to increase profits.

However, the problems of enforcement experienced by the EPA are well known. Environmental laws are effective as safeguards only if they are creatively and vigorously enforced. This requires environmentally committed and ethical persons who are not bribable and cannot be intimidated.

## CAPITAL AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The recent book by Brian Huntley, Roy Siegfried and Clem Sunter, *South African Environments into the Twenty-First Century*, is structured around the notion of choice — clarifying certain choices the reader has to make between different scenarios. However, there are two highly controversial assumptions in the book which are not opened up to choice; instead they are treated as givens. The first is that nuclear energy is necessary and desirable. The second is that the free enterprise system is the only viable one. These are both assumptions which need to be exposed and subjected to critical scrutiny and debate.

There are many serious people who believe that nuclear energy is too expensive and unsafe to be a viable alternative energy source for the future. They say that the human factor involved in all stages of nuclear technology, military and non-military, makes accidents unavoidable. A debate about nuclear power in South Africa is an urgent necessity given the secrecy surrounding the nuclear industry and the missionary zeal with which Eskom discusses its plans for the expansion of its nuclear programme (Semark, 1990).

Another major problem of nuclear power is the disposal of nuclear waste. Each reactor annually produces tons of radioactive waste that remains toxic for thousands of years. Nuclear waste from Koeberg includes at least 200 kilograms of plutonium a year. Plutonium is so toxic that five kilograms is enough to kill every man, woman and child on this earth (Henk Coetzee of Earthlife Africa, quoted in *The Weekly*

*Mail*, 4 May 1990). Plutonium remains poisonous for at least 500 000 years: no human technology can create safe containers for such an enormous time span.

Huntley, Siegfried and Sunter's other unexamined assumption relates to the free enterprise system. They assert that "the greens have gone wrong. The greens contradict themselves by demanding socialism and a clean environment at the same time. Socialism leads inevitably to the malfunctioning of the economy, which means that no money is available for conservation ... Man is a born opportunist. By denying that self-interest is a valid principle, socialists are suppressing people's innate ability to think in an efficient manner ... communism is an unnatural philosophy inflicted on mankind" (Huntley et al, 1989:14-15).

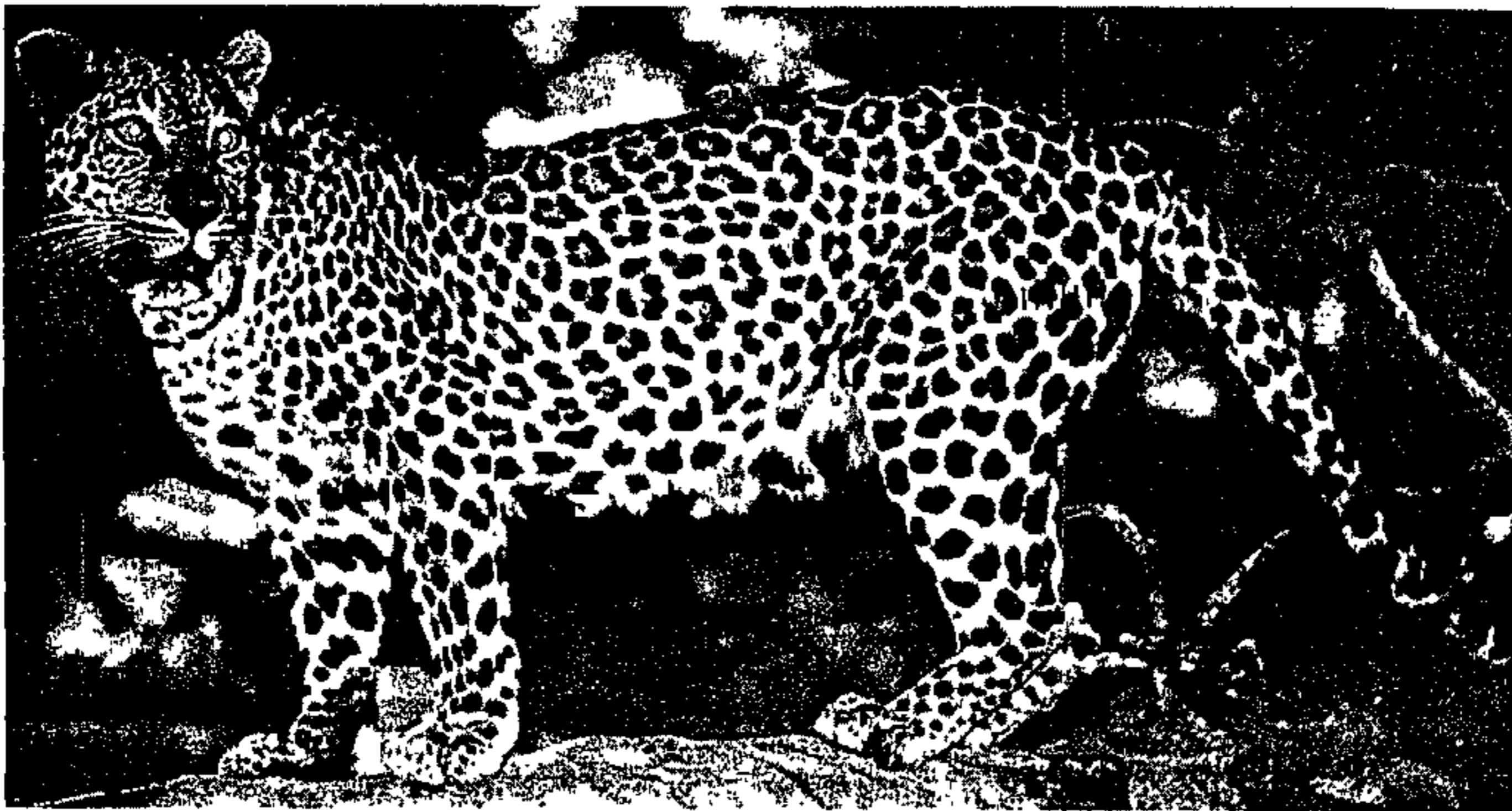
This is a contentious argument. There are many people who argue that one simply cannot cure today's problems with the means that have produced them. Many believe that it is capitalism, an economic system obsessed with growth and expansion, that has created many of our environmental problems. Jonathan Porritt, the director of the Friends of the Earth, has argued that capitalism means ecological disaster. "Capitalism can indeed survive only through permanent expansion — which in turn means the accelerating contraction of our life-support systems" (Porritt, 1984:225). "Capitalism as we know it simply cannot provide the preconditions for an ecologically sane, humane economy" (Porritt, 1984:48).

In South Africa it is capitalists who are climbing on "the green bandwagon" to promote consumption. It is capitalists who, in the name of "growth" and "development", are destroying our coastline and restricting its use to those who can afford to buy property in their costly marina developments. However, in the global context it is not only capitalists who are destroying the finite resources of our finite planet in their quest for profit. The environments of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union have suffered greatly from the intensive industrialisation of the post-war period. The drive to meet production quotas has proved as environmentally disastrous as the profit drive.

## GREEN RIGHTS

There is growing debate around the idea that environmental considerations should be incorporated in the new South African constitution. ANC constitutional committee member Albie Sachs has received much support for his idea that the constitution should include "third generation" or "green" rights. Ironically, these rights were contained in the draft of the 1989 Environmental Conservation Act in the provision that "every inhabitant of the Republic of South Africa is entitled to live, work and relax in a safe, productive, healthy and aesthetically and culturally acceptable environment". As Glazewski writes, "It is unfortunate that this bold approach was not adopted in the final document" (Glazewski, 1989:873).

● *Going Green: People, politics and the environment in South Africa*, edited by Jacklyn Cock and Eddie Koch (Oxford University Press)



The riddle of the leopard ... A farmer kills a leopard because it is eating his sheep. But what if it were the last leopard left in South Africa?

Photo: Zimbabwe: The Beautiful Land (Struck)

## Develop but don't destroy: South Africa is searching for a solution

**O**NE night last year in a hut in Lebowa's faraway blue mountains Herbert Momnye told a tale about the killing of a leopard.

With intense pleasure he described the death groans of the great beast, and his pride at snaring the last of the area's leopards. For years they had been killing his sheep, and now they were gone.

Feeling aggrieved on behalf of the leopard and other supporters of biodiversity, I decided to pursue a strict line of questioning. "How would you feel," I asked, "if that had been the very last leopard left on earth?" Momnye's grin only widened. His reply was along the lines that the one who finally eliminated this vermin would be a true king among men.

I thought about Momnye's story in the context of the current discussion around sustainable development.

The concept of sustainable development, in use since the 1970s, has been defined in United Nations literature as "taking care of the needs of the current generation, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". It centres around the idea that conservation and development are essential parts of one process.

The debate around sustainable development has been given new life by the coming United Nations environmental summit to be held in Rio next June. Here the twin challenge

The government and the ANC have drawn up documents tackling environmental and developmental issues that face South Africa. Both are flawed.  
**By LESLEY LAWSON**

of environmental abuse by the world's rich countries and environmental degradation caused by poverty will be addressed.

Heads of state will be asked to commit themselves to targets and schedules for solving specific environmental problems. First World leaders will also be asked to approve resolutions on environmental aid to Third World countries — especially in the area of scientific and technological capacity.

The Earth Summit has also stimulated the debate around future environmental policy in South Africa. Several groups are attempting to define the components of sustainable development.

The CSIR is under contract to the Department of the Environment to produce an environmental report on sustainable development in South Africa for the Rio conference. Opposition groups like the African National Congress, the Pan Africanist Congress and the Western Cape's Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG), are also working on environmental policy statements. At

present all groups have working documents in draft form. The Presidents' Council report on the environment, which contains detailed policy recommendations, is also in draft form.

So far the approaches have fallen into two types — those that describe the state of the nation and those that reiterate long-term goals of a sustainable society.

The CSIR-government report represents a detailed data base — drawing together nationwide research in the areas of water, air, waste, energy, biodiversity, soil loss, marine pollution and community health. The report is essentially a statement about the current state of our environment. When it comes to future policy guidelines it peters out.

Although the report acknowledges the human-centred approach of the UN literature, its own approach remains scientific. Because of this it fails to foreground our central challenge — how to produce the kind of development needed to meet peoples' basic needs, without further destroying our environment.

The documents from the opposition have reverse weaknesses. They are human-centred and focus on recommendations for sustainable development but lack a sound data base. They are essentially documents about long-term goals — without exploration of how we can get from

here to there. For example the EMG document talks of the need for our economy to shift away from gold and coal to a renewable resource base, without exploring the economic implications.

The ANC document is perhaps the most realistic in its insistence on research around future options. Some of these are "economically viable alternative sources of domestic energy", alternatives to agricultural chemicals and community management of conservation areas.

What is lacking in our environmental policy thinking is clear and realistic strategies for moving from where we are now to a more sustainable society. But these can only come about as part of an ongoing debate between scientists, environmentalists, economists and politicians.

Another crucial plank in international sustainable development thinking is the need for public involvement in policy decisions and development planning.

But if Momnye had a say in national environmental policy, the leopard would be done for. It thwarts his ability to meet his basic needs.

Before environmentalists talk of a sustainable development policy for South Africa, they need to understand the needs of ordinary people.

● Lesley Lawson is a researcher for the Group for Environmental Monitoring (Gem)

# The Peace Accord promises the earth

By MONDLI MAKHANYA <sup>2019-26/9/91</sup>  
WHEN signatories to the National Peace Accord, the landmark summit that paved the way for constitutional negotiations, embark on their schemes for socio-economic upliftment as a means of defusing political tensions, the buzzword "sustainable development" will be uppermost in their minds.

A key clause in the Socio-Economic Reconstruction and Development chapter of the accord says: "Sustainable development implies that all individuals must be assisted and encouraged to accept responsibility for their socio-economic wellbeing. Each actor must define and accept his/her role and there must be co-responsibility for and co-determination of socio-economic development."

This programme will encompass projects such as "reconstruction of damaged property, reintegration of displaced persons into the community, expansion of infrastructure ... and maintenance and improvement of existing infrastructure".

Sustainable development entails economic development which seeks to avoid destroying the environmental fabric for short-term gain.

Taking into account the massive reconstruction that will have to be carried out in South Africa, there is no denying that the sustainable-development clause is a remarkable step for environmental politics in South Africa.

The authorities will be tempted — in the quest of avoiding social unrest — to embark on grand housing schemes and job-creation programmes to the detriment of the environment.

If the sustainable-development commitment by the political players is adhered to, it will tie the present authorities as well as any future government to good environmental policies during the period of reconstruction.

By virtue of the fact that the business sector and the Independent Development Trust, the main donors, will have to consult civic organisations on development projects, the accord will spur greater co-operation between the numerous bodies involved in environmental and development issues.

According to the accord: "Reconstruction and developmental projects must actively involve the affected communities. Through a process of inclusive negotiations, involving recipients, experts and donors, the community must be able to conceive, implement and take responsibility for projects in a co-ordinated way as close to the grassroots as possible."

Says Theuns Eloff, a National Peace Convention convenor: "It will propel groups into co-operation. The state alone cannot implement it. No non-governmental organisation can do it on its own and no development organisation can do it on its own."

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THE WEEKLY M

# How nice the city would be if we all pedalled

20/9-26/9/91

WHENEVER transport planners describe an "integrated transportation environment" they leave something out: the bicycle.

This goes not just for the establishment, such as Johannesburg's Masetran consortium, but environmentalists as well. Earthlife has done little to promote cycling as a form of transport. And at a classy book launch in August for one of South Africa's latest "green" books, there was no mention of the bicycle. The book's only reference to transport concerns the infrastructure of township transport, which was described as "(having) its own impact on the environment in terms of fuel consumption, air pollution and loss of habitats to roads". Nothing on alternatives to the motor vehicle.

How strange. In a country where the green movement is allegedly growing by leaps and bounds, where the level of air pollution in many urban areas is above permissible maximums, where newly-fiked petrol prices have further pinched the pocketbooks of households and where anyone who claims to have a green consciousness agrees that there are too many cars, there's a blind spot that prevents people from taking

the bicycle seriously.

The bicycle is one of the easiest, most practical, most economical and most environmentally efficient transport options available. In a country like South Africa, the bicycle should be a serious component of any transport agenda. For the rural poor, bicycles are a logical alternative to the long distances many people walk. For urban residents, bicycles are a happy alternative to getting stuck in traffic jams. And for every new bicycle user, there's one less car.

Yet according to *Peddling into the Future*, Marcia Lowe's pathbreaking study on bicycles published two years ago by the Worldwatch Institute in Washington, South Africa's neglect of the bicycle isn't unique. "The bicycle has been formally neglected by transport planners in almost every country on the globe," she asserts.

According to Lowe, "bicycles consume less energy per passenger mile than any other form of transport, including walking".

Lowe argues that bicycles have a role in First World countries, too. For instance, in 1986 The Netherlands launched a national campaign to encourage drivers to switch to bicycles

The solution to our transport, energy and pollution problems is so obvious that everyone ignores it. It's the bicycle, says

**MYRA ALPERSON**

for trips within a five-kilometre radius of home. And a 1980 study in Great Britain calculated that "if just 10 per cent of car trips under 10 miles were made by bicycle, the country would save 14-million barrels of oil a year".

As a matter of fact, the bicycle isn't entirely neglected in South Africa. In the PWV, some 440 postal workers deliver mail by bicycle. At Allied Publishers, about 140 workers transport newspapers by cycle. Ice cream delivery bicycles ply the streets in warm weather and, year-round, delivery bicycles ferry produce and other goods to individual homes. So it's neither fanciful nor crazy to imagine that bicycle commuting can't work in South Africa. It's an attitude problem.

Let me admit a bias here. I'm an avid cyclist who commutes in Johannesburg, where I've lived for a year. In my hometown of New York City, I was a

bicycle commuter for 13 years and active in Transportation Alternatives (TA), which successfully fought for cycle paths, access to bridges, and recognition within local government.

How does Johannesburg compare to New York? Johannesburg is an easier city to move around in, in some ways more suitable for cycle commuting than New York. The weather year-round is pleasant. Downtown is compact and flat. Some areas are rather hilly and too full of traffic to feel safe. But for the most part (and after a good deal of trial and error, plus a minor accident) I've found streets to cycle on that have little traffic. I ride on pavements when they're available and if I'm not interfering with pedestrians (which is illegal, but I'd rather be safe), and I don't mind the occasional uphill — especially if it's followed by a downhill.

In New York, the weather can be extremely cold or extremely hot. It's larger, more crowded and noisier. Yet an estimated 75 000 New Yorkers use bicycles for transportation, according to a TA study. More would if they could.

If it can work in New York, it can work in Johannesburg. The newly-formed Cycle Safety Campaign is pro-

posing the formation of transport policy that not just gives lip service to but fully integrates the bicycle into overall planning. Its components include:

● The creation of a bicycle path network in large cities, with a campaign to encourage people to use them.

● Cycle awareness programmes run in conjunction with driver safety campaigns, and including students who cycle to school as well as working people who commute by bicycle.

● City-sponsored "Bike-to-Work" days promoted by the media in which the mayor and city councillors, labour leaders, executives and prominent residents should take part.

● Cooperation by employees and trade unions to encourage employees and members to cycle. Cycle racks or other safe cycle storage should be provided.

● A bicycle project in which people would donate unused bicycles to a central depot where they would be repaired and sold, at low-cost.

● Co-operation with the taxi organisations to support bicycle safety. Their support would go a long way to making live, work and travel in.

LESOTHO HIGHLANDS WATER PROJECT

# The rands will flow

56  
 FM 24/9/91

The signs are growing that the massive Lesotho Highlands Water Project could turn out to be another Mossgas. The capital cost of Phase 1A of the project is now pegged at R5,9bn by the Department of Water Affairs, more than twice the R2,5bn estimate made just two-and-a-half years ago by then Water Affairs Minister Gert Kotze.

Customers using water out of the Vaal River, including those served by the Rand Water Board and as far afield as Kimberley, will face sharp escalations in water charges in the years ahead. In fact, the project is already forcing up water rates.

Both the Lesotho and Mossgas projects were conceived during the sanctions years and destined to become white elephants once these were lifted. But that doesn't explain why the Department of Water Affairs pushed ahead with the expensive Lesotho project when there were far cheaper options.

Depending on the terms of the bilateral agreements between Lesotho and SA, it may not be too late to reconsider the project's later stages and choose an alternative, such as getting water from the Caledon or Tugela rivers.

It is, however, too late to turn back on Phase 1A, which is under construction and planned for completion in 1997. "SA is liable for the full costs, as well as for the annual royalties on water used," says Water Affairs Deputy Director-General Tiny Krige.

He says the following contracts have been awarded or estimated:

- The R1,526bn Katse Dam, which will hold 1,95bn m<sup>3</sup> (Vaal dam holds 2,6bn m<sup>3</sup>) and be completed in 1996;
- Roads, accommodation and infrastructure contracts to the value of R577m;
- The R1,13bn delivery tunnel to the As River in SA; and
- R566m for engineering costs.

In addition, the R5,9bn in capital costs for Phase 1A also include the first R80m water royalty payable on the delivery of water, administration costs of R790m for the phase's 10-year duration, and R197m for environmental costs.

"This R5,9bn projection includes provision for escalations and contingencies during the duration of Phase 1A until its completion in March 1997," Krige says. The 1989 cost estimate did not provide for normal price escalation, contingencies and design refinements, says the project's managing engineer, Willie Croucamp.

Krige says a major plus for the project is that operational costs will be low — gravity will carry the water to

SA so there will be no pumping costs. "This is a major benefit against the alternative Orange-Vaal transfer scheme, which we also considered and which would have involved pumping water from the Orange River at Aliwal North to the Vaal system."

### Pumping up the alternatives

However, proponents of the cheaper-to-build Caledon-Vaal and Tugela-Vaal pump projects say their schemes would be even cheaper to operate than the Lesotho project.

Consulting engineer Basil Lund says that even if the interest cost on Phase 1A was a very low 10% a year, this would add more than R1/m<sup>3</sup> to the cost of water supplied to the Vaal system. In comparison, he says, the cost of pumping the same volume from the Orange River via the Caledon River would be a mere 12c-15c/m<sup>3</sup>.

Pretoria-based engineering geologist Dave George adds that additional water from the Tugela system could be cheaply diverted across the Drakensberg because Water Affairs has an arrangement with Eskom to provide inexpensive off-peak power for pumping the water into the Sterkfontein dam.

Other factors add to the growing concern over the Lesotho project's cost. For one, the R5,9bn estimate for Phase 1A, Krige says, does not include the interest payable on local and foreign loan financing over the next few

decades.

Krige adds that SA is committed to finishing Phase 1B by 2005, which will include the Mohale dam and a 30 km tunnel linking the dam to the Katse dam, and this will cost billions of rands more.

All cost estimates are certain to rise. With the enormous cost escalations that normally occur with any megaproject, SA's high inflation and interest rates, and a low rand that will add to imported costs, as well as the rugged terrain in which construction will take place, some observers say that Phase 1A alone may cost water users R9bn or more by 1997.

The Rand Water Board has already started levying the costs of the project, as passed on by Water Affairs, to consumers in the PWV area. Following Water Affairs' 3c/kilolitre Lesotho-project levy increase to the board, local water users will now pay 10c/kilolitre towards the cost of the megaproject. These levies are bound to rise as costs filter down to users.

"I estimate that project levies charged to the board will be in the region of 24c-30c/kilolitre by 1997," Krige says. Water Affairs hopes to generate about R1,5bn from this source by 1997, Croucamp adds.

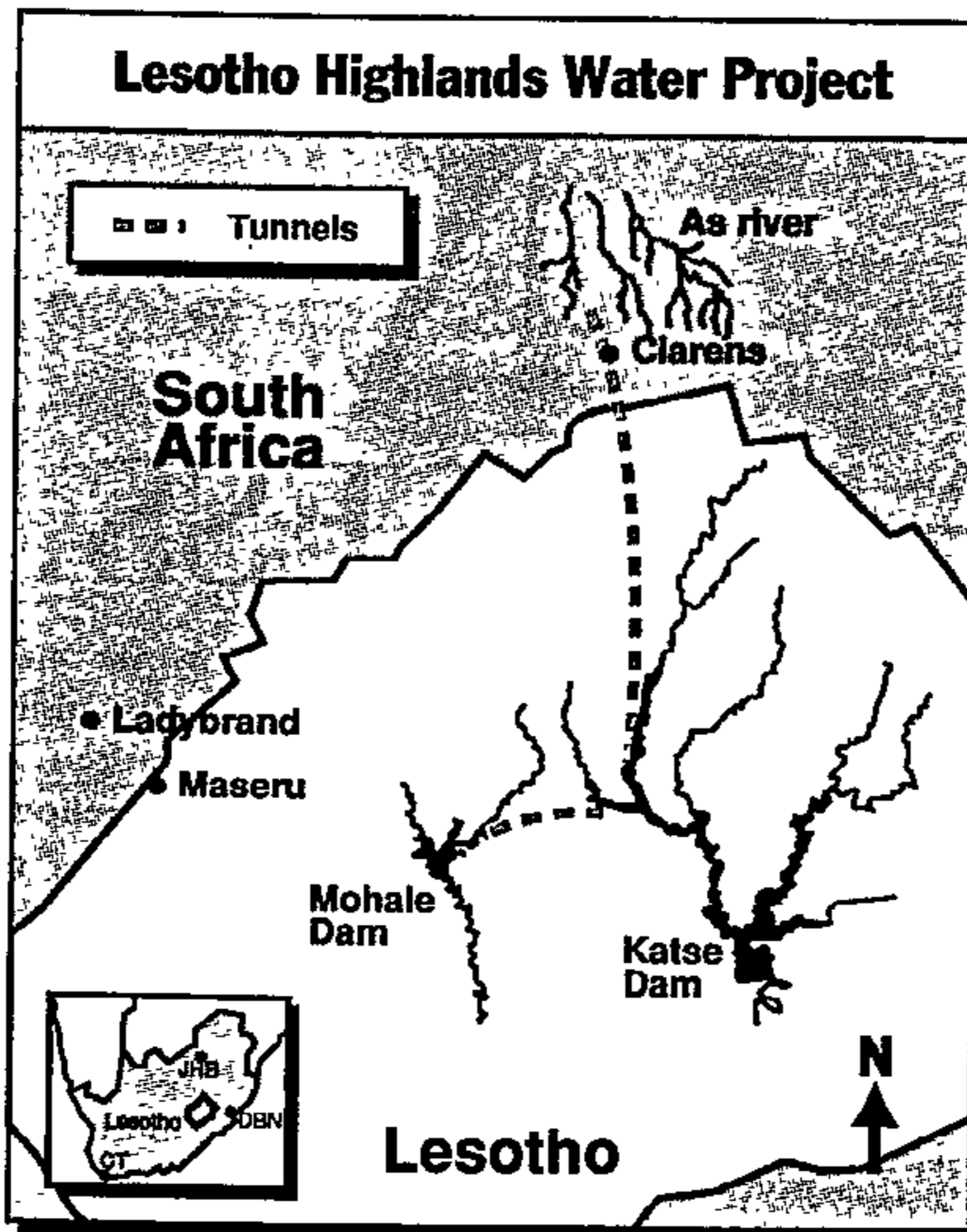
Another uncertainty about the cost of the project is that, while SA is liable for most of the cost on the Lesotho side (with the exception of the hydropower project), and is committed to paying royalties for as long as it takes the project's water from Lesotho, it has only an overseeing role as far as the expenditure of funds on the Lesotho side is concerned.

Croucamp says export credit loans to the value of R2,7bn should shortly be raised by the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority, with SA responsible for repayment.

He adds: "We will attempt proper financial control over expenditure through the offices of the Joint Permanent Technical Committee, with equal representation by the SA and Lesotho governments," Krige says.

The Lesotho project was not the only proposal to channel water to the parched PWV. Before money began pouring into this project, at least two other projects, delivering the same volume of water as Phase 1A but at a fraction of the cost, were submitted to Water Affairs but rejected in favour of the Lesotho project.

Croucamp says it is unfair to compare the thoroughly investigated Lesotho project with preliminary, reconnaissance-type estimates on other schemes.



EM 2.7/9/91

(56)



One scheme provides for a series of 20 weirs in the Caledon River and the eventual pumping of water from the Orange to the Vaal system. It could be completed for a mere R1bn, says consulting engineer Lund, who developed and pushed this scheme in conjunction with a consulting engineering firm.

"The Orange-Caledon-Vaal scheme is initially envisaged to deliver 18 m<sup>3</sup> a second, which is the same capacity as Phase 1A of the Lesotho project (a topographic model is with Water Affairs).

"The attraction of this scheme is that it could be done in stages, as the need for water in the PWV area grew, by adding pumping capacity at a cost of only about R250m for each additional 18 m<sup>3</sup> a second capacity required."

#### **Cost-effective phases**

He adds that the total pumping cost for a 400 m lift is about 15c/m<sup>3</sup> compared with the more than R1/m<sup>3</sup> unit cost of water from the Lesotho project.

Another advantage, he says, is that the Caledon River weir project could also satisfy substantially the water needs of the Free State and Lesotho.

In a second option, engineering geologist George says the Tugela-Vaal scheme can be extended in cost-effective phases. "For a capital cost of less than R1bn, the Tugela and its tributaries in the Ladysmith-Colenso-Winterton area could deliver about 10 m<sup>3</sup> a second to the PWV, or more than half of the Lesotho project's Phase 1A. Pumping costs per cubic metre are less than the royalties to be paid to the Lesotho project authorities."

However, Croucamp says, the projected increase in water demand in the PWV area over the next 30 years is about 70 m<sup>3</sup> a second. The Lesotho project, therefore, is designed, with all four phases, to deliver this volume.

*Arnold van Huyssteen*



# Alex is dump site, health chief is told

By Carina le Grange

Star 4/1/91.  
Health education was the answer to environmental problems threatening health care services, the director-general of the Department of National Health and Population Development, Dr Coen Slabber, said in Alexandra yesterday.

Dr Slabber wanted to acquaint himself with health care services and the environment in the township.

He said health care workers in the area were coping with tremendous problems but were doing very good work. He said he was specifically concerned about "environmental factors" such as refuse, the lack of clean water and sanitation.

He said health education was the answer to these problems and that the work of health educators was becoming more and more important.

Dr Slabber was shown a voiced-over tape by members of his department which claimed the township was being used by outside agents for the dumping of refuse and rubble.

# Buffalo River 'sewer' water sparks survey

(56) 30/9/91 ARG

GRAHAMSTOWN. — Hundreds of thousands of people in the Border area are getting their drinking water from a river that has been called a sewage ditch.

The Buffalo River is the major source of water for urban concentrations and villages from East London to King William's Town. However, it also carries so much industrial waste, agricultural runoff and raw sewage that some experts have said it is little better than a sewage ditch.

Attempts to solve the problem are complicated because the river runs through both the Ciskei and South Africa.

The East London municipality is unhappy about spending millions of rands in purifying water which goes to the Ciskei.

However, the Ciskei government and East London municipality are now co-operating with a Rhodes University project researching the quality of the water.

The study, commissioned by the Department of Water Affairs, is being carried out by Rhodes's newly-established Institute for Water Research.

According to project leader Mr Jay O'Keeffe, the study aims to quantify the pollution flowing into the river.

The Buffalo was no worse than many other rivers in South Africa, said Mr O'Keeffe. Other rivers with a similar pollution problem included the Umsinduzi at Maritzburg, the Black River in Cape Town and the Crocodile River in the PWV area.

Such pollution problems arose wherever there was a dense urban population.

He said the study into the Buffalo was "aimed at seeing exactly where the pollution is coming from and what's causing it. We then will recommend possible solutions to the Department of Water Affairs".

The project is being undertaken in conjunction with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and is expected to take until the end of next year.

While sewage from King William's town was treated, it was not clear whether effluent from Zwelitsha was, and sewage works in the area did not seem to work well.

Consequently, it was a heavily polluted Buffalo River which flowed into Laing Dam, just downstream from Zwelitsha.

The dam is a major water source for King William's Town, Bisho and Zwelitsha, and its water is extensively treated and purified before being pumped into the water supply system.

Mr O'Keeffe said the process, which used chlorine and aluminium sulphate to purify the water, was expensive and there were often taste and odour problems which remained after treatment.

He said the dam functioned as a "settling pond" — allowing the effluent to settle to the bottom.

Mr O'Keeffe said if Laing Dam was not there, the effluent would go further down the Buffalo River to the Bridle Drift Dam, which supplied East London and Ciskei's Mdantsane township. Before getting to the dam, however, the river was polluted further by industrial wastes, domestic wastes and polluted streams from Mdantsane.

The Bridle Drift Dam is controlled by the East London municipality, who — according to an official — spend more than R2 million a year on purifying the water.

However, the dam supplies two-thirds of the water needs of Mdantsane's 600 000 residents. The rest of the township's water comes from Nahoon Dam.

While solutions to the pollution problem are being sought, Rhodes University's Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) is doing a sociological survey as part of the main project.

The institute is looking at the sanitation systems being used in the area, as well as people's perceptions of the problem. — Albany News Agency.



Pictures: ROY WIGLEY, The Argus

**FLORAL GROWTH:** Dr Allan Heydorn with a photograph taken two years ago showing when there were no plants to be seen at the side of the road.

# Praise for Armscor over fynbos project

56 ARG 13/19/91

By **GRAHAM LIZAMORE**  
Environment Reporter

A LEADING environmentalist has praised an Armscor missile and research development company near Grabouw for the way it has contributed to the preservation of fynbos on its 666 ha site.

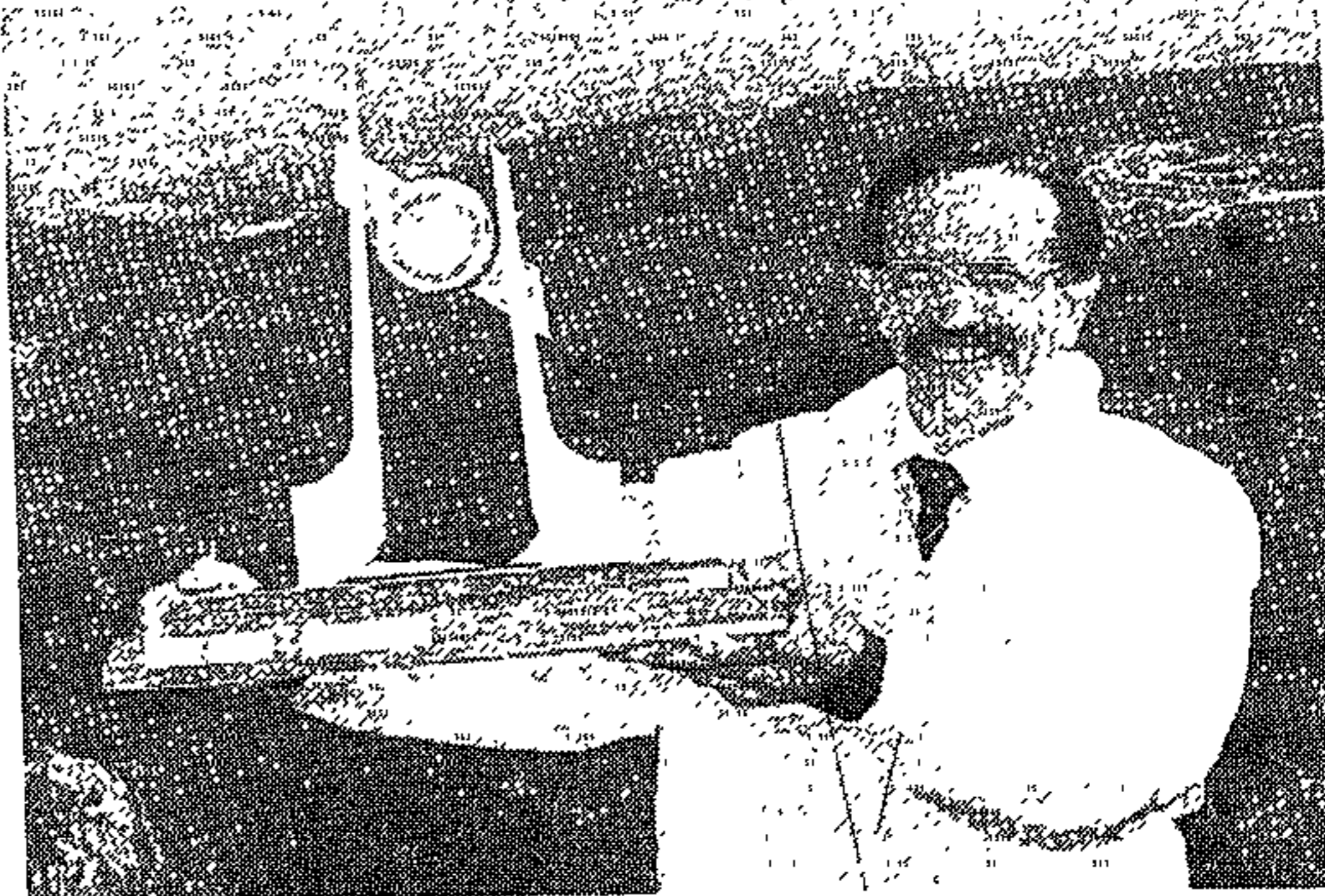
Dr Allan Heydorn, a specialist environmental consultant, said he had been very cynical when asked to help plan the new Houwteq missile research and development site in the Lebanon state forest four years ago.

But after inspecting the site this week Dr Heydorn said the enthusiasm and commitment shown by Houwteq had to be lauded.

He said, as far as he knew, it was the first time a company had met environmentalists to thrash out an environmental management plan before taking decisions.

"I think we've seen a pioneering concept take root here. I have been involved in environmental management projects for a long time but this sort of commitment convinced me these people were genuine and really cared for the environment," he said.

Professor Manie van der Schijff, who is the environmental management consultant for all Armscor subsidiaries, said an im-



**ECOLOGY WINS:** Mr Barry Kruger, managing director of Houwteq proudly shows off the environmental management trophy his company won for their programme on the 666 ha site near Grabouw.

portant result of the Houwteq Impact Control Plan was that it had proved careful pre-planning had saved the company money by avoiding the costly mistakes made in many projects.

"I don't think anything like this has happened before where you have a discussion with two groups with different interests to create a marriage between technology and ecology — I think this

is quite unique," he said.

Managing director of Houwteq Mr Barry Kruger said the company contributed R88 million to the Cape in the past year.

Houwteq, which is involved with missile research and development, does not manufacture nor test its products at the site.

This year it won the Armscor Environmental Management Trophy.

# It's not much, but it's an education

## Shanty crèche is all there is

HANS-PETER BAKKER  
Education Reporter

LACK of pre-school care in squatter communities results in school drop-outs and gangsters and, to address the problem, the Eerste River Residents' Association has started a project to establish crèches in shanty towns in the area.

The first success story is the corrugated-iron shack in the Spandau squatter camp where about 42 children — aged from 11 months to 5 — are cared for by as yet untrained day-mothers.

Mr Basil Nefdt of the association said the crèche was established in an old structure which "still needs a lot of upgrading".

"When it rains it gets flooded and we have to close. There are no toilet facilities so the children have to use a nearby lean-to which is very unhygienic," he said.

In spite of the hardships the small building does provide a welcome haven for the children. Until recently were left to amuse themselves.

Mr Nefdt said the lack of pre-school care, especially in the squatter communities, led to children being left behind later in their schooling. He said they often ended up as gangsters.

Chairman of the Spandau Village Committee Mr Paul Stefanus said the children used to swear a lot and were very dirty.



Picture: WILLIE de KLERK, The Argus.

**PROJECT TOTS:** Spandau squatter children have a crèche at last. With them are their daymothers, Mrs Martha Amsterdam, left, and Mrs Doreen Fourie.

"In the short time since the crèche has been open mothers have started taking better care of their children and they (the children) don't curse so much anymore."

The residents' association also tries to provide at least some food for the children every day.

Mr Nefdt said the project's

greatest needs were building materials, training for the day-mothers and food.

Mr Hannes Rooi, chairman of the residents' association, said it was "very important for the community to be made aware of the value of pre-school education".

He said the association was finishing a shack in the nearby

Antonie's Bush squatter camp where another 40 children would be cared for.

"When that is finished we will start working on pre-school facilities for the two remaining squatter communities in our area," he said.

Anyone who can offer assistance should Mr Deon Brits, ☎ 904 2094 or Mr Hannes Rooi, ☎ 904 1326.

## Call to put mountain under city control

Municipal Reporter

(56) A.R.C.

ALL of Table Mountain should be placed under City Council control, some councillors feel. 28/9/91

The council has voted to approach the Ministers of Environment Affairs and of Forestry and Water Affairs to get a single authority of local expertise to manage, control and finance the protection and maintenance of Table Mountain.

This body should be empowered by an Act of Parliament, the resolution said.

Mr Louis Kreiner said the council was competent to manage Table Mountain, but lacked funds.

Mrs Joan Kantey said development near mountain ranges should be less dense than elsewhere.

This was highlighted by various controversial residential housing areas, including Rontree Estate in Camps Bay, and the recent flood damage following fires. The "plethora" of owners and controllers of land made it difficult to devise an overall and coherent management plan.

# Historical Victorian hotel pulled down: Companies to stand trial

## Supreme Court Reporter

TWO companies in the Pepkor Group and a director are to stand trial in the Supreme Court for allegedly illegally demolishing the Victorian wing of a Muizenberg hotel without permission from the National Monuments Council.

No charges were put to Mr Eugene Dreyer, a director of Pepkor Property Holdings (Pty) Ltd and Muizenprop Shareblock yesterday, and the hearing was postponed to December 9.

Pepkor Property Holdings are developers who act on behalf of other companies in the Pepkor Group, while Muizenprop Shareblock are part of the

## Pepkor Group.

The two companies and Mr Dreyer in his capacity as director, are alleged to have destroyed an historical site without being issued a permit by the National Monuments Council in July and August last year.

The companies and Mr Dreyer also allegedly began demolition work at the Marine Hotel without giving the Cape Town City Council the necessary notice.

In a summary of facts, the State claims Muizenprop (then known as Pepprop Nege (Pty) Ltd) purchased the Marine Hotel situated at the corner of Main and Atlantic Roads during May, 1989. (56) 11/9/91

The Marine Hotel included a Victorian wing constructed before 1886.

The Pepkor Group intended to develop the property as a business complex.

Representatives of Pepkor Property Holdings, Muizenprop and the Cape Town Department of Town Planning attended various informal meetings during 1989.

The Town Planner emphasized the hotel's Victorian wing had to be preserved.

The Pepkor Property Holdings and Muizenprop representatives created the impression they agreed with this and that the Victorian section would be maintained, the State alleges.

# 'Private eye' will watch for mountain fires

CLIVE SAWYER <sup>(5)</sup> 3/9/91  
Municipal Reporter

ELECTRONIC equipment will take over first-line mountain fire detection if the City Council adopts recommendations circulating in a draft document.

In terms of the proposals, fires will be verified in the normal way once they have been detected by electronic equipment.

An ombudsman's report on

the February 8 Devil's Peak fire said the fire watcher on Lion's Head was either "not at his post or asleep" when the devastating blaze broke out.

Fire tenders were despatched after telephone calls from the public.

Devices mounted on the roof of the Civic Centre were tested last week as part of an exercise in which firemen lit a series of 1 sq m controlled fires on the slopes of Devil's Peak.

"We tested items from vari-

ous manufacturers to evaluate what would be most appropriate for our needs," said city electrical engineer Mr Fred Daniel.

Equipment would scan from one point of the mountain to another over a period of about two minutes, he said.

Once a fire was detected humans would verify it and take action.

He discounted reports about equipment which could detect from a great distance someone

lighting a cigarette, or the heat of a human body, on Table Mountain.

"Such equipment is available, but its cost would be enormous and inappropriate to our needs," he said.

A report recommending electronic fire detection is circulating in the Civic Centre and will be presented to the council for approval by the end of the month.

So far no cost has been attached to the project.

# Time running out to save False Bay — Pienaar

(5) 1/24 1/91

**GRAHAM LIZAMORE, Environment Reporter**  
ONLY the present generation, and some believed only this decade, remained to put False Bay's environmental house in order, according to Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar.

Speaking to members of the Royal Society of South Africa in Cape Town last night, Mr Pienaar said the basis of his philosophy was that man had to live within the carrying capacity of the earth and had to adopt lifestyles and development practices that respect and work within nature's limits. Although this was the responsibility of every authority and citizen, it was unfortunate that politi-

cians were often guilty of paying lip service to the preservation of the environment.

"We only have the present generation — some say only the rest of the nineties to get our environmental house in order and to instil a certain form of discipline among people, especially where pollution is concerned," he said.

Mr Pienaar said he believed the management of False Bay was too fragmented and called for it to be managed holistically by a single authority.

The way the National Parks Board was managing the Knysna Lagoon was an example of a single authority playing a meaningful role. This was also in line with suggestions that Table Mountain be managed by the Parks Board. A specially elected authority might also be considered to manage False Bay holistically, he said.

Mr Pienaar also said that because there was so little land left along the False Bay coast, further

urbanisation of the type found at Khayelitsha would have to be concentrated north of Milneron, at Kraaifontein and Fisantekraal.

"This will reduce the pressure of too many people too close to the shores of False Bay.

He said further population growth of the third world sector would come from the present communities which meant an active birth control programme managed by the Department of Health was called for.

However, the birth rate could be substantially reduced simply by electrifying all homes, including shacks, in the Peninsula.

"The birth rate drops from over three percent to 2.5 percent with electrification which makes the provision of cheap electricity vital," he said.

If one saw False Bay in the future as a marine reserve one would also have to look at limiting the number of private boats. This would be an unpopular step but it might become necessary, he warned.



# Table Mountain 'needs tight hand'

CLIVE SAWYER  
Municipal Reporter

(56)

ARG 6/9/91

A SINGLE authority, established by Act of Parliament, with powers to manage, control and finance the protection of Table Mountain and the south peninsula Mountain Chain is needed, a City Council report says.

The report, by city administrator Mr Gys Hofmeyr, was to be tabled at an amenities and health committee today.

The "plethora" of owners and controllers of land made it difficult to devise an overall and coherent management plan for the mountain.

Cutbacks and phasing out of

subsidies meant financial resources were dwindling.

The Table Mountain Nature Reserve Advisory Board, a council body, was "gravely concerned" about the encroaching threat of urban development into natural areas and up the mountain slopes.

There had been drastic cuts in labour forces available for maintenance.

These factors meant efforts to fight alien vegetation and soil erosion, and to maintain footpaths, could decline.

An overall single management plan had to be produced and implemented for the whole of Table Mountain and the south peninsula mountain chain.

The report called for a single

authority made up of people with "local expertise" aware of problems surrounding management of the mountain, empowered to save it from "the forces of degradation".

The city engineer's department said R200 000 was needed for additional gabion work on the Tin Mine Stream near Oak Tree Village.

Severe scouring of the steeply-graded section of the stream had followed the boulder-laden stormwater run-off during heavy winter rains.

Another R250 000 was needed for reconstruction and improvements to stormwater pipe intakes in Chelmsford Road and Pine Avenue, a report said.

## VIEWS

# Muizenbergers mine dump?

56  
 17/9/91

Argus Reporter SORCHA VASEY reflects the controversy over the building of a large artificial dune on Sunrise Beach.

**T**HE Battle of Muizenberg was fought 200 years ago but a new war is brewing because the resort's famous sea view is being blotted out by a gigantic artificial dune to make the beachfront "less hostile".

The dune, which will be grassed, is being piled up from the end of the promenade to Sunrise Beach — it's the first time in 60 years that money is being spent at Sunrise.

"Muizenberg is being robbed of the sea. The character of Muizenberg with waves, beach and painted changing rooms is being lost to artificial sand dunes that look like mine dumps," said Mr Arthur Dilley of Marina Da Gama.

Mr Abe Katz, city councillor for Muizenberg said: "The development, which was approved last year, is part of a project to upgrade the area, especially Sunrise Beach.

"The idea is to make the area between the promenade and Sunrise Beach more hospitable and less hostile. We hope to take the



**SIGN LANGUAGE:** Mr Arthur Dilley of Marina da Gama points to the sign announcing the "improvements".

pressure off Muizenberg Beach itself."

Mrs Sandy Alpert, who describes herself as "an active member of the Muizenberg community", said: "The view from Sunrise Beach was one of the few sea views left. None of the residents were aware of the implications of what was called upgrading the beach."

Mrs Marian O'Driscoll, of Muizenberg said: "I'm horrified. We used to sit in our car and watch the surfers and the sea. Now you may as well be in Kenilworth without the wind."

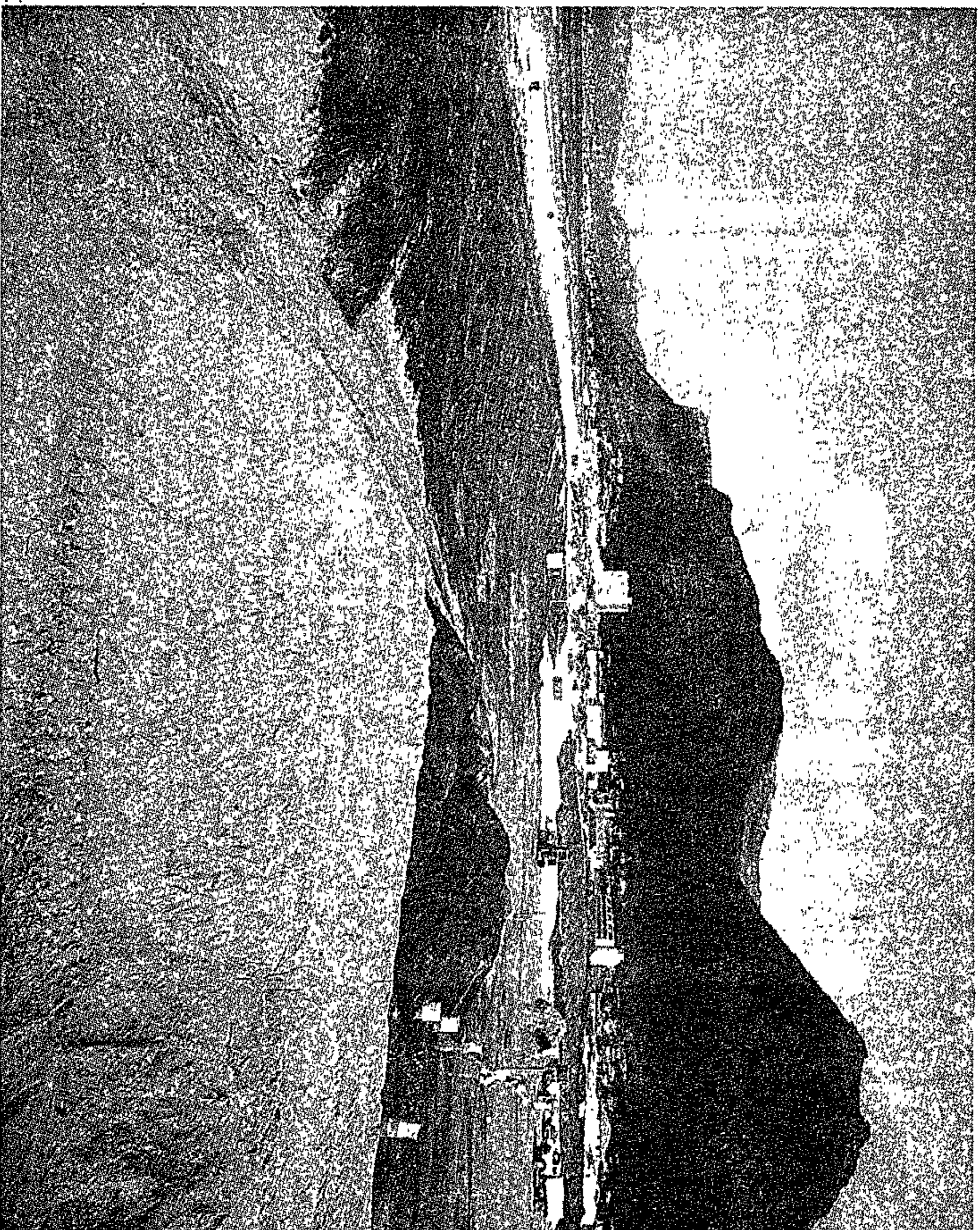
Mr Katz said the dune

would enable people to sit on the lee side of the dunes and be sheltered from the wind.

Last year an artificial dune was made at the end of the promenade. Residents were happy about it because they believed it enhanced the area.

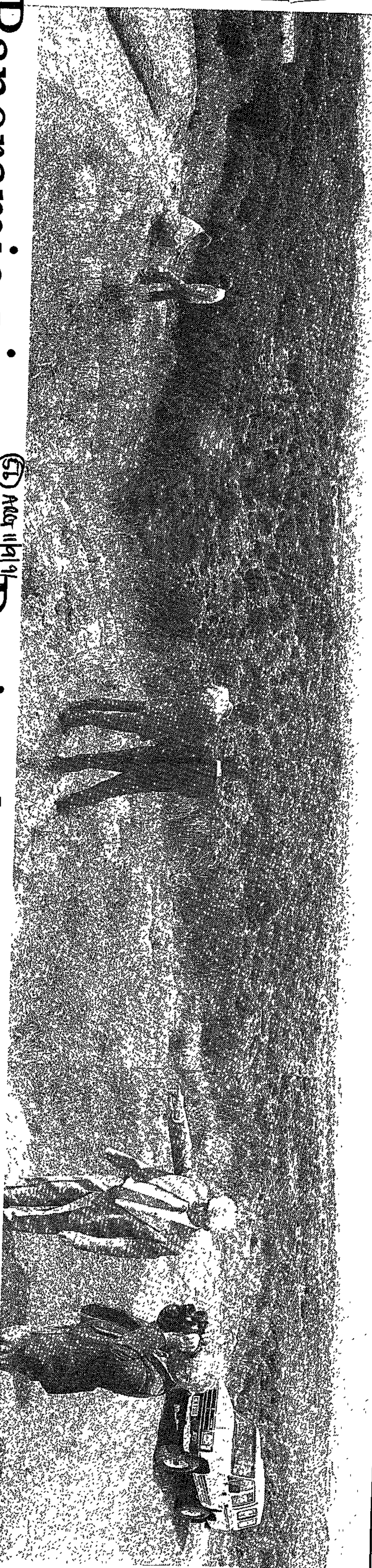
The money for Sunrise Beach was originally allocated to continue the grassed dune area extending towards Sunrise Beach from the mouth of Sandvlei.

However, at a meeting attended by councillors Mr Katz and Mrs Joye Gibb, it was decided to use the funds to upgrade Sunrise Beach.



**NEW DUNE:** Part of the Muizenberg "mine dump" that is the centre of controversy.

Pictures: ROY WIGLEY, The Argus.



# Panoramic view . . . Peninsula green project

By Alan Kell 9/11

GREEN "lungs", or areas of rich vegetation, are vital to people living in dreary high-density housing on the Cape Flats and, wherever possible, fauna and flora should be preserved or re-established.

This is the view of Professor Manie van der Schijff, a leading botanist and conservation management consultant for Armscor subsidiary companies.

He was referring to a conservation project being undertaken by Swartklip Products on their 500 ha. site between Mitchell's Plain and Khayelitsha.

He said the project was one of the most exciting in which he had been involved because the Swartklip site contained one of

**GRAHAM LIZAMORE**  
Staff Reporter

only three unspoilt dune areas in the Western Cape, as well as some natural "veldland."

He said the flora found on the Cape Flats was unique but huge housing schemes had destroyed most of the fynbos.

"So much damage has been done to the floral kingdom of the Cape Flats as a result of population pressure that the area has become a desert of moving sand dunes. Some plants have virtually disappeared."

Mr Willie van Zyl, general manager of Swartklip, which manufactures ammunition and a

large range of pyrotechnic products, said the company was determined to put into effect the conservation management plan recommended by Professor van der Schijff.

He said he saw the project as a marriage between high technology and ecology which, in time, could be used by students and bird-watchers.

Some 78 species of birds had been identified during four visits to the site by bird clubs.

In time the whole site would be fenced and once all the alien plants had been removed and the fynbos allowed to resettle, Swartklip would become a gem in the heart of the densely-populated Cape Flats.



**ON SITE:** Professor Manie van der Schijff, top, with binoculars, and Mr Willie van Zyl on the Swartklip site which is being developed into a fynbos conservation area. Above: Steenbok still roam in the Swartklip area.

Pictures: HANNES THIAART, The Argus.

# The Environment Minister warns firms of tough action, writes James Clarke

## Industry told: go green or lose out

Star 14/9/91

56

**I**N A no-nonsense speech on the Government's forthcoming environmental policy, Environment Minister Louis Pienaar has warned of tough action if companies did not voluntarily adopt "green" policies.

He also warned that the European Community's new environmental standards, which come into effect next year, could have repercussions in South Africa.

Speaking at Mintek in Randburg — at the AECI's first annual environmental conference — the Minister said unless South African industries accepted firmer environmental controls, their overseas clients could begin shopping elsewhere.

He predicted a trend overseas towards "fiercer competition in areas such as quality and environmental acceptability".

He said "when the new EC standards take effect in 1992, in terms of the tightening of EC trade barriers, EC countries are likely to apply strict environmental control and auditing standards on products and services being imported.

"A wise company will prepare and be ready — the unwise one may find itself out in the cold."

He said the burden imposed on the world living systems by industry was "disproportionately heavy if we consider the rest of the world's needs".

"Within the period of one generation we must solve our environmental problems and we must put an end to the process whereby we transfer our problems elsewhere — or shift the burden to the shoulders of later generations."

He gave the example of West Germany, which had used its poor neighbour, East Germany, as a waste dumping ground. "The chickens have now come to roost and the new United Germany is faced with rubbish heaps of mountainous proportions.

"The South African Government takes the view that the success of the implementation of environmental policy would be greater if consensus could exist between Government and industry on the manner by which targets and objectives should be reached.

"However, if the targets set are not achieved, the Government will not hesitate to introduce the necessary legislation."

The Minister warned of "poll-cies we intend to pursue".

● Promoting substantially changed attitudes to existing waste producing patterns of production and consumption.

● Even without 100 percent scientific evidence, no longer waiting before taking action to protect the environment.

He praised AECI's comprehensive environmental policy statement, which is adhered to by the company's 36 operating sites across South Africa.

AECI now undergoes annual environmental audits — done by internal and external auditors — to assess its annual progress.

The Minister's warning reinforces a recent CSIR statement that said overseas companies were under pressure from greens movements, especially in Europe, to provide information showing that their overseas suppliers were behaving in an environmentally compatible way. It began with the wood industry, which was suspected of buying hardwoods from Third World countries that were destroying rainforest to make quick cash.

Dr Dirk Grobler of the CSIR's environmental unit told The Star that more and more South African companies were approaching it after receiving letters from their overseas associates asking for proof that their South African operations were environmentally non-polluting and environmentally sustainable. □



Heated debate . . . "emissions are low compared to those caused by cars and planes".

## R50-m to cut Kelvin pollution

*Star 9/9/91 (56)*

By Louise Burgers  
Municipal Reporter

In the next four years, Johannesburg City Council will spend about R50 million to cut down air pollution from Kelvin power station.

Work has already started on replacing two of the precipitators at the station with fabric filters — at a cost of R10,2 million.

To carry out this work, two boilers will be off line for nine months. Officials expect the filters to almost eliminate emissions from the boilers.

Transport and utilities committee chairman Paul Asherson called a press conference to put "Kelvin's side of the story" in the controversy over coal dust pollution from the station.

He said he was tired of all the attacks from residents in municipalities surrounding the station.

"Johannesburg does care about emissions into the atmosphere. Kelvin sulphur dioxide emissions are low compared to the rest of the air pollution caused by an increase in traffic and aircraft, coal fires and other heavy industry."

He denied rumours that Kel-

vin would close, saying it was economical, and provided Johannesburg with half its power. Pressure groups should work with the council, rather than be disruptive and destructive.

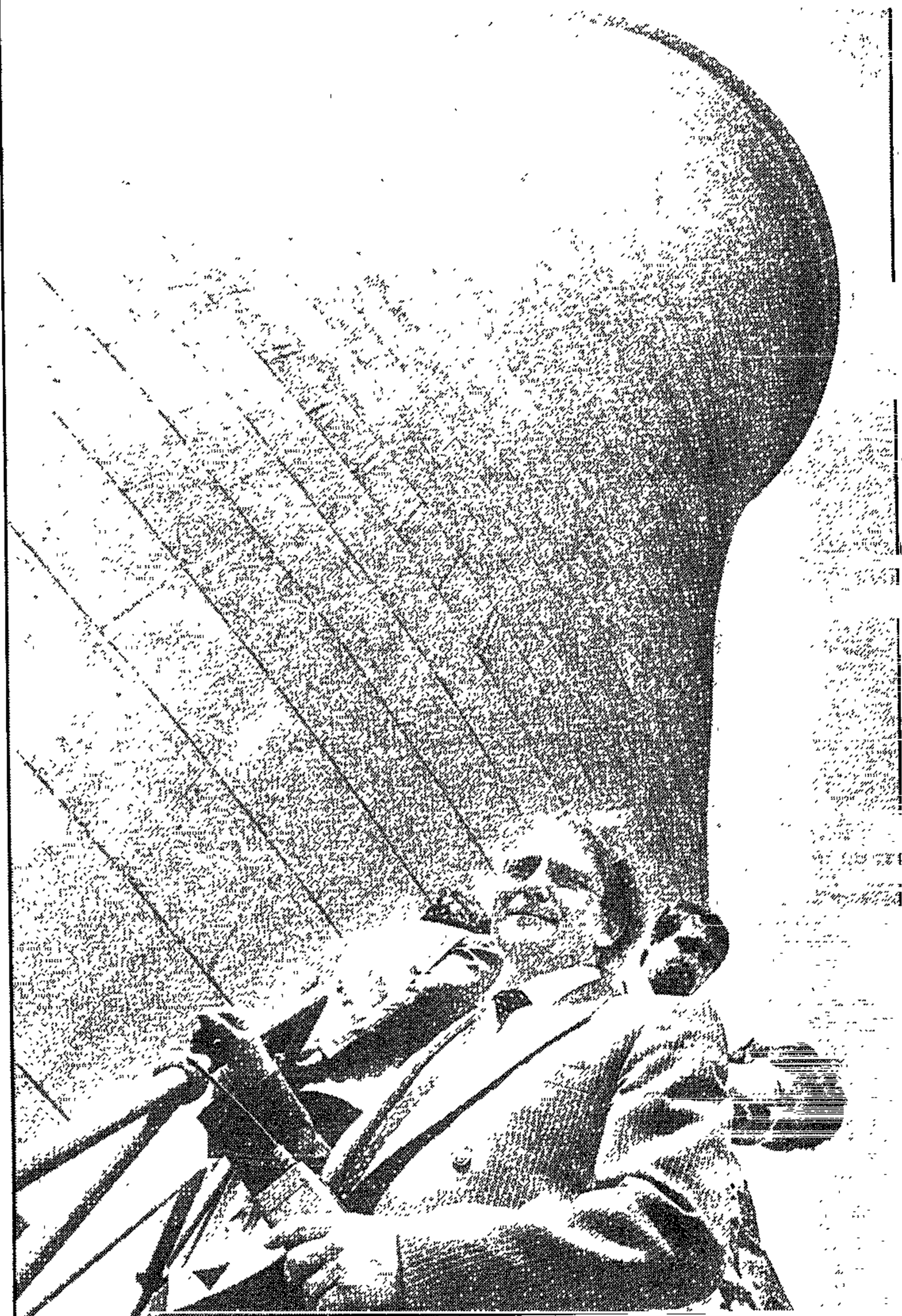
The precipitators in Kelvin "B" power station, which catch the dust from the boilers, were installed when the boilers were built in 1961. More than a million tons of coal from Witbank are now burnt every year.

In 1979 a programme was started to upgrade the precipitators, which were not performing as well as they should.

Although effort was put into completely overhauling the precipitators and modernising their control systems, it met varied success. The council then decided that a major rebuild was necessary.

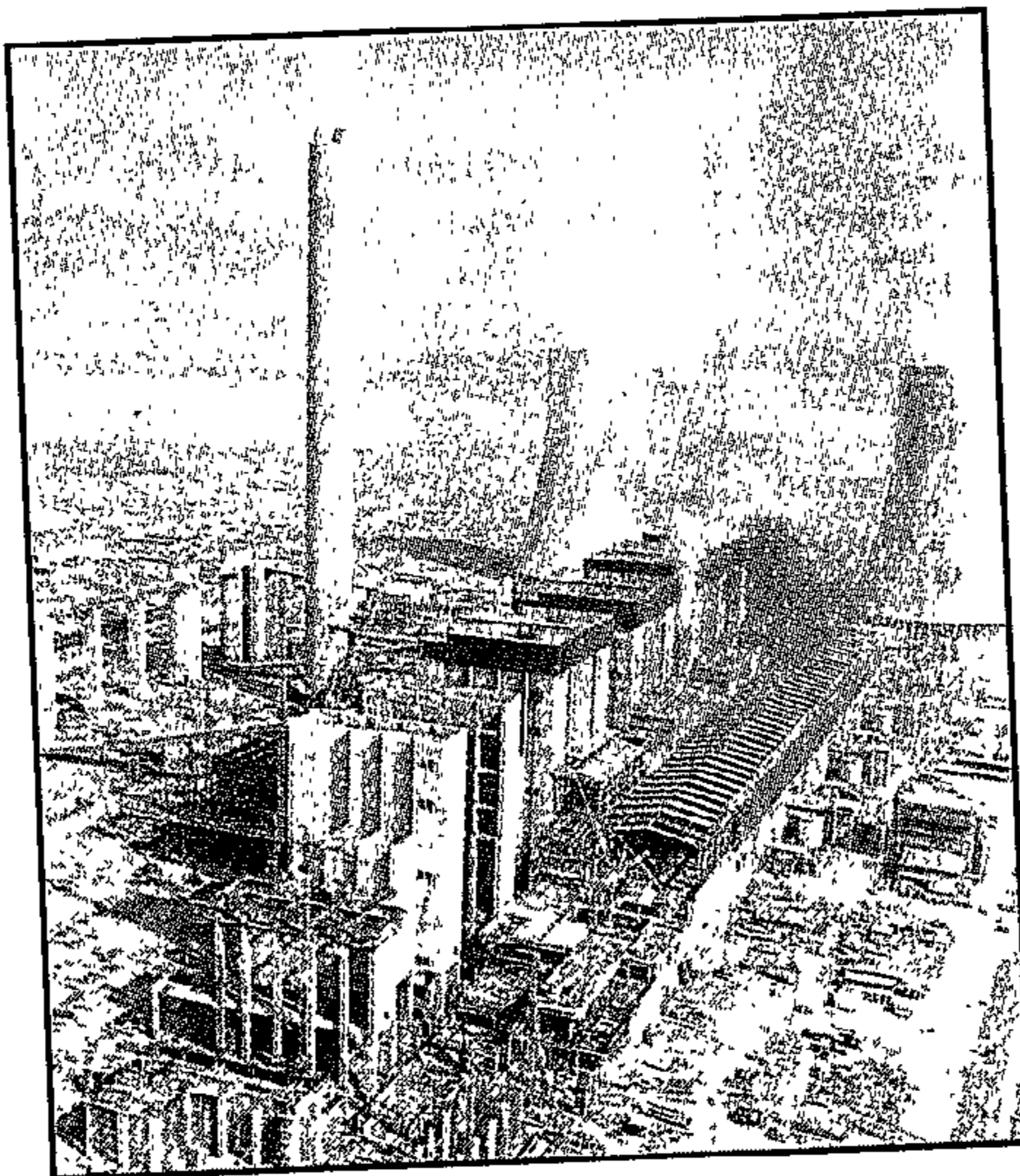
To cut down on pollution, in recent years the council has:

- Grassed the sides of the ash dumps and installed sprinkler systems to reduce dust.
- Monitored dust fallout in surrounding suburbs.
- Upgraded the ash handling plant to prevent emissions.
- Installed silencers and conducted regular investigations into ways to reduce pollution at the station.



Seeing for themselves . . . Kelvin manager Jimmy Adamson points out features of the plant to councillors, officials and journalists during a tour on Friday. Pictures: Joao da Silva

It would cost R2 billion to clean up pollution from a power station. Rather spend the money elsewhere, says Eskom.



A new Eskom power station . . . the cost of scrubbing out its acid rain gases would be R2 billion.

## Expense dulls the clean air dream (56)

*Star 18/9/91*

**C**AN South Africa afford to clean up its sulphur air pollution which causes acid rain? No, says Eskom, whose coal-fired power stations create most of it.

Eskom believes the billions of rands that will be needed to remove sulphur dioxide gas coming from the Highveld's high smoke stacks will be better spent bringing electricity to the two thirds who are still without electricity.

Eighteen months ago, Eskom said it would cost R500 million to "retrofit" each power station with equipment to remove sulphur which causes acid rain.

Six months later, the figure of R1 billion was used at a Megawatt Park conference. Later, Ian McRae, chief executive of Eskom, said it would be more like R1,2 billion for each station.

Last month, Eskom said the cost would be R2 billion.

An Eskom scientist explained the discrepancies at a recent National Association for Clean Air seminar. A spokesman said that the R500 million scheme would allow Eskom to clean sulphur emissions from the end two boilers in a six-turbine power station. In other words, it would cost

R500 million to remove only one third of the power plant's sulphur. There was not enough room around the other four boilers to install clean air apparatus.

He said the R1,2 billion figure was to take sulphur out of the flue gases from all six boilers at stations where there was sufficient room. The latest figure — R2 billion — would be to install gas cleaning equipment in new stations.

Dr G Heyman of Napac — an advisory body on air pollution — talked of the irony of South Africa spending R150 million a year on clean air equipment when people were buying coal-burning domestic stoves which created gross pollution across the Highveld.

Eskom plans to reduce township smoke by electrifying the townships but one delegate to the seminar admitted that coal stoves — the biggest cause of township smoke — would continue to pose a problem.

He agreed people were not going to throw away perfectly good coal stoves which not only cook meals but warm their homes and household water.

"Nevertheless, electrifying the townships will still help reduce air pollution," he said.

JAMES CLARKE

**TRENDS**  
Earth Watch

(56)  
**Impact study  
inadequate -  
ecologists**

Star 18/9/91  
By James Clarke

The first phase of St Lucia environmental impact study has been criticised by some conservationists.

The Zululand Environmental Alliance (ZEAL) says the specialists' reports are "inadequate" and "abound with uncertainties and probabilities, making confident predictions on impacts impossible".

The first phase of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) of Richards Bay Minerals' plans for an open cast titanium mine comprise 21 reports which have been distributed to interested parties.

ZEAL spokesman Jim Phelps has demanded a thorough revision of the reports after ZEAL's environmental consultants found "significant omissions and inadequacies".

In a surprise move last week the mining company asked the CSIR to participate in the second and third phases of the EIA.

This caused consternation among some conservationists who feel that CSIR, relying as it does on industry for funds, will favour industry against conservation.



# Centre will control plundering of sea <sup>(5b)</sup>

A SOPHISTICATED Marine Operations Control Centre was opened in Cape Town yesterday to help control the plundering of South Africa's endangered marine resources.

The centre, at the City Hospital Complex in Green Point, was officially opened by Dr Johan Neethling, the chief director of Nature and Environmental Conservation of the CPA. CT 7/9/91

"The aim of the centre is to exercise effective control over the use of the marine resources off South Africa and to provide readily available and updated accounts of all fishing activities along our coastline and within SA's 200 nautical mile fishing zone," said Dr Neethling.

The "nerve centre" will check on illegal fishing by overseas and local trawlers, illegal use of gill nets and on vessels illegally polluting the coastline.

All information will be analysed, assessed and used to plan and execute special patrols and follow-up operations by trained officers assisted by seven patrol vessels stationed along our coastline and the SADF, SAP, fisheries research vessels and Kuswag aircraft.

"The success of the centre depends on a constant flow of information from different sources and the communications equipment is vital for the centre to fulfil its function," Dr Neethling said.



# 'SA may have to <sup>(5)</sup> recycle <sup>19/9/91</sup> water'

Staff Reporter

**SOUTH AFRICA**, particularly the Western Cape, may have to turn to recycled water, as its available water resources are expected to dry up within the next 30 years.

"Indications are that South Africa's available water resources will not be enough to cope with the demand by the year 2020," the Water Research Commission (WRC) said in a statement.

Recycling would be cost effective, as it was more expensive to find and develop other water sources, the WRC's executive director, Mr Piet Odendaal, said.

South Africa was a world leader in technology for the recycling of water, he said.

Mr Odendaal has been invited by the International Association on Water Pollution Research and Control to address a congress in Spain soon on this research.

## No whaling in SA waters

Staff Reporter (56) CT 7/9/91

SOUTH AFRICA was committed to the preservation of endangered whales and commercial hunting would not be permitted in South African waters in the foreseeable future, Mr Louis Pienaar, Minister of Environment Affairs, said yesterday.

Unveiling an information plaque on whales at Hermanus, Mr Pienaar said South Africa wanted to maintain a ban on commercial whaling until the acceptance of a scientific management plan.

## NP slated for 'party interests'

THE National Party had put its own party interests above that of the state by postponing the important debate in the President's Council on environment management.

Two Democratic Party members of the council, Mr David Gant and Mr James Selfe, said yesterday that the date had been changed to allow NP President's Council members to attend NP congresses.

## Mountain: Call for one body <sup>11/9/79</sup> 56

A SINGLE authority with powers to manage, control and finance the protection of Table Mountain ought to be established by Act of Parliament, the amenities and health committee resolved yesterday.

This decision was an endorsement of an earlier decision taken by the Table Mountain Nature Reserve Advisory Board last month.

The board, which is chaired by Dr Douglas Hey, was concerned about the plethora of owners and controllers of land on the mountain

# Overseas interest in SA symposium

Staff Reporter

GLOBAL political warming towards South Africa has brought a strong overseas contingent of marine specialists to Cape Town for an international symposium on the Benguela current.

The launch of the five-day Benguela Ecology Programme conference yesterday at the University of Cape Town included about 50 delegates from 17 different countries. UCT spokeswoman Ms Irma

van der Vyfer said the "new political climate" had enabled delegates with little previous contact with South Africa to attend the conference.

The delegates included representatives from Iceland, Norway, Japan, the Soviet Union and Angola.

Professor Doug Butterworth, associate professor in applied mathematics at UCT, said the R20 million, 10-year-long marine research programme to be discussed was aimed at the

efficient resource management of Southern Africa's West Coast.

The research, sponsored by the Department of Environment's Sea Fisheries Institute, the Foundation for Research Development and UCT, is aimed at establishing data for a reasonable fishing harvest for perpetuity.

Prof Butterworth said that of the three most valuable stocks along the West Coast — hake, anchovy and rock lobster —

hake were "badly over-fished" in the 1970s and were "just recovering" now.

British delegate Mr Kevin Stokes of the Ministry of Agriculture said "five years ago" he would not have come because of the political situation, but "felt okay" about coming to South Africa now.

Symposium organiser Mr Roger Krohn said South Africa "was viewed more favourably".

# Mayor speaks on sea waste

(56) 21/11/91

MORE than 200 delegates, including 50 from overseas, who are attending an international symposium on the functioning of the Benguela current, were told by the Mayor of Cape Town, Mr Frank van der Velde, that more than 100 000 chemicals were dumped daily in Table Bay.

The delegates, mostly scientists, were at a civic reception last week where the mayor emphasised that better waste control was needed on land to rescue the ocean from pollution.

He said: "Whales, dolphins, seals, turtles and sea birds die every year as a result of plastic waste that pollutes our ocean. At least the criminal dumping of radioactive waste has been stopped... but alas, the continued degradation of our coastal waters goes on unabated."

The mayor said that with Earth's population grow-

ing, man's dependence on the seas as a source of food and other essential materials had increased, and with this, the need to understand the nature of aquatic environments.

"We should press politically for a civilised sewage policy — which means putting human waste back on the land, not in the nearest sea.

"We should lobby for much higher fees for oil polluters and give our votes to any political party that gives a high priority to stopping pollution."

The mayor said that the world was to be shared with millions of species other than humankind — which had as much right to live in it.

He concluded: "The process of ecological renewal is just beginning and it is up to each one of us to make sure that it does not fail."

# Will the St Lucia area stand up to an influx of tourists? (56)

A second environmental impact assessment is being done on the St Lucia region in Natal — this time to see how the region stands up to intensified tourism.

The EIA has been ordered by the Natal Parks Board.

The area is already the subject of the most intensive environmental impact analysis carried out in Africa. The mining company RBM, a subsidiary of RTZ, wants to see how St Lucia would stand up to open-cast mining.

George Hughes, chief director of the Natal Parks Board, said apart from sport fishing the St Lucia area has hardly been used by tourists. But a new plan provides for more hiking trails, bird and game watching, rest camps, bush camps and houseboats on the biggest dual freshwater/salt-water estuary in Africa.

The development plan is open to public inspection in Maritzburg — the first time the parks board has bounced a plan off the public. The plan is in its conceptual stage and en-

Star 11/9/97  
vironmental impacts are still to be assessed.

Dr Hughes said the tourist potential of the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park was enormous and varied.

The area includes crocodile-infested flood plains, one of the world's richest bird areas, wide grassland with plenty of antelope and other wildlife. It has the potential to be joined to KwaZulu's northern wetlands, which extend to Mozambique.

## Status

The fact that it is now being called a "park" instead of a game reserve suggests that St Lucia might be getting national park status although it is likely to continue to be run by Natal and KwaZulu.

"The Eastern Shores section of the park, the area between St Lucia Village and Cape Vidal, has been the subject of an intensive development study by our planning, research and field staff," said Dr Hughes.

"Care was taken to locate potential development in accordance with the relative environmental sensibilities of the areas concerned.

"The Eastern Shores study is part of the board's overall development plan for the entire Greater St Lucia Wetland Park.

"It received priority treatment because information was required by the consultants undertaking assessments of the environmental impacts of dune mining as proposed at St Lucia."

The Eastern Shores form a natural gateway to the park, he said.

Within the Eastern Shores area several development nodes have been identified for a wide spectrum of visitor facilities.

These range from a relatively intensive node in the immediate vicinity of St Lucia Estuary Township to a number of nodes where low-key facilities such as bush camps will be provided.

JAMES CLARKE

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Because of the pollution in the area, Vaal Triangle residents suffer levels of bronchitis and respiratory diseases markedly higher than the national average, a new study has found.

The Vaal Triangle Air Pollution Study, being conducted by scientists from the independent Pretoria-based Research Institute for Environmental Diseases, shows that people living in the Vaal Trian-

## Vaal pollution report shock <sup>56</sup>

ET 18/9/91

gle run a greater risk of contracting bronchitis and upper-respiratory tract diseases.

Allergies were also more common than the national average.

A source close to the project said yesterday that the illnesses were directly linked to the high levels of particle pol-

lution in the area.

Smoke from township fires and from the heavy industry in the area was responsible for the air pollution, the source said.

The source said sulphur dioxide levels had been found to be within safety limits.

But particulate, as distinct from gaseous, pollution in the area

was much higher than average. The offending pollution consisted mainly of carbon and iron compounds, which came from the Iscor, Uskor, Samancor, Eskom and Sasol plants.

● The rosy sunsets over South Africa are thanks to volcanic ash primarily from Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines which will cause world temperatures to drop by about half a degree for a few years, the South African Astronomical Observatory in Cape Town said yesterday.



# Team in all-out effort to rid harbour of pollution

By TOSH  
LEVETT-HARDING

AN ANTI-POLLUTION team of 12 men is fighting a never-ending battle to keep Cape Town's harbour area clean.

The team is on 24-hour standby to deal with clean-ups.

It was described by the PR manager for Portnet, Mr Leon van Deventer, as one of its positive pollution protection campaigns.

He said: "To deal with land pollution an old fork-lift has been converted and fitted with a mechanical broom.

"This broom is used daily to sweep the quay-side and an old fire-engine obtained has been converted to form a pollution unit."

He said the vehicle carried two types of oil dispersants, one for water, and another for land.

"It has been designed in such a way that it can be operated by one man.

## Oil skimmer

"A generator has also been fitted in order to produce light for operations carried out at night and brooms and spades form part of the vehicle's equipment."

Another Portnet official, Mr Steven Geldenhuys, said an anti-pollution launch, the M.L. Mahem, patrolled the harbour daily and if the need arose for dealing with very large oil spills the M.L. Troupant and an oil recovery barge were available.

"In these circumstances the expertise of resident divers are used."

The oil barge, commonly

known as the Red Devil, is equipped with an oil skimmer. Oil can be skimmed at a rate of 8 t/hour. It's pumped directly into the Red Devil's hold.

## Settlers

Mr Geldenhuys did some research on pollution and said more than 50 000 ships sailed the high seas with crews numbering 1,5 million.

It had been estimated that 7 bn kilograms of garbage was dumped annually at sea, and a total of 639 000 plastic containers discharged on a daily basis.

Mr Geldenhuys said: "More than half of South Africa's population lives and works near the coast and the resources that first attracted settlers, now draw businessmen, industrialists and tourists.

"A growing percentage of our population relies on coastal areas for food, drinking water, jobs and recreation and a national effort is essential to protect these valuable resources."

## Special nets

Cape Town's Port Captain, Mr Bill Shewell, said the harbour departments were well aware of the need to keep the area clean.

He added: "The pollution reaction vehicle is available for use by the city council should it have problems."

Mr Leon van Deventer pointed out that the city of Cape Town's water drain outlets were situated in the Duncan Dock area and special nets were designed



**TOUGH TASK...** Keeping the harbour clean is not a job for the squeamish as these oil-soaked workers show as they battle to clear a blocked pipeline.

Picture: STEVEN GELDENHUYS.

large amount of debris is forced under the surface.

"The University of Stellenbosch has been approached in this regard and is busy with the design and development of a dragnet."

and attached to these outlets to prevent the harbour from being polluted excessively.

"The south-east wind does not make the clean-up task any easier. As the wind churns up the water a



# R123m Cape pipeline contract awarded

LINDA ENSOR

CAPE TOWN — A R123,6m pipeline contract — part of the city council's R500m water augmentation scheme — has been awarded to a consortium consisting of Basil Starke, and divisions of Basil Read and Group Five. The contract is subject to capital expenditure approvals. It involves conveying water along a pipeline from the Theewaterskloof Dam to a new water treatment plant in Faure and from there to Phillipi. (56) The city can treat up to 1 100 mega-litres of water a day. At peak periods demand exceeds this amount. The first stage of the project, due to be completed this year, will augment supplies by 500Ml a day.

31/02/91

# Business, environment 'go together'

MANY foreign aid agencies, poised to play a major part in financing development in SA in the future, will not become involved in projects without assessing environmental factors.

This is the view of economists Frank Vorhies and Mike 't Sas-Rolfes, who believe the local business community is not paying enough attention to the relationship between environmental and economic issues.

While many SA businesses have started environmental impact programmes, others still perceive the green revolution as a threat.

8/20/91 18/7/91  
PAUL ASH

Vorhies and 't Sas Rolfes are behind Eco-Plus, an initiative aimed at informing businesses about the link between economic development and the environment.

Sanctions had shielded SA from the effects of growing environmental awareness in Europe where institutions and businesses were now concerned about their role in the environment, 't Sas-Rolfes said.

"Once SA is accepted back into the international community, the country will be exposed to various pressures, possibly in the form of 'environmental

sanctions' as First World consumers force companies to change their attitudes," he said.

One of Eco-Plus's first projects is a course on economics, politics and the environment which will be presented under the auspices of Cape Town University's environmental evaluation unit in December.

The course will expose SA businesses to various environmental and economic philosophies and trends, and show how various approaches can be used to further economic development while at the same time improving the environment.

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# Game park units go on sale overseas

B/1000y 30/9/91. (56)

LONDON — British and continental investors are expected to snap up the chance to invest in SA's private game parks, starting with Phindi Izilwane reserve in northern Natal.

The South African Conservation Corporation (SACC) is seeking to raise an initial R80m through UK merchant bank Hambros, which is offering units of £21 600 each to selected venture capital funds and individuals.

Conservationist David

IAN HOBBS

Varty is SACC executive chairman, businessman Alan Bernstein is MD and Hambros deputy chairman Christopher Sporborg will be non-executive director.

The offer of Phindi units is the first privately initiated South African attempt to raise venture capital in Britain and Europe — looped through offshore companies to minimise tax and currency exposure.

Phindi — Zulu for "return of the wildlife" — will use the new capital to expand to 178 beds and increase present revenue of R5,3m to a projected R60m plus by 1995.

The use at Phindi of "conservation through utilisation" — returning the land to the wildlife and utilising the resources they create for the good of all —

emerges from the London model.

The present figure of about 500 000 long-haul tourists, worth just 1% of GNP, should rocket to at least 2-million by the turn of the century, generating 8% to 12% of GNP, SA ambassador to London Kent Durr says.

British Airways Holidays marketing director Roger Heape says that with reform, South Africa — in co-operation with neighbouring countries — has "everything going for it."

"With political peace coming to the area, selling South Africa is proving very pleasant. Since reform, the place has started selling itself and the game parks are a bigger attraction than ever in the present climate of conservation consciousness," a BA executive said.

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## 'Turmoil' in conservation

CAPE TOWN — Conservation in SA was in a state of confused transition, Wildlife Society of Southern Africa president Naas Steenkamp said at the weekend. *5/20/91*

At the society's AGM on Saturday, Steenkamp said conservation was increasingly expected to pay its own way, but many communities that desperately needed the benefits of conservation could not afford them. *56*

He identified encouraging trends, including the emergence of a broader concept to include participation of all groups in SA.

While government had made "purposeful statements" on pollution control, waste management and the conservation of the wetlands, it had in practice only increased penalties for dealing in elephant and rhino products. — Sapa.

## UCT threat to expel rioters

*5/20/91*  
CAPE TOWN — University of Cape Town vice-chancellor Stuart Saunders has adopted a hard line towards students who took part in last week's campus chaos — and has threatened to expel anyone taking part in disruptions this week.

And he called for an assembly of students and staff today for the university to express its commitment to the national peace accord.

Last week students supporting striking workers disrupted lectures and erected barricades on the campus.

Saunders said the university was determined that lectures would proceed this week, saying he was sure that this decision had the support of more than 14 000 of the 14 400 students and most of the university's staff.

"Those who have intimidated others, disrupted campus or damaged property will have to face the consequences of their actions.

"We will take disciplinary action against students who built barricades or disrupted lectures last week. Anybody who builds

further barricades, or disrupts lectures must know he or she faces the prospect of expulsion," Saunders said.

He said that barricades, intimidation and disruption had no place in the peace accord and that the university had to heed the call by SA's leaders to move away from violence just as everyone else had to.

Saunders also appealed to striking workers to return to work today, saying the wage increases proposed were reasonable and would result in salaries about double those paid by many other universities.

The university is offering a 19,7% increase in the minimum monthly salary for unskilled workers to R1 202, a salary of R842 per month for part-time chas which with benefits could reach R1 092 per month and a 16,5% increase in the cash component of other salaries.

Talk floundered on Friday with 500 strikers, represented by the Transport and General Workers' Union, rejecting the revised pay offer.

LINDA ENSOR

## PEANUTS

By Charles Schulz

HERE'S JOE COOL SIGNING

ALL STUDENTS SHOULD

8-22



# Worry over SA's water supply

56

Sowetan  
25/9/91

Sowetan Reporter

SOUTH Africa's water resources might not be enough to cope with the demand by the year 2020, according to executive director of the Water Research Commission Mr Piet Odendaal.

Odendaal has been invited to address the International Association on Water Pollution Research and Control on the country's research to take full advantage of water resources.

The WRC's research will be one of the topics to be discussed at the international symposium to be held in Spain.

Odendaal said it was vital to continue developing technology to maximise water resources.

"South Africa is not the only country with a shortage of water. Many countries are continually looking for ways to optimise the use of water."

The WRC's latest project is the construction of and management of a water recycling plant and the testing of the quality of recycled water.

Odendaal said the aim of the project was to determine if a local authority could operate a water recycling plant without any specialised input and if drinking water could be recycled from treated sewage.

"Recycling of water in the country has been done on a large scale for years. But there is still room for new and better technology," he said.

# Crackdown on littering planned

Sowden 7/19/91

(56)

THE Ministry of Environmental Affairs has said it will soon take steps to control littering.

Minister of Environmental Affairs Mr Louis Pienaar has expressed concern about litter and said, despite efforts by his department and other concerned bodies in the past 10 to 15 years, littering remained an offensive scourge.

"Seen aesthetically and socially, a polluted and unattractive living environment is counter-productive to the cultivation of positive attitudes towards the environment and the community," he said.

Pienaar said it costs more than 10 times more to collect and remove litter that has not been placed in a dustbin.

"It cost the municipality of Johannesburg R25 million to gather and remove 22 000 tons of litter during 1990 while it cost municipalities countrywide approximately R80 million," he said.

Pienaar said education, the promotion of recovery and recycling, community mopping-up projects, improve-

LOUIS PIENAAR



By ISAAC MOLEDI

ment of services and amenities and the introduction of punitive measures such as enforced community service should be implemented as counter measures.

Actions planned by the Department of Environment Affairs include:

- Provision for more effective control of littering by local authorities;
- Establishment of uniform national regulations;
- Involvement in a workshop next year by the Council for the Environment on the possibility of introducing legislation regarding deposits on containers;
- Possible financial support to the Keep South Africa Beautiful environment body, comprised of large industries and companies.

Pienaar said the ministry has commissioned the Centre for Scientific Industrial Research to investigate littering.



# ANC aims for eco-friendly industry

DARIUS SANAI

AN ANC government would subsidise firms which made their operations environmentally friendly and penalise those damaging the environment, according to a recent policy document.

Noting the high levels of harmful emissions by SA industry, the document said "various incentives will be explored to reward industrialists who develop environmentally sound technologies".

Conversely, "commensurate penalties need to be instituted" against industries which damaged the environment, according to the document drawn up by the ANC's department of economic planning.

The proposals, if implemented, would be

in line with modern economic theory on controlling pollution in a free market economy, Sacob economist Ben van Rensburg said yesterday.

"The market is incapable of picking up the costs or benefits of externalities like pollution and environmental control. The government must therefore tax or reward firms in line with their actions on pollution," he said.

The document also proposed a zoning system for industries that damage the environment and pose risks to human health.

11/9/97  
B (D) say

(56)

**GOING GREEN: PEOPLE, POLITICS AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA** edited by Jacklyn Cock and Eddie Koch (Oxford University Press, R44.95)

THERE was a time when environmentalists were thought of as lunatics who threw blood at fur coats while guzzling down mouthfuls of salad and lentils. Now everyone eats lettuce, and fur coats are ideologically unsound.

Environmentalism has come of age and is fast establishing itself as part of mainstream thinking, in much the same way that the campaign for nuclear disarmament moved from the lunatic fringe into the heart of the establishment in Europe in the 1980s.

In keeping with these advances, Going Green is one of SA environmentalism's first major steps into print.

It comprises 17 articles which look at green issues from every conceivable angle. The articles are accompanied by short profiles of people at the forefront of green politics in SA. Authors include journalist Eddie Koch, nuclear physicist Mark Gandar, Earthlife Africa founder Chris Albertyn and Director of the Endangered Wildlife Trust John Ledger.

The book's first article "Going Green at the Grassroots", by co-editor Jacklyn Cock, makes

# SA's green people get into print

B 1024 23 4 191 (56)

the point that the "authoritarian conservation perspective" on environmental issues was only recently dethroned by an "alternative progressive perspective".

This new perspective, she says, draws on "the ideology of green politics" to emphasise the importance of linking the struggle against social injustice and the exploitation of people to the struggle against the abuse of the environment.

The articles, which cover asbestos pollution, the urban environmental crisis, energy and the environment, toxic waste disposal, preserving the ocean and conservation, reflect this attempt to view living and working conditions as part of the environmental system.

Even topics traditionally the domain of the "authoritarian conservation perspective" are given the treatment. In an article entitled The Crucial Link, Margaret Jacobson looks at the relationship between conservation and development, and the challenge of linking the social needs of people to the welfare of the animals they live among.

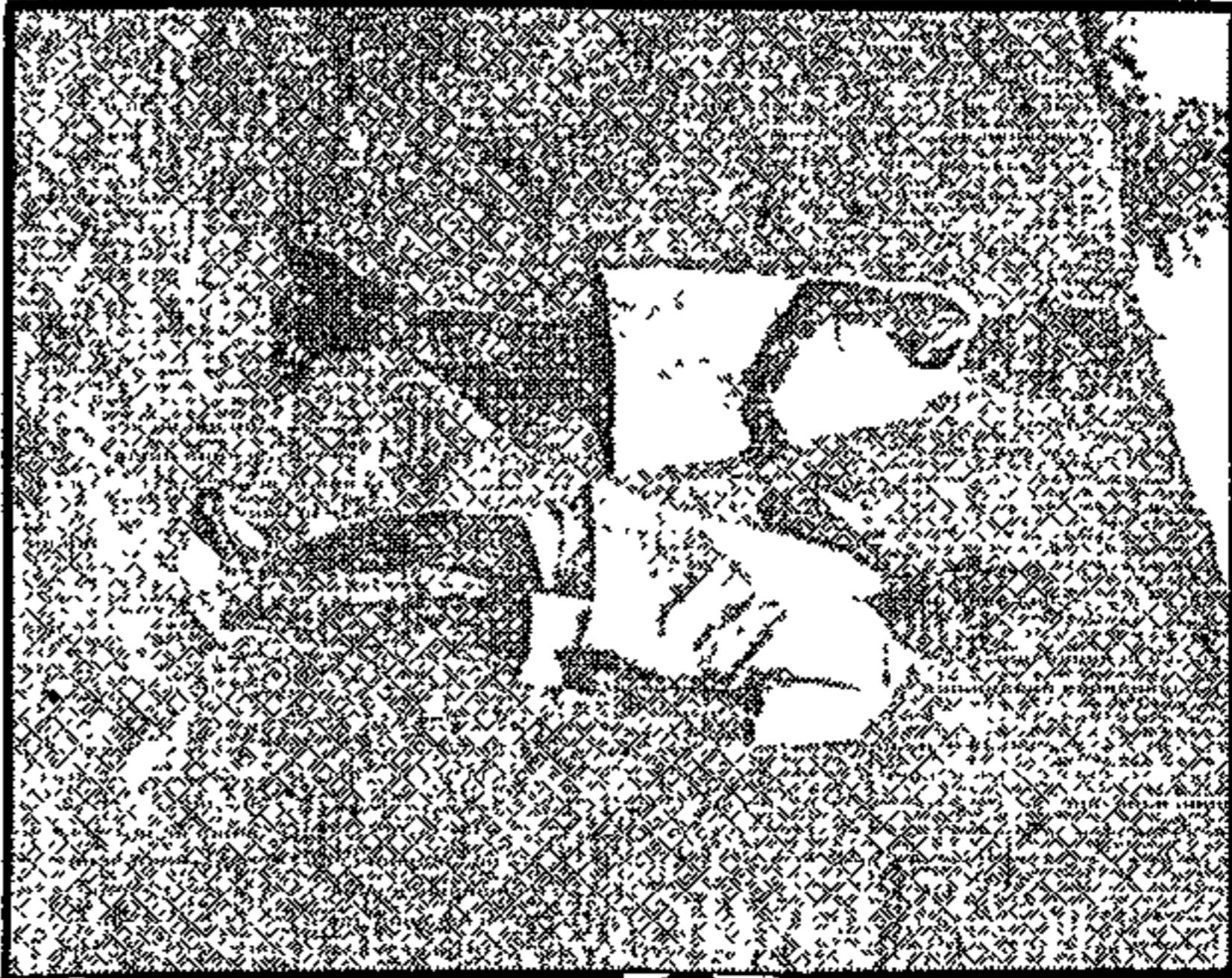
The issue of labour and the environment is covered in a paper called Reds and Greens, by trade unionists Rod Crompton and Alec Erwin. They describe "trade union struggles" in the workplace as "the first line of defence for an embattled environment". The unionists disagree with the traditional separation of the "work environment" from "the environment".

They argue compellingly that health and safety in the workplace should be taken up as part of a broader campaign to fight corporate activity which harms the environment.

While a book should not be judged by its cover, its design can make a big difference. Going Green is refreshingly easy on the eye. Photographs are used extensively, along with graphs and illustrations, making the book a pleasure to read.

Going Green is essential reading for the growing number of environmentally concerned South Africans, including those in business who are involved in finding ways to make the consequences of progress a little less ugly.

RAY HARTLEY



Risking their lives in ignorance... children using the Mahlatjane asbestos tailings dumps as a shortcut home from school.

South Africa 100% of the population is black. The white population is 10% and the coloured population is 10%.

which is a very important part of the country's history.

GOVERNMENT



## Relief measures for fire-ravaged areas

(56)  
PRESIDENT F W de Klerk yesterday declared emergency areas in those parts of Natal and the Free State that were ravaged by fires last weekend.

Opening the Natal Agricultural Union's annual congress last night, De Klerk said people who had suffered personal losses in the fires would receive assistance from the Disaster Relief Fund.

About R19m in damage had been caused by the fires, which burnt 128 000ha of land spread across 10 magisterial districts in the two provinces. *Bibam 12/9/91*

De Klerk said details of the relief would

TANIA LEVY

be announced today by Deputy National Health Minister Fanus Schoeman.

In his speech, De Klerk said he wanted to recommit government to the sensitive handling of agricultural problems.

De Klerk quoted figures produced by Stellenbosch University's Futures Research Institute which showed that SA's population would grow from 37,3-million in 1990 to 47-million by the end of the decade. If this prediction was correct, agriculture would face an enormous challenge, he said.

# The economics of wildlife

6/20/91 18/9/91

## DARIUS SANAI

(56)

"a relative newcomer" to the conservation game. Natal Parks Board deputy director Dick Parris says local communities across Natal understand "only too well" that conservation is the only means of getting jobs and incomes. "Every political group in the country accepts that tourism is a potentially vital industry," he says. Patzer says: "Rural communities are conditioned to see conservation as part of apartheid; they see Mercedes and BMWs going into these areas which are fenced off."

"We need to show them, through the highly successful examples we have already, that tourism means jobs, and money, for them. When black leaders start realising this, then perhaps things will change."

Patzer adds that big business in SA will soon realise the investment opportunities available in operations like Phinda, the new game reserve in St Lucia which is being supported by London's Hambros Bank.

That way, tourists will continue to spend their money in SA's stunning showpieces, at once giving returns to moneyed investors and providing jobs for the displaced.

Some, like Londolozzi's Dave Varty, take it further, stating that tourism through private game reserves is the only way to bring economic upliftment to poor communities in SA.

The ANC's previous tinkering with socialism (which would have led, presumably, to the collectivisation of rural communities) stood at loggerheads with such a philosophy. The recent policy document suggests things are changing within the ANC but what about attitudes within the impoverished rural communities they claim to represent?

"Slowly, people are realising that places like Londolozzi are working; the local people are getting involved, and they see nature reserves as part of them," says Ntsula.

Ntsula, who has wide experience of rural communities across SA along with organisations like the Transvaal Rural Action Committee and the Natal-based Association for Rural Advancement, says the ANC is

establishment organisations, tending often to be lumped together with left-wing and socialist groups.

Political commentators are now largely in agreement that the green element in Western society consisted of the same types of people who led the socialist and communist movements in Europe earlier this century: the disaffected, often guilt-laden, middle classes.

This explains why SA's environmental protection movement is different from those in Western countries. It has a vast underclass, most of whom, in the words of the National Environment Awareness Trust's Marek Patzer, do not even know what a seal is, let alone care about whether seals are culled. In the absence of an "alternative" middle class, environmental issues have been left to the "establishment" organisations. "You can sympathise with the widely held feeling that conservation

WILDLIFE conservation, once almost universally dismissed by left-wing groups within SA as being a lobby for the white elite, is climbing high onto the agenda of organisations across the political spectrum.

The ANC, which only two years ago admitted it had "no policy" on conservation, stated in a recent environmental policy document that "wildlife management and conservation offer the only ideal balance between human economic activity through tourism and environmental conservation" — effectively committing the organisation to supporting money-spinning game lodges.

It did not specify whether the enterprises would be permitted to be privately owned under an ANC government, but the implicit approval of such operations was recognised by a spokesman for a leading exclusive game lodge recently, who said he felt "very positive" about the future, after reading the document.

Compared with other conservation-conscious countries, SA has always been topsy-turvy on environmental issues. The "green" movements in Europe and North America were perceived as essentially anti-

# Constitution to protect John Citizen's rights

DURBAN. — In a future dispensation in South Africa, courts of law would be able to challenge parliamentary action, the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, said yesterday.

Speaking at the NP congress here, he said a system based on the concept of constitutional rule would mean that the management of state affairs would be "reconciled with rights in every respect".

The concept of constitutional rule was "more applicable to our situation than the rule of law. It's a clear statement of rights and obligations".

The present system allowed for a mere majority in Parliament to mean removal of the rights of people. Executive removing the possibility of John Citizen's rights being challenged or removed if a minister feels a person has become too cocky." — Sapa

# Coetsee hits out at ANC

Political Correspondent  
DURBAN. — Justice Minister Mr Kobie Coetsee yesterday lashed out at the ANC for rejecting the National Party's constitutional proposals, saying the organisation was bent on domination in a new order.

He told delegates to the NP's Natal congress here that the ANC claimed it stood for government of and by the people, but in fact wanted to see political power centralised.

# Pollution an issue in new SA Bill of Rights

Political Correspondent  
DURBAN. — The right to a pollution-free environment would be included in a Bill of Rights under a new constitution, the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, said yesterday.

He told the National Party's Natal congress here that no current piece of legislation stated with clarity whether citizens were entitled to live in a clean environment which would not harm or damage their well-being.

However, the Deputy Minister of Justice, Mr Danie Schutte, had asked the South African Law Commission to consider whether such provisions — which would include noise pollution — should be included in a future Bill of Rights.

"I am convinced that it will be," he said to applause. (56) CT 6/9/91

# Shanty towns may rise north of city

56 CT 17/9/91

By GUY OLIVER

NEW townships like Khayelitsha might be built north of Milnerton and Kraaifontein to cope with population growth, the Minister of National Education and Environment Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar, says.

The government was already investigating this possibility, he said last night at the launch of a Royal Society of South Africa research project, "False Bay - An Environmental Assessment", at the City and Civil Service Club.

Mr Pienaar said there were few areas left in the Peninsula to absorb the urbanisation process.

To contain the population explosion in the Peninsula an "active birth control programme" was required. Research showed that provision of electricity to shack communities led to lower birth rates.

● There was also a need to work towards a single authority for False Bay to ensure "proper" management, Mr Pienaar said.

Management of the bay's 116km coastline from Gordon's Bay to Cape Point was "fragmented". However, a sole authority - similar to the National Parks Board control of Knysna lagoon - would have to be "holistic". It would have to incorporate marine-resource management, the preservation of "coastal integrity" and management of the wetlands, which were already "under pressure".

● Mr Pienaar said he expected positive development regarding a single-body management of Table Mountain, and there had been suggestions of the National Parks Board assuming this role.

● The formation of "honorary inspectors" to prevent the depletion of perlemoen stocks in Walker Bay was also announced.

There were "not sufficient inspectors" to police the marine stocks, which were pillaged by professional poachers and by leisure divers taking more than their daily quota.

● The pollution of False Bay from the coastal suburbs of Muizenberg, Fish Hoek, Simon's Town and Gordon's Bay posed a greater problem even than Khayelitsha, Mr Pienaar said.

The old stormwater-drainage systems in these suburbs did not provide for purification, whereas newer developments had incorporated "settlement dams" to purify the effluent.

By ISAAC MOLEDI

# Soweto air puts children at risk

CHILDREN born in Soweto risk developing respiratory illness because of high levels of sulphur dioxide and particles from burnt coal, wood and oil.

A new study of air pollution levels in Soweto reveals that the area is three times more polluted with sulphur dioxide and other particles than suburbs and areas near big power stations.

The study, believed

to be the first of its kind, was conducted by the Soweto branch of the National Association for Clean Air and the University of the Witwatersrand's Research Centre during August and September 1990.

The associate professor

at the Wits Research Centre and secretary of NACA's Soweto branch Mr Harold Annegan said women and children were most affected.

He suggested alternative energy sources be found to curb the trend.

"Fuel burning and dust are the major source of air pollution in Soweto.

"Although more than 90 percent of Soweto houses are electrified, people still use coal."

56  
19/9/91



# Death mine's owners sought

By SOPHIE TEMA

*Apr 25 8/9/91*  
HUNDREDS of people in the Northern Transvaal are dying from asbestosis while the owners of an asbestos mine, which is allegedly responsible for the disease, cannot be traced.

Operation Hunger this week appealed to the media to help track down the owners of the Bewaarskloof Mine, which closed in

1978, leaving the affected workers destitute.

Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman said this week: "There are men, women and children left with no compensation.

"They are destitute and totally dependant on the minimal rations Operation Hunger can provide.

"In the two years I have visited the area, eight of these people have

already died. There are another two, at least, who will not see out this year."

More women than men were affected, she said, although they were not miners.

"I could not understand why women were so often the worst affected, until I realised that asbestos was mined in slabs and that women were employed to chip at these slabs and reduce them to

*56*  
a fine powder form in the process," said Perlman.

"They and the children who played around them while they worked were therefore maximally exposed to the fatal dust they inhaled.

"It is imperative that we track down the owners of the mine, because at present we cannot get any information about the people's employment records," she said.



# ANC 'yes' to private wildlife programmes

THE ANC has tacitly advocated wildlife conservation as practised by SA's exclusive game lodges in a recent policy document on the environment.

The document, prepared by the ANC's economic planning department, states that game reserves and resorts represent a "significant and viable land-use option".

This concurs with "progressive conservation" theories propounded by many of SA's exclusive game lodges, which stress that a combination of wildlife management, revenue through tourism and employment for the local populations provided by the game lodges is the only way to stimulate rural economies while sustaining wildlife conservation.

The ANC document adds that wildlife management offers "the only ideal balance between human economic activity through tourism and environmental conservation", which is also in line with the conservationists' view.

The ANC two years ago stated it had "no policy" on conservation, and conservationists see the document as a sign of cautious advance by the ANC on an issue that holds little interest for much of its popular base.

"Nine out of 10 people in Soweto have never even seen many of SA's wild animals so it is unrealistic to expect them to care about conservation," says National Envi-

ronment Awareness Trust (Neat) spokesman Marek Patzer.

Patzer says some of SA's environment agencies still have a "First World attitude" towards conservation, an attitude described by SA Nature Foundation director John Hanks as "promoting preservation ... in total isolation from Africa's social and environmental problems".

He says First World attitudes towards conservation and "saving each and every elephant" cannot apply to a country like SA with a massive, poor, rural underclass.

These people cannot be expected to worry about conserving nature when their first priority is their own survival, according to Patzer. But rural populations are increasingly realising that the only way to social upliftment is through involvement in game resorts.

Londolozi's Dave Varty, one of the pioneers of progressive conservation philosophy, says the benefits of the tourism industry for rural populations extend far beyond the wages earned by employment.

"Each wage-earner employed by the lodges supports between five and eight people," he says. "But there is an entire local industry that is spawned, together with the multiplier effect from the incomes generated."

DARIUS SANAI

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