

HEALTH AND DISEASE — DRUG ADDICTION

1993

STAR 7/1/93.

(87)

Passive smoking kills

NEARLY 140 000 people are killed by passive smoking in Europe every year through heart disease and cancers, says the Association for Non-smokers' Rights.

"Tobacco-smoke pollution is the most important environmental pollution suffered by non-smokers and is the greatest known mass carcinogen in history," it said in a scientific report issued in Britain.

Of the 139 500 estimated deaths in Europe, it was calculated that 15 200 adults died from passive smoking in Germany every year, 11 100 in Italy, 10 900 in France, 10 700 in Britain and 7 400 in Poland.

"These figures do not include the deaths of unborn children, newborn babies or young infant deaths caused by their parents' smoking," said the report.

SAPA-REUTER

Oral cancer: Smokers, drinkers at risk

(87) AUG 14 1993
The Argus Foreign Service

LONDON. — Heavy drinkers and smokers are nearly 40 times more likely to develop mouth and throat cancer than people who have never smoked and who rarely drink, according to British researchers.

And women smokers are rapidly catching up with men, according to new statistics from the Cancer Research Campaign.

Fifty years ago the disease caused

five times more deaths in men. Last year, the mortality ratio was less than two to one.

There were 2 000 new cases in Britain last year and 900 deaths, indicating that the disease is on the increase.

Professor Gordon McVie, the CRC's scientific director, said: "What we have here is a cancer which ranks third in the developing world and eighth in the US and Europe, and yet the tragedy is that in most cases it can be prevented."

By Rehana Rossouw

A DANGEROUS new drug — more destructive than crack and cocaine — has hit the streets of Cape Town.

In the past week, the Cape Town Drug Counselling Centre has received two enquiries about a drug with the street name ice.

The drug is an amphetamine or stimulant with the generic name of Methamphetamine.

Ice is as addictive as crack but more destructive as it can produce aggression, hallucinations, paranoia

Deadly 'ice' drug rears its head

and fatal kidney failure.

The "high" produced lasts from eight to 24 hours — crack and Mandrax produce relatively brief "highs" lasting only minutes.

Unlike drugs grown naturally, ice can be cooked up in a laboratory using easily obtainable chemicals.

It is imported from Asia and sold on Sea Point and central Cape Town streets for between R200 and

R250 a gram.

The drug is burnt and inhaled or taken intravenously. In the United States it is also smoked. It looks like sugar or coarse salt and has an initial bitter taste with a sweet after-taste.

"The Centre is concerned there is already an established group of drug users in Cape Town," said the centre's clinical social worker Ms

Cathy Rogers.

"The drug has produced much interest among other drug users who are impressed by the intensity and duration of the ice high.

"A drug such as ice can lead to psychotic breakdowns, the use of sedatives to induce sleep during the lengthy high and when usage is terminated a depression or paranoid disorder can develop where people

become afraid of aspects of their environment.

"These factors combined with the high addiction potential of the drug, may indicate the development of a new drug problem in South Africa," said Rogers.

Police liaison officer Lieutenant-Colonel Raymond Dowd said they were aware of the existence of ice but to date no reported cases have surfaced in Cape Town.

Rogers said ice users or their family members could contact the Centre at (021) 478026. for assistance.

South 16/1-20/1/93

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Call for ⁽⁸⁷⁾
START 20/11/93.
warning on
smoking ads

Medical Reporter

"Smoking kills" is the message the National Council Against Smoking wants printed on cigarette packets and on advertisements, and it is pushing for this to be incorporated in future legislation.

Health Minister Rina Venter is to introduce legislation in Parliament next month which would force all advertisements for tobacco products to display health warnings.

The Tobacco Products Control Act, which was passed in Parliament last year, provided for the display of a health warning on cigarette packaging.

National Council Against Smoking executive director Dr Yussuf Saloojee said yesterday the proposed legislation was a very important advance.

When smokers were warned: lay off sweets

BWmg 2/11/93

(87)

IT IS unlikely that Health Minister Rina Venter's proposed legislation, requiring all tobacco advertisements to display health warnings, will be as successful as an earlier campaign warning smokers of the risk of eating sweets.

That was in 1929. A Lucky Strike advertisement, featuring the profile of "charming motion picture star" Constance Talmadge, warned smokers a reasonable proportion of sugar in the diet was recommended, but the authorities were "overwhelmingly harmful". The advertisement urged the reader, for moderation's sake, to reach for a Lucky instead.

Which was what Constance did. In the accompanying bubble, she enthused: "Light a Lucky and you'll never miss sweets that make you fat." The "smartest and loveliest women of the modern stage" took this means of keeping slender, and this proved there was "real health" in Lucky Strike, the advertisement claimed.

That men benefited too was no secret to those who kept fit and trim. The secret? Men in the know realised Luckies steadied their nerves and did not harm their physical condition. And not only that, "they know Lucky Strike is the favourite cigarette of prominent athletes who

must keep in good shape". The advertisement pointed out that 20 679 physicians maintained Luckies were less irritating to the throat than other brands.

It was a huge success. Some years later, American Tobacco Company president Vincent Riggio recalled that sales soared, protests from the confectionery industry notwithstanding.

Julius Lewis Watkins, in *The 100 Greatest Advertisements*, said the advertisement was the brainchild of leading copywriter of the time George W Hill. As Riggio noted then, the advertising campaign had created more women smokers than any other single promotional effort. Venter will be lucky if she can generate such raw enthusiasm for her campaign.

The health theme was used in varying degrees in a number of other early cigarette advertisements. A wartime advertisement for the well-known SA brand, Max, depicted an attractive army nurse with a sick or wounded soldier smoking, presumably a Max cigarette, in bed.

The accompanying blurb explained: "A nurse is a ministering angel... who does duty in sick bay and dispenses oceans of sympathy... and keeps your spirits high when you're laid low by prescribing a plen-

MADDEN COLE

tiful supply of your favourite Max cigarette.

Then followed the famous slogan, "Men of the world smoke Max." Max was priced then at 1/10d (18c) for 50, in the war emergency packing.

In 1926 there were no perceived risks of passive smoking. In a simple but effective advertisement, Chesterfield depicted a young couple sitting on a lake shore during full moon which suggestively showed off the girl's semitransparent dress. The man was lighting a Chesterfield, and the girl asked: "Blow some my way."

Watkins described these words as perhaps the most important four words written in advertising copy. A woman in cigarette advertisements was introduced for the first time and caused great controversy in the US. At the same time it opened a new and vast market.

A turn of the century Camel campaign also implied that healthy physical exercise, and not addiction, was generated by smoking the brand. Watkins told of a man who walked up to a sign painter working on a Camel billboard, and asked for a cigarette. The painter offered him a Camel.

LETTERS

"Light a Lucky and you'll never miss sweets that make you fat"



A 1929 advert for Lucky Strike.

The smoker thanked him, saying: "I'd walk a mile for a Camel." The remark was passed on to the company, and became one of the most famous advertising slogans.

The health scare in advertising started gaining ground in the '50s. An Old Gold advertisement, with a Halloween pumpkin mask, appearing in the Saturday Evening Post in 1950, said: "We don't try to scare you with medical claims... Old Gold

cures just one thing... The World's Best Tobacco."

In 1954 when Phillip Morris introduced Marlboro cigarettes, the possible harmful effects of smoking were being established, but the company decided against promising safe filtered smoking.

Watkins said opposition companies at the time had not been doing well with a health approach. Psychologists had pointed out that people who had fears resented being reminded of them. (Perhaps Venter's campaign should take note of this.) Instead it was decided to let people take it for granted that the filter on the cigarette would be an effective one.

The Marlboro advertisements started off with a picture of a cowboy who, as Watkins explained, was "America's No 1 symbol of masculinity", and by implication rugged health. There was just an indirect hint of health precautions by offering an "easy-drawing but hard-working filter".

Industry sources in SA are not concerned about the proposed legislation. After all, people hate being reminded of their fears. They would rather walk a mile for a Camel to take their minds off health issues, or light up a Lucky to steady their nerves.

US group slated for tobacco links

KATHRYN STRACHAN (87)

LOCAL anti-smoking groups have attacked a visiting US-based organisation, Healthy Buildings International (HBI), for serving the interests of the tobacco industry and opposing local initiatives for smoking controls.

Healthy Buildings International director Simon Turner told a media briefing in Johannesburg yesterday that his organisation's survey of office environments in the city concluded that 72% of office workers experienced symptoms associated with the "sick building syndrome".

But Medical Research Council spokesman Dr Derek Yach said that while the organisation billed itself as an indoor environmental consulting firm it did not disclose its tobacco industry links. *BIOM 26/1/93*

"Their efforts have ranged from trying to convince businesses not to adopt 'no smoking policies' to influencing governments not to pass clean indoor air laws," said Yach (62)

The organisation had been active around the world in supporting smokers' rights groups and business coalitions to defeat specific tobacco control initiatives, said Yach, adding that Turner was the son of the head of the Tobacco Institute of Hong Kong.

National Council Against Smoking executive director Dr Yussuf Saloojee said the organisation had targeted SA at a time when government was preparing to pass legislation controlling smoking in public places.

Saloojee said the dispute arose over the methods to purify indoor air. While the HBI advised employers to upgrade their ventilation systems without implementing smoking controls, the anti-smoking lobby claimed most ventilation systems could not filter out nicotine particles. (22)

Puffing at work a burning issue

Source for 29/11/93
By Ike Motsapi

■ **DICEY ISSUE** *Employers have to*

SMOKING at the workplace is so prevalent that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has recommended that non-smoking should be the norm in enclosed areas frequented by the public or employees.

A Medical Research Council report estimates that smoking-related illnesses account for at least 2,5 million lost working days a year.

There is also a risk of lung cancer and heart disease to non-smokers from passive smoking.

A dicey issue facing employers is whether to continue to allow their employees to smoke at the workplace.

The Institute for Personnel Management (IPM) has compiled a document outlining suggested smoking policies in the workplace as a guideline for businesses in South Africa.

IPM says that the question of the rights of non-smokers and smokers in the workplace is an issue which human resources managers find vexing.

Medical research pointing to the dangers of passive smoking has given an impetus to the debate and a shift in public attitude towards a lower tolerance of smoking as a socially acceptable habit has been evident.

The withdrawal of the non-smoker's near-century-old tolerance at work has presented a new era of potential conflict between those pressing for change and for new restrictive rules and those defending the individual right to smoke in the presence of others.

Company smoking policies are still the exception in South Africa but it can be expected that the trend to formal smoking policies at work will continue.

"Other people's smoke may irritate the eyes, cause allergic reaction and exacerbate existing complaints such as asthma and bronchial conditions," the Medical Research report notes.

"A clear written formal policy should minimise conflict and misunderstanding between employees so that those who wish to smoke are aware of where and when they are free to do so," according to a recommendation by WHO.

The first step in tackling the prob-

lem should be to investigate the situation thoroughly.

‘The rights of smokers and non-smokers in the workplace is an issue which human resources managers find vexing’

lem should be to investigate the situation thoroughly.

WHO believes that although it is impossible to generalise, the investigation may well reveal:

- That smokers, overall, are in a minority but may form a local majority in some areas;

- That smokers will gracefully concede the rights of non-smokers;

- Perhaps surprisingly, that some non-smokers may defend the smoker's retention of their "rights" and;

- That accommodation problems — shared offices and lack of sufficient space for segregation — present some of the thorniest problems.

A key decision will be whether to introduce a total ban on smoking in all working and communal areas or partial ban.

Good staff communication is indispensable in the implementation of any workplace policy.

"If an informal investigation has not concluded any direct staff communication by this stage, this should now be undertaken," according to Dr Yussuf Saloojee of the National Council Against Smoking, and Dr Sara Gon of Webber Shepstone Findlay.

Both agree that some attempt must be made "to see that the policy operates as fairly as is practicable throughout the organisation, often difficult on a varied site or sites but necessary to persuade individual staff of even-handedness in their treatment."

Gon and Saloojee say there is no legal requirement at present for employers to have a smoking policy.

"However, the implementation of a sensible policy will assist employers in complying with various legal obligations," they say.

Employers have a common-law duty to take reasonable care to protect their employees.

Gon and Saloojee say it is also the employer's responsibility to keep informed about current practice and developing knowledge and take 'reasonable steps' to protect employees from known hazards.

They say employers must also take into account the fears of pregnant women in relation to passive smoking and the risks of these concerns to pregnancy.

"The segregation of smokers in one office and the provision of smoke-free offices for non-smokers may be one solution," they say.

They contend that the reasonableness of the way in which a smoking policy is introduced is relevant to determine the fairness of a dismissal, where dismissal is the eventual penalty for refusing to abide by the policy.

Gon says: "Where rules on smoking are introduced and operated in a reasonable way and fair procedures are followed in dealing with any breaches, employers are likely to be found to have acted reasonably."

Employers who wish to introduce a smoking policy involving the introduction of new rules should:

- Carry out adequate consultation with staff before introducing the change. However, it should be made clear that the process of consultation involved informing, explaining the proposed change and listening to the views of staff;

- Give plenty of notice of change. Ninety days is often suggested as a suitable period and;

- Provide some alternative measures for existing employees who wish to smoke to do so within certain specified areas or outside the building.

"It is also advisable to include a term in the contract of new employees whereby they agree to abide by the non-smoking rules," Gon and Saloojee said.

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Anti-smoking ire at talks on 'sick' buildings

(87) (8)

ARG 29/1/93

ANDREA WEISS
Health Reporter

CONTROVERSY is raging over countrywide presentations by an overseas company on sick building syndrome.

The company has acknowledged that the talks have been partly funded by the tobacco industry.

The anti-smoking lobby is up in arms about the seminars, presented by the American company Health Buildings International, claiming they "divert attention away from the hazards of passive smoking".

Mr Simon Turner, a director and technical consultant for the company, acknowledged at a news conference in Cape Town that the presentations were funded partly by the tobacco industry.

He would not disclose how much money was from this source and said another group of companies concerned with office fittings had also backed the presentations.

His company did not automatically recommend blanket smoking bans to building owners because this was often impractical. Proper ventilation could minimise inconvenience to non-smokers.



Mr Simon Turner

Mr Turner said the tobacco industry had not "bought" his opinion.

Even though smoking was banned in many buildings in the United States, sick building syndrome prevailed. These problems could be addressed by better ventilation and filtration.

Half the people who reported sick building syndrome experienced respiratory problems. Symptoms included tiredness, headaches, eye and nose irritation, dry throats and flu-like symptoms.

In a street survey of 500 office workers in central busi-

ness districts in South Africa, more than 72 percent reported health symptoms commonly associated with sick building syndrome. The survey was commissioned by Heath Buildings International and conducted by the Harris Research Centre.

In Cape Town, 69 percent of respondents thought their work would improve if their office environment provided cleaner, fresher air.

Dr Yussuf Saloojee, executive director of the National Council Against Smoking, said NBC news in the United States had reported close links between the tobacco industry and the company.

"The most important thing is that the latest report from the US Environmental Protection Agency has ruled that passive smoking is a cause of lung cancer in non-smokers.

"This report clears up any lingering doubts about the hazards of passive smoking and shows the wisdom of banning smoking in public places. Therefore any agency which claims it can reduce the harm of smoking simply by increasing ventilation is going against scientific evidence."

Better air or smoking ban?

STAR 30/1/93

(87)



YOU wouldn't expect an organisation with a cheerful name like Healthy Buildings International (HBI) to attract controversy.

This US-based company, which investigates sick building syndrome — where defects in ventilation foster and circulate bacteria and other nasties, making occupants ill — is holding seminars for property owners in South Africa.

So why all the controversy?

Groups campaigning for curbs on smoking, both here and in the US, charge that HBI's emphasis on ventilation problems diverts attention from the dangers of tobacco smoke — and point out that the tobacco industry is one of its major clients.

HBI president Gray Robertson said last year that the tobacco industry

AS SOUTH Africa prepares legislation to curb smoking in public places, a US firm is talking to local property owners about sick buildings, writes Chief Reporter JOHN PERLMAN.

"might account for 20 percent of our consulting fees".

Publicity material about HBI handed out in Johannesburg this week made no mention of such an important client, listing only banks, insurance companies, hospitals, universities, government agencies and multinational corporations.

Uncomfortable

HBI technical manager Simon Turner this week presented the findings of a survey — sponsored by the Tobacco Institute of Southern Africa (TISA) — conducted among Johannesburg and Cape Town employees on their attitudes to workplace conditions.

"Tobacco smoke is a

visible air pollutant, so when people are uncomfortable in a building they will point to that. We are really interested in finding the truth about these things, because many of the perceptions are skew. But we were not involved in the research in any way," a TISA representative said.

The survey found that more workers complained about temperature, stuffiness and lighting than about tobacco smoke and noise. Only 12 percent complained about smoke.

Turner said HBI had found that in 97 percent of buildings, smoke was not the major culprit in poor air quality. The most significant pollutants were allergenic fungi, dust and low relative humidity.

Turner insisted that his company's findings were not influenced by the tobacco industry. "We couldn't change what we say just for one client. But if you do any work for the tobacco industry you are branded as an apologist for it.

"We ... get ventilation in buildings working properly. That is more important than curbs on smoking."

Carcinogen

Turner — a non-smoker — was sceptical about arguments that passive smoking could cause lung cancer. "There are many contaminants in the air that are dangerous and there is controversy about every one. Even cooking meat may be carcinogenic, but you can't stop people cooking hamburgers. The solution to all these things is the same — ventilate."

National Council Against Smoking executive director Dr Yusuf Saloojee had no such reservations about the dangers of second-hand cigarette smoke. Citing a US Environment Protection Agency report, he said environmental tobacco smoke had been classified a group A carcinogen — "in the highest category of cancer-causing agents".

Saloojee said improved ventilation was not the solution to passive smoking, as most systems merely redistributed environmental tobacco smoke. "The only solution is separately ventilated areas for smokers."

He accepted that HBI had a genuine interest in building ventilation.

"Our concern is that they try to divert attention away from tobacco to other causes. We also have to ask why they are here at this particular time, when South Africa is in the process of introducing legislation to curb smoking in public places."



GOING UP IN SMOKE: But whether her fumes will kill you is debatable.

Alarm over growing city cocaine use

By JACKIE CAMERON
Crime Reporter

INTIMATE cocaine parties are becoming increasingly popular with city yuppies — at R350 a snort.

This was revealed by narcotics detectives yesterday who said cocaine was now easily accessible in the city and was expected to pose a major problem within three years, despite the recession.

A police source said police had intensified their operations to crack down on suppliers and abusers but "the nature of the animal makes investigations lengthy and breakthroughs difficult".

Achievers in their early 30s in the legal, medical, advertising and fashion fields were the major users because of their higher incomes.

The source said users were extremely careful about who they ad-

mitted to their close-knit circles. However, cocaine parties were becoming increasingly popular.

"Five years ago, cocaine was new in the city but now it's easily available."

Cocaine comes into the city by road or rail via Johannesburg, though consignments do find their way through the harbour.

Police are investigating a strong possibility that sophisticated syndi-

cates were at work in the city.

"Most cocaine sold to users is impure. Cocaine is tested by rubbing it on your gums, and if they become numb the chances are it is pure."

However, a dental powder has the same effect and this is being increasingly used to mix with the cocaine.

Anyone who may have information about cocaine abusers or suppliers is asked to contact the Narcotics Bureau at 457-623. (87) 21 30/1/93

Yeeh! That smoke . . . it's a pain in the lungs

87 ARG 30/1/73



your freedom to smoke ends where my lungs begin!

VIVIEN HORLER Weekend Argus Reporter

SMOKING costs. Not just the price of the pack, either.

While the government claims a lot of money from smokers in the form of tobacco tax, a lot more is spent on the effects of smoking.

Dr Derek Yach, co-ordinator of the Medical Research Council's essential health research group, says the cost to society from tobacco outweighs the benefits by about four to one.

In a paper delivered to a seminar in Johannesburg on the subject of tobacco-free workplaces, Dr Yach said it made economic sense for companies to control smoking at work.

He quoted an American study which estimated that including insurance, absenteeism, productivity, passive smoking and occupational health costs, the average smoking employee costs the employer about \$500 a year.

Another study showed:

- Smokers take 50 percent more leave and are 50 percent more likely to be hospitalised.
- They are more than twice as likely to die before the age of 65.
- They have twice as many on-the-job accidents.

- They waste between two and six percent of their working hours smoking.
- Companies incur increased cleaning, repair and maintenance costs due to smokers.

- Significant irritation, discomfort and health risks to fellow workers are caused by smokers.

Another estimate quoted by Dr Yach was that in the United States medical care for smokers exceeded that for non-smokers by \$500 billion — an average of \$6 000 for every smoker.

At the same seminar Professor Harry Seftel of

■ Pressure to introduce no-smoking policies at work is increasing in South Africa. Speakers at a recent seminar in Johannesburg discussed the implications of smoking at work, the implications of preventing it and how to go about it.

the University of the Witwatersrand said more South African men smoked than women — "another case of man's inhumanity to women".

And, he said, the leading preventable causes of death in the US were active smoking, followed by alcohol and passive smoking.

Other smoking-related topics highlighted at the seminar included:

- the composition of cigarette smoke.

In a paper by the Johannesburg City Council's Health, Housing and Urbanisation Directorate, cigarette smoke is described as being made up of mainstream smoke, which is breathed in and out by the smoker, and sidestream smoke which is released by the burning tip of the cigarette.

Because mainstream smoke is filtered by the smoker's lungs, it contains a lower concentration of pollutants than sidestream smoke.

Most smokers inhale for a total of 24 to 30 seconds out of a 12-minute average cigarette burn, so most of the smoke produced is unfiltered.

Tobacco smoke contains 3 000 chemicals and is made up of gas and tiny particles. The gas, which is about 90 percent of the smoke, contains poisons such as carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, ammonia, hydrogen cyanide and pyridine.

The particles are made up of tars and nicotine and 30 known probable carcinogens.

- Tobacco smoke and ventilation.

Air conditioning is the most common method of clearing air in the workplace. These systems usually recirculate 80-90 percent of the air, bringing the rest in from outside.

Because fresh air being sucked in needs to be heated in winter and cooled in summer, there is an economic temptation to reduce the proportion of fresh air.

The average smoker smokes 1.5 to two cigarettes an hour, which means the ventilation system is still removing the smoke from the first cigarette when the second is added.

Most ventilation systems have filters to remove particles, but most are unable to deal with particles below one micron, the size of most tobacco particles. So neither the gases nor the particles from smoke are removed.

"It is therefore not feasible to adequately control exposure to cigarette smoke in the workplace without removing the source of the pollution," say the authors of the paper.

Where there is a separate smoking area within a building, the area needs a separate, independent ventilation system to control and remove the smoke at source.

"Using the ventilation system to remove environmental tobacco smoke from an office is like cleaning a baby with a filthy rag — it just doesn't do the job."

- Smoking and occupational diseases.

Smoking can interact with materials found in the workplace to increase their effect.

For instance, people who do not smoke and are not exposed to asbestos rarely get lung cancer, says Professor P Zwi, professor of pulmonology at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Non-puffer wins damages — green light for further actions

LONDON. — A non-smoker who won compensation for damage to her health caused by passive smoking at work could have opened the floodgates on spectacular claims against employers and the tobacco industry in the British courts.

Miss Veronica Bland was awarded \$15 000 (about R57 500) in what was

hailed as a major victory for non-smokers' rights.

The 36-year-old council worker said she developed chronic bronchitis and that her voice was affected while sitting next to a group of women who smoked 150 cigarettes a day over 12 years.

"I took legal action because I felt

so terribly ill and felt I should pursue some personal recompense," Miss Bland said. "Now it can take me up to three hours in the morning just to get control of the coughing."

Miss Bland's action against Stockport Council is the first successful out-of-court settlement is expected to

give the green light to others wishing to take action over passive smoking.

It comes at a time when a lung cancer victim, Mr Alfred McTear, launched his bid to sue Imperial Tobacco for \$500 000 (about R2,25 million), for failing to put health warnings on cigarette packets in the 1960s. — Argus Foreign Service.

enough" to both smoke and work with asbestos have at least 50 times the risk of developing lung cancer compared to those who don't.

Smoking can transform workplace chemicals and make them more harmful. Teflon particles stick onto cigarettes and are breathed in, causing a nine-hour sickness similar to flu.

Smoking also contributes to accidents at work. This could be because of loss of attention, eye irritation and coughing.

- Tobacco-free workplaces and the law.

"A non-smoker who accepts employment at a place where smoking is permitted is bound by the same custom and practice and cannot, at least by law, object to that practice," says Professor A A Landman, head of mercantile law at the University of South Africa.

"If he or she wanted to work in a smoke-free environment the employee should have negotiated that as part of the terms and conditions of employment. This is of course easier said than done."

Professor Landman said it could be possible

for a non-smoking employer to sue an employer for damage suffered to his or her health at the workplace as a result of the employer permitting smoking.

But the employer would have to prove he or she had suffered harm through passive smoking, the harm was caused by the employer allowing smoking, that the employer negligently allowed smoking, and the employer failed to prevent smoking at work.

Harm or illness caused by passive smoking at work is not covered by the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1941.

In terms of the Labour Relations Act it could be argued an employer who changed a practice of permitting smoking at work to limiting or banning it committed an unfair labour practice.

This question has not arisen in South Africa courts, but the professor said in his opinion the employer would be able to show passive smoking was harmful to non-smokers, which would be reasonable and fair grounds for changing the custom and practice of the workplace.

Where there's smoke there's death, says far-reaching US health report

'Seal on coffin of passive smoking'

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ARG 30/1/93

VIVIEN HORLER
Weekend Argus Reporter

SECOND-hand tobacco smoke has just joined a group of the most toxic substances like asbestos, benzene and radon on a list of 15 "group A carcinogens" in a major United States government report published this month.

The impact of the report is likely to be far-reaching as the American Occupational Safety and Health Association is required by law to issue regulations on the handling and use of any group A toxins.

The report should also strengthen the case of workers who have been harmed by second-hand smoke at work, resulting in a greater risk of court action against employers who do not protect workers.

Dr Derek Yach, co-ordinator of the SA Medical Research Council's Essential Health Research Group, says the report "seals the coffin" on passive smoking.

"The tobacco industry has always said people have the right to smoke, but this report says people have a right to clean air which overrides the right to smoke."

The report estimates that passive smoking causes between 2 500 and 3 000 lung cancer deaths in the United States every year.

But this figure is only the tip of the iceberg. Hundreds of thousands more cases of respiratory disease are caused by passive smoking, including bronchitis, asthma and emphysema.

And in another report still to be published, it is estimated there are between 35 000 and 40 000 heart disease deaths caused by passive smoking in the United States every year.

The landmark report has been published by the Environmental Protection Agency, a US federal agency which has concern for the environment and not public health as its primary function.

Its only weakness, says Dr Yach, is that it confines itself to the link between passive smoking and respiratory diseases, and excludes heart disease.

But it is damning enough. Not only does it inexorably detail the dangers of passive smoking to young children and infants, and mention the possible link between passive smoking and cot-deaths, it pre-empted the response of the tobacco industry with objective and detailed counters to the industry's traditional arguments.

For instance:

"Industry argument: The method of analysis was inappropriate, poorly accomplished, and made the resulting statistics quite misleading.

"Response: These criticisms were dismissed by the EPA's Science Advisory Board, which thoroughly reviewed the draft report and endorsed its conclusions. The truth of the matter is that the tobacco industry is not interested in science. It is only interested in profits.

"Industry argument: "There are other, more serious indoor air pollutants than environmental tobacco smoke.

■ Second-hand tobacco smoke can kill, and that's official, according to a report published this month by the United States's respected Environmental Protection Agency.

facto attempt to regulate smoking, which is not the Environmental Protection Agency's business.

"Response: While it is not the EPA's business to regulate smoking, it is the EPA's business to identify health and environmental hazards. Now that environmental tobacco smoke has been identified as a 'Group A' carcinogen, the only rational response is to eliminate or at least severely restrict smoking in public places."

The evidence relating to the dangers of passive smoking to children is likely to have far-reaching results. Because the report carries legal weight, it can be cited in American courts of law as evidence, and already there have been a handful of custody cases in the US in which smoking was the deciding factor.

Dr Yach says the report strengthens Western trends against smoking, smoking in public and tobacco advertising.

Advertising has been banned in Canada and is being phased out in Australia, which means that in 1995 there will be no more Benson and Hedges cricket competition involving Australians.

This year legislation will be introduced that restricts tobacco advertising here, and as Dr Yach says, once the legislation exists, it can always be tightened.

"But we don't want to destroy sport — we would like to see an increase in the tax charged on tobacco used to sponsor sport and primary health.

"It has been found that increasing tobacco tax has the effect of decreasing consumption while still bringing in more money. In Canada tobacco tax has yielded a revenue of \$2.7 billion in the past decade.

"We estimate that if we raised the price of a pack of 20 cigarettes to R3,20 and half of the price went into a tobacco tax, we would raise an additional R1 billion a year.

"And we would recommend that half this amount went into the general budget and the other half could be used for primary health care and health promotion — so smokers would be funding their own costs."

Dr Yach believes the South African anti-smoking lobby has three things going for it.

"We have a minister who is committed to tobacco control, which is more than any previous minister.

"We also have Mr Nelson Mandela on the record calling for strong action against tobacco, and we have growing public and media support.

"But the fact this EPA report has not had a lot of attention here doesn't surprise me.

"The tobacco industry is making up for its losses in the industrialised countries by marketing aggressively in Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia.

"We must take care that the tobacco industry does not take advantage of our transitional process in South Africa, and make further inroads where while we're concentrating on our political future."

Some of the poisonous chemicals in tobacco smoke

ACETONE - nail polish remover	ACETIC ACID - vinegar
AMMONIA - floor/toilet cleaner	ARSENIC - poison
CADMIUM - car battery fluid	BUTANE - cigarette lighter fluid
DDT/DIELDRIN - insecticide	CARBON MONOXIDE - car exhaust
FORMALIN - preserves human tissue	METHANOL - rocket fuel
NAPHTHALENE - mothballs	NICOTINE - addictive drug
PHENOL - disinfectant	TOLUENE - industrial solvent

□ **WARNING:** Some of the many chemicals that come with cigarettes and their smoke.

"Response: Secondhand smoke is now one of only 15 substances that have been labelled as 'Group A' carcinogens, that is, proven to cause cancer in humans. Of those that are found indoors, many are used in manufacturing or are by-products of manufacturing or other processes and exist only in minimal allowable amounts. Others, like asbestos, are being removed from buildings. In contrast, environmental tobacco smoke is the single most controllable indoor air pollutant.

"Industry argument: Environmental tobacco smoke can be controlled through improved ventilation systems in buildings.

"Response: While ventilation can reduce the concentration of indoor air pollutants, the level of ventilation required to adequately clear the air of the smoke is so high that this is not a practical, affordable option. The best way to get ride of environmental tobacco smoke is to remove the source.

"Industry argument: This report is a de

filiated membership of approximately one million. During the sanctions debate of 1986 the organisation was largely responsible for ensuring that a ban on the importation of hunting trophies from South Africa to the United States of America was not included in the United States of America's federal sanctions legislation against South Africa. A substantial number of members of the Safari Club International have over recent years spent millions of rands in South Africa on hunting safaris. The Safari Club International has also built a museum in Tucson, Arizona, housing a South African exhibition which displays South Africa's wildlife, thereby promoting tourism to South Africa.

At the time when the contribution was made, it was the task of all South African missions abroad to counter trade sanctions. The contribution that was made by the then South African Ambassador in Washington, Dr P G J Koornhof, to the Safari Club International, occurred in this context.

Government Service Pension Fund: investments

*12. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Finance:

- (1) Whether there has been any change in the policy regarding the investment of accumulated funds of the Government Service Pension Fund, if so, (a) what change and (b) what effect has the change had in financial terms in regard to increased interest and/or dividends;
- (2) whether it is the intention to extend any investment policy to utilize most or all of the accumulated funds of other State pension funds; if not, why not; if so, (a) in what manner and (b) over what period;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B168E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (1) No;
- (2) all the accumulated funds of other State pension funds are managed by the Public Investment Commissioners along similar lines as the funds of the GSPF;

- (3) whether he will make a statement on the effectiveness of the various television programmes aimed at assisting Black pupils broadcast in 1992? B170E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. An initial version of the report was recently submitted to the Committee of Heads of Education Departments. The Committee, of which the Director-general of National Education is the chairman, is considering the report, as well as the question concerning the publication thereof.
- (3) The project is at present being evaluated by an independent consultant. A final report in this respect is expected by March 1993, after which it will be decided whether a statement will be made.

Smoking: legislation

*15. Mrs C H CHARLEWOOD asked the Minister of National Health:

- (1) Whether she intends introducing legislation in respect of smoking during the current session of Parliament; if not, why not; if so, (a) when and (b) what will be the nature of this legislation;
- (2) whether she will make a statement on the matter? B171E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

- (1) Yes,
 - (a) it has been put on the legislative agenda for the current session of Parliament and will be tabled as soon as possible and
 - (b) the Bill envisages the control of the use, sale and advertising of tobacco products.

It also empowers the Minister by regulation to —

- regulate the health warning and particulars regarding the hazardous constituents of a tobacco product which must appear on the packet and an advertisement thereof; and

— prescribe the claims which may not be made in the said advertisement.

Provision is also made for a prohibition on the sale of tobacco products to persons who are under the age of 16 years;

- (2) no.

Aids: orphans of victims

*16. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health:

Whether any provision is being made for assistance to orphans of Aids victims in (a) urban, (b) rural and (c) peri-urban areas; if not, why not; if so, what is the nature of this assistance? B172E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

- (a) Yes,
- (b) yes and
- (c) yes, Children who are orphaned as a result of the HIV/AIDS phenomenon are handled the same as any other orphans within the existing welfare structure. If necessary the children are legally placed in substitute care.

Rights of Child: UN/RSA

*17. Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 19 on 19 February 1992, the South African Government will now consider becoming a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; if not, why not;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B173E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

- (1) South Africa signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 in New York on 29 January 1993.
- (2) The Minister of Justice, Mr H J Coetsee, MP, issued a press statement on 29 January 1993 and the media reported on the matter.

Tough tobacco laws on ⁽⁸⁷⁾ cards

Political Staff

CIGARETTE companies could have their butts kicked in legislation to be introduced in Parliament this session.

Legislation controlling the "use, sale and advertising" of tobacco products would be introduced, National Health Minister

Dr Rina Venter, said yesterday. The bill would be tabled "as soon as possible".

She was replying to a question from Democratic Party MP for Umbilo, Ms Carole Charlewood.

The legislation would empower the minister to:

- Regulate the health warning

and particulars on the "hazardous constituents" of a tobacco product, which must appear on the packet and in advertisements.

- Prescribe what claims could be made in advertisements.

- Ban the sale of tobacco products to persons under 16.

CT 25/2/93

(87) (157) CF 2/2/93

Guidelines favour non-smokers

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — Smoking-related illness accounts for at least 2,5 million lost working days a year in South Africa, according to the Medical Research Council.

Meanwhile, a document outlining suggested smoking policies in the workplace has been published by the Institute of Personnel Management (IPM)

in order to provide guidelines for businesses in South Africa.

"No universal solution is appropriate to all organisations: Smoking policies at work should be adapted to the circumstances and culture of the organisation," IPM says.

The institute suggests that a smoking policy should treat fairly the needs and wishes of both non-smoking and smoking

employees, but when these conflict, the preferences of the non-smoker should prevail.

The World Health Organisation has recommended that non-smoking should be the norm in enclosed areas frequented by the public or employees.

"The goal of a policy should be to provide a healthy and effi-

cient environment for all employees. Medical research suggesting the dangers of passive smoking has given impetus to the debate."

The IPM has pointed out that it is not a legal requirement at present for an employer to have a smoking policy, but the implementation of a policy would assist employers in complying with various legal obligations.

Bill to protect non-smokers ⁽⁸⁷⁾

APR 31 1993
THE Tobacco Bill, which aims to protect the right of non-smokers to clean air, will be introduced in this parliamentary session, Minister of National Health Dr Rina Venter announced in Cape Town.

The measure would allow local authorities to introduce legislation controlling smoking in public places. — Sapa.

Cancer: Cigarette link

LONDON. — Direct evidence that one of the chemicals in cigarette smoke causes a potentially lethal mutation in lung cells was published yesterday.

(87)
American researchers showed that a common component of cigarette smoke produced a specific mutation in the lung cells of mice. The same mutations had already been seen in lung cancer patients.

The cancer-causing substance, benzopyrene, was found to cause a mutation in a gene known as p53. This gene normally suppresses the

CT 2/2/93
growth of tumours and is known to play an important role in a range of human cancers when it is defective.

"This has never been shown before," said Dr Andres Klein-Szanto of the Fox Chase Cancer Centre, Philadelphia, whose laboratory carried out the work in collaboration with researchers from Merck Sharp and Dohme Research Laboratories.

He said it was the first time any link had been shown between a cancer-causing chemical in cigarette smoke and a specific mutation in the genes of lung cells. — Daily Telegraph

Depressing news about nicotine

WASHINGTON. — The same gene that causes some people to become nicotine addicts also triggers major depression, according to a study published this week.

CT 3/2/93
The Virginia Medical College research sought to find an explanation for the fact that heavy smokers are strong candidates for clinical depression.

Working with 783 sets of identical and fraternal twins, researchers were able to rule out the possibility that one was causing the other. Rather, the new evidence points to one gene influencing both.

Researcher Dr Kenneth Kendler said it appeared the same gene that was predisposed to depression also influenced the response to nicotine.

The good news, according to Dr Kendler, is that therapy and environmental changes can override genetic predisposition to both problems. — Sapa

'Ban smoking in public' (87)

SMOKING in public should be banned before other forms of air pollution because it was by far the most dangerous pollutant, a British expert on asthma and childhood allergies, Prof John Warner, said yesterday.

Sowetan 5/2/93
Warner, who is in South Africa on a campaign to make people aware of asthma, said smoking during pregnancy was particularly dangerous. He said passive smoking was as dangerous as active smoking.

Sowetan Reporters and Sapa.

Council plans no-smoke rule

87

CT 12/12/93

Municipal Reporter

SMOKING in Cape Town's Civic Centre is going to be further controlled soon, following hard on the heels of Fish Hoek which has banned smoking from civic offices.

Medical Officer of Health Dr Michael Popkiss yesterday congratulated Fish Hoek municipality for taking the lead by banning smoking in all communal offices in the town's Civic Centre.

He said new measures in the Civic Centre would encompass "providing a clean working environment through an agreement between employers and employees" — not a unilateral ban imposed by the council.

There are already several prohibitions on smoking in the Civic Centre. It is council policy that there should not be smoking at any meetings, nor in workspaces to which the public has access.

Tobacco products advertising is not generally allowed on council property.

Clean air deal soon at Civic Centre — Popkiss

Dr Popkiss said he had been trying for years to get more smoking controls enacted. In March last year, a survey had been done in the Civic Centre showing that most employees there — smokers and non-smokers — wanted controls on smoking.

A number of meetings followed, at which a tentative agreement was drawn up with the unions and the human resources department.

"I believe this will be finalised

this month," Dr Popkiss said. "We should have something to show the public. I can't provide the details, but I can say that it is important to give an agreement of this kind some teeth.

Other municipalities might well take the lead from Cape Town, once the agreement was publicised, he said.

"You have to be able to enforce it, so contravening it must be an act for which you can be disciplined. Otherwise, it will be just a goodwill exercise, only as good as the people taking part."

● Some private sector firms already have employer/employee agreements limiting smoking at work. One of these is the pharmaceutical company Warner-Lambert, and another is Woolworths head office, Dr Popkiss said.

There are establishments which encourage employees to smoke only in the toilets, if they have to — where the buildings have a separate ventilation system for the toilets, which is not unusual.

Puffing doctor queries 'dangers' of smoking

Star

18/2/93.

(87)

NO THREAT
Anti-smoking lobbyists have had their say. Now the pro-smoking lobby lights up the controversy with claims that smoking poses little threat to health.

MARIKA SBOROS reports.

FORGET lung cancer, the most dangerous thing about smoking is the statistics it generates . . . and the "myth" that it is a health hazard. So says unrepentant puff of 50 years and Danish medical doctor Tage Voss.

Voss reduces to ashes most of the controversy surrounding smoking and puts the issue "in perspective" in his provocative book, *Smoking And Common Sense, One Doctor's View* (Peter Owen, London).

Anti-smoking lobbyists are fanatics who display Nazi-like intolerance, he says. Their scientific facts are only opinions based on data which "most of us never see and cannot check".

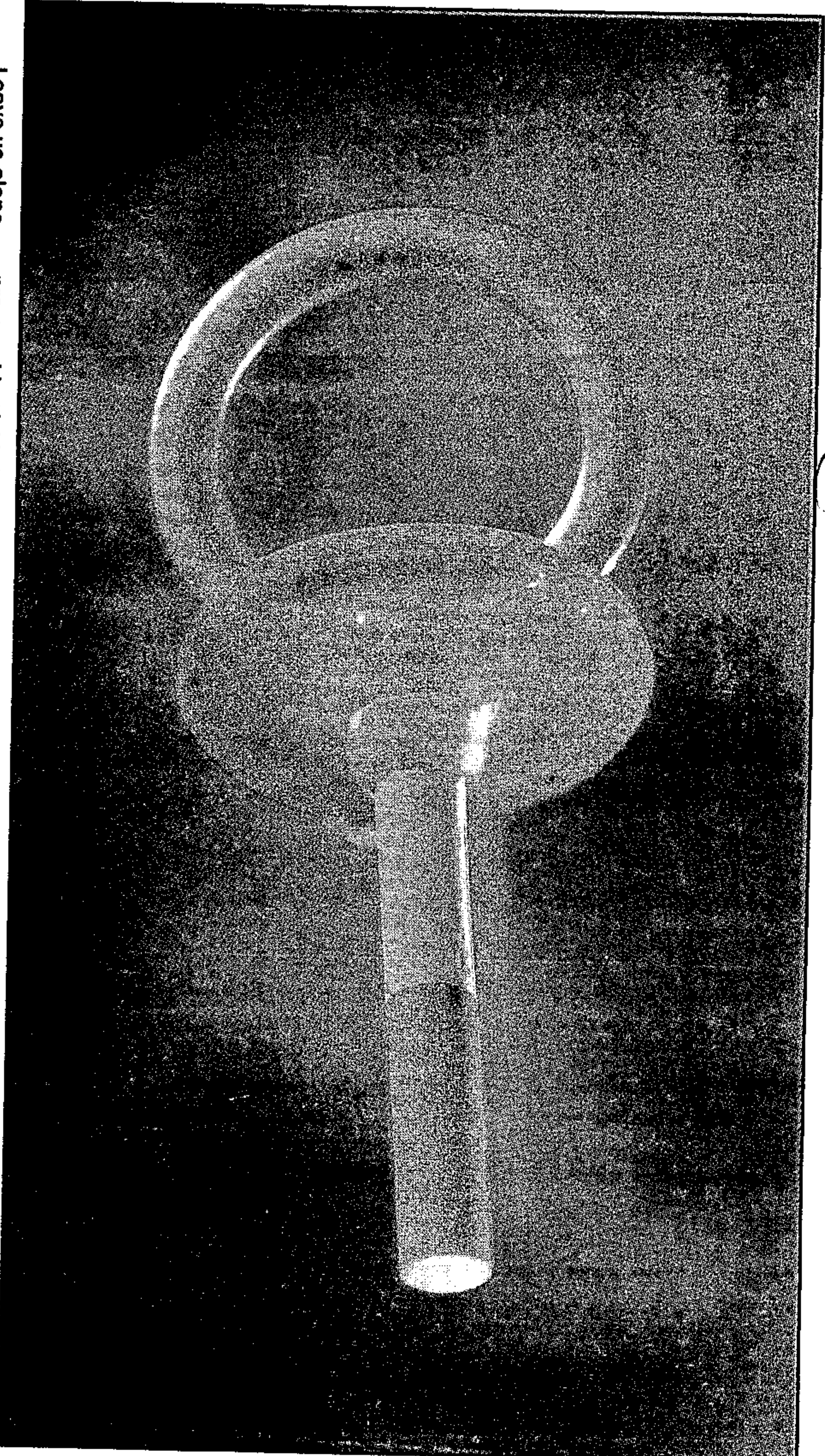
Claims about smoking, lung cancer and other diseases are unscientific, says Voss. Nine out of 10 smokers never get lung cancer; an increasing number of non-smokers does.

The connection between smoking and lung cancer is statistical. But statistical coincidence is not proof of causal connection. And many papers offer opposite statistics.

The United States and Canada have the highest per capita consumption of cigarettes in the world, but are listed only number eight and 15 in regard to lung cancer mortality among men. Finland, England and the Netherlands have lower cigarette consumption but higher lung cancer mortality.

Similar observations have been made for other types of cancer, Parkinson's disease, and also trigeminal neuralgia and diabetes, which apparently attack smokers more rarely than non-smokers.

Voss says he is not saying smoking is healthy, that people should smoke tobacco to



Leave us alone . . . pro-smoking lobbyists say they should be allowed to indulge their habit without interference from others.

reduce the risk of getting these diseases, or that they should quit to ensure they don't get them.

But the large numbers of "relatively happy smokers" who reach the age of average life expectancy in reasonable condition undermine the contention that "smoking tobacco kills" and suggest that smoking is not "so terribly dangerous, or even a threat to health".

He does concede that certain diseases of the air passages in the nose, throat and chest "are unlikely to benefit" from tobacco smoke, but "advice can be given to that

effect". And anyway, many round-shouldered persistent wheezers have never smoked tobacco, he says.

His view on smoking and asthma is enough to leave specialists breathless and wheezing in the tight grip of a bronchospasm. It's not as dangerous for asthmatics as the medical profession makes it out to be.

Asthmatic children without "preconceived notions" have remained in an atmosphere heavy with smoke, without any subjective or objective aggravation being observed. The suggestion that the

smoke particles themselves have a negative effect is contra-indicated by the experience of Voss and others in the 30s and 40s. They prescribed asthma cigarettes, smoked in improvised tents, to prevent attacks. In the absence of more potent remedies.

And pregnant women who smoke in the face of research about decreased oxygen levels to the fetus will find a fertile ally in Voss.

Studies have reliably shown that smoking mothers have lower birthweight babies. Undeterred, Voss says this argument assumes

a high birth weight is a positive attribute, which cannot be proved. Socio-psychological conditions have proved more decisive influences than birth weight.

Voss can't understand why reputable groups such as the World Health Organisation (WHO) make such a fuss about smoking — a pleasure-able activity to so many for 300 years — when the world is threatened with annihilation from global catastrophes.

The WHO should direct its efforts at major health problems in the developing world, such as lack of food,

poor drinking water, miserable housing conditions, and of course Aids, instead of harassing smokers of the defenceless tobacco leaf.

At times Voss's logic is tortuous and convoluted. One is tempted to read the book upside down as he pings from one position to another to defend his habit.

His entire family, he says, had lifelong exposure to tobacco smoke, smoked directly or inhaled in smoke-filled drawing rooms and bars. None had heart trouble and none got lung cancer, he declares. Lady Luck is obviously a minor player on his

'To be clever, efficient and at ease, light up'

So, if smoking is not as bad as the anti-smoking lobby makes out, is there anything *really* good to be said about it?

Danish doctor and author Tage Voss believes there is a lot, and gives wonderful statements for a smoker on the defensive.

In his book, *Smoking and Common Sense, One Doctor's View* (Peter Owen, London), Voss says smoking leads to habituation rather than addiction. Experimental studies, he says, show that:

- Some diseases, such as Parkinson's, attack non-smokers more than smokers.
- Performance decreases in a number of areas when smokers stop smoking.
- Smoking is followed by stimulation of the nervous system, centrally and intellectually.

- It makes one cleverer, more efficient, more balanced and more at ease.
- It is an appetite suppressant and non-smokers tend to be heavier than smokers. But Voss admonishes: "Don't change the habits of a lifetime just yet: we still do not know which factor gives the greater risk of premature heart failure: heavy smoking or being overweight."

Voss is not above using unscientific evidence when it suits him. There is testimony about smoking as a catalyst for social contact, as a solace in distress and as a stimulator of thought.

In short, Voss believes tobacco smoking enhances the quality of life for many people: "It tastes good, it increases our well-being in many situations; it is a ritual act that helps us pace our day and sweeten it."

smoking".

The introduction of an element of social responsibility and the cost to society of smoking serve merely to light up what he considers a "propaganda campaign". And lest the reader gains the impression that social responsibility is a foreign concept to Voss, he says the reason to believe his smoking was a problem for anyone else.

Throughout his years as a physician, he has treated "thousands of patients, and never had the impression that their complaints derived specifically from

TOMORROW

The Red Army is in town, with musical weapons.

Council move to flush smokers

Municipal Reporter

THE Cape Town City Council looks set to relegate its civic centre smokers to the toilets.

At Monday's monthly council meeting, a proposed agreement on a policy to further control cigarette smoking will be placed before the councillors.

Mr Barry Joffe, the assistant director of personnel, said yesterday that at least some of the "designated areas" for smok-

ers will be in the toilets, because the air conditioners there take the air outside rather than back into the building".

Mr Joffe said that representatives of both Saame and Samwu, the council's two major unions, had had an extensive say in putting together the new policy.

Representative working groups of both smokers and non-smokers had been convened in order to give interested parties an effective say.

Even if the council, as the employer, agrees to the policy on Monday, it will only be implemented four months later.

From then on, smokers in the building will be expected to smoke only during breaks, and in "designated areas".

Nonetheless, it will still not be a disciplinary offence to ignore this directive. There will first be a six-month phasing-in period, to enable people to adapt themselves, before the policy "gets its teeth".

CF 19/2/93

Name in Print

NURCO 4-11-93



right through prime-time sport.
As with his speeches to adults, Mr Clinton pulled no punches in addressing the concerns of children.

It was a stroke of political genius since it accentuated the underlying philosophy of Mr Clinton's austerity package delivered to Congress last week — that drastic changes needed to be made to secure a safe, healthy and prosperous future for coming generations.

ahead of us and we would not like to disclose it to the press," veteran team leader Mr Nikita Smidovitch said in Manama, Bahrain, before a UN plane took the team to Baghdad.

Mr Smidovitch said this visit, involving 20 experts in all types of weapons banned by the UN Security Council, would be a short one.

"We have a number of unresolved questions ... data we would like to receive."

can be lifted.

Mr Smidovitch said this team did not have as an objective to pass a final judgment.

He had last come out of Baghdad on January 29, announcing that the Iraqis had finally agreed to discuss the key question of the suppliers of its chemical, biological and ballistic missile programmes.

But it was not clear whether this visit would focus on that question. — Sapa-Reuter.

Smoking link with leukaemia seen ⁸⁷

NEW YORK. — Smoking cigarettes may boost a person's risk of getting leukaemia by 30 percent and cause up to 3 600 cases of adult leukaemia a year in the United States, according to a new analysis.

Pooled results from 15 studies, which included a total of more than 4.5 million people, suggest cigarettes may account

for about 14 percent of the nation's adult leukemia cases, researchers said. ^{AKU 22/2/93}

The estimated 30 percent increase is relatively small. A longtime smoker runs about a 1 000 percent increase in risk of lung cancer, for example. — Still, the leukaemia link "gives you one other good reason not to smoke," said study

co-author Ross Brownson, director of chronic disease prevention at the Missouri Department of Health in Columbia.

The studies could only demonstrate that smoking was associated with leukaemia, not that cigarettes cause the disease. Some unknown factors may be partly responsible for the association. — Sapa-AP.

Week ago. Two 10-year-old boys

Angolan talks set to resume ^{AKU 22/2/93}

LUANDA. — Angolan government and UNITA rebel negotiators will probably meet again this week to try to halt a renewed civil war that has killed 15 000 people, United Nations officials said.

Government troops were hanging on to the central city of Huambo, scene of the worst battle in nearly two decades of conflict in Angola, but a relief column was still several days' march away, according to state radio.

A UN spokesman said there was "an 80 percent chance" the two sides would meet this week in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa — even though UNITA has so far refused to set a date.

UN special representative Ms Margaret Anstee had been in contact with UNITA at the weekend, the spokesman said. She was working on a plan to satisfy UNITA's concerns about security and transport problems. — Sapa-Reuter.

Blacks back Tyson



Happy 118th birthday

11/22/93 11:00 AM



Bigger cloud looms for smokers, study reveals

STAR 22/2/93.

(87)

CIGARETTES are more dangerous to health than previously thought, with smokers failing to benefit from the medical advances of the last 40 years, according to the world's longest study of smoking and cancer.

Middle-aged smokers are three times more likely to die than non-smokers of the same age. Previous research found that smokers ran "only" twice the risk.

The health of non-smokers over the past four decades, meanwhile, has improved significantly.

Sir Richard Doll, who first demonstrated the link between smoking and lung cancer in 1951, said the more that was known about smoking, the more dangerous it appeared to be. "It is only as the smoking epidemic has matured with the passing of time that you are getting the full effects."

The results come from a study Sir Richard started 40 years ago of 34 000 doctors — more than half of whom have since died — who have been

Cigarettes are even more dangerous than was thought, writes STEVE CONNOR.

asked periodically to answer questionnaires on their health. Smokers and non-smokers in the group were compared to see the effect of cigarettes.

Sir Richard said the "widening gap" between the health of smokers and non-smokers was due to two factors. "First, the life expectancy of the non-smokers has been improving steadily. Second, the ratio of the smoker to the non-smoker death rates has grown more and more extreme."

He said the health of doctors who gave up smoking improved significantly. "The good news is that stopping smoking really does work."

"Doctors who abandoned the habit avoided most of their risk of death from tobacco. But the bad news is that continuing to

smoke is even more dangerous than was originally realised."

Professor Richard Peto, who has taken over the research, said most people were still unaware of the long-term dangers of smoking. "The general public completely underestimates the risk of smoking. Tobacco kills about 30 times as many people as traffic accidents."

Previously, scientists had estimated that about a quarter or a third of smokers would eventually die of their habit. But, Professor Peto said, "it seems that with really prolonged smoking, about half of them would".

Professor Peto and Sir Richard both called on the government to ban tobacco advertising, which they said was responsible for causing many teenagers to start smoking.

"Most people who are killed by tobacco become addicted as teenagers," Professor Peto said. "Advertising and promotion do increase the proportion of teenagers who choose to smoke." — The Independent News Service. □

Civic smokers say toodeloo

(D) CT 23/2/43
Municipal Reporter

SMOKERS in the Civic Centre are shortly to be banned to the toilets.

In an act of mercy the council have agreed to pay for staff to attend a "smoke-ender" course during working hours.

In its aim to establish "a healthy and comfortable working environment" the rights of non-smokers have taken precedence over those of smokers.

The policy was adopted by the Cape Town City Council at yesterday's monthly meeting.

Smoking will not be permitted anywhere except in specially designated toilets on every second floor.

Tobacco kills as many Canadians 'as it hires'

VANCOUVER. — Every 18 months, tobacco kills as many people as it employs in Canada, according to statistics released here this week.

The statistics show that one Canadian dies a tobacco-related death for every two people making a living in the industry. CT 24/2/93

There are thus twice as many tobacco deaths as tobacco workers over a four-year period.

The actual tobacco statistics for Canada are: 57 000 tobacco employees, and 38 000 tobacco-related deaths in 1989, the last year for which figures were available. — Sapa (87)

POLITICS

R1-m 'wasted' on Neethling's two libel cases

Political Staff

THE taxpayer has paid at least R688 319 — and possibly more than R1 million — in legal fees to former police forensic expert Lieutenant-General Lothar Neethling to sue two publications which accused him of involvement in dirty tricks.

ANC Sandton MP Mr Dave Dalling slated the expenditure as an abuse of public funds, describing it as another case of state corruption.

Law and Order Minister Mr Hernus Kriel said in parliament that the State had paid R688 319,91 up to February 18 for General Neethling's civil defamation action against the Weekly Mail and Vrye Weekblad — which he lost.

Mr Kriel was replying to questions from Mr Dalling, who said the answers did not disclose all facts.

He said that by last March the State had paid R461 633,46 in costs and a further R120 000 as surety for counter-claims.

Since then the State had paid a further R688 319,91 in costs — "more than R1 million by the taxpayer. To favour one general in this way is to take the NP gravy train to the verge of the ridiculous".

SACP backs ANC bid for power

Political Staff

THE South African Communist Party central committee has pledged its full support for the ANC's bid for a major victory in elections for a constituent assembly.

The decision was taken after the committee gave its general support for the "transition package" adopted by the ANC's national executive.

The SACP also resolved not to contest the elections on its own, but under the ANC banner, and to ensure the ANC's election platform was guided by a commitment to a thorough reconstruction of state structures, the economy and society.

Rent, service arrears total R1,9-bn

Political Correspondent

RENT and service charge arrears in townships totalled more than R1,9-billion by the end of last year.

Replying to a question by Mr Joseph Chiolo (CP Pretoria West), Minister of Local Government and Housing Dr Ter-

us Delpoort said Transvaal townships accounted for the bulk — more than R1,6-billion.

Cape townships owed R166,7-million, those in the Free State R128,8-million and Natal R10,7-million.

Of the total, local authorities — all in the Transvaal — owed Eskom R643,2-million.

Anti-smoking Bill to be tabled soon

AN anti-smoking Bill, to be tabled as soon as possible, will include a ban on the sale of tobacco products to people under 16, says Minister of National Health Dr Rina Venter.

Replying to a question from Mrs Carole Charlewood (DP Umbilo) she said the measure was on the legislative agenda

for this session of parliament.

The Bill would control the use, sale and advertising of tobacco products and give the minister power to regulate the health warning on tobacco products and to prescribe the claims which could not be made in advertisements, Dr Venter said. — Sapa.

Hanging not 'selective'

THE Minister of Law and Order would not ask the State President for death sentences to be carried out on people convicted of killing policemen.

Replying to a question from Mr Douglas Gibson (DP Yeville), Mr Hernus Kriel said that the death penalty should

not be imposed on a particular category of killers.

He also referred to the speech made by President De Klerk at the opening of parliament, in which he said the wave of murders made it difficult for the government to continue the moratorium on hangings. — Sapa.

Absent soldiers to be prosecuted

PEOPLE who had ignored call-up for January's national service intake would be prosecuted, said Defence Minister Mr Gene Louw.

In an oral reply to a question by Mr Rob Haswell (Ind Maritzburg North), he said prosecu-

tions were suspended until last year's amendments to the Defence Act were implemented.

These gave potential objectors wider scope for refusal.

New call-ups had been issued once the 1992 Amendments had been instituted. — Sapa.

ANC explains stand to Cape

Political Staff

THE ANC today begins the task of explaining its constitutional package in the Western Cape, a region which opposed power-sharing at a meeting of the movement's national executive committee last week.

Secretary-general Mr Cyril Ramaphosa will talk about lat-

est developments in bilateral talks with the government at a public meeting at UWC at 4 pm.

And, at 5.30 pm, he will brief branch executive members behind closed doors.

● ANC and government negotiators meet again on Tuesday and Wednesday.

It's the 'high life'

(87)
APR 27/2/93



Picture: ANDREW INGRAM, Weekend Argus.

□ **ENGINEERED GLAMOUR:** City-based model Sjaan, 22, is focusing attention on models of a different kind as part of her civil engineering studies.

■ Solvent abuse is a massive problem among Cape Town's street children, but they are not the only victims. Glue-sniffing and the abuse of thinners and aerosol products also occurs among middle-class children.

LIBBY PEACOCK, Weekend Argus Reporter

A RAGGED boy roams up Government Avenue in the Company Gardens, barely concealing the plastic guava juice bottle in his hand.

Squeezing the bottle, which contains a dirty rag soaked in thinners, in front of his face, he sniffs the fumes compulsively.

The effects — delirium, heightened aggression and impulsiveness — last several hours.

The thinners has toxic effects on the mucus membranes of the nose and mouth and, in the long-term, the boy could suffer neurological damage. He also could end up in hospital with kidney failure.

The boy and his group of friends have reached Orange Street, where a car swerves to miss him ... the thinners have slowed his reactions.

Mrs Annette Cockburn, director of the Homestead shelter for street children, said: "Unfortunately some people find it amusing to see children falling around in an intoxicated state." Mrs Cockburn said she knew of a panel beater who gave street children thinners to sniff "as a joke".

"Manufacturers of solvents should start an awareness campaign. If people refuse to sell thinners to these children, it would help."

The children claim solvent sniffing counteracts the effects of hunger and cold, but "like any other drug it is attractive", said Mrs Cockburn.

About 95 percent of street children sniffed thinners. However, they are not the only victims of solvent abuse ...

Mrs Cockburn said the problem seemed to be growing in middle-class schools. "They do it for kicks — it's cheap and easy to get."

Social worker Miss Ilse Barnard of Northern Areas Drug Action Group (Nadag) said she had worked with several middle-class teenagers between the ages of 13 and 16 who sniffed solvents like thinners and glue.

Last year, she also treated two children under 10 years old.

Reported cases of solvent sniffing in Cape Town's northern areas had increased over the past years.

Miss Barnard warned that parents who did not know what to look for often did not notice the problem until it had reached a critical stage.

Parents suspecting their children of abusing solvents should observe the following: The smell of solvents on clothes or breath, very dry lips, perpetual colds and intoxication.

Sanca (South African National Council for Alcohol and Drug Abuse) assistant director Mr Tersius Cronje said solvent abuse often was a sporadic occurrence like a fad, among middle-class school-children.

Deaths did occasionally occur, but were seldom highlighted in the media, said Mr Cronje.



Police 'losing war on drugs'

CT 27/2/93

By JACKIE CAMERON
Crime Reporter

CITY police are losing the war against drugs, senior SA Narcotics Bureau detectives revealed yesterday.

They attributed the dramatic decrease in arrests for drug possession last year in comparison with 1991 to reluctance by city residents to provide police with information and assistance.

Statistics released by Law and Order Minister Mr Hernus Kriel earlier this week showed that 698 cases of possession of drugs were reported to Cape Town police last year against 5 445 cases in 1991.

A police source said: "These statistics represent only the arrests we make. We are working on many other time-consuming cases which will not be reflected in these figures.

"Unlike other crimes, drug offences are seldom reported. We have to follow up information and find out where the crimes are being committed."

Another senior detective said: "We are losing the war against drugs. Our 'trap boys', who are members of the public who infiltrate or inform on drug dealers, are no longer prepared to risk their lives for the money they get for helping police.

"Drug lords have become more ruthless and now kill people who get in their way. This is a major problem as we rely heavily on informants."

The detective said there was little room for promotion in narcotics bureaux as the posts were limited. This meant that top detectives were often transferred to other units.

"Units are under-staffed and morale among some detectives is low," he said, adding that the new emphasis on community policing—"means that the situation is unlikely to improve for some time to come".

Teenage boys turn to drink

87 OCT 2/3/93

LONDON. — Teenage boys turn to drink to solve their problems, while girls seek solace in “binge-eating” and cigarettes, according to a new survey published yesterday.

More than 20 000 children aged 11 to 15 were interviewed by questionnaire for research by the schools health education unit of Exeter University.

Drinking emerged as a solution to problems for children as young as 11, with 31,7% of boys resorting to alcohol, compared with 12,6% of girls.

When asked how they tried to cope with a problem, more than a third of 15-year-old girls said they would eat more and just over a fifth said they would smoke. This compared with 21,3% and 13,6% of boys respectively.

But almost a third (32,3%) of 15-year-old boys said they would turn to a drink for solace, compared to just over a fifth (21,8%) of girls.

The survey, called Young People in 1992, questioned attitudes to seven sources of worry: School, money, health, career, friends, family and “how you look”. — The Telegraph plc

Smoking reports spark conflict

(87)

CT 2/3/93

A ROW has broken out between the tobacco institute and Cape Town's Medical Officer of Health, Dr Michael Popkiss, over the effects of passive smoking.

According to the Tobacco Institute of Southern Africa, over 80% of all published studies of lung cancer among non-smokers married to smokers had reported "no statistically significant association" between living with a smoker and getting lung cancer.

This claim is made by institute in its

response to the city council's notice calling for objections to a proposed by-law limiting smoking in restaurants.

The institute said it would take a session of 400 continuous hours at the table to expose a passive-smoking diner to the nicotine equivalent of a single cigarette.

Dr Popkiss placed a report before the amenities and health committee, rebutting the tobacco industry claims.

According to this paper, the impact of

environmental tobacco smoke on human mortality "has been estimated to be two orders of magnitude greater than that of all regulated hazardous outdoor air pollutants combined".

● In another letter, Mr Ben Filmlater of the Linger Longer restaurant group said he knew of no more than five "out of all Johannesburg restaurants" that have attempted to adhere to a by-law in Johannesburg similar to Cape Town's proposal.

Smoke won't get in your eyes in restaurants

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

MOVES towards a partial ban on smoking in restaurants will go ahead in spite of objections from Fedhasa and the tobacco industry.

The amenities and health committee yesterday supported the rejection by medical officer of health Dr Michael Popkiss of the tobacco industry's "red herrings, obfuscations, misrepresentations and downright lies".

Mr J Groenewald of the Tobacco Institute claimed to the committee that scientific evidence did not link environmental tobacco smoke to lung cancer, heart disease or any other disease in non-smokers.

Smoking bans could not be founded on scientific evidence and would be unnecessary and undemocratic.

"They would amount to over-

regulatory interferences in normal social activities."

He said that letters from two Johannesburg restaurateurs claimed the smoking ban had not been obeyed and policing was ineffective.

Mr Ben Filmatter of the Linger Longer Group of Restaurants said: "This is no more than junk legislation of which there seems to be a plethora right now — this is simply First World type legislation in a Third World environment."

Dr Popkiss tabled an article which said even low levels of exposure to carcinogenic agents increased the risk of cancer.

The article, by a physicist specialising in indoor pollution and a research chemist, said options such as unrestricted smoking, designated smoking and non-smoking areas in a shared space or on the same ventilation system did not

eliminate non-smokers' exposure to risk.

Smoking was the largest source of indoor air pollution and caused symptoms similar to those of sick building syndrome.

These included headaches, dizziness, nausea and eye, nose and throat irritation. Tobacco smoke contained the irritant chemicals acrolein, acetaldehyde, formaldehyde, sulphur, ammonia and other volatile organic compounds.

Responding to the claim that smokers should have freedom of choice to smoke, the article said smokers were on the same moral ground as spitters were at the turn of the century, when public health laws forbade tobacco chewers from spitting on the floor in public buildings.

Increased ventilation would not help the problem of environmental tobacco smoke, the article said.

(87)
MAR 2/3/93

Smoking: 'Bosses have a duty'

EMPLOYERS have a duty to protect employees from health risks related to passive smoking, National Health Minister Dr Rina Venter said at the weekend.

Advocating a no-smoking policy in the work-place, Dr Venter said passive smoking was a negation of a safe working environment to which employees were entitled to under labour laws.

"The Machinery and Occupational Safety Act (Act 6 of 1983) states that employers should provide a safe environment for all employees, 'free from any threat which may cause bodily injury, illness or death'," she pointed out in a statement.

"Smoking is also a substantial economic burden to smokers,

non-smokers, employers and society as a whole. Direct medical care, absenteeism, fire, industrial accidents, time spent on smoking and maintenance costs all contribute to this burden?"

Most recent estimates suggest that 20 to 30% of cancer cases in non-smokers were derived from inhaling other people's tobacco smoke. — Sapa

①②③ ④⑤⑥⑦ CT8/3/93

Tycoons lend new meaning to 'junk' bonds

A TYPICAL substance abuser wears a suit and tie and cuts business deals from 8am to 6pm, says a visiting top US psychologist.

And the SA National Council of Alcohol and Drug Dependency (Sanca) reports that local levels of substance abuse are among the highest in the world. It says the pressures of the corporate world put SA businessmen particularly at risk.

Matthew Tierney, a rehabilitation consultant in SA to present seminars to the medical profession and business leaders, says substance abuse is most difficult to treat in professionals because they hide

8/0AM 8/3/93. (87)
KATHRYN STRACHAN

their addictions behind facades.

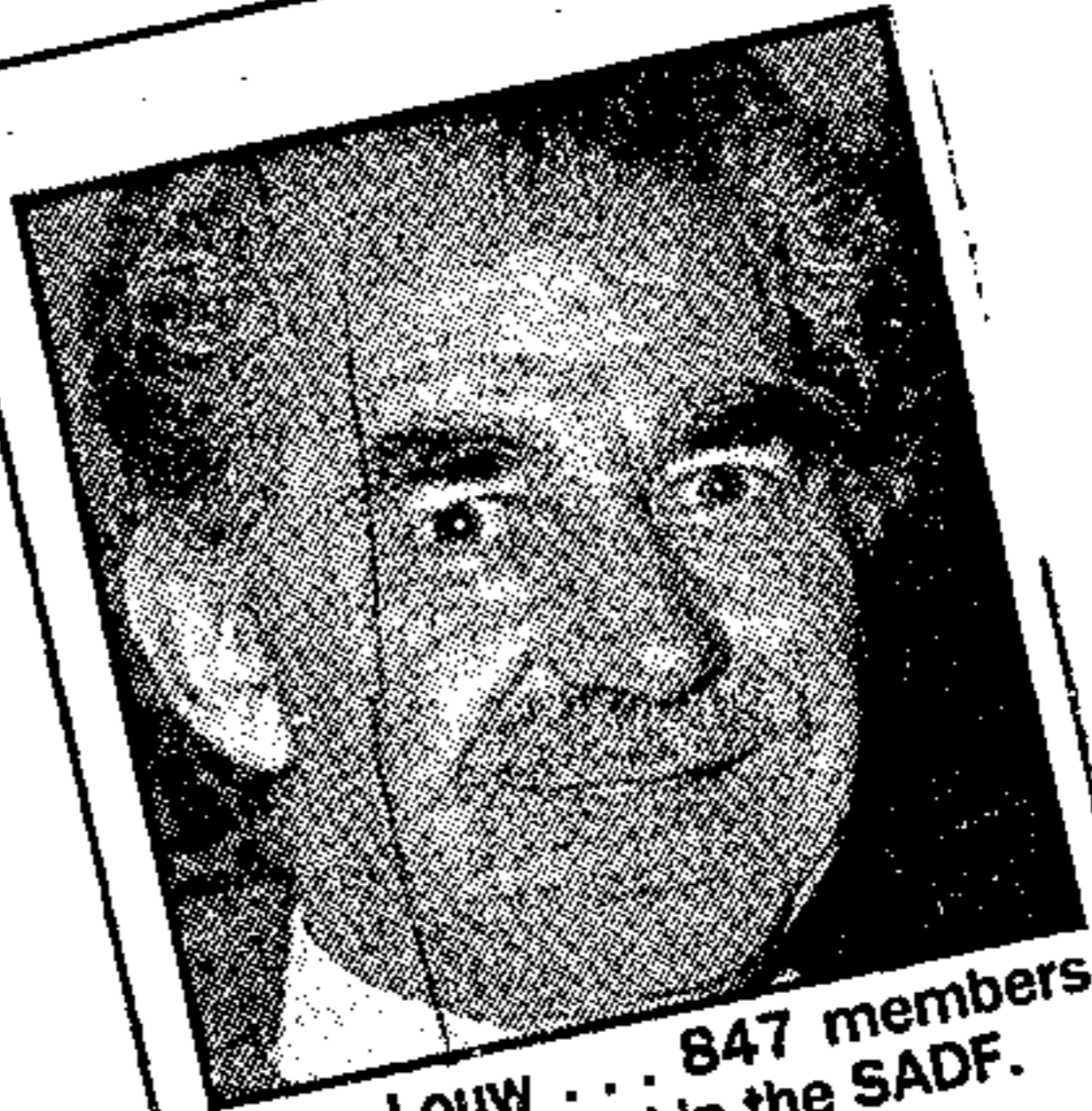
"A less intelligent person does not deny that he has a problem or rationalise it away in the same way as a professional does," he says. "He usually loses his job, which motivates him to seek help and sort himself out far sooner."

Tierney said the "dehumanising" environment of business put businessmen particularly at risk. Businessmen had to be taught to develop their "internal lives" which had been eroded by their jobs.

"Because his identity as a businessman depends entirely on external verification — how many deals he can sign and how much money he can make — he becomes less of a person and more of a robot."

Keeping pace with the competitiveness of the corporate world made many businessmen look to drugs for the fighting edge, or to drink to calm their nerves and remove their sense of inadequacy.

Tierney said substance abuse was referred to as the "\$54bn hangover" in the US because of the amount of money wasted in lost productivity and medical payouts.



Gene Louw . . . 847 members were treated in the SADF.

SADF coping with drug abuse

CAPE TOWN — A total of 907 Defence Force personnel and national servicemen were drug and alcohol abusers between January 1 and December 31 1992, said Defence Minister Gene Louw. (S)

Alcohol and a combination of other substances, including dagga and Mandrax, were most commonly abused. (S)

A multi-professional team provided treatment. A total of 847 members were treated in the SADF while 60 were initially referred to outside institutions and were now receiving SADF after-care. — Sapa.

might that the Cabinet and the State Security Council had never approved "illegal actions" or murder.

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18 MAR 1993

Star

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FRIDAY MARCH 12 1993

CITY LATE * *

Star 12/3/93

By Peter Fabricius
Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Legislation to control smoking; big spending to upgrade teaching hospitals; administrative measures to curb tuberculosis, and steps to bring down medicine prices have been announced.

They were included in a comprehensive package presented by National Health Minister Dr Rina Venter yesterday as part of her long-term programme to restructure the medical system.

The key elements are:

- Legislation to go before Parliament during the next few months to control the use, sale and advertising of tobacco products.

It will ban the sale of tobacco products to children under 16, make health warnings on cigarette packets more punchy, and forbid certain claims being made in cigarette advertising.

- In a major drive to bring academic hospitals up to standard, a new R400 million

teaching hospital will be built in Cato Manor, Durban.

The run-down HF Verwoerd Hospital in Pretoria is to undergo major upgrading and the Johannesburg hospitals, and Tygerberg hospitals are to receive new equipment.

- To control the growing tuberculosis problem, nine new regional specialist medical posts are being created for the control of infectious diseases with an overall tuberculosis specialist at head of-

vice.

- Measures to control medicine prices, including greater freedom for pharmacists to prescribe medicines and deregulation of imports of medicine.

Explaining the package, Venter said anyone selling cigarettes to minors would be guilty of an offence punishable by a fine or imprisonment or both.

Health warnings were first displayed on cigarette packets in 1986 but smokers

Tough new curbs for smokers on way

had become used to them.

"To be effective we need a series of clear, well-presented, sizeable rotating health warnings which stress the harmful health consequences and the benefits of giving it up." All advertising would have to carry a prescribed health warning.

The Bill also extends the areas where local authorities may ban smoking to include hospitals and other health centres, Government build-

ings, creches, schools and colleges and work-places. Venter stressed though that the central Government would not itself impose bans as it did not wish to prescribe.

Local authorities would decide for themselves whether or not to impose bans in these places.

Reporting on progress made in implementing the Government's guidelines to curb medicine prices, Venter announced that she had decided not to approve generic substitutes for prescribed medicines yet.

NEWS Dr Gluckman reports on ANC man's death • Controversy over wounded man

ANC and allies to join forces for election

■ 100 organisations expected to attend conference: Sowetan 12/3/93

THE ANC and its allies within Codesa have begun discussing the possibility of forming a broad election alliance to jointly fight South Africa's first all-in election, it was revealed yesterday.

Making the disclosure in Johannesburg, ANC deputy secretary-general Jacob Zuma said the possibility of his organisation entering into an election pact with its Codesa allies had been discussed at a meeting of these organisations yesterday.

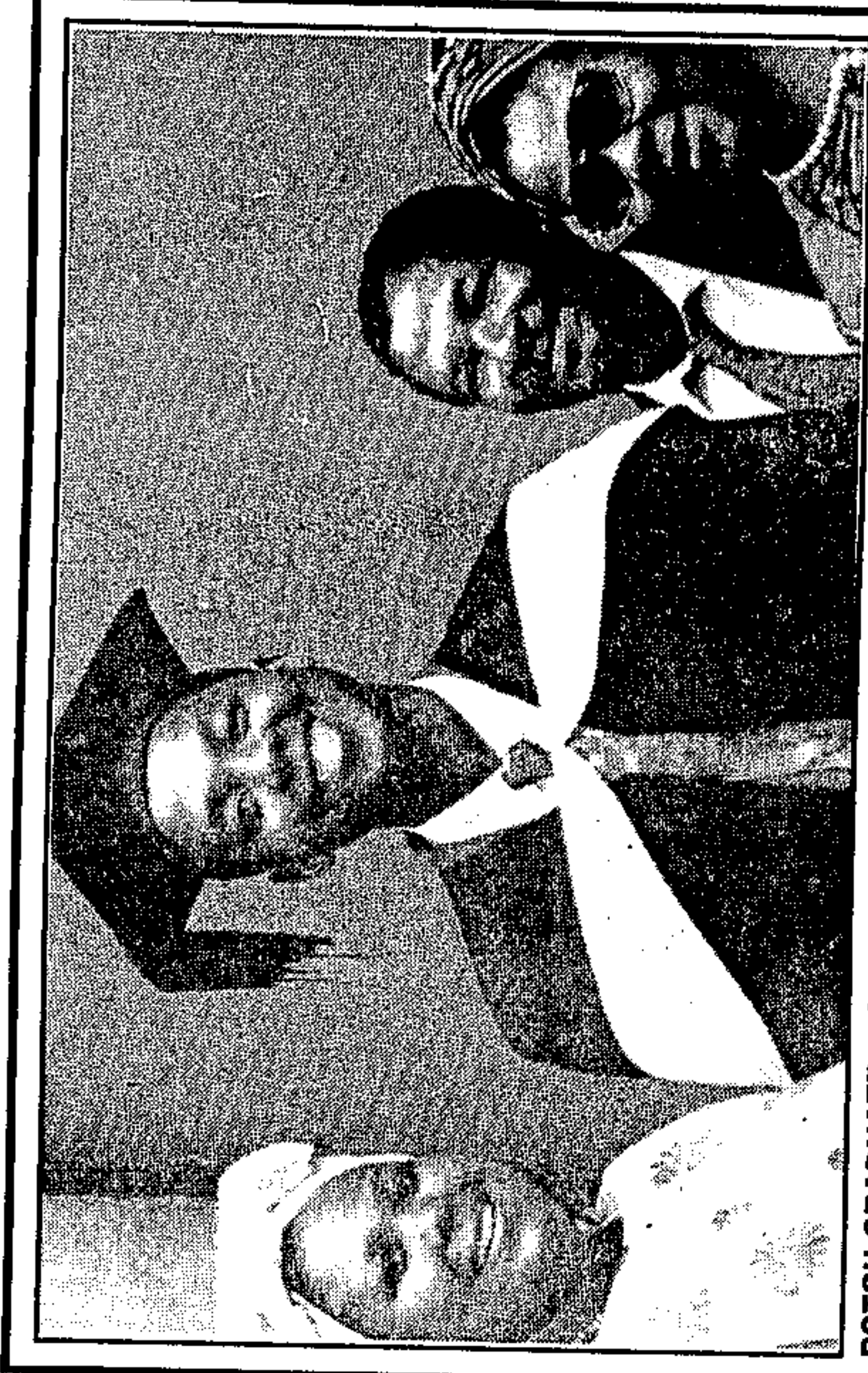
Zuma said Azapo and the PAC could be party to such a pact once the "broad Patriotic Front" - formed in Durban in October 1991 - was off the ground and functional.

Matter is receiving attention

No further details of the proposed pact were divulged, and the matter was said to be receiving attention among the different organisations.

Organisations represented at yesterday's meeting were the ANC, the South African Communist Party, the Labour Party, KaNgwane's Inyandza National Movement, Lebowa's United People's Front, the Transvaal Indian Congress and the governments of Transkei and Venda.

Following the meeting, it was announced that at least 100 organisations are expected to attend the PF conference to be held in Lenasia, south of Johannesburg, towards the end of this month. - Own Correspondent.



POTCH GRADUATE ... It took many years of hard work and dedication for Mr Jacob Thamae (centre) to get his BA degree. Thamae was joined by his sister Mrs Julia Mashigo (left), Mrs Tickle Ntsibe and Mr Kaybe Ntsebe at the graduation ceremony at Potchefstroom University this week.

Social pensions to be equal

Sowetan 12/3/93

■ Budget announcement expected:

By Ismail Lagardien
Political correspondent

BLACK pensioners will receive the same pension as their white counterparts before the end of the year, possibly by October, Government sources have confirmed.

The announcement is expected to be made in Parliament next Wednesday when the Minister of Finance, Mr Derek Keys, tables the Budget for 1993/94.

The Budget then has to be passed by all three Houses of Parliament.

The present breakdown of pensions is as follows: Whites R345, coloureds and Indians R318 and blacks R293.

Besides parity, pensions are also expected to increase by the usual annual average of 10 percent.

Smoking curbs likely

Sowetan 12/3/93

■ STRONG SIGNAL Bill will include clause to ban the sale of tobacco to under 16s:

ban the sale of tobacco to under 16s:

LEGISLATION to control the use, sale and advertising of tobacco products is to be tabled in Parliament this session, the Minister of National Health, Dr Rina Venter, said yesterday.

The Bill will include a clause to ban the sale of tobacco products to persons under the age of 16, she said at a media conference.

It will also empower the Minister to prescribe by regulation the health warning and details of dangerous substances of a tobacco product which have to appear on the packet or in advertising and to determine which claims may not be used in tobacco advertising.

Anyone selling cigarettes to minors will be guilty of an offence punishable by a fine or imprisonment, or both similar to that of selling liquor to a minor.

Although a health warning has been displayed on cigarette packets since 1986, most smokers had become accustomed to it and ignored the warnings.

Venter said it would be difficult to impose the ban on selling cigarettes to people under 16.

"There has to be a strong signal sent out on this and I hope the community and all responsible adults will help by laying a charge against people who supply children with cigarettes."

To prevent young people smoking, it was necessary to both reduce access to tobacco and

inducements to smoke it.

Although a health warning has been displayed on cigarette packets since 1986, most smokers had become accustomed to it and ignored the warnings.

"For warnings to be effective, we need a series of clear, well-presented, sizable, rotating health warnings which stress the harmful health consequences and the benefits of giving it up." - Sapa.

Rina Venter determined to smoke out tobacco addicts

ANDREA WEISS
Health Reporter

87
ART 12/3/93

HAPPY, beautiful, young people lighting up cigarettes on Alpine ski-slopes may become a thing of the past in tobacco advertising if Health Minister Dr Rina Venter has her way.

She has announced that legislation is to be tabled controlling the sale and advertising of tobacco.

The new law would give her the power to decide what kind of claims may be made in tobacco advertising and to regulate health warnings and information on cigarette packets.

It would also clamp down on the sale of tobacco to children under 16.

"For the first time in South Africa, children will be protected against the use of tobacco. Anyone selling cigarettes to minors will be guilty of an offence punishable by a fine or imprisonment, or both," Dr Venter said at a Press briefing yesterday.

Dr Venter said that to stop young people smoking it was necessary to reduce access to tobacco and to lower inducements to smoke it.

For warnings to be effective, a series of clear, well-presented, rotating warnings should be used, she said.

Britain, for instance, had adopted the explicit message: "Tobacco kills".

Dr Venter said the bill would formalise an existing agreement between the Department of National Health and Population Development and the tobacco industry.

She said restrictions on smoking should be extended to include hospitals, government buildings, creches, schools and colleges and work places, but the legislation would not address this specifically.

"I would like to see local authorities take the initiative," she said.

● Sapa reports from Johannesburg that the Tobacco Institute of Southern Africa has supported the proposed ban on the sale of cigarettes to minors under 16.

"It has been and still is the policy of the tobacco industry that the youth should not be a marketing target. The institute supports the proposed ban on the sale of cigarettes to people under 16."

And the Medical Research Council has commended the minister for proposing the legislation.

MRC group executive for essential health research, Dr Derek Yach, said much of the proposed legislation had already been shown by council researchers to be strongly supported by smokers and non-smokers.

Drugs behind the loo — deals through school fence

(87)

ARC 13/3/93

■ Two Guguletu high schools are up in arms of over dagga-smoking by their pupils.

VUYO BAVUMA, Weekend Argus Reporter

AN alleged Guguletu dagga dealer has been warned to stop selling dagga to high school children or face the threat of being turned over to the civic association.

The woman is said to sell dagga for R1 a packet to pupils at the school fence, and several Fezeka Senior Secondary boys were found smoking dagga behind the school's toilets in class time.

At ID Mkize Senior Secondary, also in Guguletu, which also has a drug problem, teachers have launched an education programme warning of the dangers of drugs.

This week, a letter, signed by the Fezeka principal, the chairman of the parents-teachers-students association and president of the student representative council, told the dagga seller the matter would be reported to

the local civic association if the drug continued to be sold to pupils.

The alleged dealer refused to comment.

Last week teachers at Fezeka discovered pupils were buying dagga from the dealer whose shack is near the school fence. The interested buyers would draw the dealer's attention by throwing stones on the roof.

The dealer would come out and do the transactions with the pupil through the fence.

The teachers told Weekend Argus that the school was deeply concerned and they were frequently patrolling the school, especially toilets.

There are plans to invite a specialist to talk to the pupils about the dangers of drugs.

The SRC is also planning to hold workshops on drugs for the pupils, one pupil said.

Pupils, who refused to be named for fear of reprisals, said most dagga-smokers pooled their money in the mornings to buy the drug.

They then met at the toilets, where they smoked the drug with broken bottle necks because "zols (dagga cigarettes) take a long time to make".

After smoking the dagga, the pupils would eat orange peel and smear peel on their hands to get rid of the dagga

smell.

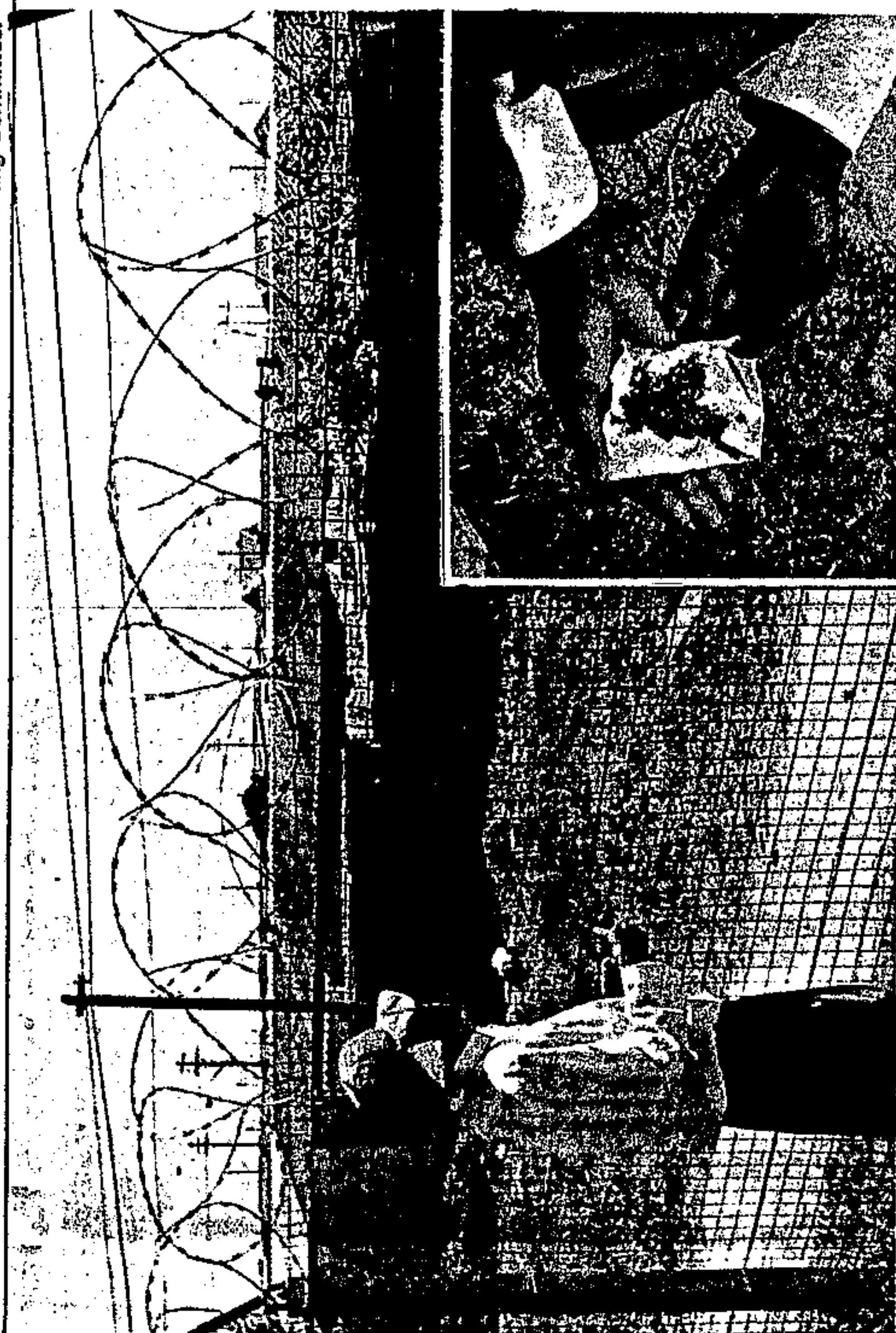
At ID Mkize urgent steps are being taken to combat the issue. In some cases the teachers have organised help for some pupils who have become addicts.

Other measures include searching all the pupils suspected of being dagga-smokers and frequently patrolling the toilets.

One teacher said: "We are calling on the parents' and other people in the community to help us fight the problem before it severely affects our education."

"We are constantly making the pupils aware of the problems of dagga and other drugs. We have also asked the pupils to report anyone who smells of dagga."

Police said they were unaware of the activities of the alleged dealer.



■ WAITING: A Fezeka High school pupil waits near the fence where dagga buyers throw stones at the roof of the dagga dealer opposite to catch her attention. The dealer goes out and conducts the transaction. □ INSET: A pupil shows dagga bought for R1 from the dealer through the fence.

Pictures: OBED ZILWA, Weekend Argus.

Knysna council bans smoking

A BLANKET ban on smoking in Knysna's municipal buildings has been introduced.

The move was initiated by Knysna councillor Mr W C Mather, who beat the nicotine addiction 17 years ago.

Knysna town secretary Mr Charles Erasmus said the ban, which would apply to all council chambers and the town hall, was enforced after a unanimous vote by all eight town councillors.

ET 13/3/93
(87) (24)

Restaurant smoking ban objections rejected

Municipal Reporter

(87) APR 17/3 193

OBJECTIONS by Fedhasa and the tobacco lobby to a planned partial smoking ban in Cape Town restaurants have been rejected by the city council executive committee.

Exco will ask for an interview with Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring about the promulgation of the by-law.

An attempt by the council four years ago to pass a by-law limiting smoking in restaurants was defeated when the administrator refused to sign it.

The revised by-law is based on a similar one in Johannesburg.

Opponents of the partial ban, which would require restaurants seating more than 50 people to set aside half the seats for non-smokers, said it had failed in Johannesburg.

Most restaurants had not applied the by-law and policing was inadequate, they said.

● A restaurant smoking ban was tried in Durban two years ago, but owners fought its imposition, saying market forces did not demand it.

The Durban city health department said that at present no plans for smoke-free zones in restaurants were in the pipeline.

Star 18/3/93

Take action now to ward off smoking's deadly grip

IF you don't want your child's health to go up in smoke, and if you don't want your son or daughter to be one of the 600 South African youngsters who become hooked on the dreaded weed every day, take action now.

A 1990 study of more than 7 000 school pupils in the western Cape showed that one in 10 children under 14 smokes at least one cigarette a day, reports Dr Derek Yach of the Medical Research Council in an article in the latest edition of Reader's Digest.

1987 study of high school pupils found that of all those who smoke, 65 percent started the habit before reaching Std 8.

To reduce the risk of your children becoming persistent puffery, Dr Robert Gie, head of the Paediatrics Respiratory Unit at Tygerberg Hospital in Cape Town, advises you to:

● **Teach your children about the dangers of tobacco-use before they go to school.**

By the age of 12, it's often too late to start to teach. Children need to be told at the time they are forming values.

● **Set a good example and don't smoke.**

You can't tell children not to smoke if you do.

Children of smoking parents are three times more likely to start the habit.

Infections

And if you smoke you endanger your child's health. Passive smoking has been linked to low birthweight babies, lung cancer and high rates of chronic ear ailments.

Children of parents who smoke are more likely to end up in hospital with pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory-tract infections.

● **Give your children the facts.**

Children should be told that tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death in South Africa.

Contrary to the glamour

that's associated with smoking, tobacco-use stains your teeth and fingers, causes smelly breath and clothes and your eyes becomes sore and red.

In addition, keeping the habit is costly. Nicotine, an addictive and poisonous alkaloid in cigarettes, makes it difficult for smokers to kick the habit.

● **Rehearse responses.**

Children's attitudes to smoking may change at puberty. Teenagers want to fit in with their peers. Teach your child how to respond when offered a cigarette.

● **Be active.**

Call for a ban on tobacco advertising and sports sponsorship.

Write to your Member of Parliament in support of proposed legislation to ban the sale of cigarettes to children under the age of 16.

With one in 14 deaths in the world smoking-related, you may be saving your child's life.

TRENDS REPORTER

Star 1813143,
Smokers' tax 'too low'

The Government's decision to increase tax on cigarettes by only 5c for 20 was a "pathetic response", according to the Medical Research Council's group executive, essential health research, Dr Derek Yach. (320)

"Our recommendation was that a R1 increase would have raised an estimated R1 billion in extra revenue, which is desperately needed for health and social services," he said. (198)

South Africa had among the lowest excise tax for cigarettes in the world, he added. — Medical Reporter.

Young smokers likely to stay hooked — survey

(87)

ARC 18/3/93

CHICAGO. — People who begin smoking before the age of 12 are more likely to become regular and heavy smokers, according to a survey involving thousands of adolescents.

Also, the more children are involved in athletics, the less likely they are to be regular smokers, according to the study published in this week's *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

"It suggests that younger children are more vulnerable to the allure — if you can call it that — of smoking. By the time they grow up and realise the implications of smoking, they're already addicted," said Dr Luis G Escobedo, a epidemiologist at the US Centre for Disease Control in Atlanta and the study's lead researcher.

Researchers analysed data from a 1990 survey of more than 11 000 adolescents.

The survey measures the high-risk activities of adolescents, ranging from

dietary practices to smoking, knowledge of how HIV is contracted, sexual activity, and drug abuse, said Dr Escobedo.

Overall, 72 percent of the children who responded to the questionnaire had tried at least one cigarette. Researchers found that 32 percent were either regular or occasional smokers — occasional smokers defined as those who smoked fewer than five in 30 days.

Smoking initiation, defined as smoking one full cigarette and continuing to smoke, peaked at the ages of 13 and 14, then the rate of smoking initiation began declining after the age of 16, said Dr Escobedo.

The survey found that 42 percent of those who began to smoke at 12 or younger became heavy smokers, compared with 29 percent who smoked their first full cigarette at 13 or older. — Sapa-AP.

atives in Natal Midlands in danger. • Schoolgirl tell "pack of lies"

brief

Sowetan 24/3/93
Labourer crushed

A FARM labourer was crushed to death in a silage cutter near Darling on the Cape West Coast on Monday when a colleague apparently accidentally switched on the machine while the labourer was cleaning it.
The name of the man has not been released.

Sash convenes

THE 1993 national conference of the Black Sash organisation will be held in Maritzburg from April 1 to 4.
Papers will be delivered on education for democracy; the South African Budget and economics; contested human rights (affirmative action and abortion); the constitution and legislation; and fieldworker and advice office reports.
Sowetan 24/3/93

Funeral for victim

ONE of the four men shot dead by police near Mandela Park squatter camp in Kattlehong last week will be buried at the Tokoza Cemetery tomorrow. He is Mr Herford Simanga (25) of 519 Ramokonopi East, Kattlehong.

Peace hopes fade

Sowetan 24/3/93

THE HANDGRENADE ATTACK ON an Inkatha official in the Natal Midlands was the work of agents provocateurs intent on sabotaging embryonic peace initiatives, the Inkatha Freedom Party said yesterday.

The IFP said its chairman for Emahashini section in Wembezi, Mr Alfred Miya, was seriously wounded in a handgrenade attack on his trading store in central Estcourt yesterday.

His shop assistant, Zodwa Sokhela, was also seriously wounded, IFP official Mr Velaphi Ndlovu said.

Police have confirmed the attack. The blast came a day after the launch of a Local Dispute Resolution Commit-

GRENADE ATTACK IFP official is

seriously wounded in blast at shop:

tee in the Estcourt-Wembezi area.

The IFP said it dealt "a tremendous blow to fragile peace initiatives taking root in the area".

Strife-torn region

Meanwhile, African National Congress Natal Midlands leader Mr Harry Gwala said he was not aware of a meeting with the IFP aimed at forging a peace initiative in the strife-torn region.

Gwala was responding to Natal-

KwaZulu Regional Dispute Resolution Committee chairman MC Pretorius, who had said the ANC Midlands chairman and his IFP counterpart, Mr David Ntombela, would meet soon to plan a formal meeting aimed at securing peace in the region.

"This is the first time I hear of it," Gwala said yesterday.

He said the ANC had indicated its willingness to hold a joint rally with the IFP in Maritzburg. — *Sapa*.

Bill lowers boom on smokers (87)

By Ismail Lagardien *Sowetan 24/3/93*
Political Correspondent ■ **Last gasp for health warning and fag-puffing minors**

LEGISLATION tabled in Parliament yesterday will ensure that the hazards of smoking are printed on cigarette packets and that these may not be sold to persons under the age of 16.

The Tobacco Products Control Bill will even make it an offence for owners of or people in control of vending machines to allow anyone under the age of 16 to buy cigarettes.

The memorandum to the Bill reads in part: "Firstly, the Bill intends to make the public aware of the health hazards

involved in the use of tobacco products. "To achieve this object it is proposed that the Minister be empowered to prescribe the information regarding hazardous constituents in tobacco products that is to appear in advertisements and to be reflected on packages."

Legislation extends warning on tobacco

CAPE TOWN — The Tobacco Products Control Bill, published in Parliament yesterday, extends the existing compulsory health warning on cigarette packets to all tobacco products and advertisements.

Tobacco products and adverts will also have to carry a notification of the quantities of harmful constituents, such as tar and nicotine, contained in the product, Reuter reports.

In a bid to prevent familiarity with the health warnings, the Bill proposes to give the Health Minister the right to regularly change the wording and presentation.

TIM COHEN reports the legislation will also prohibit the sale of cigarettes to anyone under 16 years old.

The legislation includes a stipulation that officials will be able to prevent the sale of cigarettes in vending machines.

The Bill aims to make the public aware of the health hazards involved in the use of tobacco products.

However, it effectively constitutes a victory for tobacco product sellers by not dealing with Health Minister Rina Venter's suggestion that non-smokers ought to have the power to prevent passive smoking, especially in office situations.

Venter has said this suggestion would best be dealt with by local authorities.

KATHRYN STRACHAN reports that the Tobacco Institute of SA said advertising tobacco did not influence people to take up smoking or encourage existing smokers to continue, and added that by regulating advertising, the Bill contravened "freedom of commercial speech".

In a statement the industry said the purpose of cigarette advertising was to promote specific brands to existing smokers.

Existing systems of control — such as health notices displayed on packets and monitoring by the Advertising Standards Authority — were more appropriate than legislation, the institute said.

Smoking bill gives govt new powers

CT 24/3/93 (81)

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

THE government is to be given far-reaching powers to order owners to remove cigarette vending machines if they are used by children.

Owners of vending machines could also be ordered to take precautionary measures to

prevent them being used by people under the age of 16.

These draft clauses are in the Tobacco Products Control Bill, which was tabled in Parliament yesterday.

The bill bans the sale of cigarettes to children under the age of 16 and will enforce cigarette advertisements to carry health warnings.

The proposed bill had been published in the Government Gazette for comment and representations were received from 110 interested parties and persons.

The intended requirements about health warnings on cigarette advertising and the ban on sale of cigarettes to children under 16 were disclosed

last week by the Minister of National Health, Dr Rina Venter.

But the restrictions on vending machine sales incorporate wider provisions than previously disclosed.

The bill also provides for the director-general of National Health to issue regulations about cigarette advertising.

Louw: 907 SADF staff abused drugs, alcohol

Political Staff

~~810~~ 810/88
ALTOGETHER 907 members of the South African Defence Force last year were found to be drug and alcohol abusers, the Minister of Defence, Mr Gene Louw, said yesterday.

CT 24/3/93
Replying in Parliament to a question from Mr Lester Fuchs (DP, Hillbrow), Mr Louw said 847 of the members were treated in the SADF.

Altogether 60 members initially attended outside institutions but now received after-care internally.

Confession was made voluntarily

Sowetan
25/3/93

By Tsale Makam

A MEMBER of the African National Congress charged with murder and robbery had made his confession "freely and voluntarily", a Rand Supreme Court judge ruled yesterday.

Mr Solomon Mnqanqeni (33), who, together with Mr Phuthumile Makhosi (28) and Mr Daniel Motaung (35), faces charges of murder and robbery involving more than R500 000, had earlier told the court he had made the statement under duress.

Mnqanqeni had told the court a captain Koekemoer had forced him to admit to the crimes, gave him names of senior ANC members, including Mr Chris Hani, to incriminate and names of places they were supposed to have robbed.

■ Judge says ANC man is an unreliable witness:

Mr Justice R Strydom also said although most of the policemen were unreliable witnesses, Mnqanqeni was equally unreliable and had lied to the court.

"Why would police force him to say things which had no bearing on the case?" the judge asked.

The judge and his two assessors also found that in his statement Mnqanqeni had confessed to a robbery police did not know he was involved in.

The State also found that the case on the Southdale Standard Bank robbery was already closed but was reopened after Mnqanqeni's confession to the robbery.

(Proceeding)

Bill provokes huge row

By Musa Zondi

THE Tobacco Institute of Southern Africa has complained about the proposed legislation on cigarette control.

The Tobacco Products Control Bill was tabled in Parliament this week and seeks to control the sale of tobacco to youths under the age of 16. The bill will also reduce advertising of these products and demands a much more detailed health risk warning.

Tisa said the youth was not the target of marketing of tobacco products anyway. It said it "has no objections to the proposed

■ Tobacco bosses complain about new law:

ban on sales of cigarettes to people under the age of 16. However, strict compliance by the trade may be difficult for purely technical reasons and the Institute therefore suggests that consultation be entered into with retail business sector on the matter".

On advertising, the institute says it is a misconception to believe advertising plays a determining role in influencing people to take up smoking.

87



New move on smoking

Municipal Reporter

A PARTIAL ban on smoking in restaurants was adopted by the council yesterday, but it will only come into effect if the Administrator of the Cape agrees to promulgate it.

The last time the council tried to have a similar by-law passed, about four years ago,

(87) the then-administrator refused to pass it.

The proposed by-law states that in any restaurant seating 50 or more patrons, not more than half the seating may be at tables allocated to smokers.

Smoking will be banned in restaurants seating less than 50 patrons.

CT 31/3/93

AFTER a delay of more than a year, South Africa's first anti-smoking legislation has come before parliament — but in a form that will have the tobacco companies smiling all the way to the bank.

The Tobacco Products Control Bill will force tobacco companies to put health warnings on their products and advertisements, will ban tobacco sales to under-16's and will allow the Minister of Health, Dr Rina Venter, to restrict the way the companies advertise their products.

Anti-smoking Bill an 'embarrassment'

South 3/4-7/4/93 -
definition because it would be problematic to force radio adverts to include health warnings.

But the definition of "advertisement" in the Bill excludes radio advertising — the medium of mass communication that reaches more South Africans than any other, including the large illiterate sector.

A spokesperson for the Health Department told SOUTH its legal advisers had been instructed to exclude oral advertising from the

That clause has now gone up in smoke. No trace of it remains.

"If I was the Minister I would be embarrassed by this legislation," said a senior health professional, who hopes to make "diplomatic" representations to the Joint Committee of Health, which is considering the Bill behind closed doors before it comes to Parliament.

"This is tobacco industry legislation," the health professional said.

In a study on the economic impact of smoking in South Africa, published in last year, researchers found that tobacco companies here spent R28,9 million on radio advertisements in 1990.

They said SA urgently needed to consider a total ban on tobacco advertising, mandatory school education programmes and substantial tax increases on tobacco products.

Donald Zake

Restaurant non-smoking survey

Staff Reporter

A SURVEY of 502 Cape Town restaurants that would be subject to a by-law partly banning smoking has found that 89% (447) of them have made no provision for non-smokers.

According to the survey, the 55 restaurants that did make provision for non-smokers had

8 188 seats, with an average of 149 seats in each restaurant.

The 447 restaurants that did not have non-smoking sections had an average of only 61 seats, so were much smaller.

The survey found that in restaurants that had non-smoking areas, about 32% of the seating was allocated to non-smokers.

The survey was conducted by

the Medical Officer of Health, Dr Michael Popkiss, and the city health department in the past month.

Spokesman Mr Ben van Rensburg said after an Amenities and Health Committee meeting last night that the survey findings — released at the meeting — had been noted by committee members (87)

Earlier this week the council adopted a partial ban on smoking in restaurants. This is to come into effect only if the Administrator of the Cape agrees to it. CT 3/4/93

When the council tried to have a similar by-law passed four years ago, the then-administrator refused to pass it.

Many addicted to legal drugs

87 CT5/4/93

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — More than 5% of patients of busy general practices are addicted to — or becoming addicted to — legal drugs, according to medical officers specialising in addictions.

The allegation, reported in a recent edition of the Afrikaans publication, De Kat, claimed that as many as 30% of doctors in ur-

ban areas prescribed addictive medicines "too easily".

The figures were based on estimates by "medical people who deal with addiction".

Dr Harry Seftel, of Johannesburg Hospital and the University of the Witwatersrand, said the blame could not be laid entirely on doctors.

Because many doctors consulted too quickly with patients, they

prescribed medicine for the symptoms instead of diagnosing the condition, he said.

Ms Rosemary Crouch, chief occupational therapist at Riverfield Lodge outside Johannesburg, said a third of the institution's patients were addicted to legal medicines. Most of them were women who were from the upper-income groups and suffered from stress.

Drug and alcohol abuse on the rise among executives

BIDAY 20/4/93

(87)

KATHRYN STRACHAN

WITH the fast-growing incidence of cocaine abuse among executives and professionals and the drug's astronomical cost, many organisations could soon find that not only did they have an addict in the boardroom, but also a pusher on the payroll.

Lyn Gunter, administrator of Riverfield Lodge, a clinic which specialises in the treatment of drug and alcohol dependency, said recently the appeal of cocaine was growing among businessmen and professionals because of its ability to produce strong feelings of power and confidence.

With the drug costing about R300 a gram, regular use could cost anything between R20 000 and R30 000 a month. Users usually had to sell to others to support the habit, said Gunter.

She said users often found a lucrative market among their ambitious colleagues. She warned that drug problems among staff could be exacerbated by very senior people within a company.

Higher salaries, freedom of movement and privacy also made it easier for the executive to take drugs.

Alcohol abuse was also on the increase

among executives. A recent study estimated that between 6% and 10% of senior managers had an alcohol dependency problem.

Executives and professionals who abused drugs and alcohol were probably the most untreated group, because they were generally reluctant to confront their seniors with their problem, she said.

Close associates also tended to protect them and help them hide the consequences of their binges, which meant that treatment was often delayed.

"Go-getting young executives who want to outperform their competitors see cocaine as a means to an end. Cocaine makes all things seem possible, and, eventually, no decisions can be made without using the drug," she said.

The problem was compounded by the fact that cocaine was highly addictive. Once dependent, the person found it extremely difficult to break the cycle because of cocaine's powerful psychological reinforcement effect, Gunter said.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE FEATURE Tobacco-related diseases claim thousands of lives

25 000 die from smoking in a year

By Mokgadi Pela

LEADING medics have urged the Government to impose more tax on tobacco to reduce the number of smoking-related deaths in South Africa.

Drs Derek Yach of the Medical Research Council, James McIntyre of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Baragwanath Hospital and Yusuf Saloojee of the Council Against Smoking, said 25 450 smoking-related deaths were reported in 1988 and 110 856 potential years of life were lost in the age group 35-64 years.

In economic terms tobacco use resulted in losses of R1,1 billion from lost productivity due to premature death and hospitalisation, while an additional

Medics call for more tax on cigarettes:

Sowetan 26/4/93. R289,6 million resulted from direct health costs.

They said Government intervention was necessary to control the monopolistic nature of the tobacco industry which has a strong influence on consumer demand. For example, while the industry spends R150 million a year on tobacco advertising, less than R5 million is spent on health promotion.

This results in the population's knowledge being determined by the industry.

An article in the *South African Medical Journal* said Government intervention was required not only because of market imperfections but also due to

(87) (R289,6 million) tobacco control programmes since non-smokers are also affected.

The doctors argued that price was the single most important determinant of the demand for tobacco and thus taxation has a great potential to deter smoking.

Evidence has shown that a price increase would result in a decline in demand. Teenagers are particularly sensitive to price increases with evidence in the UK suggesting that a 10 percent hike is linked to a 14 percent decline in cigarette consumption.

In South Africa, since the retail price of cigarettes has lagged behind the overall consumer price index over the past decade, tobacco has become more af-

fordable. The benefits of tobacco tax include increased revenue for the Government, decline in the prevalence of smoking and thus the costs associated with smoking-related deaths.

It does this by increasing the quit rate; stopping new recruits entering the market and causing heavy smokers to reduce the habit. There is also public support for taxation as shown by surveys in Canada and South Africa where it was shown that 56 percent of adult smokers supported an increased tax.

Increased tax is also supported by a group of academics at the University of Natal and several health organisations.

Opponents of increased tax on tobacco include the Tobacco Institute, the Tobacco Manufacturers Association and selected media.

Male drug to stop sperms

New contraception on the way:

By Mokgadi Pela

SCIENTISTS believe they are several steps away from developing a safe, effective and reversible form of male contraception.

According to an article in *The Medical Post*, thousands of men worldwide were testing various male contraceptive drugs, vaccines or devices.

One expert says it is about time. Dr Carl Djerassi, who developed the active ingredients of the birth control



DP diehards oppose smoking ban

SMOKERS in the Johannesburg City Council's DP caucus broke ranks this week and refused to pass a law banishing puffers in the civic centre to "designated" toilets only.

An item on Tuesday's council agenda, that would have prohibited smoking in most rooms within the civic centre, was quietly withdrawn as it had no clear support, a council source said.

If approved, smokers would have had to skulk in designated toilets for a puff.

Diehards who balked at the idea of puffing in the loos would have been "encouraged" to join the council's anti-smoking programme.

Smokers in the DP caucus furiously objected to the restrictions. When the matter threatened to spark an intra-party debate at the chamber meeting it was

quietly withdrawn. (87)

Recently the Randburg Town Council was also embroiled in debate on whether to tighten smoking restrictions within the civic centre. The ban was approved only when mayor Brian Crail used his casting vote.

Cape Town, too, has regulations that ban smoking in its civic centre.

□ Sapa reports the board of property company Seeff Organisation Holdings has declared its Cape Town head office a non-smoking zone.

The decision was taken after top management, meeting at Seeff House on Monday night, realised something was burning. Apparently a table had caught alight as a result of a burning cigarette.

BY DP 29/11/93
GAVIN DU VENAGE

New Acts crack down on drugs

GOVERNMENT is cracking down on drug trafficking in SA with the enforcement of two new laws intended to combat the trade and further the rehabilitation of drug abusers.

In a joint statement yesterday, the Justice and National Health Ministers said the Drug and Drug Trafficking Act allowed SA to co-operate more closely with international organisations to fight the growing drug trade.

The Act created a number of new categories of offences, regarding the production and acquisition of substances, and the recovery of the proceeds through attachment orders.

The Prevention and Treatment of

KATHRYN STRACHAN

Drug Dependency Act, which upgraded previous legislation on the problem, provided for the growing needs of rehabilitation institutions. It also brought SA into line with international requirements. (87)

This Act paved the way for the establishment of a drug advisory board to advise the National Health Minister, as well as setting up investigative committees.

It also allowed for the broadening of programmes for the prevention and treatment of drug dependency.

Both Acts were passed in the last session of Parliament.

MS/5/1
BIDAN

No smoking please, we're American

NEW YORK. — America's anti-smoking crusade reached a new frontier this week when Vermont's legislature passed a law banning smoking in hotel and motel rooms, bars, restaurants and even video arcades, as well as offices and all public buildings.

The Vermont law comes into effect July 1, banning smoking in all public buildings including airport lounges and libraries, video arcades and

"country stores" which combine shelves of groceries with an eating counter.

When the final phase is implemented July 1, 1995, the only public facilities where smokers may light up will be nightclubs with cabaret licences — as long as they make at least half their income from the sale of alcohol and entertainment.

Much of America is now covered by local versions of Clean Indoor Air acts.

But most laws include an element of choice. Motels and hotels offer non-smoking rooms, restaurants smoking and non-smoking sections, rental car agencies non-smoking cars and corporations designated smoking areas.

In Vermont there are signs of a

backlash, particularly to the total ban in hotels, motels and restaurants.

The pursuit of clean air is seen as likely to deter up to 20% of tourist customers in the economically depressed state of Vermont.

The new law empowers the state health department first to fine and then to shut down the offending business by cancelling operating licences.

— © The Telegraph plc, London

CT 10/5/93 (81)

A new monthly column in which medical experts answer your questions about health and medical matters.

I have heard a lot about passive smoking recently. As a smoker, I am concerned to know whether this is endangering my family and the people I work with.

Paul Matolengwe, Langa.

PASSIVE smoking is when people (and animals and plants) inhale the smoke from somebody else's smouldering cigarette, and the smoke blown out after inhaling.

Passive smokers face the same risks as smokers, though the likelihood of them developing problems is somewhat less as they breathe in a lower concentration of smoke.

Did you realise that when you inhale a puff of cigarette smoke, it carries about 3 000 dangerous chemicals into your lungs?

Your lungs, if laid out flat, provide a surface the size of a tennis court. And they have a wonderful blood supply to absorb oxygen out of the air you inhale.

So when you inhale cigarette smoke, instead of getting just good clean air with lots of oxygen you get 3 000 poisonous chemicals as well!

In addition, every cell in your body gets poisoned, because the poisons are absorbed into your blood and carried to every cell in your body.

For passive smokers, the same happens when they breathe the smoky air when someone else is smoking.

The risks of passive smoking include cancers, bronchitis, hay fever, heart disease, poor circula-

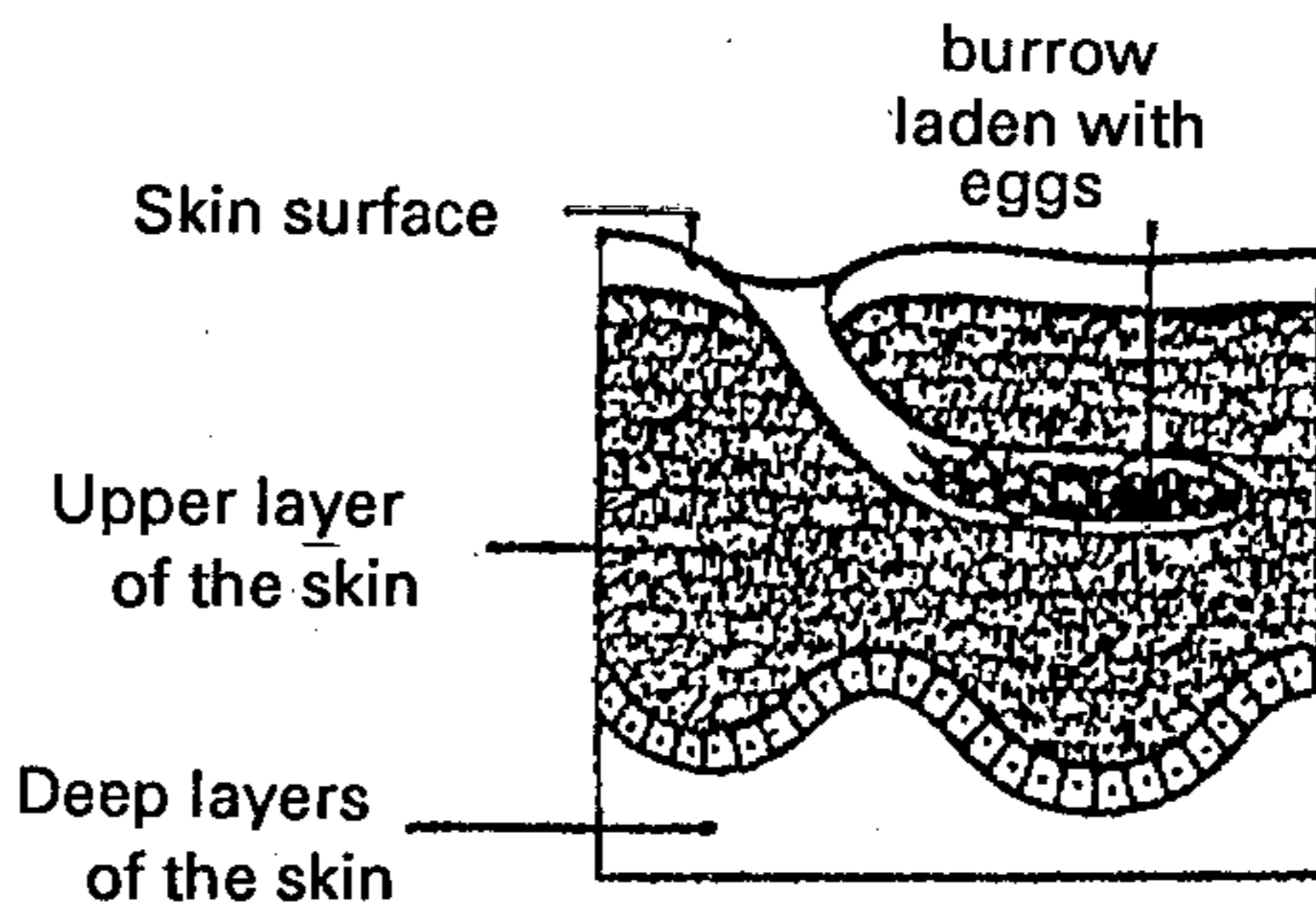
Don't let others suffer from your bad habit

South 8/5 - 12/5/93.

(87)

Scabies

The female scabies mite burrows into the skin and lays its eggs under the skin surface. After hatching, the larvae travel to the skin surface where they mature for about two weeks before starting the cycle again



tion, asthma, allergies, vision disorders, peptic ulcers, pneumonia, tuberculosis, wrinkled skin, bad complexion, bad breath, and early death.

In fact, the list is endless, as you would expect in a body where every cell is being poisoned.

Even if you don't stop smoking to protect yourself from these poisons, the least you can do is not to expose others to such dangers.

So never smoke in the presence of non-smokers, whether it is in your home, in your car, or in any enclosed area.

I have heard parents at my daughter's school talking about an outbreak of scabies. What is scabies, how do you catch it and how can you prevent it?

Joanne Arendse, Kewtown.

SCABIES is an intensely itchy skin condition caused by a minute, eight-legged creature

called the scabies mite, which burrows into the skin and lays eggs there.

When the eggs hatch, the young scabies mites move up close to the skin surface where they mature for about two weeks, and then come out and make more burrows in the skin to lay their own eggs.

Scabies can be "caught" only by close person-to-person contact with someone who has scabies, or from clothing or bedding that has become infested.

It is possible for the whole body, except the face and scalp, to become infested with scabies, but this is unusual.

More commonly, only some areas of the skin are affected, such as fingers, arms, legs or under-arm, and also on breasts and nipples and on the genitals.

Scratching can make pimples form on the skin.

These can become infected with germs and a very bad skin infection may develop.

Scabies can cause your skin to become red and bumpy, but the itch is the most noticeable symptom. It is worst in bed, because the scabies mite is most active when your body is warm and moist.

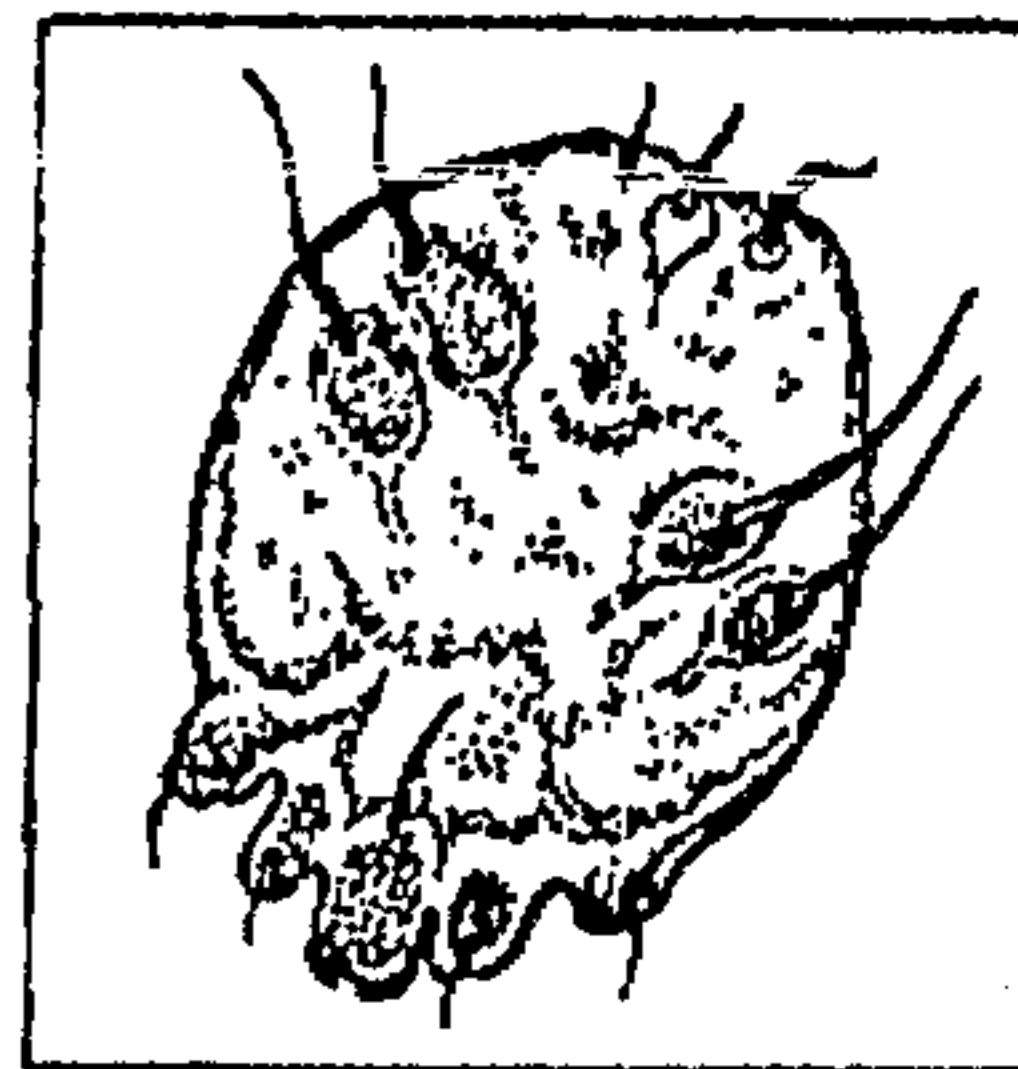
Although personal hygiene can help prevent scabies, even the cleanest people can become infested. Fortunately there are a number of types of anti-scabies preparations available, which can penetrate into the infested skin pores and kill the mites.

But because the eggs are not always killed, it is important to treat the skin again after one week to kill the newly-hatched young mites.

You can buy an anti-scabies lotion from your pharmacy or clinic. Well-known brands include ASCABIOL and QUELLADA, but other brands are also available and much cheaper.

It is best to apply the lotion after a hot bath, if this is possible. The lotion must be applied from the neck down to the toes, so that the

Adult female scabies mite



whole body is covered, except the face and scalp.

Leave the lotion on for one day before you wash it off. After one week repeat the process.

Remember that anyone who has been in close contact with the infected person should also be treated. Also, don't forget to wash any clothing and bedding that may be infested.

Contact numbers

Lifeline (021) 461-1111

Rape and sexual abuse

Rape Crisis (021) 47-9762 (for women)

Safeline (021) 26-1100 (for all adults and children)

Alcohol and drug problems

Cape Town Drug Counselling Centre (021) 47-8026

Sanca (021) 592-2392

Aids testing and counselling

ATICC (021) 400-3400

Move to cut misuse of ^(S) tranquillisers

ARG 145/93
The Argus Correspondent

DURBAN. — Drug abuse could be cut considerably if a proposed amendment to a regulation of the Medicine Control Act is accepted.

At the national conference of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa, it was proposed that a prescription of a Schedule 5 medicine repeated after six months use be subjected to a second professional opinion.

Mr Johan Schlebusch, director of the Medicine Control Council, said this move reduced the risk of a patient being exposed to a habit-forming medicine for an undue period.

Addressing about 250 delegates at the conference, which ended in Durban yesterday, he said tranquillisers, often abused by people, fell into the Schedule 5 category.

Ms Lorraine Osman, lecturer in the Department of Pharmacy at Wits University and who is an executive member of the PSSA, said there were two forms of drug abuse.

One was intentional abuse and the other where people unwittingly became accustomed to medication.

"It makes sense that the regulation be reviewed. Drug dependency is a problem, but it is largely unrecognised.

"There is also the trust patients build up in their doctor, thinking that since the doctor prescribed the medicine, he should know best," said Ms Osman.

But there were only certain circumstances where tranquilliser type medicines could be used in the long term, she said.

Poll: Control cigarettes

WASHINGTON. — Cigarettes should be controlled like drugs and tobacco advertisement should be banned, a new Gallup poll for anti-smoking groups showed.

The Coalition on Smoking or Health, comprising the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association and the American Cancer Society, said 68% of those polled think the Food and Drug Administration should regulate tobacco products.

Altogether 53% think advertisements for tobacco products should be banned, and 76% want tobacco advertising "that appeals to children" banned. Respondents also want advertisements "that make smoking appear glamorous" limited.

Altogether 1 015 adults were polled nationwide.

— UPI (87) CT 19/5/43

Meiring vetoes smoking by-law for now

Municipal Reporter

SMOKING in city restaurants may continue undisturbed by municipal by-laws for at least another six months, Cape Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring decreed yesterday.

For now, he said, the by-law would not be amended. Cape Town municipality had asked him to approve a by-law compelling restau-

rants with over 50 seats to reserve at least half their seating space for non-smokers.

"After discussions with the executive committee, I have decided not to allow the proposed amendments," Mr Meiring said yesterday.

He called on restaurateurs who had not made provision for non-

smokers to "consider it favourably".

"The demarcation of smoke-free areas can be determined according to the needs of the customers," he said. "Market forces will then determine if restaurants must create different sections."

Mr Meiring said he would look

into the matter again in six months' time.

Cape Town's executive committee chairman Mr Louis Kreiner said yesterday they would wait six months.

Medical Officer of Health Dr Michael Popkiss said he was disappointed.

"The Environmental Protection

Agency in the United States has reported that environmental tobacco smoke kills about 3 000 US non-smokers a year due to lung cancer," he said.

It was important to pass a by-law about smoking in restaurants, as this would send a signal to society that unfettered smoking was not socially acceptable, Dr Popkiss said.

CT 20/5/93

Popkiss slams Administrator's smoke ruling

Staff Reporters

(87) ARG 10/5/93

MEDICAL officer of health Dr Michael Popkiss says he is "very disappointed" by the Administrator's decision to overrule the city council on a proposal to force restaurateurs to set aside tables for non-smokers.

Yesterday the Administrator, Mr Kobus Meiring, said he would not allow proposed amendments to the smoking by-law which would have compelled restaurants with more than 50 seats to reserve at least half for non-smokers.

Mr Meiring said his decision was based on the acknowledgement of the right of restaurateurs to run their businesses according to the needs of their customers.

"There are already several restaurants which allow voluntarily for non-smokers," said Mr Meiring.

He called on others to consider this option favourably.

He said he would look into the issue again in six months.

Dr Popkiss said the decision protected the tobacco industry and Mr Meiring should have acted in the interest of public health.

Non-smokers should "absorb the fact that their health is at risk and must demand their right to breathe unpolluted air", he said.

"Passive smoking is a real danger. Non-smokers are being exposed to a group A human carcinogen, a cancer-causing chemical".

Dr Popkiss said that according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, 3 000 non-smoking Americans died annually because of lung cancer caused by passive smoking.

By agreeing to look into the matter again in six months' time, Mr Meiring was "perhaps giving restaurateurs a last opportunity to provide for non-smokers voluntarily.

"Obviously restaurateurs only want to do what customers want — but customers are not always aware of what they need".

Council executive committee chairman Mr Louis Kreiner said the committee was disappointed by the decision and had reminded Mr Meiring of his promise over the past few years to try to persuade restaurateurs to ban smoking voluntarily.

"But this hasn't come to fruition," said Mr Kreiner.

Although there were some establishments with no-smoking areas, "in the main" people were ignoring this.

No fags,

please,

Star 24/5/93
we prefer

an apple

Municipal Reporter

(87)

People entering 10 Johannesburg hospitals with a cigarette in their hand will be offered an apple on Friday as a healthy alternative to mark this year's World No-Tobacco Day.

Thanks to a donation of apples by the Johannesburg Fresh Produce Market, the southern Transvaal region of the Cancer Association of SA will try to convince people to stop, if only for a few hours.

Teams of volunteers, including workers from the Department of National Health and Welfare, will man entrances between 9 am and 1 pm at these hospitals:

J G Strijdom, Johannesburg, Garden City Clinic, Milpark, Park Lane Clinic, Lady Dudley, Brenthurst Clinic, Florence Nightingale, Olivedale Clinic and Princess Nursing Home.

The official launch of the Johannesburg City Council's first anti-smoking poster competition will be held at noon on Thursday at Emmarentia Primary School in Hill Road, Emmarentia.

A spokesman for the city council said the aim was to reach children from 350 primary schools in Johannesburg, Soweto, Lenasia and neighbouring areas, using the theme "Kids say: 'We are too special to smoke'."

Co-ordinated by the Johannesburg Community Health Department, the Tobacco Action Group and the Cancer Association of SA, the competition is aimed at children from Grade 1 to Std 5.

Surgeons won't treat smokers

CT 24/5/93

Own Correspondent

LONDON. — Doctors at two of Britain's biggest heart centres are refusing to perform life-saving operations on patients who refuse to give up smoking.

Surgeons have introduced the controversial policy at hospitals in Leicester and Manchester, where some 6.5 million people are served annually — saying they are unwilling to waste scarce resources on patients who, they say, will die prematurely anyway.

Their argument is that smokers stay in hospital too long and deprive healthier patients of life-enhancing treatment. They add that people who refuse to beat the addiction spend longer in hospital and have half the chance of non-smokers of making a full recovery. Patients are also more likely to need a second bypass operation, carrying twice the death-risk.

However doctors elsewhere are outraged, condemning the attitude as "immoral and unethical".

'Pointless'

"It is taxpayers' money from smokers and non-smokers that is used to train cardiac surgeons and pay their wages," said Mr Muhammad Khalid, of the Newcastle Cardiothoracic Centre.

In a letter to the British Medical Journal, six specialists at Wythenshawe Hospital in Manchester said that treating smokers was "pointless" and that even giving smokers preliminary appointments for diagnostic angiograms was a waste of money.

"It's a good way to persuade them to give up," one of the six said.

Anti-drug body to demand crackdown

Staff Reporter **(87)**

ANTI-RUG activists are demanding the death sentence for drug peddlers.

The Western Cape Anti-Drug Movement plans to present this demand to President De Klerk at the gates of Parliament on Saturday after a march through the city. **ARG 28/5/93**
 Marchers also will demand that no bail be given to drug traffickers and that the government subsidises rehabilitation centres. Permission for the march has been granted by the city council.

Probe told M'bond directors 'cashed in'

□ Letters asking payment sent just before crash

ALIDE DASNOIS
 Business staff

MASTERBOND directors collected money from a management buy-out of Masterleisure days before the collapse of the Masterbond group in 1991, the Nel Commission of Enquiry heard yesterday.

Mr Ross van Renen told the commission he and two other directors of Masterleisure, Mr Ernst Meisinger and Mr Neil Wilshire, decided to buy up the Masterleisure management company from Masterbond In-

vestment Holdings in 1990. They were worried about cash flow problems at Club Mykonos and wanted to change the company's management.

In terms of a final agreement signed on September 11 1991 with Masterbond Investment Holdings, the three were to pay R1 million for a 50 per cent stake in the management company. Half was to be in cash.

In addition, they agreed to take over R4,5 million in unsecured debentures in Club Mykonos by paying R75 000 a month over five years into the

personal accounts of Mr Koois Jonker, Mr Johan Brits and Mr Johan Winckler and their family trusts.

By September that year, more than R375 000 already had been paid.

Just before Club Mykonos was liquidated in October 1991, Mr Jonker wrote asking for the next payment, Mr Van Renen told the commission.

"This was a deliberate attempt to get money out of our organisation," he said.

Then, Masterbond companies went into provisional liquidation.

World Bank slams choice of Rupert

CF 28/5/93
Business Staff

A NEW World Bank report to be issued shortly "concludes that the net effect of investing in tobacco on global welfare is emphatically negative," Derek Yach, group executive, essential health research, at the Medical Research Council, said yesterday.

Commenting on a report that Johann Rupert, executive chairman of the Rembrandt group, would be honoured by the World Economic Forum as a business leader of the future, Yach said: "The World Economic Forum clearly values short-term profit makers above the health of populations."

"The health of untold generations is at risk as Rembrandt targets the poorest sector of societies worldwide for tobacco sales."

'Smoking kills 3 million a year'

GENEVA. — The World Health Organisation (WHO) reports that smoking kills 3 million people a year — three times as many as in the 1960s — and the death toll is rising steadily.

In a report marking World No-Tobacco Day on Monday, the United Nations agency urged doctors and nurses to set an example by abandoning cigarettes and called on governments to make hospitals and health centres into no-smoking zones.

The report said tobacco use caused 2 million deaths annually in industrialised countries and 1 million in developing ones, where cigarette consumption had risen by 70 percent over the past 25 years.

At current trends, it said, 7 million people would be dying from smoking each year in the Third World within the next two or three decades.

About 2 to 3 million of the deaths would be in China alone.

According to the report, 90 percent of deaths from lung cancer, 30 percent from other cancers, 80 percent from chronic bronchitis and 20-25 percent from heart disease and strokes were the result of tobacco use. — Sapa-Reuter.

ARG 09/5/93



Govt to douse smoker rights

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent

(37)

THE government will soon have the power to slap a ban on smoking in any public place in South Africa.

CT 29/5/93

In terms of a tough draft law tabled in Parliament yesterday, the Minister of Health will be able to gazette regulations prohibiting "the smoking of tobacco products in any public place or particular kinds of public place".

And the government would also be able to set conditions for smoking in designated public areas.

In terms of the revised anti-smoking legislation tightened up by the joint parliamentary committee on health, the minister may delegate this power to a local authority — but this delegated authority would not cover public places owned by the state or occupied by state employees.

The amended Tobacco Products Control Bill also extends compulsory health warnings in tobacco advertising to radio, but allows the Minister of Health to give written exemptions.

The earlier version of the bill only obliged print media and television to include health warnings in tobacco advertising.

OPEN SUNDAY & MONDAY
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ger Mr David Scha-
allegedly involved
nds of R10 million.

Quit smoking, WHO urges health workers

GENEVA. — The World Health Organisation (WHO) has urged all healthworkers to quit smoking and urge their patients to quit too.

"No doctor should ignore the fact that smoking already kills three million people each year," the UN health agency said. 87 CT 31/5/93

Its report was issued in advance of today's World No-Tobacco Day, which this year focuses on the responsibilities of health services.

Ironically, WHO said, the stress of dealing with death prompted many doctors and nurses to seek relief in smoking. — Sapa-Reuter



Picture: DOUG PITHEY, The Argus.

BUTT OUT: Campaigner for clean air Dawn Poole who has started a non-smoking support group in Cape Town.

ARG 31/5/93

87

Dawn brings ray of hope for non-smokers under pressure

ANDREA WEISS
Health Reporter

SECRETARY Mrs Dawn Poole of Claremont resigned from her job because tobacco smoke was making her too ill to work.

But, instead of sitting at home, she started a support group for people in the same position.

Mrs Poole's father, husband and brother-in-law died from lung cancer.

When she found she was spending a fortnight a month in bed with respiratory, digestive and nasal problems, she believed smoking at work was to blame and resigned at the end of last year.

Her Non-Smokers' Support Group aims to tackle smoking at grass-roots level.

With a growing membership, mainly professionals, the group has already won a few battles.

A member is Mr Heinrich Nortier, who recently laid a criminal charge against the Golden Arrow bus company for not enforcing a smoking by-law on its buses.

The company's clipcards now bear the words: "Please note that it is an offence to smoke on a single-decker or on the lower-deck of a double-decker bus."

Mrs Poole also believes the smoking in restaurants issue should not rest, in spite of Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring's decision not to allow a bylaw to be passed restricting smoking.

She is in the process of contacting restaurant operators to find out if they have made arrangements for non-smokers and is encouraging them to review policies.

The group's newsletter publishes a list of restaurants

which make provision for non-smokers.

She cites the example of a Gardens restaurant which asks customers when they book whether they want to be seated in a non-smoking section. Demand for that section far outstrips the smoking section, she says.

Mrs Poole is not unaware of the needs of people who want to stop smoking and the newsletter lists organisations which will help.

"I am not militant," she said. "It's just that there are so many people who moan, but don't take any action. It's time people realised they're not alone."

For more information, Mrs Poole can be contacted at ☎ 75 3535.

● World No-Tobacco Day today focuses on the role of health workers in preventing disease caused by smoking.

Give your lungs a break

Today is World No Tobacco Day, when smokers are urged to get rid of their cigarettes and matches, clean up their lungs and aim for a pollution-free environment.

People entering hospitals with a cigarette in their hand on Friday were offered an apple by members of the Southern Transvaal Cancer Association.

The Johannesburg City Council, the Tobacco Action Group and the Cancer Association of South Africa launched a "No Smoking" poster competition on Thurs-

day to get children at 350 primary schools in Johannesburg, Soweto, Lenasia and other areas to take up the theme "Kids say: 'We are too special to smoke'."

● The World Health Organisation has urged all health workers to quit smoking and spread the message to their patients in a bid to counter the risks of tobacco.

"No doctor should ignore the fact that smoking kills 3 million people each year and that the figure will grow if nothing is done," it said. — Staff Reporter and Sapa-AP.



Break the habit . . . smokers everywhere are urged to give smoking up today — World No Tobacco Day.

Picture: Joac Silva

Study says smoking may murder ⁽⁸⁷⁾ sleep CP 11/7/93

LOS ANGELES. — Smokers are much more likely than non-smokers to have sleep disorders, according to a study in the United States.

Compared to non-smokers, who participated in the study at California's San Jose State University, the smokers were more restless overnight and more likely to wake up tired, psychology Professor Robert Hicks told a Los Angeles symposium of a countrywide organisation called Associated Professional Sleep Societies this week.

The smokers also were nine times as likely to snore and twice as likely to have nightmares.

Smokers tend to have "more hassles and fewer uplifting experiences" during the day after a typically restless night. They then use cigarettes as a "coping mechanism" — precipitating more sleeplessness followed by more stress the next day.

"It looks like a vicious circle," the professor said. — Sapa

Legal junkies don't break any laws

Sowetan 2/7/93

By Tsale Makam

TO many people the words "drug addict" conjure up images of cocaine sniffing, substance injecting or puffing. But there is a subtle breed of junkies: those addicted to prescription drugs and over-the-counter medicine.

The latter may not realise their addiction immediately because they are "junkies" indulging their habit without breaking any law.

This is where Drug Wise comes in. 87

In an attempt to combat the spread of drug abuse South African pharmacists last year launched a counselling service known as Drug Wise Campaign.

This was to equip pharmacists with specialised drug knowledge and counselling skills to "offer advice on the full spectrum of abuse from illicit drugs to over the counter medicines".

The service is free and confidential.

Mary Maseko was surprised when a moderate pain-killer was no longer effective on her. She had been taking three of the pain-killing pills a night for the whole month "to kill a persistent toothache," she said.

She had managed to convince her dentist that her busy schedule did not allow her time to have her tooth extracted that she would return later.

In the meantime, she changed to a stronger painkiller and took more than the prescribed dosage.

"I was simply scared of the extraction. So I settled for an easier way. But I realised things were serious when I began to take the drugs so they could kill the pain and also knock me out. I thought it was better than taking sleeping pills."

Sleeping pills, appetite suppressants and cough mixtures are among the most abused medicines.

Some people use cough mixtures to give them a high or as tranquillisers, pharmacists say.

While organisations like the South African National Council for Alcoholics and Drug Addicts treat about 80 hard-core drug addicts a year, the "legal drug" addicts go unnoticed.

These are the people who need the pharmacist's help.

But there is a loophole. If people see that the pharmacist is becoming suspicious and is beginning to ask questions about the frequent large purchases of a particular medication, they simply move to a different pharmacy.

Soweto pharmacist Mr Simon Mohapi says this is the biggest drawback in the pharmacists' continuing battle to educate clients about harmful effects of seemingly harmless drugs.

A Soweto official of the South African National Council on Alcoholism, Sister Patience Shabalala, says such cases mostly go undetected.

Six years ago her clinic had a case of a "young intelligent woman" who was "hooked on sleeping pills".

Whenever her doctor began to question her, she would move to a new doctor and pretend the problem was new.

The woman eventually had pain caused by the high consumption of the sleeping pills. This led to a dependency on pain-killers. Eventually she became depressed, had fits and collapsed.

After coming to terms with her addiction, she saw a psychiatrist and a physician. It was a long way to recovery from the twilight zone of "legal drugging".

Statistics of hard-core drug-users are also hard to pin down because these people are also trying to avoid being arrested. Shabalala says about 10 of their 80 patients are children from 10 onwards dependent on serious drugs like dagga, Mandrax and cocaine.

Shabalala also said: "Most of our patients are referred by either family, teachers or churches. The people lack the responsibility to realise their problem and seek help. The legal aspect of possible arrest also scares them."

Cape pupils involved in sex, drugs, violence

DI CAELERS in the Western Cape
Weekend Argus Reporter

TEENAGERS in the Western Cape smoke, drink alcohol, use drugs, have unprotected sex and are responsible for, and victims of, violence.

That is the harsh reality revealed in an extensive study of risk-taking behaviour of Cape Peninsula high-school pupils, published in this month's South African Medical Journal, which demands urgent action from health and educational authorities and enhances the need for sex education at the primary school level.

The study was conducted by Dr A J Flisher (principal investigator), Dr C F Ziervogel, Mr P H Leger and Professor B A Robertson, all of UCT's department of psychiatry, as well as Dr D O Chalton of the SA Medical Research Council's Institute for Biostatistics.

Canvassing 7 340 pupils from 16 schools in all the education departments, the study found that most youngsters were having sex for the first time at about 15 years of age.

A substantial number of the heterosexual encounters recorded, especially those of Xhosa-speaking as well as

male pupils generally, were not safe in terms of unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including the HIV virus.

About a quarter of those pupils having sex had not known their partner for longer than seven days and just more than half had done anything to avoid pregnancy.

The study said: "Our finding that a considerable proportion of adolescents are commencing sexual activity at a relatively early age and, furthermore, that many of these younger students have not known their partner for more than seven

days and are not taking adequate precautions against pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, implies that education regarding sexuality should commence in primary school."

In an editorial discussing the findings, Dr Derek Yach, leader of the medical council's essential health research group, said it was crucial that adolescents be treated as high-priority during transition.

It was clear the volatile, uncertain socio-political process had had a profound impact on South African teenagers.

Brazil on

alert for

'coke run' from SA

STimes CCIMetroJ

4-1-73

By WIM VAN VOLSEM
in RIO DE JANEIRO

SAA flight SA206 from Rio de Janeiro to Cape Town — known as "the coke run" — has been given a top-secret "operational and strategic listing" by Brazil's Federal police drug busters.

This was confirmed to Cape Metro this week by top sources in the Brazilian Narcotic Enforcement Department at federal police headquarters in the capital Brasilia.

But a police spokesman refused to disclose what it plans to do about the apparently regular cocaine consignments on this flight, which leaves from Rio's Galeao airport every Sunday night.

The confirmation of Brazil's investigation into cocaine smuggling

into South Africa follows a series of large drug busts by the SAP's Wynberg Narcotics Bureau in which passengers from Rio have been caught with large quantities of cocaine. The regularity and similarity of these arrests suggest a possible new international coke smuggling route, Brazilian police sources said. Rio undercover anti-drug units suspect that South American cocaine bosses have selected Cape Town as a substitute for Lagos after Brazilian police blew the "Nigeria Connection" earlier this year.

It was discovered that huge quantities of cocaine from neighbouring Colombia and Bolivia were being smuggled via

Brazil to Lagos — and being rerouted to Europe.

Adding weight to this theory is that the SAP has confirmed that Nigerians appear to be the kingpins behind the new flood of cocaine into South Africa. Cape Town is also a handy halfway point to lucrative markets further east.

"By using D F Malan, the drug traders simply piggyback on SAA's new extended services to these regions," said SAA Rio de Janeiro station manager Mr Phillip van Rensburg.

He said he was aware of the drug-carrying problems on flight SA206.

It has emerged that, unintentionally, SAA offers the international

Turn to page 3

Brazil on alert for 'coke run' from SA

STimes CCIMetroJ

4-1-73

drug mafia the easiest and fastest routes from cocaine-producing South America to rich potential markets like Japan and Australia.

That "halfway-house" South Africa happens to be a prosperous and lucrative market as well, is an added bonus for the drug bosses.

"The African connection is not new," a senior officer at federal police headquarters in Brasilia said.

"All flights from Brazil to that continent, and that includes Cape Town, are checked with suspicion.

The official, who did not want his name published, declined to comment on Cape Town's importance as an international drug centre.

"That is something for the SA Police ties to confirm," he said.

"I'm not denying that there is a connection. But we do not like to talk in public about new routes or even old ones. We are not dealing with petty criminals, but with heavy unscrupulous gangsters," he said.

From page 1

SAA is embarrassed and frustrated by the situation.

"We are doing all we can to bar cocaine loads from our aircraft, but our action range is limited at foreign departure points," explained Mr van Rensburg in Rio.

"Policing, searching and arresting powers rest with local authorities. We have the right to search a person or go through his belongings, but only in the presence of a local police officer or customs official."

Mr van Rensburg said it would be impossible to check all luggage before take-off as is done on arrival.

"Imagine doing that with the average two pieces of luggage of each and every one of 200 passengers," he said.

SAA's own security measures at Rio's airport are limited to scanning luggage with a metal and bomb detector.

He said check-in staff also looked for suspicious behaviour or nervousness.

Drugs: Parents told 'beware'

Own Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH. — Parents of Eastern Cape teenagers have been warned to be aware of a looming onslaught by international drug barons.

The warning was issued by the SA National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence in the wake of a massive drug bust in Cape Town last week. CT6/17/93

Mandrax and dagga, however, are the major drugs-related problem in Port Elizabeth.

Answer is a R250-m lemon

Star 10/1/92
THE citrus industry could lose more than R250 million this year. Chairman of the Letaba District Agricultural Union, Edward Vorster, said drought in the lowveld had caused a 30 percent drop in the export harvest. Irrigation water is expected to run out before December. — Sapa ~~87~~

R45 000 Cape LSD haul

Star 10/1/92
CAPE TOWN — Paarl detectives yesterday confiscated a large consignment of the drug LSD and arrested two suspects in Cape Town. The 1 246 LSD units were worth more than R45 000. Police said the drugs had come from Amsterdam. — Sapa ~~86~~

C

Paarl narcotics cop makes SA's biggest bust

S/Times [C/Metas] 11/1/93

By PETA KROST

A PAARL Narcotics Bureau detective working undercover infiltrated a drug ring and gained the confidence of the alleged dealer, leading to what police have described as South Africa's biggest-ever LSD seizure.

Warrant-Officer Pieter Mans' successful infiltration led to the confiscation this week of 1 246 "caps of acid" — with a street value of more than R40 000 — after he "befriended" two men.

"After he infiltrated the drug scene in May, he first bought 361 caps

of acid on May 26," said South African Narcotics Bureau's Paarl commanding officer Major Ernie Jooné.

"On Friday Warrant-Officer Mans arrested the Bothasig men when they allegedly attempted to sell him 800 caps of acid."

Major Jooné said another 85 caps were found on the premises after the arrest. (87)

The police believe the drugs could have been transported by ship to Cape Town from Holland. (2)

Last week Wynberg Narcotics Bureau confis-

cated 500 "caps" of LSD, which at that time was the biggest LSD haul in the Western Cape.

"In my opinion, the Western Cape could soon have the worst drug problem in the country," Major Jooné said.

□ See page 3

By PETA KROST

POLICE in the Western Cape, battling to stem the tide of hard drugs pouring into the region, have called on the courts to impose more severe sentences as a deterrent.

The drug problem in the Western Cape has reached epidemic proportions and is now far too big an issue for the police alone, according to narcotics detective Sergeant Mark Uren.

"It is time that the courts started imposing the mandatory sentences that are on the statute books," said police spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Raymond Dowd.

Call for stiff drug sentences

SI Times CC Metro

The new Drug and Drug-Trafficking Act, which brings South Africa in line with tough international laws, came into effect on May 1, 1993.

The law, among other things, makes allowance for money or possessions of convicted drug dealers to be confiscated by the courts and placed in state coffers.

The police have the power to seize any property owned by a convicted dealer if there is a threat it may be removed or disposed

of before it is confiscated by the court.

Cape attorney-general Mr Frank Kahn said: "The new legislation views drug-related offences as very serious and we will act accordingly."

But despite these harsh new powers, the courts in the Cape have yet to use,

While the track records of the Wynberg and Cape Town SANAB branches have been excellent, police believe they will only make a real breakthrough once the courts begin impos-

ing stiffer sentences.

"The problem is that smuggling drugs is so easy and financially rewarding," Sergeant Uren said.

"This is why the trade has grown so drastically and where there was one dealer in certain areas five years ago, there are about 100 now," he said.

Some of these dealers, who may have started because they were unemployed or simply did not want to work, are now using children and elderly people to do their dirty work, he

said.

But often, when police finally arrest a dealer — sometimes after an investigation lasting up to a year — they are sentenced to a large fine and a suspended jail term.

"Six or seven years ago the mandatory sentence for anyone dealing in any amount of Mandrax was a five-year jail sentence with no option of a fine.

"That was a deterrent and the drug problem wasn't half as bad as it is now.

"Now the fine is the more popular sentence, which in the case of a big-time drug dealer is pocket money."

Acid back in as drug choice

By BEN HIRSCHLER

JUST over 50 years after Dr Albert Hofmann, a research chemist at Swiss drugs firm Sandoz, stumbled across the mind-bending substance LSD on April 16, 1943, "acid" is once again riding high.

Police and drug experts say both supply and demand have increased sharply worldwide as a new generation rediscovers the drug which launched a million trips in the psychedelic 1960s.

British seizures of LSD (lysergic acid diethylamine) rose to 152 000 doses last year from 88 000 in 1991, after rising steadily from 40 000 in 1988, customs data shows.

In the United States, LSD is now second only to marijuana as the recreational drug of choice among 12 to 17-year-olds, according to recent studies.

The Vienna-based United Nations' International Narcotics Control Board reported earlier this year that "the abuse of LSD seems to be re-emerging" across Europe.

"We're seeing something of an acid revival. There's no question about that," said Mike Goodman, director of the British drug counselling agency Release.

"There's a hippy, trippy scene out there again."

Central London is peppered with dance clubs harking back nostalgically to the original acid era with names like "Freak Out", "The Mile High Club" and "Alice in Wonderland".

Though not addictive, the effects of LSD, which heightens and distorts reality, are extremely unpredictable.

For some the experience is a revela-



BIGGEST HAUL . . . LSD by the handful was confiscated by the Paarl Narcotics Bureau on Friday

tion. Others find it leads to paranoia, long-term mental disturbance or even suicide.

But Fraser Clarke, editor of underground magazine *Evolution* and a long-

standing LSD enthusiast, believes the drug has had a bad press for too long.

In the years that followed, Dr Hofmann's new drug — a derivative of ergot, a mould which attacks rye — fuelled growing controversy.

Some psychotherapists and intellectuals believed it was a key to unlock the workings of the human mind.

Cary Grant, one of 40 000 patients given LSD therapeutically in the United States in the 1950s and 1960s, also praised its effects.

Governments, too, were quick to realise its potential.

The CIA thought LSD could be the ultimate truth drug — and a potentially awesome battlefield weapon with which to debilitate soldiers.

It embarked on a huge programme of LSD experiments, giving the drug to CIA workers, soldiers, prisoners and mental patients. Ironically, the main effect was to alert students and others to LSD's potential, speeding its release on to the streets.

Once out of CIA control, LSD use exploded in the United States and abroad in 1960s.

But, by the mid-1960s the LSD backlash had begun and the drug was finally banned on both sides of the Atlantic in 1967.

Dr Hofmann is saddened by the history of the drug he once described as "my problem child".

Now in his late 80s, he maintains LSD could have a therapeutic benefit for some patients if used in small quantities under controlled conditions. — Sapa-Reuter

Stein 13/1/93

'Smoking's a headache'

By Norman Chandler
Pretoria Bureau

87

Most employers do not know how to implement a smoking control policy in their companies, says the latest edition of *The Public Servant*, official journal of the Public Servants' Association of South Africa.

"Smoking at work seems to be a headache for everyone. Smokers want to be free to smoke when and where they choose, while non-smokers want to be free to breathe clean, smoke-free air," the journal says.

"This leaves employers in the cross-fire."

According to *The Public Servant*, employers have a duty to protect employees.

To do this, the magazine suggests, they need to ban smoking in some facilities, and ensure that the employee or customer is not exposed to tobacco smoke in the workplace.

Passive smoking — the inhalation of other people's tobacco smoke — poses a risk factor for non-smokers. Health problems include lung cancer, respiratory problems, as well as a general increase in health risks.

According to the publication, there is not a single cell in the body that is not adversely affected by smoking and passive smoking.

Even ventilation systems or air-conditioning cannot remove components of cigarette smoke from the air.

Economic effects are also widespread — smokers are absent from work up to 45 percent more than non-smokers, productivity decreases, and there has to be more frequent renewal of furnishings and ventilation filters because of smoke.

It is stated that three million people die worldwide every year as a result of smoking — more than half the deaths are in the 35 to 69 year age group.

Clean-air policies in South Africa have been implemented by the Medical Research Council, the National Cancer Association, Sator, SA Defence Force, Department of National Health, and the Department of Correctional Services.

SA health hazards

JOHANNESBURG. — South Africa's health status relative to income was one of the worst in the world, the World Bank said in its latest development report. ~~AGG 15/11/93~~

According to the report, 53 percent of South African children aged between two and five in the 1980s were stunted as a result of malnutrition. (57)

This compared with an average of 39 percent in the rest of Africa.

The annual incidence of tuberculosis in South Africa of 250 cases a 100 000 was nearly 15 percent above the African average and more than 10 times the rate of developed countries. —

Sapa

No smoking in new centre

(87) CT29/7/93

MUCH debate at a Constantia local council meeting last week ended with a ban on smoking in the new Alphen Centre which will open to the public in September.

By then, almost R2-million will have been spent upgrading and rebuilding the centre, as well as paving and landscaping the immediate surroundings.

The management plan for the centre, passed at the meeting, allows for preferential tariffs for local ratepayers, who will be able to hire the main hall for R300 a booking (R500 for non-residents) or R20 an hour (R40 for non-residents).

Some debate centred on the smoking issue. Mr

Harry Spragg asked how the regulation could possibly be policed.

Constantia's planner, Mr Henry Aikman, said he had consulted the Medical Officer of Health, and had been supported; while it was appreciated that the regulation might be flouted at some functions, the decision was one "of principle" and in line

with the regulations adopted elsewhere.

Mrs Jeanette Shapiro thought most smokers realised they were acting in an anti-social manner. "People tend to go outside when they want to smoke," she said.

● At least three councillors smoked when the LCCV was founded almost three years ago. Now none smokes.

Nelson would not light up with this 'Nelson'

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Mr Nelson Mandela is not impressed by a West African cigarette brand named after him. (81) CT 8/9/93

He has instructed the ANC's health and legal departments to act against an Ivory Coast manufacturer that has produced a brand called Nelson.

The advertisement showed young couples in a speed boat with a man offering cigarettes. The caption reads: "Viva Nelson! For brave people."

Prof warns on smoking, cancer

NEARLY a third of all cancer cases are related to smoking, according to Professor Ben Smit, head of radiotherapy at the University of Stellenbosch. *CT 8/19/93*

The cost of treating and diagnosing cancer had become prohibitive, and preventative medicine had become essential, he said at the 15th National Radiotherapy Congress in the city yesterday. *(57)*

It was important to warn people about the dangers of smoking and the early diagnosis of cancer, particularly cervical cancer, was essential. — Sapa

Mandela huffs over Nelson smokes

NELSON Mandela does not encourage cigarette smoking, especially by youngsters puffing on a West African brand named after him. *Biday*

The ANC president has instructed the ANC's health and legal departments to take action against an Ivory Coast cigarette manufacturer which has produced a cigarette brand called Nelson. *8/9/93*

Mandela's attention was drawn to the cigarettes by British heart specialist Dr Keith Ball, who first saw the cigarettes advertised in Senegal, the September issue of the ANC journal Mayibuye reported.

According to a letter to Mayibuye, advertisements for the cigarettes show two attractive young couples in a speedboat.

PATRICK BULGER

"One of the men is offering everyone cigarettes and the caption reads: 'Viva Nelson! For brave people.'

"Dr Ball ... realised there was only one Nelson who was an international hero for young people ... and wrote to Mandela asking if he had given permission for his name to be used on a cigarette ad.

"Mandela replied: 'I am astounded that a brand of cigarettes has been called Nelson, presumably, as you indicate, after me. Had I been approached by the manufacturer of this cigarette, I would certainly have withheld my permission.'" *(87)*

Mandela said he endorsed the view that smoking should be discouraged.

Drink: City pupils tell of bingeing

Staff Reporter

ALCOHOL abuse by city high school pupils is a serious problem, with 82% of pupils using alcohol, a new study has revealed.

One in four pupils admitted indulging in drinking binges in a survey conducted by Dr Charles Parry of the Medical Research Council.

A third of pupils questioned said they obtained liquor from public outlets, while over 70% said they had had their first drink at 13 or younger.

Dr Parry, a specialist scientist, is researching the relationship between advertising and alcohol consumption.

Binges

From May to July this year he polled 340 mostly male pupils aged 14 to 16 in seven model C schools and two House of Representative schools in greater Cape Town.

Pupils were asked whether they had drunk five or more drinks on at least one occasion over a two-week period. Twenty-three percent said "yes", with almost 10% admitting to "bingeing" on more than one occasion.

Dr Parry said these figures correlated with other studies.

Pupils listed factors strongly influencing their views on alcohol as being friends, family and then advertising.

Dr Parry said while advertisers believed they only influenced brand choice there was a strong possibility

that with declining sales they tried influencing consumption as well.

Of the pupils tested, 69% watched TV after 9pm — prime time for alcohol advertising.

Alcohol abuse was a problem in South Africa, according to 63% of pupils. Almost a third felt that a good party had to have alcohol.

However, another third felt alcohol should be illegal.

Most pupils obtained alcohol from family members, with 63% having their first drink with their parents.

The study also sampled university students aged 18 to 25, finding that 94% used alcohol. Nearly half the men and a quarter of the women students went on drinking binges.

Preliminary

Nearly all the students said they drank for social acceptance, while 26% felt alcohol helped them overcome personal problems.

Dr Parry said that these were only preliminary results and much of the data regarding the relationship between alcohol and advertising still needed to be analysed.

While efforts should be made to influence advertising practices and develop counter-advertising strategies, Dr Parry said family and friends should also be interviewed. These were likely to have an even greater impact on alcohol use by the young.

(87)

CT13/9/93

(87)

Smoking a dying habit in Britain

ARC 21/9/93
The Argus
Foreign Service

LONDON. — Smoking in the workplace has become a rarity in Britain, with just one in 15 offices still allowing workers to smoke freely.

A study of 46 organisations by Incomes Data Services has revealed that the vast majority have either placed an outright ban on smoking at work or have designated special and separate areas for smokers.

As a result, campaign groups are now treating smoking at the workplace as a battle that has been all but won, says the IDS report entitled "Last Gasp for Smoking at Work".

It says banning smoking boosts staff morale, cuts company costs and reduces sickness and absenteeism among smokers and non-smokers.

Smoking risk 'exaggerated'

(87)

CT 7/10/93

From MELANIE GOSLING

MOUNT SHEBA. — Scientists have identified over 200 risk factors associated with heart disease which include baldness, speaking English as a home language, being a fourth child, having an intelligent wife and not being a Mormon.

Lists of risks such as these — contained in an article from an overseas medical publication, Atherosclerosis — were examples of the simplistic messages the public was being fed about health, Dr Sharon Boyse told a Smoking Debate Seminar in the Eastern Transvaal yesterday.

The seminar was organised by the United Tobacco Company.

Dr Boyse, head of the smoking issues department in the British/American Tobacco Company in Britain, said it was equally simplistic to say smoking causes lung cancer and heart disease.

Health message simplistic

"Smoking might or might not cause disease. It has not been proved either way."

Dr Boyse said if smoking were the major factor in lung cancer then one would expect a high correlation between the level of smoking in a country and the incidence of lung cancer.

"But in Japan 62% of men smoke, yet they have one of the lowest rates of lung cancer in the world.

"Conversely very few Chinese women smoke, yet Chinese women have one of the highest rates of lung cancer in the world."

Dr Boyse said the anti-smoking lobby often made statements that each cigarette knocked several minutes off a person's life. But a recent study had shown that men who gave up smoking would extend their life expectancy by a mere nine months, and women by seven months.

She said the diseases in the West were largely those of old age and there was a limit to which altering one's lifestyle could increase life expectancy.

Reducing the amount of cholesterol intake would add only another seven months to an average man's life; strict blood pressure control would add 1,1 year and weight loss to ideal body weight would add six months.

Prof Philip Witorsch, head of Respiratory Medicine at George Washington University in the US, said his research had shown that there was no evidence to suggest that chronic exposure to passive smoking was a health risk.

War against smokers 'becoming a witchhunt'

JOHANNESBURG. — The war being waged against smokers had escalated into something approaching a witch-hunt in the US, where some companies have banned their employees from smoking even in their own homes.

This was claimed by US lawyer Mr John Rupp in the Smoking Debate Seminar sponsored by the United Tobacco Company in the Eastern Transvaal yesterday.

Professor Jean Boddewyn, head of

International Business at New York City University, said about 20 countries had banned advertising of cigarettes and other tobacco products in an attempt to curb smoking.

However, tobacco consumption was higher in several countries where cigarette advertising was forbidden than in those where it was allowed.

In some countries where advertising was permitted tobacco consumption was declining

(27) CT 8/10/93

'Conclusive' cancer link

(87)
CT8/10/93

Staff Reporter

THE Medical Research Council (MRC) yesterday slammed a tobacco industry report that said smoking risks were "exaggerated", saying research "shows conclusively that the link between tobacco and ill-health is the strongest in all of public health".

The report was made during a Smoking Debate Seminar in the Eastern Transvaal that ended yesterday.

The MRC's Dr Derek Yach said yesterday the claim was the latest in a long stream of attempts by the tobacco industry to sow doubt about the effects of smoking.

"The truth is that 40 years of research have conclusively shown that 90% of lung cancer,

Tobacco deaths can be avoided

25% of heart disease, and 80% of chronic lung disease are preventable by not smoking."

About 4 000 people died of lung cancer in SA each year, he said.

"Smokers are twice as likely to die in their working years as non-smokers, children exposed to passive smoking are far more likely to have chest diseases or asthma, and mothers who smoke are likely to give birth to under-

weight children," added Dr Yach.

Australian research showed non-smokers' life expectancy was 76,5 years, but for smokers it was less than 70 years.

It was clear the tobacco industry "is concerned that its attempts to target the black community, women and children in South Africa and Africa may be stopped in their tracks".

Dr Yach added that the fact that "the eight alleged experts 'independent of the tobacco industry' came to SA paid for by the United Tobacco Company, is a sign of the success of the tobacco control groups in the country".

The "experts", said Dr Yach, were reluctant to publish peer review articles in scientific journals, or debate their point of view in accepted public health forums.

Anti-smoking body slams tobacco industry

Blade 13/10/93

KATHRYN STRACHAN

THE National Council Against Smoking yesterday attacked the tobacco industry for "sowing doubt in the public mind about the deadliness of its product". To "restore the balance", the tobacco industry last week held a seminar for journalists at an eastern Transvaal resort. Council spokesman Yussuf Saloojee said while the seminars were addressed by what the organisers described as "international experts" and "respected academics" quite independent from the tobacco industry, several of the speakers had strong links with the tobacco industry. He said one of the "independent" international experts was Dr Sharon Boyce, head of smoking issues with the British American Tobacco Corporation in the UK. Saloojee said the industry maintained a

"deliberate silence" on the hazards of smoking, and still refused to debate the issue in public.

The only time the industry broke its silence was to issue statements that claimed evidence was controversial.

According to its own document, said Saloojee, the industry had embarked on a "brilliantly-conceived and executed strategy of creating doubts about the health charge without actually denying it".

"Claims that the health case against tobacco is not proven therefore ring reassuringly in smokers' ears and help them repress their health concerns and continue smoking."

MARCIA KLEIN reports that United

Tobacco Company public affairs manager Hilary Thomson said the National Council Against Smoking had indicated that the tobacco industry had no right to put forward its viewpoint, and that only the anti-smoking lobby was entitled to comment on the debate. (87) (138)

"We are just trying to ensure that people have access to all information rather than the information supplied by one side."

Commenting on Saloojee's statement that the media provided "an unchallenged platform for the periodic attempts of the tobacco industry to sow doubt in the public mind", Thomson said the industry usually had no opportunity to reply to claims made by the anti-smoking lobby.

Thomson said the industry did not refuse to debate the issue in public.

IN B

Smoking ban for George

THE town council of George has imposed a total ban on smoking in a range of municipal premises to which the public has access.

At a meeting this week the council decided smoking would no longer be allowed in any "public halls, committee rooms, rooms, kitchens, waiting rooms, passageways, libraries, clinics, changing rooms and toilets to which the public have access".

The ban follows a letter from the Non-Smoking Support Group urging the town council to introduce smoke-free areas. (81) ARG 16 / 10/93

A smoking victim reacts

CT 20/10/93 (87)

Staff Reporter

TRIPLE victim of smoking-related diseases Mrs Dawn Poole started the Non-smoking Support Group earlier this year for non-smokers, ex-smokers and smokers who want to kick the habit.

Her father and husband, both smokers, died of lung cancer and Mrs Poole had to leave her job after developing a highly allergic reaction to cigarette smoke. Her managers refused to introduce any measures to help her, she said.

She said she had felt ostracised and humiliated by this and realised a group to give advice on smoking-related issues was sorely needed.

So far the NSSG has lobbied more than 150 restaurants, various businesses, Golden Arrow and Spoornet, airports and sport stadiums to introduce and enforce no-smoking facilities. "More than half the population don't smoke. The tobacco industry must realise they are selling a dangerous pastime," Mrs Poole said.

Anti-smoke move on ⁽⁸¹⁾ hospitals

ART 2/11/93
Health Reporter

A CLAREMONT-based support group for non-smokers has begun a campaign to stop smoking in hospitals, clinics and surgeries.

The Non-Smokers' Support Group has called on all members to write to health facilities urging them to ban smoking, and to lobby medical officers of health, Health Minister Rina Venter, the ANC health desk and chief directors of health services.

Cases cited in the group's latest news letter include patients having to endure visitors and fellow patients smoking in wards, a child with a respiratory illness being exposed to a doctor's smoke and an emphysema patient who has to attend regular clinics where smoking is allowed in the waiting room.

Urgent look at airport smoking

A NEW policy on smoking at South Africa's airports is being investigated as a matter of urgency, says Airports Company spokesman Coenie Meyer.

Mr Meyer said the policy, which would include demarcation of smoking zones, would be announced within weeks.

A project team would submit a report to management next week and an immediate decision would be taken. "It won't be dragged out," he said. — Sapa.

87 ARG 4/11/93

Smokeless zones for ⁸⁷ D F Malan? _{ET4/11/93}

A NEW policy on smoking at South Africa's airports should be announced within weeks, Airports Company spokesman Mr Coenie Meyer said yesterday.

Mr Meyer said the issue, which included demarcation of smoking zones, was being investigated "as a matter of urgency".

A project team is to submit a report to management next week and an immediate decision will be taken.

He was commenting on correspondence between D F Malan Airport's deputy manager Mr Chris Vermeulen and the Non-Smoking Support Group, which has requested non-smoking zones at the terminal.

Mr Vermeulen told the NSSG that the designation of separate smoking and non-smoking areas at the airport was not easy as there was limited space. "The enforcement of such measures will in practice also present some difficulties, and although smoking sometimes causes inconvenience to non-smokers, this company is committed not to be indifferent to the situation surrounding the preferences of the travelling public, including those of smokers."

Mr Meyer said the Airports Company was "totally aware" of the health factors involved in smoking, and had "big sympathy for non-smokers". — Sapa

Get-tough tobacco law faces delay

SOUTH Africa's tobacco control legislation, which will prohibit tobacco sales to children under 16 and force all tobacco products and advertisements to carry health warnings, may only come into force in mid-1994.

The law also provides for a ban on smoking in specified public places.

A spokesman for the Department of Health said yesterday that although the Tobacco Products Control Act had been passed by parliament and signed by the state president, it had not been promulgated.

The major cause of the delay was the drafting of regulations governing smoking in public places and of the compulsory health warnings.

The state's law advisers were giving priority to more pressing legislation and it was possible that the Act would only come into force by June 1994.

A representative of the department would be attending next week's All Africa Conference on tobacco and health in Harare, with other health workers from South Africa.

She would come back with material that could be used to draw up a set of regulations.

Workshops on the tobacco control laws and smoking bans in public places would be held in Cape Town and Johannesburg later this month.

— Sapa.

(87) ARG 13/11/93

Tobacco law delayed

SOUTH Africa's tobacco control legislation, which will prohibit tobacco sales to children under 16 and force all tobacco products and advertisements to carry health warnings, may only come into force in mid-1994.

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smoking in public places and of the compulsory health warnings.

The state's law advisers were giving priority to more pressing legislation.

A spokesman said the department had set June 1995 as the deadline for a complete ban on smoking in all public and private hospitals and clinics in the country.

The department had drawn up a guide for these health facilities that would allow them to implement the ban in stages from January 1994.

(87) CT 13/11/93

Second-hand smoke finding

(87) ARU 78/11/93
BOSTON. — Medical researchers said they had identified a chemical that could be responsible for lung cancers in non-smokers exposed to second-hand cigarette smoke.

In tests of six people, scientists from the American Health Foundation in Valhalla, New York, found that the amount of a cancer-causing substance known as NNAL was four times higher in the urine of the volunteers after they were exposed to three hours of smoke from a smouldering cigarette.

Urine levels of a chemical cousin of NNAL were also four times higher after exposure to the same amount of air pollution as in a smoke-filled bar.

The American Health Foundation team said the findings provided "experimental support for the proposal that environmental smoke can cause lung cancer". — Sapa-Reuter.

ANC backs Harare on tobacco curbs

(87)

ARG 19/11/93

□ Mandela to support anti-smoking programme

ANDREA WEISS
Health Reporter

THE African National Congress is committed to implementing a comprehensive tobacco control programme with the full backing of its president, Nelson Mandela.

This message was given by Nkosazana Zuma, the ANC's national executive committee member, at an all-Africa tobacco control conference in Harare this week.

The conference aimed to limit tobacco use on the African continent.

A Press conference in Johannesburg yesterday highlighted some of the points that emerged from the conference.

Dr Zuma said the ANC's programme would include legislation restricting advertising and the targeting of the black popu-

lation and children.

He said the ANC would also encourage organisations to mobilise against tobacco use.

Echoing these sentiments, Zimbabwean minister of health Timothy Stamps called on his country to reduce its "over-dependence" on tobacco.

He said the Zimbabwean health ministry was committed to reducing and preventing the health effects of tobacco through education and curbs on tobacco promotion.

Amy Kabwe of the Zambian anti-smoking society warned that active intervention needed to take place to prevent more women from smoking because of increased risks during pregnancy.

Simon Chapman, Australian editor of the Tobacco Control Journal, questioned tobacco's portrayal as the secure earner of hard currency for African

countries. He said Africa produced only six percent of tobacco worldwide. Malawi and Zimbabwe accounted for three-quarters of the African total.

Ugandan Henry Muwanga-Bayego warned that deforestation was rife in his country owing to flue-curing tobacco in the West Nile region. Similar trends were reported from Kenya, where swamps and riverine vegetation was making way for tobacco seedlings.

Howard Barnum of the World Bank argued that anti-tobacco policies were a cost-effective way to save lives. He estimated that the cost of treating the sick amounted to an annual global loss of about R600 billion.

Delegates endorsed a decision, taken by the International Tobacco Growers' Association in Brazil, to reduce tobacco production by between 10 and 25 percent.

Smoking comes under fire again

Staff Reporter

LOCAL authorities came out strongly against smoking at a city workshop yesterday when representatives unanimously supported a ban on smoking in public places — including transport and restaurants — and on tobacco advertising.

Their recommendations will be forwarded to the Department of National Health.

Workshop organiser Dr Stewart Fisher said the main messages were the need to

- Restrict smoking in public places; (87)
- Restrict tobacco advertising;
- Educate people, especially children, against smoking, and
- Raise the cost of smoking to discourage tobacco consumption.

Drug and alcohol abuse cost SA R1b

DRUG and alcohol abuse costs South Africa about R1 billion annually in lost productivity, accidents, crime, damage to health, family breakdown and violence, Mr Glen Carelse, Deputy Welfare Minister said yesterday.

Speaking at the first meeting of the Drug Advisory Board, he said South Africa had been accused of being the biggest abuser of mandrax in the world and had been asked by the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs to make special efforts to combat the abuse.

He said 2,07 million mandrax tablets had been confiscated from January to September 1993.

Mr Carelse said in the 1992/93 finan-

cial year R24 million was budgeted for alcohol and drug-related services and 9 000 people received treatment in 1992.

Mr Carelse said in order to gain the public's support, they needed to be educated about the treatment of drug dependants.

The Drug Advisory Board, established in March this year, is a statutory body which advises on policy matters and initiates programmes.

Chairman of the board, Mr Chris van der Bergh said "leading international drug cartels were leaving no stone unturned to exploit turbulent times in South Africa for their own nefarious ends".

(87) (4) CT 24/11/93

Tobacco tax may be tripled in '94

CT 25/11/93

87

JOHANNESBURG. — A large increase in the tobacco tax is expected in next year's budget following a meeting between the government, ANC representatives and international tax experts last week.

Medical Research Council spokesman Dr Derek Yach — who chaired the meeting between senior government officials, a range of leading economists and the ANC-linked Macro Economic Research Group (Merg) — said there was "substantial agreement" that the tax level be raised.

While further calculations needed to be done before a final figure could be proposed, Mr Yach said there were indications at the meeting that consensus would soon be reached on tri-

pling the present tax level.

Canadian tax expert Mr David Sweanor said South Africa's tobacco tax of 30% was the lowest in the world. Taxes in the rest of the world ranged from 64% to 90%, with developing nations among the highest taxers.

Increasing the retail price of a pack of cigarettes by R1 would bring in an extra R1bn revenue.

By directing the proceeds to the poorest sections of the community, tobacco tax was internationally the most popular way of raising taxes, said Mr Sweanor.

Meanwhile, health officials have called for the immediate promulgation of the Tobacco Products Control Act.

Plea on smoking law
APR 25/11/93
LOCAL authorities have called on President F W de Klerk to promulgate the Tobacco Products Control Act immediately. Their representatives, meeting in Cape Town and Johannesburg, said the delay in promulgating the Act was harming their efforts to regulate smoking in public places. — Health Reporter (87)

More blows for smokers

Municipal Reporter

A BAN on smoking in municipal buildings is a step closer after council lawyers tightened the wording of a draft by-law (87)

Smoking in the Civic Centre was banned in July. *AK 4/12/93*

Medical officer of health Michael Popkiss asked for the further ban this week, but it was sent back to the amenities and health committee because the proposed regulation was too vague.

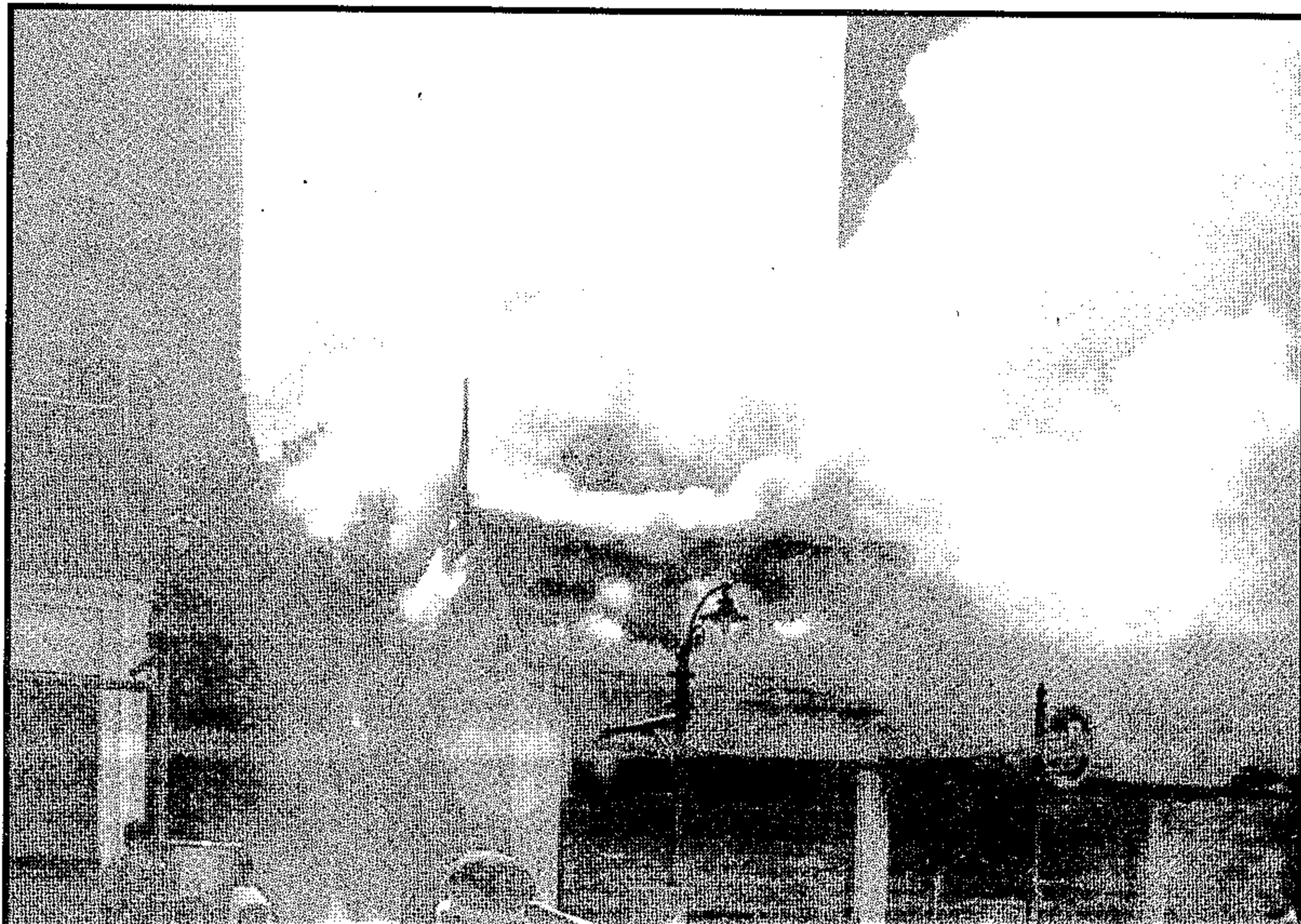
City legal adviser Chris Glaum said a revised version would be put to the council this month.

1993: a year of devastation ...

Living in South Africa always has its moments of bitter despair — and 1993 was no exception. The assassination of Chris Hani. The death of Oliver Tambo. Grotesquely high levels of violence — especially during July.

But 1993 also produced its moments of enormous hope. It was the year South Africa, against all the odds, reached a political settlement. A date was set for our first national election and it was a year where unparalleled efforts were directed towards peace.

Here, through the lens of SOUTH photographer **YUNUS MOHAMED** are some of those moments.



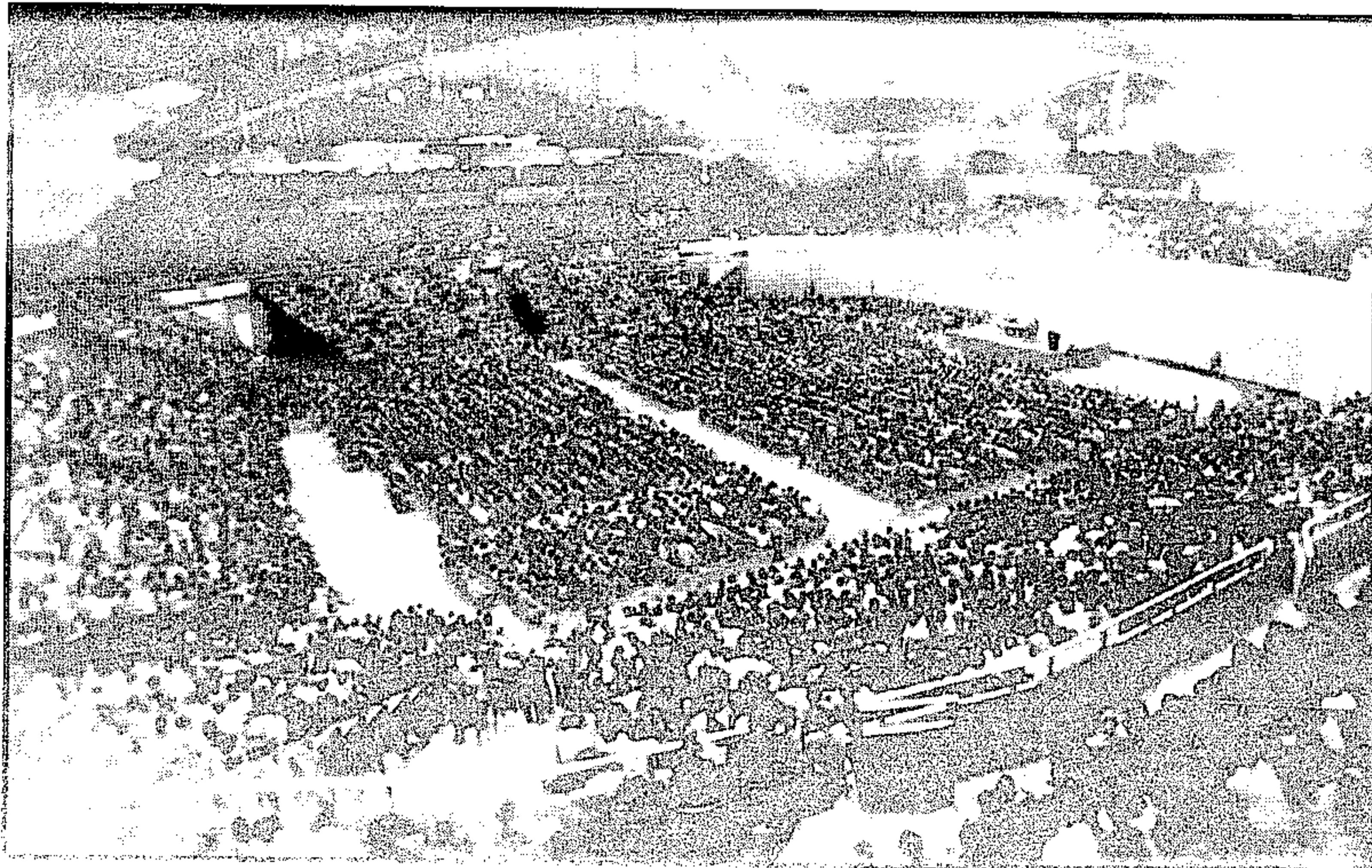
ABOVE: Nelson Mandela runs into some old friends during his Cape tour in September

ABOVE RIGHT: People's emotions boil over onto Cape Town's Grand Parade after the assassination of Chris Hani

BELOW: The South African Democratic Teachers' Union mobilised thousands of teachers

for the fight against retrenchments and miserable salaries

BELOW RIGHT: Dr Alban was one of the many international artists to hit our shores this year



Tobacco barons hit the lawmakers... 87

By Justin Pearce

THIS YEAR SAW the passing of South Africa's first ever tobacco control legislation, the Tobacco Products Control Act, which was gazetted in July.

Yet the government has been slow in enforcing the legislation.

The medical officers of health and environmental health officers from all of South Africa's major cities met last month to discuss the new act. According to a press

release by the Medical Research Council (MRC), the health officers "noted with concern that there had been a considerable delay in promulgating the act".

The new laws will empower local authorities to regulate smoking in public places. They will also ban the sale of tobacco to children under 16 years old, and ban tobacco advertising on municipal property.

Dr Derek Yach of the MRC believes the government's hesitation in promulgating the bill is another sign of its reluctance to resist the continuing pressure from the pow-

erful tobacco industry lobby.

All over the world the tobacco lobby has played an important role in blocking tobacco control laws. South Africa is no exception.

"It took until 1993 before legislation was passed in parliament, probably as a result of the power of the tobacco industry lobby waning," says Yach.

At local level, Yach cites the influence of Rembrandt Group tobacco magnate Dr Anton Rupert in stopping the Cape Town City Council from passing anti-smoking by-laws:

"Rupert's threats to withdraw funding for the Cape Town City Orchestra if restrictions on smoking were introduced in restaurants, still mean that the city council has failed to act."

Yach believes that political change gives South Africa the chance to revise its health policies.

"Past entrenched views and the impact of vested interest groups could give way to healthy public policy that is based on real needs."

He also points to statements by ANC President Mr Nelson Mandela on the need for tobacco control as a sign that such control will be integral to the next government's

health policy.

Yach warns however that the tobacco industry will try and undermine whatever health authorities do to try and reduce smoking.

"They target black communities increasingly through race-specific adverts. They target youth through increasing sport sponsorships and will probably try to provide financial support for political campaigns."

Yach cites a report in the British magazine "Business Week", which commented that Johan Rupert (another member of the Rembrandt dynasty) was trying to woo the ANC, aware that his future depended on black smokers.



PUFFING UP PROFITS: International tobacco companies are increasingly targeting people in developing countries as a lucrative market

... and people in Africa... 87

AS PEOPLE in developed countries cut down on smoking owing to increased health awareness, tobacco manufacturers are keener than ever to find new markets.

In their hunt for new smokers, they have turned their attention to the third world and to poorer, less educated communities in developed countries.

Dr Robert Robinson of the Centers for Disease Control in the United States, has lessons for Africa from the history of tobacco expansion among black Americans.

He outlined these lessons at the All-Africa Tobacco Control Conference in Harare last month.

Recognising that Africans are currently at the lower end of tobacco use prevalence, Robinson said: "Prevention and control strategies ought to be adopted now to maintain these low levels."

"The lesson is that the tobacco industry perceives current rates not as a problem but as an opportunity. If Africa is not prepared, the tobacco industry will gain a foothold."

Robinson highlighted the strategies which have been used successfully by African-American tobacco control advocates, and which could be used in the struggle for tobacco control in Africa too.

"Give strong attention to the types of cigarettes being imported to your communities. The tobacco industry will corrupt and buy off your local

vendor to include ads on display counters. It will exploit the fragmentation in your communities caused by the unequal distribution of power and resources."

"Excessive advertising makes tobacco appear to be acceptable to your communities. The regulation of tobacco advertising should be a top priority."

Such regulation, said Robinson, should go hand-in-hand with trade agreements with industries wishing to do business in Africa, to ensure advertising policies that will eliminate the need for African-owned businesses to depend on money from the tobacco industry.

Community development was identified by Robinson as a key strategy to ensure the inclusion of diverse community involvement in tobacco control. Crucial to this is the development of indigenous leadership and spokespersons, so as to avoid the pitfall of paternalism in tobacco control.

"Tobacco control advocates should begin discussions now with entertainers, athletes, and leaders of social and civic organisations, and begin a dialogue about an ethical basis for accepting money and support from the tobacco industry," Robinson said.

"Special attention must be paid to social, civil and political organisations because these provide the strongest core of community-based leadership."

... especially women... and children 87

WHILE NOT many women smoke in developing countries, more and more are taking up the habit, believes Mrs Amy Kabwe of the Zambian Anti-smoking Society.

Kabwe was speaking at the All-Africa Tobacco Control Conference in Harare last month. She identified tobacco industry advertising as a major factor in encouraging tobacco use by women.

During the past few years, the tobacco industry has targeted both its products and its advertising at women in developing countries.

In countries where women's smoking levels are still extremely low, such as in India, "women only" brands are starting to appear.

"This shows that marketing strategies used in developed countries will progressively be employed

for the huge market represented by women in developing countries," Kabwe said.

She added that these women are generally not aware of the dangers of smoking. "There is little or no information and health education on the subject in a number of developing countries."

"Women are often illiterate and warnings on advertising or cigarette packages have no effect on them."

Kabwe expressed particular concern at the effects of tobacco on the reproductive health of women in developing countries.

"In some developed countries, smoking is such an important cause of female mortality that the death rate from lung cancer is surpassing that for breast cancer."

"Special emphasis should be

placed on the influence of tobacco consumption on the reproductive health of women. This is very important because the risks associated with pregnancy in developing countries are 100 times greater than in developing countries."

Kabwe urged legislators to recognise that the prevention of tobacco use among women is a public health priority in Africa.

"It is the role of everyone, from international organisations to national governments and non-governmental organisations to ensure that sufficient effort is invested in this area."

"This possibility to do something on such a scale for future generations of women is one of the most exciting challenges for public health in the world at present."

CHILDREN UNDER 16 are now forbidden from buying cigarettes, in terms of the Tobacco Products Control Act which was passed in July.

At present, every day sees 600 new children lighting up for the first time, says Dr Derek Yach of the Medical Research Council.

On average, they start smoking between the ages of 12 and 14.

Yach said that by standard seven or eight, between 15 and 20 percent of school pupils smoke at least one cigarette a day. For boys, the figure is at least 25 percent.

But how easy will it be to enforce the new legislation when most black youths get their smokes from informal sellers and spaza shops?

Public health officers who met last month suggested that if they are to

take the new laws into the informal sector, municipalities will have to mobilise community support, and educate retailers about selling to young people.

The new law does however ban cigarette vending machines in places which are accessible to young people and unsupervised.

This page was made possible by the support of Warner-Lambert

Traditional nurses slated

Own Correspondent

EAST LONDON. — A top local community health worker has lashed out at "negligent and inexperienced" traditional nurses after six Xhosa initiates died while in the "bush" during the November/December circumcision season.

Community health educator Mr Zweliphakamile Dweba said 41 Xhosa initiates were also admitted to Ciskei hospitals.

Many of the initiates' wounds turned septic. Others died of dehydration, as their liquid intake was restricted.

He said while monitoring the initiates' progress, he found "boys" being looked after by young men who lacked the skills and experience of professional nurses. (87)

Some of the nurses were young men who had been circumcised six months earlier, he claimed. (S)

Mr Dweba also blamed elderly people who, he said, failed to check on the initiates' progress and did not provide guidance to the "so-called" nurses.

In Umtata, doctors said yesterday that at least 25 initiates had been treated. CJ 23/12/93

HEALTH & DISEASE — DRUG ADDICTION

1994

Drugs War as Crack 'Arrives'

By JACKIE CAMERON
Crime Reporter

SOUTH AFRICAN narcotics bureau detectives have embarked on a massive war against hard drugs as the notorious First World drug crack hits the streets of Cape Town.

Two sub-units of Sanab — specialising in illegal drug manufacturing plants and money laundering — were formed in the Transvaal earlier this month and are expected to become operational in the Western Cape next month.

Local police are also to work more closely with police around the world in a bid to smash international drug smuggling syndicates which have targeted South Africa both as a market and a conduit into other countries.

The new initiatives come amid mounting police concern that SA could face a major drugs problem within the next five years, after police seized double the amount of cocaine, mandrax and LSD last year compared to hauls in 1990. Police also have information that il-

legal chemical plants are operating in African states — including Kenya and Zambia — and are flooding the local market with drugs, including Mandrax and possibly LSD, Sanab chief Colonel Neels Venter said in an exclusive interview.

A local well-placed police source said crack — a dangerous cocaine derivative — was now being sold on the streets of Cape Town for about R3 per gram, but that no arrests had yet been made in connection with the drug.

Drug Counselling Centre spokesman Mr Peter Powis warned that crack — which is smoked — would probably find a lucrative market in Cape Town because drug abusers in the city tended to opt for drugs which could be smoked.

In Johannesburg drug counsellors are aware of crack being sold in Soweto, a spokesman for the Sylvain de Miranda Clinic in Johannesburg said.

According to SAP statistics released yesterday, about R170 million worth of illicit drugs were seized by police last

year. In operations around the country narcotics detectives confiscated more than 58kg of cocaine, which has a street value of at least R21 million, about R26 million worth of mandrax and R100 000 worth of LSD.

Less heroin was recovered by police last year — about 720 grams with a street value of about R254 000 — than in 1990, when they seized more than R14 million worth of the drug.

Police also confiscated more dagga in 1990, in hauls with a street value of R170 million. Last year at least R112 million worth of dagga was confiscated in drug busts around the country.

Col Venter said that among police initiatives to combat drug trafficking were the formation of the two new sub-units aimed at eliminating money laundering and the illegal manufacture of chemicals.

He said: "International statistics indicate that 80% of all laundered money has been acquired as a result of dealing

in drugs, which is why my unit will be tackling this kind of criminal activity.

"We believe that local and international drug dealers have money hidden in various ways in South Africa.

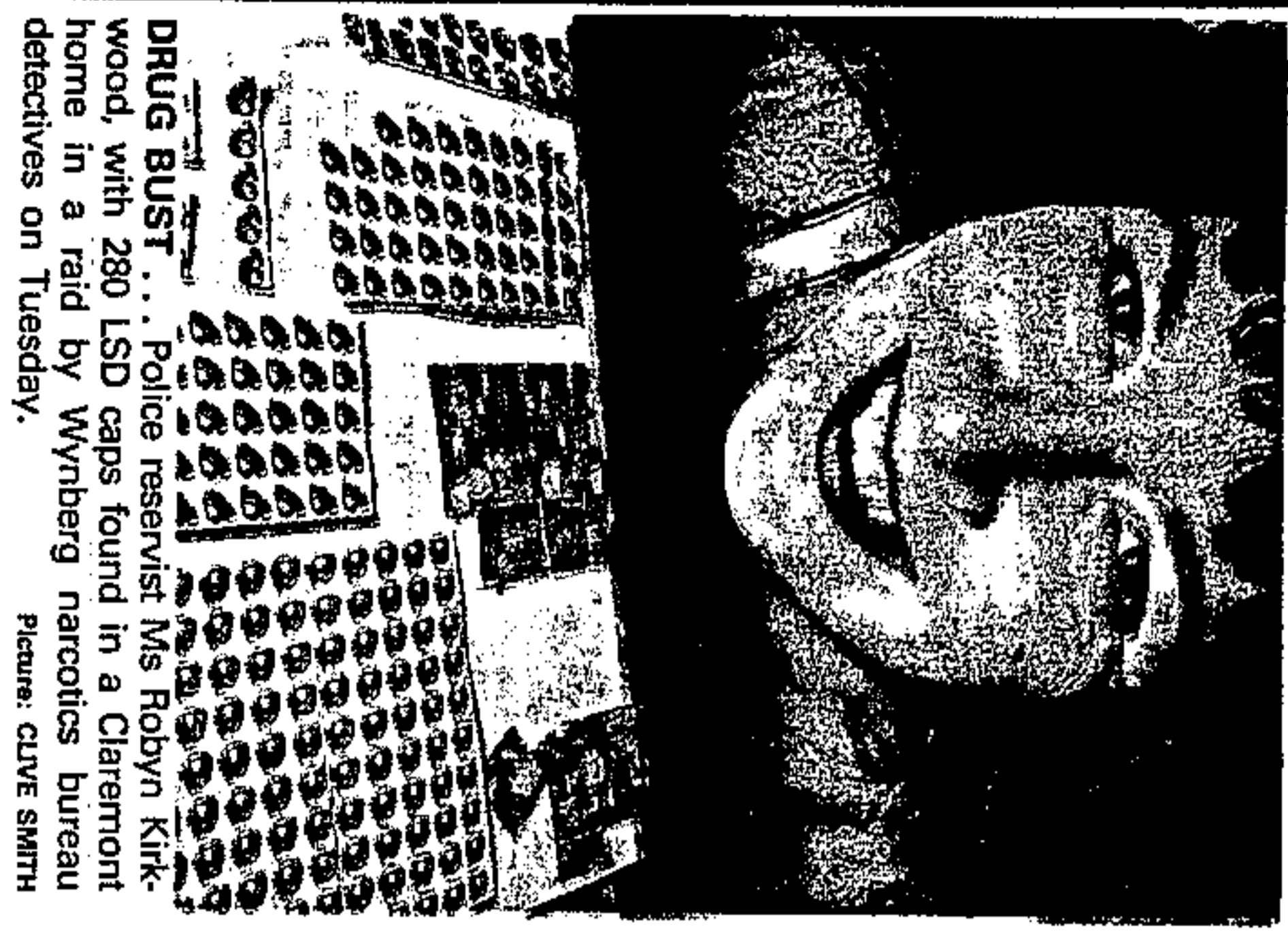
"We can also now place a greater emphasis on locating the primary sources in the drug chain by looking into the manufacturing of illicit chemicals outside the country.

"Our acceptance back into the international community makes investigations for us and police in the relevant communities easier.

"At this stage we are not aware of hard drugs being manufactured in this country, but cannot rule out the possibility that this could be taking place or could commence soon."

Col Venter said the manpower of the new sub-units — currently a handful of detectives — would be expanded as investigations intensified.

"We are worried about the growing drug problem and will do everything in our power to control it," he said.



DRUG BUST... Police reservist Ms Robyn Kirkwood, with 280 LSD caps found in a Claremont home in a raid by Wynberg narcotics bureau detectives on Tuesday.
Picture: CLIVE SMITH

Teenagers contemplate suicide

South 21/1-25/1/94 (87)

ONE IN every five high school pupils in the Cape Peninsula have seriously thought about harming themselves in a way that might cause their death, a survey has revealed.

While 12 percent of Cape students have told someone they intend committing suicide, nearly eight percent have tried to do so.

The survey, by researchers from the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Cape Town, studied risk-taking behaviour among adolescents.

The joint study, largely funded by the MRC, involved over 7000 pupils in 16 high schools in the Cape Peninsula. It is the first major study of its kind in Africa.

Risky behaviour investigated by the team included suicidal behaviour, alcohol, drug and cigarette consumption, road-related, violent and sexual behaviour.

Principal researcher, Dr Alan Flisher of UCT's Psychiatry Department, said the potential for risk-taking behaviour was greater than in any other age group, since young lifestyles involved more exploration, experimentation and rebellion.

"The deaths and ill-health caused by risk-taking behaviour are mostly preventable. We focused on school-going adolescents because there is tremendous potential for implementing efficient health promotion programmes at school," Flisher

said.

"Without estimates of a wide range of adolescent risk-taking behaviour, policy makers can do little in the way of designing effective prevention strategies. Now they will be well placed to make informed decisions on reducing the extent of risk-taking behaviour," he added.

The general trend was that, with the exception of sexual behaviour and (for males) substance abuse, Xhosa speaking students, especially females, were less likely to engage in risk-taking behaviour than those speaking other languages.

"A comprehensive strategy to reduce the extent of risk-taking behaviour should be developed as a matter of urgency. We do not have time to wait for a new constitution before such a strategy can be implemented. All the major stake-holders, including the various education and health departments and political groupings, should move now to implement the necessary measures," Flisher said.

The cornerstone of such a strategy would comprise school-based programmes, but other aspects would have to be included, such as legislation (for example, banning cigarette advertising); reducing the exposure of adolescents to violence in the media; improving preventative services (such as condom availability) at primary health care levels; and more effective enforcement of traffic regulations.

"If this is not achieved, there is no reason to think that South Africans will not continue to bear the adverse mental and physical consequences of preventable risk-taking during adolescence," he said.

Other results from the study are:

● Cigarette smoking: 18 percent of the students in the survey smoked on a daily basis, and of

these two-thirds had tried to stop. While very few Xhosa girls smoked, by matric more than a quarter of all boys smoked daily.

● Alcohol use: Over a quarter of the students had used alcohol in the last week, and 15 percent reported episodes of binge drinking (five or more drinks on at least one occasion in the last fortnight). Rates were highest among adolescents whose home language was English.

● Drug use: Cannabis was the most widely used illicit drug with 7,5 percent of the students reporting to have used it. Two percent had done so in the previous week, and a small group (1,6 percent) of students smoked mandrax and cannabis together. Nearly 11 percent had sniffed solvents previously. Of note was the small proportion of Xhosa-speaking females involved with drug use.

● Road related behaviour: Of those students who had driven a vehicle, nearly two-thirds had driven without a licence, 16 percent had driven an overcrowded vehicle, and eight percent had driven under the influence of dagga or alcohol. Of those who had been on a motorcycle, nearly 50 percent had driven without a helmet.

● Sexual behaviour: Of the sample (about 80 percent of the students completed this section of the questionnaire) 17 percent had had sex, the average age being 15 years. The proportion of students who had had sex was higher among Xhosa-speakers.

Sixty percent of those who had had intercourse, had taken some precaution to avoid pregnancy.

Relatively low proportions of Afrikaans and Xhosa-speaking males reported using contraceptive measures on their last sexual experience.

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Smoking in public battle resumes

Staff Reporter

THE City Council appears set to relaunch its campaign against smoking in restaurants.

This time it will have the backing of the Tobacco Products Control Act, which came into effect this week.

The new law allows local authorities to apply to the Minister of Health to ban smoking in public places.

It also makes it an offence to sell cigarettes to anyone under 16.

CT3/2/94
(87)
Last year the council and restaurateurs fought a bruising battle when the council wanted to compel larger restaurants to reserve half their seats for non-smokers.

The issue was referred to the Administrator, Mr Kobus Meiring, who ruled that restaurants should decide on the issue for themselves.

Yesterday the council's medical officer of health, Dr Michael Popkiss, said the council would meet on Monday to discuss the matter.

Dr Popkiss said he was absolutely sure the council would want to implement curbs on smoking in public places.

"We now have something on the statutes which states simply the options we have at our disposal to protect the non-smoker and do something to curb the high levels of smoking among young people," Dr Popkiss said.

Mrs Rika de Ruiters of the Tobacco Action Group also hailed the new legislation.

Council plans new smoking controls

CT 8/2/94 (87)
By PETER DENNEHY

TWO new anti-smoking steps were taken by the City Council's amenities and health committee yesterday.

The committee seeks to ban smoking in the sections of council buildings that are open to the public. It is also working again towards introducing smoking controls in restaurants.

The committee tabled an amendment to the council's present smoking by-law, proposing a ban on smoking in public-access parts of municipal buildings — unless there is a sign up permitting smoking.

Powers

In a separate anti-smoking step, the council has resolved to write to the Minister of Health, Dr Rina Venter, to ask her to grant it new powers under Section Two of the Tobacco Products Control Act.

Dr Michael Popkiss, the city's Medical Officer of Health, said yesterday that the significance of the new legislation was that the administrator no longer had any say over smoking in restaurants.

On at least two occasions, the administrator has blocked a council-proposed partial ban on smoking in restaurants.

● Mr Arthur Wienburg expressed dismay at the meeting that sports' stadiums were not affected by the legislation. Dr Popkiss responded that there was a need to concentrate first on public places in certain defined categories.

Gift from 'tobacco companies' to sports institute

Staff Reporter

AN "anonymous" gift of millions of rands to the new Newlands Sports Science Institute — reported to be from major tobacco companies — has no strings attached and will not influence research in any way, says director Tim Noakes.

Professor Noakes was responding to criticism of the donation by prominent anti-smoking campaigner Derek Yach of

the Medical Research Council.

Dr Yach, who was not available for comment today, was quoted as saying the gift — understood to be between R20 million and R30 million — raised ethical problems and that the issue should be widely debated.

Work on the new institute, being built on the Newlands Rugby field at a cost of about

R30 million, is due to start within a month. Professor Noakes said there were no strings attached to the anonymous gift.

"It's completely hands-off — that has been the basis of the discussion with the donors."

He said that the National Institute of Health had taken a policy decision that funds from the tobacco industry should be

used to promote health and sport in general, although through increased taxation.

"They appreciate that this money is to promote sport, and that's what we're doing."

"The money has been given for one reason only — because the donors believe sport, and excellence in sport, is the single most important way of promoting unity in South Africa. That is their vision."

Airports to get smokeless zones

Political Correspondent (87)

ALL South Africa's major airports will become largely smoke-free zones by the end of next month.

Announcing the restrictions at nine airports yesterday, the Airports Company (AC) said smoking would not be allowed in public areas of terminal buildings. However, smokers would still be able to light up in designated smoking areas.

The policy will be fully implemented by

the end of March, AC said in a statement.

The affected airports are: Jan Smuts, D F Malan, Louis Botha, Ben Schoeman, H F Verwoerd, P W Botha, Pierre van Rynveld, (Upington), B J Vorster (Kimberley) and the J B M Herizog.

The AC said the switch in policy was in line with a "growing passenger demand for smoke-free air."

Meanwhile, an opinion poll released yesterday revealed that a growing number

of white South African women supported legislation aimed at creating non-smoking areas in various public places.

The study was conducted by the Omnicheck division of Research Survey and involved 800 white women.

Most support came for non-smoking areas in restaurants and grocery stores, with three in four of the women questioned agreeing that these should be required by law.

CT/16/2/94

Smoking to be restricted at airports

Staff Reporter (87) ARC 10/2/94

THE Airports Company is preparing to ban smoking at nine airports, including DF Malan.

Smoking will be restricted to specially demarcated areas of the terminal buildings from next month.

Braam Loots, chairman and managing-director of the Airports Company, said the implementation of the policy followed months of investigation and con-

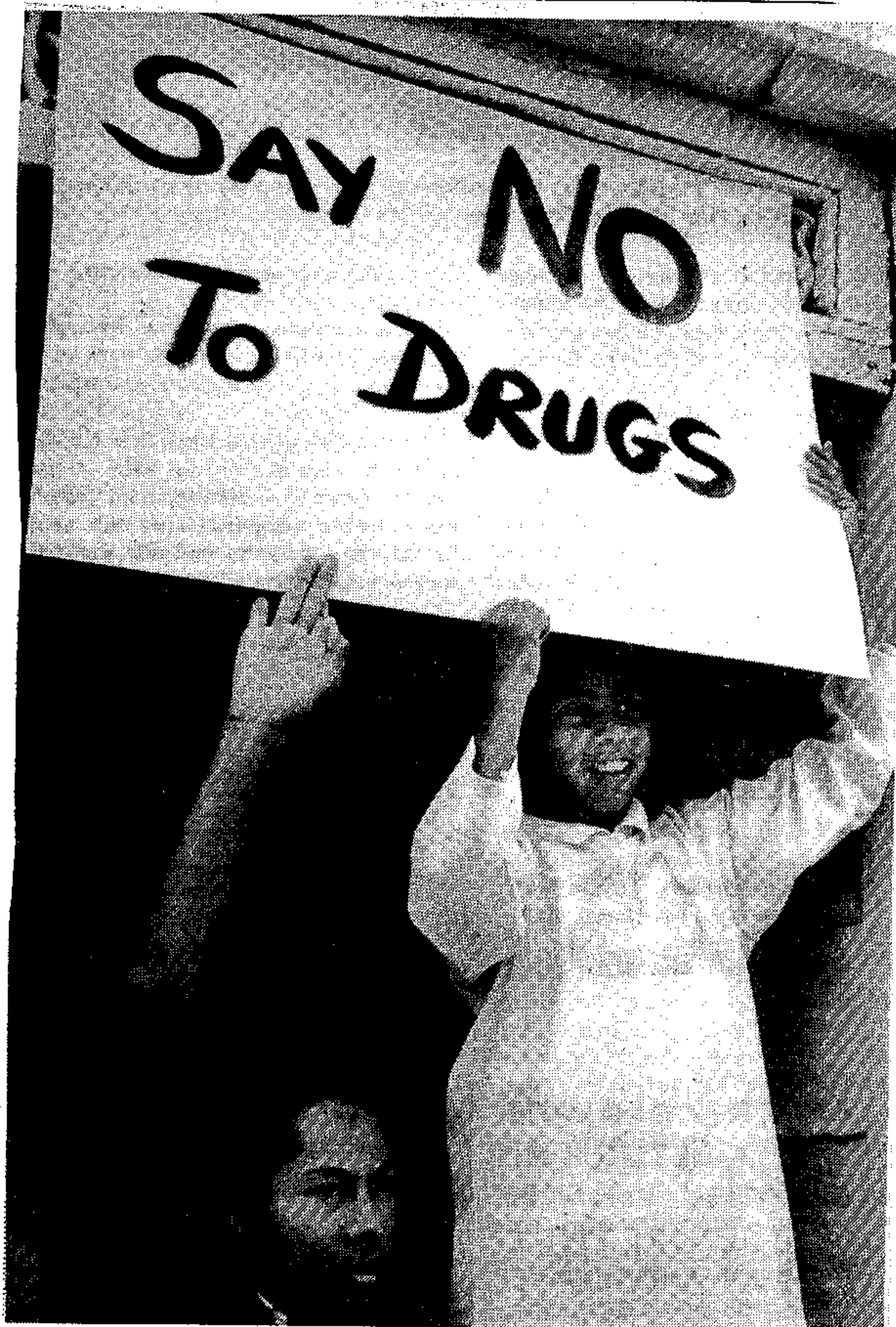
sultations with consumer, government, health and industry organisations.

"Our policy will be fully implemented by the end of March. It has been designed to accommodate smokers and non-smokers.

"Smokers who wish to smoke at the terminal buildings will have to do so within designated smoking areas, while non-smokers will enjoy a smoke-free environment in the public areas.

"This move is in line with international developments and will satisfy a growing passenger demand for smoke-free air."

The airports are: DF Malan, Jan Smuts (Johannesburg), Louis Botha (Durban), Ben Schoeman (East London), H F Verwoerd (Port Elizabeth), P W Botha (George), Pierre van Ryneveld (Upington), B J Vorster (Kimberley) and J B M Hertzog (Bloemfontein).



DRUG MARSHALLS: School children join the fight against drugs

Youth lead the way in fight against drugs

South 1812-22/21/94
(87)

By Edwina Booysen

AN INTERNATIONAL anti-drug campaign aimed at children in their pre-teens has been launched in South African schools.

By joining the Drug-Free Marshalls Campaign, pupils are speaking out to others in their communities about saying no to drugs.

The campaign is a project of the Church of Scientology's national programme Lead the Way to a Drug-Free SA.

"The idea of the Drug-Free Marshalls campaign is to involve the youth in creating a drug free society, starting in their own community," Ms Elseiq Engelbrecht, the Cape Town campaign co-ordinator, said.

"Children in their pre-teens were chosen for the campaign because they are the easiest to educate."

"They are in a learning stage where they can be taught about the harmful effects of drugs, whereas there is a higher percentage of teens and adults who are already involved with drugs."

The project began in the United States as Lead the Way to a Drug Free USA.

"As drugs are an international problem, the campaign is now being exported to every single country around the world," Engelbrecht said.

At the first South African school to become part of the campaign, Hazeldene Primary in Mitchells Plain, 18 pupils were sworn in as marshalls by a member of the South African Narcotics Bureau (Sanab).

"The children are invited to enter an essay contest with the theme 'How can I create a Drug-Free Community'," Engelbrecht said.

"All the positive entries are chosen as winners, and the children are then sworn in as marshalls by the local police."

Sergeant Peter Brink, a member of Sanab, swore the Hazeldene pupils in as marshalls and handed them their marshall's badges.

"When we as police officers swear the children in, it gives them a sense that they are part of the real thing," Brink said.

"Hazeldene is the first school in South Africa and was approached because of the problems in the area. Other schools will be brought in eventually."

Engelbrecht said the children have to sign a pledge to the campaign when they receive their marshalls badges.

"As Drug-free Marshalls they promise, among other things, to live a drug-free life, to show their friends that a drug-free life is more fun and to set a good example for all children by 'Leading the way to a drug-free SA.'"

For more information contact the Drug Free Marshalls at 24-1531.

Cigarette ads of the '60s 'enticed under-age girls to begin smoking'

ARC 24/2/94

(87)

NEW YORK. — Cigarette advertisements aimed at adult women in the 1960s enticed under-age girls to begin smoking.

Researchers said this week that this provides yet more evidence that tobacco ads create demand among children.

A study found a jump in rates at which girls younger than 18 began smoking around 1967, when advertising began targeting specific cigarettes for women.

The work is a crucial extension of prior research that showed a cartoon character used to advertise Camel cigarettes was widely recognised by children, said study co-author John P Pierce.

While earlier research suggested that advertising could encourage children to start smoking, "we had to establish the link between advertising and the uptake of smoking among minors."

Mr Pierce is head of the cancer prevention and control programme at the University of California, San Diego. He and colleagues present their study in a recent issue of the Journal of

the American Medical Association. He described the results in New York at an AMA media briefing.

The work is "yet another piece of evidence that is increasingly demonstrating that cigarette advertising does have a recruitment effect on primarily adolescent smokers," said Donald Shoplund, co-ordinator of the National Cancer Institute's smoking and tobacco control programme.

But Karen Daragan, spokesman for Philip Morris USA, which makes Virginia Slims, offered a different explanation for the results.

"In the late 1960s, it certainly was a time of great social revolution," she said. "Young people were experimenting with all sorts of things in the Sixties. It could be that young females began acting like their male counterparts during this time."

The study was based on interviews with 102 626 people between the ages of 20 and 50 who were questioned in the 1970s and

1980s. Those who said they were smokers were asked when they started smoking cigarettes "fairly regularly".

Researchers calculated year-by-year rates at which boys and girls began smoking. They found that for girls aged 11 to 17, these "initiation" rates were stable or slowly rising from 1944 to 1967. But rates rose rapidly from 1967 to about 1973.

The increases were about 110 percent for 12-year-olds, 55 percent for 13-year-olds, 70 percent for 14-year-olds, 75 percent for 15-year-olds, 55 percent for 16-year-olds and 35 percent for 17-year-olds.

In contrast, boys in those age groups showed only small, if any, increases.

Scott Ballin, chairman of an anti-smoking coalition of the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association and American Lung Association, said that in response to the study, the coalition would ask authorities to restrict the use of particular images in tobacco advertising aimed at women. — Sapa-AP.

ARC 25/2/74
**Smoking ban in
civic buildings**

Municipal Reporter

SMOKING has been banned in all public areas of Cape Town municipal buildings.

This follows a ban on council employees smoking in civic buildings.

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'Foetus can smoke too'

ARG 25/2/94
TORONTO. — Traces of nicotine could be found in babies of non-smoking women who were exposed to passive smoking during pregnancy, a Canadian paediatric research team reported. (87)

Team leader Gideon Koren said cotinine from broken-down nicotine was found at Toronto maternity hospitals in the hair of three-day-old babies, whose non-smoking mothers lived or worked with cigarette smokers.

His report indicated that second-hand smoke inhaled by a pregnant woman was absorbed by the placenta and passed to the developing foetus.

Until now, doctors believed it was enough to warn women against smoking during pregnancy.

But, Dr Koren said, the new evidence showed that if "people around you smoke continuously or regularly, you smoke too" and "your baby smokes with you". — Sapa.

Cannabis abuse in Africa endemic,

says UN agency

(87) ARG 28/2/94
VIENNA. — Cannabis abuse in some African countries has taken on endemic proportions amid social, political and economic turmoil on the continent, the United Nations International Narcotics Control Board notes in its annual report today.

Cannabis remains "the most abused drug in Africa", it says.

The main growing areas are in Morocco, where more than 50 000 ha are under cannabis, Nigeria and Zaire. The board adds that cannabis cultivation is on the increase in Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda and Zambia.

Acknowledging "enormous obstacles" to drug control, the board urges African governments "to take preventive steps against the escalation of drug abuse and illicit trafficking because they are major factors contributing to the worsening

of the misery, violence, corruption and instability in the region".

Reports of opiate abuse, once relatively limited, are also on the increase, the board reports.

Illicit poppy cultivation has been reported only in Egypt and Kenya, but illegal trafficking is increasing, it says.

"Airports in western Africa and several seaports in Africa have been used by international criminal organisations to transport heroin shipments from Asia."

The board also warns that "an increase in the availability of cocaine could lead to a drastic increase in cocaine abuse in the region".

It highlighted the problem of trafficking in methaqualone, marketed on prescription as Qualudes or Mandrax, from India to Africa. — Sapa-AFP.

Black smokers 'more cancer-prone'

SAN FRANCISCO. — Black people may be more vulnerable to lung cancer from smoking, according to research presented yesterday at a meeting of cancer researchers.

The annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research here was told that black people have a poorer capacity than white

people to detoxify NNK, an important tobacco-related carcinogen linked to lung cancer.

The research, by Dr John Richie of the American Health Foundation, is particularly relevant in America and developing countries where cigarette manufacturers are aggressively targeting blacks in their marketing

campaigns.

Evaluating 31 black and 25 white smokers, Dr Richie and his colleagues found 30% of whites were good at detoxifying NNK, compared with only six percent of blacks.

Dr Richie said this is the first glimpse of a possible mechanism to explain why there is 40% more lung cancer incidence and mortality in

male blacks, compared with male whites, when the overall percentage of smokers in each group is comparable.

Dr Richie said that more research is needed "to put these findings on firmer ground".

Smokers interested in learning their metabolic dispositions to lung cancer will have to wait, since the test

devised by Dr Richie's group will not be available to doctors in the near future.

Although it is much easier to take these measurements in active smokers than passive smokers, the process as it stands now is very complex and labour intensive, said Dr Richie. — ©The Telegraph plc, London.

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ST 11/4/94 (87)

Post Office stamps out smoking

JOHANNESBURG. — The Post Office is to ban smoking in its offices countrywide following repeated petitions and calls by anti-smoking lobby groups.

Internal circulars were issued to staff nationally a week ago warning them that complaints regarding employees' smoking would be investigated immediately with a view to taking "corrective steps".

Smokers looking for jobs with the Post

Office would do well to quit the habit, since the new policy gives preference to employing non-smokers.

Areas where smoking is not allowed are client service areas, public halls, any area where there is a fire hazard, common areas such as lifts, entrance halls, corridors, waiting rooms, copy rooms, canteens, conference rooms, auditoriums and computer production areas.

CT 14/4/94
The Post Office's broad policy statement commits itself to encouraging workers to stop smoking via information workshops and educational programmes.

The circular states that clients who smoke should be "informed politely" that smoking is not allowed, but care should be taken so as "not to antagonise" customers. "Client-friendly" notices are being posted in client service areas.

Post Office halls now anti-smoking lobbies

THE Post Office would ban smoking in its offices countrywide following repeated petitions and calls by anti-smoking lobby groups, a spokesman said yesterday.

Internal circulars were issued to staff nationally a week ago warning that complaints about employees smoking would be "investigated immediately" with a view to "taking corrective steps".

The new policy also gives preference to employing non-smokers.

Areas where smoking will not be allowed include public halls, entrances, lifts, corridors, waiting rooms, canteens, confer-

ence rooms and computer areas.

The circular said employees and customers who complained about smoking would be protected from victimisation by smokers. It warned that disciplinary steps would be taken against workers refusing to comply with the new regulations.

The spokesman said the policy's success would depend on the "thoughtfulness, consideration and co-operation between smokers and non-smokers". Conflict between smokers and non-smokers could be

dealt with by the employees themselves, or grievance procedures could be applied.

The Post Office's broad policy statement commits it to encouraging workers to stop smoking through information workshops and educational programmes. (87)

The circular states that clients who smoke should be "informed politely" that smoking is not allowed, but care should be taken "not to antagonise" customers.

"So do not insist that clients put out their cigarettes," it says.

"This won't be for long ... militancy among anti-smoking groups will grow."

YOU'VE heard of no-smoking offices, no-smoking flights, no-smoking zones and no-smoking days. Now meet the no-smoking country — or something well on the way to it. Smokers in the US, and the cigarette makers they keep in business, have never had it so bad. After two decades of relatively ineffectual opposition from anti-smoking campaigners, they face an unprecedented outbreak of hostility from politicians, government officials, business and the public.

So reviled has the habit become that, if legislators and their supporters succeed in their aims, smoking will be regarded as behaviour to be indulged in furtively, if at all, in the privacy of the home, car or a special smoking chamber.

One example of the pressure is a Bill before Congress that would ban smoking in all buildings regularly entered by 10 or more people a week, except the home. This would embrace all factories, offices, bars, restaurants and nightclubs — though specially designated smoking rooms would be permitted if they were sealed off from the rest of the premises and had separate ventilation. That Bill, backed by the Clinton administration, is expected to go to a vote soon. It may fail. But it is only slightly more restrictive than other measures under consideration or already coming into force.

The labour department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration is seeking a federal ban on smoking in the workplace. Since bars, restaurants and other places of entertainment are also places of work, they would be included — though sealed-off smoking rooms would be allowed.

The Food and Drug Administration has claimed it has evidence that the tobacco industry is adding nicotine to cigarettes to keep smokers addicted. It has asked Congress to rule whether it should start controlling the sale of cigarettes as a drug or, alternatively, whether nicotine in cigarettes should be banned.

The US defence department has banned smoking in all military workplaces, ranging from military bases to tanks and battleships. The Clinton administration has also banned smoking in school buildings and health centres.

Smokers and the law in showdown at last

By Richard Tomkins

RICHARD TOMKINS



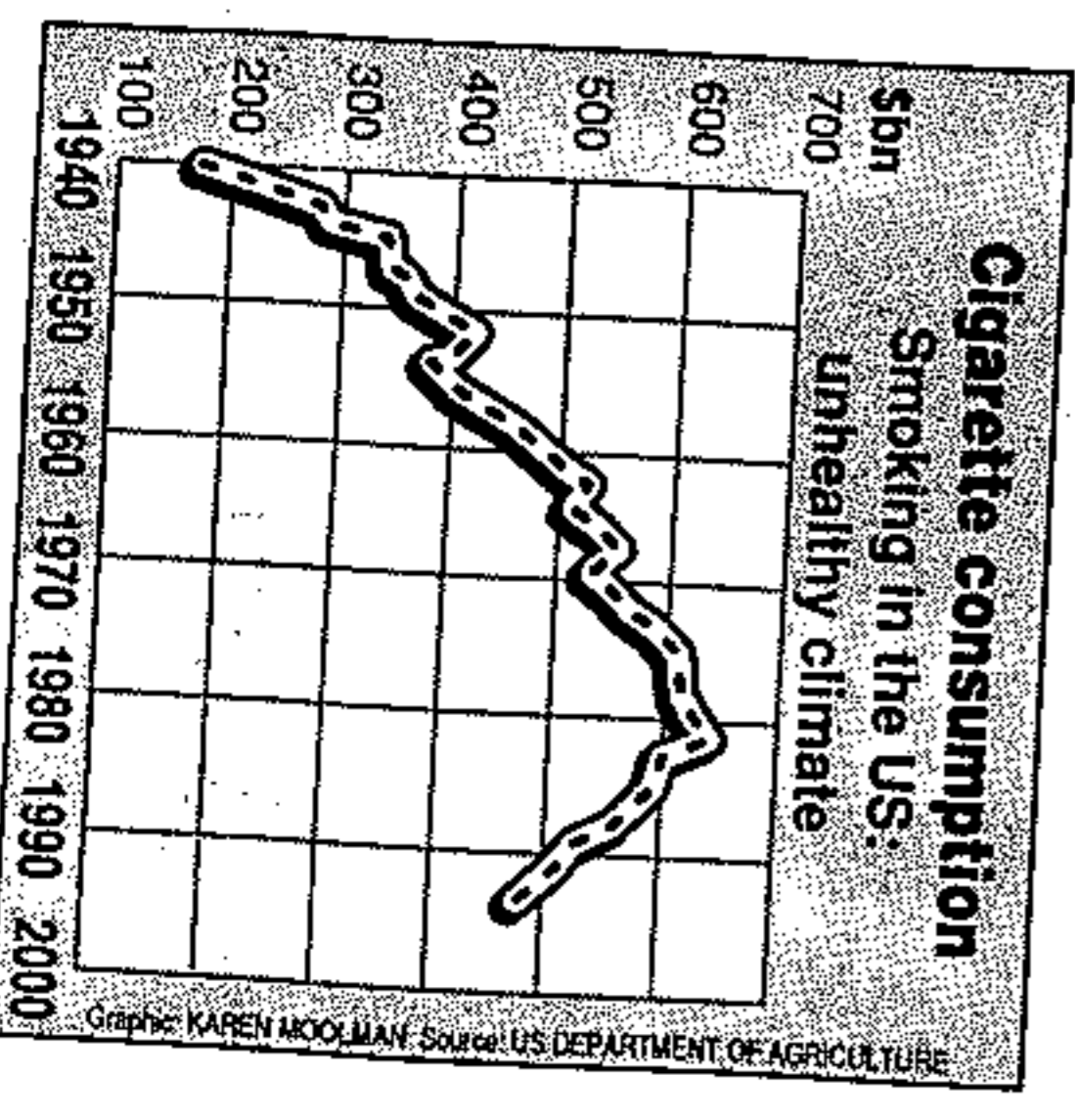
Hundreds of ordinances have been passed by states, cities or local communities banning smoking in public areas. San Francisco, San Jose and other Californian cities have banned smoking in nearly all indoor spaces except private houses. New York's city council has unveiled plans to toughen up existing restrictions on smoking in bars, restaurants and workplaces and to extend them to outdoor areas such as parks, playgrounds and sports stadiums.

McDonald's, the fast-food company, has followed examples set by the Taco Bell and Jack in the Box chains by banning smoking in all 1 400 of its company-owned (as opposed to franchised) restaurants. Many stores, shopping malls and sports stadiums are smoke-free.

President Bill Clinton has proposed a 75c-a-pack cigarette tax in the executive order. But some legislators are pushing for an increase of up to \$2.

These developments contrast sharply with earlier history of US anti-smoking activity. Although 30 years have passed since the US Surgeon-General concluded that smoking could cause lung cancer and other fatal diseases, until recently the anti-smoking lobby had found itself outgunned by the tobacco industry.

In Congress, cigarette makers could automatically be assured of support from representatives of the tobacco-growing states, such as Kentucky, North Carolina and Virginia.



But that was only part of the story. Because of the millions of dollars the tobacco industry spent on lobbying and contributions to legislators' campaigns, its political influence expanded much further.

As a result, the US tobacco industry largely escaped stringent anti-smoking measures. Although health warnings started to appear on cigarette packs in 1966 and cigarette advertising was banned on radio and television in 1969, almost the only federally imposed restriction on smoking was the ban applying to domestic flights of under six hours, introduced in 1990; and the federal excise tax, though increased several times, is still only 24c a packet.

At the beginning of last year, however, two things happened that changed the climate. One was a report from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that classified

tobacco smoke as a class-A carcinogen and blamed passive smoking for about 3 000 lung cancer deaths a year. The other was a declaration from the Clintons that the White House was to be a smoke-free zone.

The EPA report has had far-reaching effects in the US because it has enabled non-smokers to claim that cigarette smoke is not just an irritant, but a menace to their health. It is largely on the back of this report and later ones giving more weight to anti-smoking ordinances aimed at safeguarding the health of non-smokers in public places.

Meanwhile, the Clintons' stance has undermined the political influence of the tobacco industry.

Could it be curtains, then, for Philip Morris, RJR Nabisco, American Tobacco and the other US cigarette makers? Certainly, they are on the defensive. Such is the abuse being heaped on the tobacco industry, and so great the obstacles being thrown in its path, that it is tempting to ask why its executives do not simply give up and try something else.

One reason they have not is that, though the US market may be turning ugly, new markets for cigarette exports are opening up worldwide. For example, Philip Morris and RJR Nabisco ship more than 10-billion cigarettes a year to the former Soviet Union, adding \$100m a year to sales. The total market in the former eastern bloc countries is estimated at about 700-billion cigarettes a year.

For one thing, cigarette manufacturers still derive big profits from the US market: Philip Morris and RJR Nabisco alone made operating profits totalling \$4bn from domestic tobacco sales of \$15bn last year, even during a vicious price war. As long as that kind of money is available, the industry will fight to the last to defend its market. Last month, for example, Philip Morris filed a \$10bn lawsuit against the ABC television network for broadcasting a programme claiming that the company added nicotine to its cigarettes.

There must also be doubts about how quickly the government could move towards total prohibition, if it developed the will to do so. Apart from the political considerations, a sudden collapse in the \$43bn a year spent on cigarettes in the US would leave a big hole in the economy, and a cut in the \$16.5bn a year tax revenue could be even more awkward, especially at a time when the government is looking for funding for health care reform.

Meanwhile, although total cigarette consumption continues to fall in the US, there are signs that the proportion of people who smoke has even bottomed out at about 25%, and may even be rising again among the youth, women and ethnic minorities. Moreover, according to New York marketing consultant Faith Popcorn some middle-class adults are sick of healthy living and have started lighting up in a rebellion against political correctness — a trend she calls "pleasure revenge".

Smokers, it seems, have little to look forward to but vilification. They will also find it harder to find an appropriate or convenient place to indulge their habit. But neither they, nor the tobacco industry, believe they have quite had their last gasp — at least, that is, not yet. — Financial Times.

Maize more profitable, smoking conference told

Municipal Reporter

MAIZE is a more profitable crop than tobacco, farmers have been told at a conference on tobacco and health.

The tobacco lobby has said its crop provides jobs and profits worldwide.

The information about the all-Africa conference, held in Harare last year, was tabled at the Cape Town City Council's amenities and health committee meeting yesterday.

Zambian agricultural consultant Ronald Watts told the conference there were 53 crops and land uses which should be developed in Africa.

These included export horticulture, fruit, ostrich farming, nuts and fibre crops.

Of these, maize was estimated to yield 36 percent more profit a hectare than tobacco.

And, of the 44 African countries producing tobacco, only half exported any.

The average deficit balance of trade deprived some of the world's poorest countries of precious foreign exchange.

Last year Zimbabwe had its lowest returns ever from tobacco auctions because of international oversupply and falling demand.

Abattoir sale saga continues

Municipal Reporter

THREE companies may join forces to buy the Maitland abattoir from the Cape Town City Council.

The companies are Abacor, Renown and Buccaneer, the amenities and health committee was told.

Members of the committee, including Arthur Wienburg and Leon Markovitz, said they were frustrated because the abattoir saga had not been finalised.

According to a city adminis-

trator's report the abattoir lost almost R500 000 last month.

"If abattoir management is not capable of addressing problems, we should get in management consultants, or our own organisation and methods branch, to stop the rot," Mr Wienburg said.

Mr Markovitz said he would "lay his head on a block" that the abattoir would not be sold.

There seemed to be no contingency plan about what would be done should the abattoir not be sold, he said.

R9-m rent arrears: Business as usual for debt collectors

Municipal Reporter

IT is business as usual for debt collectors trying to recover R9 million worth of rent arrears in Cape Town City Council housing estates.

Housing chairman Neil Ross said that in spite of speculation about arrears being written off, it would be wrong to raise expectations.

People who had been "handed over" to debt collectors were those the council believed could reasonably be expected

to pay, he said.

The accounts of more than 17 000 tenants in council estates are in arrears.

Mr Ross said the council was obliged to repay loans for housing development.

More than 800 representatives of local authorities are expected to attend a briefing on May 26 on new national housing policy.

Speakers at the briefing will include the new provincial minister of housing.

Smokers of light cigarettes may 'take in more nicotine'

NEW YORK. — Smokers of cigarettes labelled low in nicotine or tar may be inhaling more of those substances than they think, the New York Times has reported.

(87) ARG 4/5/94
United States officials and health experts blame the discrepancy on the machines that measure levels of nicotine and tar in cigarettes, the newspaper said.

They say the machines do not accurately reflect how much a smoker inhales, because smokers of the so-called "light" cigarettes often puff harder or draw deeper to compensate for the milder taste.

"We know that consumers do not smoke in exactly the same manner as the machine," said Judith Wilkenfeld, assistant director in the federal trade Commission's division of advertising practices.

Cigarettes that are labelled low in tar and nicotine now account for 60 percent of cigarettes sold in the United States.

The tests are performed by tobacco company laboratories under the supervision of the FTC. A machine holds the cigarette and draws air through it in two-second puffs, repeating the puffs once every minute until the cigarette burns to the filter.

But scientific studies over recent years have shown that smokers get the same amount of nicotine and tar no matter what cigarette they smoke, the Times reported.

"A smoker can draw 3mg of nicotine out of a cigarette that is rated as a 1mg yield by the FTC test," said Jack Henningfield, chief of clinical pharmacology research at the National Institutes on Drug Abuse.

The US government blames smoking for about 400 000 deaths a year, but cigarette makers deny there is proof cigarettes cause lung cancer, heart disease and other ailments.

At hearings last week before the US congress subcommittee the heads of the nation's seven largest tobacco companies denied accusations that they manipulated the amount of nicotine in cigarettes and also denied that nicotine was addictive.

The hearing was sparked by the US Food and Drug Administration's consideration of whether to regulate cigarettes.

If the FDA decides companies manipulate nicotine in cigarettes, it could label the chemical a drug and regulate cigarettes as a controlled substance. — Sapa-AP.



More women puff despite huff

Star 12/15/94 (87)

WORRYING TREND

A worrying health trend in South Africa over the past decade has been the increasing number of women who smoke.

BEATHUR BAKER reports.

World anti-tobacco lobbyists' hopes of persuading women to stop lighting up appear to be going up in smoke.

Local and international organisations say the number of women who take up smoking is increasing. Women are also less likely to give up the habit than men, and new smokers among them are becoming younger.

Dr Yusuf Salojee, spokesman for the Tobacco Action Group (TAG), says that one of the most worrying trends over the past decade has been the increasing number of women smokers in South Africa.

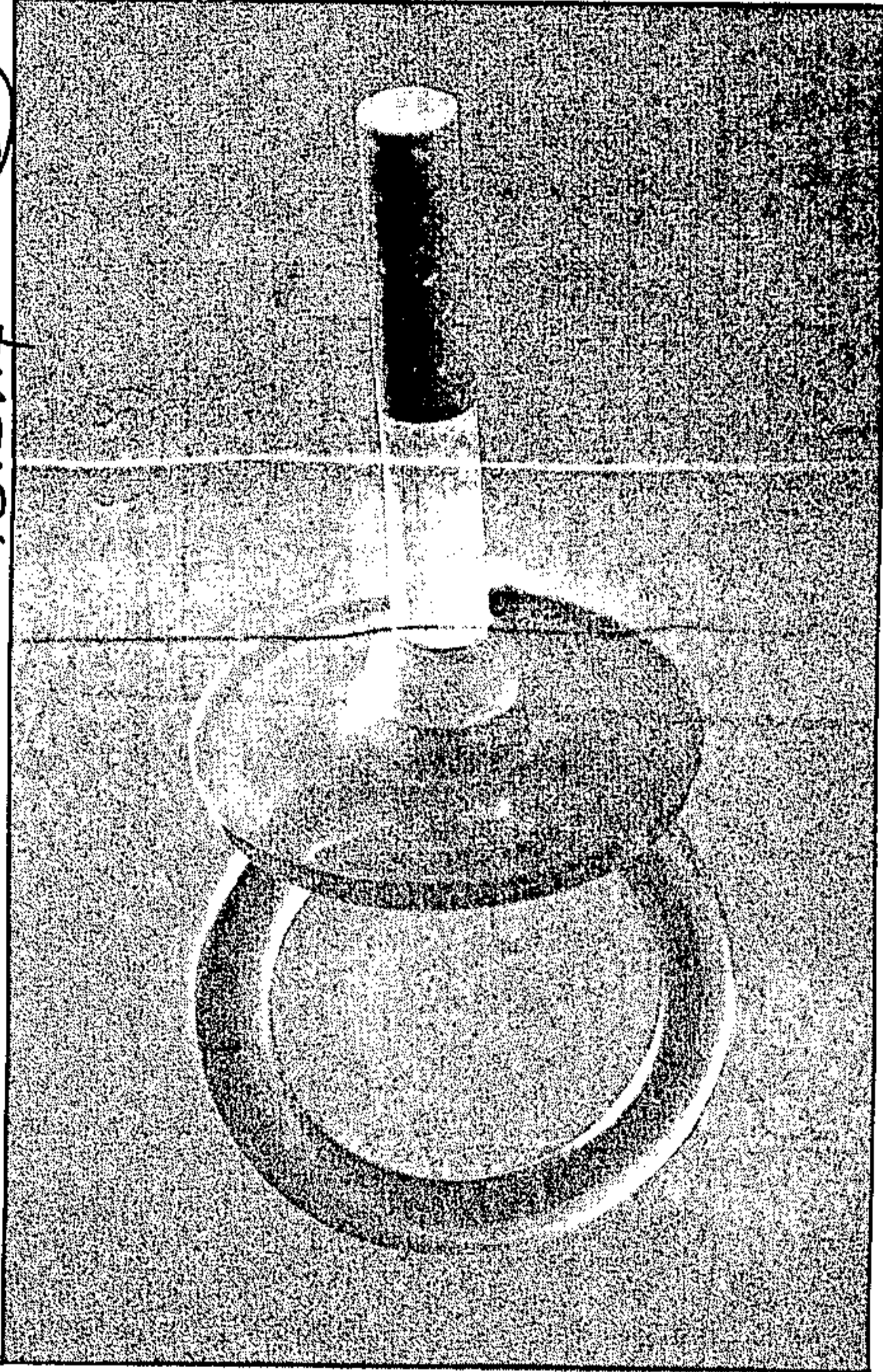
TAG co-ordinates the activities of the various anti-smoking NGO's interested in tobacco control. It was established in 1991, in response to concern over the increasing incidence of death and disease among smokers.

TAG has successfully lobbied Government to enact the Tobacco Products Control Act 1993. And together with the Department of National Health and the Medical Association of South Africa, it has launched the first national campaign to help people kick the habit.

South Africa's national statistics show that 36.1 percent of coloured women are smokers, followed by 28.6 percent of white women. Only 5.2 percent of black women smoke, joined by 1.9 percent of their Asian counterparts.

A big problem, says Salojee, is that many women appear not to feel threatened by illnesses related to smoking, such as heart trouble, still largely perceived as a male disease.

Other factors which influence women to smoke are socio-economic status



Only dummies persist... most women readily give up smoking when the health of a baby is at stake.

and culture. With the changing times, it's become culturally acceptable for women to smoke in public and, according to statistics, women in poorer communities are more prone to taking up the habit.

And despite perceptions, it is not more difficult for women to give up

smoking than it is for men. Women will readily quit, for example, when they're pregnant, for the sake of their unborn child. But they often resume the habit afterwards as a means of coping with stresses.

Salojee says this attitude is a myth, because instead of reducing stress,

smoking actually increases it, and pushes up blood pressure.

Another common misconception among women is that smoking helps them reduce weight.

Salojee says smokers do weigh on average about 2.5 kg less than non-smokers, but this is offset by the harm

done to their bodies.

"To equal the damage one packet of cigarettes does to the body, one would have to gain at least 30 kg in weight," he explains.

He says people who kick the habit often gain some weight initially, as their appetites and sense of taste and smell return. Weight gain can be prevented by sensible eating.

British anti-smoking campaigner Sarah Hirsch of the charity organisation Quit says women in the United Kingdom are finding it more difficult to stop smoking than men, and, by the age of 18, girls are smoking more cigarettes than boys.

Figures show that more men are ex-smokers than regular smokers, with 7.1 million men and only 5 million women having joined the ranks of the reformed.

Health campaigners agree that the greatest concern surrounds teenage girls, as 25 percent smoke by the time they turn 15.

Katherine Evans, publicity officer for teenage smoking at Britain's Health Education Authority, says girls are not giving up as fast as boys.

"Girls believe smoking will make them thin, and there's also the problem of peer-group pressure, rebellion and easy access to cigarettes," she says. "And with tobacco advertising, they're twice as likely to smoke if one or both their parents smokes."

David Pollock, director of Action for Smoking and Health, says the latest Department of Health statistics show that while the UK has been more successful in cutting smoking rates than most of its European partners, it lags behind many other countries.

'Smokers can breathe easier for 18 months'

Star 23/5/94

■ BY JOHN SODERLUND

Smokers can breathe easier — more easily than their non-puffing workmates — for at least another 18 months.

The ANC health plan's intentions to ban smoking in public places, working environments and government buildings are likely to take that long to implement, said labour and legal experts yesterday.

No existing legislation expressly forbids smoking in the workplace and a new law will have to be drafted, said attorney Peter Reynolds.

The Occupational Health and Safety Act and Clause 29 of the Interim Constitution forbid

a hazardous work environment, but this is likely to be insufficient grounds without a court precedent proving the detrimental effect of smoking on other workers, said labour expert Andrew Levy.

The quickest way to bring about the restriction would be the creation of new legislation, which would be enforced by employers, and could precipitating "a range of problems down the line", said Levy (87)

Any punishment the employer might mete out could be seen as an unfair labour practice, said Reynolds.

Designated smoking areas could be the answer, Levy emphasised.

BRIEFING

South Africa's return to the world economy has attracted drug traffickers wanting to extend their markets. South Africa is attractive to these criminals because of its large market, South Africa is attractive to these criminals.

Powerful drug baron

The expected boom in international and cross-border trade is bound to open South Africa up to drug trafficking and could result in the loss of hundreds of millions of rands a year in laundered money, according to experts.

Major-General Wouter Grové, head of the police's Specialised Units, says South Africa — which has traditionally served as a transit for drugs to Europe — is developing rapidly into a market for hard drugs.

Statistics show that the quantity of dagga, Mandrax, cocaine, heroin and LSD confiscated in the past two years has increased dramatically. Arrests relating to these drugs have also increased.

Grové says the threat the narcotics industry poses to national and personal security should never be minimised. One of the greatest fears of drug enforcement agencies around the world, is that the well-financed, profitable and heavily armed drug business leaves state institutions vulnerable to corruption and intimidation.

Dangers

According to Grové, political instability, lawlessness, unemployment and the high cost of basic necessities, insufficient border controls and a lack of an awareness of the dangers of drug abuse could render South Africa an attractive market for traffickers.

He says the escalation in drug trafficking in southern and South Africa could also be attributed to stricter laws and improved controls in Europe and the Americas. South African syndicates already barter stolen cars and spares for drugs from African states.

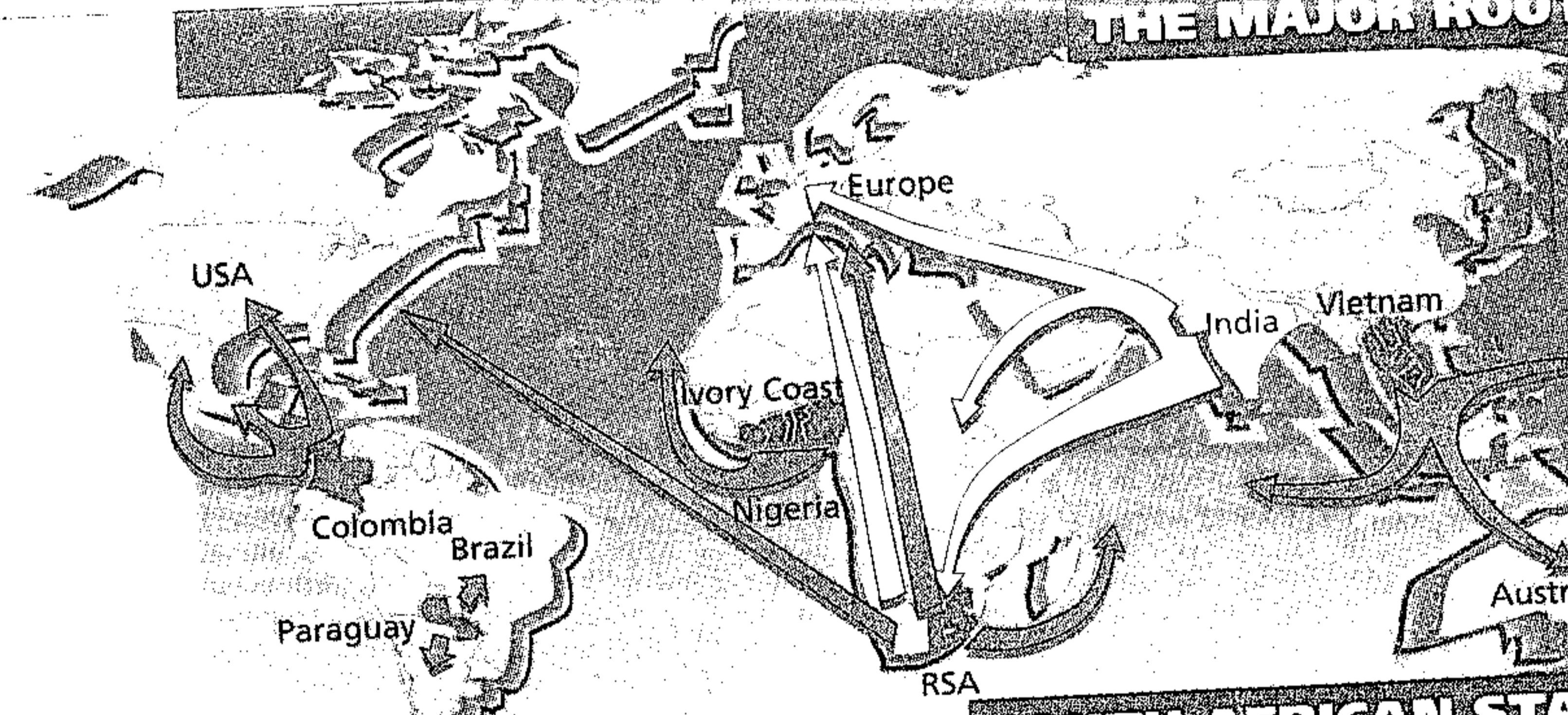
Drug trafficking routes from the producer to consumer countries show that South Africa might find itself fighting a war on all its borders — land, sea and air.

Statistics show that Colombian drug lords are moving their cocaine operations to Nigeria (especially) and to other west African countries, from where they target South Africa.

Cocaine-dealing arrests have increased by over 100 percent in the past year in South Africa.

The east and north African states are used to smuggle heroin from Asia to South Africa, where the market is growing.

DRUG TRAFFICKING AND SMUGGLING



SOUTH AFRICAN STATISTICS

Drugs confiscated and arrests made	1992	1993	Increase/decrease
Arrests for possession	6 511	4 331	-33.5%
Mass confiscated (kg)	470	5 891	+1 153%
Arrests for dealing	10 272	8 717	-15.14%
Mass confiscated (kg)	253 672	841 445	+231.7%
Mass destroyed in cultivation areas (kg)	4 618 238	860 471	-81.4%

Drugs confiscated and arrests made	1992	1993	Increase/decrease
Arrests for possession	527	534	+1.3%
Tablets confiscated	34 819	26 879	-22.8%
Arrests for dealing	2 394	3 338	+39.4%
Tablets confiscated	3 761 526	3 511 349	-6.6%

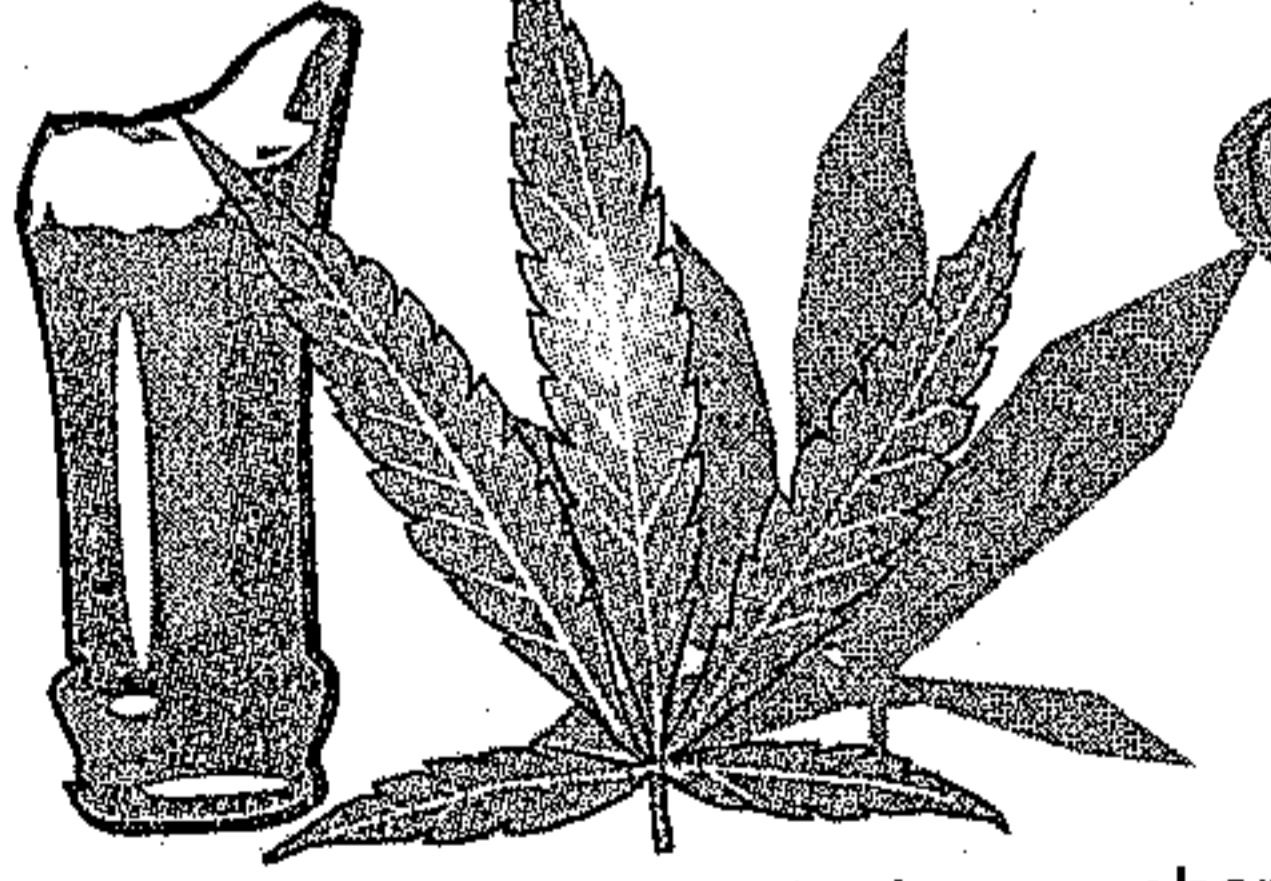
Drugs confiscated and arrests made

Arrests for possession

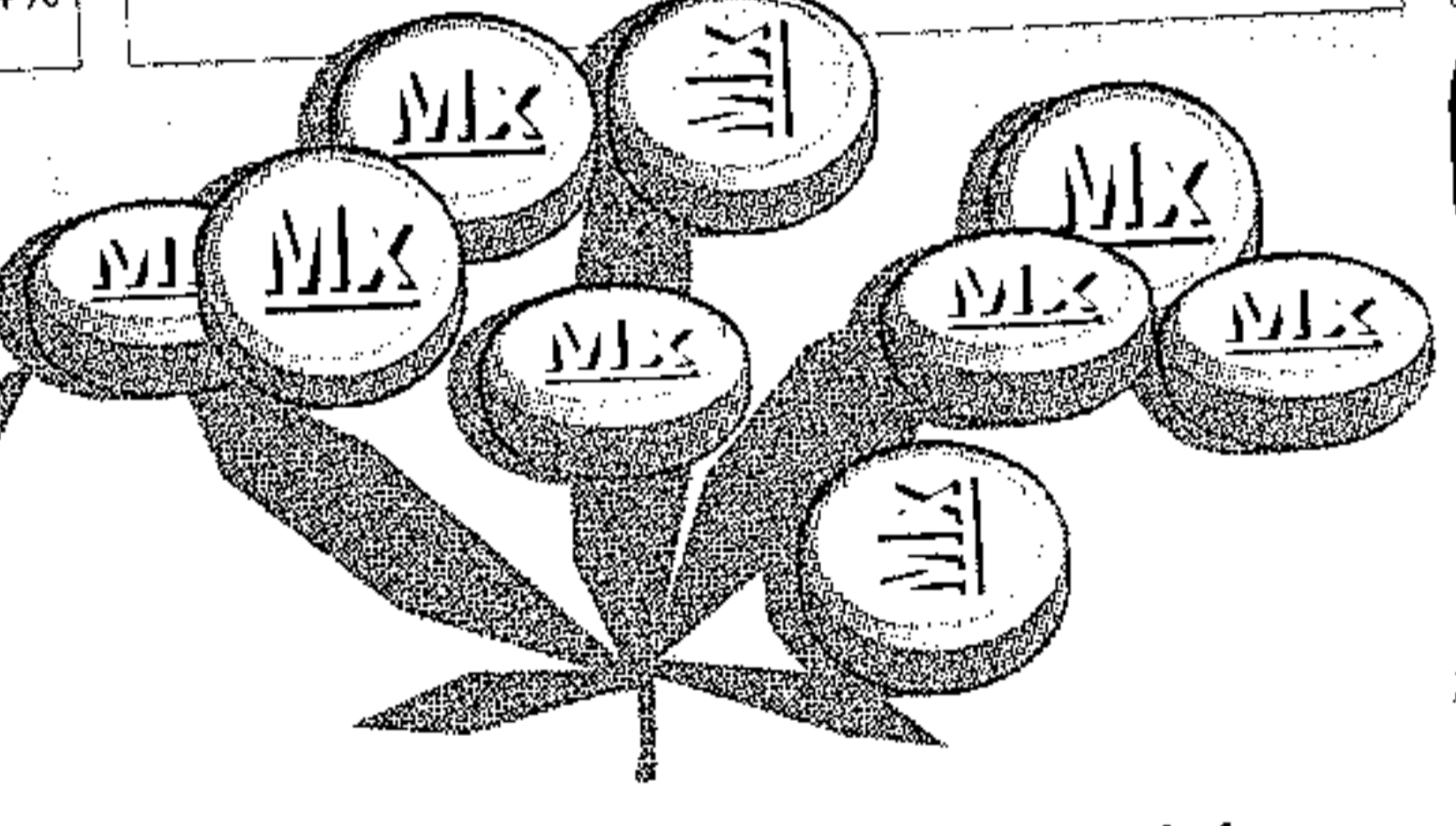
Mass confiscated

Arrests for dealing

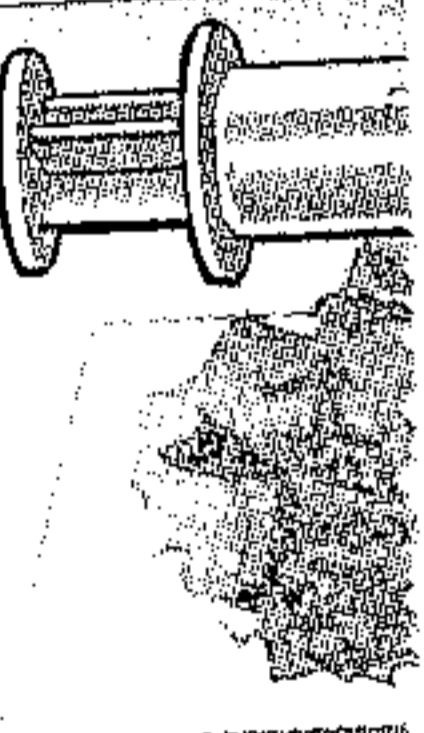
Mass confiscated



Dagga: Plant with tetrahydrocannabinol. Sedatory and hallucinatory drug which distorts all normal senses



Mandrax: Synthetic drug containing Methaqualone. Initially prescribed as a sleeping pill, it is a depressant, commonly described as a "downer"



Heroin: Product of morphine, a product of the poppy. Described as a depressant, it makes one feel drowsy and tired.

And, Grové says, the number of people being arrested in connection with heroin dealing is also on the increase.

LSD is also becoming more popular in South Africa, he says.

Trends show that hashish and opium, not often used in South Africa, make their way into South Africa and other African states, from where they are smuggled to the rest of the world with the help of the organised crime syndicates.

South Africa, a major dagga-

smoking country, is also the biggest exporter of this drug, with growers targeting the European, American and Asian markets.

However, Mandrax consumption remains South Africa's most serious problem.

Dr Sylvain de Miranda, director of the drug-rehabilitation centre Phoenix House, says over 80 percent of the Mandrax produced in the East is destined for consumption in South Africa.

Produced primarily in India and Pakistan, Mandrax used to

be prescribed as a sleeping tablet. The banning of the drug in South Africa in 1976 and later in the East, led smugglers to exploit the black market here, presenting drug-enforcement agencies with a battle to conquer what has become the "Indian connection".

But, according to Grové, South Africa has also become an export base to Europe, especially to Britain.

De Miranda says Africa and South Africa in particular were

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my makes it a target for international
 As a transit destination or a potential
 ninals. Charmeela Bhagowat reports

is eye the new SA

87

IG TRENDS

STATISTICS

	1992	1993	Increase/decrease
Heroin (kg)	5	1	-80%
Heroin (gram)	3	6	+100%
Heroin (unit)	7	14	+100%
Heroin (total)	1 338	1 840	+37.5%

	1992	1993	Increase/decrease
LSD (Arrests for possession)	12	22	+83.3%
LSD (Units confiscated)	55	2 023	+3 578%
LSD (Arrests for dealing)	54	78	+44.4%
LSD (Units confiscated)	4 695	8 946	+90.5%

	1992	1993	Increase/decrease
Cocaine (Arrests for possession)	17	28	+64.7%
Cocaine (Mass confiscated (gram))	592	895	+51.2%
Cocaine (Arrests for dealing)	108	236	+118.5%
Cocaine (Mass confiscated (gram))	11 042	77 494	+601.8%

Heroin
 Heroin is a processed derivative of opium which, along with codeine, is the active ingredient in the opium poppy. As a "euphoric" drug, it makes users feel happy and invincible.

LSD
 LSD: Primarily synthetic drug which contains elements of the ergot plant. A powerful hallucinatory drug which completely distorts the senses.

Cocaine
 Cocaine: Made from coca plant leaves. Processed with chemicals until the salt, Cocaine Hydrochloride, is extracted.

GRAPHIC: FRANCOIS SMIT

initially viable markets for international drug lords because of low per-capita income. However, in the past four years, stricter controls around the world and the saturation of the drug market prompted them to look elsewhere. The fairly affluent sector of the population was, and still is, targeted by smugglers in an expanding their markets on evading international enforcement agencies. There is agreement among ex-

perts that stricter controls are needed to combat the illicit drug industry, which generates even more money than the oil trade. Lee Dutton, managing director of Hamilton Whitton, a consulting firm specialising in fraud and pharmaceutical counterfeiting investigations, says new trade links are encouraging but will have to be established in a controlled environment. "We don't have Customs and Excise border posts with Botswana and that is worrying.

The other thing is that we have always had an inward-looking control system," he says. "It's not the police who control the harbours and ports and points of entry but the Department of Customs and Excise. It is absolutely essential the department is given the resources and manpower to do its job efficiently," he says. "The problem is going to get greater unless the Government acts now. We must have good control points and worry about

inside later. The biggest threat is from the outside." Trade links and South Africa's new-found acceptance in the world also means we are part of Interpol again and Grové says his men will have access to more skills, manpower and international experience. He says drug syndicates and international drug lords looking for new markets will flock to South Africa but, hopefully, will find it increasingly difficult to operate here in the future.

Anti-smoking drive intensifies

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — The tobacco industry seems set for a rough time as a countrywide anti-smoking "onslaught" gains momentum.

The industry is predicting a drop in sales if the latest government suggestion to slap heavy taxes on cigarettes is adopted.

Its problems have been compounded with proposals this

week by Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma to ban smoking in the workplace.

The department of National Health and Population Development's Tobacco Action Group is also stepping up its anti-smoking campaign in the run-up to World No Tobacco Day on Tuesday.

Smokers face a possible rise of 60c for 20 cigarettes, with

many saying banning smoking at work will rob them of their freedom of choice. CT 28/5/94

But in TAG's view, "every time you light up, you burn the Bill of Rights". (81)

On June 3 the government is to invite public comment on regulations stipulating health warnings and information on the labelling, advertising and sale of tobacco products, Dr Zuma said.

Excuse to drop smoking habit.

BY DAVID ROBBINS
HEALTH WRITER

World No-Tobacco Day is tomorrow, and should take on new meaning for South African smokers who face stiff excise increases to help pay for improved primary health care.

World Health Organisation (WHO) director-general Hiroshi Nakajima sums up the purpose: "It is a day dedicated to the cause of ensuring a tobacco-free society. On this day, the WHO appeals to everyone who smokes or chews tobacco to give up this harmful and wasteful habit."

For those worried about proposed price increases, it is worth

noting that since 1980 the retail price of tobacco products in South Africa has not kept pace with inflation. The result has been that cigarettes have become cheaper.

Increasing the price of tobacco products would, however, do more than pay for better health services. The National Council Against Smoking believes it will discourage people from smoking.

It has calculated that a R1 increase on a packet of cigarettes would be sufficient to prevent a great many premature deaths each year. (87)

"Teenagers are even more sensitive to price changes than adults," the council points out.

30/5/94
According to the WHO, the ill-effects of smoking are becoming more and more difficult to refute. It says smoking kills more people in First World countries than "heroin, alcohol, Aids, fires, homicides, suicides and motor accidents combined".

As a result, more than 20 countries, including Canada, France and Norway, have banned tobacco advertising.

South Africa lags far behind. In 1993, more than R200 million was spent to stimulate roughly R2,5 billion worth of sales.

The National Council Against Smoking says more than 30 per cent of our adult population smokes.

Media warned on smoking

10-m will die annually if trend continues - WHO

Geneva — Ten million people would die from smoking each year within three decades unless its spread in developing countries and among young women were stopped, the World Health Organisation (WHO) warned yesterday.

The United Nations body urged governments, particularly in Asia and Latin America, to follow the example of some industrialised states and ban cigarette advertising and tobacco industry sponsorship of sports and cultural events.

"Cigarette smoking is one of the major public health hazards facing the world as it enters the 21st century," the WHO said.

Currently 3 million people, 30 percent of them in poorer countries, died annually from diseases caused by smoking.

"But unless there is a significant fall in current trends of tobacco consumption, this figure is expected to rise to 10 million a year in the 2020s or 2030s, 7 million of them in developing countries," it declared.

The gloomy forecast was issued in a report by the WHO marking its annual May 31 "World No-Tobacco Day". — Reuter.

BY NORMAN CHANDLER
PRETORIA BUREAU

The South African media was today warned by the Department of Health that it was treading a thin line between objective news coverage and serving as a propaganda tool for the tobacco industry.

The warning comes on the day the World Health Organisation (WHO) has also called on the media to help reduce tobacco usage.

The department said in Pretoria the focus was on the media, "because the WHO recognises that mass media communications are a major influence on both desirable and undesirable attitudes and be-

haviour in our modern society".

The anti-tobacco campaign is the first major international effort to be supported by South Africa since its return earlier this month to the WHO after being expelled 20 years ago.

The department says there "can scarcely be a smoker who has not heard of the link between smoking and ill-health" and that the media generally had helped change opinion away from smoking.

It was however regrettable that the local media treated the smoking and health issue as controversial, and gave "equal weight to the... views of individuals who maintain

that smoking is not harmful as they do to the views of independent national and international medical authorities".

It adds: "There is a thin line between objective news coverage and serving as a propaganda tool for an industry.

"If the matter were trivial, this would be of little consequence but in this instance, it is not."

Describing tobacco advertising as "negative", the department adds that such advertising "undercuts the health message and creates the impression that smoking is more prevalent and less dangerous than it really is".

Star 21/5/94

Cabinet meetings to be smoke-free?

Cape Town — Cabinet meetings may soon become smoke-free if Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma has her way.

Speaking on the eve of today's World No-Tobacco Day, her spokesman Andre Loubser said the Minister was asthmatic and tobacco smoke affected her chest.

She had requested President Mandela to make Cabinet meetings smoke-free, he said.

Mandela is on record as having called for a "tobacco-free world" on a previous World No-Tobacco Day.

Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal, said to be "quite a heavy smoker", has asked his staff to observe clean-air practices in his new offices in Pretoria

and Cape Town.

A staffer said yesterday that one room in the ministry in Pretoria had been set aside as a general smoking room and Asmal had requested staff not to smoke in their offices when receiving visitors.

"He still smokes in his own office, but in meetings he tries to abstain from smoking," said the staffer. (S)

Speaking at the opening of a non-smoking exhibition in Cape Town's Civic Centre yesterday, mayor Patricia Kreiner said more money was spent advertising smoking than was available to combat it and provide health care for those affected by it. — Sapa.

► **More reports**
— Page 5

Minister moves on CT 31/5/94 (87) smoke-free cabinet

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Ten million smokers 'may die each year'

ARG 31/5/94 (87)

GENEVA. — Today is World No Tobacco Day — and the World Health Organisation (WHO) warned yesterday that 10 million smokers would die each year within three decades unless the spread of smoking in developing countries and among young women was stopped.

The United Nations body urged governments to follow the example of some industrialised states and ban cigarette advertising and tobacco industry sponsorship of sports and cultural events.

"Cigarette smoking is one of the major public health hazards facing the world as it enters the 21st century," the WHO said. At present three million people, 30 percent of them in poorer countries, died annually from diseases caused by smoking.

"But unless there is a significant fall in current trends of tobacco consumption, this figure is expected to rise to 10 million a year in the 2020s or

2030s, seven million of them in developing countries."

The gloomy forecast was issued in a report by the WHO marking its annual May 31 World No Tobacco Day — this year focused on urging news media to resist pressure from tobacco companies and give wider publicity to anti-smoking campaigns.

Asia — with Japan, China and South Korea in the lead — had the highest total cigarette use of all world regions, the report said.

On average, 50 percent of Asian men were smokers against 41 percent in the West, but in parts of the region the rate was as high as 80 percent.

While tobacco use per adult had dropped in highly developed countries by 13 percent between 1985 and 1992, it had increased among Chinese by 20 percent.

"In China alone, two to three million deaths from smoking each year are predicted in the 2020s, including about one mil-

lion from lung cancer," the report said.

"On current smoking trends, roughly 50 million of the young people alive today in China aged under 20 will die prematurely from the consequences of smoking."

The WHO said its figures showed a global rise in smoking among women, a special target of cigarette advertising. Even in some developed countries where smoking was on the decrease women were giving it up far more slowly than men.

Under the influence of advertising, "increasing numbers of young women are taking to smoking as a sign of emancipation or a demonstration of their equality with men", the report said.

"It is now acutely urgent to react rapidly to counteract this deceitful advertising that assimilates smoking to images of seduction, slimness, elegance and physical fitness." — Sapa-Reuter.

'Mindset-change' needed against smoking - Masa

Star 11/6/94

Government measures to curtail smoking required a "mindset-change" in the population before they could become truly effective, the Medical Association of SA (Masa) said on World No-Tobacco Day yesterday.

The association urgently appealed to all members of the media to help promote an awareness of the health hazards of smoking.

It has been unequivocally proved that smoking causes respiratory diseases like emphysema and lung cancer, and numerous related conditions.

These all placed a heavy and unnecessary financial burden on the health care

budget, Masa said.

It called on the tobacco industry to voluntarily agree to a review of advertising policies.

Masa also appealed to other key influences on the youth, asking sports people and entertainers to avoid involvement in the promotion of smoking. It appealed to them not to be seen smoking.

It asked insurance companies to continue offering reduced premiums to non-smokers on life insurance policies.

Masa also requested commerce and industry to declare their establishments smoke-free and offer stop-smoking programmes. — Sapa.

(87)

New smoking attitude urged

JOHANNESBURG — Government measures to curtail smoking required a "mindset-change" in the population before they could become truly effective, the Medical Association of SA (Masa) said yesterday, World No Smoking Day.

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Masa also appealed to other key influences on the youth, asking sports people and entertainers not to promote smoking or be seen smoking in public places.

It asked insurance companies to continue offering reduced premiums to non-smokers on life insurance policies, and for commerce and industry to declare their establishments smoke-free and offer stop-smoking programmes. — Sapa (87)

Smoking filthy, smelly and should be banned — readers

Staff Reporters

87
ART 2/6/94

SMOKING is a filthy and stinking habit which should be banned in indoor public places, think an overwhelming majority of The Argus readers who responded to our phone-in poll.

Of the 222 who answered our question "Should smoking be banned in all indoor public places?" 192 said yes.

One respondent was so vehemently anti-smoking that he gave his wife a choice — himself or cigarettes.

"I could not believe it — she chose a divorce. But I am still against smoking."

But those in favour of a smoking ban should not think smokers will give up their puff without a fight.



"I will break every rule which prohibits me from smoking in public places," said a Claremont woman.

She said she did not believe smoking caused cancer, and neither did her father, a doctor.

It seemed, however, as if some

families would not mind if Medical Officer of Health Michael Popkiss extended a potential ban to include households.

Shan du Preez from Camps Bay said: "My parents are smoking and I am always coughing — I say ban all smoking."

Another woman had a simple idea — she ordered her husband to smoke in the garden.

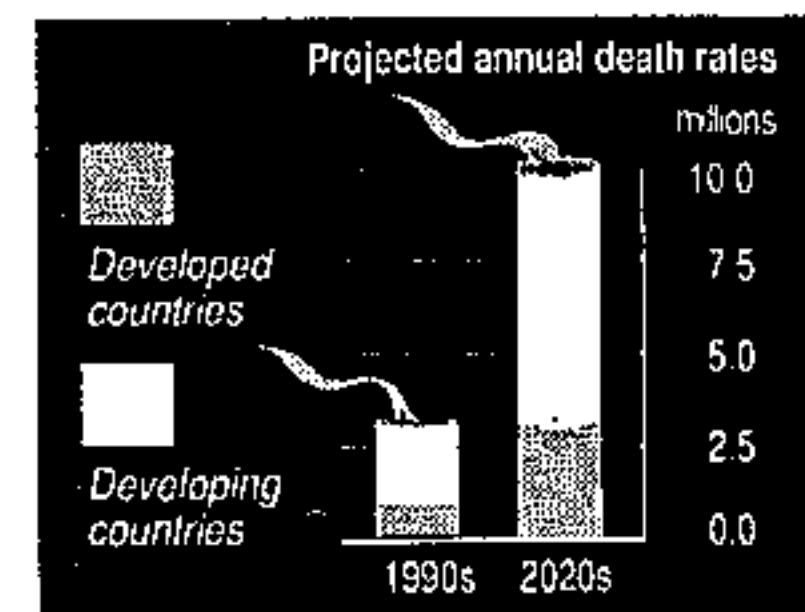
Taking a more extreme view was Gavin Bolton who suggested: "Smokers should be castrated."

Ex-smokers came in for a fair bit of flak. They were the worst, said many smokers.

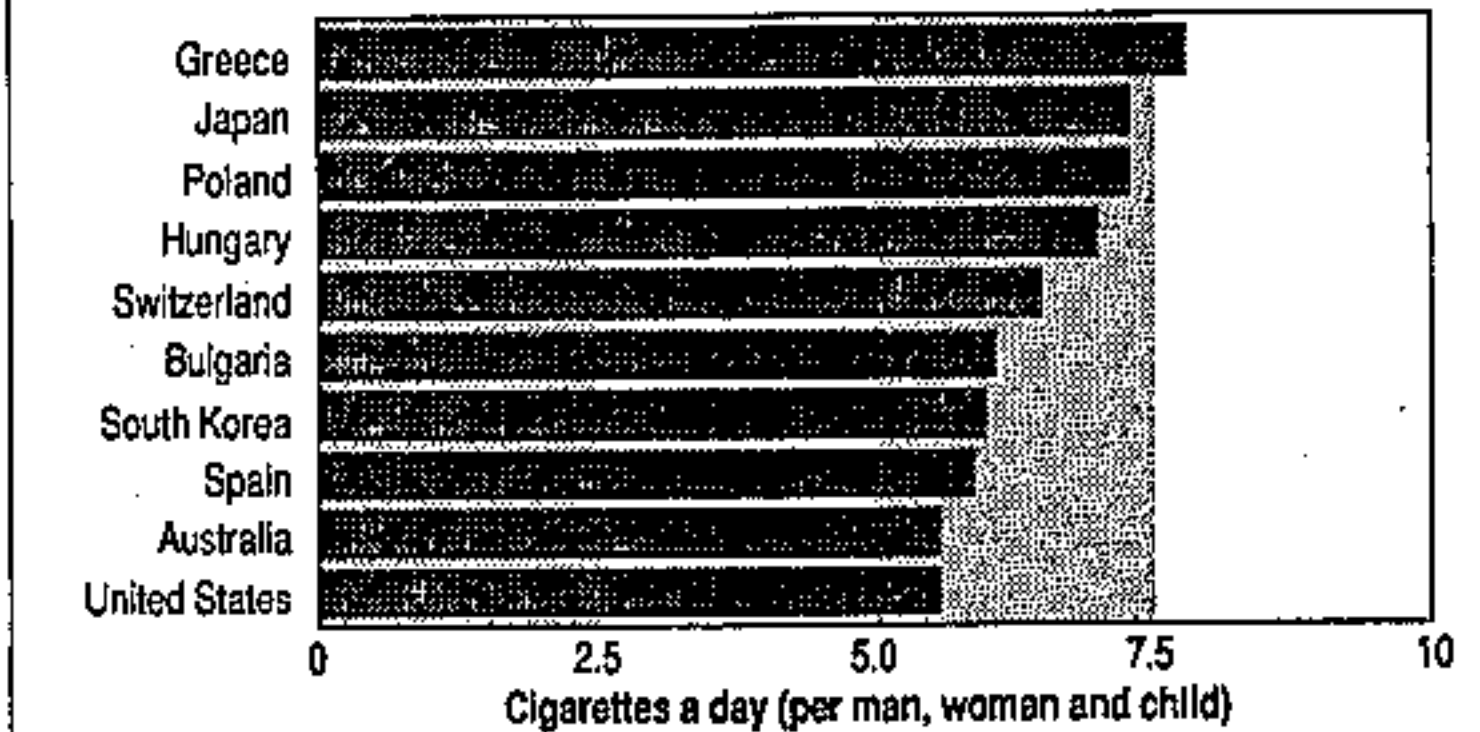
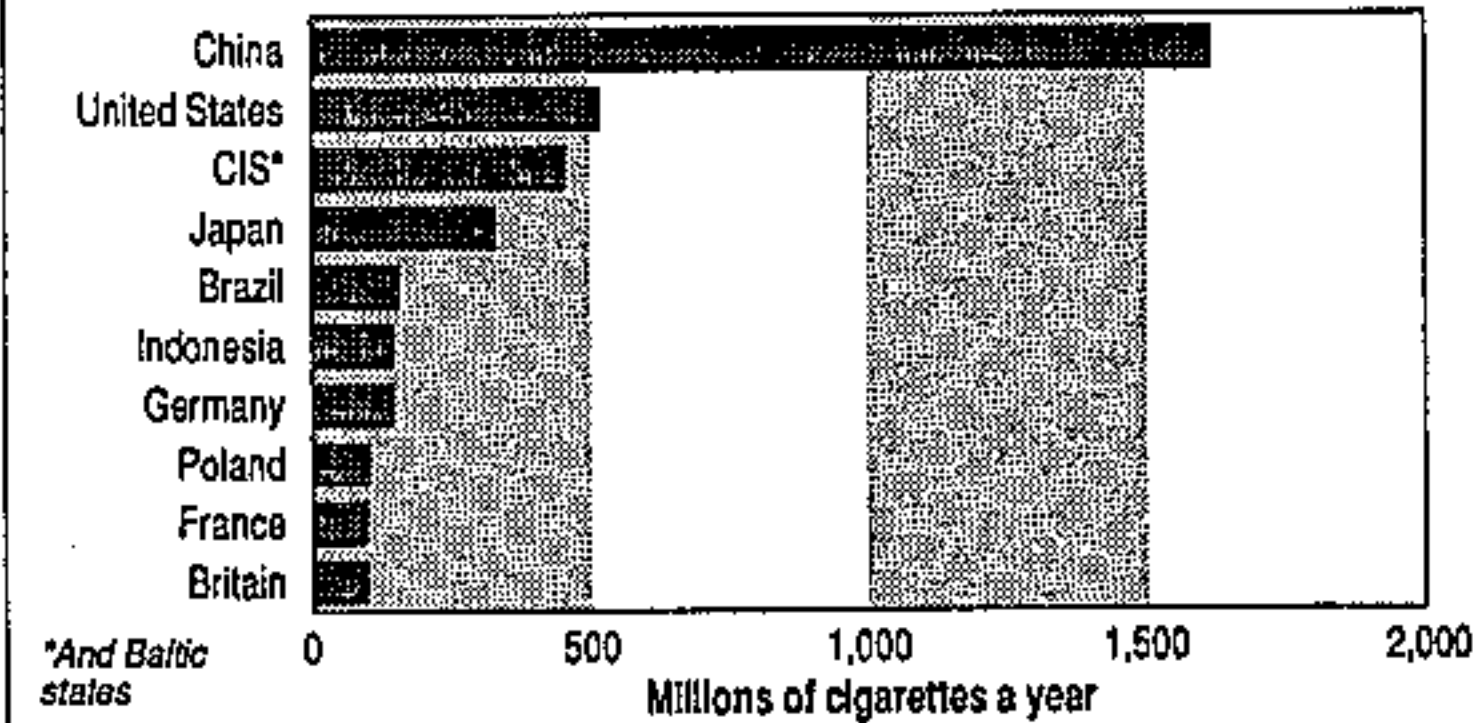
Joyce Ward from Milnerton said: "These rehabilitated smokers are usually people who are old and

THE PRICE OF TOBACCO CONSUMPTION

The World Health Organisation held its annual World No-Tobacco day on Tuesday to draw attention to the dangers of smoking which now kills three million people each year. Smoking is on the rise in developing countries.



THE WORLD'S HEAVIEST SMOKERS



Source: World Health Organisation / JAMA; latest figures, 1991

haven't got enough money to buy themselves cigarettes — now they want us to stop smoking."

Several smokers extolled the virtues of their democratic rights.

Roland Stoltzman of Green Point said a ban on smoking would be an infringement on his new democratic rights.

Women today probably have a great many more problems and issues to deal with than her mother or grandmother. Bringing up children, running a home, and dealing with her own problems in the job market are all factors that can lead to stress. Fortunately, many support services exist to help — and Today's Woman highlights a few of them.

Alcohol and drug abuse on increase

ART 8/6/94

White South Africans are drinking and using drugs more than ever, and urban blacks, especially teenagers, are fast catching up. This is the view of Dr Sylvain de Miranda, medical consultant to the Riverfield Lodge, a clinic specialising in treating substance abusers.

STRESSES brought on by the sudden and intense social, economic and political change are contributing to the rapid increase in drug and alcohol consumption, Dr De Miranda says.

"People's insecurities and uncertainties have not been helped by the poor performance of the economy. But 'things don't seem so bad' if you are slightly intoxicated. Their uncertainty becomes a disaster for the family if it turns into alcohol and substance abuse."

Dr De Miranda adds that, in the same way, many people in our black communities, suffer intense levels of stress when their normal cultural guidelines are disrupted, especially when they come to the city for the first time.

"The change in lifestyle, the uprooting of the family has caused a loss of stability. Combined with the normal hazards of poverty and slum living, you have a recipe for substance abuse."

Dr De Miranda says that while white and black substance abuse stems from social change, black substance abuse can also have its roots

in the clash of urban and rural cultures.

"Traditionally in the rural areas, you'd invite many friends around to share a calabash of low-alcohol home brew — and you'd pass the calabash around until the brew was finished.

"However, when you're new to the city and don't have many friends to share your 'calabash' of the more than twice as potent commercial beer, you could quickly develop alcohol abuse-related problems if you didn't adapt your lifestyle."

Dr De Miranda believes people are beginning to understand the difference between substance abuse and the illness of addiction.

"We are on the point of tracing the genetic factors which appear to play a part in the development of chemical substance dependency. Clinical depression and substance dependence are closely allied genetically, and identifying the specific gene responsible would explain why some people develop substance dependencies and others don't.

"In South Africa between 85 and 90 percentage of the ur-



Traditional rural drinking habits were gentler, less problematic than those of the modern city.

ban population uses alcohol. About 30 percent of these will have an alcohol-related problem, such as a car crash or an injury, once or more during their lifetime while six percent will develop a pathological dependence on alcohol."

Dr De Miranda emphasises that most alcohol-related problems — such as a car crash — stem from irresponsible behaviour and not addiction.

"This irresponsible behaviour can be described as social abuse which can be cured by education and sanction," he says. "The physical dependence is similar to diabetes. People can live normal lives provided they are under treatment."

He believes that only holistic methods can successfully rehabilitate substance abusers. "In the US, research has shown that treating the symptoms of alcohol abuse can be nine times more costly than

using a holistic approach to treat the physical, emotional and social symptoms of the disease.

"Unfortunately, local medical aids mostly regard substance abuse as a self-inflicted disease, and either refuse to pay for treatment or restrict the benefits to a ridiculously low annual sum.

"On a more constructive note, local medical aids are beginning to stipulate they will pay for treatment only if the patient undergoes a programme of aftercare for a year or 18 months, and that is something I heartily endorse," he says.

Dr De Miranda believes that the State should ensure high-quality services are readily available as the early and successful treatment of alcohol and drug dependence, which severely hamper a sufferer's productivity, could make a major contribution on the country's economy."

Tobacco growers told 'don't panic'

ARL 9/6/94
□ Government 'wouldn't jeopardise jobs'

LIBBY PEACOCK (87)
Staff Reporter

THE Western Cape tobacco industry could play a big role in the government's reconstruction and development programme and producers should not panic about proposed legislation to toughen up on cigarette advertising.

This was said by Wrensch Louw, chairman of the Western Province Co-Operative Tobacco Producers (Wespro) at its annual meeting in Paarl yesterday.

Mr Louw said if the "threat" contained in anti-smoking measures published in the Government Gazette was addressed correctly, it could benefit everyone.

He could not believe that the government of national unity would jeopardise the thousands of jobs created by the tobacco industry.

He called on the media, politicians and other role players in the tobacco industry to look at the position of to-

bacco in a balanced way and encouraged producers to produce more tobacco in spite of the threat to the industry, as this would lead to the social economic upliftment of the Western Cape region.

There was a definite niche for South African tobacco in the world market and Wespro believed that exports could be extended.

The past year had been a success for Wespro and its members. The co-operatives' harvest had increased by 11 percent to almost 700 tons.

Exports almost achieved the 200-ton mark.

Guest speaker Sam Tuntubele, founder of the African Farmers Association, told the meeting that change was not something that came overnight.

Black people wanted to get involved in farming and all farmers, black and white had to sit together and look at the land problem together.

"We as farmers must solve the problem ourselves."

Assets managed by insurers soar 35% to R278 billion

□ Group business depressed by stagnating employment

BRUCE CAMERON
Business Editor

THE life insurance industry is managing R278 billion in assets on behalf of policy holders and group fund members — and most of the money invested in shares and property.

The amount of money invested with insurance companies has grown by 35 percent over the past year, with money pouring mainly into individual business.

Premium income from individual policies increased by 23 percent to R26 billion, chairman of the Life Offices Association Neal Chapman said.

Premium income from new business increased by 31 percent (R26 billion).

Premium income from group schemes, pension and provident funds increased by 11,5 percent to R13,8 billion.

Mr Chapman said the relatively modest increase in group fund premiums was a result of stagnating employment and modest salary increases.

He said the industry had seen its tax bill grow by 22 percent a year over the past 10 years and paid R992 million into the state coffers last year. This is more than one percent of total tax collected.

Mr Chapman said that income from the investment of assets had been 9,65 percent for 1993. Although this was substantially lower than the increase in assets, it reflected the lower interest rates and low increase in dividends.

But this was countered by the significant capital appreciation of assets.

The aim of the industry was to protect people's savings against inflation.

"To do this we have to invest in avenues that will show a real return, rather than current income."

By investing in shares and property the industry not only earned attractive returns for policyholders, but also used their savings directly to finance the economic growth of the country.

Last year the industry increased benefits paid to policyholders by 27 percent to R27,8 billion. He did not say whether this figure included surrenders and lapses.

On the controversial issue of surrenders, he said withdrawal from a group fund or a policy surrender often reflected the collapse of somebody's financial planning.

"This causes the industry enormous concern, but it is usually the result of misfortune beyond the control of the affected individual or of the insurer."

Mr Chapman said one of the positive aspects in the 1993 figures was the containment of expenses to 11,6 percent of total income. Ten years ago the figure was 13,3 percent and in 1973 it was 18,3 percent.

He said this showed that life insurance had become cheaper over the years with computerisation making the industry more efficient.

Remgro's net income more than R1 bn

MARC HASENFUSS
Business Staff

THE Stellenbosch-based Rembrandt Group (Remgro) notched up a satisfactory 10 percent increase in net income from normal business operations to just over R1 billion (R951 million) or 200,9c a share for the year ended March.

The results do not justify the slump in Remgro's share price to R27,75 — which is well off a 12-month high of R36,75. Market sentiment, however, has been shaken by speculation of increased excise duties on tobacco and liquor.

The group's tobacco and liquor interests contribute nearly half of total earnings.

Remgro directors noted recent speculation in the media on increased excise duties on the tobacco industry.

But they would only say: "With the facts currently at our

disposal we are not in a position at this stage to comment on the possible impact on the industry."

A final dividend of 26,40c was declared, bringing the total payout for the year up 20 percent to 43,44c. A special dividend of 14,52c was also paid in October last year.

Net income before taxation crept up 6 percent to R1,3 billion in the period under review, but a lower tax bill pushed net income after tax up 19 percent to R925 million.

A 14 percent drop in net income from associated companies to R179 million and a higher payout to "other members" limited bottom line growth to 10 percent.

■ Lydenburg Exploration has paid R9 million for an additional 10 percent of the benefits from Gold Field's Kalkoenkrans Project near Ventersburg.

Premier earns more in difficult year

ALIDE DASNOIS
Business staff

THE giant Premier Group managed to lift earnings 11 percent in one of the most difficult years in its history, chairman Peter Wrighton said.

Turnover in the year ended April was hit by relatively slow rises in food prices and by unemployment. Prices of Premier's basket of goods rose only 4,5 percent over the year, he said.

Trading profit of R634,7 million was reduced by a heavy interest bill (R78,9 million) ascribed to the inclusion of the borrowings of United Pharmaceutical Distributors (UPD) and Bonnita, as well as changes in accounting practices and expansion.

During the year the group increased its stake in UPD to 51 percent and in Bonnita (which now owns ice-cream producer

Aylesbury) to 53 percent. Premier Pharmaceuticals, which strengthened its product range through a series of acquisitions during the year, showed exceptional results, Mr Wrighton said.

Performance from the food division was disappointing, though fishing did well. Bonnita achieved budgeted profits during the year.

In other divisions, Metro Cash and Carry maintained its momentum, CNA and Teltron showed encouraging results, but Clicks disappointed.

Interest-bearing debt jumped from R244 million to R449 million, but the group said the debt-equity ratio, at 20,4 percent, was still at an acceptable level.

A total of R88 million was written off for extraordinary items, including the restructuring of the food division.

Sanco plans to revive R1-m drug-counselling centre

JEAN LE MAY **AR 18/6/94** **(87)**
 Weekend Argus Reporter

THE only drug-counselling centre on the Cape Flats, where the drug problem is rife, has been closed for the last six months because of politically-inspired infighting.

The R1 million Ulwazi Centre in Langa opened early in 1992 as an educational and recreational centre for young people, with strong emphasis on drug counselling.

But most activities came to a full stop after word got around that people who were not ANC supporters were not welcome at the centre.

The ANC Youth League "took over and tried to run everything", said a source.

A spokesman for the ANC Youth League declined to comment.

At present the centre was running "only a few building and sewing classes", said trustee Zorah Mechlomakulu.

John Mpukuma, Western Cape regional organiser of the SA National Civics Organisation (Sanco), told Weekend Argus he was aware of problems at Ulwazi Centre.

"There was a misunderstanding among the young people — there was a lack of transparency about the project," he said, adding that there had been a lack of consultation with the community when the centre was established.

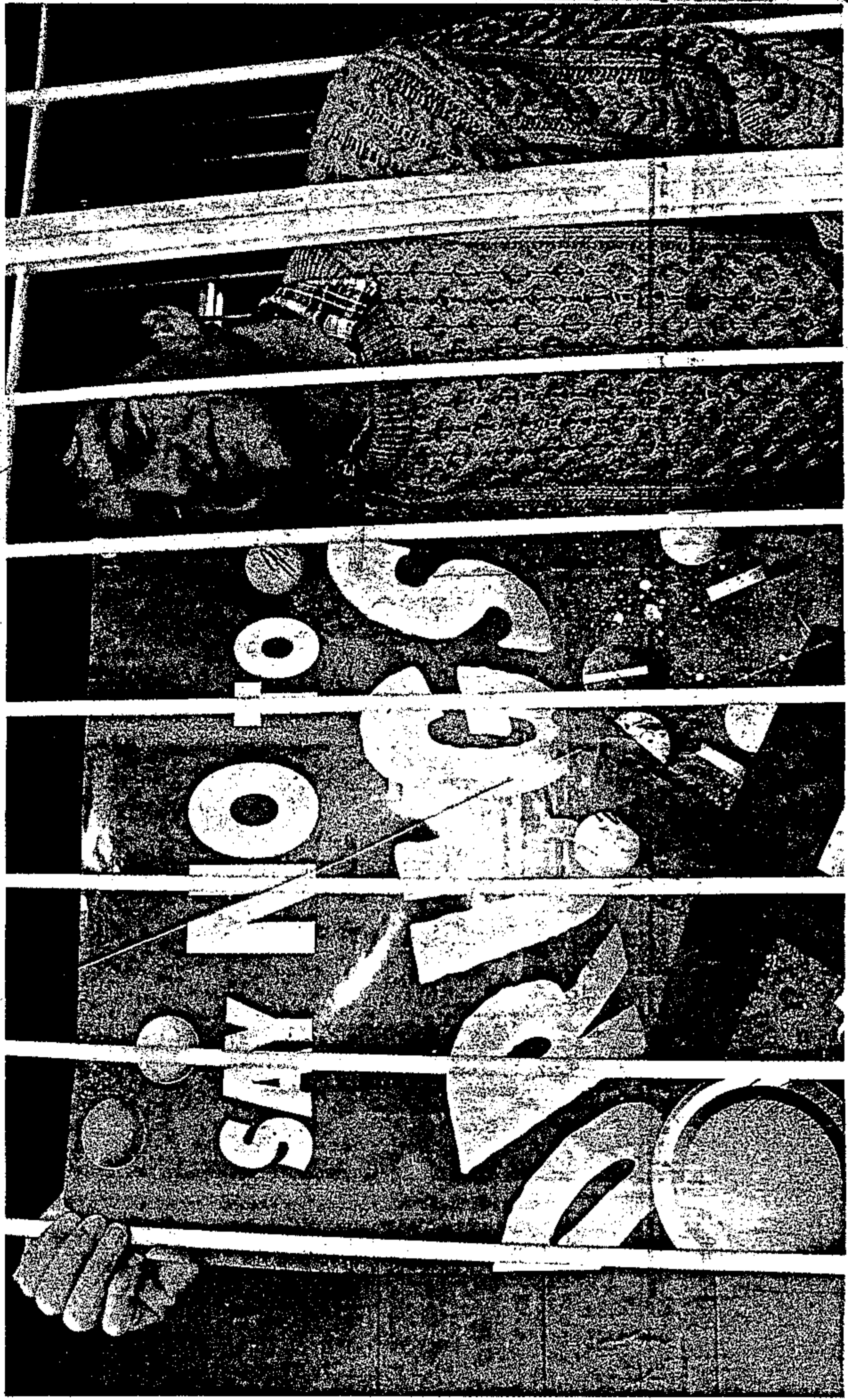
"When any organisation decides to sponsor a project it must be run at community level by somebody acceptable to the community."

"The people who were running Ulwazi were not considered to be representative of the community."

"Now Sanco has stepped in and we are getting everybody involved in a forum which will hopefully work things out on a non-political basis."

Peter Powis, of the Cape Town Drug Counselling Centre in Woodstock, said he was prepared to go back to counselling at the Ulwazi Centre "if I am invited to do so".

Zorah Mechlomakulu, a member of a newly-appointed Board of Trustees, said there had been problems with the former management and the centre had run into debt.



BARRED: Peter Powis, who ran the drug-counselling centre at the inoperative Ulwazi Centre, says he is prepared to go back "if I am invited to do so".

Picture: LEON MULLER, Weekend Argus.

11/11/94

SA heads Mandrax abusers

CT 22/6/94 (87)

PRETORIA. — South Africa is the world's largest consumer of Mandrax, but alcohol is the most abused drug in the country, according to a Drug Advisory Board report tabled at the annual meeting of the Medical Association of South Africa here yesterday.

The report said 20 000 people abused alcohol daily, compared with 10 000 dagga abusers. It said the typically urban habit of drug abuse was becoming more prevalent in rural areas.

"South Africa and some of the neighbouring countries are large producers of dagga. Dagga from South Africa is also exported to Europe. Seizures in Europe bear evidence of this phenomenon."

Since 1991 the police narcotics bureau had been co-operating in an intensive eradication programme with neighbouring countries such as Swaziland, Lesotho, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

The report said South Africa had emerged as the world's largest consumer of Mandrax. It was imported mainly from India, and from Swaziland.

"Since 1990, the abuse of cocaine in particular has increased by 400%," the report said.

The board blamed the rise in drug use on unemployment, family disintegration, lack of religion, urbanisation, peer pressure and family violence.

It said a national strategy to curb demand and supply had been adopted. Its main elements were prevention, treatment, research, control and law enforcement. — Sapa

New SA move on drug abuse

PRETORIA. — International co-operation has compelled South Africa to bring its legislation on alcohol and drug abuse in line, says the Medical Association of South Africa.

A report in Pretoria said it was internationally accepted that the problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking should be tackled by a reduction in demand and supply. **ALG 22/6/94**

The Abuse of Dependence Producing Substances and Rehabilitation Centres Act, 1971 and to a lesser extent the Coloured Persons Rehabilitation Centres Law, 1971, contained both criminal punishable acts and treatment. **(81)**

In the present legislation, according to the report, these aspects were not only separated but the two different Acts would be administered by different departments.

The Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act, 1992, deals with the criminal offences with regard to illicit trafficking of drugs.

The Prevention and Treatment of Drug Dependency Act, 1992, provides only for prevention of drug abuse and treatment of patients. All references to discrimination or punishment measures have been removed. — Sapa.

Coping with addict in family

Star 22/6/94

This week is International Anti-Drug Week. Alarm bells are sounding loudly around the world as drug abuse comes under the international spotlight again.

The bells have been ringing with even more urgency in recent months, following a spate of drug abuse cases among celebrities, some of them fatal.

Within months of each other, several successful young American celebrities inadvertently called attention to their own plight, as well as that of thousands of others, by focussing world attention on hard drugs.

First, there was the drug overdose which led to the death of actor River Phoenix in October last year; then, in May, there was rock star Kurt Cobain's drug-induced coma and suicide; last month, young tennis ace Jennifer Ca-

priati admitted she had a drug problem after she was arrested for the illegal possession of dagga.

In South Africa, experts say that drugs appear to have made a "comeback" in the media, but substance abuse has never been a fad. The rate of drug abuse has simply escalated beyond expectation or any form of control, say workers in "Toughlove", a local drug counselling and support group for families and sufferers of drug abuse.

The national group forms part of the local anti-drug initiative, appealing to young people to take a personal stand on the problem which says: "We've got better things to do than drugs."

And with the Department of Health and various anti-drug non-governmental organisations, the Johannesburg, Sandton, Randburg, Diepsmeadow and Alexandra municipal authorities have initiated a "Substance Awareness Week" to reinforce the message.

Although Toughlove has been operating for several years, its approach has changed with the times and tactics of drug dealers.

In addressing the widespread problem, Toughlove has taken an alternative, firm and reportedly successful approach to dealing with drug addicts.

The organisation comprises a network of support groups whose unyielding bottom line is a unique approach for families and loved ones of drug addicts who have to deal with the "havoc" the illness causes.

They counsel people on how to take a "tough" yet empathetic stand when dealing with their "addict", because they love them and want to see them recover. But they won't do so at the expense of their own lives.

In getting a firmer grip on drug abuse, Toughlove is currently fundraising and campaigning to start a national telephone helpline as a valuable and necessary community resource.

Randburg Toughlove organiser and volunteer counsellor Cheryl Rahme

have to suppress some of their natural, and well-meant parental urges toward their drug addict. They have to "get tough" with themselves by drawing a line on how much behavioural stress they are prepared to accept, and "not being so quick to give away TLC" but allowing drug addicts or abusers to face the consequences of what they're doing.

Toughlove means a willingness on the part of families to "allow our young people to experience the results of their own destructive behaviour, no matter how much we want to protect them".

This includes for example:

- Refusing to pay bail, or fines for their legal offences;
- Not giving them money which will be spent on drugs, and even not allowing runaways to return home until they agree on a real living-together solution with the rest of their family.

Shock

But interestingly, counsellors say that their approach is met with shock in some of the local cultures who aren't as willing to see a loved one "suffer".

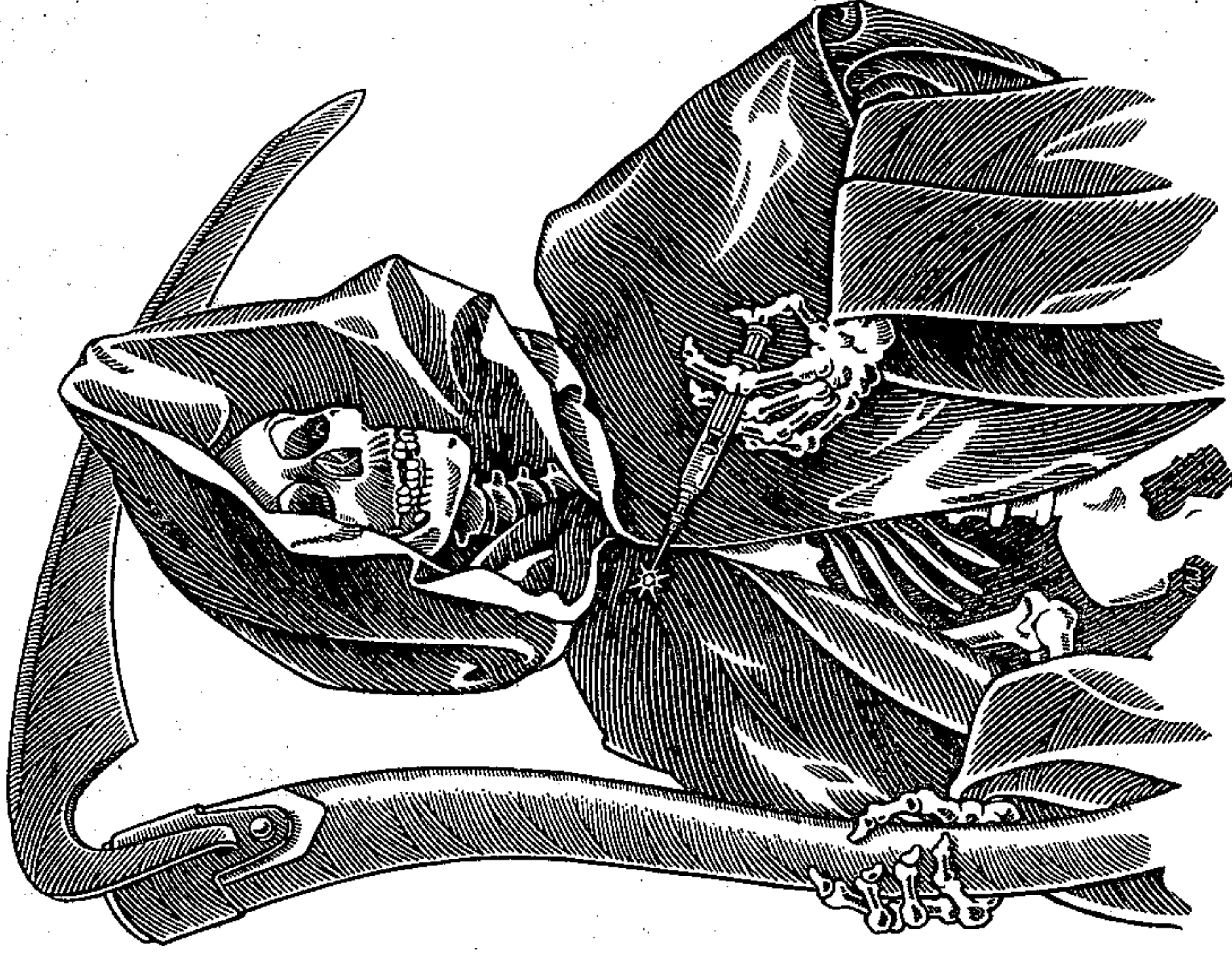
When it is unable to fully assist families or drug addicts with their problem, Toughlove does referrals to local drug treatment centres such as the South African National Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

At weekly group meetings Toughlove is also able to act as a mediator between families and their drug abusing relatives.

All the Toughlove counsellors are people who have a drug abuser in their family. They are living proof that it is not only wayward adolescents and teens who abuse drugs and break up their families.

Toughlove's biggest problem is funding and it is now appealing to the private sector for assistance, and to individuals to fund by becoming patrons.

For more information, Toughlove can be reached on (011) 678-9023 or (011) 886-5775, ask for Rozanne.



says the organisation has found that families of drug addicts need help, or someone to talk to, 24 hours a day, because crises are never confined to time frames.

The helpline was previously functioning on a regional scale, but closed down at the end of last year through lack of funds.

The bid to establish the helpline is

also in response to the number of inquiries and referrals the organisation gets from other general help centres.

One of the main concerns at the moment is that the families and loved ones of drug addicts have nowhere to go for help.

Toughlove is one of only two organisations in the country that offers advice, support, and counselling.

Counsellors say parents and families

Drug addiction affects everyone

The "Toughlove" organisation offers advice to families and loved ones of drug addicts and substance abusers.

From their weekly group counselling meetings, it becomes clear that drug addiction isn't a problem determined by socio-economic conditions, nor is it confined to the drug addict. Horror stories of people living lives determined by the mood, behaviour, and level of intoxication of the drug abuser make it clear that drugging is everybody's problem.

Toughlove says families of drug addicts need to know that they're not alone. This makes people in their counselling groups feel better just knowing there are others who can identify with their problem.

Toughlove believes that life will be easier for those living with a drug addict if they gradually change their response to this person's behaviour.

To do so, people have to adopt the philosophy of letting go and attending to their own needs.

In addition, parents and others close to the drug abuser can take the following steps:

- Learn to think positively, and believe that family life will improve.
- Do not deny the person's addiction, try to accept it.
- Do not cut yourself off from the addict, but detach with love.
- Don't allow yourself to be a puppet under this person's control.
- Accept that you have no control over the addict's usage.
- Stop being protective, and permit the addict to face reality.
- Make the most of your own life, rather than trying to change or blame the drug addict.
- Be supportive of the addict's attempts at recovery.
- Try to live for each day and enjoy it, instead of dwelling in the past or future.

Smokers take brunt of hike

87

CT 23/6/94

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent

THE cost of having a good time has just gone up.

The government yesterday slapped a series of "sin taxes" on alcohol and tobacco products that will swell the state's coffers by about R525 million over the next year.

Some of the key increases are:

- Beer by six cents a litre or two cents a dumpy (2%).
- Cigarettes by 14,22c for 20 and cigarette tobacco by 8,88c for 50 grams (4,5%). Duty on tobacco increased by 25%.
- Pipe tobacco and cigars by 65c a kilogram (various).
- Spirits 53c per 750ml bottle (2,5%).

Wine, beer all to cost more

- Sorghum beer by one cent a litre or five cents a kilogram (1%).
- Cold drinks and mineral waters by 1,24c a litre (0,5%).
- Unfortified wine by 4,5c a 750ml bottle, fortified wine by five cents a 750ml bottle and sparkling wine about six cents a 750ml bottle (0,5%).
- Other fermented drinks like

cider by six cents a litre or two cents per 340ml can (2%).

In his Budget speech Mr Keys said the excise duty on tobacco products was a special case.

"Based on health considerations, arguments have been put forward for an increase in the excise duty to 50% of the retail price.

"After consultation with all the interested groups and taking into account industry-specific limitations and market conditions, the government has opted for a phased approach which is reflected in the announced increase."

However, Mr Keys warned that "future budgets will have to deal with the remainder of this issue".

'Victory for tobacco lobby'

Staff Reporter

(87)

CT 23/6/94

A FOURTEEN cent increase for a pack of 20 cigarettes was "a betrayal of health interests" and represented a "victory for the tobacco lobby", the National Council Against Smoking (NCAS) said yesterday.

And reacting to the six cent increase in tax per litre of beer, SAB marketing director Mr Barry Smith said the increase was "lower than speculated" but could affect sales growth and employment opportunities.

Criticising the 25% increase in tax on tobacco in the Budget, NCAS executive director Mr Yusuf Salojee said the Finance Ministry had been

"pressured into backing down from making real and significant increases in tobacco taxes".

However, Tobacco Institute of South Africa chairman Mr Joppie Graham slated the increase saying it was "about three times as high as the official rate of inflation" and "discriminatory" against an established, legitimate industry.

Calling the increase "nominal" Mr Salojee said Mr Keys had "disregarded" advice from the health lobby.

The Medical Research Council said the increase was "a great disappointment" as research had shown the cost to the economy by tobacco-related diseases was far higher than the revenue accrued from the tobacco industry.

Cigarette hearings: US Congress told of gene engineering

'Secret' tobacco doubles nicotine

(87) WM 24-30/6/94

**Martin Walker and Ben Laurence:
Washington**

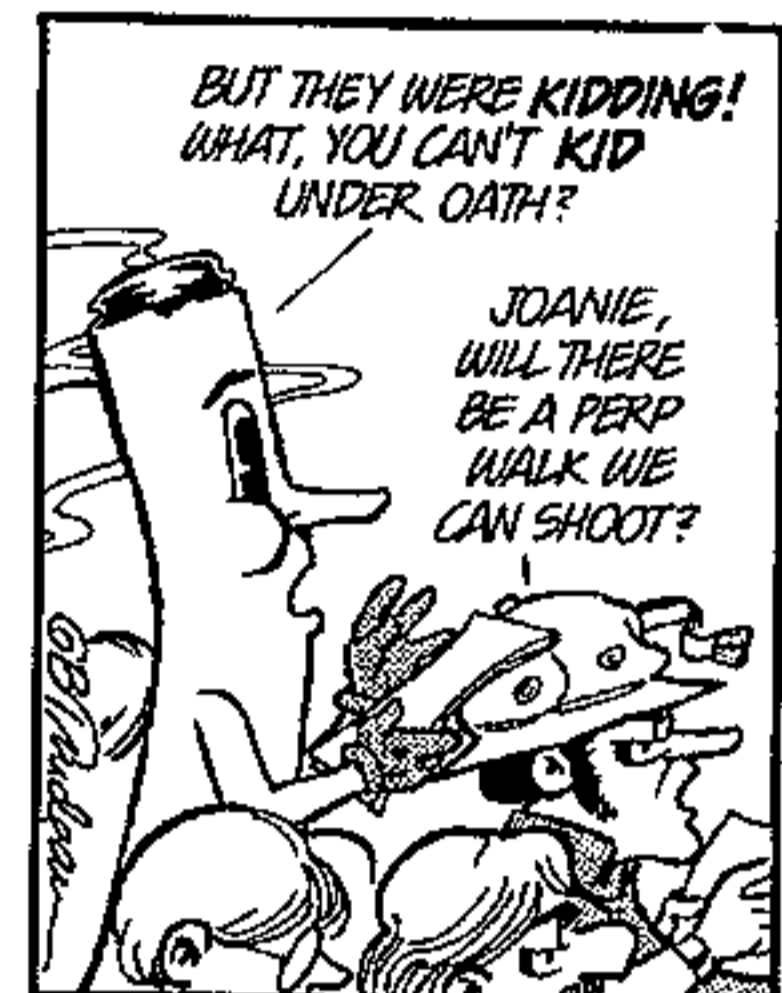
THE US government's Food and Drug Commissioner provided evidence this week to Congress of a "secret" genetic engineering programme to boost the nicotine yield of tobacco plants.

Placing five packs of Viceroy, Richland and Raleigh cigarettes on the table before him, commissioner Dr David Kessler said they contained a new strain of tobacco known as Y-1, grown in Brazil, and genetically engineered by the Brown and Williamson corporation to produce more than double the usual dose of nicotine.

Y-1 contains 6.2 percent nicotine, more than double the 2.4 to 3 percent nicotine found naturally in flue-cured tobacco, and higher than 4 per cent nicotine yield found in cross-bred strains.

The Congressional hearings into smoking are designed to support draft legislation that would ban smoking in all public places, including bars and restaurants as well as offices and factories, and widen the legal vulnerability of tobacco companies to lawsuits for damages from smokers.

Kessler told Congress: "Nicotine is a drug, and the tobacco industry knows it. They have a long history of manipulation of the amount of nicotine that reaches a smoker's



Real life imitates the comic strips ... Doonesbury strip from last month

lungs.

"We also produce evidence today that shows the deliberate addition of ammonia to increase the amount of nicotine inhaled, and documents which show the industry saw this as an "impact booster".

Kessler said that his researchers had come across the Y-1 plant when checking patent applications in Brazil. "This plant represents a dramatic attempt to manipulate nicotine".

The Brown and Williamson company blames its troubles on a mole, an attorney at the company's law firm named Marrell Williams, accused of photocopying a mass of corporate documents and leaking them to the press and government investigators.

Williams, a former smoker, was laid off by his law firm in 1992, and underwent major

heart surgery the following year, which he blames on smoking.

He has gone to ground, and his lawyer says: "He really has a fear that someone who has been raising tobacco all his life is going to pull up next to him in a pickup truck and blow him away."

On the day Kessler gave evidence, every major American daily carried a full page advert sponsored by the RJ Reynolds tobacco company which warned that the US government is "pursuing a new era of prohibition".

"Today it's cigarettes. Tomorrow — will alcohol be next? Will caffeine be next? Will high-fat foods be next? Will books, music and movies get the treatment? Who knows where it will end?"

Another blow for smokers

The Argus Correspondent

(87)

PRETORIA. — Smokers have to inhale yet another increase barely 24 hours after excise duty pushed the price of cigarettes up by about 14c for 20.

ARG 24/6/94

Cafe owners were told by wholesalers of the manufacturers' increase — averaging five percent — yesterday. One owner was told a packet of 20 should now sell for about R3,25.

Two wholesalers confirmed the manufacturers' increase. With the increase in excise duty, the total rise in cigarette prices comes to about 12 percent.

A spokesman for Cardosa Cigarette Depot said: "When one considers it is the first time this year manufacturers have upped their prices, it is a reasonable increase."

Thumbs down for smoking

LONDON. — Nine in 10 employees believe their health is at risk from working among smokers, according to a survey published yesterday.

Even 78% of smokers recognised the dangers of passive smoking, the Health Education Authority survey found.

Two-thirds of workers thought it was their employers' responsibility

to decide whether to ban smoking and, if they did so, to enforce the ban.

Concern was greatest about the dangers to unborn babies if pregnant women worked in smoky offices.

HEA director of cancer education Ms Tara Wolff said: "Adults spend up to 50% of their waking lives at work. It is therefore vitally important that the atmosphere

they work in is as healthy as possible."

The British Medical Association said: "There is now evidence to suggest that non-smoking mothers exposed to tobacco smoke may give birth to a smaller baby than average.

"A baby born a good weight is much more likely to be healthy in its first crucial few weeks of life."

— The Telegraph London

87 CT 27/6/94

Grow different crops, tobacco farmers urged

CLIVE SAWYER
Political Correspondent

TOBACCO farmers have been urged by the parliamentary finance committee to change to crops that are better for the nation's health.

Tobacco industry lobbyists yesterday told the committee that proposed increases in excises on their products would cause thousands of job losses.

They said smuggling of

cheap cigarettes from neighbouring countries would increase were the government to force up the price of tobacco.

The excise on tobacco products was increased in the budget and may be raised further in the coming five years as part of government policy to use "sin taxes" to fund the reconstruction and development programme.

South Africans spend R5 bil-

ARG 1/7/94
lion a year on tobacco products. The rise in excise duty is expected to net an extra R200 million for state coffers.

Opponents of the industry say that while tobacco is a money-spinner for state coffers, it damages the economy through loss of productivity because smokers are more prone to disease.

Tobacco Board chief Jan Graham said there were 861 to-

bacco farmers, employing 46 000 workers permanently. Counting casual labour there were 56 000 workers in the industry.

For every percentage point the cigarette price increased above inflation, demand decreased by 0,65 percent.

This meant 40 farmers, 2 400 workers and their 14 500 dependents would lose their livelihoods.

Warning: The regulation of tobacco ads can be hazardous

The government faces fiery opposition to the proposed restrictions on tobacco advertising, reports **Chris Louw**

A BATTLE looms as the country's billion rand advertising industry gears up to join the powerful tobacco industry in opposing what they regard as the government's "draconian restrictions" on cigarette advertising.

The anti-smoking lobby, which seemed to have won the battle when strict regulations controlling tobacco adverts were accepted by the government, is now running into a wall of opposition.

Warnings have been sounded that

(87) WM 8-14/7/94
thousands of jobs may be lost and cigarette advertising stopped completely if Minister of Health Dr Nkosazana Zuma goes ahead with plans to enforce stringent health warnings on cigarette ads.

The industry says the cessation of advertising could spell disaster for a host of related businesses, including reproduction houses, advertising agencies and magazines which depend on cigarette adverts for up to 10 percent of their advertising revenue. The tobacco industry spends between R4-million and R5-million a month on advertising in the print media, mostly for "brand building".

Notice of proposed legislation regulating the labelling, advertising and sale of tobacco products — including cigars and snuff — was promulgated in the Government Gazette on June 3. Interested parties have until September to make submissions.

If the draft regulations become law, at least a quarter of the space in all cigarette advertisements will have to consist of health warnings, including a prominent warning that smoking can kill.

Tobacco Institute spokesman Joh Groenewald said: "It is understood that the government sets great store by consultation. The tobacco industry has not been consulted about these draft regulations."

The tough legislation prescribes even the typeface and the colours of the lettering of warnings. The warning must be in Helvetica type, must be at the top across the full width of the advert, and must comprise nine percent of the ad.

At the bottom, also across the full width, a "description" of specific problems caused by smoking must appear in white letters against a black background, comprising 15 percent of the advert. Another one percent at the top of the ad must be allocated to information relating to the tar and nicotine content. In all cases the same language must be used for the warnings as for the advert itself.

- At least a quarter of every radio advert for cigarettes will have to be a warning about the dangers of smoking. The warning must be read in the same voice used to read the advert.

- Cinema adverts will have to carry a warning across the screen, nine percent of the width of the ad, throughout their duration. At the end a description of the damage that smoking can cause must be displayed over 80 percent of the screen, for "a period equivalent to 20 percent of the total screening time of the advertisement".

- Cigarette packages will be transformed. A quarter of the front of each pack will have to carry a health warning; 50 percent of the back will be taken up by a warning, as well as 50 percent of one long side, "excluding the part that forms part of the lid".

Appealing to the principle of "freedom of commercial speech", International Marketing and Advertising managing director Apes van Rensburg said this week that thousands of jobs could be on the line if the government went ahead with its "unreasonable demands". He said the regulations were such that the tobacco industry was being expected to sponsor the anti-smoking campaign.

Transnet to restrict smoking

CT 27/7/94

(87)

TRANSNET is to ban smoking throughout company facilities except in designated areas from August 1.

A Transnet policy document noted international health authorities had named smoking as "public health enemy No 1".

The document also noted that many individuals with allergies and even healthy non-smokers reported discomfort when exposed to second-hand smoke at work.

"Smoking permitted" areas would be designated only on request, the document said.

These could include outdoor areas, empty rooms and other areas not used by non-smokers.

In addition, as much as a third of cafeteria space could be designated as "smoking permitted" if non-smokers did not object.

Occupants of private offices could decide whether they would be smoking or non-smoking zones, but should refrain from smok-

ing in the office when a non-smoking employee or visitor was present.

Smoking would also be prohibited in conference and class rooms, although a short smoke break could be provided during meetings lasting longer than an hour.

In all conflicts over the policy, the right of a non-smoker to protect his or her health and comfort would take precedence over any employee's desire to smoke, the document stressed. — Sapa

Tobacco ad. warnings supported

COMPANIES that advertise and sell cigarettes should be more socially responsible, the Non-Smoking Support Group said yesterday.

The organisation said it fully supported the "long overdue" proposed warnings on tobacco advertisements.

The group appealed to cinemas to be particularly careful about cigarette advertisements when showing children's films.

A recent magazine supplement suggesting that cigarettes were an essential item in a model's kit was "outrageous".

"We appeal to people to consider the consequences to young people's health," the statement said. — Sapa

AFRC 1/8/94
Tobacco ads and magazines

(87)
JOHANNESBURG. — A ban on tobacco advertising in popular magazines will not affect their income, the Medical Research Council said in a statement today.

It said a study of 10 magazines with circulations of more than 100 000 had revealed their income from tobacco advertising was about six percent of advertising revenue.

R2 000 a month for drugs

2/19/8/94 (87)

THE average drug addict spends almost R2 000 a month on his habit, latest statistics for the Cape Town Drug Counselling Centre revealed.

Five recovering addicts spoke out yesterday about their drug abuse at an emotional annual general meeting in Salt River, attended by parents, teachers and community workers from Constantia to the Cape Flats.

Chairwoman Mrs Adele Searll warned about the increase of drug-

related crime as airports and harbours had become flooded with drugs since sanctions were lifted and air routes opened.

A report by the centre said addicts spent on average R2 000 a month on drugs in 1993 — R600 more than in 1992, although the price of drugs had not substantially increased.

In 1993 the centre took in 557 new clients, 62 from Mitchells Plain, the report said. The youngest was nine and the oldest was 71.

Tobacco men claim access to health info

REPRESENTATIVES of the tobacco industry have used the freedom of information clause in the constitution to gain access to Department of Health documentation on tobacco control.

The move comes as the industry gears up for the final round of its battle against the department's proposals for obligatory health warnings on tobacco products and advertisements.

The deadline for comments on the draft regulations is September 3.

Department spokeswoman Belinda Terblanche said attorneys representing the industry lobby group, the Tobacco Institute, applied for access to documentation under Section 23 of the constitution.

This says anyone shall have access to all information held by the state "in so far as such information is required for the exercise or protection of any of his or her rights".

On August 1 "certain books by well-known authors" as well as published articles were shown to the tobacco representatives at the department's offices in Pretoria.

A week later they revisited the offices and "made an assessment of the volume of documents relating to the subject of smoking and tobacco". No documents were taken by the lawyers, although the department later gave them copies of Canadian and Australian tobacco control laws.

The institute claimed last week that 300 000 people were directly or indirectly dependent on the tobacco industry, which earned the state R612,5 million in VAT last year.

Earlier this year it lobbied successfully against health workers' proposals for a major health tax on cigarettes. — Sapa.

(87) APR 20 18 194

Health warnings: Radio exempted

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. —

Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma has exempted SABC radio stations from carrying health warnings on advertisements for tobacco products when stringent draft prescriptions on tobacco advertising become law in about two months.

The tobacco industry has indicated that it regards the exempt of the draft health warnings as so severe as to amount to an effective ban on tobacco advertising.

If the draft regulations were

□ Newspapers fume over minister's decision

to come into effect unaltered, the media stand to lose about R146 million annually.

SABC radio stations would have been among the media hardest hit — the corporation would have lost out on R34 million if the minister had not granted it a reprieve.

SABC spokesman Raymond Schenk confirmed yesterday that Ms Zuma had exempted the corporation's radio stations from carrying the health warnings for one year.

The proviso is that the department of health be given advertising time on SABC radio to warn people about the dangers of smoking.

"We have been lobbying the previous administration and this one for more than a year. I have sympathy for other media, who have perhaps not struggled long enough," said Mr Schenk.

Newspaper executives have reacted with astonishment and anger to a move which they regard as preferential treatment

of a state-owned body to the detriment of private sector competitors.

"I find it amazing that the minister can make an exception specifically for the SABC," said Nasionale Newspapers chief executive officer Hennie van Deventer.

Times Media Limited managing director Roy Paulson believes Ms Zuma has dug a pit for herself by acting unconstitutionally.

"I don't believe it's up to the

media to give free space to the department of health to advertise its programmes. Rather, it should take some of the taxes it earns on tobacco products to purchase space.

"What will be next — will we have to give space to the department to warn against the dangers of alcohol, the dangers attached to driving a motor car?" asked Mr Paulson.

But Radio 702 managing director Stan Katz and Mike Eagan, managing director of Interleisure, which owns cinema advertising company Cinema, have welcomed the flexibility shown by Ms Zuma.

AKG 26/8/94 (87)

Public funds going up in smoke, says research council

LIBBY PEACOCK

Health Reporter

(87)

TOBACCO accounts for a fifth of deaths in the Western Cape, but this is only the tip of the iceberg with regard to the true impact of tobacco use on disability and disease.

This was said in an open letter to Western Cape Premier Herens Kriel from Derek Yach, Medical Research Council community health research group executive.

And though fewer than 10

percent of lung cancer patients survived five years, they received high levels of diagnostic and curative care in tertiary hospitals — sapping the budgets of “already overstrained academic facilities”, he said.

The letter was made available at a Press conference on proposed regulations governing labelling and advertising of tobacco products.

Dr Yach said in the letter the Tobacco Institute of Southern Africa had been emphasising the importance of tobacco

to the Western Cape's economy in an attempt to stop the adoption of “healthy public policy” by the government.

But the institute's comments had failed to mention that there had been substantial declines in the labour force involved in tobacco production over the past decade.

The number of tobacco producers had decreased 45 per cent from 1987 to 1993.

“Unfortunately the Department of Agriculture has up to

now provided strong support for tobacco farmers to enter the market ...

“Use of public money to encourage production of a crop that is recognised by the World Bank as having a nett negative impact on the national economy does not make sense from an economic or health point of view.”

Dr Yach said the tobacco industry would, over the next few years, “use innovative methods to buy respectability”.

ARG 11/9/94 (87)

Council 'yes' to draft rules banning tobacco in public

SHARON SOROUR
Municipal Reporter

THE Cape Town City Council today approved draft regulations controlling the smoking of tobacco products in enclosed public places, including restaurants.

At its monthly meeting, the council agreed that a copy of the regulations be published for comment.

In terms of the Tobacco Products Control Act, the Minister of Health has granted the council power to regulate

smoking in enclosed public places.

In terms of the regulations smoking will not be allowed in any enclosed public place used as a health or banking facility, hotel, accommodation establishment, library, museum, gallery, municipal building, post office, public transport terminus, restaurant, school, crèche, shopping mall, shop, theatre, cinema or sports stadium.

Public lifts, minibus taxis and buses, are also out of bounds for smokers.

The regulations allow for designated smoking areas provided they are ventilated adequately.

During the debate councillor Peter Muller said the legislation was "absurd" and people would "laugh in our faces".

"This is the kind of legislation which will exacerbate disregard for law and order."

On a recent trip to France he noted that even though smoking in public was an offence it did not deter people from doing it.

"If we go ahead with this absurd legislation the public will laugh in our faces."

Leon Markovitz said he would rather have people laugh in his face than smoke in his face.

He cited airports as an example of where no smoking areas had been accepted. Ian Iversen reminded councillors that people used to smoke in theatres and cinemas and no longer did so because they respected the law.

Tobacco kills one in five in West Cape, Kriel told

Staff Reporter (87)

TOBACCO-RELATED causes account for one out of every five deaths in the Western Cape — the highest incidence in the country. CT 3/9/94

So said Dr Derek Yach, group executive of the Community Health Research Department in the Medical Research Council (MRC), in an open letter to Western Cape Premier Mr Hernus Kriel.

He said the three top tobacco-related diseases — lung cancer, ischaemic heart disease and chronic lung disease — accounted for 20% of all deaths in the Western Cape, and for 11% in South Africa.

Cape Town council plans large-scale smoking clamp

ARG 6/9/94 (87)

ANDREA WEISS
Municipal Reporter

CAPE Town City Council has released draft legislation which will restrict smoking in nearly all public spaces, including shopping malls, except where such space has been reserved for a private function.

The draft is open for comment — and that comment won't be long in coming because this time the council has set its sights way beyond restaurants, which stirred up a hornet's nest of controversy.

The draft legislation is the result of the Tobacco Products Control Act, which empowers local authorities to enforce smoking restrictions.

In terms of the draft legislation, smoking will be banned in all hospitals, banks, hotels, libraries, museums, galleries, municipal buildings, post offices, transport termini, restaurants, schools, creches, shopping malls, retail stores, theatres, cinemas and sports stadiums.

The definition of sports stadiums includes swimming pools, health clubs, skating rinks, bowling alleys or any place where people gather for physical exercise.

Notably, though, there is no mention of offices in the draft legislation.

Smoking on public transport

will be banned as well as in any lift open to the public.

Any room, passageway, hallway or any other area in a public space in which there is a service queue will also be out of bounds.

The only places — aside from the great outdoors — where smoking will be allowed are bars, not including restaurant areas; casinos, tobacco stores and private clubs.

Restrictions will also not apply during private functions — be they in hotels or on council property.

Smoking will be allowed in designated smoking areas within public spaces, but these rooms will have to be separately ventilated and should not be used by non-smokers.

Designated smoking areas would not be allowed to exceed 20 percent of the total floor area and would have to be well signposted.

Smoking will also be allowed "during a theatrical production when such smoking is a necessary part of the production".

The draft legislation will be widely published and people are invited to contact the town clerk over the next month to voice their views.

Council to stub smoking from enclosed public places

□ Mixed reaction to far-reaching draft legislation

LENORE OLIVER
Staff Reporter

THE days of smoking in enclosed public areas are numbered.

Draft legislation has been tabled by the Cape Town City Council to restrict smoking in practically all public places.

These include hospitals, banks, hotels, libraries, museums, galleries, municipal buildings, post offices, transport terminuses, restaurants, schools, crèches, shopping malls, shops, theatres, cinemas and sports stadiums.

The definition of sport stadiums includes swimming pools, health clubs, skating rinks, bowling alleys or any place

where people gather for physical exercise.

The Argus approached several companies about their feelings.

Many had existing smoking policies which fell in line with the council's plans.

Others were happy that "something is being done at last".

Some said they did not know "what the fuss is about".

But Aldo Girolo, founder of the Restaurant Guild, said the council was creating a monster.

"I have a problem when I have to dictate to my clients on what they can or cannot do," he said.

"Surely the council should

leave this decision to the individual businessman."

Mr Girolo said most restaurants' no-smoking areas were never fully patronised.

Ivan Bromfield of the city council health department said that if a restaurant had a bar, patrons could smoke there,

"But once the patrons enter the restaurant area they will not be allowed to smoke," he said.

Referring to a smoking ban on queues, Dr Bromfield said: "It is up to the public to ensure their rights are respected."

Said Tyger Valley shopping centre managing agent Steve Hassel: "When any consumer is inhibited from leisurely activi-

ty there is going to be some resistance.

"If there's uniformity in the application, those consumers will have no venues to cater for those needs."

Philip Zietsman of the South African Association of Arts Gallery, a non-smoker, said the ban would not decrease the number of visitors to the gallery.

Standard Bank spokesman Erik Larsen said the company already had a smoking policy, with designated areas for smokers.

Blue Route shopping centre spokesman Lesley de Villiers said she could not see how smoke could affect non-smokers in an airy mall.

87 ARG 7/9/94

'Child smokers pay annual R10-m tax'

(87) ARG 22/9/94
Staff Reporter

CHILDREN who smoke are contributing R10 million a year in excise tax, Medical Research Council epidemiologist Derek Yach has calculated.

But the amount of money spent on targeting tobacco control in children was less than 10 percent of that said Dr Yach.

In a letter in the latest South African Medical Journal, Dr Yach said his calculations were based on the smoking habits of 11 to 15-year-olds.

It is an offence to sell or give cigarettes to people under 16, but Dr Yach said studies had shown South African children who smoked began between 10 and 12 years old.

An increase in excise duty would substantially reduce the likelihood that children would start smoking, and reduce the number of cigarettes smoked.

"These funds could ensure rapid development of comprehensive school-based education programmes and enable children to make healthful choices, not only with regard to tobacco

use but in all spheres of their lives."

Criticising the relatively low excise duty on cigarettes in the last budget as "a major blow to public health", Dr Yach said: "It is to be hoped that future budgets will favour public health over short-term profits for the tobacco industry."

● Smoke-related deaths occur at a rate of one every 10 seconds, according to a new international report by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in Oxford, the American Cancer Society in Atlanta and the World Health Organisation in Geneva released in London yesterday.

Richard Peto of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund said: "In most countries the worst is yet to come. If current smoking patterns persist, by the time the young smokers of today reach middle or old age there will be about 10 million deaths a year from tobacco — one every three seconds."

But there is hope: even in middle age, stopping smoking before having cancer or some other serious disease avoids most of the later risk of death from tobacco, the report says.

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Tobacco ad ban 'ineffective'

CONTRARY to industry claims, a total ban on tobacco adverts in magazines would not adversely affect them economically, according to a study by the Medical Research Council. (87)

The study, conducted last year in which 10 magazines with circulations of over 10 000 were analysed, found tobacco "adspend was less than 10% of the total amount spent". Sapa

CT 24/19/94

Cigarette price hikes work, says new study

WM 14-20/10/94

Pat Sidley

NEW evidence has emerged demonstrating that higher prices on cigarettes are an effective means of deterring smokers and of stopping young non-smokers from starting.

The evidence supports the Department of Health's call earlier this year for a large increase in the tax on tobacco. This was, however, thwarted by the Department of Finance, which determines issues such as tax, apparently under the persuasive influence of the tobacco lobby.

In last week's edition of the *British Medical Journal*, researchers drew attention to the fact that people from lower socio-economic groups, as well as teenagers and women, smoke more than those in higher socio-economic groups — leading to more smoking-related diseases among the people who can least afford to treat them.

The study also found that health publicity works most effectively in higher socio-economic groups and among younger people, while higher prices have the most impact on lower socio-economic groups and women.

The Department of Health in Pretoria cites figures given at the conference in Paris about South Africa, which demonstrate that the lower the prices of cigarettes the more they are smoked.

Department representative Susan van Niekerk says the figures show that in real terms, when inflation is taken into account, South African smokers pay less for their cigarettes now than they did 25 years ago.

The department has called for comment on its White Paper which would regulate tobacco advertising. So far the bulk of opposition to restrictions has come from the tobacco lobby and those dependent on it for income, like advertising companies and the media.

Among their objections is that restricting advertising may be unconstitutional, or that it might infringe the copyright of tobacco companies on their own products.

●Another article in the journal states that research involving some 34 000 male doctors shows the hazards of long-term smoking have been underestimated. "It now seems that about half of all regular cigarette smokers will eventually be killed by their habit."

Clampdown on smoking mooted

Star 21/10/94

■ BY CHRIS WHITFIELD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma has signalled her determination to press ahead with cigarette health warnings and indicated she will soon publish regulations on smoking in public places.

Addressing her budget vote in the National Assembly yesterday, Zuma indicated that she would move to have tax on tobacco products increased "by more than the growth in earnings".

She also said tax should be raised on all tobacco products.

Zuma said controversial new regulations on health warnings to be placed on cigarette packages and advertisements were "not draconian".

"I must inform members that there will be a warning on all advertisements and on the pack-



Nkosazana Zuma ... determined to raise tax on tobacco.

age, and it will be such that the public can read it without problems."

She revealed that nine local authorities had applied for the power to prohibit smoking in public places.

"The Department of Health will publish regulations regarding smoking in public places in the near future," she said.

87

W Cape drug fight 'successful'

CT 24/10/94 Crime Reporter

(87)

POLICE are more successful in the fight against drugs in the Western Cape than in other regions and have already started implementing new strategies, police spokesman Colonel Raymond Dowd said yesterday.

He said weekend reports that there had been a massive nationwide slump in convictions for drug offences over the past two years did not accurately reflect the situation in this province.

Colonel Dowd said provincial statistics were not available yesterday but prosecutions for drug-related offences in the city were mostly successful.

Unlike other cities, the city's narcotics bureau has already implemented new strategies which included merging the Wynberg and Cape Town narcotics bureaux to smash syndicates rather than merely arrest peripheral members.

Narcotics detectives are also moving away from investigating minor vice and liquor offences and will be leaving these to detectives in suburbs in which the offences occurred.

Colonel Dowd mentioned that the Western Cape was the heart of Mandrax trafficking.

Alcohol, drug abuse growing

ET. 9/11/94

(87)

Staff Reporter

A COUNTRYWIDE survey by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) has revealed an increase in the use and abuse of drugs and alcohol.

It found 42% of the adult respondents used drugs daily.

The incidence of daily drug use in the kwaZulu/Natal region was the highest in the nine new provincial regions, the report said.

The most popular drug among students was dagga — while many of the respondents believed that inhalers were also popular.

The drug scene was linked to other dysfunctional behaviour, according to the study.

Problem linked to family life

with the chores in the home ap-

The respondents were questioned about the level of communication and the causes of problems in South African families.

Discussions about problematic aspects of family life were included in the study — and disparities over who should help

peared to pose problems.

Teenagers who were unable to adequately cope with life were more likely to seek escape in drugs and alcohol, become unwed parents and turn to crime, the study found.

In the survey, parental involvement, positive staff members at schools and good school attendance were identified as important features of good effective schools.

"The lack of resources and the demand for more services constitute an intractable problem.

"The school curriculum does not provide those involved with the opportunities to develop the skills to cope with this situation," said the report.

Anti-smoking lobby claims victory over ads

NEW health regulations, due to be gazetted on Friday, stipulate strong health warnings on top of tobacco print advertisements and on cigarette packs.

Medical Research Council spokesman Derek Yach said the regulations, which were signed yesterday, would insist that the warnings take up 12%-15% of each advert. Cigarette pack warning would have to take up 15% of the box.

Strong warnings of the risks associated with smoking would also be flighted on radio, and cinema tobacco adverts would be followed by a health warning.

8/5/94 29/11/94
KATHRYN STRACHAN

The new regulations and the date on which they will take effect, will be announced today.

Yach said Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma should be commended for signing the regulations.

The draft proposals had the warning at 25% of the advert, but the tobacco lobby believed that, as it would be on top in bold, contrasting colours, its effectiveness would not be dissipated by the smaller size.

Yach said the tobacco industry had ex-

pected tighter controls on tobacco advertising and had already moved into sponsoring sports and cultural events.

A Tobacco Institute spokesman said the industry regretted that it had not been consulted on the regulations. It had submitted its comments on the draft proposals, but its request for a consultation with Zuma had not been met.

Yach said the new regulations were part of the wider Tobacco Products Control Act, which was passed last year. The Act outlawed the sale of cigarettes to children under 16 but this was not being enforced.

earing into AECI blast ● New regulations for tobacco

BIG ciggie warning

Sowetan 11/2/94

REGULATIONS to force the tobacco industry to put large health warnings on all packaging and in all advertisements will be published tomorrow, Minister of Health Dr Nkosazana Zuma said yesterday.

Zuma said the changes were intended to discourage children and other people from taking up the habit.

Two warnings, one on the front occupies 15 percent of the space and the other on the back occupying a quarter of

the space, will have to appear on cigarette packs when the regulations come into effect next June. These warnings have to be published in white, black, blue or red. In addition, nicotine and tar content notices occupying a fifth of the space will appear on the side-panels of packs.

Written, pictorial or visual advertisements will carry one warning which occupies 10 percent of the principal display area. In film advertisements a

warning will occupy the top tenth of the screen for up to 120 seconds along with another at the end of the advertisement. Radio advertisements will carry a two-part warning at the end. (87)

Zuma said the draft regulations specified even larger warnings but it had been decided to scale them down after representations from the industry and the public. Smoking cost an estimated 25 000 lives a year and R3,6 billion in medical costs, she maintained. —Sapa

Minister announces tobacco advert laws

KATHRYN STRACHAN

STRINGENT new tobacco regulations were announced by Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma yesterday to help inform the public, especially children, about the risks associated with smoking. *Bida*

At the announcement of the regulations — to be gazetted tomorrow — Zuma said advertisements would carry a strong warning which would occupy 10% of the advert. The nicotine and tar content would cover 2%. Cigarette packs would carry two warnings — 15% of the front and 25% of the back of the pack. Snuff containers would carry the warning "causes cancer" across the full width of the container.

Video and cinema adverts would carry a health warning covering 10% of the top of the screen at the beginning of the advert for 10 seconds, again at the first appearance of a cigarette, and at the end of the advert. A further warning covering 80% of the screen would be displayed at the end of the advert.

Radio advertisements would carry a two-part warning at the end of the advert. *11/2/94*

The implementation date had been set for May 31 next year to give the industry sufficient time to sell existing stock and to draw up new adverts and billboards. May 31 was also an appropriate date for full implementation as it marked World No Tobacco Day.

The campaign would not end with the new regulations. The Health Ministry would address other steps which needed to be taken, including a review of sports and cultural sponsorships by the tobacco industry.

While the new regulations brought SA in line with international standards, SA still lagged far behind 21 countries which had outlawed tobacco advertising totally, including Algeria and Botswana. *(8)*

Zuma said the new regulations were aimed primarily at preventing children from starting to smoke.

It was estimated that 25 000 people died in SA each year from smoking-related diseases.

● Comment: Page 12

NEWS

Stamp of disapproval for cigarettes **Stars** 11/2/94

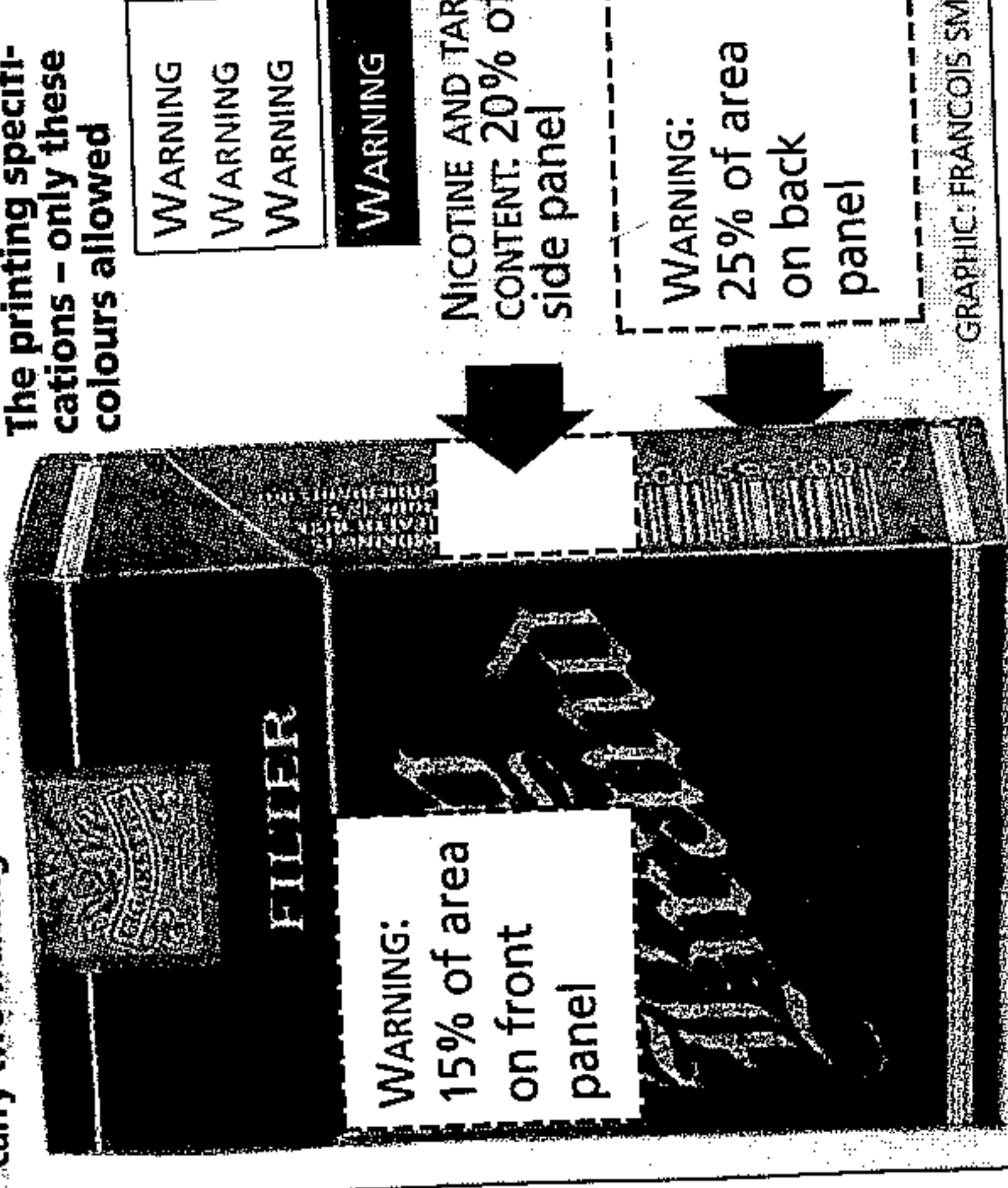
Smokers will be warned

NEW TOBACCO REGULATIONS

The eight warnings

- DANGER, SMOKING CAN KILL YOU
- DANGER, SMOKING CAUSES CANCER
- DANGER, SMOKING CAUSES HEART DISEASE
- DANGER, SMOKING DAMAGES YOUR LUNGS
- SMOKING DAMAGES YOUR LUNGS
- PREGNANT? BREAST FEEDING? YOUR SMOKING CAN HARM YOUR BABY
- WARNING: DON'T SMOKE NEAR CHILDREN
- TOBACCO IS ADDICTIVE
- YOUR SMOKE CAN HARM THOSE AROUND YOU

New regulations for tobacco products and advertising will be enforced from May 31 1995. They are gazetted today under the Tobacco Products Control Act of 1993, stipulating the sizes and styles of the eight new warnings on various products. Cigarette packs will carry two warnings.



MINISTER says the regulations are a compromise between health and tobacco interests

BY DAVID ROBBINS
HEALTH WRITER

Tough regulations governing the display of health warnings on tobacco products and advertising were announced by Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma yesterday.

They relate specifically to the size and colouring of warnings to be carried on both the products and on related advertising.

A spokesman for the Tobacco Institute of Southern Africa, which represents the industry, said it would comment once it had had a chance to examine the regulations in detail.

The new regulations stipulate that warnings must occupy 15 percent of the front of cigarette packets, in spite of requests from the tobacco industry that this should be 4 percent.

South Africa's 15 percent is more than in some Western countries, but not as much as Britain (17.5), Denmark (20) and Iceland (29).

The regulations, to be gazetted tomorrow under the Tobacco Products Control Act of 1993, are designed to reduce consumption and to discourage non-smokers from taking up the habit.

They will, however, be enforced only from May 31 next year.

"There are two reasons for this," Zuma told a media conference in Pretoria. "The first is that the tobacco industry has pointed out that existing

stocks of packaging materials should be used up. The second is that May 31 is the date set for World No-Tobacco Day."

The regulations stipulate that:

- Advertisements will carry a warning which must be placed at the top of the advertisement. It will occupy 10 percent of the display area. The nicotine and tar content of the product being advertised will cover 2 percent.
- Cigarette packs will carry two warnings which will occupy 15 percent of the front of the pack and 25 percent of the back. The nicotine and tar content of cigarettes will occupy 20 percent of a side panel.
- The warnings are: Danger, smoking can kill you; Danger, smoking causes cancer; Danger, smoking causes heart

disease; Smoking damages your lungs; Pregnant? Breast Feeding? Your smoking can harm your baby; Warning: don't smoke near children; Tobacco is addictive; Your smoke can harm those around you.

■ A special warning for snuff and chewing tobacco will read: Causes cancer.

Zuma said the regulations were a compromise between health and tobacco interests.

Advertising relating to the sponsorship of sporting events by tobacco companies will also be affected by the regulations, but how this will work in practice is not clear.

According to data released at the media conference, an estimated 25 000 South Africans die each year from smoking-related diseases, and the habit cost R3,6 billion in lost productivity and health care costs.

Edited by Marika Sboros

Homeopathy works, 'but not as well as orthodox medicines'

London — Homeopathy works but it is not nearly as effective as conventional medicine, according to British researchers trying to find a foolproof way of testing the claims of alternative therapies.

The *Lancet* medical journal reported last week that researchers from Glasgow

University have evidence that individuals get better because of the homeopathic remedy and not merely because of a "mind-over-matter" effect, as claimed by sceptics.

Unlike traditional medicines, which can be

proved good or bad by clinical trial, alternative medicines are hard to assess. The rationale behind homeopathy is that a disease can be treated with increasingly small doses of a substance which produces

the same symptoms in a principle similar to vaccination.

The researchers showed that patients with allergic asthma given a highly diluted homeopathic preparation showed a consistent

improvement in symptoms compared with those given a placebo.

Patients were asked to mark on a scale how well they felt. The researchers analysed the results alongside those of two

previous similar studies. The three involved 202 patients.

"There was significantly greater improvement in symptoms in homeopathically treated patients than in placebo-treated patients, though the benefit was

nowhere near that obtainable with conventional medicines," *The Lancet* said.

The *Lancet* said the results would delight proponents of homeopathy and give sceptics pause for thought. The journal itself set on the fence. "Is this work believable? Despite the evidence, the scepticism is likely to remain," it said. Sapa-Reuter.

HOPE FOR HEALTH

Some smokers do actually want to be healthy, even though they cannot stop doing something that actively militates against their health.

MARIKA SBOROS reports on what they can do to help themselves.

Even smokers can be healthier

Many a New Year's resolution has gone up in smoke, and that is especially true of the one to stop smoking.

Try as they might, some people just can't resist the temptation to smoke themselves into early oblivion. Unfortunately that means that the people who have to live, work and even love in the smoky haze alongside them, have to do so too.

But there's a lot that smokers can do to minimise the effects not only of smoking, but tobacco use in general and polluted air.

Dr James Scala is a well-known expert on diets for better living. He doesn't condone smoking, but he recognises that some smokers may actually want to be healthy, even though they cannot stop doing something that militates against their health.

In his latest book, *The Smoker's Health Plan* (Thorsons), Scala's main focus is on smoking, but his words also apply to tobacco chewers. They are at risk from various forms of mouth cancer, including that of the oesophagus, and cheek and gum cancer.

And he has a special word about children: "Children have no choice — if a parent smokes, they smoke," Scala says. "If a mother smokes during pregnancy, the baby smokes. Similarly children who live in cities effectively smoke because of the pollution around them."

Children need to start early with a healthy lifestyle so they will have an even better chance of a disease-free life.

The health risks of smoking receive so much publicity, that smokers are simply told to stop. This is not as easy as it sounds,



Scala says, but there is a compromise. Smokers can reduce the risks by changing their lifestyle.

Smokers aren't the only ones who fail to follow a balanced and varied diet, of course. But research shows that they do eat

more red meat, drink more coffee and tea and eat less fresh fruit and vegetables than non-smokers. They also tend to eat less dietary fibre. Constipation is the clearest outcome of inadequate dietary fibre.

Smokers are also more likely

to be short of vitamins A, C, E, folic acid and several other B vitamins and the minerals calcium, selenium and zinc.

They particularly need to increase their intake of fruits and vegetables as these have antioxidant properties, that help

protect the body from "free radical" damage that smoking causes. (Free radicals are products of the body's metabolic processes that have been identified as causing various health problems, including premature ageing.)

protect the body from "free radical" damage that smoking causes. (Free radicals are products of the body's metabolic processes that have been identified as causing various health problems, including premature ageing.)

Taking care . . . you don't have to condone smoking to do something about reducing its health risks. A sketch taken from The Smoker's Health Plan by Dr James Scala (Thorsons).

Most of the risks result from oxidative toxins in the smoke, says Scala. These cause cellular damage, plus the metabolic effects of smoking and its irritating effects on the body systems.

And apart from obvious ethnic and genetic differences, factors such as alcohol consumption and the amount of exercise are all relevant.

So are whether you work with chemicals, live in a crowded city and drive regularly in heavy traffic with your car windows wide open.

Most smokers Scala talks to are convinced that smoking is so bad for them that it's a waste of time to exercise.

"Nothing is further from the truth," he says.

Scala believes that the average smoker can benefit more from regular exercise than a non-smoker because exercise not only counters many of the bad effects of smoking, it improves the health of smokers just like anyone else.

But in general, epidemiologists confirm what we already know: smoking, living with a smoker, working in a city with poor air, increases a person's health risks.

Many risks increase with age and a poor diet, Scala notes: "You could live in the most idyllic Garden of Eden and still run the risk of developing cancer, heart disease, cataracts to name but a few as you get older."

And while you might be tempted to say, "Well, that's life", research shows powerfully that smoking accelerates all these possibilities, especially the "diseases of ageing".

Workers in Luxembourg, a banking and financial centre, scored highest on the work-stress scale with 73 percent saying their jobs caused worry. In Britain, 59 percent said work caused stress while in Canada the figure was 62 percent.

ARISE, which promotes the use of legal "pleasures" such as tobacco, alcohol, chocolate, coffee and tea, also looked at how people relieved work stress, both in the office and afterwards.

Nearly 70 percent took a coffee or tea break while 27 percent smoked a cigarette, cigar or pipe after a stressful day. Others liked to talk or chat with friends, or to listen to music. — Reuter.

Job stress a growing problem worldwide

Brussels — Work is the major cause of stress, a survey of more than 5 000 office workers in 16 countries has shown.

More than half of the respondents said stress levels at work had increased over the past two years, according to Professor David Warburton of the Association for Research into the Science of Employment (ARISE), an international group of scientists, psychologists and sociologists who organised the study.

Warburton told a news conference in Brussels that nearly one in five admitted stress had caused them to take time off work.

In hectic Hong Kong, 28 percent admitted to taking time off, followed by 27 percent of office workers in the United States.

"Companies of the 1990s are stress machines. In numerous countries, the effects of the recession and increased workload... have left employees completely stressed out," said Warburton, director of the Human Pharmacology Group at the University of Reading in England.

Being too busy and having too few staff were cited among the main reasons for stress at work. The office environment, including noise and air conditioning, were other reasons.

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TOMORROW

Nightingale Wendy Mšleku is having a job.

HEALTH & DISEASE - DRUG ADDICTION

1995

'Smokers wouldn't quit'

Staff Reporter

A PLAN by the British health service to pay smokers £10 to kick the habit for a month would be an insufficient inducement in South Africa.

This is the view of provincial health services chief director Dr Alan MacMahon, who said South Africans would rather pay more for cigarettes than forego the pleasure.

He was sceptical of the plan by Britain's National Health Service to supplement the shaky New Year resolu-

tions of those who sought to quit smoking with a financial bonus.

According to the scheme, a limited number of addicts have been allowed to pay in £5 and will double their money if carbon monoxide tests prove they have refrained from the evil weed for four weeks.

Dr MacMahon said South Africans did not cut back on their consumption each time the price of cigarettes increased and would rather pay the extra than quit.

87

CT 4/1/95

Smokers 'price-sensitive'

Staff Reporter

(87)

THE Medical Research Council (MRC) has rejected claims that South African smokers would rather pay more for cigarettes than give them up.

In a statement yesterday, MRC group executive Mr Derek Yach said MRC research had confirmed global findings that price is one of the strongest determinants of cigarette consumption.

The tobacco industry's strong opposition to substantial increases in ex-

cise tax was because they knew smoking was price-sensitive.

Mr Yach was responding to claims by provincial health services chief director Dr Alan MacMahon that the £10 (R55) offered by the British government to smokers who quit for a month would be an insufficient inducement in South Africa.

He repeated the MRC's previous calls for increases in excise tax as a critical component of public health policy.

CT 6/1/95

Non-smokers all fired up

KATHRYN STRACHAN

THE anti-smoking lobby is gearing itself up for court battles against companies which fail to protect non-smokers' rights. (87) BD 20/1/95

The Non-Smokers Rights Association has been formed to lead the fight.

Spokesman Dawn Poole said many companies were transgressing the Occupational Health and Safety Act by failing to introduce measures to control smoking.

While the anti-smoking lobby was made up mostly of health professionals, the association brought on board businessmen and the legal profession, which had taken a growing interest in the issue with the "class action" clause in the constitution.

Previously, parties had to be directly affected by an issue they were seeking to have addressed by a court. Now a person may go to court on behalf of a group of people — which will add to the anti-smoking lobby's ammunition.

The constitution gives everyone the right "to an environment which is not detrimental to his or her health or wellbeing".

NEWS FEATURE *A call on the Government to increase tax on tobacco*

Smokers urged to quit habit

■ AIR POLLUTION Non-smokers should demand their right to clean air:

By Mokgadi Pela

SMOKERS SHOULD RESOLVE to quit the habit this year, a leading medical scientist has said.

Dr Derek Yach of the Medical Research Council said such a step would enable friends and relations of smokers to feel better and protected from the hazards associated with the habit.

Yach said on the other hand, non-smokers should demand their right to clean air in 1995. "The greatest problem with passive smokers in this country is that we are too passive."

He called on the black community to be vigilant against attempts by the tobacco industry to influence teenagers to adopt the habit.

"They do it through sports advertising on a massive scale and the community has to challenge this before it's too late," Yach added.

He reiterated the view that "an end to sports sponsorship by the tobacco industry would enhance chances for health of the general public and improve athletic performance".

Writing in the November edition of the *South African Medical Journal*, Yach and Dr Yusuf Salojee of the National Council Against Smoking said: "Local sport can ill afford to be dependent on an industry that is responsible for considerable death, disease and disability in the country."

They called on the South African Broadcasting Corporation to stop screening events sponsored by the tobacco industry. This move would come hot on the trail of the Australian Supreme Court ruling that sports telecasts are indeed cigarette promotions. A recent major research project has shown that under-age smokers tended to have a more positive attitude towards ciga-

rette advertising than non-smokers of the same age.

The implications of this study were that about one third of 10 to 11-year-olds were able to name cigarette brands and the sponsored sport. This indicates the power of sport sponsorship in associating cigarette brand names with sports imagery in children's memories.

Yach told *Sowetan* that latest evidence suggested that by the year 2020, about 10 million people would die from smoking. Most of the victims will come from developing countries.

In terms of risks, Yach said:

● The danger of dying from lung cancer is 25 times greater among smokers than non-smokers.

● The risk of dying from heart disease is almost three times higher among smokers.

● Low birth weight in babies born of mothers who smoked was a regular feature.

● There was an increased chance of contracting asthma and chest diseases in children born of mothers who smoked and:

● Young women tended to age much quicker than their non-smoking counterparts.

Yach called on the government to increase tax on tobacco.

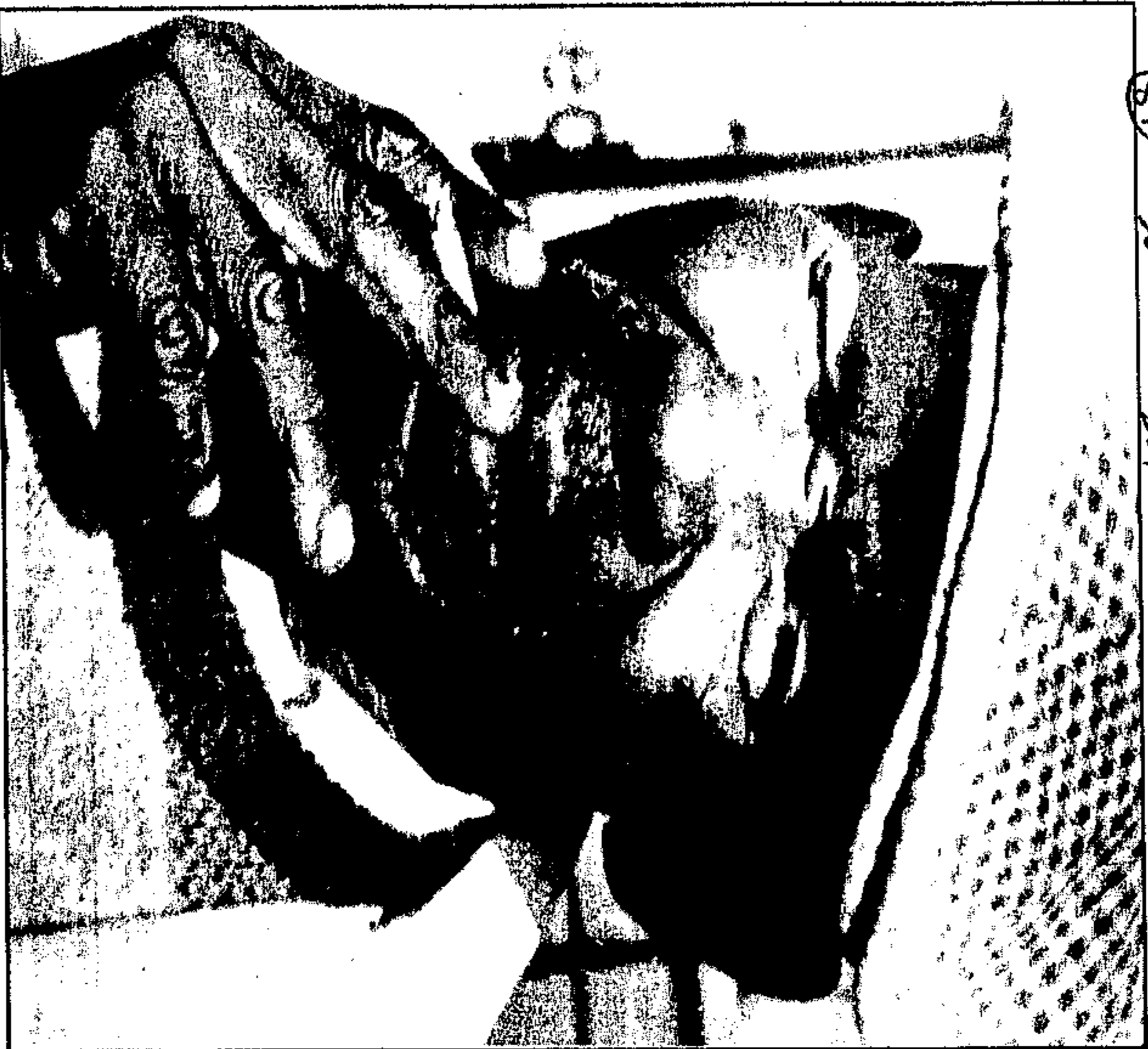
"Cigarettes prices are still below the consumer price index. Over the last decade, cigarette prices have become cheaper relative to that of foodstuffs," he said.

"If we get 10c to 15c from each packet of cigarette, we can rake in R100 million a year." He suggested that part of that money be used to create a Health Promotion Foundation.

The foundation's task would be to buy out tobacco sponsorship of sport and to fund health promotion campaigns.

Yach said although there was legislation to prevent the sale of cigarette to children

● An end to sports sponsorship by the tobacco industry would enhance chances for health of the general public and improve athletic performance



87 Sowetan 23/1/95

The risk of dying from heart disease is almost three times higher among smokers.

under 16 years, a concerted effort was needed to implement the ban.

He said the Medical Research Council and the Department of Health were planning such an initiative in the Gauteng province.

Yach lauded the efforts of recently formed "non-smokers' rights groups" in Cape Town and the Eastern Cape.

"We need such pressure groups all over the country to enhance non-smokers' right to clean air," he said. Yach invited *Sowetan* readers inter-

ested in forming similar structures to contact either him or Salojee at (012) 324-1680 or (011) 643-2958, respectively, to "brain technical advice."

He said the Department of Health, along with the National Council Against Smoking were planning to set up a toll-free service where people wanting to quit the habit could obtain advice.

Training would also be provided to doctors and health workers to help people quit smoking.

Yach commended President Nelson Mandela and Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma for their anti-smoking stance.

"We are grateful for their role in ensuring that we have a ban on smoking in cabinet meetings.

This clearly shows that we have the political will at the highest political level. "What we need is similar commitment from the community to make our campaigns successful."

Anti-smoking lobby gains new ally

4/10/95 24/11/95 (81)

■ BY TARYN LAMBERTI

As non-smokers continue the fight against polluted air in public places, a lobby will be set up in Cape Town tonight to protect their rights.

Organisers hope this will be the most powerful lobby for the protection of non-smokers' rights.

Non-Smoking Support Group (NSSG) co-ordinator Dawn Poole said: "Businessmen are

fed up with being smoked out in restaurants, stadiums, the workplace and public places."

Poole said it was time non-smokers stood up to protect their rights to smoke-free air.

The new lobby plans to call itself the Non-Smokers' Rights Association of SA, and to integrate with the NSSG.

The initiative came as a result of Cape Town City

Council's proposed regulations to restrict smoking in public places.

Tonight's meeting, to be held at the offices of a law firm, will be chaired by businessman Philip Krawitz.

The NSSG is a Western Cape advocacy group which has lobbied for non-smokers' rights for the past two years.

Interested parties are invited and are advised to call Poole on (021) 75-3535.

Tobacco companies worldwide face massive court claims

Star 3/2/95

87

Smokers strike back

EVEN the families of long dead smokers are planning to sue the tobacco giants for millions of dollars in an unprecedented mass legal action which has been started in Britain. Fortunately they have a team of wealthy and ingenious lawyers on their side, which may tip the scales in their favour.

LONDON — Brit-ain's first mass legal action by smokers claiming tobacco companies have damaged their health has received the go-ahead.

Legal aid has been granted, allowing 200 people with smoking-related illnesses to consult medical experts and investigate the strength of their cases. Writs could be issued later this year.

The action is sought by smokers who began their association with tobacco in the 1940s and 1950s, before health warnings were mandatory.

Some claims are being filed by the families of those who have already died.

According to solicitor Charles Hopkins, expert reports on nicotine addiction, advertising, tar reduction and other related issues would now be commissioned.

No warning

It is understood the claims will be based not only on the tobacco companies' failure to warn of the dangers of smoking, but on failure to reduce risks by lowering tar and nicotine content.

In New Orleans, meanwhile, a band of go-getting lawyers is bringing the world's most powerful tobacco companies to court.

If they are given permission to sue on behalf of millions of smokers, the suit would be the largest industrial claim made and the first to put the tobacco companies at serious financial risk.

The crucial hearing was to decide whether a class-action suit (a court action involving more than one person with a common interest) could proceed. In the "class" would be tens of millions of smokers seeking

billions of dollars in damages.

In 40 years of health damage claims, the tobacco companies have used their phenomenal profits to defeat challenges from poorly funded individual victims.

Now they face a group of wealthy, ingenious lawyers who are prepared to gamble their personal fortunes to fund a suit that could result in mass tort's biggest prize — an award that Wall Street analysts estimate could be as high as \$100 billion (£360 billion), a sum as large as the combined capitalisation of the cigarette manufacturers.

As well as new opponents, the tobacco industry also faces a new charge. Previous cases have dealt with early death from cancer or health disorders caused by smoking, such as emphysema and heart disease. Now the companies are being accused of negligence, fraud and deceit.

The main accusation is that the companies have known for years, from the results of their own research, that nicotine is an addictive drug. But they have failed to warn smokers and have manipulated the levels of nicotine in cigarettes to keep customers hooked.

The suit further charges that the companies built a sense of false security in smokers by creating an illusion of a scientific controversy over the harmful effects of cigarettes when, in reality, they were none.

In February 1994 David Kessler, head of the Food and Drug Administration — whose job it is to protect the American public from dangerous products — told Congress he had "mounting evidence" of the addictive nature of nicotine and that cigarette vendors controlled the levels of

nicotine "to satisfy this addiction".

He declared his intention to put nicotine on the list of drugs that should be regulated by the government.

A few days later, in a documentary programme, ABC television said it had evidence the tobacco companies manipulated nicotine levels in cigarettes, a charge that brought an immediate \$10 billion (£35 billion) defamation.

Then came the most embarrassing disclosure: the leak to US newspapers of thousands of pages of internal memoranda from Brown & Williamson.

One of the memos, from 1963, was written by the companies then general counsel Addison Yeaman: "We are, then, in the business of selling nicotine, an addictive drug effective in the release of stress mechanisms."

Companies knew

Other documents pointed to the tobacco company's knowledge of the addictive properties of nicotine, and to an elaborate effort to keep company research on the harmful effects of smoking from the public.

The company claimed the papers had been stolen by a failed playwright, Merret Williams, who had been employed as a documents clerk in the offices of Brown & Williamson's lawyers in Louisville, Kentucky.

However, the company has not questioned the authenticity of the documents.

A total of 58 law firms are now involved, with more waiting to join. Each firm has pledged \$100 000 (£360 000), a total of \$6 million (£21.6 million) a year, for expenses. — Foreign News Service, The Independent.



IT'S A KNOCKOUT: A model wearing boxing gloves displays one of Gattinoni's designs for the spring/summer 1995 high fashion show at Rome's city hall on Tuesday.

PHOTOGRAPH BY A...

BUSINESS DAY, Monday, February 6 1995

Aid for township drug clinic

GAVIN STAFFORD

THE use of crack cocaine is becoming more and more prevalent in SA's townships, says SA National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence executive director Sylvain de Miranda. (87)

He said an old shack, which served as the only clinic in Soweto that dealt with alcohol and drug addiction, received a major boost recently with donations from the US and Japanese embassies.

The combined donation of R534 000 would be used to cover the operating expenses of the clinic, run by the council and to train staff.

Regional conference planned

Southern Africa to wage war on drugs

(87) STAR 6/2/95

Lilongwe — Delegates from southern Africa and the European Union met in Malawi yesterday for talks which were expected to include combating the international drug trade.

Officials of the EU and 11-member Southern African Development Community (SADC) said the one-day meeting would also draft concrete plans for co-operation in trade and other areas following a preliminary meeting in Berlin last year.

An SADC report said the meeting would discuss plans for a conference to be held in South Africa, possibly next month, to address drug trafficking and crime.

"The magnitude of cross-border crime in southern Africa is large and sometimes difficult to quantify," the report said.

"On the top of the list is the widespread production and trafficking in illicit drugs."

Southern Africa was regarded by drug syndicates as a safe

transit route to Europe and the US, the report said.

Police in South Africa have reported sharply increased seizures of heroin from south-east Asia and cocaine from Latin America. Many of the drug couriers arrested have been west Africans and delegates from west Africa were expected to take part in the Malawi meeting.

"The unenviable global role that southern Africa is playing means that the SADC region should examine its laws and legal procedures in order to ensure that the region does not facilitate ... the flow of drugs throughout the world," the report said.

It said agreements between SADC states on the exchange of information on criminals seemed ineffective and the absence of extradition agreements had often led to criminals getting away free.

Co-operation between SADC countries would call for a computer database on all known

cross-border criminals and drug traffickers, it said.

■ A senior EU official told the conference yesterday that nations needed to make better use of foreign aid to consolidate democracy and prevent conflicts like that in Rwanda.

Giovanni Livi, the commission's director for eastern and southern Africa, said the EU was committed to helping SADC countries — Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe — but was increasingly emphasising efficient use of aid.

There had been "enormous" progress towards democracy in the region, he said, citing Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa.

■ Southern African Development Community leaders have agreed to organise a donors conference, to be held shortly in Malawi, to attract funds for drought relief. — Reuter and Star Foreign Service.

Aid for township drug clinic

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He said an old shack, which served as the only clinic in Soweto that dealt with alcohol and drug addiction, received a major boost recently with donations from the US and Japanese embassies.

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Attempt to place all pupils in schools

THE Soweto Education Co-ordinating Committee has called on pupils in the township who have not yet been placed in schools to gather at its offices today in an attempt to find a solution to the problem.

Spokesman Jolly Mantongo said at the weekend the organisation had lined up a member of the Gauteng provincial government to address the pupils.

Several hundred placard-carrying pupils marched to the committee's offices last week demanding to be placed in schools. They were among an estimated 6 000 Gauteng pupils who have not yet been placed in schools, although the term began nearly a month ago.

Mantongo accused the district management teams set up to place pupils in schools of dragging their feet. "Because of their failure to find schools, we are inundated with telephone calls and people calling personally looking for schools."

Gauteng education ministry spokesman Robinson Ramaite said he was confident the students would be placed in schools in the next three weeks.

"Overcrowding has always been a problem, but by allowing all students to register, we are aiming to find out how great our problem is, what resources we need and the options available to us."

The department had employed a team of

DUDUZI KA HARVEY

data specialists to visit schools and different Gauteng communities to assess the number of pupils without places. "When we have a clear picture, we will present this to education minister Mary Metcalfe," Ramaite said.

Negotiations were under way with the police and public works departments to return buildings given to them by the former government.

The ministry was also looking at double or triple sessions at schools, especially in informal settlements such as Orange Farm, where rapid urbanisation was taking place.

Meanwhile, President Nelson Mandela was invited to be the first signatory to a document calling for a culture of learning in schools, the Congress of SA Students (Cosas) said on Saturday after an education summit in Johannesburg, Sapa reports.

The document, a code of conduct for pupils, would be launched in March.

Presenting a draft of the document to delegates, Cosas treasurer Mahlomola Kekana said it would enable each pupil to become a responsible member of society.

Representatives from the Gauteng education department, the Principals' Forum, the Soweto Education Crisis Committee and the SA Communist Party unanimously expressed support for a code of conduct.

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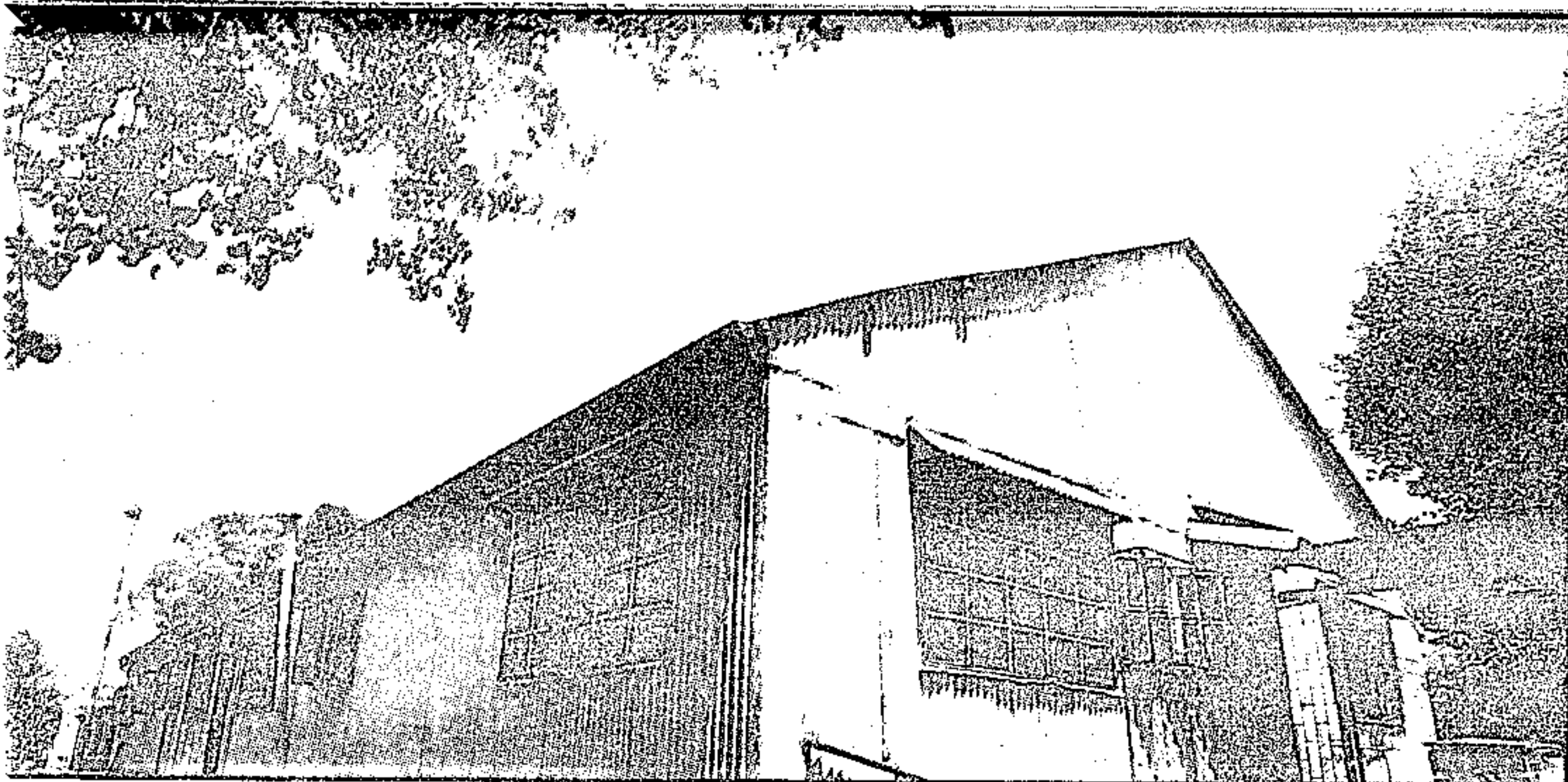
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All set for a revamp . . . the iron shack in Soweto which serves as the only drug clinic and rehabilitation centre in the area will soon be transformed.

Japanese, US donate R500 000

Old Soweto shack gets donor facelift

BY ZINGISA MKHUMA

A decaying 60-year-old Soweto shack serving as the only drug clinic in the area is set for a major facelift after the American and Japanese embassies donated more than R500 000 towards its development last week.

The clinic is also the only Soweto branch of the SA National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (Sanca).

It has a dual function, serving as a day-care and learning centre for 20 street children with drug problems, and as an outpatient clinic for adult drug and alcohol addicts.

According to Sanca executive director Dr Sylvain de Miranda, most of the children come from

poor families with a history of alcohol abuse. The majority of them are glue and petrol sniffers.

"Tests on the children showed that five-, six- and seven-year-old glue and petrol sniffers were undernourished. They used the substances to block out hunger and the cold in winter.

Prepare

"The centre provides three good meals, clothing and therapy for the children. We also prepare them for school.

"The donation will be used to build a new clinic and to improve the shack, which will continue to serve as a day-care centre," he said.

Sanca will also use some of

the money to train and employ additional staff.

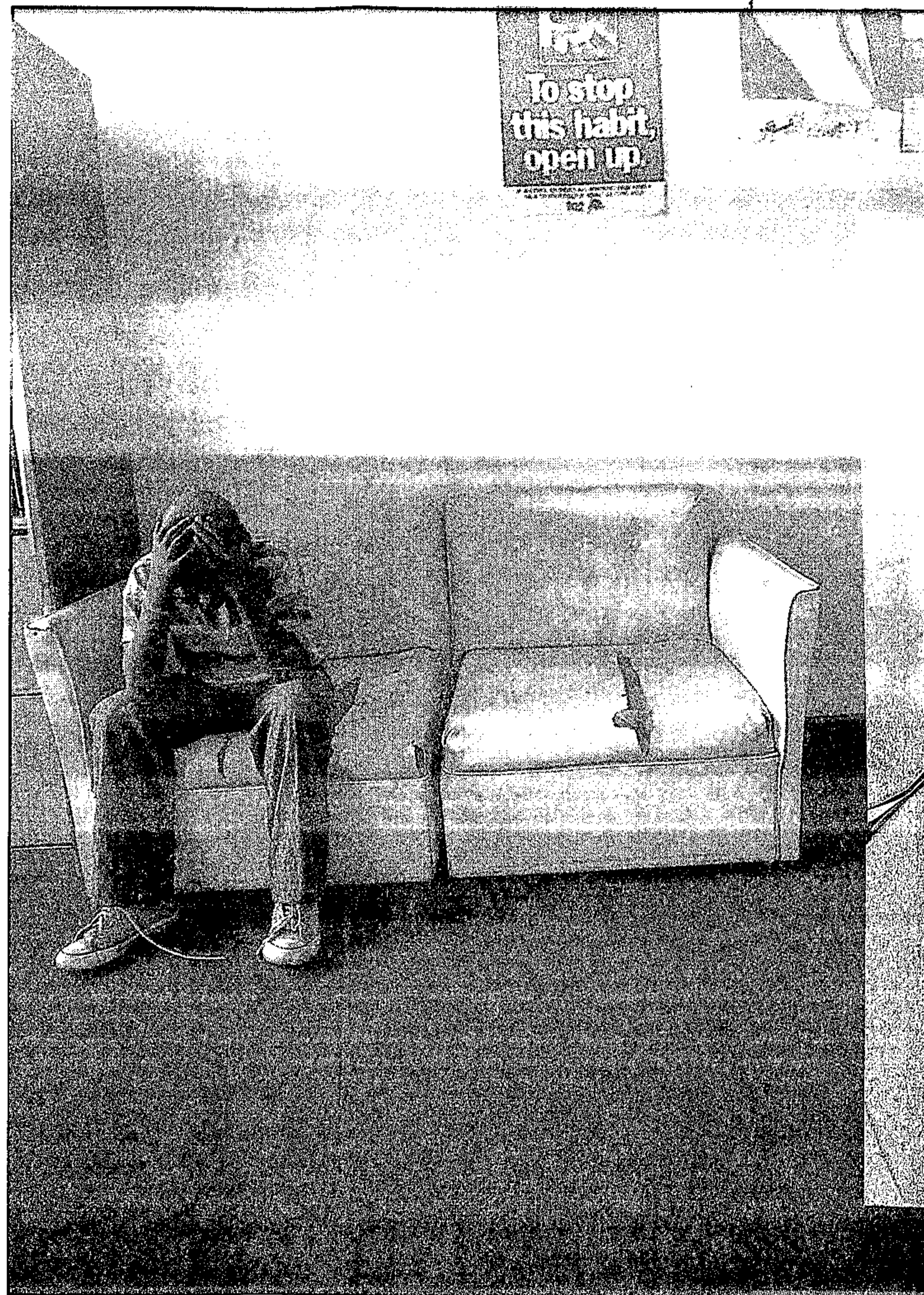
De Miranda added that throughout its existence in Soweto, Sanca had been leasing the premises from various Soweto authorities.

However, the Soweto Council, which has since disbanded, had demanded R91 000 for the building before it could give Sanca freehold rights.

"The council is causing delays by demanding R91 000 for the improvements it said it did on the shack. We have handed the matter over to the Gauteng legislature who are working on it," he said.

The Soweto Metropolitan Substructure, which replaced the council, could not be reached for comment.

87 stars 8/2/95



Contemplating a bleak future . . . an addict sits slumped in a room in Sanca's drug clinic in Soweto.

PICTURES: RUVAN BOSHOFF

Drugs menace at

□ Southern suburbs face 'huge, growing problem'

Staff Reporter

THE southern suburbs face a huge and growing drug problem, a spokesman for the narcotics bureau in Cape Town told a meeting of parents, teachers and schoolchildren in Newlands.

"You may think that because you live in a nice area and your children go to fine schools, they are less exposed to drugs," police officer Mark Uren told the audience of more than 100. "That is not so. The problem here is every bit as serious as it is in other parts of the Peninsula.

"For instance, within easy walking distance of the hall in which we are sitting, there are at least five places where dagga and Mandrax are readily obtainable and at least one where cocaine is available."

He said that recently a Standard 6 pupil at a prominent southern suburbs school had been caught supplying drugs to fellow pupils.

"You have to face the fact that drugs are everywhere. There's a 99 percent chance that your children will be exposed to them at some time during their school or university careers."

For that reason, said Mr Uren, young people should be shown as early as possible

what the various drugs looked like and educated about their effects and dangers. The narcotics bureau could help in this respect. Parents should learn the basics of dealing with a drug problem so that they could handle it correctly should it develop in their home.

Officer Uren said the most prevalent drugs in Cape Town were dagga and Mandrax, usually smoked in combination in a "white pipe" — the neck of a bottle that had been cut or broken off. LSD, an extremely dangerous hallucinogenic drug, was also readily available. The new drug Ecstasy, at about R180 a time, was generally too expensive for young people and the same applied to heroin and cocaine. Cocaine, however, was a frightening problem. It was estimated that supplies to Cape Town had increased 500 percent in just three years and the quantity was snowballing.

Officer Uren said drugs were freely available in or around most of the popular clubs in Cape Town and its suburbs that were frequented by young people. A network of pushers min-

gled with the young patrons. In most cases the club owners themselves were not involved and were helpless to prevent the trafficking. There were gasps from the audience when he said the majority of patrons at the clubs were aged between 12 and 15.

One of the most notorious clubs in Cape Town, The Playground, had closed down this week, he said. In answer to a question from the floor he confirmed that there had been an incident when the drug amyl nitrate had been pumped into the Playground through the air conditioning system.

A man who had arrived recently from Gauteng said that in Johannesburg ice-cream sellers were pushing drugs at schools and pupils were getting "high" by licking a drug-impregnated substance on the back of stamps that had cartoon characters printed on them.

Officer Uren said as far as he was aware ice-cream sellers were not pushing drugs in Cape Town. He thought the "stamps" the speaker referred to were

probably small squares of paper impregnated with LSD which were sold in strips like stamps. They also had cartoon characters printed on them. This problem had surfaced in Cape Town too.

Officer Uren detailed some of the signs that could indicate a possible drug problem, the first two being the most important:

- A change in attitude. Slowly appearance, slovenly dress in an individual who had previously been neat.

- A formerly happy individual who became surly and withdrawn and who showed a diminishing interest in sport, who "dropped out" and lost touch with established friends.

- Discarded bottle necks.

- Articles that disappeared mysteriously from the home. Unexplained thefts of bicycles etc.

- Physical evidence. Orange-coloured stains on the hands, very difficult to remove, after smoking "white pipe."

- The smell of dagga — sweet and cloying — which took a long time to disperse.

- Papers and machines for hand-rolled cigarettes.

- Needle marks, not only on the arms, but at any place on the body where there is a prominent artery.

top schools

(87) AKA 10/2/95

Put alcohol abuse on the agenda

South African 16/2/95 (87)

By Nthozami Xhaphu
Chairman of the Education Transition Task Team for the Western Region of the Eastern Cape in Port Elizabeth.

FEW problems have affected our society more negatively, threatened our productivity and well-being more directly, than alcohol and drug abuse. Because the use of alcohol is legal, it poses more serious problems. While the negative consequences of alcohol-related behaviour can be punished, the use of alcohol itself cannot be banned. Yet alcohol abuse costs society greatly.

The abuser's psychological and physical health problems, his or her lost productivity at work, the time supervisors must spend in dealing with alcohol-related problems, the efforts of co-workers to absorb the abuser's workload and the strife caused in the abuser's family, are costs that we as a society can ill afford.

The statistics of South African alcohol consumption are startling. According to a 1990 international survey by the Brewers Association of Canada, South Africa ranked number 23 in the consumption of spirits; number 16 in the consumption of beer; number 22 in the consumption of wine. This gives the country an overall alcohol consumption rating of 23.

Worth noting are the following: In the consumption of spirits, South Africa competes favourably with such countries as the United Kingdom, Sweden, but higher than countries such as Italy, Portugal, Mexico, Denmark, and Belgium. With regard to beer, South Africa ranks higher than countries such as Japan, France, Italy, USSR, Spain, and Sweden.

Wine consumption is significantly higher than in the United States, USSR, Ireland, Canada and Mexico. In the overall ranking South African total alcohol consumption is higher than such countries as Japan, USSR, Yugoslavia, Sweden and Poland, and not very far behind countries like the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada.

Alcohol is responsible for most traffic accidents. According to the 1978 report of the South African National

Institute for Transport and Road Research, alcohol was a contributory factor in 42 percent of the driver accidents and in 53 percent of the pedestrian accidents over several years in Pretoria, Durban, and Cape Town. The risk of a motorist being involved in an accident relative to blood alcohol concentration appeared to rise steeply once the concentration of 0.50g alcohol to 100ml of blood was reached. Motorists who would obviously have even more frightening statistics.

Drug use
Given the pattern of alcohol and other drug use in South Africa, studies indicate an increase in the incidence of oesophageal cancer; and the emergence of alcohol-induced pancreatitis and alcoholic liver disease. In one study (Krisch 1985), ethnic-specific medical consequences of alcohol consumption were observed.

This study looked at the physiological impact of the high iron and low alcohol content of the home brewed sorghum beer, predominantly consumed by Africans. Excess consumption of this beverage resulted in an iron overload, whose manifestation was a high incidence of porphyria cutanea tarda (a hemologic disorder).

Great strides have been made during the second half of this century to understanding alcohol abuse our country still lags behind in this area

As a result, an enormous amount of resources in the US industry are currently being spent annually on drug testing alone. A comparable cost would be expected for South African industry, after taking into consideration appropriate population and GNP adjustments.

While internationally, great strides have been made during the second half of this century to understanding alcohol abuse, alcoholism and alcohol dependency, our country still lags behind in this area. It ever lags behind countries that rate below it in terms of alcohol consumption. Something has to be done soon.

The entire region of Southern Af-



Alcohol and drug abuse affect all sections of our community.

Africa can benefit from emulating and linking up with some of the efforts spearheaded by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to look at the impact of alcohol consumption on socio-economic development.

Workshop

This workshop, which looked at alcohol policy and socio-economic change, observed increasing trends in alcohol consumption and alcohol-related problems in the countries studied and came out with the following recommendations: necessity of development of data and monitoring the systems; need for cooperation between different sectors of society and administration to develop basic control of the alcohol market; the importance of activating the health sector, communities, workplaces, schools and municipalities to alcohol-directed activities; and the necessity of developing institutions, training programmes and research to support alcohol awareness education.

This is what our country needs. By putting discussion of this issue in the public domain, we hope to link up with like-minded formations, institutions and individuals, so that mass education can begin. Mass education requires organisation, information research and storage and concept definition and simplification.

The first step in this endeavour in-

volves understanding why alcohol and other substance abuse is a problem, and in believing that efforts must be taken to prevent it and to treat abusers when necessary.

In this regard I am currently working on a monograph which begins with a short historical analysis of the advent of alcoholism in South Africa; followed by a scientific treatise, where the biochemistry and medical consequences of alcoholism are discussed; with a concluding section on intervention measures and screening instruments of assessing alcohol and other drug dependence.

The next step is the establishment of institutions to collect data and conduct the necessary scientific research. Preliminary work towards the establishment of a resource centre, the Eastern Cape Alcohol and Drug Abuse Resource Centre is currently underway. The emphasis of this project is scientific research and not prohibition, counselling or treatment. Information from all disciplines and perspective, which students, researchers, and scholars will find interesting, is being collected.

This study looked at the physiological impact of the high iron and low alcohol content of the home brewed sorghum beer

As a person who grew up in a typical South African township, the issue of alcohol and drug abuse is not just an academic matter, but one we have observed at close proximity. I have seen how alcohol and drugs can mess up the lives of people.

I have also observed how people can get into a vicious cycle of unfinished debts at shebeens. The financial and emotional impact of these developments on the family that is dependent on the person with a problem, are unthinkable.

In industry, the informal loan sharing business (Mashonisa) is patronised by people with alcohol problems. While diagnostic, intervention strategies, treatment methods and other alcohol-related policy matters may be a source of debate and discussion, I doubt that there can be an argument against the inclusion of alcohol and drug education into our national development and educational programme.

While this would require going through governmental bureaucratic structures, the discussion must begin as a matter of urgency.

'Smoking caused 40% of deaths'

ET 22/2/95

Staff Reporter

TOBACCO usage was responsible for just over 40% of deaths in Cape Town, according to Medical Officer of Health Dr Michael Popkiss.

Dr Popkiss' annual report for the year from mid-1993 was issued yesterday.

He said the leading cause of death was cancer, accounting for 18,9%, followed by elderly people dying of natural causes 16,2%, heart attacks and strokes 9,5%, and murder 8,3%.

Dr Popkiss said tobacco-related deaths were caused by lung cancer (390 cases), heart attacks (1392), strokes (578), chronic bronchitis and chronic obstructive airways disease (292) and tumour of the lip, oral cavity and pharynx (71).

Other causes were tumours in the digestive organs and peritoneum (392) and diseases of the oesophagus, stomach and duodenum (18).

No figures were available on the age at which deaths from tobacco usage occurred.

Dr Popkiss said the question whether passive smoking was a

HIV cases in Cape increase to 1364

THE number of Aids cases in the Western Cape by December 1993 had increased from 63 the previous year to 86, and the total of people who were HIV-positive had increased from 967 to 1364, the city's Medical Officer of Health said in his annual report.

Dr Michael Popkiss said the current pattern of HIV transmission in South Africa has changed to heterosexual transmission with the major impact expected to be on women and children.

The total number of HIV-positive people country-wide was estimated in a 1993 survey to be more than half-a-million, including an estimated 14564 babies.

The success of health promotion and Aids prevention programmes in the white gay community — reflected in the number of Aids cases in that group — showed that similar efforts had to be intensified in an attempt to contain the heterosexual epidemic, Dr Popkiss said.

The Aids Training, Information and Counselling Centre in the city issued 293323 condoms to the public between July 1, 1993 and June 30 last year.

health hazard had been conclusively answered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, which has released a long-awaited risk assessment on the respiratory health effects of passive smoking.

A key finding of the study was that passive smoking ranked "Class A" — the agency's category of greatest scientific certainty that a substance causes cancer.

Smoking death stats incorrect

ET 24/2/95 (87)
Staff Reporter

THIRTY-TWO percent of deaths in Cape Town from mid-1993 to mid-1994 were due to tobacco usage, and not 40% as stated in the Medical Officer of Health's latest annual report and reported in Wednesday's Cape Times.

Dr Michael Popkiss said typographical errors caused the incorrect figure — as well as the figure of 1 392 for people who died of heart attacks instead of 718 — to be published.

R1 000 billion in claims at stake (81)

NOV 25/2/95

Tobacco firms try to fend off lawsuit

A NEW ORLEANS court has given the go-ahead for the biggest lawsuit yet against US tobacco companies, seeking punitive damages for causing nicotine addiction, reports the FOREIGN NEWS SERVICE.

NEW YORK — The US tobacco lobby is fighting back in the face of what could amount to the biggest lawsuit in legal history — a multibillion-dollar class action claiming cigarettes have caused widespread illness and death.

The case, given the go-ahead last week by a New Orleans court, could open the way to a massive \$300 billion (more than R1 000 billion) claim against the tobacco companies, and deal the industry a devastating body blow.

The suit is filed in the name of Dianne Castano, a housewife whose husband died after a lifetime of smoking. It also names all other "nicotine-dependent persons" in America and their heirs and survivors.

It seeks punitive damages, as well as compensation for economic loss, emotional distress and medical costs. Companies named include Philip Morris and R.J. Reynolds.

John Coale, of Coale and Van Susteren, one of the law firms leading the action, estimates that damages, if awarded, could run into billions.

Some observers believe the smokers' case will be difficult to win. In no previous cases have tobacco manufacturers had to pay out a single cent to those

whose lives have been damaged by tobacco.

However, this action is using a slightly different approach, using not the argument that the victims' health was damaged, but that the tobacco companies knowingly used an addictive substance to hook their customers.

Philip Morris responded to last week's federal court ruling by claiming that an "unworkable situation" had been created.

"In order for the alleged action in Castano, millions of individual trials around the country will be necessary. In each such trial, the plaintiffs will have to prove, on an individual basis, injury in fact, causation and reliance. And, in each such case, the industry's affirmative defences will be resolved by a jury."

The challenge stems from a ruling in Washington in August when the Food and Drug Administration's drug abuse advisory committee unanimously concluded that nicotine was addictive.

Addictive

However, apart from pushing for individual hearings, the tobacco industry is planning to respond by pointing out that the fact that millions of people had given up the habit proved that smoking was not addictive.

Nevertheless, amid an atmosphere growing steadily more hostile, the tobacco industry faced another setback this week as the state of Florida prepared to file a \$1.5 billion (about R5.3 billion) lawsuit against cigarette manufacturers claiming for costs incurred by the state for illnesses related to smoking.

Teen drug abuse rife, community forum is told

(87)
ART 27/2/45

GILL TURNBULL
Staff Reporter

DRUG abuse among teenagers in the Wynberg district has become a serious problem, Wynberg Community Forum heard this week.

At its monthly meeting in Wynberg police station, resident Gamzan Adams of Clare Road complained that for a long time drug users had caused a nuisance on an unused parking area in Clare Road behind the Dominican School for the Deaf and the Catholic church school.

Young boys smoked dagga and Mandrax throughout weekends and from 6 pm weekdays until as late as 2 am.

One drug addict known to him had tuberculosis and the Mandrax made him vomit.

Community leader Gadija Heuvel said the two schools were also concerned about this, fearing their own pupils would "get caught up".

Speaking for the Wynberg police, Major Pierre van der Riel said the problem in Clare Road was only part of the wider one of drug abuse among young people in Wynberg.

"There is very little we can do; the moment they see the van coming, they throw the

cigarette away and we have no personnel to go there in plain clothes."

Mr Majidee Abrahams of the Claremont African National Congress suggested police take names and addresses and tell parents.

Major Van der Riel replied that, in his experience, parents did not want to believe their children were using drugs.

Mrs Heuvel agreed, saying the "denial factor" was very strong.

"No family is going to admit their children are on drugs and the problem is not confined to the poor, some children from good families are addicted," she said.

Mr Abrahams suggested religious leaders could be asked to approach parents, instead of police, with an offer of discreet family counselling.

"Childrens' drug abuse is becoming a real problem and we should try to do something to expose it, maybe we could save some from becoming addicted."

Community policeman George Matfield told the meeting a visiting German anti-drug abuse expert would speak at a seminar at Wittebome Civic Centre on February 28 at 7.30 pm.

Progress over the past few years has been slow, but tomorrow, the day before Lent begins.

Picture: AP and marketing. But among

Tobacco industry faces stern test

NEW YORK — US cigarette manufacturers facing the biggest class action in legal history after a court ruling last week can take comfort in the fact that, in spite of hundreds of claims over the years, they have never paid out a cent in damages.

Yet it has become clear that this case will be very different.

Previous claims have usually sought compensation for health damage but juries have taken the view that the health risks of smoking are well enough known for it to be assumed that smokers choose to accept them.

In the New Orleans case, about 60 US law firms have united against the tobacco industry to seek compensation for smokers claiming addiction to cigarettes. The class comprises all nicotine-dependent cigarette smokers in the US, together with spouses, children and relatives — dead nicotine-dependent smokers. Lawyers for the plaintiffs say the companies could face claims of between \$50bn and \$100bn.

They allege the cigarette companies fraudulently failed to inform smokers that nicotine was addictive even though the companies knew it was. They also claim the companies manipulated the level of nicotine in cigarettes.

The plaintiffs want compensatory damages for the money spent by smokers on cigarettes, for the emotional distress caused by their alleged addiction, and for the cost of monitoring their health for addiction-related problems.

They also want punitive damages for the manufacturers' alleged fraud and negligence.

Ruling in a New Orleans federal court on whether the case could be brought as a class action, Judge Okla Jones struck a compromise. He said the core issue of cigarette companies' alleged fraud and negligence could be brought as a class action; and if the decision went against the manufacturers, so could the issue of punitive damages. But he said smokers' individual circumstances varied too greatly for compensatory damages to be settled as a class action, so separate trials would be needed to determine the amount to be paid in each case.

In a further twist, Jones ruled the cigarette manufacturers would have to pay punitive damages only when an individual claim resulted in an award of damages.

The cigarette companies have welcomed this aspect of the ruling because it seems to mean that, even if the class action goes against them, individual claimants will still have to argue their cases at millions of separate trials if they want to qualify for damages. In that event, the tobacco companies say, they could deploy all their traditional defences, in particular arguing that people knew what they were letting themselves in for when they started smoking.

John Coale of Coale & Van Susteren, one of the law firms leading the class action suit, suggests if the core case goes against the industry, each trial will become a no-lose proposition for

the claimant. People would be paid differing amounts of compensation according to their category, Coale says. "You could have one category for people who just started smoking and paid one visit to the doctor, another for people who went through all kinds of different therapies to try to quit, and go on from there. It's not unusual to do it that way."

Tobacco industry lawyers say this interpretation of the ruling is incorrect. Michael York of Wehner & York, a law firm advising Philip Morris, says even if the class action established cigarette companies had misled smokers about their products, claimants would still have to demonstrate in their individual trials that they had relied on that information in deciding to smoke.

That would be a very difficult trial to win because for time immemorial people have recognised that once you start smoking cigarettes, it is very difficult to stop, York says.

Things may never get that far. The cigarette companies are seeking leave to appeal against the decision. Richard Schneider of King & Spalding, the law firm representing Brown & Williamson Tobacco, says: "It violates common sense to think that a jury or anybody else can decide whether a tobacco company is liable for punitive damages when they haven't determined whether we are liable to a single individual yet." — Financial Times

Smoking crackdown to go ahead

ANDREA WEISS
Municipal Reporter

(87)

THE new health and community services committee for the Cape Town City Council has agreed to proceed with a by-law to restrict smoking in public places.

The committee agreed yesterday that the by-law, which has also drawn support from Health Minister Nkosazana

ARG 7/3/95
Zuma, should be published in the official gazette.

It also decided that hair-dressing salons should be added to the list of public places in the draft regulations.

The by-law must still go to the full council.

In a report considered by the committee, a graph showed that the vast majority of people responding to advertisements explaining the regula-

tions, were in favour of the smoking by-law.

The Western Province Rugby Football Union objected but withdrew its objection after it was pointed out that the regulations did not apply to the outdoors.

The by-law restricts smoking at any health facility, banking facility, hotel, library, museum, gallery, municipal building, post office, transport terminus, restaurant, school, creche, shopping mall, retail store, theatre, cinema or sports stadium.

It also restricts smoking on public transport, in lifts, and in service queues.

Smoking will be allowed in bars, casinos, tobacco stores, private clubs, and at private functions in hotels and restaurants.

Smoking will also be allowed on stage in theatrical productions and in designated smoking areas.

The tobacco hike all dislike

■ BY SHIRLEY
WOODGATE
and ABDUL MILAZI

Tax increases of 17c per packet of 20 cigarettes and 80c per kg of pipe tobacco have pleased nobody, earning the combined wrath of the tobacco industry, the anti-smoking lobby, shopkeepers and smokers.

The Tobacco Institute of Southern Africa condemned the price hike as "excessive" and "exorbitant" and likely to lead to further unemployment in the industry.

The Medical Research Council condemned the

increase as not going far enough to protect the public's health, and United Tobacco Company group finance manager Seville Chonin accused the minister of being influenced by demands from health authorities.

Defiant smokers said they would pay up to continue puffing, while cafe owners explained that the minister had hit the fastest-selling item in their shops.

Medical Research Council group executive Dr Derek Yach labelled the increase "a gift to the tobacco industry", far lower than the 30% to

40% hike the Minister of Finance had hinted at.

In 1960 excise duties comprised more than 60% of the retail price of cigarettes, compared to less than 25% now.

"This tax standstill has benefited the industry and allowed it to reduce the real price of its products," said the council's Dr Yusuf Saloojee.

Promises in last year's budget speech that tobacco taxes would be increased to 50% of the retail price had been ignored in favour of a hike amounting to 38% of the price of a packet of cigarettes, Saloojee said.

STAN 16/3/95

(#4)(87)

'No more payouts'

GAVIN STAFFORD

ANGRY Star readers attacked newspaper vendors, tore up copies of the newspaper and littered the pavement outside the paper's offices yesterday when they realised they would not receive consolation prizes following the publication of an incorrect competition winning number.

Police prevented the crowd from entering the building and cordoned off one lane in Sauer Street.

The Star editor Peter Sullivan said yesterday the noon deadline on Tuesday by which people had to claim consolation prizes was final.

The paper had calculated that if it paid out all claimants who "won" because of the error, it would have cost R4m. Such a loss would have put jobs in jeopardy, Sullivan said.

The Star had decided to pay out consolation prizes after one of the winning numbers in the paper's Jokers Wild competition appeared incorrectly in early editions of Monday's paper.

The paper had paid out R350 000 in prizes resulting from the mistake.

Sapa reports Sullivan said a meeting would be held to decide whether to proceed with a disciplinary hearing. The person responsible, who had worked at The Star for about 20 years, might have been "quite severely tired" after working 10-hour days recently. The Star was reassessing plans for future competitions, but could not say whether the paper would run the Joker's Wild competition again.

Wits principal receives ultimatum on expulsions

BD 16/3/95

MDUDUZI KA HARVEY

STUDENTS, academics and workers at Wits University have given vice-chancellor Bob Charlton until 1pm today to reinstate expelled and suspended colleagues or face intensified mass action on campus.

This follows an SA Students' Congress and National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union march on campus yesterday where students presented a memorandum to Charlton demanding the setting up of a transformation forum.

Students also demanded that Charlton make available the full text of recommendations by a committee of external councillors, and that the recommendations be discussed by all stakeholders as equal partners.

Sasco and the Students' Representative Council claim the administration has not given them full documents.

Charlton denied this, but he said certain annexures from Sasco, the SRC, Nehawu and deans of faculties were withheld as the council felt these did not fully represent campus opinion.

He said if students and workers wanted to discuss the the committee report with all parties, they could suggest this to the committee they were meeting today.

Charlton said he could not reinstate dismissed and suspended workers and students as this could only be done by council.

Meanwhile, Sasco president David Mak-

hura told students that his organisation was deeply concerned about the crisis. He said students may embark on intensified mass action if Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu did not address grievances. Bengu said yesterday he would meet Sasco leaders today.

In Pretoria, troops and police kept a close watch yesterday as more than 1 500 Vista University students delivered a memorandum at the Union Buildings in Pretoria to press for the resignation of the university's council.

Sapa reports that they also demanded the reinstatement of the director of Vista's Sebokeng campus, Simon Kekane, and three students suspended pending an investigation into missing funds.

Students demanded an inquiry into the university council "in relation to maladministration, misappropriation and embezzlement of funds and looting of university resources by high-ranking officials".

Also yesterday, the University of the Western Cape suspended classes for a day after Tuesday's campus disturbances.

Management and the SRC were to discuss the disruption of classes and financial assistance to students yesterday. Police would be asked to withdraw from the campus during the talks. *54*

Board works on its demarcation report

WILSON ZWANE

GAUTENG's demarcation board has received representations on how municipal boundaries should be demarcated and will submit its report on the matter to the provincial government next month.

Board chairman Pieter Smith said yesterday the report would be an "important link in the chain of preparations" for the October local elections.

The report would make recommendations on the demarcation of jurisdiction of, among others, transitional metropolitan councils and their substructures; transi-

tional rural councils; and services councils.

He said the board's work had been expedited by co-operation from transitional municipalities, political parties, and residents' organisations. *BD 16/3/95*

"Such contributions enabled the board to obtain sound knowledge and information about particular areas." Areas of dispute would be surveyed by helicopter today. Smith could not be reached yesterday to find out which areas were in dispute.

Smoke-free sponsorship demanded

KATHRYN STRACHAN

measures were taken, he said.

Sports sponsorship was also an effective way of circumventing the industry's voluntary agreement with the SABC not to advertise tobacco on TV. It also made a mockery of the Advertising Standards Authority provision that "no tobacco advertising will appear, or use as endorsers, celebrities in the sporting and entertainment world" *(87)*

Yach said sports sponsorship was an extremely pervasive form of advertising, reaching large sectors of the community. Research had indicated that sports sponsorship was a strong factor in encouraging children to start smoking.

He said by banning tobacco sports

WITH hard-hitting health warnings and other limits being placed on direct tobacco advertising, it was expected that the industry would move deeper into sponsoring sports events, the Medical Research Council said.

The spotlight fell on the tobacco industry's role in sport sponsorship when Rembrandt caused a stir by announcing this week it was putting its decision to sponsor the Cape Town Olympics 2004 Bid on hold.

Council spokesman Derek Yach said in the US, sports sponsorships and other forms of tobacco promotion accounted for a greater proportion of the total marketing budget of the tobacco industry than that dedicated to direct tobacco advertising.

The same trend was likely to occur in SA unless stringent counter-

sponsorship, SA would be better placed to win the bid to host the 2004 Olympic Games. All Olympic Games since 1988 have been declared smoke-free. In addition to there being no tobacco sponsorships, tobacco advertising was not permitted within several kilometres of the sports events and smoking was prohibited in the stadiums. *BD 16/3/95*

The bans were a result of co-operation between the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Last year the IOC and the WHO strengthened their ties, signing an agreement to promote "sport for all and health for all". The IOC will co-sponsor World No-Tobacco Day next year and will encourage champions to act as role models for health.

80 17 13 195
Hike will hit tobacco sales

MARCIA KLEIN

87

THE tobacco industry, already suffering from declining volumes, would be hard hit by the hike in excise duty announced in Wednesday's Budget.

Analysts said wine and tobacco products — which both went up 25% — bore the brunt of the increases. Beer, which went up by just 2c per 340ml can or dumpy, seemed to have been favoured in the Budget. But analysts said beer was not taxed to the same extent because in the past, beer had been overtaxed relative to the other products.

The tobacco industry would be hardest hit as excise becomes an increasingly higher proportion of the retail price. Wednesday's increase, together with the hike in the June 1994 Budget, brought the tax increase to 55% over the past nine months.

An analyst said this increase would be passed on to smokers, most of whom were low-income earners. The increase would directly affect volumes.

Although the duty on wine had gone up significantly, this was not likely to make a huge difference to the industry as the excise was still low as a proportion of alcohol content.

An analyst said employment levels in the Western Cape could be affected.

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CRANFORD

Urgent action needed, say experts

Tax crisis costs SA billions

Star 20/3/95

(320)

■ BY COLLEEN RYAN

South Africa's tax collection system is in crisis and costing the country billions in lost revenue as skilled auditing staff reach a critically low level.

Tax experts have warned that government operations — including its RDP plans — could suffer unless urgent action is taken to address the problems facing the Department of Inland Revenue.

At the heart of the problems are years of neglect by the previous National Party government, which consistently underfunded the department, and ongoing red tape with regard to remuneration packages, say tax experts who spoke to The Star.

Last week it was revealed that only one man — currently on sick leave — is able to maintain Inland Revenue's 33-year-old computer system.

The department was hit by a wave of resignations of skilled staff before and after last year's election. Many of these have found higher-paying jobs in the private sector.

Several other skilled personnel have also taken advantage of the Government's early retirement packages on offer, said Democratic Party finance

NUMBER of skilled auditing staff at Dept of Inland Revenue reaches critically low level

spokesman Ken Andrew.

Last week the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, Trevor van Heerden, told a parliamentary standing committee that the department's computer system, designed in 1962, needed urgent upgrading.

"In fact, there is only one man who knows how to maintain it. I hope that the buses in Pretoria drive carefully because if they ever knock this chap down, that's the end of us," said Van Heerden. The man in question is Louis Bothe.

A further problem facing the department was the Government's proposed tax amnesty which would increase the workload on staff, he added.

Syd Pope, senior public relations officer for the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, confirmed that the Department of Inland Revenue was struggling to recruit qualified auditors and retain existing staff.

"It has become increasingly critical and I don't think we will cross the Rubicon until the Government is able to address Inland Revenue problems with competitive packages and an efficient computer system," he said.

The Department of Inland Revenue spends 0,8% of tax received on revenue collection, compared to 1,5 to 2% spent by many First World countries, said Andrew.

"The Commissioner of Inland Revenue needs the flexibility enjoyed by the auditor-general's office to recruit staff," said Andrew. He pointed out that some staff members in Inland Revenue had actually left to join the auditor-general's office.

Among the major problems facing Inland Revenue include the state of the Sandton specialist corporate tax office, established a few years ago to assess registered companies and large corporations.

The Katz Commission reported that, because of severe staff shortages, the Sandton office was processing only a small portion of the work it was intended to assess.

Beric Crome, tax partner at

► To Page 3

Tough laws in pipeline for Jo'burg puffers

Star 20/3/95

(87)

mittee has recommended that the council apply for powers to issue regulations for smoking at public venues.

Details of what steps might be taken have yet to be thrashed out.

The executive committee is expected to discuss the recom-

mendation at a meeting on March 28.

Smoking has already been banned in all the municipal buildings controlled by the former Johannesburg City Council.

Motivating the need for stricter laws, the environmental committee's report said:

"The right to a safe and healthy environment and workplace is protected in the interim constitution.

"This is also in line with the Reconstruction and Development Programme of the Government to protect the health and wellbeing of the citizens of South Africa."

■ CITY REPORTER

Greater Johannesburg's city fathers are considering tough laws governing smoking in public places.

In a report to the transitional metropolitan council's executive committee, the environmental management com-

Tough anti-smoking law debated today (87)

CT 30/3/95

MUNICIPAL REPORTER

A FAR-REACHING proposed by-law that aims to ban smoking in at least 80% of every city restaurant will be debated at today's monthly council meeting.

The recommendation before the council is that the objections to the draft regulations should not be upheld and that the by-law should become law.

Should the by-law be passed, smoking will be banned from any indoor public place used as a health facility, banking facility, hotel (smoking in rooms will still be permitted as they are not public places), accommodation establishment, library, museum, gallery and building owned or occupied by the municipality.

Smoking will also be banned in

places used as a post office, public transport terminus, hairdressing salon, school, creche, shopping mall, retail store, theatre, cinema or indoor sports stadium.

Restaurants may designate areas where smoking is permitted, but these may not exceed 20% of the floor area of the public part of the restaurant.

Moreover, within a year restaurateurs will have to ensure that the ventilation system of such a designated area will discharge air directly to the outside of the building, rather than recirculate to other areas in the restaurant.

The regulations do not apply to restaurants, hotels, meeting rooms and municipal halls which are being used for private functions.

Smoking will not be banned in pubs.

Restaurant(87) owners fume at council smoking ban

Municipal Reporter

ARG 31/3/95

The Cape Town City Council has been accused of being "dictatorial" after approving a sweeping by-law to ban smoking in public places.

The by-law will soon be promulgated to become law in the city council's area of jurisdiction.

It will require restaurants to become smoke-free unless they provide a separately ventilated smoking room.

Past chairman and founder of the Restaurant Owners' Guild Aldo Girolo said the council's approach was dictatorial.

"How is it going to be enforced. Who is going to police this?"

"You cannot introduce a law and expect someone else to enforce it. Now the restaurateur, who is service provider, has to play policeman."

He said it should be up to restaurant owners themselves to decide whether they wanted to apply a no-smoking rule or not.

Fedhasa's Rema Van Niekerk said the association was in favour of individuals deciding on whether they wanted to smoke or not. The law would create unhappiness, he said.

The council has ruled that bars, casinos, retail tobacco stores and private clubs are exempted from the by-law.

Restaurants, hotels and conferences will also be exempted during private functions.

Actors will be allowed to smoke on stage if a production requires them to do so.

Concern was expressed in the council that the by-law would not protect non-smokers at outdoor sports events.

HOTELIERS TO FOLLOW SUIT

ET 3/4/95
(87)

Restaurateurs to defy council smoking ban

THE restaurant and hotel trade will be guided by customers about whether there should be non-smoking areas in their establishments, they said. **LOREN KOLEVSOHN** reports.

RESTAURATEURS and hoteliers refuse to implement the City Council's new by-law banning smoking in public places and 80% of all city restaurants.

They are also unhappy about the way in which the regulation was passed.

The chairman of the Restaurant Guild, Mr Steven Burt, said yesterday he resented the passing of the by-law as the council had ignored all representations by the guild.

"To make a ban of 80% is ridiculous. We have advised our members about the regulations but we will continue to be guided by customers. If customers want more non-smoking areas, and signs on tables and divisions, we will do it for them, but not for the council.

"It's not so much the banning

of smoking in eating places, but the way in which the council has gone about passing the by-law. The information collected is pathetically compiled in its minutes and is biased."

'High-handed'

He said restaurateurs in the guild will meet next week to discuss the ban, but they will not implement the by-law as "it is the council's responsibility to enforce the 80% ban regulation".

Mr Jos Kahn, chairman of the National Hotels Association (NHA) in the Western Cape, claimed the way in which the ban was implemented by the council "was slightly high-handed".

"The industry's view is the ban

should be a business decision, and we don't want to be dictated to."

Although many hotels have set aside non-smoking rooms or floors, Mr Kahn did not foresee the ban being detrimental to the restaurant or hotel trade as people will still seek entertainment and eat out. "Just as there are popular places which do not allow patrons to wear shorts and takkies, there will be popular restaurants which prohibit smoking."

Although the ban could possibly be a violation of a constitutional right, Mr Burt said he did not see the need to go to the Constitutional Court but added: "We could go to the Appeal Court, but we will see what action the council takes against restaurants which do not implement the ban."

Although the regulation was passed by the council last week, it has not yet been promulgated in the Provincial Gazette.

TUESDAY
APRIL 24, 1995

(81)
**No 'smoke
police' for city**
CT 4/4/95
MUNICIPAL REPORTER

NO "smoke police" will be appointed to enforce the City Council's recent ban on smoking in restaurants and other indoor facilities — it will be up to non-smokers to enforce the ban, it emerged in a council meeting yesterday.

Last week council voted in a new by-law that outlaws smoking — with minor exceptions — in any indoor public place such as a restaurant, health facility, bank, hotel, library, museum, shopping mall, retail store and theatre.

Yesterday City Medical Officer of Health Dr Michael Popkiss said there would not be any police going around to enforce the measure.

"It will be the community that enforces it," he said. "It gives non-smokers rights, but it will be up to them to enforce them."

Rugby player is 'critical'

The Argus Bureau

PORT ELIZABETH. — A young Port Alfred rugby player is in a critical condition after injuring his head during a game at the weekend.

Riaan Klopper, a 20-year-old furniture salesman, was carried off the field at Port Alfred on Saturday during a match between South Eastern Districts and Fish River Sun.

A spokesman for the Port Alfred rugby club, Ronnie Green, said Riaan was seen jumping for the ball when players ran into him, bumping his legs from underneath him.

It is thought he might have fallen on his neck.

Smoking law 'aids tourism'

Municipal Reporter

THE Cape Town City Council's new smoking by-law has been welcomed as a boost for tourism.

The National Council Against Smoking said it was important that South African cities should aspire to international standards set in European, American and Asian cities.

Also, British Airways and Cathay Pacific had introduced smoke-free flights to South Africa.

"By restricting smoking, Cape Town will provide a more comfortable, safer and healthier indoor environment, not only for tourists but for all," the council said.

Health care must reach more

Staff Reporter

A MORE cost-effective and efficient primary health-care system, serving all the communities in the province, was needed to solve the health crisis, delegates to a meeting of the Cape Independent Practitioners Association were told.

The association, representing pharmaceutical companies, hospitals, health services and several paramedical professions, intends finding solutions to the health-care crisis in under-serviced communities in all parts of the Western Cape.

Chairman Steve Jooste stressed the need to extend services to a greater number of people.

Suggestions for a more cost-effective and efficient health system included:

- Using the most appropriate medicine for the condition to reduce costs for patients.
- Agreeing on a single exit price for drugs to eliminate variable cost structures based on factors such as volume.
- Creating a national code of distribution for drugs to achieve efficient administration of the supply of medicines.
- Guidelines for the best awareness in terms of cost and quality of health care.

Warning: If there's smoke, there's ire

(87) ARG 5/4/95

□ *Restaurant offenders likely to be fined*

ANDREA WEISS
Municipal Reporter

SMOKERS need not fear a jail sentence *a la* Singapore, but they risk the wrath of their fellow diners if they breach the city council's new no-smoking by-law.

This is the view of medical officer of health Michael Popkiss, who is delighted with the city council's decision to pass the by-law which will be promulgated within weeks.

It restricts smoking in practically all indoor public areas, including restaurants. Exemptions apply to bars and private functions.

The penalty for the new regulation still has to be set, but it is likely to include the option of an admission of guilt fine.

Owners of restaurants may create enclosed smoking areas which have to be separately ventilated. They will be given a year's grace to put the required ventilation in place.

Otherwise, smoking will not be allowed in a restaurant.

Inspections of restaurants will go hand-in-hand with the city health department's existing health inspections.

Dr Popkiss said the by-law was not the end of the process but a "really concerted at-

Cockroaches rather than fags

Municipal Reporter

SMOKING in restaurants is the health equivalent of cockroaches running all over the tablecloths.

This is the view of the new Non-Smokers' Rights Association of South Africa which has come out in support of the city council's new by-law which restricts smoking in public places.

"There is nothing unprecedented about regulating the

use of harmful products or practises.

"Where necessary, laws to protect the public's health interests have been extended to govern public enterprises, for example food hygiene in restaurants," the group argues.

"There would soon be an outcry if cockroaches ran over tables and yet there is more evidence linking ill-health to tobacco smoke than to cockroaches.

tempt" to solve a major public health problem.

"It is quite clearly not the purpose of the regulation to make criminals of smokers, but to educate people and start the process of ridding the city of environmental tobacco smoke."

Dr Popkiss said it was the smoker and not the restaurant owner who was liable for prosecution, but he recommended that customers complain to the owner if someone smoked.

The contentious issue around restaurants had been a long and unhappy saga, he felt.

Initially Fedhasa and the Cape Restaurateurs' Guild had

pledged to the then administrator Kobus Meiring that they would voluntarily introduce non-smoking areas, but this had only happened in very few cases.

The by-law has been drawn up in terms of the Tobacco Products Control Act which enabled the city council to restrict smoking in public places.

The definition of a public place excludes the outdoors and workplace.

Where bars and restaurants exist side by side, the city will expect the restaurant area to be smoke-free, but Dr Popkiss recognises this is a problem area.

Non-smokers at great risk, say researchers

CHICAGO. — Second-hand cigarette smoke does more harm to non-smokers than to smokers, with the amount inhaled by many people each day enough to produce substantial damage to cardiovascular systems, say researchers.

They said in a report in this week's Journal of the American Medical Association that the best solution would be to ban smoking in public places.

"Apart from the philosophical question of whether anyone ought to be required to breathe even one cigarette a day under any circumstances, the (smoke) experienced by many people in their daily lives is enough to produce substantial adverse effects on the cardiovascular system," they said.

"People who smoke cigarettes are chronically and continually adversely affecting their cardiovascular system, which adapts to compensate," the study said.

"Non-smokers, however, do not have the 'benefit' of this adaptation, so the effects of passive smoking on them are much greater."

~~#~~ (87)
The article was written by Stanton Glantz and William Parmley of the University of California at San Francisco.

"The (harmful) effects are not caused by a single component of the smoke, but by the effects of many elements, including carbon monoxide, nicotine, aromatic hydrocarbons, and other elements," it said.

For instance, it said, carbon monoxide competes with oxygen for binding sites on red blood cells and interferes with the blood's ability to deliver oxygen to the heart.

Nicotine and other toxins in cigarette smoke activates blood platelets, increasing the likelihood of blood clots.

The researchers condemned the practice of scientific consultants in league with the tobacco industry who assume cigarette smoke has the same impact on smokers as non-smokers, so underestimating damage by passive smoke.

They said previous research blames passive smoking for between 30 000 and 60 000 fatal heart attacks every year in the United States. — Reuter.

ARG 5/4/95

Health Minister Zuma will vaccinate babies

TO MARK World Health Day today and to highlight its theme of a world without polio, Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma will vaccinate babies against polio at a ceremony in Sebokeng on the East Rand.

The World Health Organisation has identified the year 2000 as the date by which polio should be eradicated worldwide. President Nelson Mandela, in his address at the Sebokeng ceremony, will announce steps that government is to take to rid the country of one of the main causes of child paralysis and death.

With an infant mortality rate of 49 for every 1 000 births, SA's record on child health is below that of many of its neighbours. It is estimated that 20 000 to 30 000 babies have been born infected with HIV.

In many areas of SA, up to one third of children under the age of five are undernourished. Mortality among infants and children is being reduced through an improved national immunisation programme which is expected to reach international goals in the next three years. The use of routine immunisation in SA has led to a dramatic decrease in the occurrence of diseases such as polio, neonatal tetanus (lockjaw) and measles.

KATHRYN STRACHAN

A new immunisation schedule has been introduced this week to ensure children are protected earlier in their lives and more effectively. Also, the introduction of hepatitis B immunisation will ensure that in the coming decades thousands will be protected against chronic liver disease and liver cancer.

The immunisation programme plans to increase its immunisation services so that its goals of completely eradicating polio in SA by 1998, eliminating neonatal tetanus by 1997, and controlling measles by the end of the decade are achieved.

The Health Department said it planned — with the use of basic preventative measures — to set up a maternal and child health programme, accelerate the immunisation services and reduce disease and death due to diarrhoeal and acute respiratory complaints.

The promotion of maternal health would take place in the broader context of women's needs and rights. Strategies for alleviating maternal and child health were closely linked to programmes aimed at reducing poverty, malnutrition and environmental problems, the department said.

Health-oriented sport sponsorship on the way

PLANS to set up a health foundation which would replace the tobacco industry in sponsoring sports events got under way this week with the visit to SA of Australian campaigner Rhonda Galbally.

Galbally is CEO of the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, which pioneered the concept.

During her visit Galbally will meet All Bacher and other prominent sports organisers, as well as a wide range of non-governmental organisations and health organisations to promote the idea.

The Australian scheme is based on increasing taxes on cigarettes and directing a small percentage of the revenue to health promotion.

The remainder is used for sports and arts sponsorship. The plan promotes health on various levels — the increased cost of cigarettes is a strong disincentive to smoke, while the plan also raises revenue for a range of health promotion projects.

These ranged from tobacco control and end-smoking projects to AIDS, nutrition and exercise programmes, and cancer screening.

Galbally said sports sponsorship had proved a far more seductive and powerful force than direct advertising because of associations with popular sports stars.

KATHRYN STRACHAN

A study in Australia had shown that sports sponsorship had an extremely high influence on brand choice.

Because the foundation's goal was to remove the tobacco industry from sports sponsorship, a replacement was needed.

It had transpired in Australia that the funding available for sports sponsorship was higher than it had been when it was dependent on the tobacco industry. An added benefit was that it was not only the high-profile sports which got sponsorship, and the plan helped to develop sport.

National Council Against Smoking director Yusuf Saloojee said that to raise R100m for health promotion in SA, tobacco tax would have to be raised by 10c.

As tobacco sponsorships for sport amounted to between R5m to R25m a year, a health promotion trust would be ideally placed to provide sponsorships to those sports.

Medical Research Council spokesman Derek Yach said many partnerships were developing in SA to promote the idea. However, Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma believed she had to have the backing of the Arts and Sports Ministries before she took the plan to Cabinet.

ADD DRIVE TO YOUR BUSINESS PLANS

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NEWS FEATURE Campaign takes off to persuade youth to stay drug-free

Say no to drugs

Anti-drugs movement for SA

By Glenn McKenzie

THE "say no to drugs" movement, à la John Travolta and Kirsty Ally, has arrived in South Africa.

While addictive killers like crack cocaine and "crystal meth" have not spread through the country yet, an anti-drug movement has declared war, hoping to stem the growing numbers of children using recreational drugs, such as dagga and Mandrax.

One international campaign, called "Drug Free Marshals", is busy spreading their message to schools in

Johannesburg and Durban. The programme is operated by the Church of Scientology and uses American literature and experiences to dissuade children under the age of 14 from smoking, taking, or injecting drugs.

Said Ms Elseiq Oakley, who runs the campaign in Johannesburg: "We're saying that being drug-free is cool. It's more fun than being on drugs."

Here's how the programme works: Oakley visits schools telling children about the potential effects of drugs on the mind and body. She encourages pupils and teachers to write essays,

songs and plays, with the ultimate goal of making their communities drug-free.

In the presence of a police officer, children can swear an oath to be forever drug-free. In turn, they receive certificates and badges showing that they are "drug free marshalls." Children, in turn, can recruit and swear in celebrities, who become "honorary marshalls".

So far in South Africa, the programme has attracted more than 400 children, and the support of singer-actor Steve Hofmeyer, as well as some members of the Kaizer Chiefs football club. In the United States, actor John Travolta is among the big-name stars who have become honorary marshalls.

"The goal is to make South Africa a drug-free place," said Oakley. "It's a huge task, but I like challenges."

While her primary focus is to educate children, Oakley also hopes to send the anti-drug message to drug dealers themselves. In one march last year, East Rand school children picketed the homes of alleged dealers. Oakley hopes to repeat that event later this year in Lenasia. "We want to show drug dealers that they are not welcome," said Oakley.

Everyone else is. Oakley said children are not required to be members of the Church of Scientology in order to join the Drug Free Marshalls. The programme is open to everyone, regardless of religion, race, or political belief.

Anyone interested in contacting Drug Free Marshalls should contact Elseiq Oakley at (011) 331-8470.



Being drug-free is cool ... Ms Elseiq Oakley is spreading the message to children that using drugs is not "in". Oakley runs the "Drug Free Marshalls" campaign in South Africa.

Sowetan 10/4/95

NEWS Proposal to prevent enormous drain to the country's health system

SOWETAN Monday April 10 1995

Ban tobacco growings — SACP

By Joe Mdhlela
Political Reporter

THE tobacco industry could face extinction if the South African Communist Party convinces the Government to outlaw production of the crop.

At the conclusion of its three-day congress at the Chris Hani Memorial Hall in Crown Mines on Saturday, the

SACP said in the event of the industry being phased out, there should be alternative schemes to protect jobs of workers in the industry.

It argued that the use of tobacco products contributed to an unhealthy society. "The use of tobacco products contribute to an enormous drain on the health system," the SACP said.

As an alternative, the organisation suggested that the industry consider establishing food processing plants that

would offset the loss of revenue and ensure that workers do not lose their jobs. If the industry continues to exist, the party will urge the Government to double the retail price of tobacco products and use the revenue accrued to promote health education.

In another resolution from the congress, the party said it would resist the "wholesale privatisation of major public utilities including Eskom, Transnet, Telkom, the Post Office, and the South

African Broadcasting Corporation".

The organisation also called for the democratisation of the SA Reserve Bank, so that it becomes accountable to Government. Party general secretary Mr Charles Nqokula alongside his other four senior party comrades, were re-elected unopposed.

The three-day congress ended on Saturday and was attended by about 600 delegates, including communists from mainland China, Brazil, Italy, Belgium,

(87)

Source: *Sowetan* 10/4/95

France, Israel, Greece, Portugal, Finland, Iran, Vietnam, Britain, Lesotho, and Mozambique.

Veteran Raymond Mhlaba, who is also premier of the Eastern Cape, was re-elected SACP national chairman.

Mr Jeremy Cronin retained his position as deputy general secretary, while Dr Blade Nzimande and Mr Kay Moonsamy kept their positions as deputy national chairperson and national treasurer.

More smokes tax mooted

CT 13/4/95
STAFF REPORTER

87
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AN extra 10c tax on each pack of cigarettes sold would produce R100 million a year, which could fund the promotion of health, Dr Derek Yach of the Medical Research Council said yesterday.

Dr Yach said the concept had the support of the Department of Health.

He said the money generated would be used to fund a health promotion foundation:

- To sponsor sports and the arts and to buy-out the tobacco industry's sponsorship.
- To support priority health promotion campaigns such as safe sex programmes and child safety.
- To channel a small amount into research.

South Africa had one of the lowest tax rates on cigarettes (38%), with Zimbabwe at 50% and Canada and Australia over 70%, Dr Yach said.

Non-smokers take Tshwete to task

(S7) CT 24/4/95

THE Non-Smokers' Rights Association has hit out at Sports Minister Mr Steve Tshwete for his "irresponsible" statement condoning tobacco sponsorship of sports events.

It said: "Tobacco advertising is aimed at converting healthy youngsters into sickly, tobacco-addicted smokers ... They should be protected from seductive advertising." — Staff Reporter

Smokers meekly accept Cape Town's ban

(87) 80 25/4/95

CAPE TOWN, the smoking capital of the country, has meekly bowed to a council crackdown on smoking in public places.

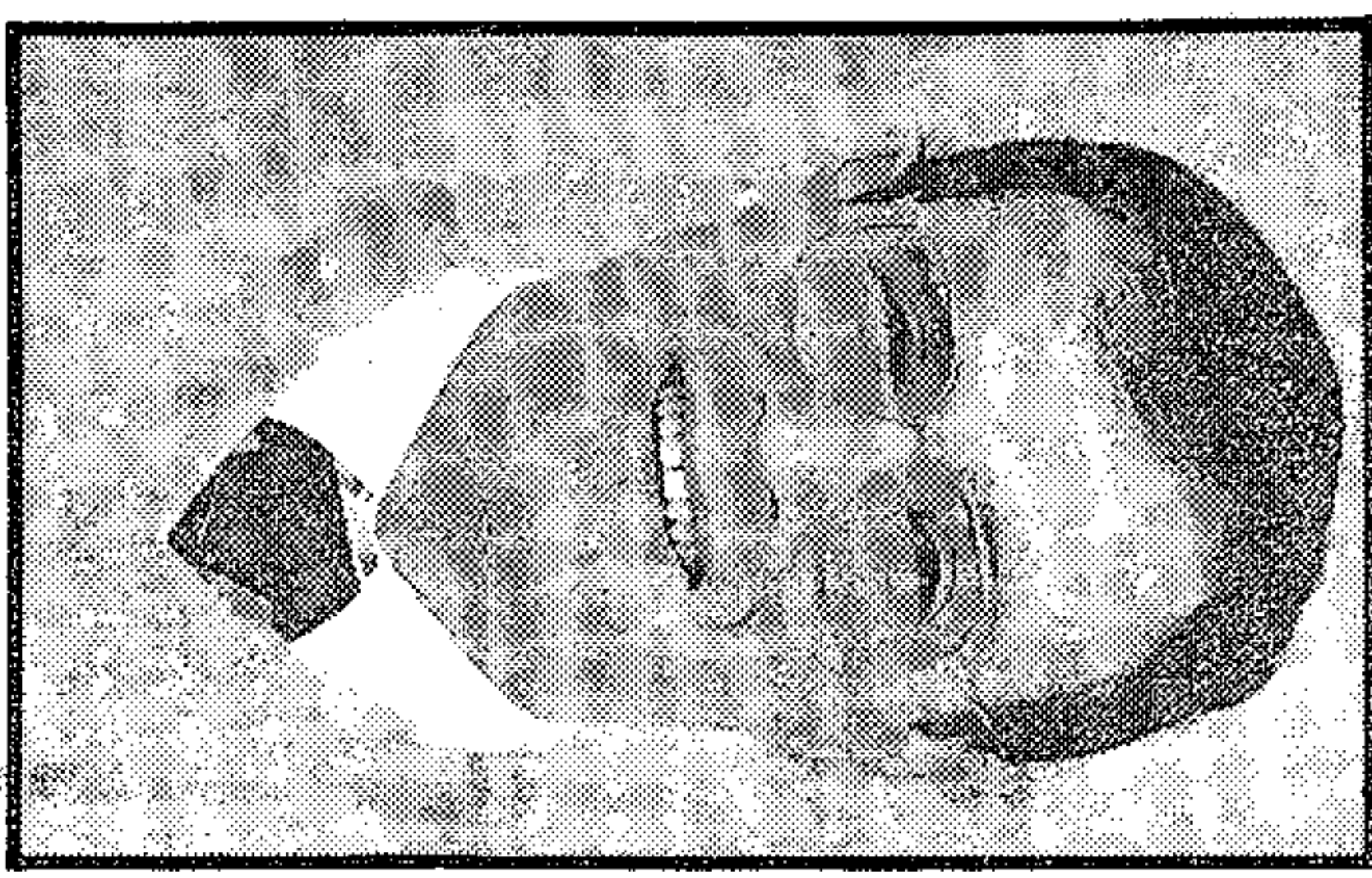
An anti-smoking by-law that virtually bans lighting up in indoor public places has been passed by a large majority of the transitional metropolitan council. It is the most comprehensive action taken anywhere in the country.

"Apart from a muted response when we put the draft regulations out for comment, we've had very little negative response," said Cape Town's assistant medical officer of health, Dr Ivan Bromfield.

Under the far-reaching legislation, promulgated in terms of the Tobacco Products Control Act, any indoor public place is obliged to ban smoking altogether or to confine the smoking area to 20% of the total area of the venue. It is obliged to seal off the smoking area and provide separate ventilation.

Dr Derek Yach of the Medical Research Council said one in five premature deaths in the Western Cape could be linked to smoking, compared to one in nine or 10 in the rest of the country. "I think it is appropriate that the toughest measures are coming in the region with the biggest problem, he said.

Under the by-law, the buildings affected include many in which smok-



□ YACH

ing is already discouraged, such as retail outlets, health facilities, theatres, cinemas, libraries and museums. It also includes schools and creches, which one presumes are already officially non-smoking. But among public places likely to be facing substantial difficulties be-

HEATHER PARKER

cause of the ruling are restaurants, hotels (excluding bedrooms) and transport terminuses.

In a straw poll late last year at Cape Town restaurants, restaurateurs insisted there was little demand for smoke-free sections. One popular waterfront restaurant said it had dropped its anti-smoking section due to lack of demand. A spokesman for a popular business lunch venue in the city centre said the restaurant's non-smoking section comprised only seven tables — "and I've never seen it full".

Josef Currieger of the Buccaneer in Gardens, popularly held to be the home of the best steaks in town, said requests came in only once or twice a year for a non-smoking section.

The chef-patron of another highly rated eatery said: "You can't make this a smoke-free zone — we would be empty."

Restaurateurs say the design of their premises seldom lends itself to division and separate ventilation. But Bromfield was unsympathetic on the second point.

"As far as the ruling is concerned, smoking is banned. If restaurateurs want to allow smoking, and to spend

the money that makes it possible, that is their prerogative."

On the fact that non-smokers seem not to be a vocal group, he said it was intended that the legislation should be a tool to make non-smokers aware of their rights.

The forces of law and order would not be deployed to enforce the legislation, he said, so the legislation would have only the teeth the public gave it.

Where similar smoking bans existed abroad, the incidence of smoking dropped simply because of social pressure rather than the threat of sanction. "There was a huge outcry when smoking was banned in theatres and cinemas," Bromfield said. "We rather think the fuss will die down now in a similar way."

The first time Cape Town mooted a clampdown on smoking was in the late 1980s. At that time, the by-law had to be approved by the provincial administrator, who quashed it. The Tobacco Products Control Act now confers power directly on the municipality, so the provincial authorities cannot veto its ruling.

Pressure at that time came also from a strong tobacco lobby which threatened to withdraw support on which the Cape Town Symphony Orchestra, then part of the city council, depended. The orchestra is now private.

"There are no avenues for political muscle to be applied to the anti-smoking by-law now," said Bromfield. And Yach said that by world standards, the Cape Town regulations were not particularly severe.

A flaw in the Act is that the interpretation of "public place" seems to exclude the work place. Because of the involuntary nature of work, Yach said, addressing this was a constitutional imperative.

Bromfield said the council had made submissions to Health Minister Dr Nkosozana Zuma about this. In the meantime, the Occupational Health and Safety Act, reinforced by the interim constitution, provided enough ammunition for workers wishing to control smoking in the work place.

"We need to cut down smoking, but we ought not to do it by victimising smokers," Yach said. "It is effective to push up taxes, to introduce compulsory warnings and to ban smoking in certain places, but unless we are educating the public and helping smokers to give up, the approach is not coherent."

Revenue earned by taxation on tobacco products ought to be earmarked for the fight against smoking and the promotion of primary health care, Yach said. The by-law is due to take effect within the next few weeks.



Health warnings to be on all tobacco products, adverts

No-smoking blitz starts soon

(87)

Star 4/5/95

■ BY JANINE SIMON

It's all systems go for mandatory health warnings to be displayed on tobacco products, cinema and print advertisements from May 31 — World No-Tobacco Day.

The Department of Health and the tobacco industry have met regularly to discuss details of implementing of the regulations, gazetted in December last year under the 1993 Tobacco Control Act — despite the tense lobbying that surrounded the passing of the new Act.

The industry was "co-operative", said the ministry's health educationist, Susan van Niekerk.

In a terse statement, the Tobacco Institute of Southern Africa said advertisers of tobacco products were expected to comply with the law requiring "certain prescribed notices" to be in-

cluded in advertisements.

The industry had negotiated, for practical reasons, an extension of the deadline to October 31 for health warnings on cigarette packs and details of displays on billboards, Van Niekerk said.

But from next month health warnings will take up 10% of display area on all print advertisements; two percent of that will be dedicated to nicotine and tar content.

The warning may be printed across the top or bottom of billboard advertisements, but after October 31, may only be printed across the top.

Cinema cigarette advertisements will be sandwiched between a health warning flashed on screen at the start, and further health information when they end.

Radio advertisements will have no simultaneous health

warnings, but radio stations which carry cigarette advertisements will give five 30-second slots of free air time a day for the next year (worth between R8-million and R10-million) to the Department of Health, for the Government to broadcast its own anti-smoking advertisements.

This will make the State the second largest advertiser on radio, after the tobacco industry, says Dr Yusuf Saloojee, executive director of the Council Against Smoking — which is to launch and promote a National Quit Line next month to help smokers give up.

The wording, size and style of the warnings have been strictly stipulated, and take the form of eight warnings regularly rotated to give each equal prominence.

The warnings on cigarette packages, which will come into

effect in November, will take up 15% on the package front. The additional 25% of display space on the back will provide more information and the National Quit Line number, making it the most comprehensive in the world, and the best anti-tobacco legislation in the developing world that has long been targeted by tobacco companies faced with shrinking Western markets.

The eight warnings are:

- Danger, smoking can kill you.
- Danger, smoking causes cancer.
- Danger, smoking causes heart disease.
- Smoking damages your lungs.
- Pregnant? Breast Feeding? Your smoking can harm your baby.
- Warning: Don't smoke near children.
- Tobacco is addictive.
- Your smoke can harm those around you.

Rastas take dagga demands to Parliament

CAPE TOWN — Clouds of dagga smoke drifted through the gates of Parliament yesterday as about 500 protesting Rastafarians demanded legalisation of the drug for cultural and religious reasons.

Singing and waving banners, protesters cleaned the "holy weed" while policemen watched. One of the protesters was a policeman in uniform, who stood among the dreadlocked rastas smoking dagga in a coconut-shell pipe.

Const Denver Sass said he was demonstrating for legalisation of the herb, which was used by Rastafarians for cultural rea-

sons. "Rasta is for the good so the legalisation is for the good," he said.

A petition bearing about 3 800 signatures was handed to a representative of Arts and Culture Minister Ben Ngubane.

Rastafarian spokesman Zebulon Dread said every peaceful avenue would be exhausted to have dagga legalised. If it was not legalised Rastafarians would have no option but to "go to war in the name of love. We have spoken with Babylon (the police or authorities) and we have given them two weeks to reply to our demands."

One protester was arrested for posses-

sion of dagga while the Rastafarians were on their way to Parliament. After handing over the petition the crowd moved off to Caledon Square police station to demand the release of the arrested man. As the crowd began to move policemen swooped on Sass and threw him into a van.

The crowd threatened to attack the policemen but were calmed by march organisers. One of the protesters, Trevor Ras Ebden, said: "We are fighting for the rights of our religion. The new government guarantees freedom of religion and we want our rights recognised." — Sapa.

Soaring cigarette prices blamed on bad SA policy

ERICA JANKOWITZ

THE recent sharp increase in cigarette prices was largely the result of industry pricing policy and not excise duty as claimed by manufacturers, National Council Against Smoking executive director Yussuf Saloojee said yesterday.

(87) BD 5/5/96
Manufacturers' inability to compete locally or internationally meant "an outflow in excess of R100m per annum in foreign exchange and a loss of jobs".

In reaction to the Rembrandt Group blaming the proposed closure of its Industria plant on decreasing cigarette demand due to government taxes, Saloojee pointed out that only 31c of the recent R1 price hike went to government coffers.

The balance was for commercial purposes which would boost cigarette manufacturers' revenues by an estimated R550m, he claimed.

He further slated the industry for blaming the loss of almost 10 000 jobs in the past nine months on government duties. This was "not only wrong, but deliberately designed to mislead the public and fuel anti-tobacco tax sentiment," he said.

Saloojee said continued job shedding was due to manufacturers' inability to compete on local and international markets.

"It is more profitable for Rembrandt and United Tobacco to import tobacco to meet local demand, while unwanted SA tobacco has been exported at big losses."

About 40% of tobacco used in local cigarette manufacture was imported while, in 1993, the Tobacco Exchange released figures which showed 35% of the local crop was exported at a loss, he said.

Govt refuses to legalise dagga

25 8/5/95 00(57)

ANTHONY JOHNSON
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government gave a resounding thumbs down yesterday to the legalisation of dagga.

Welfare Minister Mr Abe Williams also announced his ministry would launch a R1 million anti-drug educational campaign tomorrow.

Some lobbies have argued the legalisation of dagga could throw a lifeline to poorer communities in economically depressed areas such

as the Transkei and rural kwa-Zulu/Natal.

But Mr Williams said: "The department takes a strong view against the legalisation of dagga and other illegal drugs in SA."

As dagga was combined with mandrax in SA, he said, the legalisation of dagga would contribute to more abuse. Also, "there would be no control on the sale, potency, production, manufacture and age restrictions if dagga is legalised".

He said the department supported the UN Convention on the

Illicit Traffic of Narcotic Drugs and Controlled Substances which stipulates the possession, buying or cultivation of controlled drugs for non-medical consumption should be treated as a criminal offence.

Mr Williams said the International Narcotics Control Board has warned the removal of drug laws would not limit corruption, organised and drug-related crimes.

"Being unable to trade in dagga, traffickers will change to other substances such as cocaine and heroin," he said.

Anti-drugs and alcohol drive launched

A MAJOR anti-drugs and alcohol campaign was launched by the Welfare Department yesterday.

The campaign, with its slogan "I'm addicted to life", is intended to help youths withstand pressure to abuse alcohol and drugs.

Welfare Minister Abe Williams said the programme's multimedia campaign intended to make

KATHRYN STRACHAN

communities aware of their responsibilities and equip youngsters with the skills to cope with life.

Radio and television programmes featuring political figures and celebrities would be broadcast, while posters and awareness programmes would be circulated through schools and

community organisations.

It was estimated that more than a million people in SA were alcoholics.

More than R5bn was lost annually through work accidents, lost productivity, damage to health and the costs involved in placing children when families disintegrated. Nearly 60% of car accidents were related to drugs and alcohol.

Row threatens after tobacco price change

(18) (87)
Marcia Klein

BD 29/5/95

DISAGREEMENT over the level and the cause of tobacco price increases has left both the tobacco industry and anti-tobacco lobby smoking mad.

It was reported earlier this month that National Council Against Smoking executive director Yussuf Salojee said the retail price increased by R1 to R3,57 between June last year and April. "Of this increase, 31c was due to a rise in excise taxes, the remainder was for commercial purposes."

But the Tobacco Institute of Southern Africa and United Tobacco Company said there had been no "R1 recent increase" as claimed by Salojee.

In fact, the average recommended retail price of a pack of 20 cigarettes increased by only 20c (to R3,30 from R3,10) following the increase of 16,9c per 20 cigarettes in excise duty announced in March. Apart from excise, 2,5c of the increase also went to government in VAT.

The Tobacco Institute said the retail price had increased to R3,30 in March from R2,37 in April 1993, a 93c increase over a period of two years. Of this, 50,1c went to government in the form of excise and VAT.

Salojee said the continued decline in jobs in tobacco farming "is due to the inability of this sector to compete on the local and international markets". He added it was more profitable for SA manufacturers to import tobacco to meet local demand.

But the Tobacco Institute said SA manufacturers had an agreement with local farmers, through the various tobacco co-operatives "to buy up to 80% of their leaf requirements locally".

But specific grades of tobacco were not available in SA, and had to be imported to satisfy local market requirements.

"In view of the declining rand and the fact that world tobacco prices are 32% higher in dollar terms than a year ago, local producers' competitiveness on the world market has increased."

No butts: Get smart and quit the weed

(81) A/Lt 30/5/95

Staff Reporter

TOMORROW, May 31, is World No-Tobacco Day.

Here's some information, courtesy the Heart Foundation of Southern Africa, that may help you to kick the smoking habit in the butt.

If you don't smoke, here are some convincing reasons not to start:

- About three million deaths are caused by tobacco annually, with about one third of them in developing countries.

- There are 1,1 billion smokers worldwide. In developed countries, 41 percent of men and 21 percent of women smoke regularly. In developing countries, 50 percent of men and eight percent of women smoke.

- Medical evidence shows that — providing a smoker quits before the onset of irreversible damage — his or her level of risk starts to drop. Stopping smoking benefits general health. Within a day or two all the nicotine is out of your system.

After two or three days, you will have a better sense of taste and smell. Within two weeks your morning cough will disappear and your breathing will improve.

Within a year, your risk of heart disease will be halved and the risk of gastric ulcers will be reduced.

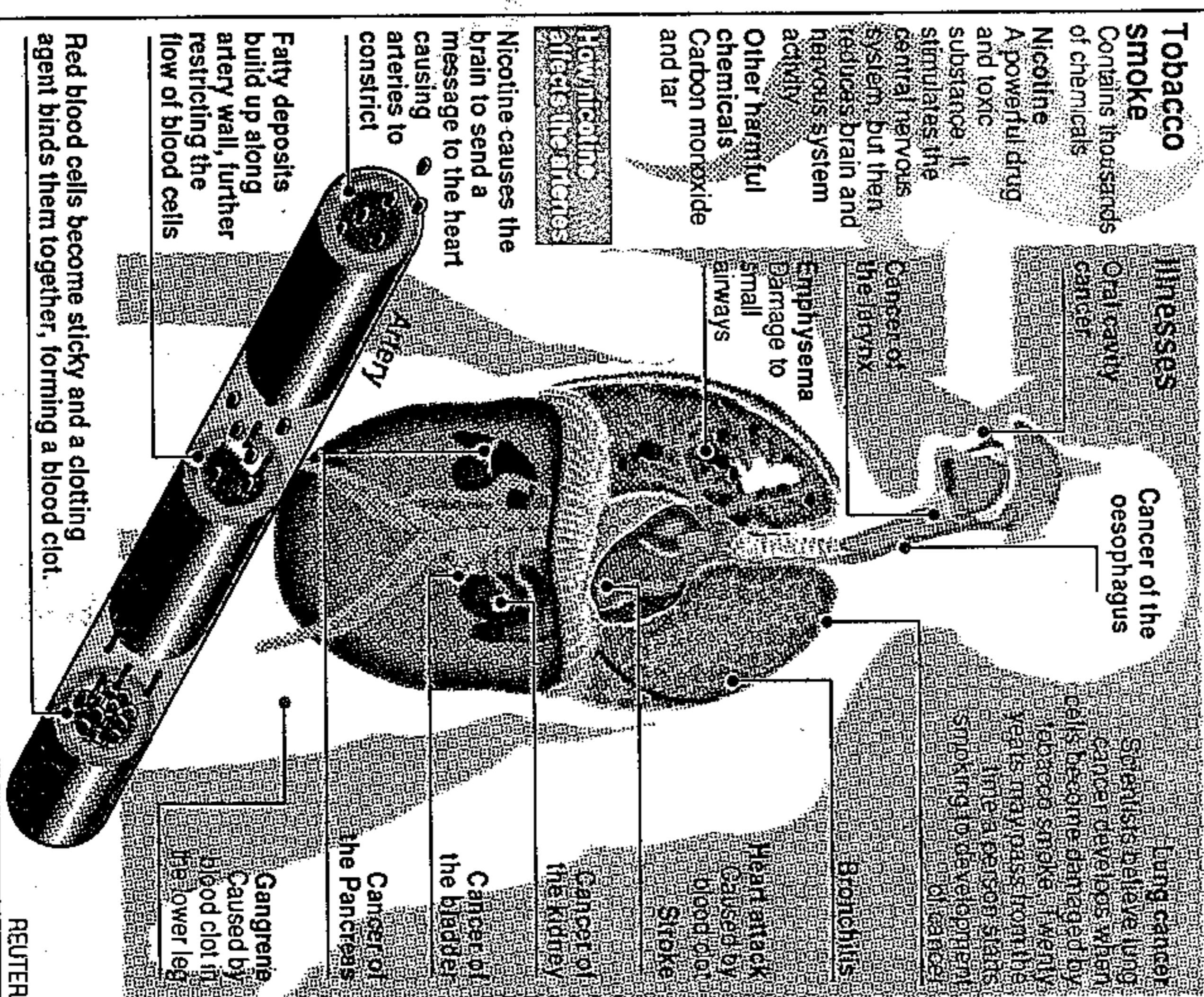
After 10 or 15 years of not smoking your risk for many diseases will be about the same as someone who has never smoked.

Surveys in South Africa as well as overseas show that the best-educated, most successful groups of people contain the least number of smokers.

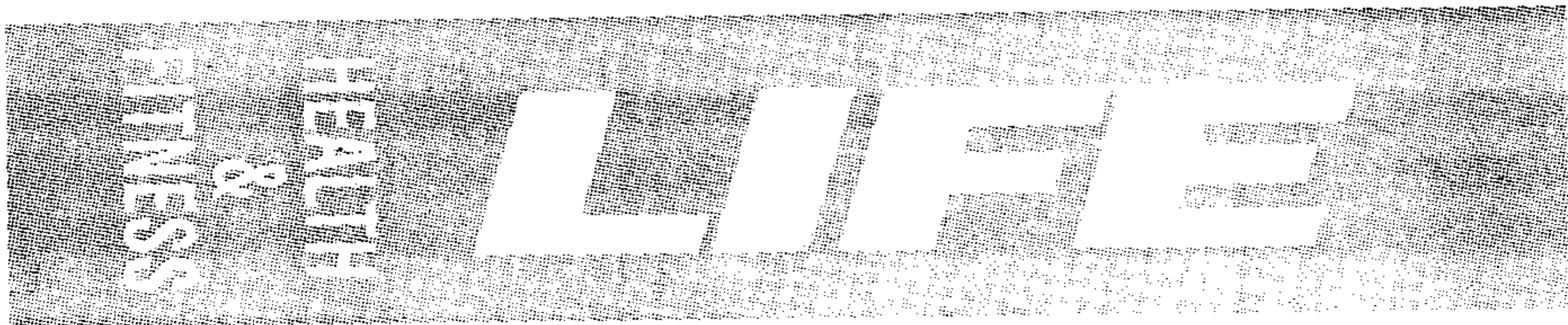
Quitting is the intelligent thing to do.

Smoking related illnesses are the biggest killer in Western society, causing heart attacks, cancers and bronchitis

HOW CIGARETTES SMOKING KILLS



REUTERS



NEWS Cops condemn suggestion

(87) Sowetan
30/5/95

Dagga could 'benefit' the whole of SA

■ **BIG CROP** Urgent need for research into uses of KwaZulu-Natal's cannabis:

THE POSSIBILITY OF legalising the use of dagga should be seriously considered by researchers, says a development consultant and former Durban city councillor Mr Peter Mansfield.

He said yesterday that research into the subject might also arrive at the conclusion that present legislation criminalising the possession or use of dagga was correct.

"But I do feel research must be done," he said. "It is a huge crop in this province and should be seriously investigated."

Mansfield has suggested to the University of Natal that it establish a dagga research institute to study the plant and its uses.

"I do feel that in the new South Africa we should be willing to look at issues such as cannabis in new ways," he said.

"I believe that a proper study of the cultivation and potential beneficial uses has considerable economic and other implications for the province and South Africa as a whole."

Mansfield said a study some years ago showed that the value of the dagga crop in KwaZulu-Natal was greater than that of the province's biggest income earner, sugar.

"The present situation punishes the rural poor, stretches the police force and pays no attention to taking the benefits of a very

significant crop seriously," he said.

He wanted research into the uses of dagga — in the medical field, as a fuel resource and as a source of vegetable oil.

"I believe it has sufficient potential to make a major contribution to the reconstruction and development programme."

But his suggestion that the legalisation of dagga be considered was condemned by the head of the police's narcotics bureau, Colonel Piet Meyer.

He said legalisation would lead to a wide range of problems related to the control of the drug and access to it.

"Are we going to allow it to be sold to 12-year-olds?" he asked. "Research by the World Health Organisation has shown that dagga causes lung cancer about seven times faster than ordinary tobacco."

"I agree that it can have medical uses but it also contains 32 harmful chemicals and experts worldwide agree that it should not be legalised." Meyer said South Africa had agreements with the World Health Organisation and the United Nations that dagga would not be legalised.

He said dagga use in South Africa was linked to the country's serious Mandrax problem. "People who use dagga build up a tolerance to it. They then want more and more to satisfy their need. Then they add Mandrax." — *Sowetan Correspondent.*

CT 31/5/95
UN agency urges
action on smoking

GENEVA: The World Health Organisation issued a fierce blast against tobacco companies yesterday, accusing them of ignoring suffering in their pursuit of profit.

The UN agency also called for tough global action to halt the spread of smoking. (87)

"The tobacco industry ... (is) marketing a substance that has at least as much potential for causing dependence as heroin and cocaine," says the appeal, signed by WHO director-general Dr Hiroshi Nakajima.

It said one third of all deaths related to smoking were in developing economies. — Sapa-Reuter

High tobacco toll in Western Cape, study shows

Health Reporter

ONE in five people in the Western Cape dies of a tobacco-related disease, far higher than the national rate of one in nine.

The latest figures for smoking in South Africa also show that 59 percent of coloured people smoke, the highest smoking rate of all groups.

Thirty-six percent of Asians, 35 percent of whites and 31 percent of blacks smoked.

These figures come from a representative study of more than 2 200 adults conducted in February this year by the Medical Research Council and the Human Sciences Research Council.

Fifty-two percent of South African men and 17 percent of

women smoke.

These figures indicate that the 59 percent smoking rate in the coloured population is a 12 percent increase on 1992 figures, with overall national smoking rates increasing just three percent.

The death rate from lung cancer has risen 100 percent for coloured men and 300 percent for coloured women in the

last 20 years. The researchers say urgent interventions are needed in this population group.

Derek Yach, MRC group executive for community health research, said the Western Cape had the highest proportion (62 percent) of household members exposed to tobacco smoke.

ARC 31/5/95

87

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KATHRYN STRACHAN**'SA must unify in its fight against tobacco'**

WITH President Nelson Mandela today receiving the World Health Organisation medal in recognition of his leading role in tobacco control, it is now up to Cabinet to show there really is a spirit of collaboration within government that will ensure all departments work towards improving health and welfare.

Mandela's clear message to the country about the need to curb tobacco use provides visionary direction for policy makers, says Derek Yach, executive director of community health at the Medical Research Council.

Yach was recently appointed to head up a WHO team, based in Geneva, which will be responsible for developing a renewed global strategy.

According to Yach, all departments need to work towards this common goal as there are sound economic reasons to control tobacco in SA. Investing in tobacco companies should be discouraged, marketing of tobacco products in Africa should be banned and increased tobacco excise tax should be used to fund health programmes.

The rationale behind this argument is that the World Bank has recently updated its estimate of the economic burden of the global trade in tobacco. It found that tobacco consumption resulted in net economic loss, and anti-tobacco policies were therefore cost-effective and helped the economy, in addition to saving lives.

The World Bank estimated that the net loss induced by each 1 000 tons of tobacco consumed amounted to \$57m. In 1990, 7-million tons of tobacco were consumed worldwide. By the bank's measure, this represented a global loss of almost \$400bn — more than a third of which occurred in the developing world.

The World Bank also concluded that socio-economic development, urbanisation and associated changes in income

were strong determinants of increased consumption, particularly in the presence of extensive advertising and cheap cigarettes. For that reason they came up with a policy which emphasised the need to reduce both tobacco supply and demand.

The bank does not lend for, or invest in, tobacco production. In countries such as Malawi and Zimbabwe, where tobacco counts for more than 10% of exports, it seeks to help these countries diversify away from tobacco.

Since anti-smoking campaigns are among the most cost-effective in the health sector, a combination of approaches that include increasing excise tax, banning advertising and sponsorship, banning sales to children, and educational programmes should form part of any public health service's primary health care package.

Yach said tobacco companies were feeling the pressure of the anti-smoking lobby and the attractiveness of their investment potential was declining, with shareholders avoiding companies whose profits were strongly dependent on local cigarette sales.

This coincided with other signs of a growing unacceptability of the tobacco industry, such as the Community Growth Fund's exclusion of tobacco companies from its pension fund portfolios. In the sports, culture and arts arenas, there was also increasing support for a promotional fund which was paid for through an increased tobacco excise tax, to replace tobacco sponsorships.

The health impact of tobacco in SA was already significant, said Yach. At least 25 000 deaths a year were tobacco-related.

(87) 0031/5/95
Continuing to provide protection to the industry through preferential loan systems, public funded research of improved tobacco plants, low cigarette prices, failure to completely ban sponsorship, and the failure to implement the new legislation that banned sales of cigarettes to children, were examples of failed economic and health policies, Yach said.

While Finance Minister Chris Liebenberg acknowledged in his Budget speech the need to increase excise tax to improve health and generate revenue, the increase was still below "acceptable levels".

Tobacco products were today cheaper in real terms than they were three decades ago. And while 60% of the pack price went to tax in 1960, the percentage had dropped to 38% — among the lowest figures in the world and way below Zimbabwe (50%) and most European countries.

Increasing tobacco excise tax not only had wide public support but was a powerful public health intervention in its own right. It avoided the need to increase payroll taxes, sales tax or possibly significant increases in the tax on medical aids. It was therefore crucial that government reconsidered its approach to earmarking in the light of these facts, he said.

"Tobacco control is integral to the overall philosophy of the RDP and to this World No-Tobacco Day, which focuses on the economic dimensions of tobacco use.

"It is the Minister in charge of the RDP office, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Trade and Industry who need to take cognisance of this policy. The Health Ministry has done its job."

Tobacco legislation takes effect

BD 3/15/95

(87)

Kathryn Strachan

TODAY is World No Tobacco Day. D-Day for displaying the new health warnings on all tobacco advertising, whether in print, in the cinema, on billboards, on television or radio.

Medical Research Council representative Derek Yach said yesterday that tobacco companies had taken down the signs on billboards, rather than display the legislated health warning.

Many signs had been replaced by health messages warning the public on drinking and driving.

He urged the public to press charges if they came across contraventions of the new legislation.

The Health Department has also introduced a free phone quit line from today. It estimated that 60% of South Africans had tried to give up smoking more than once, and that extra support was needed.

Yach said that while the new legislation was welcomed, it was still flawed because it included only warnings and failed to control trade-

marks and sports sponsorships which is a large factor in reaching the targeted audience.

Over the next three months there will be discussions over draft legislation controlling smoking in the workplace and public utilities.

Yach said SA's level of tobacco-related deaths was the worst on the continent, comparable to countries such as Thailand and Brazil.

The MRC and the HSRC yesterday also released the findings of a national survey which showed that the number of children and non-smokers exposed to tobacco smoke at home had reached critical levels as nearly 50% of respondents reported that at least one member of their household smoked.

The survey found that one in three South Africans smoked. The rate had risen by 3% over the past three years. The coloured population group had the highest smoking rate at 59%, followed by Asians (36%), whites (35%) and blacks (31%).

"This exposure to smoke at home is already a probable cause of the high

rates of low birth weight, asthma, acute respiratory infections and pneumonia in children," said researcher Priscilla Reddy.

She said research in the last three years in areas such as Soweto, Eldorado Park, the Vaal Triangle, Mitchells Plain and Bishop Lavis had highlighted the relationship between mothers who smoke and low birth weight, and the adverse effect of parental smoking on acute respiratory infections and asthma in children.

The survey showed that this knowledge was not sufficient to stop people exposing their children to the harmful effects of tobacco. Instead, a comprehensive community based programme, backed by a price hike making cigarettes less affordable to children, was needed.

In another survey by the MRC and the Greater Johannesburg TMC it was found that nine out of 10 children aged between 10 and 12 were able to buy cigarettes from 200 retail outlets in the area.

● See Page 15

SABC proposes reduction of television advertising revenue

Ingrid Salgado

BD 3/15/95

THE SABC would reduce television advertising revenue from 73% of television income to 50%, while licence fee revenue would rise 5% and government contributions 15%, the group told the Independent Broadcasting Authority yesterday.

This would free commercial revenue for new broadcasters and would force the SABC to consider alternative income sources, it said.

Licence fee revenue would increase from 20% to 25% of total income, government would be asked to provide 15% and revenue from other sources would increase from 7% to 10%.

The broadcaster would put in place mechanisms to increase licence fee revenue, including improvements to its collection system and receipt of income from levies on electricity. It would ask government to provide additional revenue as compensation for the sale of the SABC-owned Sentech, which provides a video signal distribution function.

The funding proposals form part of the SABC's restructuring plans, which also provide for "channel surfing" — switching between its proposed three channels.

SABC spokesman Solly Mokoetle said news in all 11 official languages would be given airtime. Seven 30-minute news broadcasts would be aired across the channels every weekday.

Channel Three would be a predominantly English channel catering for specialised interests, while Channels One and Two would cater for the 10 other languages.

Tsonga and Venda would eventually be given news coverage in the Northern Transvaal.

Channel Three would keep the familiar TV1 format, but all news bulletins would be in English.

The transformation would be a transitional measure and would be launched in February next year. The SABC would continue to refine its proposals.

Mokoetle said channel surfing would allow viewers to switch between channels if they did not understand certain languages. This ensured each major language grouping had coverage on at least one channel during prime-time viewing.

SABC CE Zwelakhe Sisulu said the corporation hoped to spread advertising equitably across the three channels, but it would probably initially be predominant on the English channel.

Police seize Durban porn

Bonile Ngqiyaza

PORNOGRAPHIC material was seized during police raids on about five Durban shops on Monday following complaints from the public, police said.

Col Bala Naidoo said the docket would be forwarded to the senior prosecutor.

At least 70 adult video tapes were confiscated from the offices of Adult Video News Magazine.

Magazine publisher Cliff Naidoo said his lawyers were considering lodging an application in the Durban Supreme Court today.

He said "most companies involved in the industry are using the proposed Film and Publications Bill as their guideline in the absence of fair legislation".

Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi said last month the draft Act could not be seen as legalising pornography and the old Publications Act remained in force.

Today's the day to stub out the habit

(87) Star 31/5/95

■ BY JANINE SIMON

Mandatory health warnings on cigarette advertising come into effect today, World No-Tobacco Day, as part of South Africa's fight against smoking.

Other events include the presentation in Vancouver, Canada, of the World Health Organisation's No-Tobacco Medal to Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma, on behalf of President Mandela, and the launch of a national "Quitline" to help those who want to give up.

The Greater Johannesburg council will be launching a campaign to alert retailers that it is illegal to sell cigarettes to a child aged 16 or less.

The theme of World No-Tobacco Day is "Tobacco costs more than you think", to highlight the economic impact of tobacco, which causes an estimated R3,5-billion loss in the public sector due to early death and lost productivity. Figures released by the Medical

Research Council showed one in three adult South Africans smoke.

Curbing smoking required a multifaceted approach including pricing and targeting of health promotion activities, said MRC principal investigator, Priscilla Reddy.

■ From today, all print advertising must carry one of eight mandatory health warnings. Cinema advertisements must be preceded and followed by a health warning, and the 21 radio stations carrying cigarette advertisements must broadcast five public health/anti-smoking messages a day.

The tobacco industry has negotiated an extension, until October, for mandatory health warnings on cigarette packets.

Billboards must carry the health warning along the top, but the industry has again negotiated an extension until October, when the warnings will appear at the bottom of the boards.

► Tide turning against tobacco - Page 15

Shops ignore age limit on sale of cigarettes

(87)

CPW 31/5/95

■ BY BOBBY BROWN

Ahead of World No-Tobacco Day today it was still possible for a child to buy cigarettes.

The Star yesterday commissioned a 12-year-old — in her school uniform — to buy a packet of cigarettes from a small store on the East Rand.

No questions were asked when Jessica Dorasamy bought a pack. She later went back to exchange it for a different brand.

An assistant at the shop in Palm Ridge said that they "do not sell cigarettes to children

under the age of 16".

The Star pointed out that they just had done and the assistant replied that the girl had told her they were for her father.

A survey released by the Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council yesterday showed that nine out of 10 children aged between 10 and 12 years were able to purchase cigarettes from about 200 retailers in Lenasia, Soweto, Hillbrow and Rosebank.

► More reports
- Pages 5 and 15

HEALTH RISKS 'UNDERESTIMATED'

'Tobacco costs SA far more than it earns', (87)

CF 31/5/95

JOHANNESBURG: Tobacco will kill 10 million people in the next four decades, mostly in developing countries, the Department of Health said yesterday.

TOBACCO cost South Africa R3 for every one it earned because of damage to health and lost productivity, the Department of Health said yesterday.

In a statement to mark World No-Tobacco Day, the department said the health risks of tobacco were underestimated because of "the 30 to 40 year time-lag between the onset of smoking and the deaths that it causes".

Citing World Health Organisation statistics, the department said 10 million people would die in a "tobacco epidemic" within the next 40 years, 70% of them in developing countries.

Health lobbyists urged the government to impose tougher tobacco laws after a study found that one in three South African adults

smoked.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) study found that seven million people smoked.

"Curbing the smoking rate in this country will require more than education and warnings on adverts ... It requires an approach that includes price hikes ... and a strategic targeting of health promotion in communities," the report said.

Anti-smoking laws which take effect today will enforce smoking bans in public places, force advertisers to publish health warnings and outlaw the sale of cigarettes to children under 16.

Health workers are also lobbying the government to push up

excise taxes on cigarettes, now at 39%, to fund health promotion programmes.

"Public support does exist for tougher legislation by the government," HSRC spokeswoman Ms Anna Meyer Weitz told reporters.

The MRC's Dr Derek Yach said over half the men and women polled in the nationwide survey were in favour of government support to farmers who replaced tobacco with other crops.

"In the predominantly rural provinces of North-West, Northern Transvaal and Eastern Cape, two-thirds of adults supported this move."

● The World Health Organisation has honoured President Nelson Mandela with its prestigious Medal on No-Smoking. The medal will be presented on his behalf to Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma in Vancouver today. — Reuter

World No-Tobacco Day 1995 is a milestone in the fight to protect South Africans from tobacco addiction. Janine Simon reports that presidential and public support is there, but tobacco corporations aren't beaten in a day.

Mide turning against tobacco

There was embarrassed laughter yesterday when health officials at a pre-World No Tobacco Day press conference revealed that all that awaits those who break the law regarding health warnings on tobacco advertising is six months imprisonment.

Embarrassed because it seems a puny punishment for contravening laws which aim to stem the smoking epidemic in areas like the Western Cape, for example, one in five deaths is said to be tobacco-related.

Already, 7-million adult South Africans, or one in three, smoke. The figure is up 3% from 1992, and rising, as tobacco companies try to replace shrinking heavily-protected Western markets with new, young, vulnerable African consumers.

The highest smoking rates are in the Northern Cape (55%), Western Cape (48%) and North West Province (46%), and the coloured population group has the highest national smoking rate, at 59% — up 12% from 1992. This is why researchers believe urgent intervention is needed to prevent future tobacco-related deaths.

Deaths from lung cancer have risen 100% in coloured men, and 300% in coloured women in the last 20 years — one sign of tobacco's profound economic impact.

A total of R3,5-billion is lost in the public sector through premature mortality, loss of productivity and death due to tobacco-related illnesses. Not for nothing is this year's theme "Tobacco costs more than you think".

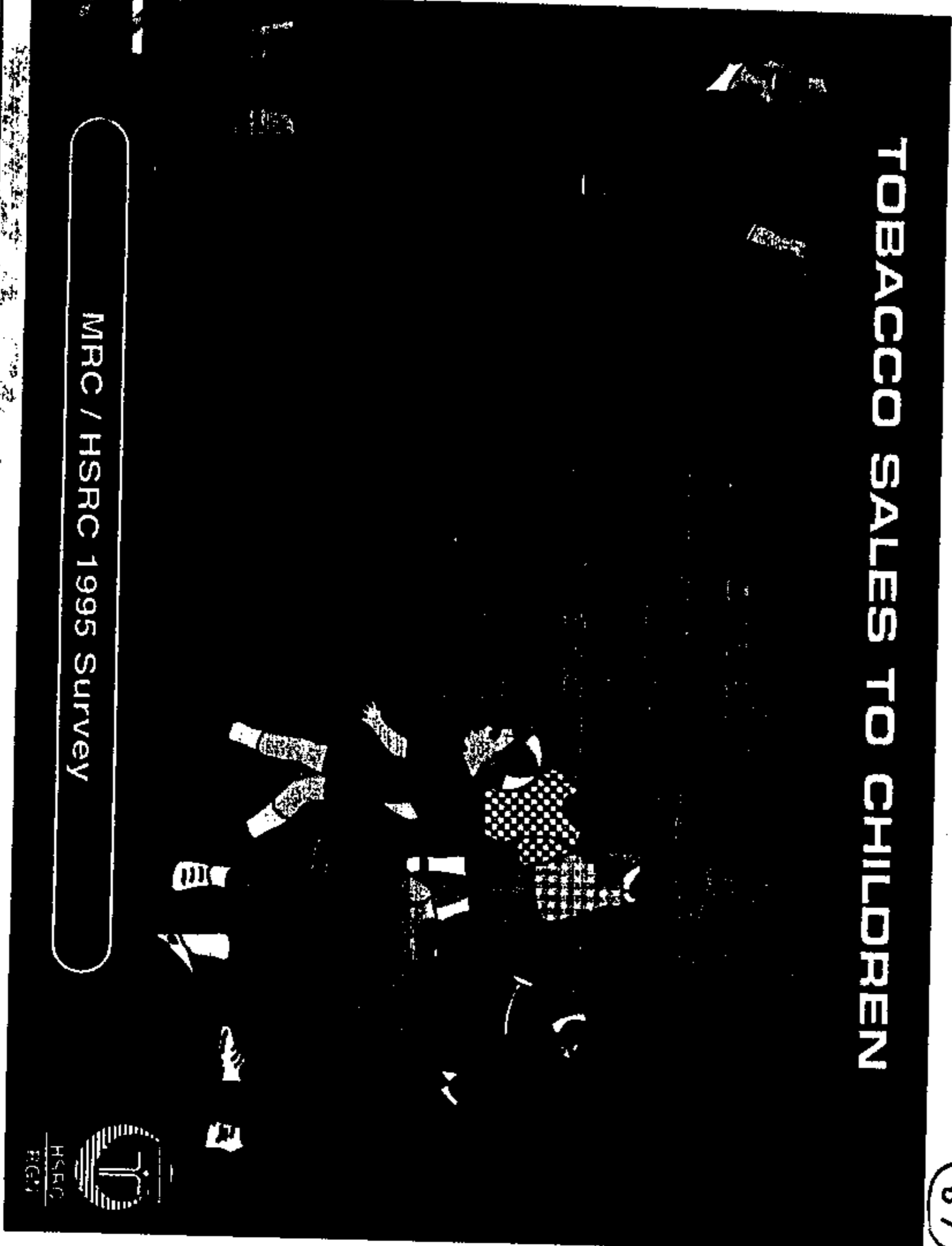
"It highlights the need for RDP planners to realise that tobacco production is not compatible with development," says leading anti-tobacco campaigner Dr Derek Yach of the Medical Research Council.

Children are most at risk to the smoking epidemic. A new national survey has shown that the number of children exposed to tobacco smoke at home has already reached critical levels, and is the probably cause of the high rates of low birth weight babies, asthma, acute respiratory infections and pneumonia in children.

The Tobacco Control Act has banned the sale of cigarettes to children under 12.

But a Medical Research Council and Greater Johannesburg TMC study found that nine out of 10 children aged between 10 and 12 — and very often dressed in school uniform — were able to buy cigarettes from cafes, supermarkets, spazas and hawkers.

Today will see the start of a major campaign to educate shop owners about the law, but all



TOBACCO SALES TO CHILDREN

MRC / HSRC 1995 Survey



87 Star 31/5/95

anti-tobacco legislation can only do so much, officials admit.

Its real value, and that of World No-Tobacco Day, is to mobilise passive smokers into protecting their health and that of their children, explains Yach.

President Mandela's public support of the anti-smoking campaign — rewarded today by the World Health Organisation's Medal on No-Tobacco — has given the lobby a role model, and enormous credibility, he says.

And there is also a measurable groundswell of public support for tobacco restrictions in the Western Cape, for example, the first South African non-smokers rights group has been formed, and the SA National Civic Organisation and the Progressive Primary Health Care Network have thrown their weight behind anti-smoking lobby.

More specifically, the MRC and the Human Sciences Research Council's February 1995 study showed that 69% of adults, including smokers, support a total ban on tobacco advertising on radio; 78% support local health departments regulating smoking in public places, and 54% of them were for smoking regulations in all public places.

The legislation, weak and toothless as it is, is the thin edge of the wedge, and Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma has won

respect for implementing every control that she said she would despite heavy opposition from tobacco companies, and even certain Ministers.

Particularly important is the fact that taxes on tobacco have increased 55% in two years, although this is less than the 100% anti-tobacco campaigners had wanted.

New Zealand and Canadian studies have shown price is the single most important factor in curbing smoking, and more than 50% of South Africans support tobacco excise tax to fund health programmes.

There are loopholes, as in sports sponsorship by tobacco companies, but legislation must be attainable, if it is to be forced.

While South Africa leads the continent, both in feeling the health costs of tobacco and legislation to curb its demand — other countries at comparative stages of development, particularly in south east Asia, are much further down the line.

In five years time, says Yach, we should see improved tax legislation, tighter advertising controls, strictly enforced bans on cigarette sales to children, and an integrated preventative school curriculum which stunts the industry's seed bed of new smokers.

World No-Tobacco Day 1995 is a milestone in the fight to protect South Africans from tobacco addiction. Janine Simon reports that presidential and public support is there, but tobacco corporations aren't beaten in a day.

Trade turning against tobacco

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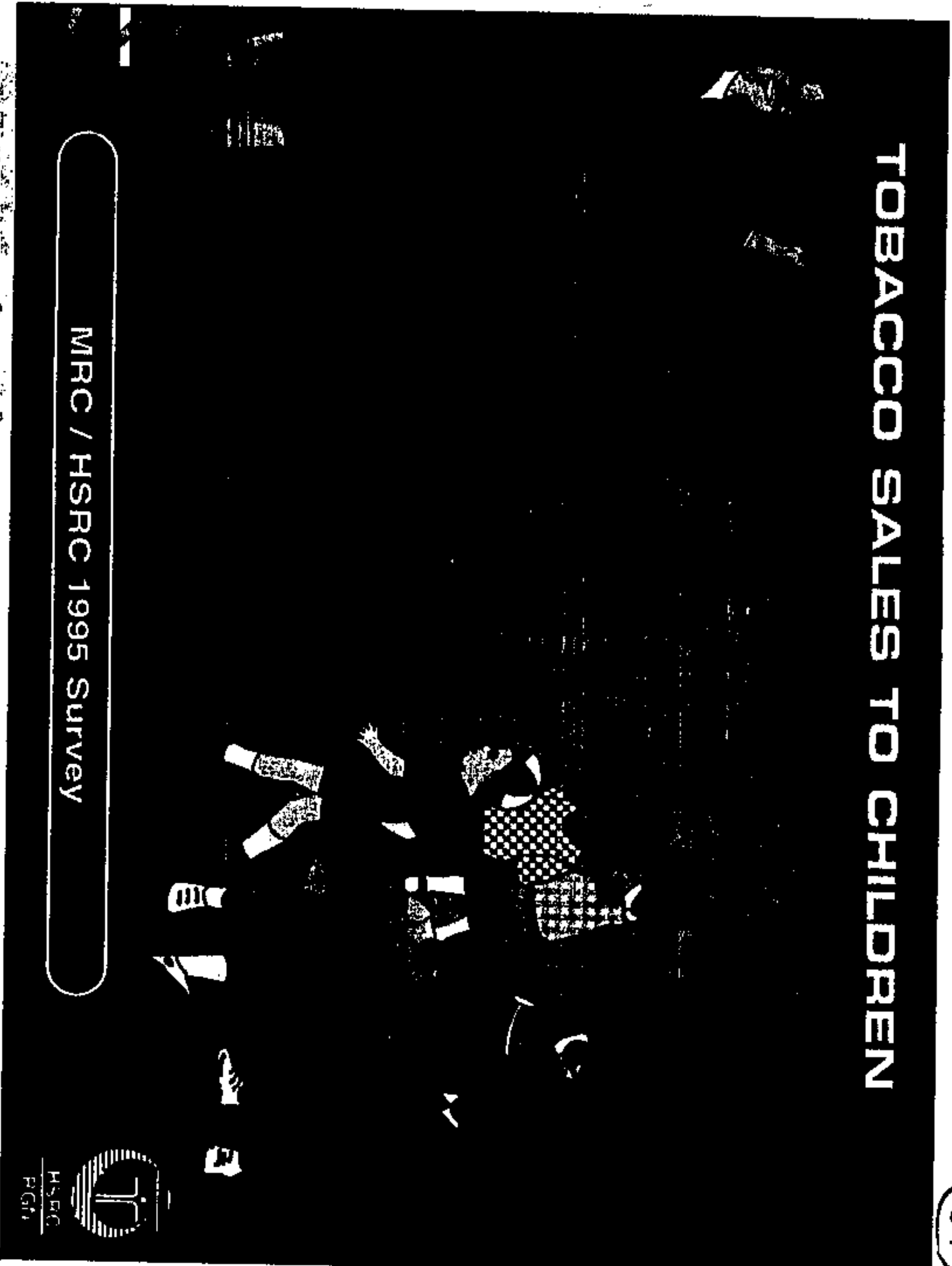
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HEALTH FEATURE 'Govt should support farmers wanting to quit tobacco production'

Survey on smoking in SA places children at big risk

(81) Sowetan 31/5/95

By Mokgadi Pela

■ **CONTROL LAX** *Nine out of 10*

kids can buy cigarettes in metropole area:



EXPOSURE OF CHILDREN TO tobacco smoke is extremely high in this country, the Medical Research Council and Human Sciences Research Council said on the eve of World No Tobacco Day.

Announcing the results of a nationwide survey on the status of smoking, knowledge of effects on health and attitudes towards tobacco control, researchers say this exposure results in high rates of low birth weight, asthma, acute respiratory infections and pneumonia.

Adverse effects

Research carried out in places such as Soweto, Eldorado Park, the Vaal Triangle, Mitchells Plain and Bishop Lavis have in the last three years indicated the extent of the relationship between mothers' smoking behaviour and low birth weight, and the adverse effect of parental smoking on acute respiratory infections and asthma in children.

The survey, which was funded by the Department of Health, was conducted in February among 2 238 respondents in the nine provinces.

Tobacco sales

Researchers feel that existing legislation aimed at stopping tobacco sales to children should be extensively advertised and fully implemented by local authorities.

According to them, evidence suggests that existence of the Tobacco Products Act, which bans sales of cigarettes to children under 16, is widely unknown.

Results from the recent MRC-HSRC survey show that:

- Nationally, only 62 percent of adults believe that children will be unable to buy cigarettes in future — this shows that the law is largely unknown.

- The 1995 MRC-Johannesburg survey found, in a survey of 200 retail outlets in the Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan area, that nine out of 10 children between the ages of 10 and 12 years were able to buy cigarettes over the counter (either singles or in packs).

Little variation

Importantly, suburbs sampled included the range of diversity in the metropole. There is little variation in the ability of

children to buy cigarettes by suburb or by the type of retail outlet.

On the status of smoking and exposure to cigarette smoke, the study finds that a total of seven million South Africans smoke. The figures are 52 percent men and 17 percent women. The provinces with the highest smoking rates are Northern Cape (55 percent), Western Cape (48 percent) and North-West (46 percent).

Smoking rates are highest among the "Coloured" population (59 percent), followed by Asians (36 percent), whites (35 percent) and Africans (31 percent). Researchers say smoking among coloureds has increased by 12 percent since 1992.

The effect of gender difference on smoking is highest among Asians (48 percent for men and six percent for women) and Africans (53 percent for men and 10 percent for women).

Among coloureds the figures were 58 percent for men and 59 percent for women. Researchers say the extremely high proportion of coloured female smokers is cause for concern.

Attempts to quit

On attempts by smokers to quit, the study shows that 60 percent of smokers have tried to quit at least once. Half of them have tried at least twice. When they tried to quit, 58 percent found there was no help available.

The three major reasons for wanting to stop were:

- To protect their own health.
- Smoking was too expensive; and
- Their doctor was against it.

Researchers say that with increasing awareness of the adverse health effects of tobacco and rising costs, most smokers want to quit but do not know how.

Quitline to start

The survey calls on primary health care clinics and employees to provide support to smokers wanting to quit. "The Government-funded Quitline, due to start soon, is a small step in the right direction for smokers with access to telephone lines," they say.

Regarding attitudes towards tobacco

control, the study finds that:

- Levels of public support for a wide range of control measures are high, even in the absence of a nationwide media campaign aimed at increasing awareness.

- A total of 61 percent of adults support a total ban on tobacco advertising on radio (69 percent of non-smokers and 46 percent of smokers).

- A total of 78 percent of adults support local health authorities regulating smoking in public places (83 percent of non-smokers and 70 percent of smokers).

- Over half of all adults (53 percent) believe the Government should give support to farmers wanting to replace tobacco with other crops.

- While 19 percent of adults support increases in general sales tax and 30 percent increases in excise tax on tobacco, half would support an increase in tobacco excise tax if the money is used for health.

Researchers further note that:

- Public support exists for tougher measures to be introduced against tobacco use, promotion, pricing and growing.

- Local authorities are assured of strong public support if they restrict smoking in accordance with the Tobacco Products Control Act.

- The warnings on adverts (due for implementation in the second half of the year) are not sufficient control over tobacco promotion for most South Africans — in particular a ban on radio adverts has wide support.

Diversification

- At a time when South African tobacco leaf output has fallen, the support for Government to invest in diversification is crucial. In contrast, the Department of Agriculture and the Agricultural Research Council in concert with tobacco manufacturers encourages tobacco growing.

- With Government looking for extra revenue to finance health promotion and PHC, the use of excise tobacco tax for this purpose has public support and should be seen as an opportunity to act.

STOP KILLING ME ... This seems to be the message from Sowetan staffer Noxolo Molaoa to colleague Joshua Raboroko who seemed unaware of the World No Smoking Day goal.

PIC: PAT SEBOKO

Most want to quit but don't know how to go about it

Anger at World Cup tobacco ads

Kathryn Strachan

87
SP 116195

WHILE SA yesterday came under the spotlight with President Nelson Mandela's acceptance of an international anti-smoking award, the country has angered health lobbyists in other countries for promoting tobacco at the Rugby World Cup.

Health organisations and anti-smoking groups in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and France — where tobacco sports sponsorship is banned — have contacted the SA Medical Research Council to express their outrage at Ganloise and Winfield promotions which appear in international coverage of the event. The organisations said the World Cup should take into account the legislation in their countries, and not just the laws of the host country.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma last night accepted the WHO medal on behalf of Mandela in Vancouver, Canada. Mandela is the only world leader to have spoken out strongly against tobacco.

In his acceptance statement, Mandela said millions of children faced premature death from diseases caused by tobacco. "This preventable tragedy must be averted," he said.

Some sectors of society benefited from tobacco sales, but economic losses resulted from premature deaths of breadwinners, medical treatment and lost productivity caused by tobacco-related diseases.

The Medical Association of SA yesterday called for a dedicated health tax on tobacco products.

Major says he lied about 'lost' cash

Deborah Fine

FORMER Vlakplaas C10 security police unit member Maj Chappies Klopper admitted in the Transvaal Supreme Court yesterday he had made a false statement to cover up for a narcotics bureau colleague who had "lost" R50 000 of State money.

Klopper is the key State witness in the trial of former Vlakplaas commander Eugene de Kock who has pleaded not guilty to a total of 121 charges including murder, fraud and the illegal possession of arms and ammunition.

Attempting to refute Klopper's claim that he had committed no crimes after leaving C10 in October 1992 to join the John Vorster Square narcotics squad, defence counsel Flip Hattingh SC cross-examined Klopper on discrepancies between entries he had made in his diary about the infiltration of a Hillbrow drug syndicate in 1993 and a statement he made about the syndicate.

According to Klopper's diary, he had paid the syndicate about R33 000 in State funds in an attempt to trap the drug ring into selling police 10kg of cocaine.

The syndicate had never delivered the cocaine, but one of its members, a Chinese woman, had sold Kloppers 600g of heroin and 12 000 mandrax tablets. He had later arrested her, but

she had been released on bail and disappeared. As far as he knew, she had still not been prosecuted.

According to a statement made by Kloppers in September 1993, he had paid the syndicate about R95 000. In the statement he claimed to have given the syndicate an additional R50 000 to fly the cocaine from Hong Kong to Lusaka.

Asked to explain the discrepancy between the figures, Kloppers said he had given the syndicate about R10 000 more than he had recorded in his diary. He could not say why he had not recorded the amounts.

He had also given more than R50 000 of the "show" drug money to a Narcotics Bureau colleague who had "lost" this amount when a suitcase containing money had "disappeared" from his office. He had then lied in his statement to cover up for the colleague.

Kloppers denied a submission by Hattingh that perhaps De Kock had also signed various fraudulent statements and informer claims at Vlakplaas in the belief they were bona fide documents.

"No, at the farm (Vlakplaas) it was different. De Kock knew about everything," he said.

The trial was postponed to tomorrow to allow the defence team time to research certain aspects of their cross-examination.

Bread price rise feared

Louise Pook

87
SP 116195

A 30% rise in sales of dry land wheat seed has sparked expectations of a bumper crop, but there are fears the bread price could still rise after November when the new wheat price takes effect.

A special Wheat Board fund, from profits on imports, is used to "subsidise" the bread price. But Wheat Board GM Louis van Staden said yesterday a good crop and lower imports could put pressure on the fund, leaving less money to prop up the bread price.

A rise in the international wheat price and changes to the exchange rate could also have an effect on the bread price, he said.

But National Chamber of Milling GM Jannie de Villiers said a good wheat crop could bring down the bread price.

Chamber of Baking executive director Nic Alberts said wheat formed only 28% of the cost of bread, but a higher wheat price would affect the bread price if the cost of flour rose.

He conceded fewer imports as a result of a good crop could push up the bread price.

Smoking ban

(87) CT 11/8/95
CITY Council assistant
medical officer of health,
Dr Ivan Bromfield, said last
night he would like to see
anti-smoking legislation
amended to include a ban
on smoking in the work-
place. — Staff Reporter

Bid to find alternative to tobacco crops 'is failing'

(87) (146)
GENEVA — Developing countries' attempts to find substitutes for tobacco production have so far been disappointing, according to a study by the UN Conference on Trade and Development.

The study is timed to coincide with World No-Tobacco Day today sponsored by the World Health Organisation (WHO), which this year has made the tobacco industry its prime target.

BD 2/6/95
Citing World Bank estimates that tobacco costs the world more than \$200bn a year, the WHO says avoiding efforts to control tobacco use out of concern for the job security of tobacco farmers makes no more sense than it does to avoid world peace out of concern for jobs in the arms industry.

However, the conference's study shows that the five countries which are most heavily dependent on tobacco production — Malawi, Zimbabwe, Brazil, Bulgaria and China — have not yet found equally profitable or job-creating alternatives.

Tobacco accounts for nearly 75% of Malawi's export earnings and the 700 000 workers in the tobacco industry, together with their families, represent just more than 50% of the country's population.

In Zimbabwe, tobacco contributes 40% of export earnings and 1% of GDP.

In Brazil the tobacco industry employs 750 000 full-time and seasonal workers.

Available data on profitability of alternative crops in Brazil, Malawi and Zimbabwe show that tobacco is far more profitable, the conference says.

And while in Zimbabwe some large-scale farmers are experimenting with high-value crops such as fruit, vegetables and flowers, these are subsidised from tobacco earnings and are not self-sufficient.

In Zimbabwe, as in Malawi and Brazil, tobacco growers are predominantly small-scale family farmers.

With global tobacco demand increasing 2% a year, the five tobacco-dependent countries are unlikely to face problems in the near future.

However, in the event of reduced tobacco exports, diversification would require a major development effort to replace the incomes and jobs derived from the tobacco industry.

The European Union spends more on subsidising tobacco production than any other crop and, at \$3.8m, the amount spent each day is greater than the total spent by the European Commission on tobacco control in a year, the WHO says. — Financial Times.

Mild version of tobacco warnings

WM 2-8/6/95

(87) (15)

Pat Sidley

WEDNESDAY — D-day for health warnings on tobacco advertising — was an ultra-light affair.

● Many radio stations were exempted from broadcasting cigarette ads with health warnings.

● Warnings on cigarette packs did not appear after being given a stay of execution

● Some tobacco companies simply withdrew their ads from the marketplace.

Legislation due to have been enforced on June 1 to regulate the advertising of tobacco products — more particularly its unhealthy side-effects — has been severely watered down after intense lobbying by the tobacco industry.

Listeners to 11 radio stations will hear unchanged advertising messages from cigarette companies. They will however get to hear five 30-second slots each day of anti-smoking messages compiled by the Department of Health.

This arrangement came about because some tobacco companies threatened radio stations that if they had to comply with the regulations and compile ads which contained both the health message as well as the sales pitch — they would withdraw all their advertising.

The regulations as they were originally drafted also provided for strong warnings to be placed on packets of cigarettes.

This move, however, met with cries of anguish from the tobacco companies — they could not possibly (in five months) get the new message onto their packages, or get their overseas counterparts to print packages which complied with the regulations. So they have been given until October to put the message on.

This applies to four companies. But a fifth importer of Belgian cigarettes, who was unaware the grace period, has managed to comply with the original regulations and the packets will show the warnings.

The print media have been hit hard by the discomfort of the tobacco companies — but to a lesser

extent. ~~Rembrant~~, one of the world's big four tobacco companies, is still advertising — with the new health warnings. Camel have withdrawn their print advertisements for three months because of the new rules. The *Mail & Guardian* was informed of this in writing.

One major company which represents Benson & Hedges and John Player Specials has withdrawn all its print advertising, hitting newspaper companies severely. However, a representative of the agency which represents the brands, denied there was any connection between their move and the new regulations. The company was re-assessing its advertising at the moment, he said.

The media companies, along with the tobacco companies, were among the few groups who opposed the new regulations when they were being drafted last year.

For those, along with the highest profile non-smoker in the country, President Nelson Mandela, who wish to see a smoke-free environment, there is some hope on the horizon. Susan van Niekerk who is responsible for the tobacco issues in the Department of Health, is in the process of drafting legislation which ought to see smoking in the work place effectively banned. She said this week that the legislation the department envisaged would ban smoking in shared spaces.

Meanwhile, the Medical Research Council presented horrendous statistics this week showing that among certain South Africans, the effects of smoking are disastrous. For instance, in the Western Cape one in five deaths is caused by smoking-related diseases. The death rate from lung cancer has risen some 300 percent among coloured women over the past two decades. And new findings printed in the current *British Medical Journal* show that women who smoke for 30 years or more are significantly more likely to get breast cancer than their non-smoking counterparts.

● The Medical Association of South Africa has called for a dedicated health tax on tobacco products.

Smokers could soon be slapped in prison

By CAS ST LEGER

NON-SMOKERS could soon have their smoking colleagues thrown in jail for lighting up in the office. And the bad news for nicotine addicts is that smoking could be banned in the prisons, too.

New tobacco-control regulations have been drafted by Suzanne van Niekerk, the co-ordinator of the National Anti-Smoking Lobby in the health department. She expects them to be published in the Government Gazette within two months.

Then the public has three months to object and to make counter-suggestions before the regulations become law.

If the plan is passed, smokers will have just five months to win over the hearts and minds of their non-smoking colleagues, or they could find themselves in prison for six months.

From her first day in office, the Minister of Health, Dr Nkosazana Zuma, has been determined to

stun out smoking in the workplace. She asked Mrs van Niekerk to find the ways and means of doing so.

Mrs van Niekerk has based her draft on New Zealand's anti-smoking laws.

Should her draft become law, no smoking will be allowed in an office occupied by more than one person without the non-smoker's written permission.

In open-plan offices, each non-smoker must supply written permission before smokers will be allowed to light up.

Mrs van Niekerk said smoking rooms might be considered.

Employers who failed to lay down the anti-cigarette rules would be liable to a fine of several thousand rands or six months' imprisonment. Or the penalty would fall on staff who failed to comply.

Smoking in conference rooms, lifts, corridors and other shared areas will also be banned.

Company cafeterias would have to bar at least half their dining areas to smokers — or hold two sessions, the first for non-smokers.

Restaurants would also have to provide "at least half" of their tables to non-smokers.

Smoking would not be allowed in schools, universities or technicals.

There would be no smoking in taxis, buses or trains (except where smoking compartments were designated).

The clean-air rule would also be applied to hospitals and prisons.

Pub-goers alone will be permitted to smoke at will.

A Correctional Services spokesman, Brigadier Chris Olckers, said his department had not been consulted on the draft regulations.

"Banning smoking in prisons would cause some unhappiness," he said. "The majority of prisoners smoke."

Brigadier Olckers said a smoke-free policy had already been implemented. No smoking was permitted in prison hospitals and canteens, or in cells where the majority of prisoners voted not to smoke.

Given prison overpopulation, he said it would probably be unfeasible to ban smoking for a prisoner confined to his cell for 23 hours a day.

As a smoker, Brigadier Olckers said he would probably be first to fall victim to a jail penalty for lighting up.

While one anti-tobacco campaigner, Dr Derek Yach of the Medical Research Council, bases his fight on punishing the tobacco companies rather than the individual smoker, Mrs van Niekerk relies on the constitution. "There is no right to smoke in any constitution. But there is a right to clean air." She said the constitution provided for the right to "a clean and healthy environment".

Mrs van Niekerk, who said she drew up the draft without legal background, gets two or three complaints about smoking in the workplace every day.

Mrs van Niekerk said a quitting video had been prepared, doctors had been instructed on how to counsel their patients, and companies would be encouraged to underwrite quitting programmes for their staff.

(87) ST 4/6/95

Africa rethinks smoking

□ 'Wisdom of allowing trade must be re-examined

JENNY VIALI, Health Reporter

WITH a person dying every 11 seconds from a smoking-related disease, and smoking the number one preventable cause of death, African countries should re-examine the wisdom of allowing the tobacco trade to flourish.

This is the view of John Nkuchia, of the Medical Research Council's community health research group, who says African countries can least afford the economic costs of smoking.

Dr Nkuchia says the time to prevent a major health crisis by implementing tobacco control policies and programmes is running out in Africa. Indeed, he says, countries like South Africa and Kenya have already missed the window of opportunity and must now deal with the reality of managing smoking-related diseases.

In a research paper, Dr Nkuchia says Sub-Saharan Africa is the least prepared region in the world in terms of tobacco-control policies and programmes. Less than seven per cent of health ministries in Africa had an education programme to prevent tobacco use and only about a quarter had restrictions on tobacco advertising.

While the world community has united to

fight the deadly Ebola virus, he says he is less optimistic about the success of containing the deliberate spread of tobacco use.

The cost of smoking in terms of health was well-documented. In terms of cost to society, wealthy nations knew smokers were expensive, not only because they worked less, but also because they caused interpersonal conflicts more than non-smokers, caused more industrial accidents, and were generally a potential liability to businesses. Most wealthy nations were counting the costs of smoking and concluding they couldn't afford the great economic cost of smoking.

Yet, Dr Nkuchia says, we accept as normal the promotion and spread of tobacco into African countries which can least afford the health costs. Africans were being misinformed about the virtues of smoking by tobacco transnationals, and millions of smokers in Africa faced health consequences from tobacco which was freely marketed.

While businesses worldwide are becoming more conscious of the health of their employees, South African businesses are behind in introducing smoking policies, says Dr Nkuchia.

South Africa had the second highest per

capita smoking rate in Africa, with one in three adults smoking.

Dr Nkuchia fears the rise of tobacco-related disease, if not prevented, will undermine the ability of the health sector to concentrate on preventing childhood diseases. This may well reverse the health gains made in Africa during the last 40 years.

One of the problems in Africa was that about a third of health workers, including doctors, smoked, compared with less than five percent in industrialised nations.

These were some of the suggestions he offered as to what Africa could do to prevent tobacco-related diseases:

- The tobacco pandemic was real and African countries needed to acknowledge this fact. African doctors and health professionals were lagging behind in abandoning the smoking habit.
- Selling cigarettes in hospitals and smoking on health care premises must stop.
- Passive smoking must be prevented by prohibiting smoking in public places.
- Parents, pregnant mothers and the public in general must be educated about the dangers of passive smoking.
- Engaging in tobacco trade was a net loss to the society. Tobacco growing and trade needed to be discouraged in Africa.

ARG 7/16/95

(87)

Smoking warning costs Rembrandt a 'healthy' R47-m

BY AUDREY D'ANGELO

Rembrandt Group profits in the year to March 31 were dented partly by the need to comply with health warning regulations for tobacco products.

Rationalisation and introductory losses during the establishment of the Vodacom network and its share of the write down of Gold Fields of SA's investment in Northam Platinum were also factors.

Before these abnormal losses earnings from normal business operations rose by 10,4% to 221,3c (200,9c) a share. After the abnormal items these earnings rose by 5,2% to 211,3c a share.

Cash earnings, excluding the share of retained income by associated companies, slipped by 1,6% to 164,6c (167,3c) a share.

The final dividend rose to 30,36c (26,40c) a share, making a total of 49,96c (43,44c).

Abnormal losses from business operations amounted to R55-million including a non-recurring cost of R47-million to comply with health warning legislation.

The group's interests in

Engen, Malbak and Sappi resulting from the unbundling of Gencor are not equity accounted and only dividends received from these companies are accounted for as income.

Extraordinary items not included in normal business operations amounted to a loss of R154-million compared with a loss of R15-million the previous year.

This included a loss of R114-million as the group's attributable share of the Northam Platinum write down.

Rembrandt Controlling Investments reported earnings of 156,7c (148,8c) a share after abnormal items. The final dividend is 22,48c (19,55c), making a total annual payment of 36,99c.

Rembrandt Technical Investment Corporation reported earnings of 137,6c (130,6c) a share. The final dividend is 19,73c (17,16c) a share making a total annual payment of 32,46c (28,22c).

Technical and Industrial Investments reported earnings of 145,5c (138,3c) after abnormal items. The final dividend is 20,92c (18,19c), making a total of 34,41c (29,92c).

STW 8/6/95

Anti-smoking move

ARC 9/6/95
TEN local authorities have applied for authority in terms of Section 2 of the Tobacco Products Control Act of 1993 to control smoking public places under their jurisdiction. (87)

The Health Policy Council has also approved a two-year plan to prevent staff, patients and visitors using tobacco on health premises.

Call for dagga possession to be decriminalised

TYRONE SEALE, Political Staff

CORRECTIONAL Services Minister Siphon Mzimela says South Africa should consider decriminalising — but not legalising — the possession of dagga.

This would be part of efforts to radically reform this country's "programme of incarceration". ARG 9/6/95

In a hard-hitting speech at the beginning of the debate on the correctional services budget vote, Dr Mzimela said he had no doubt that 35 percent of people in prisons should not be there.

Many had committed crimes that posed no danger to society, but were nevertheless incarcerated, each costing the state between R50 and R80 a day.

Only eight percent of sentenced children were in jail for murder, rape or armed robbery, and all the children in jail were black.

"This makes me very uncomfortable, very suspicious," Dr Mzimela said.

Of the 3 000 women imprisoned in South Africa, the majority had committed crimes that did not warrant imprisonment, and he knew of no instances where women prisoners had caused trouble, tried to escape or fought with warders.

"This suggests that we are using space unnecessarily in our prisons. It would be far cheaper to spend money on correctional supervision."

Many women were in jail for economically motivated crimes, including selling dagga.

Dr Mzimela said it was time to consider decriminalising possession of dagga.

As an instant penalty, the dagga could be confiscated and the person in possession placed under correctional supervision.

It's time to loosen up the dagga laws, Minister says

By TYRONE SEALE
POLITICAL STAFF

Cape Town - Correctional Services Minister Siphon Mzimela says South Africa should consider decriminalising, but not legalising, the possession of dagga.

This would be part of efforts to radically reform this country's "programme of incarceration".

At the beginning of the debate on the Correctional Services budget vote, Mzimela said he had no doubt that 35 percent of people currently in prisons should not be there.

Many had committed crimes that posed no danger to society, but were nevertheless incarcerated, costing the state between R50 and R80 a day per head.

Only eight percent of children were in jail for murder, rape or

armed robbery, and all children in jail were black. Of the 3 000 women jailed in South Africa, the majority had committed crimes that did not warrant imprisonment.

Many of these women were in jail for economically motivated crimes, including the sale of dagga.

Mzimela said it was time to consider decriminalising the possession of dagga.

As an instant penalty, the dagga could be confiscated and the person found in possession could be placed under correctional supervision.

He said the state was spending more than R50 a day imprisoning women who had sold baskets without permits.

TO PAGE 2

◆ Prisons

Mzimela also accused Department of Public Works bureaucrats of wasting millions of rands by designing prisons that were totally useless "warehouses" fit only for cattle.

Mzimela said those officials responsible for the design of prisons and awarded the construction contracts were a "bunch of irresponsible people".

He said the design for a new prison at Goodwood near Cape Town sported 21 libraries, 21 barber shops and 21 dining halls, which would be "totally useless".

star 10/6/95 (87)

Zuma to try for tobacco tax rise

87

ET 12/6/95

JOHANNESBURG: Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma says she will try to persuade the Minister of Finance to increase tobacco tax as part of a campaign to discourage smoking.

Dr Zuma, who returned from Canada where she received the No Tobacco Award, said research showed a tax increase on tobacco did not discourage adult smokers. However, it made it difficult for young starters.

Dagga at the heart of new turf battles in KwaZulu-Natal

ARG-14/6/95

Violence in Kwazulu-Natal shows no sign of abating with some 10 000 lives lost in the past decade. But the warring is being increasingly underlined by drug barons and arms smugglers, reports CHRISTINA LAMB of the Sunday Times in London.

IT is a normal night in Umlazi, near Durban. Masked gunmen have boarded the 6.15 KwaMashu to Umlazi commuter train, spraying a carriage with gunfire before jumping out and disappearing into the crowded township.

One person has died and four are injured. The inside of the carriage appears spray-painted with blood. A pack of cards lies scattered, the joker on top spotted with blood. "We are sick of this fighting," NC Luthuli, the station supervisor, said. "It is like living in a war."

The violence that has claimed 10 000 lives in KwaZulu-Natal over the past decade shows no sign of abating in the new South Africa. Yet something has changed. The fighting was once political — the Inkatha Freedom Party and the African National Congress struggling for turf and power — or feudal, as Zulu chiefs thrashed out old grievances.

Now Natal is increasingly being taken over by drug barons, car thieves, protection racketeers and arms smugglers taking advantage of the political unrest to mask their activities and disrupt any attempts at peacemaking.

"The last thing these people want is peace," said Stanley Brose, an ANC monitor in Bambaye, Natal's marijuana capital. "They know if there is peace, their activities will be easier to spot."

Bambaye is where Mahatma Gandhi lived during his years in South Africa. The ruins of his printing press and house are covered in graffiti. Nearby is a skeleton tree, which marks the boundary between two rival communities. One side is Inkatha and the other ANC, but the real division is between which drug faction they are involved with — Transkei Red or Zulu Green.

Dennis Mkosi, director of the regional peace monitoring office, ex-

plains: "These people were all ANC. They came here from the Transkei looking for work, but soon found they could not leave the place because of the surrounding violence."

"They needed some way of making a living here so turned to smuggling dagga. Eventually they started fighting over trade and one group threatened to expel the others. These people went to the government for protection and were told that first they had to join the IFP."

"So you can now call the two sides ANC and IFP, but the labels have nothing to do with any political or even tribal differences."

Natal is fertile ground for drugs and arms smuggling. Aside from its volatility, it has two ports on the Indian Ocean and borders Mozambique, which has plenty of guns left from 16 years of civil war.

Townships are replete with gangs running protection rackets who demand money from businesses and contractors operating in the area.

Last week a Scottish-born director of a construction company was shot dead in KwaMashu, where he was building a community hall. His company had refused to pay protection money.

Senzo Mchunfu, the ANC's provincial secretary, admits: "It is becoming very difficult to discriminate between criminal and political violence — the whole thing is completely intermeshed. Community workers say the province's political leaders are not helping. Rather than getting together, the IFP is preaching secession and the ANC is advocating a state of emergency and the sending-in of troops."

Mervyn Frost, professor of political science at Natal University, warned: "If President Mandela imposes a state of emergency, that will be handing the IFP a grievance on a platter." — The Sunday Times, London.

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

THE SPIRA INTERVIEW



Hard times looming ahead for politically incorrect tobacco

It's uphill all the way when you're trying to achieve real earnings growth in a declining market. That is the situation facing Utico, plagued by declining cigarette consumption and struggling to make headway against the voracious Rembrandt mammoth, which controls in the region of 85 percent of South Africa's cigarette market.

To make matters worse, Utico, a British American Tobacco subsidiary, is having to cope with increasing competition from low-cost imports.

What to do? Managing director Stuart Sutherland has eschewed the soft option of playing the cards dealt.

"We aren't satisfied with our market share. We've mapped out a strategy aimed at growing our share of the market and growing our earnings. And I'm confident we'll reach our goals."

Thus far there's no sign of a revival. Last year earnings declined but, says Sutherland, this was mainly as a result of additional marketing expenditure, particularly in the promotion of Players Gold Leaf. The fruits of that spending are starting to mature right now.

In assessing Utico's likely future, three broad factors come into play:

- The development of the total market;
- What Utico is able to do to increase its market share; and
- The company's success (or otherwise) in tapping export markets.

Cost containment is an obvious route toward improved earnings. Utico has gone a long way in this direction and can proceed yet further, though huge and virtually insurmountable obstacles place a ceiling on progress.

"We've automated a great deal but are still, relative to some foreign companies, labour-intensive and, at the same time, not as efficient or productive.

"Nevertheless, from a peak with similar volumes, we've reduced our labour complement significantly over six years. It doesn't, however, all flow undiluted to the bottom line, since the labour mix has, of necessity, changed, with more skilled people needed for more sophisticated machines."

The thorniest problem facing South African tobacco companies is the rapidly growing incidence of tax: excise, VAT and increased personal tax rates, which renders the product progressively less affordable. Worse, says Sutherland, the rising taxes encourage smuggling.

He estimates that smuggling in South Africa accounts for 2 percent of consumption at present. "But it's growing and it could mushroom if taxes continue to rise. In the past year, cigarette prices have increased by 30 percent — almost three times the CPI increase. And it's substantially the result of a 55 percent increase in excise duties."

High leaf prices — around 50 percent more expensive than Zimbabwe's — also affect affordability, as well as the ability to compete in export markets. The one saving grace is that they used to be higher.

Over the past three years, cigarette demand has been

declining by 3 percent to 4 percent a year in the wake of the anti-smoking lobby and the affordability problem arising from rocketing excise duties.

"In the United States last year, there was no decline in cigarette consumption. Despite the overwhelming anti-smoking sentiment in America, the decline in consumption appears to have bottomed out. The same could soon apply here. It's a freedom of choice issue at the end of the day."

What are Sutherland's feelings on the health risks of smoking? "The case is not proven. Not a single lawsuit has been won in the US. Hundreds have been brought. And bear in mind that the litigators get a slice of any settlement. That's tremendous motivation."

"The idea that environmental tobacco smoke, often erroneously described as passive smoking, causes diseases, is simply not supported by the numerous studies carried out internationally. The overwhelming majority of these cases report no statistically significant increase in risk to non-smokers."

"No compelling case has been made that extreme smoking restrictions and bans are necessary to protect the health of non-smokers."

"The emotive situation is reaching ridiculous proportions — so much so that in the US an anti-perfume lobby has developed. In California there's a strong move to ban people wearing perfume in restaurants. The world is becoming paranoid about smoking and I believe the pendulum will soon swing towards sanity."

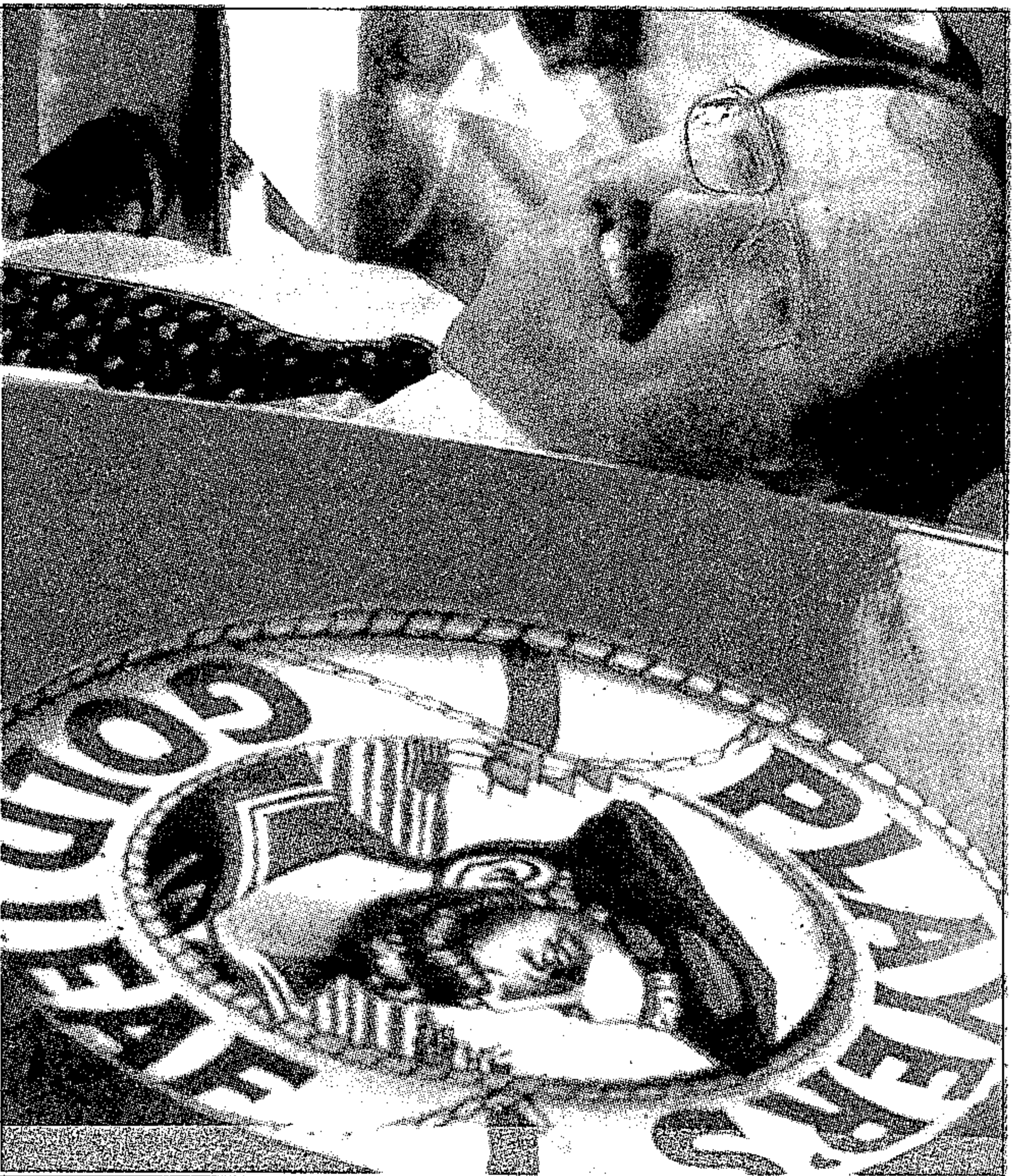
"While many studies report that smoking is statistical-

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ly associated with certain diseases, smoking has not been proven to actually cause these diseases.

"Conclusions drawn from studies often fail to recognise that people who smoke have been reported to have quite different lifestyles from non-smokers. It could well be something in these lifestyles rather than smoking which causes the disease."

"People labour under a misapprehension that if they ban smoking in a building, they have clean air. They haven't. In a great many studies, tobacco smoke in buildings has not been found to be high. It was other chemicals in the air that caused sick buildings. Most often it's the ventilation systems themselves that are at fault. Take tobacco out and you may still have a sick building."



EMOTIVE ISSUE Utico managing director Stuart Sutherland says the case against tobacco has not been proved
PHOTO: JOHN WOODRHOPE

Sutherland might argue, perhaps convincingly, that the anti-smoking drive is unrealistically hysterical. It nevertheless exists and, along with other factors (soaring excise duties being the primary one), is negatively affecting Utico's earnings. How, then, does the company hope to achieve real earnings growth for shareholders?

"If the market holds steady and we assume no further declines, we can deliver real returns by being competitive in South Africa, by becoming more productive and by boosting our export earnings."

Does Sutherland smoke? "I'm a social smoker. I also check the quality of our products on a daily basis." (Editor's note: in case you were wondering, John Spira is also a smoker.)

where he was shot. His body has never been found.

Ban tobacco adverts on radio, IBA is told

Ingrid Salgado

(87)

PN 22/6/95
Please disallow glamorising

TOBACCO advertising should be banned on radio and television and this should be extended to all forms of tobacco sponsorship in the electronic media, Medical Research Council group executive Derek Yach said yesterday.

Cigarette manufacturers were sidestepping new laws requiring advertisements to carry health warnings by increasing their support for sports, arts and cultural events, Yach told an Independent Broadcasting Authority hearing.

A 1995 national survey had shown that more than 60% of adults wanted a total ban on tobacco advertising on radio. But it indicated there was a poor knowledge of the impact of tobacco on health, he said.

Alcohol misuse was also promoted through "aggressive marketing". The council urged that such adver-

and there should be warnings or publicly funded messages emphasising the dangers of alcohol misuse.

The council recommended that increased excise tax on tobacco be used to develop a health promotion foundation, which could buy out tobacco sponsorship for sport and fund priority health promotion projects. Effective health broadcasting should also be included in entertainment programming.

The number of adult smokers had increased from 31% of the population in 1992 to 34% this year. Rapid increases were expected among blacks, especially in urban areas.

Also yesterday, a task team for the transformation of educational broadcasting told the IBA that government should allocate an annual lump sum to the public service broadcaster on the basis of agreed air time and related production costs.

Legalisation: No easy answers

□ Pros and cons in the argument over reforming dagga laws

ARLT 23/6/95

(87)

BACKGROUND TO THE NEWS

ROGER FRIEDMAN, Staff Reporter

Correctional Services Minister Sipo Mzimela's proposal that dagga should be decriminalised as a first step to its legalisation raised a storm when it was debated in parliament this week.

AROUND 11 000 people were arrested and locked up for possessing dagga last year at a cost of R190 million to Correctional Services. Add policing and criminal justice costs, and the figure almost doubles.

South African court rolls are clogged, prisons overcrowded, there are too few police on the streets, and a shortage of finance to drive the ambitious reconstruction and development programme.

The Wildlife Society of Southern Africa says dagga prohibition is driving growers into increasingly remote and pristine environmental areas.

There is scientific evidence that dagga has therapeutic and medicinal value.

And thousands of marginalised, rural Southern Africans eke out a living from its cultivation.

Compelling reasons for decriminalising dagga? Perhaps.

Prohibitionists argue decriminalisation would escalate drug use, reduce the perception of the risks and costs of use, would lead to the increased use of harder drugs, and would drive crime through the roof.

They claim alcohol has caused significant health, social and criminal problems. Decriminalising dagga would exacerbate these problems, and low-income communities would bear the major brunt.

Is dagga dangerous?

Alan Leshner, head of the US Government's National Institute on Drug Abuse (Nida) — possibly the world's best-funded drug research agency — says it probably is.

Nida's year 2000 goal is "to have science replace ideology as the foundation for drug abuse and addiction prevention".

"Marujiana is both interesting and controversial," said Dr Leshner.

"We don't know whether there are any long-term effects on the brain, but it is

an extremely intoxicating substance.

"In the short term it interferes with perception and memory.

"But does it fry your brain? I don't know. Probably not.

"Is it addictive? Yes it is. It used to be that people thought there was a split between physical and psychological addiction. We have grown out of that view. What we now call dependence is what used to be called psychological addiction."

Dr Leshner added that THC, the active ingredient in dagga, "is effective for the treatment of Aids wasting" — and that he had "a problem" with the theory that dagga was a "gateway drug" to other, more serious drugs.

Research had shown that cigarette smokers were more likely to try dagga than non-smokers.

One could, therefore, argue that cigarettes were the gateway to heroin or cocaine. Or that the free supply of condoms would lead to orgies of epic proportions.

Valkenberg Hospital psychiatrist and neurologist Frances Ames dismissed as "nonsense" the claim that dagga led to violent behaviour.

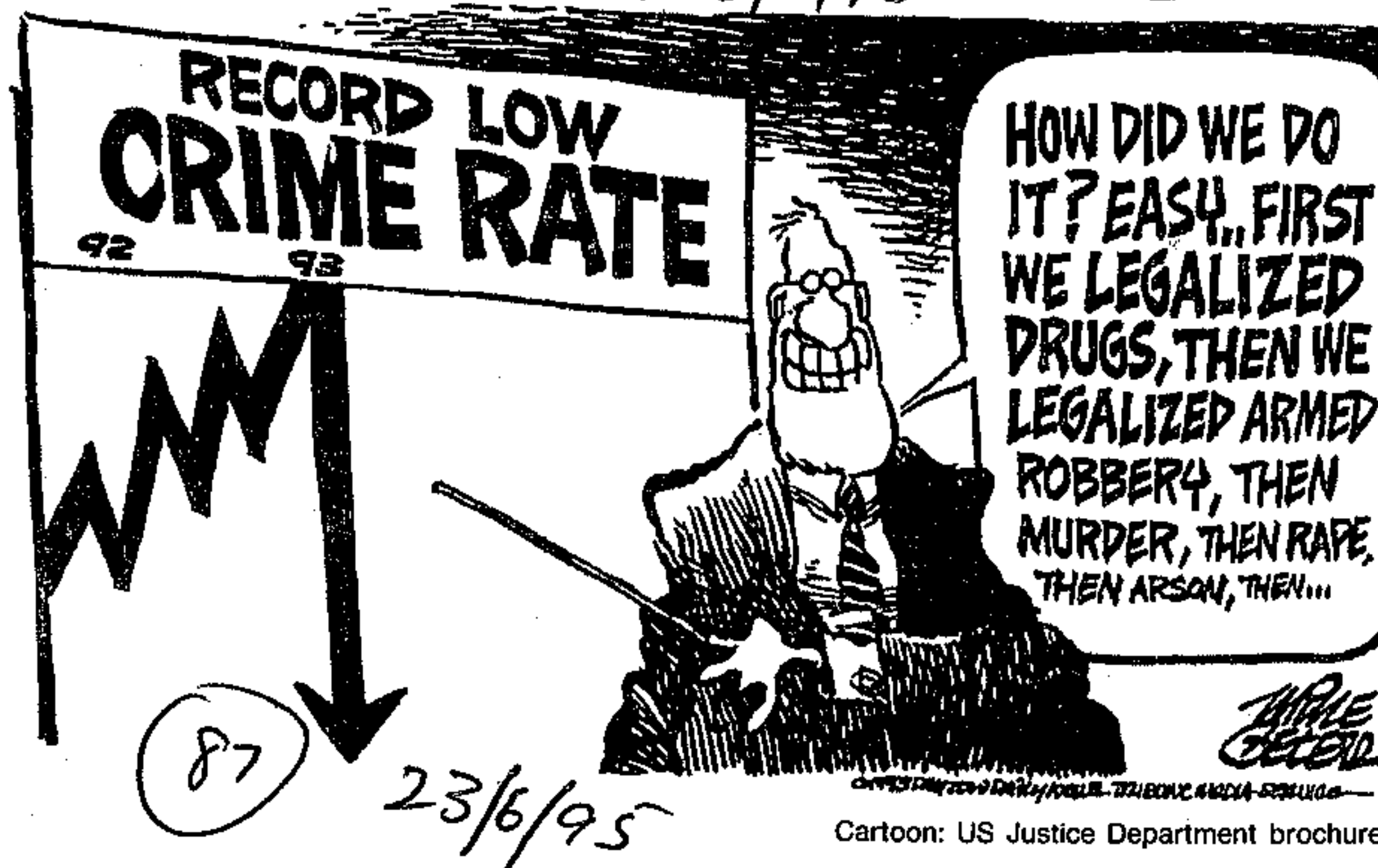
"Alcohol is by far the more dangerous recreational drug. It's been proved that abusing it can lead to irreversible neurological damage and violent behaviour. The same has not been proven in the case of dagga," Professor Ames told Weekend Argus recently.

Yet cigarettes and alcohol are legal — and dagga not at all — in the majority of countries around the world.

How does decriminalisation differ from legalisation?

If dagga was to become legal, there would be no sanctions whatsoever against its use or sale. The government could impose substantial "sin taxes" — as is done with alcohol and cigarettes — and anybody could smoke or eat it.

Correctional Services Minister Sipo Mzimela says South Africa should enter



Police: No drugs 'witch-hunt'

ALTHOUGH the South African police did not conduct "witch-hunts" for users, they continued to prosecute people found in possession of dagga.

Senior police spokesman for the Western Cape Raymond Dowd said yesterday police still made "numerous arrests" for the possession or use of the drug.

"We police according to priorities," said Colonel Dowd.

"At present, we are concentrating our resources on the eradication of gangsterism. Obviously we are looking at the dealers who are usually connected to gangs.

"We are not busy with a witch-hunt, but when complaints are received or people are seen smoking dagga, we are legally bound to arrest them.

"We have received no directives from higher authorities telling us to relax."

Colonel Dowd added that although the use of dagga did not necessarily lead to the use of "heavier" drugs, the easy availability of Mandrax in the Cape — which is mixed with dagga and smoked — often lead to addiction.

A number of crimes were committed by people claiming to have acted under the combined influence of dagga and alcohol.

the export market. In fact, it already has — illegally.

Decriminalisation would not be so straightforward.

People found using drugs could have them confiscated, or be issued with spot fines, or be made to perform community service.

Age restrictions could be imposed — as they are with the consumption of alcohol and cigarettes — and taxes collected.

Either approach would remove the

criminality which presently hovers menacingly over illegal drug supply and demand — and regularly boils over into violence.

● Justice Minister Dullah Omar said this week his department had no intention of decriminalising or legalising dagga.

And a spokesman for the national Ministry of Safety and Security said Minister Sydney Mufamadi "had no intention of getting involved in the polemics regarding the decriminalisation or legalisation of dagga".

Drug workers to get training

Kathryn Strachan

87 (M) 23/6/95

THE SA National Council Against Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (Sanca) announced the establishment this week of an institute to train workers in this field.

Sanca executive director Chris van der Burgh said there was a dire need for specific training in this complex area, and all levels of education from community organizers with a Std 8 qualification to teachers, doctors and psychologists would be accepted.

The health training and development institute would be based in Johannesburg, but its courses would also be available to universities and training centres. As Sanca lacked resources to meet the growing need, people within communities were to be empowered to take forward knowledge and skills.

Van der Burgh also announced that President Nelson Mandela had accepted patronage of Sanca, signalling government's concern for the increase in alcohol and drug problems.

About 10% of the population was addicted to alcohol or drugs, and another 30% to 40% had alcohol-related problems, like drunken driving. Alcohol abuse also cost SA's economy an estimated R5bn in lost productivity.

Since SA was being targeted by international drug syndicates, Van der Burgh said Sanca had had to reorganise its structure to meet the escalating drug problem — especially among the youth. LSD in particular was rife in schools.

Sanca week will be marked next week with a variety of events including a No Sniffing Day and a "sober walk" to raise awareness of the destructiveness of drugs and alcohol.

Hazyview's casino resort hopes dashed

NELSPRUIT — Plans for a glitzy casino resort in the Eastern Transvaal town of Hazyview have fizzled.

Local property developers, who were expecting to cash in on the resort, were told the population lacked sufficient disposable income to support a casino and that it might threaten the region's ecotourism.

The decision contradicted previous plans made by the Eastern Transvaal government, who promised at least

one major tourist resort.

Hazyview's property market, according to estate agent Tienie Snyman, boomed by 500% in anticipation of the proposed development.

Auditors said in a report the only towns in the province that could support a major casino were Nelspruit and Witbank.

Prior announcements of a casino in Nelspruit panicked Swaziland's gaming industry. — Sapa.

Laws on drugs: The search for middle ground

(87) ARG 23/6/95

THROUGHOUT the world, countries are battling to come up with solutions to drug trafficking, drug taking and abuse.

According to United States drug czar Lee Brown, legalising drugs would be equivalent to committing "moral genocide".

But Eric Sterling, president of the Criminal Justice Policy Foundation, a non-governmental organisation in Washington DC, disagrees.

"When Americans are asked if they favour 'legalisation' they dissent strongly. What models of 'legalisation' have they had the opportunity to consider? They don't want crack sold in the Safeway or heroin sold like popcorn. For good reason they don't want drugs (including tobacco and alcohol) sold to their kids.

"But is the only drug policy choice one between the current, failed approach of prohibition or the pure, unregulated free-market that actually exists almost nowhere in the American economy?" Mr Sterling asks.

"The reality is that there is a middle ground of regulation and control."

Almost 20 years ago, the Dutch government adopted a policy of separating soft-drug and hard-drug markets. Criminal penalties against hard drug traffickers were increased, while those against dagga users were relaxed.

Last year, the German Supreme Court removed criminal penalties for possession of small amounts of dagga.

In 1987, the South Australian government introduced a "Cannabis Expiation Notice" system, allowing people caught in possession of small quantities of dagga to pay a fine and escape a criminal record. A similar system was introduced in the Australian Capital Territory in 1992.

Spain decriminalised the private use of dagga and hashish in 1983, while Italy abolished criminal sanctions for illicit drug use altogether in 1993.

In Malaysia, people found in possession of seven ounces of dagga are subject to execution by hanging.

Most other Asian countries — and some Middle Eastern ones — also have strict penalties for possession or use of dagga or hashish.

South African policy therefore fall somewhat in between the extremes of relaxed laws and severe sanctions.

Dagga offences should become misdemeanours

By ESTHER WAUGH (87)
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

The possession of dagga may soon become a "misdemeanour" — which does not carry a prison sentence.

Correctional Services Minister Dr Siphon Mzimela is to propose to the Cabinet that a register of misdemeanours, including the possession of dagga, be compiled.

He told the Saturday Star he had already held informal discussions with Justice Minister Dullah Omar on the issue.

Mzimela said a register of misdemeanours could include petty theft, the possession of dagga, theft below a certain amount, shoplifting and drunkenness.

Instead of imprisonment, these offences should carry a sentence of community service, he said.

At present those found guilty of these offences are jailed at great cost to the state.

"Nothing is gained by it — not by the state or the offender," Mzimela said.

The minister raised eyebrows earlier this month

when he proposed the decriminalisation — not the legalisation — of the possession of dagga.

Speaking during his Budget vote debate, Mzimela said he had no doubt that 35% of prisoners should not be imprisoned as many had committed crimes that posed no threat to society.

The incarceration of those prisoners costs the state between R50 and R80 a person every day.

Community work

During his Budget vote in the Senate, he said more than 11 000 people were arrested last year for various dagga-related offences.

It would cost the state R198-million if these people were sentenced to one year's imprisonment, he said.

Mzimela suggested that a system should be established whereby only people who were a danger to society were imprisoned while the others should be given alternative sentences such as correctional supervision and community work.

The NP and Freedom Front have signalled opposition to Mzimela's proposal.

Drugs are the biggest problem — survey

AKG 3/7/95

(87)

Staff Reporter

DRUGS are the "scourge" of Wynberg, according to local residents.

This emerged in discussion at a monthly meeting of the Wynberg Community Police Forum.

Chairman Mel Anderson said according to a recent police public opinion survey in lower Wynberg, the largest number of respondents said drugs were the area's greatest problem.

"We obviously need a stronger staff of police to stamp out drug dealing. People are getting hurt, especially at schools. Pussy-footing around doesn't work any more, in some Arab countries you lose your life if you are caught with drugs and even the US is becoming stricter in punishing drug dealers."

Mr Anderson observed that drug lords made so much money "they could buy in anywhere, possibly even to cabinet level".

He pointed out that the Wynberg area had 22 high schools and urged members of the forum to treat the drug problem more seriously.

"We need to talk about this at every meeting in future, obviously this is a most important issue. One of the problems is we are short staffed (at the police station) at present, we need more adequately trained personnel."

Mr Anderson undertook to discuss the matter with Wynberg district headquarters.

Community policing officer Ismail Moss told the meeting Cape Town used about R3-million worth of Mandrax a day.

Asked to comment, Wynberg community representative, Gadija Heuwel, agreed drugs were "taking over" in Wynberg.

"Drugs are a real scourge. I have been fighting for years to get certain families in Wynberg to admit they have chil-

dren on drugs. I only hope a miracle will happen because only when you admit you have a problem can you be assisted to deal with it."

Mrs Heuwel said Wynberg's problem was not with drug lords it was with "one or two members of families".

"The other related issue in Wynberg is that police arrest someone for dealing and the next thing they are out on the street on bail selling drugs again — that is another real problem we need to sort out."

Wynberg community policing officer, George Matfield, said he was trying to persuade the authorities to include anti-drug programmes in school curriculums. He had presented anti-drug programmes at a number of schools and had had a good response from pupils.

Mr Anderson suggested it was time to start a Junior Wynberg Community Forum.



FREEBASING: An addict lights up on cocaine — which is cheaper than inhaling the powder.

A dagga addict at 11: 'I've lost so much'

WHEN Angela was 11 she started to smoke dagga, beginning a history of addiction and experimentation with drugs that culminated in her arrest at 18 for housebreaking.

After a brief stay in Westville Prison, the magistrate sentenced her to be committed to a treatment centre for drug addicts.

Talking to her, two-and-a-half months into her therapy, the pretty, healthy, neatly dressed young woman said she was a far cry from the person she used to be.

"When I was using, I never washed my hair for weeks, wore torn clothing and never took any pride in my appearance," she recalls.

At 14, she was smoking marijuana whenever she could lay her hands on some, which was often because dagga was easily available in her home.

"My mother and older brothers used to smoke. I think my mother knew I smoked as well, but she never said anything. Whenever I needed a joint, I stole some of hers."

Angela had already experimented with LSD, Ecstasy and other hardcore drugs when, after her 14th birthday, she fell pregnant to another addict, who hanged himself.

She left school to have her baby which she planned to give up for adoption, but this

fell through when the prospective adoptive parents backed out after they discovered Angela's baby was coloured.

"Being 14 and a drug addict, this was not the easiest thing in the world."

She can smile now at the memory, but at the time it was an incredibly traumatic incident. At the moment her mother is taking care of her baby.

After her baby was born, Angela took to drugs again, at times smoking 10 to 20 Mandrax tablets a day while juggling her various part-time jobs as barmaid and waitress — the money from which paid for her habit.

"During this time, I was

high, but never happy," she says.

Supporting her habit was a major focus of Angela's life and with her then boyfriend, a drug pusher and associate of drug merchants, she sold everything she could to get cash for her daily fix.

Eventually this led to them breaking into the home of the parents of her ex-boyfriend to steal a video camera. She was arrested.

Now within a week of her release from the clinic, Angela is full of purpose and hope, confident in the measures she has taken to restore her life.

"I lost so much, I could have been something," her voice quavering.

Crack was introduced in the United States about 10 years ago as a means of increasing cocaine's market share among poorer drug-users who could not afford to buy pure cocaine.

At \$10 (R36) a pipe — and offering an instant, intense, but short-lived, high — crack quickly became the US's most pernicious drug problem.

The high from snorting cocaine can last from 15 to 30 minutes.

The high from smoking it is reduced to between two and 10 minutes, with increased use further reducing the length of high.

These days, crack-addict mothers give birth to 350 000 cocaine-addicted babies each year. Many of the children are permanently physically or mentally handicapped.

Shock as crack cocaine found on SA's streets

Crime bosses 'tried to process it themselves'

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

THE most destructive and habit-forming illicit drug on earth — crack cocaine — is available on South African streets.

Crack is the street name given to cocaine processed from cocaine hydrochloride to a form suitable for smoking. It is processed with ammonia or baking soda and water, and heated to remove the hydrochloride.

The term "crack" refers to the crackling sound heard when the mixture is smoked.

Police, who already have made crack arrests in Johannesburg, said the product was probably imported.

Organised crime bosses in Cape Town apparently have tried twice to process cocaine into crack themselves.

Meanwhile, speaking in Bloemfontein last night, Justice Minister Dullah Omar said South Africa's re-entry into the international community had been accompanied by a proliferation of international drug syndicates.

Mr Omar said: "Police believe about 155 international drug syndicates are already operating in our country. The sophistication of these international druglords and the vast resources at their disposal have forced the South African Narcotics Bureau to restructure, and in April, 12 units were specifically formed to

deal with organised drug trafficking.

"South Africa not only provides a good transit territory with the opening of our borders to promote trade, diplomatic ties and tourism, but also a potential market for drug deals. What we are dealing with in the world today is a category of super gangsters."

Neels Venter, head of the police organised crime unit, said yesterday South Africa was on the brink of a crack plague.

Cocaine-related arrests and cocaine seizures had snowballed since 1992, said General Venter.

"We have caught people on the street with crack and the similar rock cocaine which I think probably is being brought into the country.

"At the moment, it is limited to just a few cases in Johannesburg. The drug suppliers are trying to introduce it and, if it takes off, it is possible it could become competition for Mandrax (South Africa's present hard drug of choice)."

"We are taking this extremely seriously," said General Venter.

In Cape Town, there is talk in police and gangster circles about two attempts in the last year to get cocaine processing underway in the Mother City.

One gangster boss apparently hired a European pharmacist to help, while another was hoping to establish close crack relations between Nigeria,

where cocaine is more freely available, and South Africa.

Cape Town is seen as the ideal South African market for the introduction of crack, using the established mandrax dealer and user networks.

Mandrax prices have rocketed in recent months, but subsided again in the past couple of weeks to R25 for a good-quality tablet.

According to gang sources, the market was being manipulated — possibly ahead of the introduction of crack.

If crack were to become readily available, it would be likely to sell for a similar price as Mandrax.

Crack was introduced in the United States about 10 years ago as a means of increasing cocaine's market share among poorer drug-users who could not afford to buy pure cocaine.

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R7-bn drugs destroyed last year

87

Aug. 6/7/95

ILLICIT drugs valued at more than R7 billion were confiscated and destroyed by the police in South Africa last year.

If, as normally accepted, the volume of drugs confiscated amounts to between 10 percent and 15 percent of the estimated monetary value of overall trade, then drug trafficking in the country probably amounts to a staggering R60 billion a year.

Worldwide, drug trafficking is believed to generate sales of \$500 billion with a profit of \$250 billion.

South Africa's high crime rate could be directly linked to the growing influx and availability of drugs in the country.

Durban Narcotics Bureau head Lieutenant Colonel Piet Meyer said a study by the Murder and Robbery Unit revealed that between 30 percent and 50 percent of violent crimes, including murder, attempted murder, rape and armed robberies, were committed under the influence of drugs.

Organised crime syndicates, the colonel explained, were formed to control the sale of illegal drugs and competition between syndicates for control of the market resulted in gang warfare.

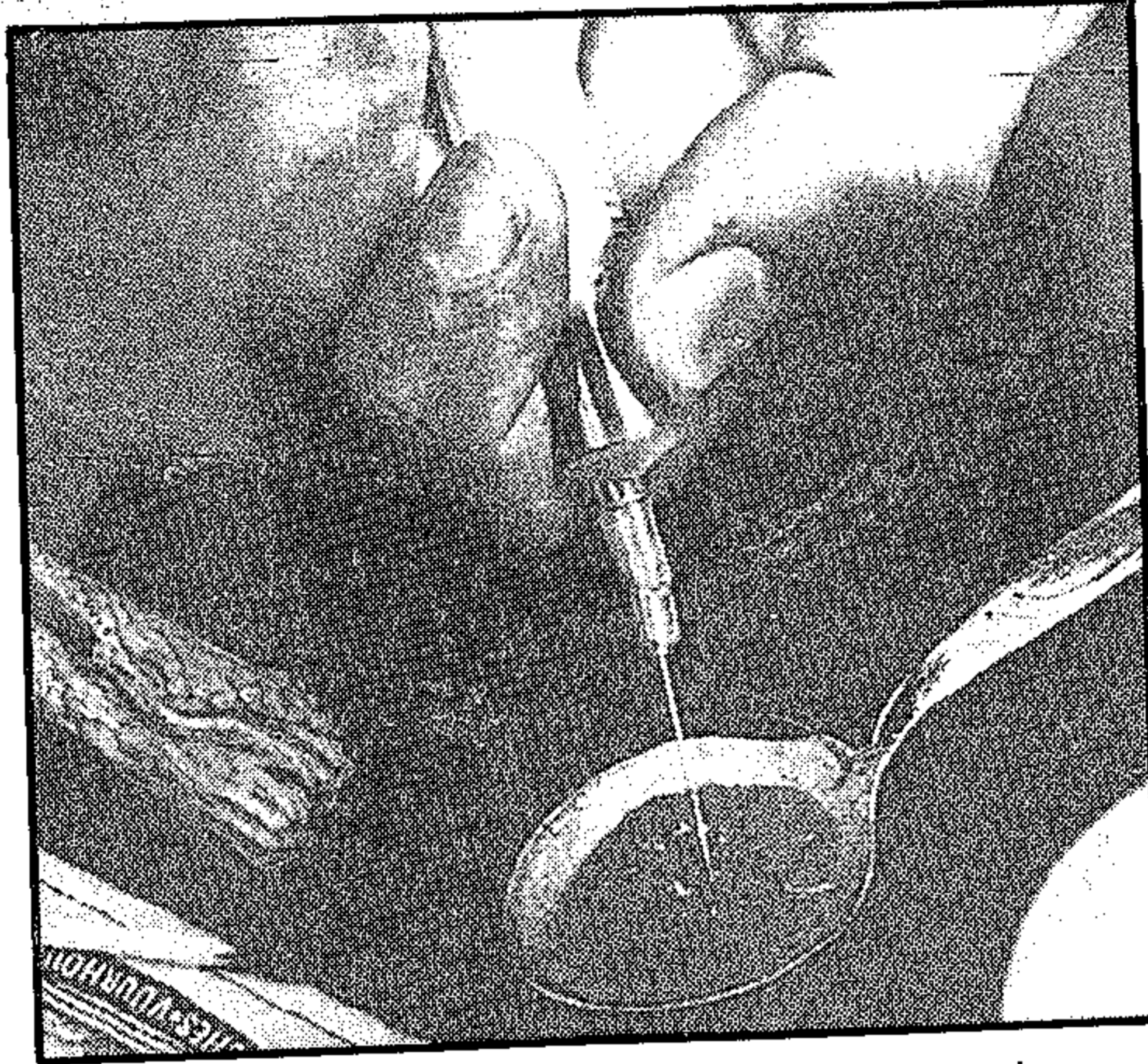
Illegal drug use, a crime in itself, led to addiction and once people were addicted to a chemical substance they would do anything to support their habit.

Prostitution, housebreaking, petty robberies and theft of motor vehicle were all spin-offs from the lucrative drug trade.

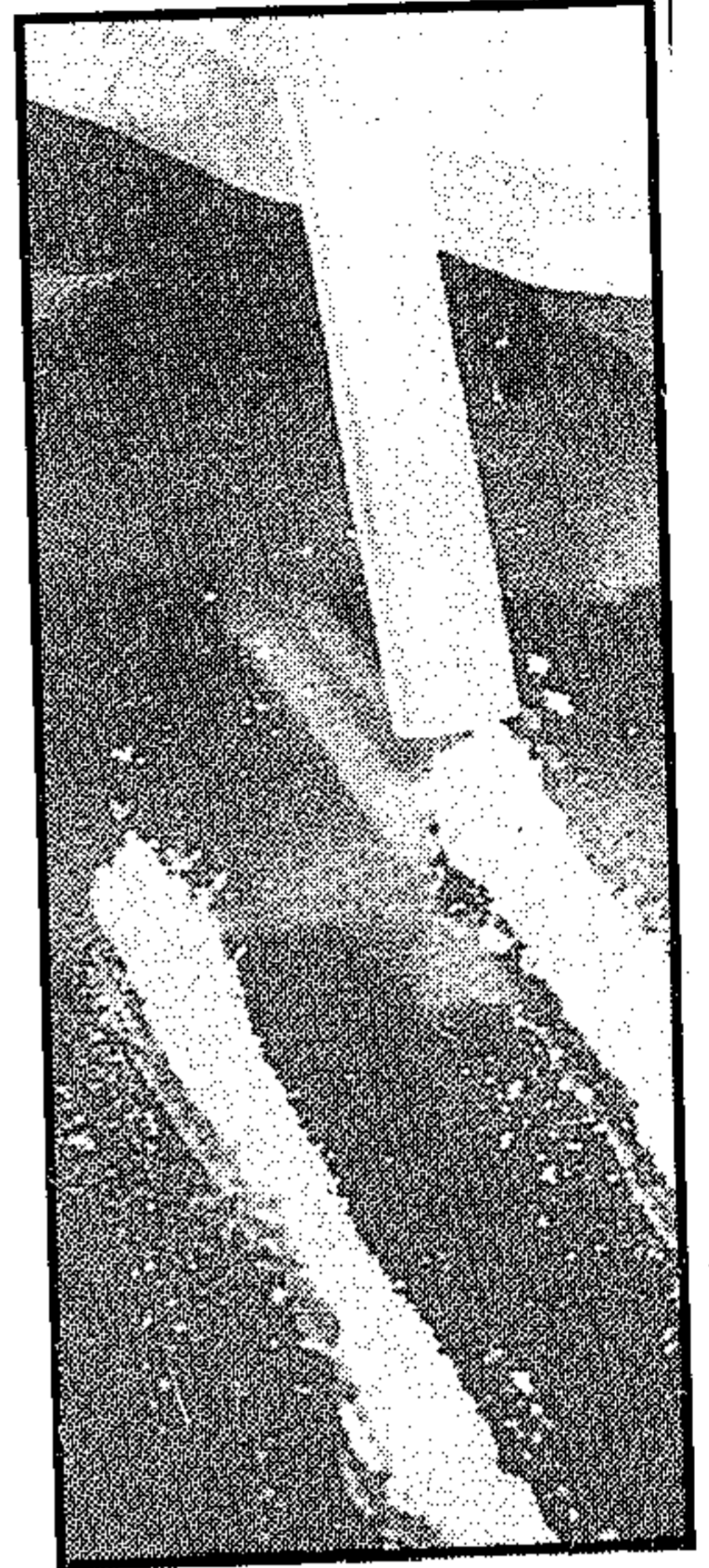
"It's readily accepted in Africa to trade motor vehicles for drugs," Colonel Meyer said.

BACKGROUND TO THE NEWS

CLINTON NAGOOR investigates the extent of the drug problem locally and speaks to a young woman who has lived the drug addiction nightmare.



NEEDLE FEED: Heroin, ready to be injected.



PIPELINE: Cocaine — the deadly white gold.

Colonel Meyer said Satanism which was prevalent in Durban was influenced by drugs and to a large extent youngsters were attracted by the mystique of rituals in which drugs played a major role.

Satanists, he said, used drugs to break down their inhibitions, leading to orgies, bestiality, cruelty to animals, malicious damage to property and defacing of cemeteries.

"At some stage a drug-user is going to commit a crime, no two ways about it. The flow of drugs into Durban is making people aware of drugs which leads to greater

abuse," said Colonel Meyer.

A social worker from a local clinic for the treatment of drug abuse said 25 percent of the patients were committed for treatment after they were arrested for some sort of criminal activity.

She said in her experience, drugs were part of the criminal sub-culture and almost all types of crimes were related to "drugging".

"Drugs inevitably lead to crime," she said.

Sanca assistant director Mr Jan van der Merwe agreed drugs had a profound influence on crime but South Africa was nowhere near the American scene.

"Why wait till we get there", he asked.

America waited too late to tackle its problem, he said, concentrating on law enforcement which had the effect of reducing supply but increasing the profit resulting in the formation of organised crime.

"You cannot legislate problems out of existence. We are now in a position to do something dramatic or our drug problems will increase," he added.

Mr Van der Merwe believed that the reduction of supply and demand which would have to be implemented simultaneously was the only way of dealing with the problem.

Even the poor can now afford it

Cocaine capital

Johannesburg

(87) ~~88~~ Star 11/3/95

BY ADAM COOKE

Hard drugs, especially cocaine, are flooding into Johannesburg in "disastrous quantities" as international drug syndicates turn their sights on South Africa, police say.

Statistics released by police yesterday show that the availability of cocaine on the streets of Johannesburg has increased dramatically this year and an unprecedented number of dealers and smugglers have already been arrested in the city.

The director of the South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (Sanaa), Dr Syvivan de Miranda, said the quantity of confiscated cocaine had escalated from 125kg in 1990 to 65kg in the first six months of this year.

"This reflects just 15% of the total amount of the drug in circulation," he said.

West Rand Narcotics Bureau commander Captain Lobo das Neves said it appeared that South Africa had been targeted by international drug dealers as a new market.

"Not only is the use of cocaine spreading sideways in terms of the area that it inhabits, but also upwards and downwards through the classes," said Das Neves.

He said the drug could be

OVERSTRETCHED police battle to stem flood of hard drugs as international dealers target SA

bought in very small units in Soweto, which meant even the poor and unemployed could afford it.

The going rate for cocaine is R250 a gram, but smaller units were available at only R15.

"We have evidence of unemployed Soweto residents purchasing large amounts of cocaine," said Das Neves.

He said the drug had spread beyond the parameters of the "play drug of the wealthy" and many addicts were turning to prostitution or other crime to support their habit.

With just 24 members in his unit, Das Neves has the task of curbing the spread of drugs among nearly 8-million people.

South African Narcotics Bureau unit commander Major Ian Ralph said the build-up of cocaine in Johannesburg was largely a result of Nigerian immigrants bringing cocaine from South America.

"This is a dangerous game, with dealers on the streets serving wealthy syndicate bosses who drive smart cars and are a step removed from

the cold world of street drugging," he said.

Hillbrow was cited as one of the centres of the drug trade, with Ralph saying hotels in the area were known drugging areas.

"Lots of cocaine is taken here, and many of the dealers operate from cheap Hillbrow hotels.

"Even if you catch one dealer he is replaced by three the next day.

"It is a very difficult task," Ralph said.

He said the drug had caused the collapse of justice wherever it had spread in South America, and many Johannesburg families were already "going to pieces."

"In this time, when South Africa is so new and vulnerable to abuse, cocaine could make a mockery of the RDP."

He said cocaine producers were now looking to South Africa since the international market was saturated. "Smokeable cocaine, or crack, is very cheap and is being produced locally, making it available to lower classes.

He said there was documented evidence to show that people had become addicted after just 10 days of use of crack.

This made it one of the most addictive drugs in history.



Back me up . . . singer Brenda Fassie people with whom she took drugs this

Help me or else, Fassie tells friends

BY BRUNO JUBASI

Singer Brenda Fassie, piqued by being treated "like a virus" after the drug overdose death of a close friend, has called on her friends and fellow musicians to support her or have their drug habits exposed.

Fassie said she'd been going through "the most difficult period in my life" after her friend Poppie Shilaha died in Fassie's room at the Quirinale Hotel in Hillbrow on Wednesday.

"My friends and colleagues in the music industry have been avoiding me like a virus, and

▶ To Page 3

Fassie in cry for help

▶ From Page 1

like any normal human being I need moral support. If they don't honour my invitation and come for a get-together at the Quirinale at midday tomorrow I will reveal the names of those I took drugs with," Fassie said.

Speaking in her office in the hotel, Fassie seemed to be in high spirits. She went through an exercise routine, doing sit-ups, push-ups and stretching her legs.

"Can you imagine a hobo wasted on drugs doing this," she joked. Fassie said the Shilaha family has been trying to destroy her reputation after Poppie's death.

"Poppie never had anything to do with her family for quite a long time. Did they care all this time what she was eating or where she was staying? I could not be in any way responsible for her death. I loved her too much," Fassie said.

She said the media was concentrating on the bad things in her life and forgetting her good side, mentioning that after the Bolpatong massacre she gave R52 000 for the mass funeral and for families of the victims.

Fassie said she was working on a new CD that would be a tribute to her friend and lover Popple and would show she was still the queen of African music.

Rupert criticises ⁽¹¹⁸⁾ health warning law ⁽⁸⁷⁾

00 11/7/95

Edward West

CAPE TOWN — Government's plans to enforce more visible health warnings on tobacco products intruded on the Rembrandt group's property rights, chairman Johann Rupert said in the group's annual report.

The warnings on packages, to be introduced from November, will cover 15% at the top of the front of the package, and a descriptive warning will take up 25% of the back.

In addition, 20% of the back must explain the contents of the package.

Rupert said these measures represented a "new and disturbing" level of regulation affecting business and constituted an intrusion of property rights by degrading trade marks and packaging designs.

The once-off cost to comply with these regulations amounted to R47m before tax, which was provided for as an abnormal item in the financial statements.

The effect of the warnings on future consumption could not be calculated.

The group's tobacco and wine and spirits interests fell under Rembrandt's trade mark group division, which contributed 51,1% of total earnings.

Rupert also criticised government's

intention to increase excise duty on tobacco products, which he said would reduce employment in the sector.

"The loss of state revenue due to the considerable increase in sales of smuggled products is also being ignored," Rupert said.

The group began rationalising the division's production and overall support services over the past year.

Provision for the rationalisation of costs of R37m was treated as an abnormal item before taxation in the financial statements, the figures show.

After the year-end, the group exercised a pre-emptive right to acquire a further 25,8% of Metkor from Iscor for R100m, bringing its holding in Metkor to 75,7%.

Investments during the year included increasing its stake in Huntcor from 65,9% to 83% for R248m, acquiring Engen shares for R11m to maintain its stake after a capitalisation issue, investing another R58m in Vodacom, bringing the total to R99m, exercising its rights in Sage Group at a cost of R23m, 50%-owned Medi-Clinics' R61m acquisition of Medicor and the re-acquisition of a 25% indirect stake in a Mozambican cigarette manufacturer for R1m.

Throw out ashtrays, restaurants advised

(87) ARG/13/7/95
Municipal Reporter

RESTAURATEURS are advised to throw away their ashtrays and to post non-smoking signs in restaurants to avoid conflict over the new smoking regulations which have come into effect in the city.

And they've also been told that by cutting out smoking, they could expect a higher turnover in their restaurants, as non-smokers tend to take less time over eating.

This advice is contained in a pamphlet issued by the Cape Town City Council's health department.

Called "Smoking in Public", the pamphlet points out that it is now an offence to smoke in assigned public areas, among them restaurants, within the municipality of Cape Town, and anyone who does so is liable to a fine or imprisonment.

Also liable to a fine is any restaurant owner, licensee, lessee or person in control of a public place who "encourages or otherwise facilitates" smoking in a public place other than in a designated smoking area.

Restaurateurs are advised that they and their staff will have to deal with people who disobey regulations by drawing their attention to them.

Members of the public who wish to complain about smoking should bring the regulations to the attention of the smoker — "politely". Should this fail, they could ask a law enforcement officer in the area to fine the smoker, or go to a police station to lay a charge.

During the lead-in period, the council's health department is making an approach to the Chief of Magistrates to prescribe relatively low admission of guilt fines.

● Copies of the pamphlet are available from the City Health Department, Box 2815, Cape Town, 8001. Alternatively contact 400 2180.

'Cover-up' by tobacco firm

(87) ET 14/7/95

CHICAGO: Internal documents from a major tobacco company offer "detailed and damning evidence" that the industry covered up the addictive and cancer-causing impact of cigarettes for three decades, the American Medical Association said yesterday.

"The evidence is unequivocal — the US public has been duped by the tobacco industry. We should all be outraged," it said.

The AMA, releasing what it said was the first scientific review of internal documents from Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp and its British parent, BAT Industries, said the companies covered up the addictive and cancer-causing impact of cigarettes for three decades.

Brown & Williamson said the documents were stolen — Reuter

Smoking in offices could be banned

By KURT SWART

Star 15/7/95
The Government is considering legislation which would ban smoking in all offices and other public spaces frequented by non-smokers.

Smokers are already under pressure in cities like Johannesburg, where anyone caught lighting up on a bus faces a fine of R200 or six months in jail.

Department of Health director-general Susan van Niekerk told the *Saturday Star* this week that Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma favours legislation whereby smoking will be banned in offices if they are shared by smokers and non-smokers.

Smokers have criticised the proposals as "political correctness out of control" and an attack on individual liberty.

Justifying the proposal, Van Niekerk said: "It is not healthy for non-smokers to be in an office all day long where smoking is taking place. We have to look after the rights of non-smokers." In terms of the proposed legislation, smokers can smoke in a shared space if they get the permission of non-smokers to do so.

Many non-smokers had written to the minister urging her to go ahead, Van Niekerk said. "It seems as if 90% of the public supports very strict smoking regulations in the workplace," she added.

However, the proposed regulations would have to be published in the *Government Gazette*, allowing the public three months to air their views.

"We are looking at the legal implications. We must look after the health of the public, but we can't push legislation forward with which the public disagrees," said Van Niekerk.

Asked how anti-smoking laws could be policed in an office environment, she replied: "This is also a concern we have. The idea is not to be punitive, but to show we feel smoking in a public place is not healthy. Most developed countries have strong anti-smoking regulations and South Africa must move the same way."

TO PAGE 2

(87) *Star 15/7/95* ◆ Smoking ban

The department would push for a national ban on smoking on public transport and in "public places generally". Municipalities could ask the minister for permission to promulgate their own laws. Cape Town and Johannesburg already had anti-smoking laws.

Under the proposed regulations, it would be illegal to sell cigarettes to children younger than 16. "However, we cannot prescribe whether they smoke," Van Niekerk said. She emphasised that the proposed regulations were "still in concept stage".

Computer analyst Stella Watkins of Bellvue, Johannesburg, said she was against the idea of asking for permission to smoke. "I am in support of no-smoke zones. At any place I have worked, smokers smoke in their area and non-smokers have smoke-free zones. This arrangement is generally mutually acceptable, but asking for written permission from non-smokers to be able to smoke is a bit much."

Johannesburg businessman Kevin Musgrave said the proposed laws were "ridiculous... political correctness gone wrong. Passive smoking is harmful. But so are fumes from motor vehicles — does this mean they will pass a law stopping people driving their cars?"

A tobacco industry spokesman said the industry was not aware of the proposed legislation. It had not seen anything published or heard anything being announced, so it was hard to comment, he said.

Advertising regulations promulgated on December 2 require health warnings on cigarette advertisements and packets. The regulations were supposed to come into effect on May 31, but lobbying from the tobacco industry saw this postponed to October 31. The industry said it could not put the warnings on packets by the first date.

Expert pleads for decriminalisation of dagga

By TROYE LUND

A leading South African drug rehabilitation specialist has called for dagga to be decriminalised and claims to have found the legal loophole through which to do it.

"Decriminalising dagga is the only way to reduce statistics which prove the drug to be the biggest destabilising factor

(87) STAN 15/7/95
among South African youth today," says Dr Sylvain de Miranda, who heads the Riverfield Lodge rehabilitation centre in Johannesburg.

He illustrates the difference between legalising and decriminalising by referring to a prizewinning, cum laude, law graduate who will never be allowed to practise because he is a criminal. The afternoon police

caught him and another 15-year-old trying a joint for the first time turned him into one.

Miranda believes that, in the long term, this criminal record has been very destructive to a potentially successful person's psyche and denied society the benefits of his expertise.

Another 23-year-old woman, who recently approached De Miranda for advice, has won a

Fulbright Scholarship but has been denied an American visa. The gram of dagga she was caught with made her a criminal for the rest of her life.

Although dagga cannot be legalised — South Africa is bound by an international drug treaty — De Miranda claims section 50 of SA's Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Act does allow for decriminalisation.

Decriminalisation of dagga drug a 'common sense plan'

(87) ART 15/7/95

ROYE LUND

Own Correspondent

ONE of South Africa's leading drug rehabilitation specialists has called for dagga to be decriminalised and claims to have found the legal loophole through which to do it.

"Decriminalising dagga is the only way to reduce statistics which prove the drug to be the biggest destabilising factor among South African youth today," says Dr Sylvain de Miranda, who heads the Riverfield Lodge rehabilitation centre in Johannesburg.

Although dagga cannot be legalised — South Africa is bound by an international drug treatise — Dr De Miranda claims Section 50 of SA's Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Act does allow for decriminalisation.

"Judicial officers have the power to convert criminal proceedings into non-criminal proceedings if they suspect a 'probable drug problem'. This conversion is done by the court — which then refers the person for the appropriate treatment.

"This solves the problem without adding another criminal to society. But this is never done because judicial officers need permission from the prosecutor to decriminalise the issue.

"The reason given for this is that prosecutors are the only people who know the accused's previous record. The real rea-

son, of course, is lack of infrastructure. The government could never cope with so many cases," Dr De Miranda says.

Of the 40 000 people who become criminals for possessing dagga each year, he estimates 25 000 are not harmful to society and would benefit more from treatment.

"There is no infrastructure to counsel or rehabilitate 25 000 people a year. Although RDP papers are committed to addressing last year's unprecedented increase of drug and alcohol abuse, government has cut welfare subsidies by a third. This is hypocritical.

"Many of our youth will land up with criminal records, without their drug problem being cured. Treatment cures drug addiction — a criminal record does not. A convicted addict will just resume drug-ging after the law has released him," says Dr De Miranda.

He says his is a "common sense plan" which can be implemented with "minimal extra cost".

"At the moment it is only the welfare department which deals with drug problems. The whole health service — hospitals and clinics included — have to become integrated and equipped to give counselling, education and rehabilitation. If we are going to solve our youth's drug problem we have to take dagga out of the realm of the criminal and into that of the treatable," says Dr De Miranda.

Smoking ban will create not eliminate jobs: study

(87) Star 17/7/95

■ BY JANINE SIMON
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A new British study has shown that cutting down on smoking can create 10 times more jobs than it cost.

The report was published by the Centre for Health Economics at the University of York, and contradicts tobacco companies' claims that falling consumption would result in job losses, according to Dr Yussuf Saloojee, director of the National Council Against Smoking.

The six-month study showed that if the UK reached its target of cutting smoking by 40% by the year 2000, the cash ex-smokers saved on cigarettes would be spent on other products and services.

This would create up to 155 000 new jobs — 10 times the 12 000 jobs currently provided

by the highly-mechanised UK tobacco industry, Saloojee said.

Britons spent almost R50-billion on tobacco in 1990.

Using data on spending patterns, researchers showed that money not spent on cigarettes would be re-allocated to activities like recreation, entertainment and education.

Most of the jobs would be created in the sectors of hotels and catering, sports, meals and accommodation, museums, theatres and cinemas, beauty care, and companies supplying other financial, recreational and personal services.

The study is seen as important because it disproves one of the tobacco lobby's main objections to the recently introduced curbs on tobacco advertising, and the planned restrictions on smoking in public places in South Africa: that curbs on consumption cost jobs.

Youth project hits at drug abuse

(87) *Sowetan* 18/7/95

By Russel Molefe



150

THE problems associated with drugs, alcohol and child abuse that plagued the sprawling township of Phuthaditjaba in the Free State were always hidden by parents for fear of embarrassing their families.

But Tshitso Tsotetsi (22), a former drug user during his school days, managed to convince his local community that it was better to talk about the problem than to die silently.

Problems

"I started to organise other youths at secondary schools to fight against the problems we have.

"At that time, I thought our parents didn't know about the activities we were involved in," he says. He said he used to use drugs right inside the school premises — and other boys and girls did too.

Tsotetsi explains that it was not easy to launch the Shalom Youth Club in



Tsotetsi turned his back on drugs and is now helping others to do the same.

September 1993, because most residents did not understand his aims.

Project

The project started with 17 pupils staging a play directed against the "virus" of drug abuse in the local community. Tsotetsi did not give up until the community realised that drugs were "a time bomb waiting to be detonated", and today many parents praise him for his bravery.

Not fictitious

The play Tsotetsi and his peers staged was not fictitious. It reflected the reality in many townships around South Africa and encouraged people not to sweep problems under the carpet for fear of being embarrassed. Through his project, Tsotetsi, who has matriculated but is unemployed, also provides — together with local teachers — extra lessons for matric pupils.

Cleaning campaign

At weekends members of the project embark on a cleaning campaign and organise workshops on sex education. Apart from raising awareness about drug, alcohol and child abuse, members of the youth project also entertain the community with traditional, ballroom and modern dancing, as well as soccer games for girls at

At that time, I thought our parents didn't know about the activities we were involved in

weekends. One parent, whose son overcame drug problems because of the project, describes Tsotetsi as a "brave young man and a source of inspiration to many youths".

● Watch *Cosmo-Life* on CCV-TV at 7.30pm tonight.

Glue supplies for children alarms

The Argus Correspondent

87

DURBAN. — Concern about shopkeepers in Durban who supply glue and other intoxicating substances to street children has been expressed by the City Police.

The police say the number of children under the influence of glue on the beachfront is disturbing and have appealed to those who supply such substances to be more responsible.

"The provision of glue and thinners, alcohol and drugs to the street children in the city by adults, who are expected to be responsible and concerned about child abuse, is reprehensible and immoral," said a deputy chief constable, Mr James Mills.

He said some shopkeepers sold or gave glue to children "in exchange for other favours", causing them to become aggressive and violent.

Mr Mills appealed to people with information about the suppliers of glue to street children to contact the South African Police Services or the City Police.

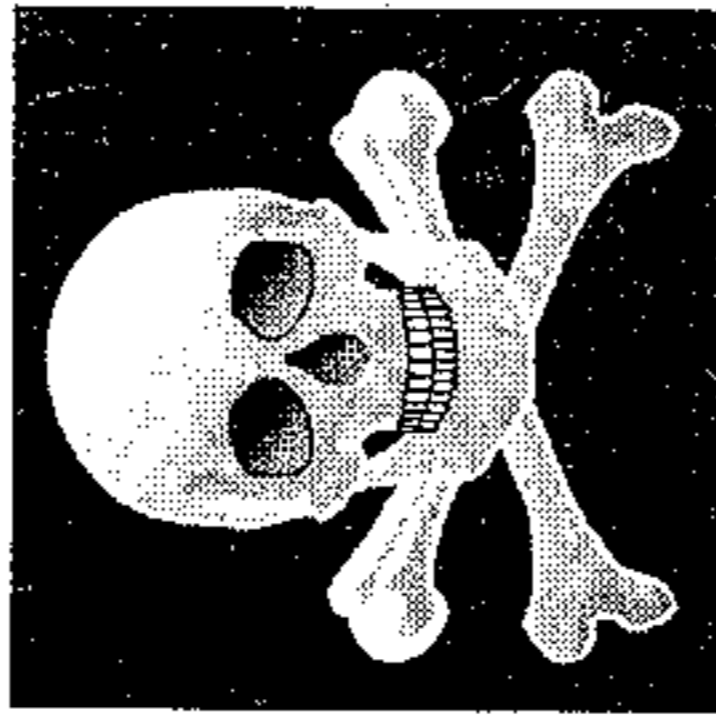
His views on glue-sniffing were shared by City Police inspector Derek Moorhouse, who said the number of intoxicated children had increased in various parts of Durban.

It had also become a serious problem in the Albert Park area. "The responsibility should be with the shopkeepers not to supply the children," he said.

ALG 19/7/95

It's easy to get high Jan 20 / 7 / 95 (87)

How The Star bought hard drugs on street



The Star EXPOSING DRUGS

■ BY ADAM COOKE
 Buying cocaine in Johannesburg takes just a matter of minutes, The Star established during a whip-around buying spree this week.

The dealers act openly and will approach almost any car containing occupants who are willing to make eye contact with them.

We started in the Yeoville area on a renowned corner frequented by friendly young men who rattle off their list of life-destroying drugs like auctioneers: "Good stuff — purple ooms, snow, pinks."

As we slow down, a face appears at the car window: "Can I help you, sir?"

"Have you got some rock (or crack, a processed form of cocaine)," we ask.

"No, just zol (dagga) and buttons (Mandrax). His eyes scan the street.

He beckons to two men lounging against a wall.

They get into the car and direct us through Yeoville. Five

We drop them off and drive off with a pea-sized pellet of potentially lethal crack wrapped tightly in a piece of plastic. The entire escapade took us just 17 minutes.

Now we head for a residential hotel in Hillbrow. A smartly dressed young man walks towards us as we park, smiling.

"Hi boss." We get out of the car and follow him inside. We sit at the hotel bar where no one takes any notice of us. We order two drinks and a gram of cocaine.

Seconds later he is back with the addictive drug, giving us his name: "Next time just ask for me, we can make it a regular thing. Nice and easy."

Mission accomplished. One hour and R250 later we have a gram each of cocaine and crack.

On expert analysis they are found to be potentially lethal.

The Star's team had a letter from the editor explaining their actions if they were stopped by the police.

■ BY ABBEY MAKOE
 SOWETO BUREAU

West Rand Narcotics Bureau chief, Captain Lobo das Neves, has made an impassioned plea to communities to become "the eyes and ears" of the police in combating drug smuggling.

Das Neves' call comes in the wake of a dramatic increase in drug abuse in the country, which he blamed squarely on foreigners, particularly Nigerians. He described the increase in drug abuse as shocking.

Well-known drugs such as cocaine, dagga and Mandrax have proliferated in the past three years while newcomers to the market such as heroin and hashish are entering the country in alarming amounts, Das Neves said.

The newcomers were also gaining a foothold in the black communities of the West Rand, he added.

Figures released by the Narcotics Bureau paint the escalating picture of drug smuggling:

■ Cocaine: 11 042g was confiscated in 1992 and 68 896g last year.

■ Mandrax: In 1992 police destroyed 3 761 527 tablets and

New narcotics pour into local market

last year 4 726 100 tablets.

■ Dagga: 4 871 910kg was destroyed in 1992, increasing to 7 178 455kg last year.

The following picture emerges of newcomers on the local drug scene:

■ Heroin: The 1 338g of this light brown or white powder that was seized in 1992 multiplied to 24 664g last year.

■ Hashish: This highly concentrated form of dagga produced in laboratories did not figure in local crime statistics of 1992, but last year 27 078kg was confiscated.

■ Ecstasy: None of it was seized in 1992 but last year saw 1 262 units being confiscated.

Das Neves believes that, without community co-operation, drug abuse will escalate.

"When taking into account that there are approximately 700 narcotics policemen countrywide, with limited resources, we are more successful than can be expected.

"We have up to a R250 000 reward in cash for information leading to the seizure and arrest of large amount of drugs. We guarantee to keep the identity of our informants anonymous," he said.

Stiff penalties

Under the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act of 1992, anyone caught in possession of more than 115g of dagga or any amount of drugs classified in the Act is presumed to be a drug dealer unless proven otherwise.

A sentence of up to 25 years or R500 000 — or both — can be imposed for dealing in drugs. The State is also entitled to confiscate all the money or property a person has acquired through dealing. The maximum sentence for possession of drugs is five years.

Dagga addictive, unhealthy — study

CT 20/7/95 (87)

WASHINGTON: Smoking dagga can be addictive and women who use it during pregnancy put their children's intellectual development at risk, said a US government research report released yesterday.

More than five million Americans smoke dagga at least once a week and the drug's popularity is growing among teenagers, according to federal surveys.

Dagga use among 14-year-old students has doubled in the past three years, and fewer students consider the drug hazardous to their health now than in years past.

But yesterday's report underscored the risks of smoking dagga. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, the findings are the first to show definitively that the drug can produce dependence and have lasting effects on children who are exposed prenatally.

The research findings also show a link between prenatal exposure to dagga and impaired cognition — verbal reasoning and memory — among children three to four years old, and problems with paying attention among children at ages five, six and seven. — Sapa-AP

'How dare they tell people where to puff'

By KURT SWART

Beleaguered cigarette smokers have found an unusual ally — Freemarket Foundation director and avowed non-smoker Leon Louw.

Smokers, who are vilified and made to feel guilty by the "shameless lies and propaganda" of the anti-smoking lobby, should stop being pathetic and stand up for their rights, says Louw. He will be writing a book on the subject.

"I find smoking offensive, but not as offensive as anti-smoking propagandists. They have infinitely the worse effect on health, including their own," he told the *Saturday Star* this week.

His comments followed reports that the Department of Health was drafting legislation which would ban smoking in offices and

other spaces shared by smokers and non-smokers.

Department director-general Susan van Niekerk said last week: "It is not healthy for non-smokers to be in an office all day long where smoking is taking place. We have to look after the rights of non-smokers."

In terms of the proposed legislation, smokers could practise their habit in a shared space if they get the permission of non-smokers to do so.

"Who the hell do they think they are, telling people where they can smoke? It's got nothing to do with them," said Louw.

"If a restaurant, for example, is considering a ban on smoking, the decision should be left to the customers or the management. The Government has literally nothing to do with it. It should

not even think of getting involved. I will be writing to the minister of health about this."

Louw said statistics used by the anti-smoking lobby were manipulated, distorted, and were in fact blatant lies in many cases. A prime example was that passive smoking was dangerous to the health of non-smokers.

A passive smoker inhales only about 0,02% of the smoker's sidestream smoke, according to Louw. "The consensus among 80 eminent scientists at America's McGill University was that passive smoking has no side effects. They found that researching the matter was stupid when the amount is so negligible."

Anti-smoking was the flavour of the month and was total "PC tyranny" and "fascist authoritarianism", Louw said.

Star 22/7/95 (87)

People say no to dagga

Cape Town — South Africans overwhelmingly opposed dagga being legalised, a national survey by consumer market research company Research Surveys announced yesterday.

About 3 400 respondents took part in the survey in major metropolitan areas.

Almost 85% of adult whites and 77% of adult blacks thought dagga should not be legalised to people over the age of 18. About 81% of teenagers expressed a similar point of view.

Afrikaans-speakers expressed stronger opposition to the legislation with 92% opposing it. —

Sapa

(87) Stan 24/7/95

Dagga legalisation opposed

(87) CT 24/7/95

SOUTH AFRICANS overwhelmingly opposed the legalisation of dagga, a national survey by consumer market research company Research Surveys found yesterday.

About 3 400 respondents took part in the survey in major metropolitan areas throughout South Africa.

Almost 85% of adult whites and 77% of adult blacks believed dagga should not be legalised for sale to people over the age of 18. About 81% of teenagers felt the same.

Afrikaans-speakers expressed stronger opposition to the legalisation of dagga, with 92% opposing it. — Sapa

Lack of resources is threatening help centre

BY ABBEY MAKOE
SOWETO BUREAU

Despite a climate of increasing drug addiction, Soweto's only drug rehabilitation centre is likely to close down unless it receives financial aid, according to social workers.

The centre is run by the SA National Council for Alcohol and Drug Dependency (Sanca) and is housed in an old clinic building in Rockville, Soweto.

The building is structurally unsound and clearly unsuitable for rehabilitation purposes, say the two social workers who supervise the centre.

Sanca's director, Dr Sylvain

(87) Nov 26/1995

de Miranda, said the Japanese embassy had offered to help fund a new Sanca facility.

"It would cost about R450 000 to renovate the current structure and build an additional one," Miranda said.

"But the obstacle in our way is the Soweto municipality. They want us first to pay R91 000 for the old building before we can erect a new one. We cannot pay that," he stressed.

He said Sanca was only recently able to tackle an R550 000 overdraft. Since its inception in 1979, the centre had been run by "a group of dedicated staff who have sacrificed a lot".

"At some stages we have

failed to pay our staff properly, and sometimes we have not paid them at all."

But they still stood by the centre's mission and commitment, de Miranda said.

"We hoped that things would change under the new government. A year later, we are afraid things have remained the same. We are disgusted."

He said the US embassy showed a willingness to assist Sanca in the area of human resource development.

When contacted for comment, acting chief executive officer of Soweto, Dennis Rogers, expressed outright shock at the allegation that his council was the

stumbling block to the adequate development of Sanca in the township.

"I can promise that I am personally going to investigate the matter. We are here to serve the people, not to do them disservice," he said.

The centre's limited staff attends to an average of 300 drug addicts a month.

"If we should do follow-up work on our cases, it would mean nobody is left at the centre to attend to new patients," said social worker Marilyn Hanyane.

As a result of manpower and finance problems, the centre is forced to do follow-ups in rural addiction cases by telephone

and post, she said. Hanyane said they were no longer seeing patients from Soweto only.

"They walk in here from Kagiso, the East Rand, the Vaal Triangle and even the former homelands," she said.

She said most of the young patients treated at the centre were addicted to petrol, benzine, glue or thinners.

The older addicts were hooked on dagga, mandrax, cough mixture and cocaine.

Among the patients currently treated is an 11-year-old Pimville boy who has been addicted to dagga since the age of nine.

World support for SA drive

United front prepares for battle

BY JANINE SIMON

A major new alliance to counter escalating drug and alcohol abuse is to be formed in South Africa.

The international community has thrown its weight behind the South African Alliance for the Prevention of Substance Abuse (Saapsa) which has been established to coordinate all local role-players in the field.

In the past two weeks, The Star has also focused on drugs, particularly cocaine.

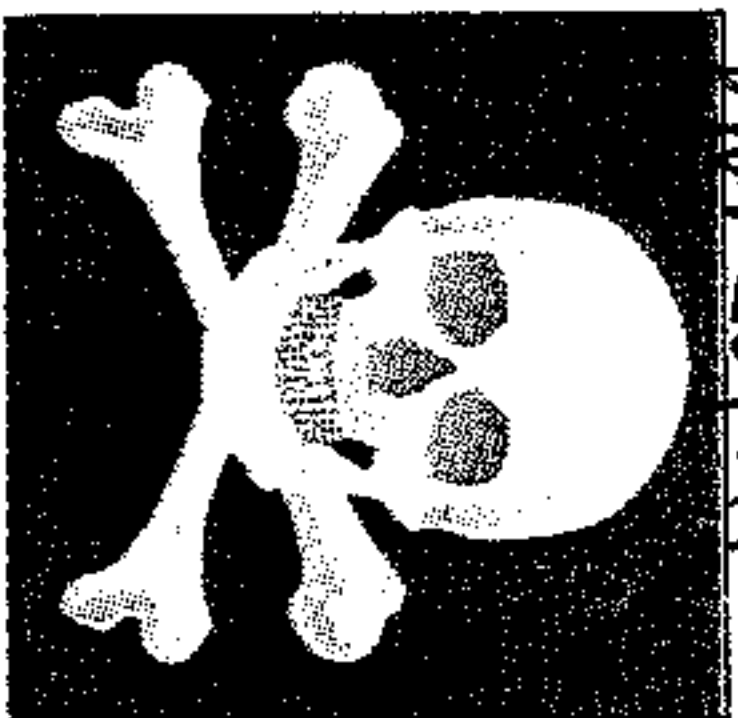
Investigations by staff reporters have revealed that the cocaine habit is growing rapidly as prices come down.

The core of the market is conducted from the streets and hotels of Hillbrow and Yeoville, but rapidly spreading into Johannesburg's northern suburbs.

Nigerians have been found to be playing a key role in the sale of the potentially killer drug.

The formation of Saapsa was discussed at a March workshop facilitated by the World Health Organisation and two other international organisations. It will be launched in November.

On the steering committee are: Dr S Rataemane, (Child Psychiatric Unit, Baragwanath Hospital), Dr Chris van den Burgh, (South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence), Dr Sylvain de Miranda (Centre for Alcohol and Drug Studies), the Rev I Molobai



The Star
EXPOSING
DRUGS

APR 26/1995

(Alcohol and Drug Concern), More (Work to Win), and representatives of the departments of health and welfare.

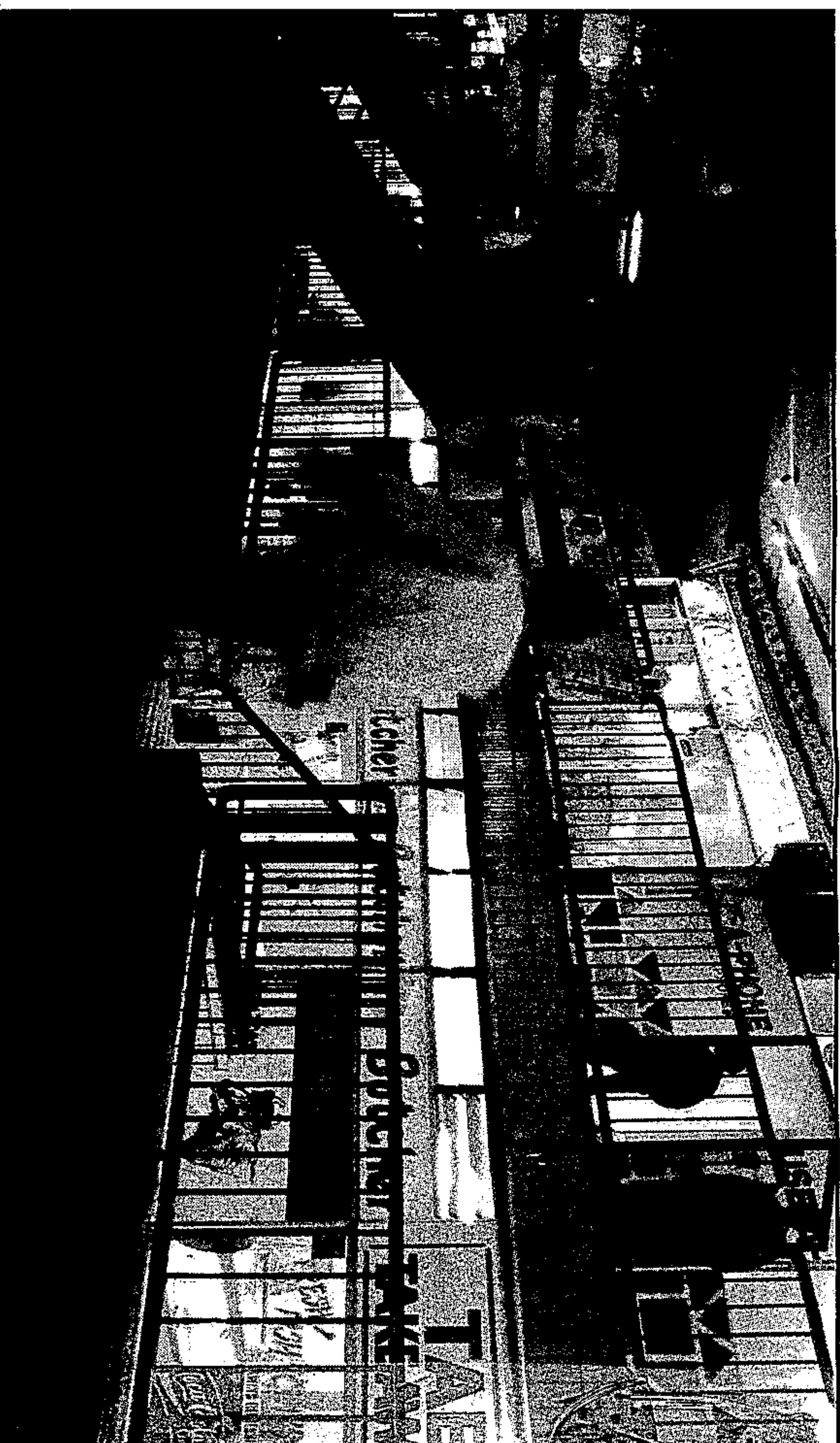
Telephone (012) 312-7579 for information.

The US Department of State has responded to South Africa's growing drug problem by offering to conduct a free, intensive training course for local community workers.

The course will be presented from September 11 to 15, and will be conducted by trainers from the USA and the Johannesburg Centre for Alcohol and Drug Studies.

Participants will be selected, but members of disadvantaged communities who have never had the opportunity to receive formal diplomas will enjoy priority in placement.

Contact Louise or Ronelle on (011) 337-8400 for information.



Hillbrow by night . . . Johannesburg's most densely populated suburb offers late-night entertainment, a range of useful services like phone bureaux — and a notorious street drug trade.

PICTURE: ANDREAS VIACHAKIS

Jo'burg's wealthy druggies

(87) Star 26/7/95

■ BY TAMSEN DE BEER

South Africans, especially those in high-income professions, have "a fantastic appetite for drugs", a Johannesburg drug dealer claims.

The dealer, who spoke to The Star on condition of anonymity, said cocaine was the drug of choice of high-earning South African whites.

Users bought directly from Hillbrow dealers, or from middlemen like himself, who sold cocaine mainly in Johannesburg's northern suburbs.

Certain middlemen made weekly trips to Johannesburg to buy between 30g and 50g of cocaine for sale to high earners in Cape Town and Durban, he said.

He described his customers as established business people and professionals between 35 and 50 with a high income, although some users were younger.

The dealer claimed that a cocaine distribution network also existed in Soweto.

He said users who smoked "crack" crystals stood a much higher risk of becoming addicts. He claimed that after smoking crack the chance of addiction increased dramatically.

"In 12 or 14 months from now there won't be any more crack users because they will all be dead," he said.

He said cocaine dealers like himself, while realising the dangerous implications of cocaine abuse, felt it was "as much of a drug as alcohol", and saw it as the responsibility of individuals to use it or abuse it.

He said the financial gains made through dealing in the drug were an "irresistible incentive" for dealers.

Teenage smoking: Tobacco firms ⁽⁸⁷⁾ are sued

APR 26/7/95
NEW YORK. — The latest wave of United States law suits against tobacco companies focuses on allegations that the industry seduces teenagers — convincing them smoking is sophisticated — then hooks them with addictive levels of nicotine.

Lawyers say existing and future lawsuits were given a tremendous boost in the past few weeks from studies showing a rise in teenage smoking, reports that the federal Food and Drug Administration believes nicotine is a drug that should be regulated and the American Medical Association's strong stance against the tobacco industry.

"I certainly think teenage smoking is a central theme," said Richard Daynard, a Northeastern University law professor.

He said litigation brought by individuals, class action suits and cases brought by four states to recoup health care costs of smokers are linked because they involve people who began smoking at an early age, became addicted and later developed serious illnesses.

"People now understand that this is an industry that needs to get its people under-age — when it is illegal to sell the product to them — or they are not going to get new customers." — Reuter.

Mzimela calls for dagga to be decriminalised

NEWTON KANHEMA

Own Correspondent

UMTATA.— A call to decriminalise the use of dagga was made by the Minister for Correctional Services, Mr Siphso Mzimela, while on a tour of prisons in Transkei.

Mr Mzimela has been campaigning since his appointment for the upgrading of prisons and has appealed to the Ministry of Justice to find ways of avoiding the incarceration of petty offenders.

Reporters who visited the notorious Libode prison near Umtata found it in a parlous state, and without running water.

Prisoners, most of whom were inside for dagga and theft-related charges, took turns to wash in a single cast-iron bath, using the same water.

They had to use broken toilets

with no seats, and slept on cold, hard concrete floors with few blankets.

The female section also had broken toilets and no running water.

In a damp prison kitchen with pools of standing water, a disgusted Mr Mzimela decried the fact that food had been prepared in such conditions.

"Prisoners are neither wild animals nor monsters. They are human beings and deserve to be treated as such," he said.

Last week's visit produced anger in some and shame in others. In a tense atmosphere, the Provincial Commissioner defended himself by saying he was new to the job, having been appointed in February.

He said South Africa's criminal justice system was archaic, pro-

ducing overcrowded prisons by incarcerating thousands of petty offenders.

He said the prisoners' circumstances were a direct result of the racism and deliberate negligence of the previous National Party government. He also blamed the Department of Public Works for resisting the upgrading of dilapidated prison buildings.

He pointed in particular to dagga legislation and made the startling revelation that he had "many relatives who smoke dagga but are good people". Repeating his call for the decriminalisation of dagga, he said its users and other minor offenders should not be sent to prisons, already bursting at the seams.

Judges and magistrates "had no idea" of where they sent people

(87)

after convicting them. He did not believe a pregnant woman should be sent to prison for shoplifting a small quantity of baby clothes. "Such a person should not be sent to prison for two years. If people understood the effect such a sentence had on the children and the mother I doubt whether such sentences would be acceptable."

Mr Mzimela said smoking of herbs was an African tradition and dagga smoking only became illegal with the advent of colonialism. "Smoking dagga is not a crime at all. Isn't it ridiculous that we in Africa say smoking dagga is a crime, while in Europe they smoke it publicly. We could save millions of taxpayers money by decriminalising dagga." Last year, 11 000 people were arrested for dagga-related crimes and on average were convicted to five

years in prison. Correctional services spent about R50 a day per prisoner, he said.

Mr Mzimela said he also had demanded that his department have responsibility to design, construct and maintain the prisons.

"We have enormous resources — including the prisoners — to do the work. There are many prisoners who are experts in various fields and we can make use of them. My department is unique in having abundant manpower. We can build our own buildings, but I am getting resistance from Public Works."

Mr Mzimela said he was preparing to sell his ideas to the public. He had submitted his recommendations to the Justice Ministry whose officials were looking at the matter.

SA careers headlong into the skid row of high-risk drugs

By ELSA SEMMELINK

A mere two years ago the SA Narcotics Bureau stated that South Africans were the world's largest abusers of Mandrax tablets. Large quantities of the drug seized inside and outside SA confirmed this suspicion, and its unique popularity was restricting the entry of crack, cocaine and heroin.

But not any more. Last month West Rand Narcotics Unit chief Captain Lobo das Neves commented on the dramatic increase in drug abuse in the country, and said that although well-known drugs such as cocaine, dagga and Mandrax had proliferated in the past, newcomers to the market such as hashish and heroin were entering the country at an alarming rate.

Heroin is, indeed, fast becoming a serious threat, a spokesman for the SA Narcotics Bureau confirmed this week.

Statistics pertaining to drug seizures in South Africa certainly paint an alarming picture, and a look at the following figures from previous years shows a dramatic increase in the amount of heroin, for one, entering the country over the past 12 months:

- 1992: 1 341g
- 1993: 1 846g
- 1994: 24 745g

The heroin seized in South Africa last year had an estimated street value of R4,4-million and compares with other drugs seized during the same

period as follows:

- Dagga: R7,1-billion
- Mandrax: R71-million
- Cocaine: R12,5-million
- Hashish: R2,1-million

SA is now easily accessible to all Africans. Drugs are streaming into the country from several west African states, said the spokesman, a senior police officer who is still involved in seizures and so preferred to remain anonymous. In addition, South Africa's good infrastructure and geographical position means the country is now an inherent component of the global drug trafficking problem.

"Cannabis (dagga), together with Mandrax, poses our biggest drug problem," the spokesman said.

"Mexico and Morocco used to be regarded as the largest cannabis producers in the world, but with the inclusion of Swaziland, Lesotho and the former Transkei, South Africa now has that dubious honour," he stated.

The police officer warned, however, that crack cocaine was soon going to replace dagga. He stressed that crack was a very dangerous drug.

Referring to Mandrax, he said that although it could not be viewed in isolation as it was used in conjunction with other drugs, it certainly posed another serious problem, since a staggering 80% of all Mandrax produced in the world was destined for SA.

(87) Star 29/7/95

World drug rings are targeting SA couriers

87 (87) (87)
■ BY ADAM COOKE

The chief of the South African Narcotics Bureau at Johannesburg International Airport, Colonel Stefanus Smit, has seen the figures for cocaine seized at the airport rocket from 400g when he joined the team in 1992 to more than 22kg so far this year.

"It's not just that we're getting better at seizing cocaine, it's that the quantity coming through has increased at an incredible rate," said Smit, who has 13 men checking the roughly 3 000 international passengers entering the airport daily.

South Africans are increasingly being used as couriers by international drug syndicates using the airport as their gateway to southern African and European drug markets.

Smit said all international travellers were "profiled" before entering the country, a complex process aimed at recognising the traits of an international courier.

But couriers nowadays were often ordinary South Africans, who were in need of spare cash.

He said Johannesburg was used as a transit point to Europe because the technological infrastructure was already in place and South Africans travelled on

"untainted" passports.

Lieutenant Jan Combrinck, a spokesman for the provincial police commissioner, said cocaine was also shipped into SA ports, driven in from neighbouring states "or even walked over our borders". Brazil was the biggest supplier of cocaine to South Africa, he said.

The only method of screening at the airport was the x-ray machines at customs.

Smit said couriers gave away "sure signs" to the trained narcotics detective's eye: "You see a guy who is nervous, sweaty, and tenses up when you ask him some questions, then you know you must search him."

The level of courier professionalism had increased. "They still use tried and trusted methods of smuggling it through, but just do it more professionally."

Secret compartments in suitcases, shoes or aerosol cans; fine powder compacted into cans of fruit; or body carriers strapped around the torso were just some of the methods used.

"We had a case recently in which three men had each swallowed 85 condoms filled with cocaine. But we had to operate on two of them because they got stuck inside," said Smit.

'Increasing at incredible rate'

Drug rings targeting couriers from South Africa

BY ADAM COOKE

The chief of the South African Revenue Bureau at Johannesburg International Airport, Colonel Stefanus Smit, has seen the figures for cocaine seized at the airport rocket from 400kg when he joined the team in 1992 to more than 22kg so far this year. "It's not just that we're getting better at seizing cocaine, it's that the quantity coming through has increased at an incredible rate," said Smit, who has 13 men checking the roughly 3 000 international passengers entering the airport daily.

South Africans are increasingly being used as couriers by international drug syndicates, using the airport as their gateway to southern African and European drug markets. Smit said all international travellers were "profiled" before entering the country, a complex process aimed at recognising the traits of an international courier. "They are either members of a known syndicate we have infiltrated or they have flight patterns that make us suspicious."

But couriers nowadays were often ordinary South Africans, of either sex and aged anything from 20 to 60, who were in need of spare cash, he said. West Africans were used less frequently as they were renowned as drug couriers.

He said Johannesburg was used as a transit point to Europe because the technological infrastructure was already in place and South Africans travelled on "untainted" passports.

Smit explained that syndicates used complex and ever-changing methods of rerouting flights. "This makes couriers hard to track — they are flown to a foreign destination, say Rio de Janeiro, accommodated for a few weeks in a hotel, supplied with the drugs and flown to a southern African country."

After a few days, normally spent in Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland or Zimbabwe, they fly to Johannesburg looking like tanned tourists, he said.

Lieutenant Jan Combrinck, a spokesman for the provincial police commissioner, said cocaine was also driven in over South African borders from neighbouring states. "It can also be shipped into one of our ports, or even walked over our borders."

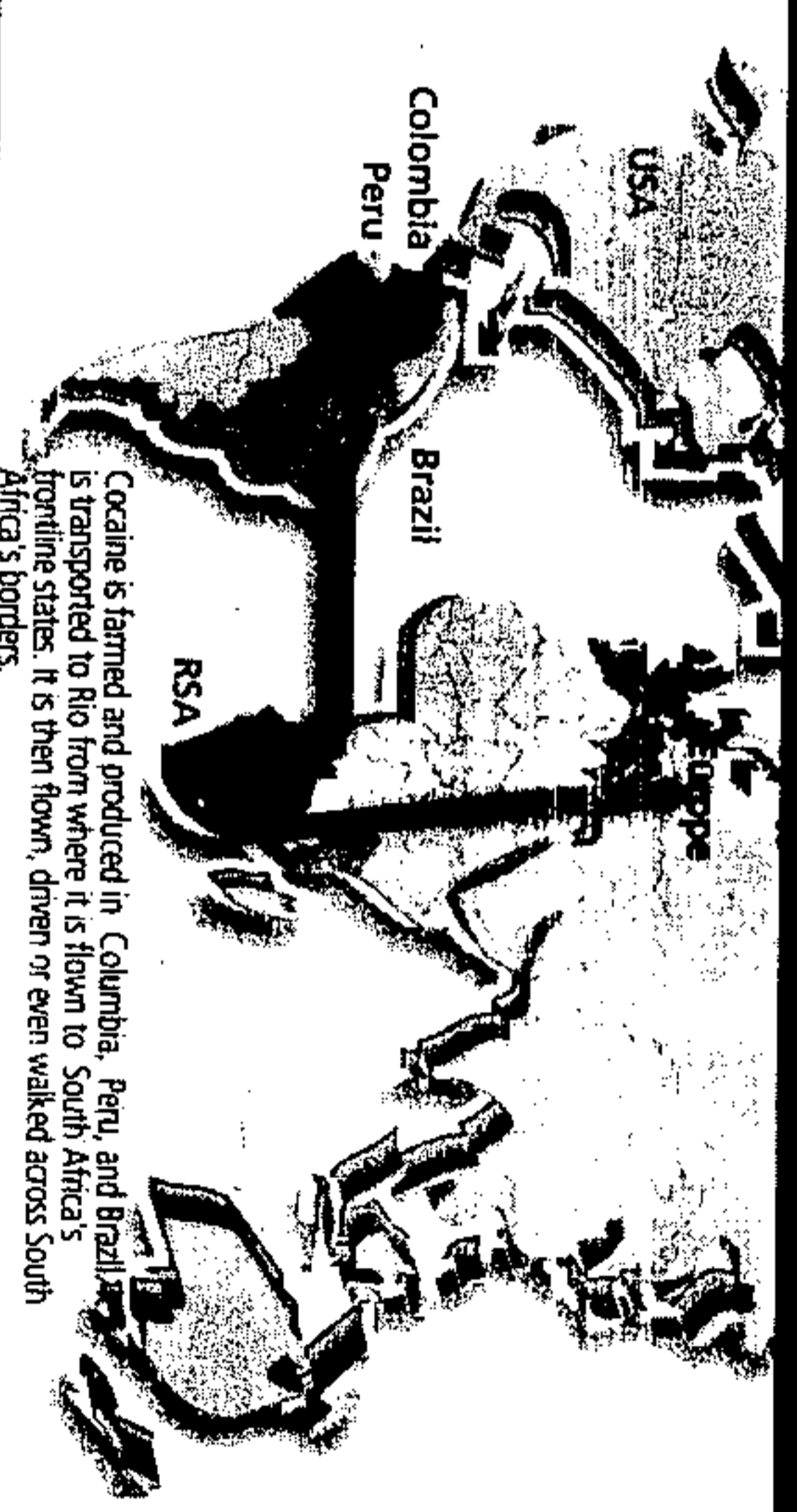
X-ray machines

Combrinck said cocaine factories in Peru, Colombia and Brazil were the main international suppliers, and Brazil was the biggest supplier to SA. Profiling aside, the only method of screening at the airport was the x-ray machines at customs.

Smit said couriers gave away "sure signs" to the trained narcotics detective's eye. "There are lots of signs. You see a guy who is nervous, sweaty, and tenses up when you ask him some questions — then you know you must search him."

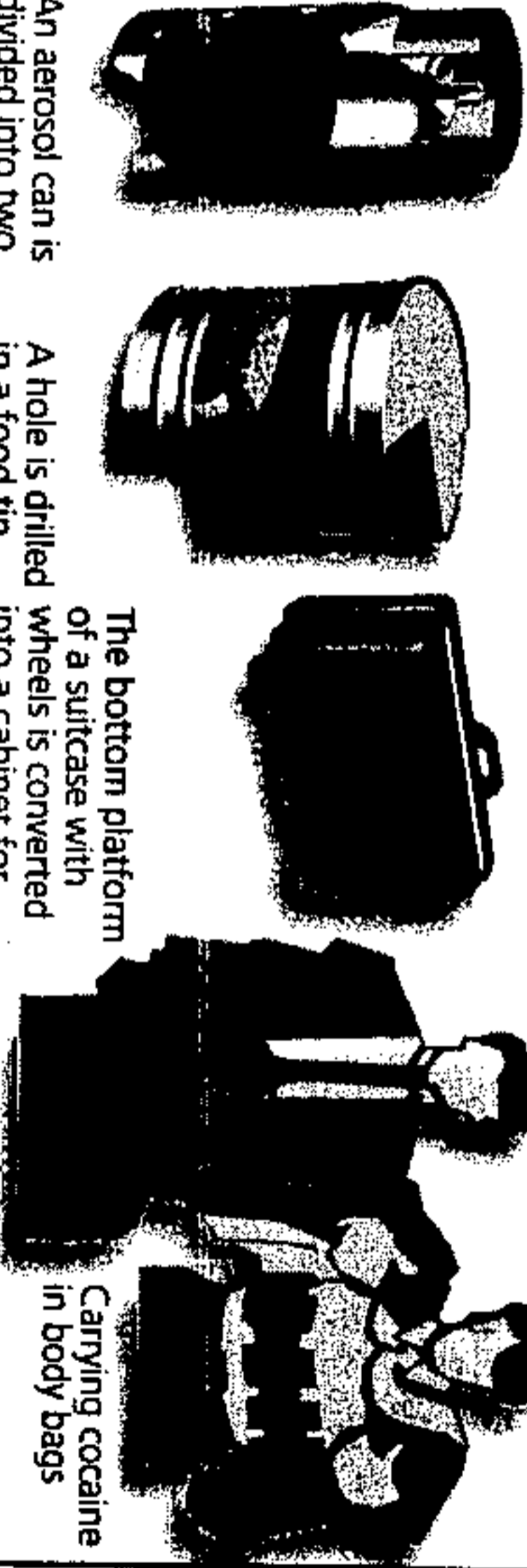
The level of courier professionalism had increased. "They still use tried and trusted methods of smuggling it through, but just do it more professionally."

Cocaine... routes and trends



Cocaine is farmed and produced in Colombia, Peru, and Brazil. It is transported to Rio from where it is flown to South Africa's frontline states. It is then flown, driven or even walked across South Africa's borders.

Recent transportation trends used by smugglers



An aerosol can is divided into two compartments with cocaine in one. The can functions as normal.

A hole is drilled in a food tin, filled with cocaine, sealed with carbon paper which makes it stuck back on.

The bottom platform of a suitcase with compressed cocaine is converted into a cabinet for carrying cocaine in body bags.

Statistics at Jhb International

Drugs confiscated and arrests made	1994	1995 (August)
Arrests	24	12
Mass confiscated (gram)	30 716	22 285

GRAPHIC: FRANCOIS SMIT

What is cocaine?



It is made from coca plant leaves and processed with chemicals until the salt, cocaine hydrochloride, is extracted. It occurs as colourless crystals or a white crystalline powder. It is crushed into a fine powder, arranged into rows and inhaled through the nose.

Secret compartments in suitcases, shoes or aerosol cans: fine powder compacted into cans of fruit; or body carriers strapped around the torso were just some of the methods used. "We had a case recently in which three men had each swallowed 85 condoms filled with cocaine. But we had to operate on two of them because they got stuck inside," said Smit.

Council to enforce anti-smoking by-law

STAFF REPORTER

(87)

THE city council is to enforce a recently passed by-law banning smoking in public places — but an immediate crackdown is not expected.

The new law bans smoking in all indoor public areas. Restaurants are still allowed to set aside 20% of their floor space for smokers.

The council has also asked magistrate's courts in the municipal area to determine what fines should be paid by offenders.

Assistant medical officer of health Dr Ivan Bromfield said at the weekend that discussions in the council on how best to enforce the regulations were proceeding.

To educate people about the

hazards of smoking, the council had issued a booklet giving details of the new regulations and information about smoking.

Dr Bromfield said the council was determined to enforce the regulations.

Cape Town Magistrate's Court senior magistrate Mr H A J Swart confirmed that the council had asked the court to fix fines. This was being done by the chief magistrate and the senior state prosecutor and should be completed in a day or two.

The council had recommended a R50 fine for people who smoked in public places and a R100 fine for property owners or lessees who did not set aside adequate areas for smokers and non-smokers.

31/7/95

author of a tell-tale
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Military doctors joining exodus to better-paid jobs

ET 1/8/95

OWN CORRESPONDENT

PRETORIA: Military hospitals, along with their state counterparts, are facing the growing threat of defections to greener pastures by promising young doctors.

Hopelessly inadequate salaries are believed to be at the root of more than 30 resignations from 1 Military Hospital in Voortrekkerhoogte since January this year and the trend, according to a senior hospital spokesman, is not likely to be overturned in the near future. Officer commanding 1 Military Hospital Brigadier André Lotter said yesterday that without exception all the doctors who left the hospital either went into private practice or were lured overseas. He said most if not all doctors

who left the hospital fell into the same category — young qualified doctors who earned an average salary of R60 000 a year.

These doctors had huge study debts to pay, usually had a family to provide for and were often called away from the hospital on special duties at short notice, he said.

To alleviate the financial burden, doctors were allowed to practise at private institutions after hours to bolster their income, but they lost this form of income when they were called away on special duties.

Brig Lotter said none of the doctors left to join other state hospitals as they were usually offered salaries of up to 50% more in the private sector.

Petrol price

may rise again

ET 1/8/95

JOHANNESBURG: Adjust-

ments to petrol and diesel prices for August have been delayed to cushion the blow of a possible adjustment to the retail margin. Being considered by the cabinet.

The Central Energy Board said yesterday that power recovered by 1.81% in the month to July 26 and diesel by 3.6786%, indicating the possibility of a price drop.

However, the cabinet may be about to approve a 2.5c/l increase in the price of petrol to improve retailers' margins.

The price of illuminating paraffin will decrease by three cents a litre from Wednesday. — Sapa

See Page 15

Lighting up in public will burn your pocket

DAN SIMON
STAFF REPORTER

THE Cape Town City Council has recommended a R50 fine for smokers lighting up in public places. It does not envisage using law enforcement officers to enforce the recently passed by-law banning smoking in public places.

Instead, it would prefer to educate smokers on the hazards of smoking and in the process teach them to respect the rights of non-smokers, city council spokesman Mr Ted Doman said yesterday.

The city council was granted the power — under the Tobacco Products Control Act — to make regulations to control smoking in all indoor public places. Restaurants will be expected to allocate 20% of floor space for smoking.

The act provides for a substantial fine and period of imprisonment but representations have been made to chief magistrates of various districts to impose relatively low admission of guilt fines for the initial period of the operation of the regulations.

The council also recommended a R100 fine for property owners or lessees who did not set aside adequate space for smokers and non-smokers.

(87)

Rastafarians threaten to disrupt tourism over dagga legalisation

CF 2/8/95 (87)

STAFF REPORTER

RASTAFARIANS would disrupt Cape Town's tourism industry unless dagga was legalised and police stopped harassing them, top police officials in Bellville were told yesterday.

A working committee of the Rastafarian movement told police failure to address these issues by August 31 would result in mass action by approximately 15 000 Rastafarians in the Western Cape.

Spokesman Mr Zebula Dread said: "The tourism industry would

be the primary target, which would result in no tourists visiting the Western Cape."

He would not elaborate on what this mass disruption would consist of, except to say that it would be open non-violent action.

This followed months of failed negotiations and appeals to government officials.

Mr Dread said: "Apart from the smoking of dagga, we are among the most law-abiding citizens, but the police target only us instead of murderers and rapists who are allowed to walk free."

Lighting up will set you back R50

STAFF REPORTER

(87)

SMOKERS lighting up in indoor public areas where smoking is forbidden could be fined R50, Cape Town's chief magistrate said yesterday.

The fixing of an admission of guilt fine for breaking the anti-smoking by-law which was passed recently, was determined yesterday following recommendations from the Cape Town City Council last week.

It was also determined that an admission of guilt fine of R100 will be set for any property owner, or lessee, who did not set aside adequate areas for smokers and non-smokers. Restaurants will still be able to set aside 20% of their floor space for smoking.

Discussions on how best to enforce the ban on smoking are still under discussion, assistant medical officer of health Dr Ivan Bromfield said yesterday.

CT 2/8/95

Stricter control of tobacco sales urged

(87) (1997)
MD 8/8/95
Kathryn Strachan

A NEW Medical Research Council study shows that 52% of five-year-olds surveyed in Soweto and Eldorado Park buy cigarettes for their family members, leading the council to call for more stringent enforcement of laws banning the sale of tobacco to anyone under 16.

Researcher Thea de Wet said that in the study assessing the exposure of children to smoking, researchers also came across cases where five-year-olds had bought dagga for family members.

Of children surveyed, 4% recognised dagga and mandrax, saying that an adult around them used it.

The research showed children had a high awareness of brand names. They displayed an interesting association between the brands names and character traits.

The research is still to be extended to Lenasia and other areas.

MRC community health director Derek Yach said the high level of awareness of tobacco products among pre-schoolers should pressure the health ministry to put a total ban on all cigarette advertising.

The research is part of the Birth to Ten study — a joint study by the MRC, Wits, Unisa and the four former Gauteng health authorities which follows 4 000 children during the first 10 years of their lives.

Speaking at an MRC tobacco control workshop yesterday, Zambian anti-smoking society chairman Amy Kabwe related her country's experience on tobacco advertising. After a total ban on such advertising in 1974, by former president Kenneth Kaunda, smoking levels fell dramatically.

HSRC researcher Anna Meyer Weitz showed that 55% of people in the Northern Cape and 48% of people in the Western Cape smoked — figures that were among the highest in the world. Women in these two provinces also had the highest rate of lung cancer and of low birth weight babies — showing smoking's impact on health.

The HSRC research showed that only 31% of people knew that smoking was associated with heart disease, and 58% knew it was associated with cancer.

These were also areas that had been targeted by the tobacco industry.

Analysis by Val Hooper, a lecturer at UCT Business School, showed there was a dramatic swing in tobacco advertising towards the black market. Women too were being increasingly targeted.

Publications like Pace, Drum, Bona and Fair Lady carried the most adverts. Yet there was no tobacco advertising in financial and car magazines, and minimal tobacco advertisements in Playboy.

Chewing tobacco was also being advertised for the first time.

Children ⁽⁸⁷⁾ quizzed on ^{Sowetan 10/8/95} attitudes to smoking

By Mokgadi Pela

FIFTY-TWO percent of five-year-old children regularly buy cigarettes for adults despite a ban on tobacco sales to children under 16 years, preliminary results of the Birth To Ten study have shown.

Addressing a Medical Research Council (MRC) workshop on tobacco control in Pretoria this week, project manager Mrs Thea de Wet said if this trend was not stopped children could go on to become smokers.

Researchers interviewed 280 five-year-olds in Soweto and Eldorado Park. They aimed to look at the impact of environmental and social factors on the well-being of children in urban areas. Researchers hoped to interview 2 000 respondents by the end of the year.

Mixed attitudes

On their attitudes, the study found that 77 percent said they would not smoke when they grow up. One small boy expressed their collective feelings and said "People who smoke cough a lot." De Wet said the challenge for health care activists was to retain those negative attitudes towards smoking among children.

However, 23 percent said they would smoke when they grew up and cited positive emotional reasons for it.

The study further showed that 36 percent knew at least the brand name of one cigarette. They associated this with individuals or groups.

The Birth To Ten study is a joint project of the MRC, Wits, Unisa and former local authorities of Soweto, Diepsmeadow and Johannesburg.

'Tobacco industry drains the coughers'

CT 11/8/95

(87) (98)

JOHANNESBURG: For every rand tobacco contributes to the South African economy, it costs three rand in treatment of tobacco-related diseases and lost productivity, Council Against Smoking director Dr Yusuf Saloojee said yesterday.

He said these figures had been released by the South African Medical Research Council.

Dr Saloojee was reacting to an announcement by the Tobacco Board that the tobacco industry was probably one of the largest contributors to the national treasury in 1994, having paid R1,93 billion in VAT and excise duty alone.

"Estimates from 1988 show that

industry lost 2,5 million working days due to smoking-related illness," Dr Saloojee said.

He added that a far greater proportion of tobacco was being imported, which had a serious drain on South Africa's financial reserves.

According to tobacco industry figures, in 1988 over R100 million worth of tobacco was imported, said Dr Saloojee.

Earlier yesterday, Tobacco Board chairman Mr Wrensch Louw said: "When it is considered that South Africa had only 760 tobacco farmers in 1994, producing on 15 962ha, these farmers make an enormous contribution to the economy." — Sapa

Smoking 'a costly habit'

ED 11/8/95
FOR every rand tobacco contributes to the SA economy, it costs R3 in treatment of tobacco-related diseases and lost productivity, Council Against Smoking director Yusuf Saloojee said yesterday. (87)

He was quoting figures released by the SA Medical Research Council.

Saloojee was reacting to an announcement by the Tobacco Board that the industry was probably one of the largest contributors to the national treasury in 1994, having paid R1,93bn in VAT and excise duty alone.

"Estimates from 1988 show that the industry lost 2,5-million working days due to smoking-related illness," Saloojee said.

A far greater proportion of tobacco was being imported, which had a serious drain on SA's financial reserves. According to tobacco industry figures, in 1988 more than R100m worth of tobacco was imported, said Saloojee. — Sapa.

Airport accused of turning a non-smoking blind eye

Cape Town — A health worker has complained to Airports Company management after a fellow passenger allegedly swore at her for asking him to put out his cigarette in a no-smoking area at Cape Town airport this week.

Dawn Poole, executive director of the Non Smokers' Rights Association, said although the man shouted and

swore at her and "at times it looked as if he was going to shove or hit me", no security personnel came to her aid. She was returning from a Johannesburg workshop on tobacco control.

In a letter faxed to airport general manager Hennie Taljaard, Poole said it was clear he was "totally indifferent" to non-smokers' needs. — Sapa

(87) Star 12/8/95

Tobacco body denies smoking is addictive

CT 16/8/95 (87)

STAFF REPORTER

THE Tobacco Institute of Southern Africa has rejected a claim by United States President Bill Clinton that tobacco and smoking are addictive.

The institute was commenting on calls by President Clinton for tobacco to be declared a drug.

It said it was a gross misrepresentation to describe smokers as addicted to cigarettes. The US surgeon-general had noted that millions of people had stopped smoking and this indicated that the practice was not addictive, it said.

President Clinton has given the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authority to regulate the sale, promotion and distribution of cigarettes.

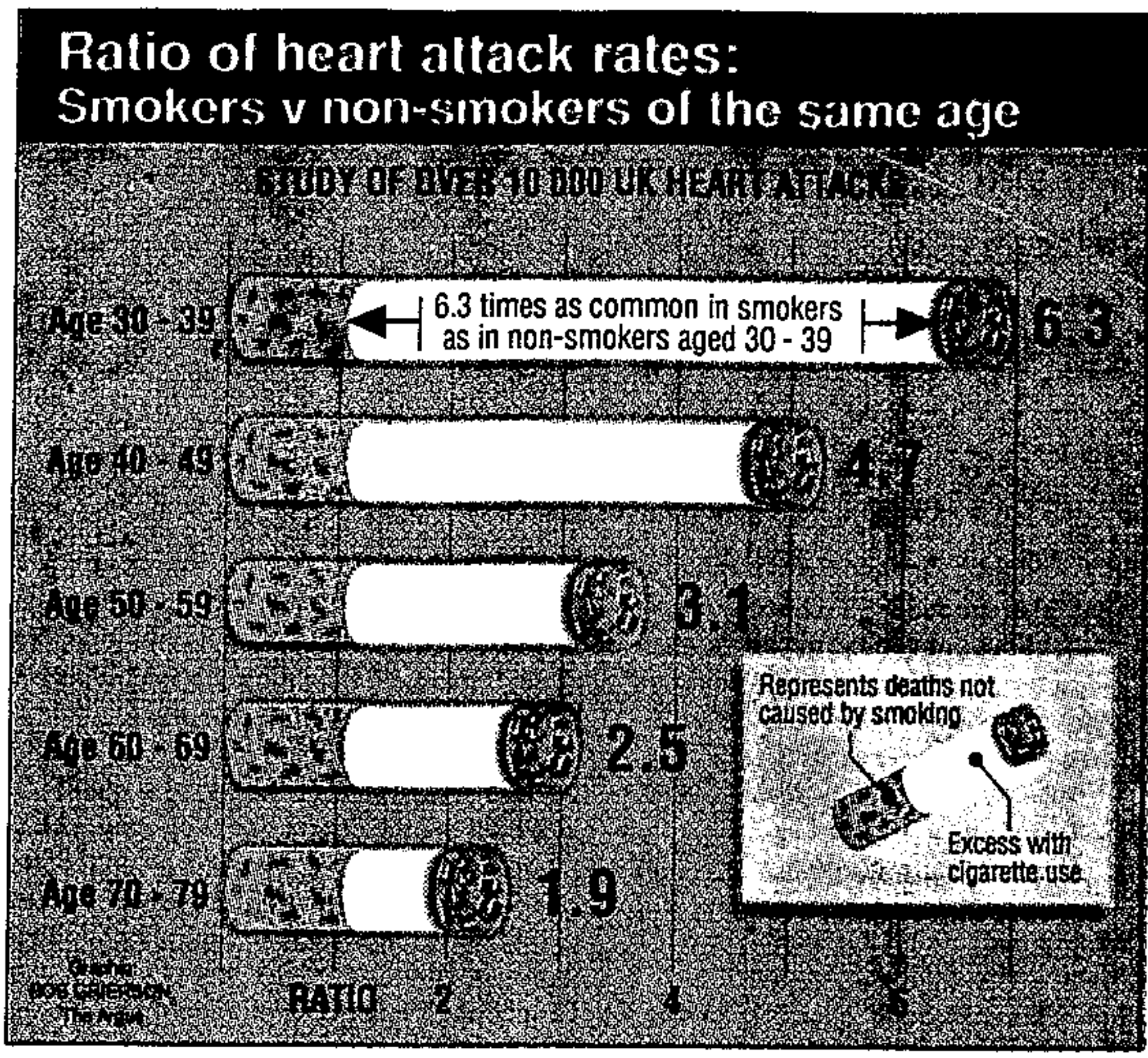
US cigarette manufacturers have filed suits on the grounds

that, over the past 80 years, Congress and US courts have repeatedly affirmed that the FDA lacks the authority to regulate nicotine in cigarettes as a drug.

The US Administration has proposed measures to protect children. These include a \$150m (about R544m) campaign to discourage smoking, the banning of cigarette vending machines and the banning of brand-name sponsorships of sporting events.

Cigarette advertising would also not be allowed within 300 metres of schools or playgrounds.

The tobacco institute said it believed smoking was an adult activity and it was for this reason that advertising did not target children. It subscribed to the South African Code of Advertising which prohibited advertising in the immediate vicinity of schools.



STUDY: The results of a British study of more than 10 000 heart attack survivors, published in the latest British Medical Journal.

Smokers five times more vulnerable to heart attacks

(87) ARL 18/8/95

□ Threat is greatest to those in 30s and 40s

JENNY VIALL
Health Reporter

IF you're in your 30s and 40s and smoke, you're five times more likely to suffer a heart attack than non-smokers of the same age.

That's the finding of a British study of more than 10 000 heart attack survivors, published in the latest British Medical Journal.

There are more than one million heart attacks each year worldwide among people in the age group 30 to 49, and half of these are caused by tobacco, say the study's authors.

And it's not just in the affluent West where young smokers are having heart attacks. "Every year more than half a million people in developing countries have a heart attack in their 30s and 40s, and it's getting worse," says research team member Richard Peto of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

"Cigarette sales in Asia, Africa and Latin America have risen over the past 10 to 20 years. More cigarettes mean more heart attacks in young adults and more cancers. Worldwide, the only two big causes of premature death that are increasing rapidly are HIV and tobacco."

In South Africa smoking rates are increasing, with 52 percent of men and 17 percent of women smoking.

Krisela Steyn, head of the Medical Research Council's Chronic Diseases of Lifestyle Programme, said the study's findings were "alarming news" for South Africa.

"South Africa already has one of the highest ischaemic heart disease death rates in the world, especially among people who have a typically westernised lifestyles or a genetic predisposition. As smoking rates rise, particular-

ly among the coloured population and black men, we can expect to see increases in smoking-related diseases and deaths," said Dr Steyn.

The study found that heart attacks in people in their 70s were twice as common in smokers as in non-smokers; among people in their 50s, heart attacks were three times as common.

Researcher Rory Collins of the British Heart Foundation said heart attacks were the main way in which tobacco killed young adults, and that cigarettes also caused many non-fatal heart attacks.

There is some hope for smokers, though. "Stopping smoking works," says Professor Peto. "If you happen to survive your first heart attack, then stopping smoking will make it much less likely that you'll have another one. Stopping before a heart attack is even better."

Middle-aged smokers at risk

ET 18/8/95

(87)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHANNESBURG: Smokers in their thirties and forties have five times as many heart attacks as non-smokers, the widest study of heart attack survivors has shown.

Published today in the British Medical Journal, the study has significant implications for Africa, Asia and Latin America, the new target markets for tobacco companies, said researcher Professor Richard Peto of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

In South Africa, it should alarm coloured people and black men, who, the Medical Research Council says, are being targeted by tobacco companies, and whose smoking rate is rising most rapidly.

A total of 10 000 UK heart attack survivors took part in the study. It showed that heart attacks were twice as common among smokers in their seventies, three times as common among smokers in their fifties, and five times as common in smokers in their thirties and forties.

Billboard too arresting for Benson & Hedges

BD 18/8/95

Kathryn Strachan

BENSON & Hedges billboards were taken down two days after the cool, shaven-headed man they sported was arrested at Johannesburg International Airport allegedly with cocaine worth nearly R100 000.

But United Tobacco Company corporate affairs manager Hilary Thomson was unfazed. "We would prefer not to link the two," she said. However, it emerged that company officials had held a meeting with police after the arrest.

Police have confirmed the arrest of

model Edward Glean Ghezi for alleged drug trafficking.

His case has been postponed.

Thomson said it was unfortunate the model was involved, so the company decided it was time to rotate the advertisements. They were due to come down anyway as they had been up for about a year and others would soon be changed too.

Thomson said the company had decided to remove the billboards about a month after the model's arrest. The billboards had been empty for a while before the company put up new advertisements.

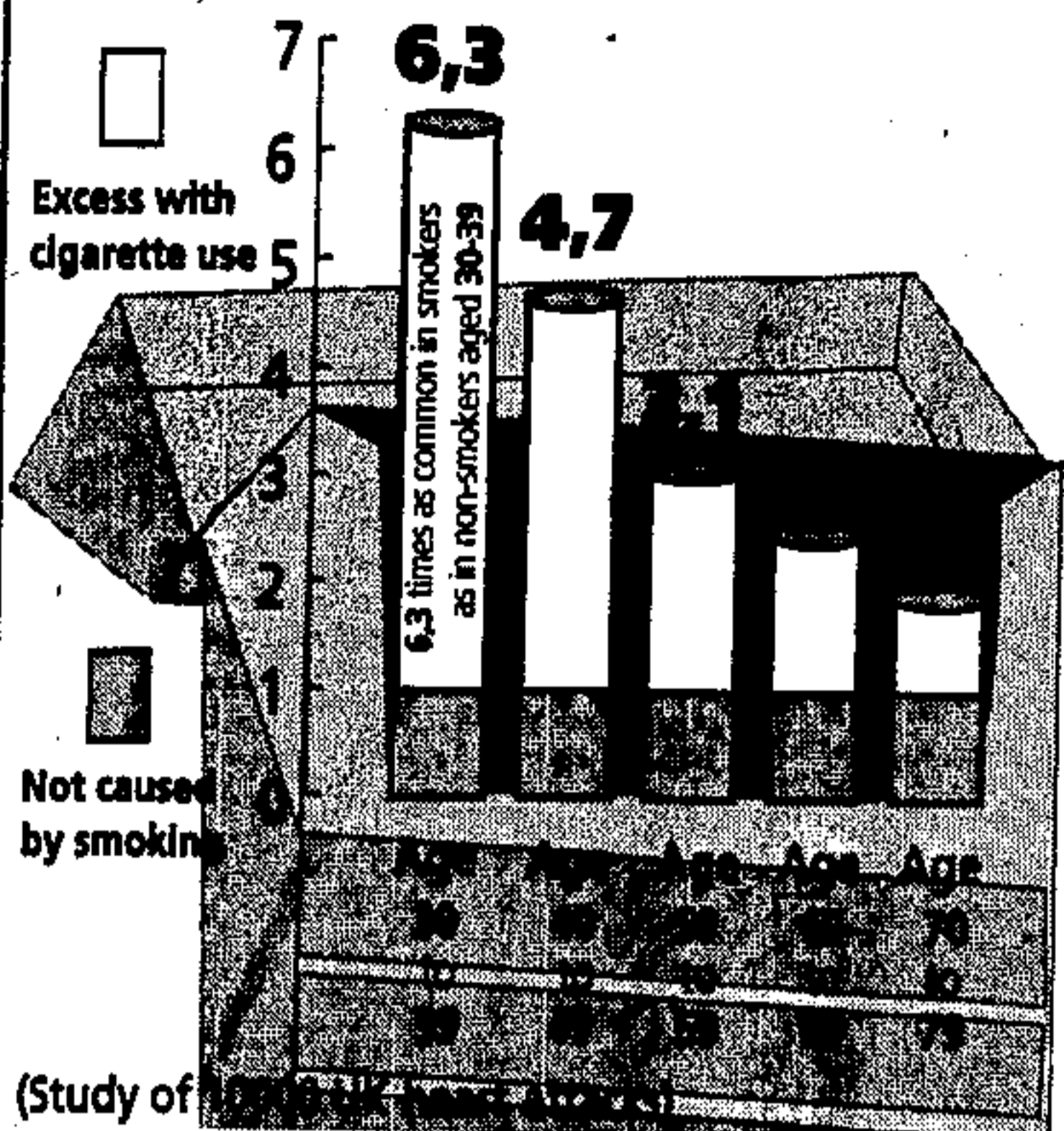
Benson & Hedges acted before the anti-smoking lobby could pounce.

Non-smokers' Rights Association executive director Dawn Poole believes that Benson & Hedges' quick thinking was an indication of the vociferousness of the anti-smoking lobby, which never misses an opportunity to link smoking to vices. "They knew we would be onto them," she says.

This has been a coup for the health activists who oppose the sale of tobacco to children under 16 on grounds that, for one, smoking is a gateway to other unhealthy lifestyle choices. (87)

RATIO OF HEART ATTACKS:

Smokers vs non-smokers of the same age



Tobacco firms seek new targets

Danger years spelled out for smokers

Star 18/8/95

(87)

BY JANINE SIMON
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

Smokers in their thirties and forties have five times as many premature heart attacks as non-smokers, the biggest yet study of heart attack survivors has shown.

Published today in the British Medical Journal, the study has significant implications for Africa, Asia and Latin America, the new target markets for tobacco companies, says research Professor Richard Peto, of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

In South Africa, it should send shock waves through the ranks of coloured people and black men, who, the Medical Research Council (MRC) says, are being targeted by tobacco companies, and among whom the rate of smoking is rising most rapidly.

A total of 10 000 British heart attack survivors took part in the research, conducted by the fund, the British Heart Foundation and British Medical Research Council.

It showed that heart attacks were twice as common among smokers in their seventies than non-smokers, three times as common among smokers in their fifties, and five times as common in smokers in

their thirties and forties. The implications for South Africa are alarming, says the MRC, as 52% of men and 17% of women — about seven million adults — smoke, and numbers are rising. Marketing is a major factor, but international figures show smoking rates rise as disadvantaged communities gain wealth, explains Dr Krisela Steyn, head of the MRC's Chronic Diseases of Lifestyle Programme.

In 1988, about 25 000 South Africans died from smoking-related diseases such as heart attacks, lung cancer, stroke and emphysema.

"We already have one of the highest ischaemic heart disease death rates in the world, particularly among people with Westernised lifestyles or genetic predisposition," Steyn says.

"As smoking rates rise, particularly among the coloured population group (of which 59% smoke) and black men (53% are smokers), we can expect increases in smoking-related diseases and death."

Worldwide, tobacco causes half of the more than one million heart attacks each year among people in their thirties and forties, adds Peto. More than half of those victims are in developing countries, and its getting worse.

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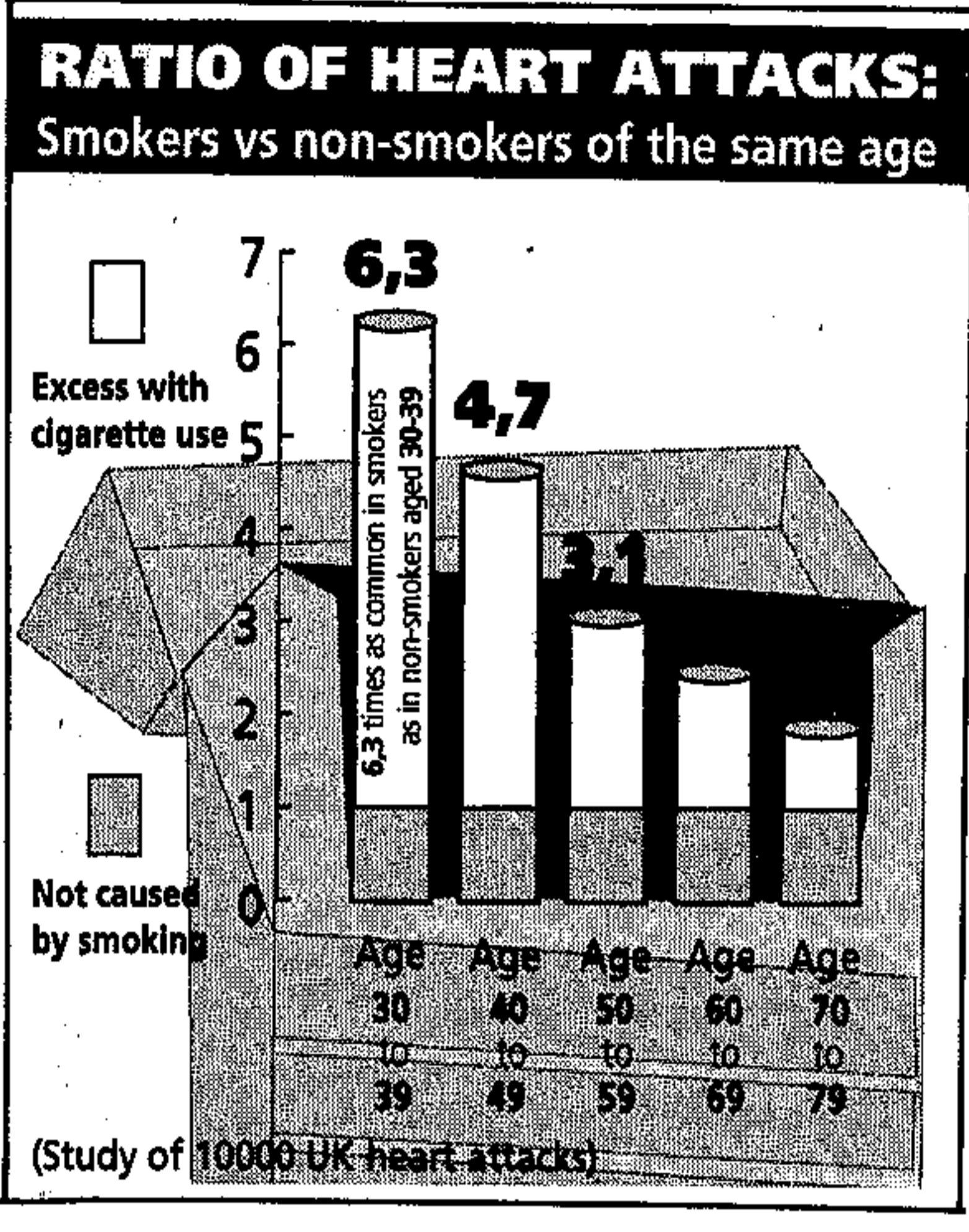
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Tobacco firms seek new targets

Danger years spelled out for smokers

Star 18/8/95

87



■ BY JANINE SIMON
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Centre adds to drug problem - claim

15
76 TROYE LUND

rugs and alcohol have become serious problem at Randburg High School - a problem aggravated by the nearby Waterfront development, the school's headmaster Brink Grobler claims.

"We have a severe problem made a hundred times worse by the entertainment centre," said Grobler, who is now working to rehabilitate pupils declared on crack or heroin addicts by the South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (SANCDA).

Waterfront management has dismissed allegations of underage drinking and drug-taking on the premises - calling it speculation based on rumour - and says "everything possible is being done to co-operate with police in

stamping out any illegal behaviour.

But Grobler said: "Our children have been caught lying to parents. They say they are going to school functions and go to the Waterfront instead."

A 17-year-old pupil at Randburg High who is being treated for his heroin addiction told the *Saturday Star*: "I used to tell my mother I was going to rugby practice but I would go to the Waterfront."

"My only mission in life was to meet my connections at the Waterfront and get drugs. First it was just dagga but then I tried acid, heroin and crack."

The youth, who asked not to be named, claimed that he spent R300 a week on drugs, and began selling his belongings to pay for them. Grobler said that

in most cases drug-taking teenagers came from problem homes.

"Parents do not have the time to spend with kids, and out of guilt they give them huge amounts of pocket money and leave them at the Waterfront for the whole evening. Let's face facts, kids are kids and will try anything. If alcohol, sex and drugs are that easily available they will try it," said Grobler. He added that students have told him what a good place the Waterfront is to "freak out".

Residents

Grobler is also a member of Ward 5, the area's residents' association, which has been campaigning against disruptions to their area that they blame on

the Waterfront. They allege it has made their lives intolerable.

Although residents were shown plans for the development before building began, they are adamant these depicted a smaller centre which would be busiest during office hours.

"The plans we were shown had three and not 55 restaurants, 600 not 2 000 parking bays. Offices made up the western boundary. All in all it was a smaller, business-oriented centre," said Ward 5 member Steve Gaylan, holding a set of plans he claims residents were shown at the public participation meetings.

In turn, Waterfront management demand proof of allegations which they call "pure speculation". "I know for a fact that there is

(87) Star 19/8/95

no underage drinking and no one has ever proved the drugging. We work closely with the police and have a satellite station right here. Undercover police and security officers watch for underage drinking and drugging," said the Waterfront's Rael Abramowitz. Restaurant owners caught selling liquor to minors would be forced to leave the complex, he added.

Grievances

"I get irate at unfounded speculation. We are prepared to go to great lengths not to antagonise neighbouring residents. The best sound engineers in the country are working on the noise problems.

"We are on the residents' side and are prepared to find lasting solutions to any grievances. It is

in our interests to live harmoniously with the community," he said, adding that monthly meetings were now held with residents and council officials to discuss issues of concern.

Abramowitz said he was "extremely concerned about the allegations of teenage drugging and drinking but I believe it is largely a parent problem.

"I have witnessed kids being dropped off here with liquor in their bags."

Grobler and Gaylan agreed that as the development was now complete, the only solution was an amicable one between all parties.

In the meantime, according to Grobler, all there is to do is to "equip students to deal with an environment that seems easy and affordable".

HEADMASTER BRINK GROBLER: Alleges the entertainment centre worsened drug abuse



PHOTOGRAPH: JACOB RYKLIFF

Younger smokers coronary victims

Kathryn Strachan (87)

BD 21/8/95

SMOKERS in their thirties and forties have five times as many heart attacks as non-smokers, a study of more than 10 000 UK heart attack survivors published in the latest British Medical Journal has shown.

Worldwide, there are more than a million heart attacks a year among people in that age group. About half are caused by tobacco and, according to the study's authors, it is not just the affluent West that is seeing young smokers fall victim to heart attacks.

"Every year more than half a million people in developing countries have a heart attack in their thirties or forties, and this is getting worse," said Prof Richard Peto of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

"Cigarette sales in Asia, Africa and Latin America have risen over

the past 10 to 20 years. More cigarettes mean more heart attacks in young adults and more cancers. Worldwide, the only two big causes of premature death that are increasing rapidly are HIV and tobacco."

According to co-researcher Dr Rory Collins of the British Heart Foundation, heart attacks are the main way tobacco kills adults, and cigarettes are also the cause of many non-fatal heart attacks. "When a cigarette smoker in their thirties or forties has a heart attack, there is an 80% chance that tobacco caused it."

But stopping smoking works. Peto said, "If you happen to survive your first heart attack, then stopping smoking will make you much less likely to have another. Overall, about half of all smokers eventually get killed by tobacco. However, those who manage to stop smoking before they have de-

veloped any serious diseases avoid most of the risks of being killed by tobacco."

Responding to the study, Dr Krisela Steyn, head of the SA Medical Research Council's chronic diseases of lifestyle programme, said this was alarming news for SA, given the increase in numbers of smokers in SA.

She said that a recent study by the council showed that smoking rates in SA were increasing, with 52% of men and 17% of women smoking.

"SA already has one of the highest ischemic heart disease death rates in the world, especially among people who have typically Westernised lifestyle or a genetic predisposition. As smoking rates rise, particularly among the coloured population and among black men, we can expect to see increases in smoking-related diseases and deaths," she said.

Man fuming over shops' tobacco ads

STAFF REPORTER

A GEORGE man who has emphysema has laid a charge of contravening the Tobacco Products Control Act against two shops, one a major chainstore outlet, in the town.

Mr Ken Sheppard, chairman of the Tobacco Action Committee, said yesterday he had laid the charges against Shoprite and Smokers Mecca as neither carried the warnings, required by law, in advertisements displayed on their premises.

George Magistrate's Court senior prosecutor Mr Dolf Louw said the matter was being investigated, but he had not received the docket.

It would be up to him or the attorney-general of the Cape, Mr Frank

Kahn, to prosecute, he said.

A Shoprite/Checkers spokeswoman said the billboard advertisements belonged to the tobacco company.

The tobacco company had government permission to keep the advertisement as it was, but was to phase in new billboards that carried warnings, she said.

Surprised

The owner of Smokers Mecca, Mrs S Botha, was surprised when told by the Cape Times of the charge.

The advertisements belonged to the tobacco companies, which had not replaced them with new ones, she said. She would remove them, Mrs Botha said.

Where there's smoke there are activists clamouring for tobacco

By MARK LANDLER

THE NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

Capital Cities/ABC has settled the libel lawsuit brought against it by Philip Morris, the cigarette company, but Henry Waxman, a prominent congressional critic of the tobacco industry, is pressing the case against the cigarette company.

Waxman said yesterday he planned to send a letter asking Philip Morris to hand over the reams of internal documents it filed in a \$10 billion libel suit against the

television network.

Philip Schilitro, a spokesman for Waxman, said the documents offered an unprecedented glimpse into how Philip Morris manufactured cigarettes.

Anti-smoking activists said the documents could also reveal that ABC had a stronger case against Philip Morris than its settlement would suggest.

"The documents raise the spectre that Philip Morris does exactly what ABC said it does but ABC has now been bullied into apologising,"

said Cliff Douglas, the executive director of Tobacco Control, Law & Policy Consulting, an anti-smoking research group.

ABC agreed to settle the \$10 billion lawsuit on Monday by publicly

apologising for a report on its Day One news magazine programme that accused Philip Morris and RJ Reynolds of adding extra nicotine to their cigarettes to keep people smoking.

In the narrowly worded apology, which ABC News was scheduled to broadcast for a second time

yesterday, the network said: "We now agree that we should not have reported that Philip Morris and Reynolds add significant amounts of nicotine from outside sources."

The network said it stood by the principal thrust of the report which it said was about whether cigarette companies controlled the levels of nicotine in cigarettes in order to keep people smoking.

As part of the settlement a Virginia state judge ordered ABC to return thousands of pages of internal memos and documents that

Philip Morris had supplied under seal at the request of the network's lawyers. ABC shipped the documents back to Philip Morris on Wednesday.

Douglas said that in pre-trial arguments lawyers for ABC reiterated repeatedly to these documents, contending that they would validate the assertions made on the Day One broadcast.

In a motion filed on July 10 the lawyers cited documents which they said could "demonstrate that Philip Morris adds tobacco extract

containing significant levels of nicotine during the process of making reconstituted tobacco for its domestic cigarettes".

Douglas said: "There is no question that the documents ABC obtained from Philip Morris directly contradict ABC's apology."

He and other critics cited this as proof that ABC's decision to settle was made by the network's parent, Capital Cities/ABC, for purely financial reasons.

Patricia Matson, a spokesman for Capital Cities/ABC, declined to

comment on the details of the network's settlement. The documents cited by the ABC lawyers were filed under seal.

As further evidence of the confidence ABC had in its case Schilitro cited a letter from one of ABC's lawyers, Stephen Sachs, of the Washington law firm of Wilmer

Cutler & Pickering, to a prospective witness in the case. He said: "I am pleased to be able to report that the course of pre-trial discovery, despite strenuous efforts of Philip Morris to stonewall, amply confirms the accu-

racy and fairness of the broadcast."

Lawyers specialising in cases dealing with the First Amendment cautioned that the strength of a company's case could not be gauged from the vigour of statements made during pre-trial manoeuvring.

"Ordinarily, the lawyers who are building the case are sold on it," said Robert Sack, a partner at the firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. "But the person who has to figure out whether to settle the case is usually less impressed by what they have."

companies to cough up
(87) (178) (178) (BR) 25/8/95

Defend their rights to last stompie

(87) Star 30/8/95

Loud are the cries of the malcontented smokers: "The Minister is trampling over the rights of the smokers of South Africa," smarts Anthea Tarica, of Roosevelt Park. "I object to allowing anyone to control the behaviour of another," protests Bellevue's Stella Watkins.

Both are part of the "we've got a constitution, where are our rights?" constituency, which has been raising temperatures in columns and letters pages since smoking began to be restricted.

And it's become all the more heated since word got out that the Department of Health, and local authorities, led by Cape Town and Johannesburg, are considering stronger clean air policies and further steps to protect non-smokers' right to a clean, healthy environment.

LEGISLATION to ban smoking in public places is causing some of us much agitation, reports Janine Simon, our Medical Correspondent

The rumour mill has already churned out threats of "jail sentences" and "written permission" for smokers, but there'll be no accurate details of the new restrictions for another six months.

The Health Department is taking legal opinion on its draft regulations on curbing smoking in public places and the workplace, because the definitions of these areas are difficult, says Susan van Niekerk, assistant director for health promotion and public policy.

And Johannesburg's TMC is still working on policy options for more "effective measures" to

protect the non-smoker's right to clean air, says Dr Yasmin von Schirnding, Director: Environmental Health.

Still, smokers (a large minority of seven million adults in South Africa) are already fighting the trend.

In one rote but easily-counteracted set of arguments, they query the health threats of passive smoking, how much of a pollutant cigarette smoke really is, and argue that health risks - and costs - are the business of the smokers alone.

Space demands that even the ever-armed Dr Yussuf Saloojee, Execu-

tive Director of the National Council Against Smoking, selects the most significant from the tomes of evidence showing that inhaling someone else's smoke causes heart disease, lung cancer and respiratory problems.

He chooses to point out that the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) classified tobacco smoke as a Class A carcinogen in 1991, putting it in the same class as radioactivity, benzene and asbestos.

The Australian tobacco industry spent R7-million taking that country's consumer association to court over the passive smoking health issue, he adds, only for the judge to rule there to be "overwhelming scientific evidence" proving passive smoke causes lung cancer and respiratory illness in children.

Environmental tobacco smoke causes 30 times more cancer deaths than all other pollutants regulated by the EPA.

And UCT's Department of Health Economics has shown that for every rand we earn from tobacco taxes, R3 is spent on tobacco illnesses and lost productivity.

But the air becomes ever thicker around smokers' strident calls to be free to choose.

Despite the fact that tobacco smoke can kill, and its ill-effects cost billions, this is not the Prohibition: tobacco is not illegal, and there are no plans to make it so, confirms Van Niekerk.

Leaving aside the fact that nicotine is addictive, and addiction has bearing on free choice, South African adults who want to smoke can do so, and will.

But where they do so, is another matter.

Haunted no doubt by the American spectre of workers forced to take puff-breaks on street corners, the Free Market Foundation's Leon Louw argues in a recent letter to The Star that who determines where people smoke is not a health question, but one of personal and property rights.

And Government, significantly, is taking legal opinions on exactly what comprises a public or work place.

Once that's defined, chances are that the 34% of us who smoke will be legally obliged to refrain from doing so in all and any places where it can damage the health of the 66% who don't.

Smoking ban to be challenged in court

Renee Grawitzky

THE first unfair labour practice case relating to the introduction of a no-smoking policy in the workplace will be heard in the Industrial Court in Pretoria today.

An employee of Bheki Computer Systems, a subsidiary of Thebe Investment Holdings, claims she was constructively dismissed — forced to resign — when the company unilaterally changed her conditions of employment by introducing a no-smoking policy.

Alleging an unfair labour practice, the employee argues that her constitutional right to smoke was infringed. She denies that passive smoking had any effect on

her co-workers.

Johan Olivier of Brink Cohen Le Roux & Roodt, acting on behalf of Bheki Computer Systems, said the company intended arguing that no unfair practice had been committed, as the company had consulted employees extensively before the policy was implemented.

Those opposed to a ban on smoking had been in the minority. Smokers were told they could smoke in designated areas.

Olivier said the company would argue that smoking in the workplace contravened the Occupational Health and Safety Act, which placed a duty on an employer to provide a healthy and safe working environment. **BD 31/8/95**

87

R6m spent to win votes Bop party did not want

Kevin O'Grady

MMABATHO — Bophuthatswana's ruling Christian Democratic Party embarked on

tian Democratic Party was calculated at R5 for each potential voter, Le Clus said.

It had been estimated that there were 1.2-million potential voters in the country.

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(87)

Schools tackle drugs head-on

(87) star 2/9/95

By TROYE LUND

The SA National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (Sanca) has appealed to the Gauteng government to introduce a student assistance programme and compulsory life skills as a subject in all schools.

This proposal came after Sanca was called to Randburg Hoërskool to counsel 60 pupils experimenting with drugs and 12 diagnosed as acute drug addicts.

"There is no school that can honestly claim not to have a drug problem. We want to prevent the kind of crisis intervention we did at Randburg Hoërskool. Our student assistance programme will enable problem children to be identified quickly and present pupils with credible, trained help," Cornell Taljaard of Sanca said this week.

The programme will require all teachers to go on a training course. A teacher at each school will be nominated as a co-ordinator, according to Sanca's assessment of his or her abilities. Other teachers will refer pupils to this co-ordinator who will then send the child for appropriate counselling or rehabilitation.

Sanca's proposal includes the introduction of life skills into the curriculum.

"No drug habit stands in isolation, they are always linked to something else. We regard a drugging youth as a child in need of help and adopt a holistic

approach to treatments. We aim to treat any kind of problem pupil and educate all children on a broad spectrum of social issues," said Taljaard.

She has been working in other Gauteng schools that have drug problems. She claims they all "tiptoe" around the issue by denying the problem or expelling pupils.

Taljaard is adamant that the "open, honest route" lends most credibility to the school and solves rather than compounds a problem.

"Schools have to empower themselves to cope with all situations. At the moment most are just avoiding the reality and stamping out fires wherever possible," she said.

The Sanca programme will involve parents. "Children with drug habits will have their parents involved every step of

the way," said Taljaard, who added that most drug habits in the 1990s stem from deteriorating family life.

Sanca commends Randburg Hoërskool as "a pioneer in overcoming the old, tight-lipped, authoritarian approach to education".

"We have to gear education towards the lifestyles people are leading and the information they are being bombarded with each day. A system that assists pupils is the only way we will stop the dropout rate and grow well-balanced adults," said Taljaard.

Sanca expects to receive comment on its appeal this month from Gauteng Education MEC Mary Metcalfe.

Schools have to empower themselves to cope with all situations. Most are avoiding the reality

No smoke, no fire, no conclusion

(87) 2/10/95

The first legal challenge to an employer's right to introduce a no-smoking policy on company premises was withdrawn without evidence being heard, the National Council Against Smoking has announced.

The matter was due to be heard in the Industrial Court in Pretoria on Friday last week.

Council executive director Dr Yusuf Saloojee said an employee

of Bheki Computer Systems had retracted her complaint that she was forced to resign when the company introduced the no-smoking policy.

She had alleged that she resigned because the company infringed upon her constitutional right to have a cigarette.

Bheki Computer Systems was awarded costs by the court. — Staff Reporter.

Dagga laws 'by racists'

BRU 6/9/95
SOUTH Africa's dagga legislation had been designed by racists, Correctional Services Minister Sipo Mzimela said. *(25) (87)*

Responding to questions from National Party senator Mark Wiley in the debate on the Supplementary Estimate to the Appropriation Bill, Mr Mzimela said these people still had the "audacity to give me a lecture on this".

...member in Dullendu
Lugulwana said there was more
information that council officials

These council flats could then
be let out to low income earners
who live on R500 a month.

Cancer report gives details of research

CT 7/9/95 (89)

STAFF REPORTER

THE Cancer Association of SA (Cansa) last night released a comprehensive research report detailing 77 of its sponsored research projects, the first such document to be compiled in 10 years.

According to a Cansa statement the report — which highlights pioneering work by South African researchers — will be distributed among cancer associations and research institutions all over the world, as well as medical facilities, libraries and universities country-wide. The report aims to show how

research funds are being applied.

A number of significant projects, including research into liver cancer and the use of vaccination in its prevention, the launching of a national screening programme to reduce the incidence of cervical cancer, research into the link between diet and cancer, and advances in the treatment of cancer, are included in the report.

Professor Basil Bloch, the acting president of Cansa, said last night the report represented "an enormous amount of work" and he praised researchers and "workers in the field" for their efforts.



Cat sings p

Cigarette manufacturers 'flout health warnings' (87)

Kathryn Strachan

DD 8/9/95

CIGARETTE manufacturers were breaking regulations under the Tobacco Products Control Act which required health warnings on advertisements, the National Council Against Smoking said.

The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) warned United Tobacco Company in July that its billboard advertising was illegal, and requested that it comply with the law. But the company failed to act on this directive and continued to contravene the law, the council's national director Yussuf Saloojee said yesterday.

Some billboard advertisements for cigarettes did not carry the health warnings at all, while others carried the warning smaller than was stipulated, and billboards which were lit at night placed the warnings out of range of the illumination.

Posters for tobacco products at retail outlets did not have warnings.

"ASA may not have the power and the ability to regulate the industry, but the government does," said Saloojee. "It can jail or fine companies which break the law. However, thus far it has done nothing."

The health regulations were enacted to increase the public's knowledge of the hazards of smoking, and were an important part of informed choice.

NEWS FEATURE

Grim reaper relies on tobacco

By Mokgadi Pela

Smokers are more likely to suffer heart attacks while in their prime

RESULTS OF a recent British study show that smokers are five times more likely to suffer from heart attacks than non-smokers.

Researchers have therefore singled out tobacco and HIV as the leading causes of premature death. There are

more than a million heart attacks a year among people in their thirties and forties.

About half of these are caused by tobacco. The study further showed that cigarette sales in Africa, Asia and Latin

America have risen greatly over the last 10 years.

Co-researcher Dr Roy Collins of the British Heart Foundation said heart attacks were the main way that tobacco killed young adults.

"When a United Kingdom cigarette smoker in his thirties or forties has a heart attack, there's an 80 percent chance that tobacco caused it."

Professor Richard Peto of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund said stopping smoking worked wonders: "If you happen to survive your first heart attack, then stopping smoking will make you much less likely to have another."

"Stopping before you have a heart attack is even better. Overall, about half of all persistent cigarette smokers eventually get killed by tobacco."

Locally, a recent study by the Medical Research Council showed that smoking rates were on the increase, with 52 percent of men and 17 percent of women smoking.

In total, seven million adult South Africans smoke. Figures show that 4,5

million blacks, 1,1 million coloureds, 0,22 million Asians and 1,2 million whites smoke.

"In 1988 it was estimated that 25 000 deaths nationally were caused by smoking-related diseases like lung cancer, heart attacks, stroke and emphysema. "South Africa already has one of the highest heart disease death rates in the world, especially among people who have typically Westernised lifestyles or a genetic disposition. "As smoking rates rise, we can expect to see increases in smoking-related deaths," said Dr Krisela Steyn, head of the MRC's Chronic Diseases of Lifestyle Programme. Steyn warned that this could have serious economic implications for the country in terms of treatment costs and loss of productivity as these diseases affected people in their prime years. At a workshop held recently at the MRC offices in Pretoria, participants committed themselves to campaign to:

- Increase taxes on tobacco products;
- Increase the legal age restriction at which people may buy tobacco;
- Enforce restrictions on smoking in public places; and
- Sensitise the community at large about the rights of non-smokers.

If these campaigns bear fruit, South Africa could reduce the number of deaths from heart diseases due to tobacco smoke.

Overall, about half of all persistent cigarette smokers are eventually killed by tobacco

Court to rule on dagga law's constitutionality

(87) BD 12/9/95

Susan Russell

PROVISIONS of the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act which hold that anyone caught with more than 115g of dagga is presumed to be dealing in the substance will come under the scrutiny of the Constitutional Court today.

The constitutionality of the provisions is being challenged on behalf of two men — Godzana Bhulwana and Joe Gwadiso — who were convicted of dealing in dagga after being arrested with more than 115g of dagga each in their possession.

They are challenging the validity of section 21(1)(a)(i) on the grounds that it violates the constitution's fair trial provisions, particularly the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

At present legislation places the onus on an accused arrested with more than 115g to prove that the dagga was for own use and not for dealing.

Bhulwana and Gwadiso's applications are being opposed by the State which contends that section 21 does not violate any fundamental right.

In written argument the State argued that if the section does limit a fundamental right then this limitation is reasonable and justified in terms of

section 33 of the constitution.

Section 33 provides for the limitation of a right provided it is reasonable and justified and does not negate the essential content of that right.

The State says the presumption provision in section 21 plays a vital role in dagga cases where there is no direct evidence of dealing or where the amount possessed is not so "huge" as to warrant an inference of dealing. If the law as it stands was abolished it would mean that many dealers operating in the grey area between 115g and a "substantial amount" would be able to ply their trade with impunity.

In their written argument counsel acting for the State suggested that the Constitutional Court lay down guidelines for the application of section 21 which, they maintain, would enable justice to be done to all concerned without scrapping that part of the Act.

Among the guidelines submitted by the State is that the manner of possession when a suspect is arrested, such as hidden in the false bottom of a suitcase, be taken into account. The time and place of a suspect's arrest in possession of more than 115g could also be taken into account in making a presumption of dealing.

ANTI-SMOKERS ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Restaurants targeted

AS ANTI-SMOKERS announced a drive against city restaurants which freely allow smoking, it emerged restaurant managers could get R100 fines. **PETER DENNEHY** reports.

ANTI-SMOKERS are to mount a campaign against city restaurants which freely allow smoking on their premises.

It also emerged yesterday that restaurant managers are now in danger of getting R100 fines for "aiding and abetting smokers" in committing what is now a criminal offence.

The Cape Town City Council ruled in April that smoking was

illegal in public places. If smoking is allowed in a restaurant, it can only take place in a demarcated area. The council said it would not check whether the regulation was applied. It was up to the public to complain, which could lead to action.

Yesterday Mrs Dawn Poole, the executive director of the Non-Smokers' Rights Association of SA, said members of her organisation

(87) CT 12/9/95
were looking for a "target" restaurant against which to take action.

She said non-smokers would go to a restaurant known for flouting the regulations openly, and "allow everything to happen naturally" by taking appropriate steps when someone lights up.

Fines

Mrs Poole said the association had tried to get city restaurants to cater for non-smokers, but with little success.

Meanwhile, Medical Officer of

Health Dr Michael Popkiss confirmed yesterday that the chief magistrates of the Wynberg, Goodwood, Cape Town, Simon's Town and Bellville districts recently agreed not only on R50 fines for recalcitrant public smokers, but also on R100 fines for restaurant managers who put out ashtrays where they should not.

He said restaurant managers who have smokers who refuse to stub out their cigarettes on request need not call city health inspectors, but could call the police as it was a criminal offence.

Non-smokers hit out at restaurants

Staff Reporter

THE Non-Smokers' Rights Association has lashed out at restaurants that do not cater for non-smokers.

This comes in the wake of the assistant Medical Officer of Health, Ivan Bromfield's confirmation that the chief magistrates of Cape Town, Goodwood, Bellville, Simon's Town and Wynberg have agreed on R50 spot fines for people flouting public smoking

(87) ARG 12/9/95
regulations, and R100 fines for restaurant owners who allow smoking in areas not demarcated for it.

Dr Bromfield said it was up to restaurant customers to report offenders.

City council regulations, which came into effect in April, ban smoking in restaurants unless it is in an enclosed and ventilated area which is not more than 20 percent of the total floor area.

Restaurateurs 'not policemen'

ET 13/9/95 (87)

STAFF REPORTER

THE Cape Town City Council was putting restaurateurs into a difficult position by forcing them to police a by-law which prohibited smoking in restaurants except in a demarcated area.

Founder of the Restaurant Guild Mr Aldo Girolo was commenting on the law that allows for restaurant managers and not only smokers to be fined.

Mr Girolo said any "non-smoking Tom, Dick and Harry" — such as the Non-Smokers' Rights Association of SA — could take it on themselves to target restaurants and disrupt business if they perceived that the city's smoking regulations were being flouted.

The association said this week they would be targeting restaurants which they thought allowed smokers free rein.

Mr Girolo, who owns both Hildebrand and Aldo's restaurant on the Waterfront, said it should be the council's responsibility to police a by-law which it had enacted.

Medical Officer of Health Mr Michael Popkiss said earlier this week that the chief magistrates of Bellville, Cape Town, Goodwood, Simon's Town and Wynberg had recently agreed not only to R50 fines for recalcitrant public smokers, but also on R100 fines for restaurant managers who put out ashtrays where they should not.

Criminal offence

Restaurant managers who had smokers who refused to stub out their cigarettes need not call city health inspectors, but could call the police as it was a criminal offence, Dr Popkiss had said.

Mr Girolo said very few restaurant managers would call the city council or the police as they would be driving away business.

"How can the council expect restaurants to call the police and chase away its own customers?" he asked.

He said 90% of his customers smoked. "I'm opposed to a restaurateur being a policeman. We're in the service business."

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Dagga gets court arguing

(87) *Southern* 13/9/95
Counsel contends dagga is used socially in a variety of cultural environments

By Mzimasi Ngudle

THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT of an accused to be presumed innocent came before the Constitutional Court yesterday when two Western Cape residents challenged the validity of a presumption created by the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act.

The Act provides that a person found in possession of dagga exceeding 115 grams (which can be rolled into 100 cigarettes) shall be presumed to have dealt in such dagga.

A conviction for dealing carries a heavier sentence than a conviction for possession.

While not arguing for the legalisation of dagga, Advocate AP Blignault, SC, for the accused, who were cited only as Bhulwana and Gwadiso, said there was a large and vociferous movement in favour of the decriminalisation of dagga.

In his heads of argument, Blignault quoted a report on drug enforcement in South Africa:

"For many rural people, cannabis cultivation and use is not regarded as an illicit activity. In some areas, cannabis is the only cultivatable crop, due to its ability to grow in poor soil.

"It is grown as a cash crop by many rural communities, which struggle to survive on

migrant remittances and pensions.

"The proceeds from cannabis have been used by thousands of families in the country to buy food. On one occasion, marijuana funded the building of the Transkei School of Education in a village in Transkei."

Blignault also argued that the presumption violated the accused's right to remain silent during the trial because the law placed a duty on him to discharge the presumption that he was dealing in dagga.

"The operation of the presumption is that an accused may be convicted of the offence of dealing in dagga, notwithstanding the existence of the reasonable doubt of the guilt of the accused," he said.

Blignault challenged the purpose of the presumption, saying that it did not help the State to combat the consumption and the supply of dagga.

"(It is) small guys rather than the big guys who will be nailed by this kind of thing.

"The Cabinet acknowledged that the only long-term solution to the problem of drug addiction was to create a healthy social climate," he said.

Blignault added that dagga was consumed socially and used for medicinal purposes.

Judgment was reserved.

Call to ban tobacco ads

(87) (19) ARG 16/9/75
JOHANNESBURG. — The World Health Organisation (WHO) has been asked to help draw up legislation to ban tobacco advertising in South Africa and other African countries.

The call was made at a WHO-sponsored meeting of African health ministries in Gabon this week. Most countries at the meeting supported bans on adverts and sponsorship, said one of the delegates, Derek Yach.

Dr Yach, a former Medical Research Council executive now attached to the Tobacco Control Commission for Africa in Geneva, said governments also were urged to do more work on school-based tobacco control programmes.

South Africa's health ministry is understood to be considering a total ban on tobacco advertising. — Sapa.

City diners enjoy smoke-free dinner

ET 21/9/95 (87)

WILLEM STEENKAMP

THERE was something missing during dinner at a Claremont restaurant last night — cigarette smoke.

Non-smoking patrons enjoyed a smoke-free evening at La Scala, organised by the Non-Smokers' Rights Association of SA, to prove that it is good business to cater for non-smokers.

Association executive director Mrs Dawn Poole said that — despite a City Council ban on smoking in public places — many restaurants still did not provide for non-smokers.

She scotched arguments that restaurants would suffer financially if they banned smoking. "My advice is: Give it a try."

She suggested that restaurants capitalise on the ban — which allows for 20% of an area to be set aside for smoking — by establishing an old-style smoking room where diners who feel so inclined can enjoy port or coffee and a nice puff after their meal.

Diners at the restaurant last night all supported the idea, and one criticised the council for "creating confusion" by enacting the regulation but not enforcing it.

But city Medical officer of Health Dr Michael Popkiss, who attended the gathering, said "we are only at the beginning" of banning smoking in public places.

The council's next step would be "a big public relations campaign", including the issuing of warnings to defaulters.

Cabin crew carried 2kg heroin

Drug couriers not prevalent, says SAA ~~(87)~~(87)

Star 22/9/95

■ BY ANSO THOM
AND ANNA LOUW

South African Airways yesterday said it had no reason to believe that more cabin crew members were involved in drug smuggling, following the arrest this week of two crew members in possession of 2kg of heroin.

The heroin has an estimated value of R700 000 on the black market.

Police said they had received information regarding the drugs and had searched the luggage of the crew after they alighted from

flight SA 297 which landed at Johannesburg International Airport at 8.30am on Wednesday.

The drugs were found hidden in false compartments in their luggage.

Searched

A senior police spokesman told The Star it was the first time that South African Narcotics Bureau detectives had searched SAA crew members and their luggage.

"As a result of this find, stricter security measures will be enforced from now on," he said.

Pupils use dagga, LSD, Mandrax and even some cocaine

School drugs problem is ignored by some heads

(87) Star 27/9/95

■ BY BOBBY BROWN

Drugs at schools on the West Rand have been steadily on the increase, but the problem is a social and individual one, rather than a problem with particular schools, according to West Rand Narcotics Bureau commander Captain Lobo das Neves.

He said that his bureau's work was being hampered by principals opting to ignore the problem for fear of their school's name.

Das Neves said this was not the case with Ivor van Bart, the principal of West Ridge High School in Roodepoort, where an 18-year-old matric pupil, Uwe Rayner Kamper, was arrested two weeks ago for selling LSD to fellow pupils. Kamper was later convicted and sentenced to four years' jail.

"We approached Van Bart when we knew about Uwe and he gave us his full support for the investigation," Das Neves said.

He said the drugs police get to see among school pupils on the West Rand were mostly dagga, LSD, Mandrax and to a lesser extent cocaine.

The Star spoke to pupils and teachers at a high school in Roodepoort and though many were reluctant to speak openly about drugs at their schools, it did emerge that the closer the school is to a shopping mall, the bigger the problem appeared to be.

But, Das Neves said that drugs could be found anywhere at any

time if one was looking for them.

West Ridge High School, an integrated facility, is about 100m away from the Horizonview Shopping Mall and many of the school's pupils use the venue as a gathering place after school.

The mall offers cinema, video games, slot machines and boutiques and some of the pupils were seen smoking cigarettes. They denied using drugs.

"Those who do drugs bring them from home. Many of us never even knew that there was a pusher at school," a pupil said.

Van Bart shared the view that the proximity of shopping malls to schools could aggravate drug problems.

"I don't really know how it affects the drug problem, but I can imagine how it could harbour peddlers," he said.

The Star also investigated the availability and usage of drugs at the Randburg Waterfront after learning that pedlars use the venue to sell drugs to youngsters. At least two schools are close to the popular venue.

Shop owners at the entertainment and shopping complex all agreed that drugs were being used by patrons of all ages, but none could say whether the drugs were being sold there or being brought onto the complex.

A waiter, who did not want to be named, said he had noticed transactions "of some sort" taking place between patrons and African men with cameras loitering in the walkways. He said he

thought that the men were Nigerians and that the cameras were a means by which buyers could identify the sellers.

The Star noticed several well-dressed men, at least two with cameras, standing around aimlessly, but none cared to comment about a drug problem at the complex.

Intoxication

Two police constables often on duty at the Randburg Waterfront, Roux van der Merwe and Mphaka Motolla, said they often noticed teenagers leaving the venue in a state of extreme intoxication.

"You can see and hear that they are high, but you don't know whether it's from alcohol or drugs and you can't go and arrest them," Motolla said.

He said they arrested a teenager earlier this year for possessing a roll of dagga, but the youngster had thrown most of it in the water before the police could confiscate it.

Van der Merwe said he was convinced that deals were taking place at the Waterfront, mostly at the nightclubs and pubs, but had never actually witnessed one.

The West Ridge issue followed another drug related expulsion and suspension of pupils at a KwaZulu/Natal school two weeks previously.

The rector of Michaelhouse school in the Natal midlands expelled two pupils and suspended 23 others for experimenting

with dagga.

Dr Sylvain de Miranda, spokesman for the South African National Council Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (Sanca) in Johannesburg, said schoolchildren using drugs was nothing new. But the emergence of pupils selling drugs to their school mates was.

"They start using drugs and become addicted. Now they are forced into also distributing to afford the habit," he said.

He said a number of schools have had to face the problem recently, but added that he blamed the education authorities for a large part of the problem.

"Preventative education should have been a part of school curriculums for a long time, instead, principals opt for expelling the pupils, but that does not address the cause of the problem. That youngster is now out in the street with no qualifications and the easiest thing for him to do to earn a living, is to go back to dealing in drugs," De Miranda said.

Meanwhile, Van Bart has called in the help of Sanca to run preventative education programmes at his school.

"I am angry with Uwe. He gave my school a bad name, but I will not punish him for the rest of his life," Van Bart said.

He said that Kamper would not be allowed on the school premises or to attend any functions, but he would be allowed to write his matric finals.

Further smoke-free flights introduced

(87)
Kathryn Strachan

MD 27/1/95
SOME international flights on SAA will become smoke-free from January.

In addition to its domestic flights being smoke-free, SAA said yesterday it would introduce non-smoking flights to all its African destinations, and where there were two flights to London on one day, one would be smoke-free.

The announcement came as the World Medical Association yesterday appealed to the International Civil Aviation Organisation to ban smoking on all international flights by July next year. The aviation organisation is reviewing progress on the implementation of a policy passed three years ago to ban smoking. World Medical Association secretary-general Ian Field said from France it was essential that the aviation organisation pursued this resolution and was not deflected by opposition from the tobacco industry. "Smoke-free flights are popular with passengers and are essential to a healthier world," he said.

Qantas Airlines said all its flights, except to Japan, were smoke-free. Japan was its most profitable route, and with the high incidence of smoking in Japan, trials were being conducted on how that market would respond to smoke-free flights.

The Australian government has also said that within the next few years, all flights to Australia will have to be smoke-free.

However, Air Scandinavia has reintroduced smoking on its flights.

SA National Council Against Smoking director Yussuf Saloojee said that in its first year of smoke-free flights, Air Canada saved \$600 000 because it had to deep-clean its planes less frequently. Planes were also safer as there was less risk of fire.

Smoking in planes was more harmful to people than in other environments, as the sealed cabin meant the levels of harmful chemicals accumulated very quickly.

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Qantas Airlines said all its flights, except to Japan, were smoke-free. Japan was its most profitable route, and with the high incidence of smoking in Japan, trials were being conducted on how that market would respond to smoke-free flights.

The Australian government has also said that within the next few years, all flights to Australia will have to be smoke-free.

However, Air Scandinavia has reintroduced smoking on its flights.

SA National Council Against Smoking director Yussuf Saloojee said that in its first year of smoke-free flights, Air Canada saved \$600 000 because it had to deep-clean its planes less frequently. Planes were also safer as there was less risk of fire.

Smoking in planes was more harmful to people than in other environments, as the sealed cabin meant the levels of harmful chemicals accumulated very quickly.

Further smoke-free flights introduced

(87)
Kathryn Strachan

(30) 27/1/95
SOME international flights on SAA will become smoke-free from January.

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Council office is smoke-free

Municipal Reporter (87)

THE Cape Metropolitan Council has taken a leaf out of the Cape Town City Council's book by declaring its head office a smoke-free building.

The decision was made after a survey of employees in the CMC's Wale Street complex.

The survey found that about 70 percent of staff were non-smokers and half the non-smokers were bothered by passive smoking.

The majority (62,8 percent) were in favour of a clean-air policy. *ARC 28/9/95*

Among the principles which the council has endorsed are that non-smoking will be considered the norm and that the rights of the non-smoker will prevail over the rights of a smoker where there is a conflict of interest.

Tobacco sponsors are a delicate issue

(87) (14) Star 29/9/95

■ BY STAFF REPORTER

Tobacco wars over the 1996 Rothmans Cape to Rio yacht race have ended, but the spotlight remains on the issue of allowing tobacco companies to sponsor local sporting events.

Last week, the Cape to Rio organising committee finally bowed to weeks of public and media pressure and decided to allow the race favourite, the Swedish yacht, Nicorette, to compete in the event.

Nicorette is the brand name for a chewing gum used to help smokers kick the habit.

The yacht Nicorette was first granted permission to compete in next year's Cape to Rio race in February 1995; but, in August, race organisers rescinded the decision, citing as their reason potential embarrassment for sponsor Rothmans.

In a statement re-

leased this week, Rothmans said that although it felt the committee acted correctly in protecting the interests of the main sponsor, the entry should be allowed in the best interests of sport, free competition and the event itself.

Nicorette skipper Ludde Ingvall has dubbed the decision a victory for sport: "No event organiser should be put under this sort of pressure from a sponsor, and be forced to make decisions which compromise the standards and values of an event," he said in a statement.

According to a statement from the National Council Against Smoking, the controversy sparked an international debate over the credibility of the Cape to Rio, and the power of tobacco sponsors to interfere with the integrity of sport in general.

The council has previ-

ously accused tobacco companies of circumventing new laws on tobacco advertising by pouring money into sports sponsorships.

■ The World Medical Association has called on the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) to ban smoking on all international passenger flights by July 1 1996.

The ICAO is meeting in Montreal to review progress on a ban on smoking.

"It is essential that the ICAO is not deflected by opposition from the tobacco industry," said WMA secretary-general Dr Ian Field. "Smoke-free flights are popular with passengers and an essential ingredient to a healthier world."

The WMA is an independent group of professional national medical associations from 64 countries, representing more than 3-million doctors.

(87)
**Group wants
smoking ban**

Health Reporter

THERE will be no smoking on international air flights if the World Medical Association has its way.

The association, representing more than three million doctors, has called on the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) to ban smoking on all flights by July 1 next year.

ARC 24/9/95
The aviation organisation is meeting in Montreal to review progress on the implementation of a ban resolution passed three years ago.

The association will ask 64 affiliated medical associations to lobby their governments to support the ban.

Now Constantia bans smoking ⁽⁸⁷⁾

Southern Reporter *ARG 2/10/95*

CONSTANTIA has adopted the city of Cape Town's controversial smoking-control law, which forbids or restricts smoking in public places.

In the recommendation, unanimously accepted at the last meeting of the substructure council, it is stated that the action accords with the interim constitution's "guarantee of the individual right to a healthy environment". American findings were cited, implicating environmental tobacco smoke as the most harmful cancer-causing agent in workplaces and public places, and a cause of fatal heart disease.

In terms of the law, smoking outside designated "smoking areas" in any restaurant or pub is an offence.

Smoking is forbidden outright in hair salons, clinics, banks, parts of hotels (or any building offering accommodation) open to the public, libraries, museums galleries or municipal buildings, post offices, public transport terminuses, schools, creches, shopping malls, lifts, buses, taxis or trains, shops, theatres, cinemas or sports stadiums.

Smokers' world gets smaller

STAFF REPORTER

IF you insist on smoking outside the privacy of your home you best familiarise yourself with when and where you may light up.

In terms of the Tobacco Products Control Act, you have to avoid any indoor area open to the public in the Cape Town municipality. And that includes:

Health facilities, banks, accom-

modation establishments, libraries, museums, galleries, municipal buildings, post offices and public transport terminals, restaurants; hairdressing salons, creches, shopping malls, retail stores, theatres, cinemas and sport stadiums. Also lifts, public conveyances and any room, hallway or service area in a public place where there is a service queue.

Exempted are bars, casinos,

retail tobacco stores, private clubs and restaurants, hotels, conference or meeting rooms used for private functions and municipal halls.

Many facilities are now providing designated smoking areas which have to be an enclosed area measuring not more than 20% of a public space. Air must be exhausted to the outside and non-smokers should not normally have to utilise such an area.

(87) EJ 11/10/95

Restaurateurs back smokers

Star 12/10/95

(87)

■ BY BOBBY BROWN

Smokers will be delighted to know that they will not get the short end of the butt and be stubbed out in restaurants, if the SA Restaurant Guild has anything to say about it.

The guild, representing about 800 of South Af-

rica's top restaurants, hotels and pubs, yesterday launched its "Courtesy of Choice" programme, aimed at encouraging restaurateurs to cater for both smokers and non-smokers.

But those against inhaling the air of puffers will also be pleased to

learn that adequate ventilation in smoking zones is a key factor to the success of the programme.

The programme follows recent controversial legislation in the Western Cape which binds restaurateurs to split their venues 80% to 20% in favour of non-smokers.

Restaurant body joins Cape protest

STAFF REPORTER

THE national body of restaurateurs has joined local restaurateurs in objecting strongly to Cape City Council's smoking legislation.

Mr Chris de Jager, national chairman of the South African Restaurant Guild, which represents 800 top restaurants, said not the Restaurant Guild nor any local authority nor any person had the right to prescribe a number of seats or quotas for (smoking) arrangements in any restaurant.

The Tobacco Products Control Act states that in the Cape Town municipality 80% of a restaurant should be non-smoking and 20% be a well-ventilated smoking area.

Mr De Jager said both smokers and non-smokers were important to the industry and the restaurateur was in the best position to respond to patrons' requirements.

He said there were areas of the industry geared towards smokers

CT 12/10/95 (87)
and that rigid guidelines could not be applied.

He said that the guild had called upon its members to offer patrons the "courtesy of choice" — providing a smoking and non-smoking option.

Mr Don Titmus, vice-chairman of the Cape Town Guild, said Western Cape restaurateurs as business people were worried by prescriptive legislation, but supported the non-smoking issue.

Hazard

Dr Ivan Bromfield, Cape Town's assistant medical officer of health, said regulations against tobacco had been created because cigarette smoke was a health hazard.

He said restaurants must provide smoking areas that were naturally ventilated or they must provide ventilation systems by April next year.

Street children mug tourist

CT 12/10/95
STAFF REPORTER

ANOTHER tourist has been mugged in the city in broad daylight — and CBD businesses, the police and tourism organisations are to meet soon to discuss measures to combat the growing violence on city streets.

Mrs Ann Simms, 60, of England, was walking with her husband on Tuesday about 10.40am when she was attacked by about 10 street children on an escalator off Strand Street, police said yesterday. Her necklace was ripped off her neck.

The previous night a vagrant in Thibault Square was shot dead by another vagrant and recently a Johannesburg couple were mugged by a gang on a Saturday afternoon as they were walking in Adderley Street.

Captour chief Mr Gordon Oliver said yesterday the city was now a year-round destination for overseas visitors and with tourism booming, increasing violence in the city was a "serious concern".

Strike up the banned

(87) FM 13/10/95

The tobacco industry has lit up over a Canadian Supreme Court ruling that legislation banning all forms of tobacco advertising is unconstitutional. It was held to unreasonably restrict the right of free speech, including commercial free speech.

International Advertising Association world president Luis Carlos Mendiola called it a "milestone case that must be communicated and vigorously employed in markets around the world." Among the findings:

- There was no direct scientific evidence showing a causal link between advertising bans and decrease in tobacco consumption;
- There was no evidence presented comparing the effects of a total ban with a less invasive ban. The Canadian government carried out at least one study of alternatives to a total advertising ban but refused to disclose its results which "must undercut the government's claim that a less invasive ban would not have produced an equally salutary result."

Though the ruling relates to advertising bans, it does not affect the enforcement of health warnings.

Tony Koenderman

No-smoking bylaw has guild fuming

(87)
Kathryn Strachan

BD 16/10/95
THE SA Restaurant Guild said last week it would oppose the Cape Town city council's tobacco control legislation which stipulates where smoking is allowed in public places.

Chairman Chris de Jager said the guild appealed to all local authorities not to follow the example of Cape Town and to leave it to restaurant managers to decide what the best decision was to take based on the preferences of their patrons.

By stipulating that restaurants had 80% non-smoking areas and 20% smoking, the legislation could result in restaurants — especially pubs — closing down.

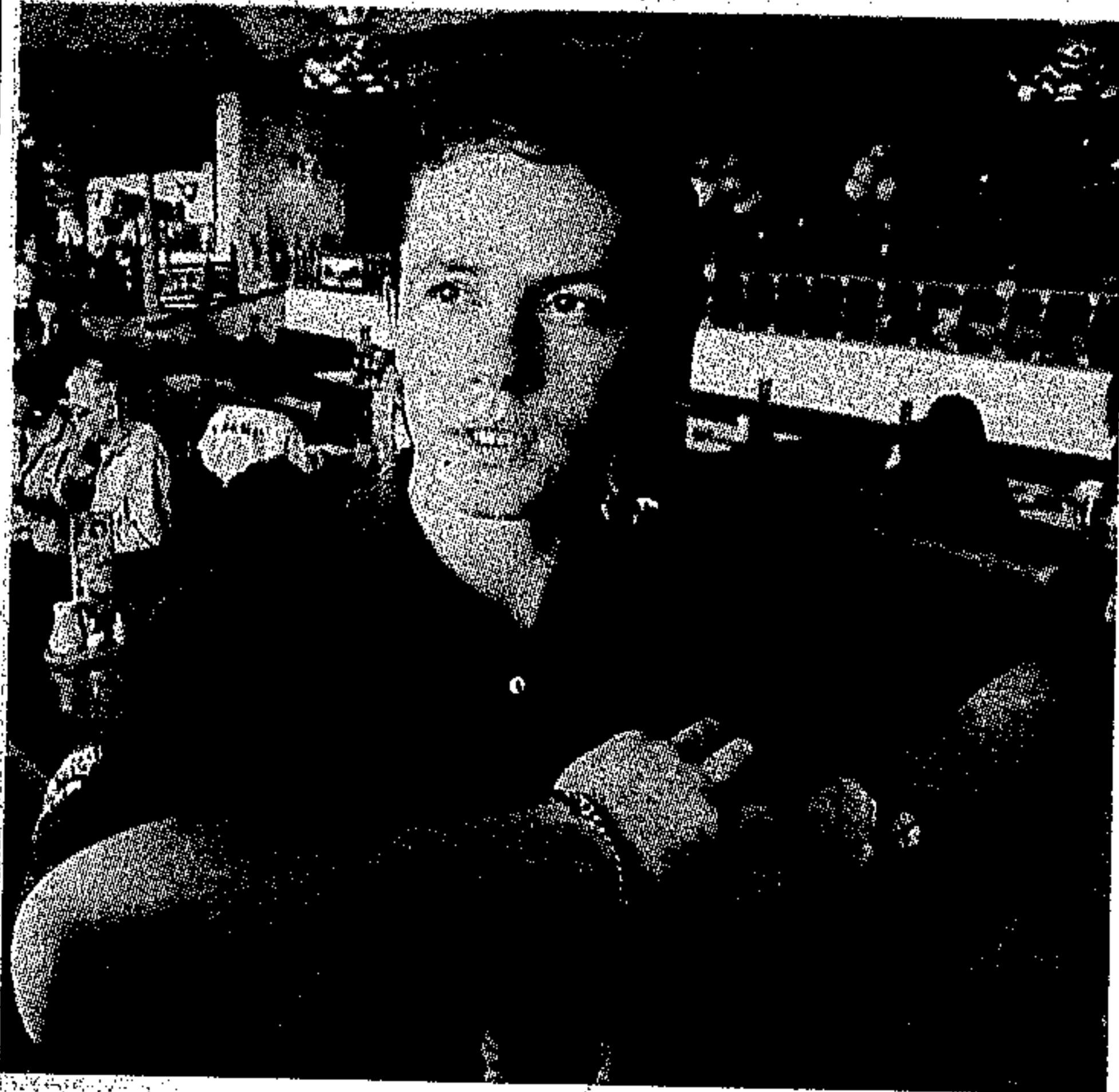
"In catering for smokers and non-smokers, the restaurant manager can demarcate seating according to the requirements of his market and clientele," he said.

"While seating area arrangements will vary from restaurant to restaurant, the guild believes guests should be allowed to exercise their preferences through the 'courtesy of choice' concept," said De Jager.

But National Council Against Smoking director Yussuf Saloojee said if courtesy was sufficient to prevent harm no laws would be needed at all.

"The SA Restaurant Guild eschews a comfortable, safe and healthy environment for the majority in favour of allowing a minority to pollute the air," he said.

The restaurant guild was disregarding the preference of non-smokers who had stated in surveys that they preferred smoke-free public places, Saloojee said.



Picture: HANNES THIART, The Argus.

SEPARATED: Waterfront Spur general manager Gordon Millar explains how the restaurant is separated into smoking and non-smoking areas.

Puffing decision has not affected (87) restaurants

ARG 16/10/95

Staff Reporter

BUSINESS has not been affected by the decision of many city restaurateurs to continue to allow smoking in their restaurants.

This emerged following last week's call by the South African Restaurant Guild for its members to offer patrons the choice of smoking or non-smoking areas.

The guild represents about 800 restaurants countrywide.

Cape Town's Tobacco Control Act, which came into effect in April, forbids smoking in public places, including restaurants, unless it is in an enclosed and ventilated area not more than 20 percent of the total floor area.

Lee Gorrie, manageress of Mangoes in Claremont said 20 percent of the restaurant was allocated to smokers, "but when it is very busy on Saturdays, about eight people walked away because they wanted to smoke — in the non-smoking section."

Ms Gorrie said that most customers were "quite happy with the arrangement". Aldo Girolocce, a non-smoker, who owns Hildebrand and Aldo's restaurants at the Waterfront, lashed out at the act, saying "the council has no right to tell me what to do — it doesn't pay my expenses".

Is smoking a constitutional issue?

(87)

Star 19/10/95

Loud are the cries of discontented smokers: "The minister is trampling over the rights of the smokers of South Africa," smarts Anthea Tarica, of Roosevelt Park.

She is part of the "We've got a constitution, where are our rights" lobby, which has been raising fury in columns and letters pages since smoking began to be restricted in South Africa.

It has become all the more heated since word got out that the Department of Health, and local authorities, led by Cape Town and Greater Johannesburg, are considering stronger clean air policies to protect non-smokers' rights to a healthy environment.

The rumour mill has already churned out threats of "jail sentences" and "written permission" for smokers, but there'll be no valid details of the new restrictions for another six months.

The Health Department is taking legal opinion on its draft national regulations to curb smoking in public places and the workplace, because the definitions of these areas are difficult, says Susan van Niekerk, assistant director for health promotion and public policy.

Greater Johannesburg's TMC

THOSE WHO object to restrictions on public smoking cry out about their rights, but non-smokers have rights too. Medical Correspondent Janine Simon reports.

is still working on policy options to protect non-smokers' rights to clean air, says Dr Yasmin von Schirnding, Director of Environmental Health.

Still, smokers (a large minority of 7-million adults in South Africa) are already fighting the trend. In one easily-counteracted set of arguments they query the health threats of passive smoking, how much of a pollutant cigarette smoke really is, and argue that health risks and costs are the business of smokers alone.

Space demands that Dr Yussuf Saloojee, executive director of the National Council Against Smoking, selects only the most significant facts from the tomes of evidence showing that inhaling someone else's smoke can cause heart disease, lung cancer and respiratory problems.

He chooses to point out that the US Environmental Protection Agency classified tobacco smoke as a Class A carcinogen in 1991, putting it in the same class as

radioactivity, benzene and asbestos.

The Australian tobacco industry spent R7-million taking that country's consumer association to court over the passive smoking health issue, he adds, only for the judge to rule there was "overwhelming scientific evidence" to show that passive smoking causes lung cancer and respiratory illness in children.

UCT's Department of Health Economics has shown that for every rand we earn from tobacco taxes, R3 is spent on tobacco-related illnesses and lost productivity.

But the air is becoming thicker around smokers' strident calls to be free to choose.

Despite the fact that tobacco smoke can kill, and its ill-effects can cost billions, prohibition is not the issue: tobacco is not illegal, and there are no plans to make it so, confirms Van Niekerk.

Leaving aside the fact that nicotine is addictive, and addic-

tion has a bearing on free choice South African adults who want to smoke can do so, and will.

Where they do so is another matter. Haunted no doubt by the American spectre of workers forced to take puff-breaks on street corners, the Free Market Foundation's Leon Louw argued in a letter to The Star that who determines where people smoke is not a health question, but one of personal and property rights.

Government, significantly, is taking legal opinions on exactly that: what comprises a public or work-place, and presumably, who then has the right to decide?

Once that's defined, chances are that the 34% of South Africans who smoke will be legally obliged to refrain from doing so in places where it can damage the health of the 66% who don't.

So far, the thrust seems to be for a policy, which, where practical, takes smokers' needs into account. It must also allow for separately ventilated areas, otherwise the smoke is simply circulated throughout the system.

Given the evidence and provided that the recommendations are fulfilled, these limitations would seem to be constitutionally justifiable, says expert Dennis Davis.

Doctor's advice 'most effective way to get smokers to quit'

A NEW analysis of various ways to help people stop smoking suggests that the most effective incentive is low-tech, old-fashioned and cheap: Encouragement from a doctor.

Even then, the success rate is modest. About two percent of smokers are able to quit for at least a year after being advised to do so during a routine visit to the doctor, researchers found.

Such advice is more likely to take hold in pregnant women and patients with heart disease.

"People stop smoking as a

(87) CT-19/10/95
result of brief, unsolicited advice from their family practitioner," the researchers concluded after reviewing 188 case studies.

Cost-effective

Having doctors routinely urge smokers to quit is cost-effective, researchers said, because the potential benefits are large and the costs small, as it takes only five minutes of the doctor's time.

Using those figures, the researchers estimated the average cost of saving a life through rou-

tine counselling of smokers by doctors would be about \$1 500 (about R5 475).

"Few procedures in medicine carry so small a cost of saving a life," they concluded.

Hypnosis was unproven and acupuncture ineffective.

The analysis was conducted by researchers at the Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine and the Medical College of St Bartholomew's Hospital, both in London. The findings were reported in the current Archives of Internal Medicine. — Washington Post

Secret Bop land spree probed

By PETER De IONNO

THOUSANDS of hectares of land bought secretly with Bophuthatswana government money, lies in the hands of its former finance minister.

Martin van den Berg is the sole shareholder of Bala Farms Pty (Ltd), which is under investigation by the Budlender Commission into State Land Transactions for its R30-million spree on about 20 000 ha of farmland between 1989 and 1994.

Although the company's auditors, Ernst and Young, hold a deed of trust stating that Mr van den Berg holds the company's only

share on behalf of the now defunct Bophuthatswana government, lawyers have questioned why the government itself was not registered as a shareholder.

Its former minister of state and aviation, Rowan Cronje, said Bala Farms had been used as a vehicle for land purchases because the Group Areas Act had prevented the Bophuthatswana government from buying land in "white" South Africa. Between 1989 and 1994, Bala Farms bought 69 portions of farmland.

The last transaction was settled on March 20 last year, more than a week after President Lucas Mangope's regime was toppled

in a violent uprising.

The commission will investigate allegations that prices of up to R1 000 a hectare, paid by the company for cattle-grazing farms in the Marico bushveld in 1991, were double the market rate and that farms were leased back secretly to former owners at nominal rentals.

Mr Cronje said the first purchase in 1989 had been of a large farm, held by the Beyers family, between Mmabatho and Lichtenburg to obtain rights to underground water to supplement supply to the homeland capital.

Other purchases had been intended to extend Bophutha-

tswana's borders into the "Marico corridor" and to end disputes with farmers on the homeland's borders in the Brits area.

North West Province spokesmen have not replied to questions about what plans the government has for the land. No legal moves have been made to bring the land under provincial control.

Company records list Bala Farms' current directors as Mr van den Berg, Mr Cronje, the former Bophuthatswana director of legal service and land administration, Theodorus Scheepers, the former minister of justice, Godfrey Mothibe, and Johannes du Preez, a builder.

ST 22/10/95

(2668)

Major row at contest

By SUE BLAINE

TEMPERS flared as much as skirts at this year's national drum majorette competition when some incensed judges accused others of cheating.

And six of the 28 schools which took part in the South African Academy of Show and Drill Teams Championships in Rustenburg — including last year's winner, Jim Fouche High from Bloemfontein — are threatening legal action and demanding that the results be invalidated.

Judge Charmain Caroto, of Johannesburg's Roodebeek High School, said schools were not informed of changes to the rules and claimed rules were only applied "to certain groups in certain phases of the competition".

Two trainers allegedly heard academy chairman Fred McCann tell the University of Potchefstroom trainer to "ignore the rules but not let the other competitors find out".

The six schools are claiming that they were not told the measurements of the official court, which prevented them from preparing properly, and that they were refused access to scorecards when other teams saw theirs before the prizegiving.

Mr McCann was not available for comment.



WINNER . . . Francis Paredes can now afford the dress she wants
Picture: ANDRZEJ SAWA

Slots winner in wedding bliss

By PHYLICIA OPPELT

SOUTH AFRICA'S newest millionaire went hunting for a wedding dress the day after she won at the slot machines.

Francis Paredes won R1 006 796 at the Morula Sun near Pretoria on Thursday night and was fitting on dresses the next day in preparation for her wedding next month.

She said she had played the slot machines for barely 10 minutes when the bells went off and people started screaming around her. "They told me I had won a million rand and I just sat there crying."

Miss Paredes said, "It still feels funny," but she is getting used to it by drinking champagne and being driven around in a limousine.

"I feel like a queen and very important. Everyone has been so nice to me."

Miss Paredes said she

was going to think before spending her money.

But the 32-year-old Joubert Park resident said she had some ideas. She's set her heart on a grey ballgown designed by The Boys for her wedding to Arthur, her Mozambican fiancé.

She also intends erecting tombstones on her mother and son's graves.

"My other two children, Kirsten and Blake, will get what they have always wanted — a house with a swimming pool.

"And the 12 street children I look after will all get new takkies."

Her windfall comes just a few weeks before she was supposed to start a new job as a hostess with a bus company.

"I have been jobless for several months now, but there is no way I am going to start working. I am going to be a housewife and have a baby."

Confusion over names upsets rival bodies

By CAS St LEGER

THE SA National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (Sanca) is becoming increasingly worried about confusion between it and Dr Sylvain de Miranda's non-affiliated body, Sanca Johannesburg.

Sanca's deputy director, Marcelle Christian, said Sanca did not always agree with Dr de Miranda's advice on drugs, and there was a danger that

overseas donors could become confused between the two bodies.

However, Sanca did not come to any new conclusions about the decade-long dilemma at its annual general meeting in Durban this week.

The rift between Sanca and Dr de Miranda — who runs the private rehabilitation clinic, Riverfield Lodge, the drug centre, Phoenix House, and a Soweto clinic — dates back to 1981

when he and Sanca's management board fell out over a personal matter.

After several attempts to heal the rift, and because Dr de Miranda had not paid the affiliation fees to Sanca, he was formally told he was no longer an affiliate and no longer entitled to use Sanca's name.

But he continued to call his office Sanca Johannesburg and to describe himself as a director.

ST 22/10/95

(87)

'Bankers' wanted to help collect paper and earn hard cash

MONDI Recycling's waste paper projects are enjoying steady growth in the Western Cape, according to Mondi marketing representative Chris Heywood.

Mondi's waste paper programmes comprise three elements: Paper Banks, Paper Bankers and a confidential shredding service.

Paper Banks are huge, orange-coloured fibreglass igloos which we place - with the municipality's approval - in areas convenient for residents to dump their used newspapers and magazines, says Chris.

There are some 66 Paper Banks in the Western Cape and the local municipalities are extremely supportive of the programme because of the cost savings they make, according to Chris Heywood.

Schools raise money

Many schools have collected scores of tons of waste paper through their Paper Banks so far.

"It is a way for schools to raise money - we pay them for all the waste paper they collect. It also helps educate children about environmental issues."

The second leg of the waste paper programme is the confidential shredding service. Mondi provides companies with special bins which, when full, are collect-

ed and the contents shredded. The company is then issued with a Certificate of Destruction, and the service is free.

The third leg of the programme involves "paper bankers" - individuals who take "ownership" of one or more Paper Banks. They then motivate the people in their areas to dump their used newspapers and magazines in the Paper Bank, and they collect all money that is paid for the paper.

Says Chris Heywood: "We are looking for more people to sign up as Paper Bankers and we will give them every assistance to get started. We have estimated that one individual can earn a about R500 a month managing just one Paper Bank."

Helps municipalities

"Mondi's Paper Bank programme makes a valuable contribution to the waste collection services operated by municipalities. One municipal official told me paper comprises more than 20% of all waste they collect. If we could get all that paper put into Paper Banks, it would save the municipalities of a lot of money in transport and collection."

Anyone wanting to know more about the Mondi Paper Banking programme can call toll-free 08000-22112 or contact Chris Heywood at 931 5106.

Impressive record of can collection in Southern Africa

ALMOST 837 million empty steel cans were recovered by Collect-a-Can in Southern Africa in the past year, to make the region a world leader in terms of growth in can recovery rate.

The recovery of steel cans for the year ended June 30 1995 reached a record rate of about 40 percent, with almost 23 000 tons recovered in South Africa alone. In Botswana 3 282 tons were recovered, in Namibia 1 738 and in Lesotho, 1 417.

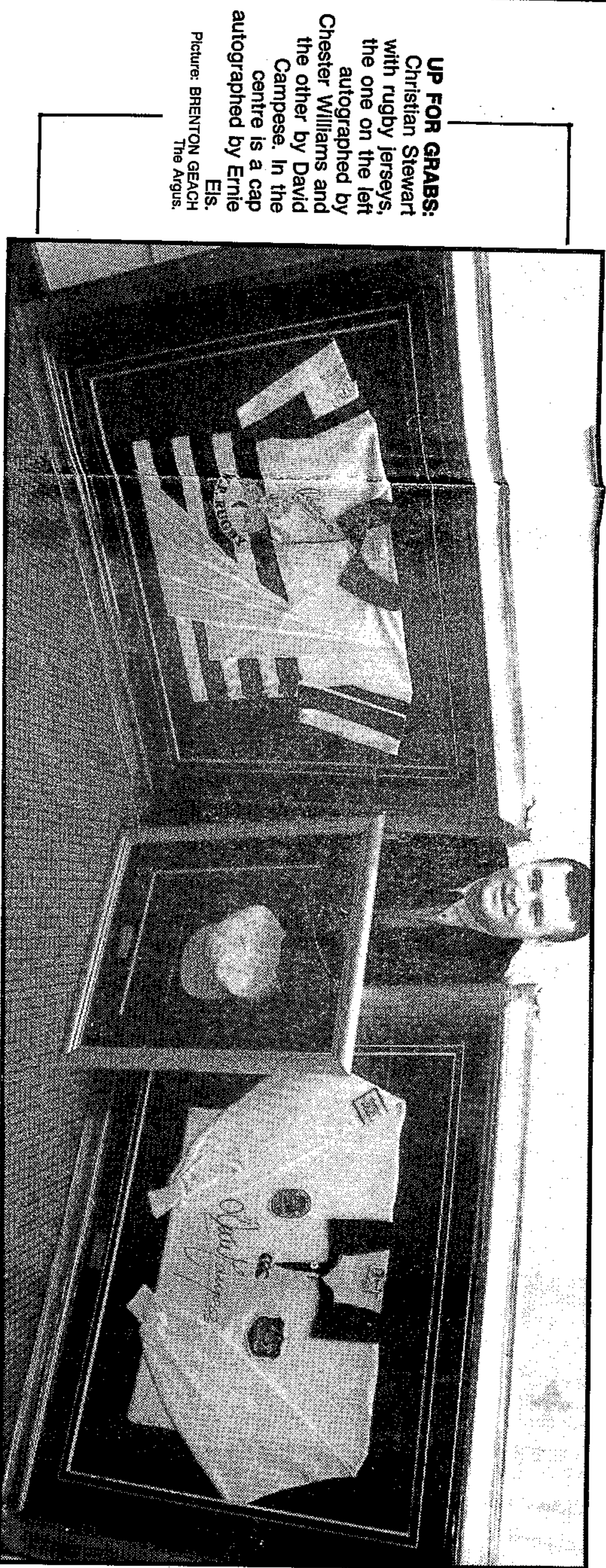
Nick Kock, managing director of Collect-a-Can - the largest can recovery firm in Southern Africa and the only one

the can content of the litter composition in Southern Africa from eight to only two percent in the past two years.

The company's depots have also increased from five to 10 and further expansion is planned for the future. The price paid for empty cans by Collect-a-Can has risen by more than 700 percent since 1993.

Remarkable success

The remarkable success achieved by Collect-a-Can has made Southern Africa



UP FOR GRABS: Christian Stewart with rugby jerseys, the one on the left autographed by Chester Williams and the other by David Campese. In the centre is a cap autographed by Ernie Els. Picture: BRENTON GEACH The Argus.

Rub shoulders with sporting heroes, and raise funds for the environment

Staff Reporter

SPORTS fans can rub shoulders with their heroes and bid for autographed rugby jerseys, cricket bats and other memorabilia at a gala fundraising dinner.

The Fairfest Cape Association sports auction will be held on

Thursday - on the eve of the first cricket match of the season at Newlands.

Each table at the dinner at the Bay Hotel will be hosted by a celebrity, and the Western Province and Transvaal cricket teams will be there too.

Guest speakers at the dinner will be Craig Matthews, Christian Stewart and Dale Hayes.

The aim of the evening is to raise funds for environment protection, and the purchase of sports equipment for the Guguletu Indoor Sports Centre and the

Silvertree Youth Club in Mankberg.

The memorabilia up for grabs includes rugby jerseys autographed by David Campese and Chester Williams, a cap autographed by Ernie Els, a running shoe autographed by Bruce For-

dyce and three autographed cricket bats from the SA vs England, SA vs Australia and the SA vs New Zealand tours. Tickets for the evening are available from Christine van Niekerk of the Fairfest Cape Association at 462 2040.

Affirmative action in public sector well, survey shows

Argus 24/10/95

PRETORIA - Affirmative action is being visibly implemented in the South African public sector, according to a recent survey by Central Statistical Services (CSS).

But although the number of black employees is increasing, blacks are still being paid less than their white, coloured and Indian counterparts, the research shows.

Since October last year, the number of black workers in the public sector increased by 5 817 within a period of six months, while the number of white workers decreased by 9 523 in the same period.

However, whites in the public sector are earning on average R2 037 more than their black colleagues.

The survey showed a ratio of eleven black workers to every white worker in the provincial administrations.

The research examined average salaries and wages in national and provincial administrations, excluding employers' contributions to funds, and revealed a 36 percent difference between the aver-

Ex-paedophile speaks out in bid to help others

Prompted by child abuser boasting on radio about exploits

The Argus Correspondent

DURBAN - The shock interview with a paedophile during a radio talk show last week has prompted a father - now a rehabilitated child abuser - to speak out in an attempt to help other paedophiles deal with their problems.

He says children need love and attention but luring them into sexual acts with adults is "sick and wrong".

Lashing out at another child abuser for "boasting" about his sexual exploits in graphic detail during a live radio talk show, the man known as Peter

seven and nine since his teenage years and at times had "fallen hopelessly in love with them".

Like James - the paedophile who called Radio 702 last week and described how he lured little girls into having sex with him - Peter had also been irresistibly sexually attracted to children.

But "overpowering and seducing children" is nothing to be proud of, he said. "It's no achievement at all and there's no doubt that children get hurt, physically and emotionally."

Peter's own victims were often the children of friends whom he baby-sat and who suf-

fered confronted him, he realised he had come to the end of the road.

"I have a lot to thank that woman for because she threatened to report me to the police if I didn't seek help.

"I knew that what I had been doing was wrong and no matter what people like James say, at the end of the day they too, know that their actions are wrong - there's always a sense of remorse after the sexual act," he said.

Peter believes that keeping the secret buried in them not only prevents paedophiles from confronting their problems, but

sions were destroying my life," he said. But, now Peter runs his own accounting firm and has got his marriage back on track.

And as much as society is repulsed and outraged by paedophiles, people need to realise that they have genuine problems, often brought on because of sexual inadequacies, he said. "I have never been successful as a seducer of women. I'm very insecure around them and I thought that would change after I married, but it didn't."

"It's a compulsive habit, like smoking or drinking and as much as people are disgusted

company has an objective of reaching a 50 percent recovery rate next year. Indications are that this target is now well within reach.

"The number of registered can collectors is rising all the time. In April 1993 we had only 1 500 registered collectors. Now there are more than 13 000 agents, entrepreneurs and collectors operating throughout Southern Africa.

Hundreds of jobs - paying from hundreds to thousands of rands per month - have been created. At the same time, the sub-continent's environment has been cleaned up in an unprecedented manner," says Mr Kock.

Collect-a-Can has managed to reduce

for example, is extremely impressed and has indicated that it is considering duplicating some of the Collect-a-Can operations and structure to boost can recovery in the EEC region.

"If South African municipalities were to encourage can recovery more, the recovery rate in this country could even be higher," says Mr Kock.

Collect-a-Can recently increased the price it pays for recovered cans in the Western Cape.

Collect-a-Can now pays R2,80 per kilogram for aluminium cans, 36c for sorted steel beverage cans and 30c for other steel cans such as food, paint, aerosol and oil tins, delivered to Epping.

NO JOB?

COLLECT CANS FOR COLLECT-A-CAN AND EARN

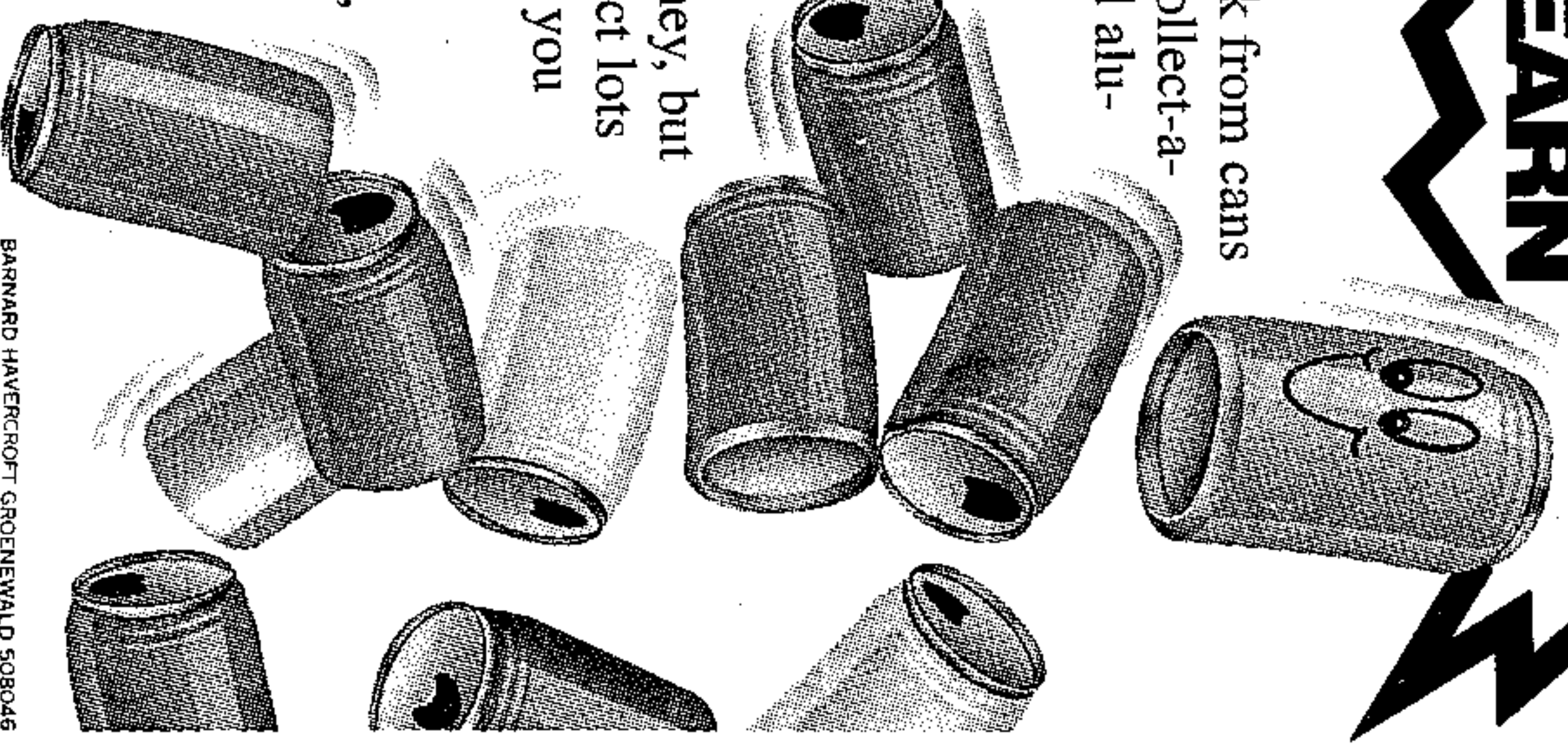
Doesn't everybody drink from cans and throw the cans away? Collect-a-

Can wants all those steel and aluminium cans for their metal.

So will you collect for us? A little collecting will earn you a little money, but a big organized push to collect lots of cans can earn you a lot, if you work hard.

For the story on how to make money from collecting, call Collect-a-Can, at Cape Town (021) 54 7010.

COLLECT-A-CAN



BARBARA HANFICHOFF GROENENALD SCOPUS

blacks.

In March this year, Indians in national and provincial departments were earning the top average salary of R3 871 per month.

The average salary of white employees was R3 818 per month, coloureds were earning on average R2 627 per month and blacks were placed at the bottom end of the average salary scale at R2 415.

Out of a total of 1 885 443 public sector workers (including Transnet, the SA Post Office and Telkom), 52 percent are black and 22,5 percent are white.

The decrease of 2 365 white workers in provincial administrations between January and March this year was mainly due to retirements, the CSS said.

The public sector as defined in the survey included national departments, provincial executives, local authorities, parastatal institutions, universities and technicians, agricultural marketing boards and public corporations.

The survey also covered the civil services of the former TBVC states and self-governing territories, based on estimates obtained in the second quarter of 1994. — Sapa.

R1,4-m copper wire

stolen in five months

MIDDELBURG. — Thieves were responsible for the loss of more than R1,4 million worth of copper wire in Mpumalanga over a period of five months, according to Telkom provincial area manager Charl Swanepoel.

Mr Swanepoel said a total amount of R1 423 481,72 had been lost between April and September this year.

He said Telkom's service levels and ability to deliver its reconstruction and development programme commitments were being hampered by the extent of copper wire theft and sabotage in the province.

Fifty Middelburg residents had their telephone service disrupted after 1km of wire was stolen and the farm Beestepan in the Middelburg district lost 2km of wire. — Sapa.

Secunda man has throat slit in motiveless attack

NELSPRUIT. — A man had his throat slit and his girlfriend was stabbed by an unidentified person in Secunda at the weekend, according to police.

Mpumalanga police spokesman Captain Doep du Plooy said Philip Mulusi and Justine Ntsalangi were walking in Secunda on Saturday night when they were approached by a man who suddenly pulled out a knife and slit Mr Mulusi's throat.

Mr Mulusi died instantly and the man then stabbed Ms Ntsalangi in the right shoulder, left arm and hip before running off.

Captain Du Plooy said police had not yet established a motive for the attack.

In another incident in Mpumalanga, five men entered the bar at the Khross Golf Club on Saturday night and held up two customers and the owner with knives.

The captain said the owner, Donald Steward, 51, was threatened with an iron bar and forced to open the safe.

The five men took R4 000 in cash, a cellular telephone and some cigarettes before running away on foot. — Sapa.

problem spanning three decades and his subsequent rehabilitation.

A 43-year-old married father-of-three, Peter had abused little girls between the ages of

the "broken wing syndrome" — children who came from troubled or single-parent homes.

But when the mother of a nine-year-old girl whom Peter had abused over a two-year pe-

their own self-worth.

"For years I felt unworthy and incapable of excelling in anything — my work and marriage suffered because of my insecurities. My sexual compul-

Peter also suspects that his vague recollections of being fondled by two homosexual uncles as a child had resulted in him abusing children.

SA Tamils protest against Sri Lanka 'genocide'

PRETORIA. — About 50 South African Tamils marched on the United Nations Development Programme building in Pretoria, demanding an end to "systematic genocide in Sri Lanka."

"Many atrocities are being committed by the Sri Lankan government," Tommy Padotan, national co-ordinator of

People Against Sri Lankan Oppression said.

"Villages are bombed and innocent people are being killed. We are trying to get the United Nations to intervene."

More than 36 000 people have been killed since Tamil rebels started fighting against the Sinhalese government for

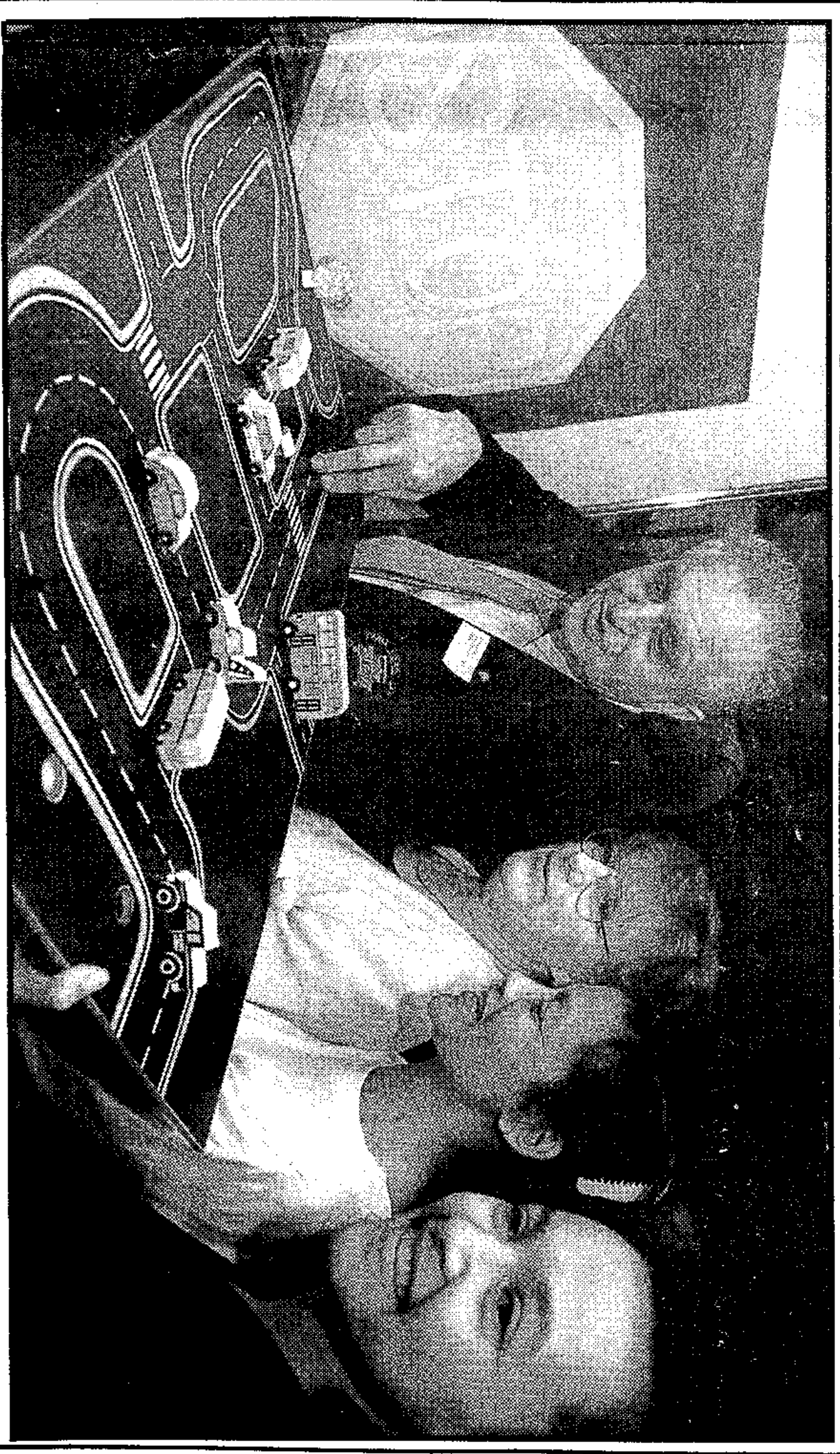
a Tamil homeland in 1983.

Kota Padayachi, 50, said the Tamils were demanding their rightful share of the country. "Many years ago, Sri Lanka was a Tamil country."

Mari Pillay, 64, accused the UN of remaining on the sidelines as it had nothing to gain from getting involved.

community only gets involved in human rights violations cases when there is some kind of benefit for them.

The protestors handed a memorandum to South African UN co-ordinator David Whaley who said it would be presented to the Geneva centre for Human Rights as well as UN secretary-general Boutros-Ghali. — Sapa.



Picture: HANNES THART, The Argus.

Campaign to reduce child deaths on the roads

STAYING ALIVE: Celebrating the launch of a new traffic safety project aimed at pre-school children are, from left, Lionel Back of the Cape Town city council's traffic department, project leader Anne Evans, and pre-school teachers Vivian Koereses of the Manenberg Community Centre and Venecia Tobin of Eros school in Bridgetown.

Staff Reporter

MORE than 560 children are killed and more than 4 800 injured on South African roads each year, most of them under the age of eight.

And to help reduce these tragic statistics, the Automobile Association has teamed up with a publishing company to produce an innovative educa-

tion package aimed at pre-school children, their teachers and parents.

The project's main message is that traffic accidents are preventable through safe, considerate road use and awareness by young children of the need to become "street-wise."

Anne Evans, leader of the project, said at the project's

launch that most injuries to small children happened in and around the home, and particularly where roads became extended playing areas.

"We have designed a kit to provide children with opportunities to absorb the basics of staying alive on South African roads through having fun with a variety of projects," she said.

The initiative, dubbed the Reader's Digest/Automobile Association Child Traffic Safety Project, has been tested in pre-schools and community centres in Manenberg, Guguletu and Nyanga.

Packages are to be distributed free to about 1 000 pre-schools, nursery schools and community centres in the Western Cape.

Anti-smoking sentiment hits Remgro's shares

(87) Stav 25/10/95

BY JOHN SPIRA

Blue chip Remgro has not been a happy investment for those who were seeking meaningful growth two years ago.

Indeed, the shares have actually regressed since the beginning of last year, when they hit a high of 3750c. At their ruling 3225c they are well below that peak, though comfortably above a two-year low of 2350c.

However, such snapshot glances obscure the emergence of underlying trends, the most significant in Remgro's case being the impressive advancing trend in the share price over the past 10 weeks. The current price equates with this year's high, suggesting that further strength would constitute a convincing buy signal.

The technical factors aside, there is little room for debate that the prime factor depressing sentiment towards the shares has been the anti-smoking lobby. The Trade Mark Group, which houses Remgro's tobacco interests, accounts for half of the group's earnings and is a crucial element in Remgro's overall performance.

Whether based on intensive analysis or on gut feel, investors have tended to avoid Remgro because of a belief that the anti-smoking lobby will steadily and inexorably erode Remgro's primary earnings base.

To a degree they have a point, especially since compliance with regulations centring on health warnings have increased Remgro's costs more than would otherwise have been the case.

At the same time, the emotions generated by the health issue have obscured perspective. They have militated against an objective assessment of the true lie of the land

and of the manner in which the shares have been valued against a background laden with subjectivity.

London-based Hambros equities has cut away sentiment and produced a balanced argument which concludes that Remgro is undervalued.

It believes that the proposed merger between Remgro's and Richemont's tobacco interests could lead to a re-rating of Remgro's tobacco division.

The firm calculates that Remgro's tobacco interests are now valued on a historic price to an earnings multiple of 8,5 — a 54 percent discount to the industrial index.

"If valued on a 12 price-to-earnings multiple, which we think is justified, the net asset value of Remgro increases by some 13 percent to 3400c."

Hambros stresses that a price-to-earnings multiple of 12 is about in line with the ratings of international tobacco companies, thereby supporting the justification for its 3400c a share net worth assumption — a figure which suggests that the ruling share price throws in the group's extensive interests in mining, industry and financial services free.

Further:

□ "The negative reaction to anti-smoking measures... has been over-emphasised and the growth potential underrated";

□ "Southern African cigarette consumption, which is well below world averages, is likely to increase with improving economic conditions and a high growth rate in the over 16-year-old population";

□ "Rembrandt's positive growth prospects should more than outweigh the negative connotations surrounding tobacco companies, narrowing the discount in the price to earnings multiple".

Looking in greater depth into the earnings outlook, Ham-



Smokescreen . . . Through images such as these, the anti-smoking lobby has led to shares being valued against a subjective background. Hambros has cut away sentiment and produced a balanced argument

bros notes that in the year to March this year there were several abnormal items, mostly in the tobacco division, such as the rationalisation of cigarette factories and the implementation of health warnings on cigarette packs, that depressed earnings growth.

"The absence of these items and a substantial turnaround from Huntcor in the long term will improve future earnings."

Additionally, Hambros predicts long-term growth possibilities, as well as a short-term re-evaluation, will emerge from a merger of the tobacco interests with Richemont.

"Rembrandt has been criti-

cised in the past because it has not used its large cash reserves (R1,1 billion at March this year) emanating from its tobacco business for aggressive expansion.

"An international tobacco company would open up many possibilities previously denied to it."

The firm forecasts that Remgro's earnings growth should, in the long term, match that of the JSE industrial index, making it a diversified growth stock. "In the short term, the tobacco interests could be revalued, providing shareholders with an above average return over the next year."

Tobacco Institute gave us snuff, say pupils

BD 31/10/95

(87) (198)

Kathryn Strachan

TEN-year-olds who visited the Cotton and Tobacco Institute near Rustenburg on a school trip recently said yesterday their tour guide told them tobacco was not harmful, and that they were given snuff to try.

Jan Rees related how the tour guide, as part of his lecture, said there was no proof that smoking caused cancer. "He explained that smoking is not bad for you," she said. "One girl said: 'My mother said that's not true,' and he said: 'Well, your mother is wrong.'"

Her classmate, Alexi McCarthy, added: "They also said snuff is not so

bad for you and it helps clear your sinuses. They left the snuff on the desk and said we could try it if we wanted to. Our teachers were with us. Nearly all the kids tried it," she said.

"He said people who tell you smoking is bad for you are just trying to get you to stop buying cigarettes ... and the only bad thing about smoking is that it is addictive," Rees said.

Another classmate, Lise du Plessis, said: "The next day our teacher told us smoking was bad for us and that we should not start smoking."

Rees's mother, Dr Sue Goldstein, said she was horrified when her daughter told her of the outing. She contacted

the Gauteng education department, which was investigating the matter.

The Tobacco Institute could not respond to Business Day yesterday, but in a letter to the National Council Against Smoking, which took up the issue, institute director Dr GD Joubert rejected the allegations. "We never supplied snuff to children, nor did we indicate that tobacco was not harmful," he said. A total of 4 550 children had visited the institute this year.

Council director Yussuf Saloojee said the institute was acting illegally by giving tobacco products to children younger than 16. He criticised it for undermining health department efforts.

(87)

Row over tobacco trip

Star 31/10/95

■ BY PRISCILLA SINGH

The Research Institute for Cotton and Tobacco has denied allegations made by primary school pupils that they were given snuff to try, and told that tobacco was not harmful.

The group of about 56 pupils from a primary school northwest of Johannesburg were on an outing last month and part of the excursion was a visit to the institute in Rustenburg.

Pupil Jan Rees (11) spoke to The Star yesterday and gave an account of the school tour: "The guide told us that there was no proof that smoking causes cancer and that tobacco was not harmful."

"At the end of the tour, the guide showed us a table laid out with samples of cotton, tobacco and snuff and he told us that we could try some."

Smoking ban in the air

■ BY ERIC JANSSEN

Smokers should huff and puff as much as they can on aircraft for the next few months as a complete ban on smoking could well be imposed next year.

While no formal agreement has yet been signed, major airlines to and from South Africa confirmed they were studying trends and doing research on the needs of smokers and

non-smokers.

Although still early days, non-smokers appear to be forging ahead in the race.

Currently, smoking is prohibited only on domestic flights in South Africa, but major international carriers may soon follow the example of airlines in Australia, the Far East and the United States which have banned smoking altogether.

SAA recently announced smoking restrictions on several flights, including all Boeing 737 flights to destinations within Africa.

Smoking has also been banned on all domestic sectors of international flights (between Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg en route to and from international destinations), while SAA will rule two of its 11 return

flights to London as non-smoking.

The remaining nine flights on this route will still offer a smoking section.

The new rulings take effect on January 22.

SAA chief executive Mike Myburgh said the airline was following a world-wide trend towards the increasing demand for non-smoking flights.

"We will monitor the

response to this decision carefully for purposes of future planning regarding non-smoking flights," he added.

British Airways said it had already banned smoking on some its flights between London and Johannesburg.

Several other airlines indicated that they were closely monitoring the trend and would make changes when necessary.

(87) Star 3/11/95

Smokers 'dessert' restaurants

NEW YORK: Smokers have been abandoning restaurants since the city's Smoke Free Air Act came into effect in April, according to the first study of the effects of the controversial "prohibition" law.

The Cornell University study found that 37% of smokers are eating out less often than they did before the law took effect.

The finding has confirmed the complaints of most restaurant owners, who have seen business drop by as much as 10%.

The Cornell team also confirmed the idea that the brasserie, bistro, bar and

tobacco smoke tend to go together: Smokers still spend more time and money in restaurants than non-smokers, even with the decline since April.

Non-smokers, however, are eating out more often: 17% said the reason was that the air was "clean", while 2% said they were eating out less often.

Moves by restaurant associations to have the law repealed have failed.

More and more restaurants are getting around the regulations by building separate rooms where smokers may light up. — The Telegraph plc

(87) CT 13/11/95

Fighting fire with fire (87)

BJ CT 13/11/95

JOHANNESBURG: The Tobacco Institute of Southern Africa has claimed in an ad that scientific evidence does not demonstrate that exposure to environmental tobacco smoke is a cause of disease.

The ad claims that the banning of smoking does not result in "clean air", because virtually all substances in environmental tobacco smoke are present in the air from other sources.

The vast majority of relevant scientific studies have reported no statistically significant relationship between exposure to environmental tobacco smoke and the incidence of lung cancer among non-smokers, the institute claims. — Sapa

CT 15/11/95

Foefie-slide death: Maties face penalties

EDUCATION REPORTER

TEN house committee members from Wilgenhof residence at the University of Stellenbosch face expulsion from the university, a fine of R4 000 or other equally stiff penalties, for illegally erecting a foefie-slide that killed science student Mr Daniel Schoemann at the weekend.

Mr Schoemann, a star student, who scored six As in matric and a 90% average in his first year of studies in computers at Stellenbosch, died at the weekend after falling from the 25m slide, which runs from a large bluegum tree behind the hostel.

The university administration abolished the year-end foefie-slide tradition in 1986 after a young woman student from Somerset East was killed when she fell from it. This year the students erected the slide on Friday night once the university staff had left campus for the weekend.

The Wilgenhof residence students will appear at a disciplinary inquiry this morning for allegedly sanctioning the erection of the slide by engineering students.

NO DETERRENT, SAY SMOKERS

Warnings on tobacco ads 'will cost millions'

MANY FILM advertisements for tobacco will have to be reshoot to accommodate the required health warnings, while most smokers say those on packets won't make them quit.

THE tobacco industry says it will cost millions to meet the new legal requirements for tobacco advertising on film — while smokers in the city say the warnings on cigarette packets will not make them stop smoking.

Ms Hilary Thompson, spokesman for United Tobacco, said yesterday the company was revising its cigarette advertisements for film to accommodate the required 10-second health warning covering 10% of the screen and the 15-second full-screen warning at the end.

"It's not so easy to put warnings on existing advertisements so most will have to be redone. It may well cost millions, depending on where they have to

be reshoot."

It was too early to assess whether the warnings on cigarette packets, which had to cover 15% of the front and 25% of the back, had affected tobacco consumption, Ms Thompson said.

Response

The warnings have been legally necessary since November 1.

They have had mixed response from smokers: 43% of those questioned expressed anger, 28% said they did not care whether the warnings were there or not, 21% felt they were a good thing and seven percent said the warnings scared them. None said the warnings would

CT 15/11/95
make them stop smoking.

Ms Hilary Meyer of Bothasig said: "I think they're gross, horrible. We don't see brandy bottles with warnings saying 'This can kill pedestrians'."

Ms Linda Davies of Noorhoek said: "They're disgusting, an infringement of my personal rights and my freedom to do what I like with my health."

Ms Bianca Coleman of Tamboerskloof said: "It is a real intrusion — so massive and in your face. Everyone knows the dangers."

Mr Kurt Samson of Athlone said: "It's a good thing, but it won't make a difference to how much I smoke."

Ms Rachel White of Mitchells Plain said: "I'm really afraid of that packet. It makes me feel any time they're going to bury me." — Staff Reporter



SCARED OFF: Mr Joe Pillay of Millnerton is one of the few smokers questioned about the new health warnings on cigarette packets to see they have made him reconsider his habit. PICTURE: ANNELA

(87)
Nov 20/11/95

Drug-related problems costing SA R5-bn a year

By PATRICK WADULA
Staff Reporter

A campaign to fight substance abuse has been launched amid growing concern at the astronomical cost to the economy of drug and alcohol-related problems – an estimated R5-billion a year.

At the first meeting of the South African Alliance for the Prevention of Substance Abuse (Saapsa), at the Johannesburg Civic Centre last week, chairman Dr Solie Rataemane said the cost to the country came through job and traffic accidents, loss of productivity, health, crime and family breakdowns.

"Alcohol and drug abuse is without debate one of the primary social and health problems in the country," he said.

It was estimated that 5,8% of the South African population over the age of

15 were alcohol-dependant. This represented more than 2-million people, of whom about 1 025 000 were alcoholics.

Members of Saapsa came from the departments of health and welfare and all organisations and civic societies concerned with substance abuse in South Africa, Rataemane said.

The aim of the alliance was to optimise co-operation in the prevention and treatment of substance abuse; and to improve the quality of life and thereby promote peace and development for all South Africans.

Dr Alan Lopez, of the World Health Organisation, called on South Africa to ban all tobacco advertisements and promotions, but he did not advocate the banning of tobacco itself.

He suggested that instead, government policy should dictate a high price for tobacco.

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Govt cuts affect drug, alcohol centre

Kathryn Strachan

(87)
MD 22/11/95

SA's first nonracial drug and alcohol abuse rehabilitation centre, the House of Mercy in Boksburg, has only sufficient funds left to continue operating until the end of next month.

At the same time, says centre director Therese Tangney, drug abuse in the Gauteng region is increasing dramatically.

The House of Mercy is one of only 16 centres in Gauteng which treat people for drug and alcohol abuse. The funding crisis was precipitated by government slashing its 1996 subsidy by 50%.

"This will mean a cut in services for the treatment of people with drug and alcohol related problems at a time when the incidence is increasing dramatically."

The cuts to the funding of the House of Mercy and other similar institutions had led to a crisis in the rehabilitation field, said Sylvain de Miranda, director of the Johannesburg society of the SA National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

"Without funding these institutions could be forced to close down.

"These centres treat indigent people with no income. With the dramatic escalation of drug abuse, the need for more resources and funding is greater than ever before," he said.

The House of Mercy is one of only two drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres in Gauteng fully subsidised by government. More than 1 400 patients from Gauteng were treated there last year.

Non-smokers group is fuming over Tobacco Institute advertising

87 Stan 27/11/95

The Non-Smoker's Rights Association of South Africa (NSRA) has hit out at the Tobacco Institute's recent press advertisements, saying the ads are deceptive propaganda which discount the harmful effects of second-hand smoke.

NSRA executive director Dawn Poole said the tobacco industry was pulling the wool over the public's eyes and flying in the face of the

findings of world-renowned research organisations.

These included the United Kingdom's Imperial Cancer Research, and Independent Scientific Committee on Smoking and Health, and America's Environmental Protection Agency.

Poole added that research reported in the American Medical Journal early this year revealed without doubt that second-hand

smoke caused heart disease in passive smokers. "We notice the Tobacco Institute conveniently chose to overlook this fact."

The NSRA was formed to campaign for the basic rights of all South Africans to breathe smoke-free air.

The NSRA appealed to concerned members of the public to contact it at Box 44408, Claremont 7735. - Medical Correspondent.

Medical feud is far from cured

The controversy surrounding the misrepresentation of Sanca is back with a vengeance, reports **Philippa Garson**

A LONG-standing feud between the country's highest-profile crusader against drugs, Dr Sylvain de Miranda, and the South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (Sanca) has resurfaced — with the council adopting a new constitution which effectively distances it from the doctor.

A general practitioner by training, De Miranda has played an important role in the field of drug and alcohol addiction but several sources claim that he lacks the scientific background to earn the status of "expert"; that he has given erroneous information to the public; played a divisive role in the field of drug addiction; and misled the public into believing he is head of Sanca.

De Miranda is director of Sanca (Johannesburg), an organisation disaffiliated from Sanca in 1983, and heads three other drug addiction centres — Phoenix House, the upmarket Riverfield Lodge and Soweto Outpatients.

He has denounced the allegations as "personal attacks on me" and threatened legal action "over some of these things that are defamatory. I have never called myself an expert, the profession has," he said, adding that his credibility was borne out by the fact that he was a member of the South African Drug Advisory Board; the health ministry's committee on the restructuring of facilities for mental health and substance abuse; and the World Health Organisation's expert committee on the link between drug abuse and HIV.

The feud between Sanca — a national umbrella body of 14 independent organisations — and De Miranda's Sanca (Johannesburg) began in 1983 and continues today. Last month, De Miranda was quoted in a newspaper as "director of Sanca", despite his organisation being disaffiliated from the national body.

Last week Sanca passed its new constitution, outlawing the use of its name or logo by any organisation not affiliated to it. Said Sanca director Chris van der Burgh: "We believe his organisation has a role to play in the field of substance abuse prevention in South Africa and have played such a role for many years. We regularly refer people to the centre.

"But De Miranda often misrepresents himself or allows himself to be misrepresented as being affiliated to Sanca and being able to speak on behalf of Sanca. We have on occasion expressed concern about some of the statements he has made in the name of Sanca, statements which have often caused great confusion to the public."

According to Van der Burgh, De Miranda has misinformed the public by claiming that anti-depressants are addictive. "This is not the case. We have been frequently inundated with calls from concerned relatives, asking whether their family members are addicted and requesting us to speak to the doctors prescribing the medication. We feel this is disinformation."

De Miranda said that since Van der Burgh was not medically trained "he did not know what he was talking about. When anti-depressant medication is used inappropriately for the wrong reasons, it often becomes addictive. There are innumerable articles worldwide supporting this."

The original dispute with Sanca arose around De Miranda's alleged attempts to bypass the umbrella body in setting up a research institute, funded by businessmen with "vested alcohol interests", and to restructure Sanca, giving more power to the Johannesburg organisation.

De Miranda told the *Mail & Guardian* that if anyone was entitled to use the name of Sanca, it was Sanca (Johannesburg) — founded in 1954 — since its existence predated that of the national body.

De Miranda said the real reason why his organisation left the national body was because the latter carried "baggage from the past" in its policies of segregating facilities on a racial basis and because of its "unwillingness to develop services for disadvantaged communities in this country".



De Miranda has continually slammed the use of analgesic nitrous oxide (laughing gas) in the treatment of alcohol and drug addiction, despite the fact that Sanca supports its clinics. "It is a safe treatment that can help to treat alcohol and other disorders, provided it is given under medical supervision by properly trained staff," said Van der Burgh.

Mark Gillman, director of the South African Brain Research Institute, has pioneered the treatment in this country and come up against De Miranda time and again in his attempt to promote its uses. "He has obstructed my work in an unethical way over many years and I have documentary proof of this. He has attacked the nitrous oxide treatment without foundation in the media. This goes against the South African Medical and Dental Council's (SAMDC) code of ethics."

De Miranda said the use of nitrous oxide had never been submitted to proper medical evaluation, borne out by a recent warning by the Society of Psychiatrists of South Africa in the South African Medical Journal that it was potentially inadvisable to use the treatment for detoxification. However, the M&G has been informed that the Drug Advisory Board's executive committee found this warning to be unfounded.

De Miranda has protested De Miranda's capacity to give expert evidence in a 1986 court case involving poison, both in the judicial proceedings and the media, on grounds that only pharmacologists with specialist training were in a position to give expert opinions on such a complex matter.

De Miranda violated the code of ethics of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors in publishing the same material under different titles: *Drug Abuse — Recent Trends in South Africa* appeared in a publication entitled *Nursing RSA Verpleging in 1987*. The same material was published in 1989 in *Medicine and Law* with the title *Recent Trends in Drug Abuse in Southern Africa*.

M&G 27/10 - 2/11/95

(87)

Advertising ban looms for tobacco firms

Staff Reporter and Sapa

THE government is considering banning tobacco advertising, as are several other countries, says Director-General of Health Olive Shisana.

"It is something to think about seriously, because (tobacco companies) are advertising death in a sense — the premature death of people," said Dr Shisana.

She acknowledged the issue was controversial and that in Canada tobacco companies had

used the constitution to fight a proposed ban.

Dr Shisana noted that as from October 31 no shop was supposed to have on its shelves tobacco products that did not carry a health warning.

"We will take very serious steps against those that don't comply" she said.

She had told several tobacco companies that the department would lay charges against them without further reference unless they increased the size of the

warnings on their advertisements to comply with the Tobacco Products Control Act.

Medical Research Council president Walter Prozesky said the council would support a ban on tobacco advertising because it would be in the interests of the health of the country — "because the facts say there is no doubt smoking is harmful to health".

Dr Prozesky said it was the council's business to provide the facts, "which we've done".

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT STANDS

Govt may by-pass chiefs

CT 30/11/95

(SAPA)

JOHANNESBURG: If traditional leaders don't establish an advisory council by February 28, 1996, the government will be able to pass laws affecting them without consulting them.

THE Constitutional Court ruled yesterday that the government could pass laws affecting chiefs without consulting their advisory council, if the chiefs fail to meet the February 28 deadline for establishing the council.

But the court also ruled that kwaZulu/Natal Premier Dr Frank Mdlalose could question the validity of a bill dealing with the payment of chiefs once President Nelson Mandela signs it into law.

Dr Mdlalose lost his argument against Parliament's amendment to the constitution scrapping the requirement to consult the council of traditional leaders if the council was not set up by February 28 next year.

Any legislation affecting chiefs and issues of traditional law may then become effective in the absence of the council, and stand as law until the council is established.

Constitutional Court Judge Ismail Mahomed, in a ruling agreed to by the court's 10 other judges, found there was no legal reason to bar the amendment.

But the judge said Dr Mdlalose could pursue his argument that the purpose of the amendment was to validate a bill giving the central government authority to pay chiefs.

"The suggestion might conceivably justify an attack on the Remuneration of Traditional Leaders Bill if, and when, it is ever assented to by the President."

Inkatha halted the bill's signing into law when it argued the payment of chiefs could not be taken from the provinces and given to the government without referral to the traditional leaders' council.

The 20-member council has however not been established because two of the six provincial legislatures with chiefs have failed

Court relaxes dagga law

CT 30/11/95

(SAPA)

JOHANNESBURG: The Constitutional Court eased the drug laws yesterday, overturning legislation that said people guilty of possessing dagga could be convicted of dealing in the herb simply because they had more than 115 grams of it.

Judge Kate O'Regan found that under the old laws, suspects could be convicted of dealing because they had more than a certain amount — even if there was reasonable doubt.

"If there is indeed doubt that

the accused is a dealer, he or she is entitled to the benefit of that doubt," she said.

"It does not appear logical to presume that a person found in possession of 115 grams of dagga is more likely than not to have been dealing in dagga." The 10 other judges agreed.

She ordered the scrapping of a section of the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act, saying it infringed the rights of an individual to be presumed innocent. — Reuter

first to set up their houses of traditional leaders, which need to be consulted on regional laws.

Dr Mdlalose, attending a kwaZulu/Natal legislature sitting in Ulundi yesterday, said he would study the judgment before making any further decisions.

kwaZulu/Natal Local Govern-

ment Minister Mr Peter Miller, who had supported Dr Mdlalose's action, said the court had rewarded the province by not ordering them to pay the costs of the hearing.

"It means ... the judges were satisfied we had a prima facie case and that it was a case well worth hearing," he said. — Sapa

Dagga law 'unconstitutional'

By Mzimasi Ngudle

THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT yesterday ruled that Section 21 of the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act is unconstitutional. The section says that a person found in possession of more than 115gms of dagga should be presumed and convicted of dealing instead of possessing.

The presumption places the onus on the accused to disprove that he or she was dealing in dagga. In her judgment, Ms Justice Catherine O'Reagan ruled

Constitutional Court places the onus on the prosecution not accused

that the presumption was unconstitutional, and that the use of the presumption was wrong in terms of the interim Constitution.

In another case, the court yesterday overruled the common law blanket privilege to deny an accused access to police dockets.

Mr Justice Ismail Mahomed said in

a judgment that rules which prohibited or denied an accused access to police dockets were inconsistent with the right of an accused to a fair trial.

Before the interim constitution, common law rules denied an accused person from having access to the contents of a police docket. The accused was also not allowed to consult State

witnesses.

Yesterday's judgement outlawed this blanket privilege and granted an accused the right of access to dockets which could, however, be denied in specific cases. The court also overruled law which prohibited an accused from consulting with state witnesses.

"An accused person should ordinarily be entitled to have access to contents of the police docket as are relevant for him or her to exercise the right to a fair trial," the court said.

However, the court held that the

State was still entitled to withhold information where there was a risk of identifying police informers and revealing state secrets.

Mahomed added that an accused might be denied access to state witnesses where such access might lead to the intimidation or would otherwise impede the administration of justice.

Mahomed made it clear that the right of access would depend on the specific circumstances of individual cases and it was up to the courts to balance the degree of risk involved.

(87)

30/11/95



Don't have high hopes⁽⁸⁷⁾ about dagga

ST 3/12/95

**STILL
ILLEGAL:
A Rasta
smokes
dagga
during a
protest
march in
Cape
Town in
June**
Picture: AP

DAGGA rokers shouldn't expect a new leniency from the law — despite this week's ruling by the Constitutional Court on drug dealing.

Under the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act, people convicted of having even one gram more than 115g of dagga were presumed to be dealing in the drug. As the law stood, the court needed no other evidence to convict a person of dealing — which carried a much stiffer sentence than mere possession of the drug.

However, this week Judge Kate O'Regan, with the unanimous backing of the other Constitutional Court judges, found that the presumption of dealing infringed on the right to a fair trial, which was guaranteed in the constitution.

However, none of the rights in the constitution was absolute. The presumption would be declared invalid only if the state could not persuade the Constitutional Court that it was justified to presume someone was a drug dealer merely on the basis of possessing dagga over the 115g limit.

She said there was an urgent need to suppress drug trafficking. However, there was nothing to show that the presumption of dealing helped suppress the illegal traffic or that there was any other good reason for the presumption to continue.

Judge O'Regan ruled the presumption was invalid and that it could not be used in any trial from now on, or in any trial in progress if the result was pending or an appeal was still to be heard.

Many other presumptions continue in the legal system, but the court made it clear in an earlier case that some presumptions may be justified, and it would have to consider each one to see whether it was valid.

Zuma gets tough on tobacco

BD 5/12/95

(193)

(37)

SOMERSET WEST — Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma said yesterday she had no immediate plans to call for an outright ban on tobacco advertising but hinted that a further package of anti-smoking measures might be in the pipeline for next year.

"Obviously we have to increase our campaign against smoking.

"When I introduced the first measures I said this is not going to be the end," Zuma said in an interview at the 11th Commonwealth health ministers' conference in Somerset West in the Western Cape.

However, further steps will not be taken until the health department has assessed the effectiveness of its anti-smoking campaign, in particular the health warnings screened during and after cigarette adverts in cinemas and printed on the sides of cigarette boxes.

"From the comments I have got I think they have been very effective. I have had very positive feedback.

"I am not sure about the billboards though — it does not look like they have worked."

Zuma said she was also keen to meet radio station managers to discuss ways of diversifying their income in or-

der to end their reliance on tobacco advertising. Although she had not yet taken a firm decision about a ban on tobacco advertising, it was something that had to be examined.

"We have to decide whether it is the best way, or whether we ban certain forms of advertising.

"My major objective is to stop kids from smoking."

She indicated that further anti-smoking measures were in the pipeline but was reluctant to give details.

She said she did not want to create the perception that the measures emanated from the conference, which began its deliberations yesterday.

The effect of smoking on women will be one of the issues which health ministers and senior officials from more than 30 Commonwealth countries will be examining during the four-day conference.

Canadian health minister Diane Marleau told her counterparts that tobacco use was the leading cause of death and disease in Canadian women, with more than 15 000 deaths a year.

It was estimated that by 2020 about 1-million women worldwide would die annually from tobacco use. — Sapa.

Transkei health crisis

(85-48)

Own Correspondent

BD 5/12/95

BISHO — A crisis situation should be declared in former Transkei health services, says a report which has been submitted to President Nelson Mandela and which was presented to the Eastern Cape government yesterday.

Urgent attention should be given to improving dilapidated hospital structures, beefing up security and improving departmental communication channels to address hospital workers' grievances, the provincial standing committee on health recommended in the report.

The report was compiled after a tour of 26 hospitals throughout the Eastern Cape.

It said almost all hospitals suffered from under-staffing problems, absenteeism, poor security, a lack of equipment, insufficient drugs and disintegrating services.

It recommended the involvement of all relevant government departments and the establishment of a departmental labour-relations unit to assist in labour issues.

Other key problem areas included inadequate transport facilities, poor roads and chaotic conditions at mortuaries.

Cape boundary dispute decision expected

CAPE TOWN — The Special Electoral Court should make known its decision on the Cape metropole demarcation dispute by tomorrow, a spokesman for Western Cape local government MEC Peter Marais said yesterday.

The court was scheduled to sit yesterday and today to consider Marais' proposal to include Crossroads, Guguletu and Nyanga in the Tygerberg sub-structure and Khayelitsha and Langa in the Cape Town sub-structure.

The dispute led to the local government elections being postponed until next year in the Cape metropole.

After an agreement could not be reached in the provincial demarcations committee, the matter was referred to the Special Electoral Court.

The ANC, the NP, the DP, the Cape Town city council, and the Cape metropolitan council all have counsel representing them at the hearing. — Sapa.

(193) BD 5/12/95

ANTI-SMOKING STRATEGY ON TABLE

Commonwealth call for tobacco ads ban

CT 6/12/95

87

SOMERSET WEST: The Commonwealth secretariat has proposed a tax hike that would make tobacco more expensive.

A BAN on tobacco companies' promotion of sports events and advertising is being considered by more than 30 Commonwealth countries.

Officials attending the Commonwealth health ministers' conference in Somerset West are also considering a call for tax hikes to increase the price of tobacco.

The recommendations are included in a 10-page submission by the Commonwealth secretariat on the effect of smoking on women.

The submission also proposes that members co-ordinate efforts to identify alternative cash crops for countries that are dependent on income from tobacco exports.

Spokesman Mr Michael Fathers said the conference could choose to ignore the recommendations or adopt some of them.

Canada's Minister of Health, Ms Diane Marleau, told the conference on its opening day on Monday that smoking-related diseases were the single biggest cause of

Plight of doctors highlighted



CT 6/12/95

PRETORIA: Poor working conditions suffered by doctors have been highlighted by a ministerial working group here.

A joint statement by the Health Department and Medical Association of South Africa has given due recognition to financial and legislative constraints in the public service.

The report was given to Health Minister Dr Nkosazana

Zuma last week.

It is believed the report would help Dr Zuma improve doctors' service conditions during deliberations on the restructuring of the salary grading system next year.

Problems highlighted in the report included the maldistribution of doctors caused by inhospitable working conditions and the tendency of medical graduates to specialise. — Sapa

death among Canadian women.

The secretariat submission describes smoking as an "epidemic" that claims more than three million lives a year, one million of these in developing countries.

Unless the trend is reversed, the world figure is expected to rise to 10 million a year by the 2020s or early 2030s, with 70% of this number in developing nations.

The submission notes that in 1990, 30% of smokers were adolescents and young people. It predicts that if no change takes place in smoking patterns, 200 million of the world's youth will die as a result of smoking.

If significant progress is to be

made towards smokeless societies, the focus on prevention will have to shift from adults to adolescents, particularly young women and girls.

Tobacco companies' "sophisticated marketing methods utilise all the information about factors which influence starting and maintaining tobacco addiction — and are proving very successful", the submission says.

While tobacco use and production are on the decline in the United States and Western Europe, they are on the increase in the world's developing nations, particularly those in Asia and the Western Pacific. — Sapa

Smoking kills 3-m a year says WHO

(87) ARG 6/12/95

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that smoking kills about three million people every year, Commonwealth officials said.

"WHO estimates that tobacco use currently accounts for three million deaths per year, with about one million of these occurring in the developing world," the Commonwealth secretariat said in a paper delivered to a conference of health ministers and officials from about 30 member countries in Somerset West.

"Unless current trends are reversed, the global figure is expected to rise to 10 million per year by the early 2030s, with 70 percent of those deaths occurring in developing countries," it said.

The secretariat said smoking was the single largest preventable factor in premature death, disability and disease and that a disturbing aspect of the current smoking "epidemic" was the large number of youths and adolescents who indulged in tobacco.

It said while smoking had been declining in the Western world, it had been increasing in many developing countries.

"Even in countries where the overall pattern is for a reduction in (the) percentage of people smoking, the reduction among women has been much less marked than among men, and in some countries has even increased."

The four-day triennial conference, held for the first time in South Africa, is focusing on women's health because so many women are affected by preventable diseases.

The secretariat said women who were most likely to start and continue smoking were those in low-status jobs, receiving low incomes, were single, separated or divorced or victims of domestic violence.

"Many women report that smoking has a calming effect and helps to reduce their feelings of anger and frustration." — Reuter.

Total ban on tobacco ads mooted

(87) (87) Star 6/12/95

Commonwealth proposals currently being discussed at a health ministers' conference include tax hikes and price rises to prevent a surge in smoking-related deaths

SAPA
Somerset West

Health ministers and senior officials from more than 30 Commonwealth countries were yesterday considering recommendations for a complete ban on tobacco advertising and tobacco companies' promotion of sports events.

The recommendations, which form part of a 10-page submission by the Commonwealth secretariat on the effect of smoking on women, also urge tax rises in member nations to increase the price of tobacco and reduce its affordability.

It also proposes that members collaborate with the secretariat in co-ordinating efforts to identify and establish alternative cash crops and develop markets for countries heavily dependent on revenue from tobacco exports.

It notes that tobacco-producing countries face the double challenge of preventing the development of serious tobacco usage while also reducing economic dependence on tobacco production.

Commonwealth spokesman Michael Fathers said the steps were being discussed at the 11th Commonwealth health ministers' conference in Somerset West, which began its deliberations on Monday.

However, it is understood the discussions are likely to encompass widely differing views. A major tobacco producer like Zimbabwe, for example, is not expected to see eye-to-eye with Canadian Health Minister Diane Marleau, who told her counterparts on Monday that smoking-related diseases were the single biggest cause of death among Canadian women.

Both the Zimbabwean and Ca-

nadian delegations have scheduled press conferences for today to spell out their positions.

Fathers said the conference could choose to completely ignore the secretariat's recommendations, or adopt some or all of them.

The secretariat submission describes smoking as an "epidemic" that kills more than three million people annually, one million of them in developing countries.

Unless current trends were reversed, the global figure was expected to rise to 10 million annually by the 2020s or early 2030s, with 70% in developing nations.

"A very disturbing aspect of the current smoking epidemic is the large proportion of young people and adolescents who smoke - 30% of all smokers in 1990, and as many girls as boys."

It predicts that if no change takes place in smoking patterns,

200 million of the world's youth will die as a result of smoking.

If significant advances were to be made towards a smokeless society, the focus on prevention of smoking had to shift from adults to adolescents, particularly young women and girls.

The secretariat paper sees women and adolescents in developing nations as being particularly vulnerable to the tobacco industry's aggressive advertising and promotion campaigns. "Their sophisticated marketing methods utilise all the information about factors that influence starting and maintaining tobacco addiction - and are proving very successful."

While tobacco use and production were on the decline in the US and western Europe, it was on the increase in developing nations, particularly those in Asia and the western Pacific.

Somerset West - Tobacco and its associated health risks have divided delegates to the 11th Commonwealth Health Ministers conference in Somerset West, with Zimbabwe, the world's third largest tobacco exporter, saying yesterday it has no moral problems with the cash crop.

Tobacco men growl at double standards

(87) (98) *STW 7/12/95*
Zimbabwe's Health Minister Dr Timothy Stamps said he found it offensive that many of the countries complaining about tobacco-related health risks benefited from taxes on cigarettes.

The British Government alone earned R50-billion from domestic taxes on the same amount of tobacco which earned Zimbabwe only R200-million in foreign exchange.

"Why must we cut our economic throat by not producing tobacco when we know that if we stop, Brazil and the US will just step in to fill the void? The senior countries are just blaming the junior countries for their problems. "We are not forcing anybody to buy tobacco." - Sapa.

Clinic helps drinkers and drug users

Helping many with problems to develop life skills *Sowetan 8/12/95*

By Ruth Bhengu

ROSE (25) FROM GAUTENG is an air hostess. She is also a patient at the Elim Clinic operating under the Cope Foundation in Kempton Park on the East Rand.

Three weeks ago she booked herself into the rehabilitation centre. Although she only drank "occasionally", she felt it would benefit her to go to the centre.

"I heard some people talking about the clinic and how it had taught them to solve their problems. I felt I needed to do that," she says.

"Besides, I don't think people should be embarrassed to talk about their problems. If one has a drinking or drug problem, one should be able to talk about it openly.

"This place has taught me to think

positively and to help other people in whatever way I can instead of being self-centred and worrying only about myself."

Whereas Rose drank for only 18 months before she discovered she had a problem, Vonne (26) started taking drugs when she was only 11 years old.

"I started by smoking dagga out of curiosity but it became a habit," she says. "After taking dagga for about eight years, I graduated to other drugs. I have been taking drugs for 15 years and it has ruined my life."

Vonne, who lost her job as a cashier because she could not cope, says she wants to find another job when she gets out of the clinic.

"I want to lead a sober life and I want to stop thinking negatively. I have learnt to communicate with other people. I have learnt a lot about myself," she says.

Sipho (36), from Mbali near Durban, is a policeman. He was sent to the clinic by his station commander because he was drinking excessively.

"I found that my drinking was affecting my job," says Sipho. "When I was drunk, I became very aggressive and difficult to get along with. Drinking was interfering with my relationships.

"I realise that the reason I failed to stop drinking is that I tried to do it alone. I did not have a therapist and I did not have the support of a group of people who understood what I was experiencing."

Martinus, who heard about the clinic from col-

leagues at work, travelled all the way from Richard's Bay. He says for the first time in 16 years he really wants to live.

"I spent so many years drinking, I did not realise how much I was losing," he says.

Rose, Sipho, Martinus and Vonne may come from different social backgrounds, but the treatment they have received at the clinic in the past three weeks has shown them that they have a lot in common. A bond has been forged between them that is stronger than family ties.

The treatment centre, which was established in 1927, was first known as the Temperance Union. Initially it was a state-funded organisation to help mostly railway workers with alcohol problems.

In 1958 the clinic was founded for



Forging bonds ... patients at the Elim Clinic in Kempton Park on the East Rand.

PIC: ELIZABETH SEJAKE

the treatment of chemical dependents. It is situated on 3,34 acres in a semi-rural part of Kempton Park.

According to marketing manager Mr Martin Herbst, at the time the focus was on prevention but the clinic has become increasingly involved in life-enrichment programmes.

Cope - short for Care, Opportunities, Peace and Enrichment - is offering training services for big corporations developing their employees' potential, from the shopfloor to top management.

In 1980 there was a major shift in

Cope's focus from simply providing treatment to the early diagnosis of conditions that could lead to addiction, and to providing counselling, education, training and developmental programmes.

Elim Clinic has 62 beds for male and female chemical dependents. The treatment period consists of a three to four week in-patient programme.

There are guest houses to accommodate visitors. Family members also receive training to help them understand the patient so they can be supportive.

This is followed by a six-month intensive growth programme. "The treatment is four-dimensional: spiritual, psychological, physical and social," says Herbst.

"We not only help the students (patients) to recover from substance abuse, but we also help them to develop life skills so they can make a positive contribution to a stable society," he says.

In the past five years, 3 856 people have been treated at Elim and, according to Herbst, the success rate is 52 percent.

(87) (88)
CT 12/12/95
Call to legalise dagga in medicine

DAGGA should be decriminalised in South Africa for medical use, an article in the latest issue of the SA Medical Journal argues.

Valkenberg Hospital's Prof Frances Ames says dagga has apparent therapeutic properties, including reducing nausea associated with chemotherapy, promoting

appetite and weight gain in Aids patients, reducing intra-ocular pressure in glaucoma and as an anti-convulsant in epilepsy.

However, Prof Tuviah Zabow of the UCT Forensic Psychiatry Unit said: "Cannabis is a potentially dangerous drug and as such a public health concern." — Sapa

Drug abuse 'costs South Africa R5-billion a year'

(87) ARG 14/12/95
PRETORIA. — South Africa's drug problem costs the economy more than R5 billion a year in job accidents, lost productivity, poor health, crime and family disintegration, says Welfare Minister Abe Williams.

Mr Williams was addressing about 300 people who took part in an anti-drug march here yesterday.

He said there were more than 120 drug syndicates operating in the country and police had seized drugs valued at R1,046 million in South Africa between January and June this year.

South Africans must continue their fight against drugs threatening to destroy the country's new-found democracy and freedom, Mr Williams urged the marchers.

The march was part of the Welfare Department's "I'm Addicted to Life" campaign.

Mr Williams, who was joined by Pretoria chief magistrate Mike Roets at the head of the marchers,

said the Reconstruction and Development Programme was doomed to failure if drug-abuse by young people was not effectively tackled.

It was the responsibility of every citizen of this country to ensure that young people were kept away from abusing drugs and were encouraged to live drug-free lives, he said.

The "I'm Addicted to Life" campaign was launched in May to make people, especially youths, aware of the dangers of drug abuse.

Education and the changing of youths' attitudes and behaviour regarding drug-taking were ultimate goals, Mr Williams said.

Much ignorance existed among South Africans about the adverse effects of drug and alcohol abuse.

"Ultimately we want to change the drug-taking behaviour of people — and prevention programmes should start with very young children and be sustained throughout their education."

HEALTH

Hubble-bubble

FM 15/12/96
The tobacco industry suffered another blow last week when Health Ministers and officials from more than 30 Commonwealth countries agreed on action to reduce developing countries' dependence on tobacco production.

The 11th Commonwealth Health Ministers' conference held in Somerset West adopted tough anti-smoking recommendations but stopped short of declaring tax increases and a total ban on advertising tobacco products.

A spokesman for Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma said she endorsed all the recommendations and that SA would become involved in implementing them.

He could not say what the nature of SA's involvement would be other than that it would depend on the availability of resources.

He confirmed that Zuma believes government should increase its campaign against smoking but it has no immediate plans to ban tobacco advertising. Her main aim is to stop children smoking.

No additional antismoking measures will be introduced in SA until the effectiveness of the Department of Health's present rules on cigarette advertisements have been assessed.

The conference found that educating people on the hazards of smoking could not compete with the tobacco industry's "very

powerful" advertising machinery. Instead, tobacco growing countries should be encouraged to produce alternative cash crops. It was recommended that redirecting government funds from promoting tobacco production towards financing crop substitution should be investigated.

Commonwealth governments were asked to co-ordinate efforts to identify and establish other cash crops and develop markets for them. The Commonwealth Secretariat was asked to establish a data base of agencies capable of providing technical assistance in crop substitutes and the development of alternative economic activity in tobacco-growing countries.

The conference concluded it was a "double challenge" for tobacco-growing countries to prevent the development of serious tobacco use, with its resultant health costs, while also reducing economic dependence

on tobacco.

Some over-zealous delegates suggested that crop substitution could be encouraged by subsidising the revenue shortfall incurred by countries that switched from tobacco growing.

Others questioned attempting to persuade some countries to stop growing tobacco while others were heavily subsidising its production.

The Zimbabwean and Malawian health ministers put forward a strong case for the tobacco producers.

Studies by the Tobacco Growers' Association found that no other crop can compete with tobacco in reliability of earnings and its cash and employment generating potential.

In Zimbabwe, a hectare of tobacco was 22 times more profitable than cotton, 57 times more than that of maize and 59 times more than soya beans.

"Tobacco has proved itself as an outstanding cash crop, particularly in developing countries, because it can be grown profitably in light soils in relatively low rainfall areas, it has a low weight, is easy to transport, it is not perishable and has a low volume to value ratio."