

COMMENT 3
RECOMPOSITION OF THE SALB EDITORIAL BOARD

The South African Labour Bulletin (SALB) produced its first issue in April 1974, - some five years ago. To begin with the SALB was centred in Durban as the composition of the Editorial Board indicated. However, in 1975 when Eddie Webster moved to Johannesburg we tried to constitute the Board on a national basis. This took some time to settle as we tried to find suitable people who could devote sufficient time to the SALB. In 1977 and 1978 a reasonably workable arrangement in Johannesburg and Cape Town was reached.

However, it was increasingly apparent that the Durban Board members had less and less time to devote to the SALB and this was an unsatisfactory situation.

To try and overcome these difficulties and to cover each centre more effectively the Editorial Board has reconstituted itself. An additional Board member, Alida Kooy, will come on in Cape Town. In Durban Ravi Joshi and John Mawbey will leave the Board since we all feel that their full-time labour involvement has made it very difficult to give much time to the SALB. However, the SALB will continue to draw on their advice and experience. Foszia Fisher, a founder member of the Board, will also leave since she has increasingly become involved in community work and has not been able to devote as much time to the bulletin. Charles Meth and Liz Hosken have been appointed in Durban. Liz is the new Managing Editor and will be able to work full-time at the job with the assistance of Neru Naidoo who will be dealing with subscriptions, typing, records etc.

The Board hopes that this arrangement will make for a smoother functioning of the SALB.

However, we would like to pay tribute to the role and help of Foszia Fisher and John Mawbey.

Foszia Fisher was a founder member of the Board and must be credited with all the initial hard work in getting the Bulletin going. She established a range of contacts for the Bulletin and initiated many of the earlier articles and comments.

After Foszia left the Institute for Industrial Education (I.I.E.) at the end of 1975 she was increasingly less able to play an active role in the Bulletin and will no longer serve on the Board.

John Mawbey started on a part-time basis as Managing Editor at the beginning of 1975 whilst still teaching at a high school. In April 1975 he became full-time Managing Editor. Being a Managing Editor in Durban has never been an easy task as the TUACC Unions have all too often made demands on John to help with numerous tasks and crises. During part of 1976 he was the Acting Secretary of the Chemical Workers Industrial Union and later in the year after the bannings in November, he provided considerable help to both the registered and unregistered textile unions. Shortages of staff during 1977 and his involvement in TUACC in 1978 made it difficult to carry out his task as he would have liked.

It takes a particular kind of tenacity and loyalty to persist through all this and still produce a journal at the end of it. For anyone who has been involved in publishing they'll know that the normal frustrations and difficulties of the job don't need to be compounded.

The Board would, therefore, like to express a particular debt of gratitude to John as an activist deeply committed to labour's cause.