

# B R I E F S

Thami Mbele, a New York-based musician and educationist, was in South Africa at the beginning of this year with an aim of introducing 'both teething and matured' musicians to overseas audiences. Included in his list are Bayete, Mara Louw, Shoshanguve Black Tycoons, Harmony and Rebecca Malobe, the latest winner of the redoubtable Shell Road to Fame contest. Should the festivals be successful, the takings will be channelled into a scholarship fund for South African students in the United States. RIXAKA sincerely hopes that such endeavours are executed after consultation with the mass democratic movement inside the country.

In one of the most bizarre developments racist South Africa has supplied tanks, trucks, troops, jeeps and mortars for the filming of an American adventure movie for release next summer. This is in defiance of the cultural boycott; this film is being shot in Namibia. One hopes that some sense can be knocked into people like Grace Jones who are supposed to take part in the film called 'Red Scorpions'. It is a thoroughly terrible film that uses all the known Cold War images. SWAPO and the Namibian masses should give this film and the crew a taste of scorpions!

A Cape Town band Bright Blue have shot to the top of the Radio 5 charts with a song inspired by the 1986 press curbs. The ballad speaks of a nation's polarisation, resignation and turmoil through nightmare visions of 'fear, fire, smoke and guns and a wall of steel'. 'Nkosi Sikelel 'iAfrika' forms a backdrop to the ballad-like 'Weeping'.

On another level, 'Cry Freedom', a film that peripherally deals with the life and death of Steve Biko and his relationship with a liberal newspaper editor, has been welcomed by the ANC as a film that shows the naked brutality of the racist regime. While many people felt uncomfortable with the inordinate length on Woods, the images that leap to the viewer show that, as Wally Serote observed, 'you can't distort the struggle'. This is also a challenge to our own film-makers.

Thina Bantu is a controversial play by Mavis Taylor. It is based on the true, tragic case of the rape and murder of a young black woman by three white South African servicemen. One of the actors, Lionel Newton, believes that the play will highly influence future plays. He feels bitter about the existing government. He observes: 'One cannot violate people for more than 200 years and not expect them to be angry'.

The winner of the First International String Competition's viola section, Japan's Hideko Kobayashi, will be blacklisted in Japan if she performs again in South Africa. Dr Koster, who hosted this viola player, said: 'Hideko said she would not be intimidated'. It becomes increasingly clear that the mass democratic movement and the anti-apartheid forces worldwide should strengthen the cultural boycott.

An exhibition that touches on the chilling effects of detention without trial — and the murder of detainees — was on in Johannesburg's Market Gallery. This exhibition coincided painfully with the brutal murder of ex-detainee and DPSC worker Sicelo Dlomo. It was hoped by the organisers that the exhibition would help both to liberate people from their own illusion and complacency, and to create a country in which there are no political prisoners.

