

social and cultural patterns of most African countries are being profoundly altered. Every school, every university can be regarded as a growing point, generating new ideas, introducing new techniques, creating the necessary preconditions for a new cultural synthesis. Or look at that immensely exciting phenomenon — the emergence of a constantly expanding corpus of African literature, of novels, poems and plays written in European languages but devoted to themes that are exclusively African. Irrespective of its literary merit — and at its best the work produced by African writers is among the most exciting being produced anywhere in the world today — these novels and poems make it a great deal easier for us as outsiders to understand the various strands of thought and emotion that make up the fabric of modern African life.

\* \* \* \* \*

I have talked unashamedly about African achievements. No doubt some people will say that I am adopting a starry-eyed approach, that I have shown myself insufficiently aware of the darker side of the contemporary African scene — the corruption, the unemployment, the inefficiency, the brutality, the superstition, the tribal tensions and so on. But of course one is aware of all these things. What one needs to do is to see them in perspective. It would not be difficult to take any society that has ever existed and, by picking on its faults and weaknesses, present a picture of it in highly sombre and depressing tones. We all know — South Africans, perhaps, more than most people — that there are few experiences more irritating than hearing an outsider expound on the weakness of our own society in narrowly critical terms. We resent this because we know our own society better than any outsider can ever do, and therefore we know that a highly critical view is also a partial view, presenting not the whole truth but half-truths. I think we should learn to judge other societies in the way we would wish our own to be judged.

**Let me end by trying to feed back what I have been saying into the South African context. I wonder whether White South Africans have ever really made the attempt fully to appreciate the achievements of their Black compatriots. There is surely a heroic dimension in the careers of the outstanding leaders of the African Nationalist Congress.** There is much that is deeply impressive in the work of African writers and scholars. But above all one is struck by the human achievement of the many tens of thousands of individual men and women who stand up with courage and perseverance, dignity and good humour against the pressure of a harsh, exhausting, often oppressive environment. It is easy for those of us who are Europeans to be aware of our own people's achievements. And certainly the achievements of people of European origin in South Africa — the cities, the farms, the industries, the universities, the literature and so on — serve as imposing monuments to European enterprise. But the unique characteristic of South Africa lies surely in the fact that it contains two such diverse streams of achievement, one African, the other European — to which should be added, particularly in Natal, a third strand represented by the many contributions of people of Asian origin. I am not a South African, but if I were a South African born, I hope I would find it possible to feel myself as being in some way the heir of a marvellously rich historical heritage, that Shaka and Moshesh and Kruger and Rhodes and Gandhi had all in some ways contributed to my birthright. And I hope too that were I a South African I would hold before me, in spite of all the tensions, the fears, the injustices, the tribal feuds of the present, a vision of what my country might someday become, one of the most exhilarating and creatively exciting nations in the world, a nation whose diverse peoples would constantly find themselves stimulated and enriched by contact one with another, a nation engaged in the creation of a wonderfully rich and cosmopolitan culture to which Africa, Europe and Asia would all contribute. Here surely is the possibility of a marvellous destiny. □

---

# IN THE INTERESTS OF NATIONAL MORALITY

## OPEN LETTER TO ALL FIRST CLASS MALE CITIZENS

Brethren,  
As a self-appointed private investigator for the PCB, I have taken upon myself the onerous task of reading foreign newspapers. And I don't just mean newspapers like the Rand Daily Mail and the Sunday Times, but genuine foreign newspapers from overseas.

When one gets used to all the smut and filth, what one notices about these papers is their failure to apply the two great principles of loyal reportage known as Trailing the Red Herring and Keeping the Facts from the Public. One good result, however, is that by reading these papers one can really get to know what's going on in the countries

they come from. Naturally I can't tell you everything, because it's my duty, as an unofficio member of the Board, to protect your morals. But none-the-less I can tell you some very shocking things which will make you thankful that we in South Africa have men like Dr. Connie Mulder who are determined to keep our nation pure.

\* \* \* \* \*

We all know how permissive England is. And we all know that, because of the lack of influx control, the Irish have moved in and there is now an Irish-gevaar of colossal proportions. Recently, to safeguard what's left of the purity of the English race, they had to pass a law forbidding all sexual intercourse with the Irish. But it was like shutting the stable door after the stallion had got in. Anyway, in order to evade the new law the English males now make journeys just over the border to the Channel Islands where there are literally thousands of beautiful Irish women. Even M.P.'s, ministers of religion and aged senators are involved. And recently a most dreadful case came to light. I read about it in the Manchester Telegraph, which, let me tell you, is one of the most liberalisto-communistic papers in England. In the well-known London business suburb of Excelsior the police laid charges against a whole nest of English bosses who were having illicit relations with their Irish typists. The news flashed across the world (except to South Africa, where such news is not allowed) and soon thousands of men armed with TV cameras arrived on the scene. It was clear that the last vestiges of English decency were about to be exposed and that the country would not be able to survive such a holocaust of bad publicity so the charges were quietly dropped.

How thankful we all are in South Africa that we haven't got any such skeletons in our national cupboard!

\* \* \* \* \*

Or take another story. This time from La Garotte, the famous French newspaper. Now in Paris, as you all know, there's a community called the Songs, who have

lived there for six generations, but who have no rights because their homeland is on a Pacific island, where they can enjoy all the rights they want. Anyway these Songs are shut off in a cramped, dingy part of Paris, surrounded by a high barbed-wire fence. The authorities say they are kept apart for their own good, to preserve their own national culture, but we know this to be a pack of lies and that the permissive French treat them abominably, believing that, as a superior race, this is their natural right. And only the other day La Garotte carried this typically lurid headline: Gendarme Rapes Song in Back of Police Van. I shan't go into details, they are too shameful. But, needless to say, as a pious man, I knelt down on the spot and said thanks to God and His right-hand man, Dr. Connie Mulder, for sparing our beloved South Africa from this most shocking kind of permissiveness.

\* \* \* \* \*

Last of all let me tell you a story from Denmark, the most promiscuous country in the world. I read it in the Copenhagen Chronicle under yet another typically permissive headline: Pojak Beaten To Death With Rubber Hose. Now, as you all know, the Pojaks are a lower type of people who are imported into Denmark to do manual labour. The Danes are so permissive that they themselves do little work but they roundly condemn the Pojaks as lazy, dishonest, stupid etc. In fact the Danish national sense of morality is so low that they have even coined phrases like 'The only good Pojak is a dead Pojak' and 'Give a Pojak an orange and he'll take your whole farm'. Well, to get back to the story, this Danish farmer caught one of his Pojak labourers red-handed in the act of allegedly stealing, so he took the law into his own hands, tied the Pojak to a cartwheel and beat him to death with a length of rubber hose.

Let us thank God and our lucky stars that we have Dr. Connie Mulder to prevent this kind of permissive behaviour from ever infiltrating into South Africa.□

P.C.B. Snooper

---

# THE AFRICAN WOMAN

by Deborah Mabiletsa

The African woman plays a significant role as a mother, wife and housekeeper. Outside her home she is a worker and a wage earner in an effort to supplement the family income to meet its minimum demands. To this end she finds employment as a domestic servant or an unskilled labourer in industry. Some take up a profession; the statistics on African women in professions reflect a commendable progress on their part. But, in spite of their struggle to improve themselves intellectually and socially, the African women find themselves relegated to a minority status in their community. Their chances of emancipation are consistently retarded by a number of factors that impose various restraints on them. The

African women are subjected to disabilities arising from various laws, and administrative practices. Julius Lewin in the 'Legal status of the African Woman' gives a comprehensive exposition of the various laws that retard the emancipation of African women and tend to keep their status low. Unfortunately the African woman is still heavily penalised both as a member of a race against which South African legislation discriminates and through falling under a non-progressive system of laws. Either Roman Dutch law, or Common or Customary law may be applied to an African woman. The Matrimonial Affairs Act 37 of 1953 which is regarded as the 'Magna Carta' of the Married European Women and which has enhanced