

SPEAK

NOVEMBER 1993

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No.55

WIN!

- ★ A car
- ★ A radio
- ★ Calculators

How to have a healthy pregnancy

Meet
BUCS
star
Gora
Ebrahim

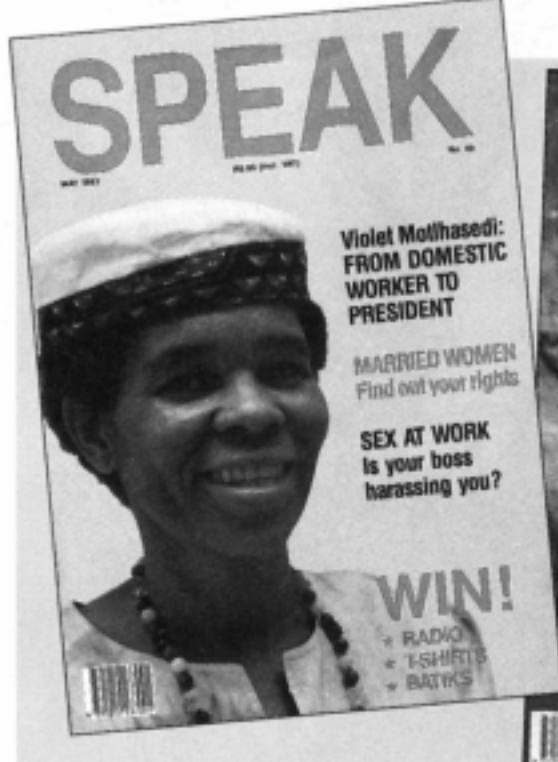
Voices against violence

IVY MATSEPE

Steering the SABC



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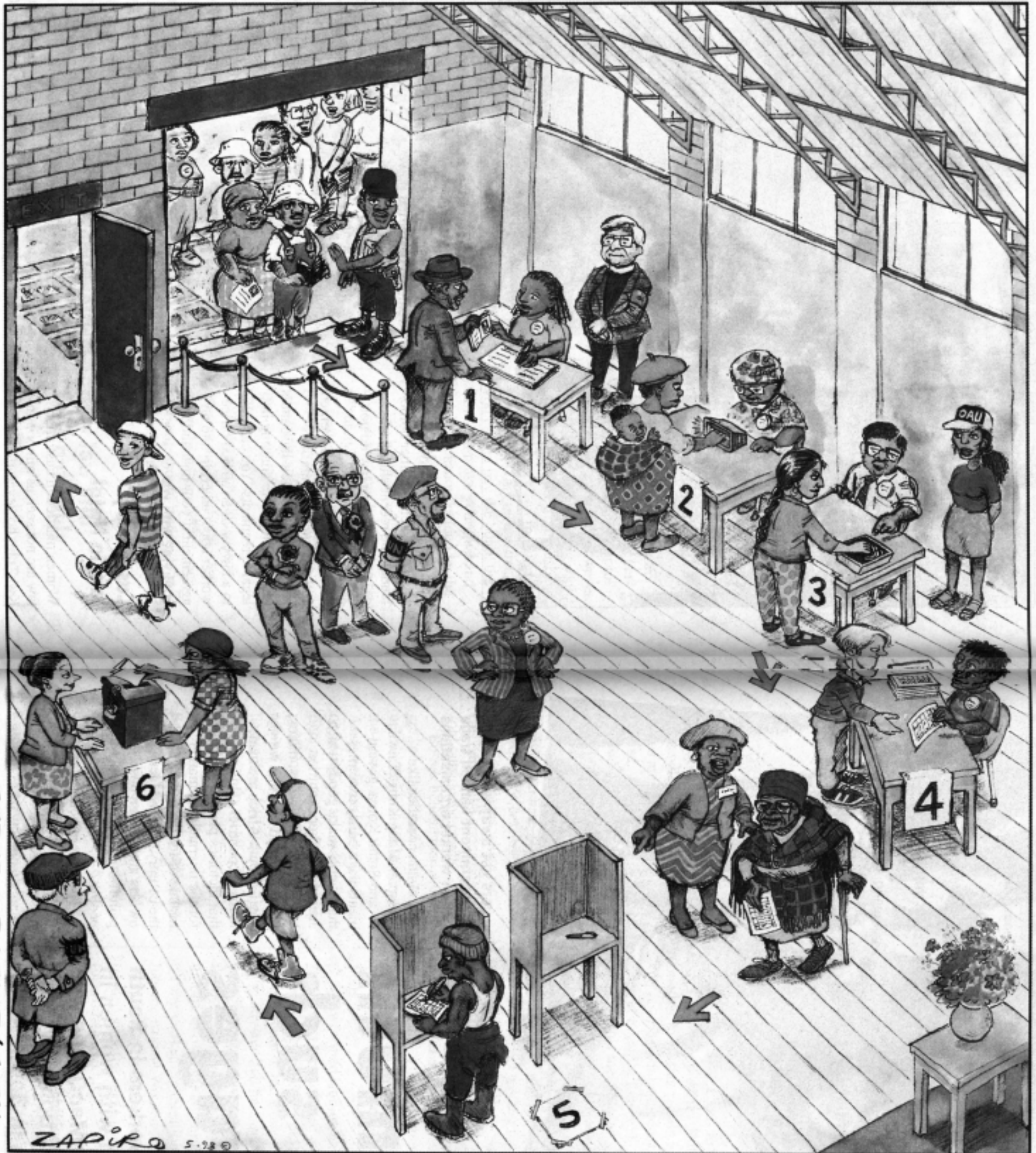
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VOTING STATION DITULO TSA DIKGETHO STEMLOKAAL



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1. Show ID or voter card
2. Check hands
3. Mark hands
4. Get ballot paper
5. Make cross on ballot paper
6. Put ballot in box

1. Shupa lokwalo – tsupo (ID) kgotsa karata ya go vouta (tlhopa)
2. Seka – seka matsogo
3. Tshwaya matsogo
4. Tsaya pampiri ya go vouta (tlhopa)
5. Dira sefapano mo pampiring ya go vouta (tlhopa)
6. Letloleng la dingwalo tsa ditlhopo

1. Wys ID of kieserskaart
2. Ondersoek hande
3. Merk hande
4. Kry stembrief
5. Maak kruisie op stembrief
6. Plaas stembrief in stembus

A VEETU POSTER (VOTER EDUCATION AND ELECTIONS TRAINING UNIT)

VEETU is a project of ERIP at the University of the Western Cape, in partnership with Afesis (East London), CCLS (Durban), HAP-ODS (Johannesburg)

INSIDE

SPEAK STAFF

PEOPLE

Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri 5

Tune in to a new SABC

Longing for home 10

Queen Molotlegi celebrates her birthday at home

FEATURE

The SABC – what it's all about 8

No condom, no sex 20

Students take action

Angola's forgotten war 24

1 000 people die every day

Voices against violence 28

Stop violence against women

VOTER EDUCATION

Who to vote for? 12

How to decide

Free pull-out poster 16

ADVICE

Owning your own home 14

What the law says

LABOUR

Proving the bosses wrong 18

Women in South Korea take a stand

SPORT

Meet Bucs star Gora Ebrahim 22

HEALTH

A healthy pregnancy 26

Food for mom and baby

Briefs 31

WIN

A car 9

Calculators 11

A radio 13

REGULARS

Readers talk back 3

Kwa-Sophie 4

As a matter of fact 31

Taxi Talk 32

Community Notice Board 33



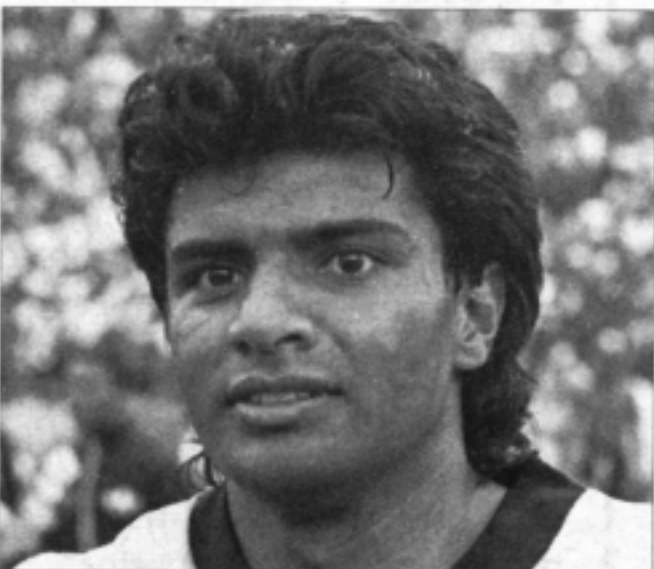
**Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri
– Changing the SABC**

Page 5



**Students take action
against AIDS**

Page 20



**Gora Ebrahim – What
he's like off the field**

Page 22

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Pumla Radu, ANC Photo Unit

COMMENT

"Isn't fighting for women's rights a losing battle?" a friend asked us the other day. This got us thinking. For 11 years SPEAK has been writing about women's oppression in South Africa. In many ways the position of women has got worse. Violence against women such as rape, beatings, verbal and emotional abuse has increased.

There are many reasons why. One reason is the political violence, another is an increase in unemployment and poverty.

The main reason remains the powerful position men have over women in our country. As long as women are powerless, violence against women will continue. So, when we stop and ask ourselves whether we are fighting a losing battle, we think of women like Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri, who are getting into positions where they can make changes for women.

We celebrate Matsepe-Casaburri's position as chairperson of the new SABC board. She is the first African and the first woman to chair the board. It is not going to be easy. We wish her luck and support. We also believe men can make a difference. Take Bucs soccer star Gora Ebrahim, who opposes violence against women. Listen to Ebrahim's words of wisdom: "You can kick a ball around... don't kick a woman."

Talk Back

Against Abortion

I am against abortion. If you have an abortion, you are a killer. I would like to correct Brenda in SPEAK 53, who said, "If I fall pregnant, I will go for an abortion, because I want to finish school and work before I can think about marriage and children".

Brenda, you are wrong. When you have sex you know you can fall pregnant. If you want to have sex, you have to take responsibility should you fall pregnant. Stop thinking about abortion, you cannot kill an unborn child.

*Andrew Mbulumeti
Marikana*

SPEAK believes it is the right of every woman to choose whether to have an abortion or not. Perhaps as a man it is difficult for you to understand why a woman may chose to have an abortion. – Editor

Making the Poor Poorer

We are living in hard economic times where it is difficult for people to do the things they have dreamt about or even to save money. Those who are hit the hardest are the poor people in the country.

Recently I needed money very badly. The bank said I could not get a loan because I did not have any security.

Then I saw an advertisement in the newspaper offering loans without security. I went to the company offering the loans

**Thanks to all our readers who have written. Please keep your letters flowing in. We are often forced to shorten letters because of space. Send your letters to:
SPEAK
PO Box 261363
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Johannesburg
South Africa**

and had to pay R110 registration fee. I was told I had a good chance of getting a loan and had to phone back after three weeks. When I phoned back, they said I did not get the loan and also could not get my deposit of R110 back.

Two weeks later, I phoned another company which also offers financial assistance. They told me to bring R100 and some personal documents. This company seemed better. There were a lot of people waiting to be helped.

When it was my turn to go in I was greeted by a very friendly young woman. She told me that my records were very good and that she was sure I would get a loan. Again I paid R100 registration fee... and waited. When I phoned back five days later, the receptionist said my application was turned down.

I could not believe it. I need-

ed money so badly, and I had been robbed of R210. That is what it cost me to realise there are a lot of wolves covered in sheep's clothing in this country. The rich get richer, and the poor get poorer.

*June Madingwane
Johannesburg*

We wish to warn all our readers to be careful of companies that offer loans, and require you to pay a deposit. There are many people doing bad business who fool you by being very friendly and understanding. Contact the Learn and Teach Advice Officer at (011) 29 5051 for advice before entering into agreements with loan companies, other than banks and building societies.
– Editor

Thanks to SPEAK

Since I have been reading SPEAK, I have a better understanding of what is going on in our country. It is very important to have a magazine like SPEAK in a country where people are so oppressed.

May God give you the strength to become everything you are capable of becoming.

Let me end with one of our proverbs: "Learning to think is learning to live and learning to write is learning to think."

*William Maabane
Witbank*

Thank you for your letter. It is important to know that SPEAK means so much to our readers.
– Editor

A poem for all South Africans

I greet you heroic and proud Africa
martyred land for centuries

long
who burns with the fire of the
tropics
the heart of your children

land blessed and green with
hope
whom in vain the west sought
to dry
the hour of your deliverance
has come
from the summits of the atlas
to the cape of the tempest
with thunderous voice
we the women decree

south africa shall be free
your daughters have risen
with torrents
of love
we shall live in peace
and war shall be no more

*Belinda Venetia Martin
Eldorado Park*

Thank you for your poem.
– Editor

Is this what life is all about?

Every day when I open a newspaper I read about someone who has been killed in political violence.

The violence is something that touches all our lives. Even if we don't know the names of those who have died, it is as painful as losing a close friend or family member.

I want to call on those who kill people so brutally and coldly to stop doing this. I believe the government should put a lot more effort into finding these killers. They are not without masks, they can be found. National Peace Day showed to ourselves and the world that the majority of South Africans want peace. It is only those who don't want change in this country who are fighting against peace. Let's build our

country together.

*Lesedi Ngcuka
Port Elizabeth*

We agree that the government should make greater efforts to get the killers. They can do it.
– Editor

SPEAK apologises

In the last issue of SPEAK (No. 54), an interview with PAC leader Patricia de Lille did not have an ending. We wish to apologise to all our readers for the mistake. We quote the end of the article: "Otherwise women will be used as voting cattle with parties making empty promises." – Editor

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ WINNERS!

SPEAK/Matla Trust Voter Education Competition

Caroline Manganyi
from Giyani is the lucky
winner of a radio

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

three SPEAK readers who won Vicky Sampson's cassette "Shine"

- ★ Thabiso Radebe
(Bohlokong)
- ★ Windyora Mabaso
(Chiawelo, Soweto)
- ★ Elizabeth Mbingo
(Kempton Park)

two SPEAK readers who won a pair of gold earrings

- ★ Julia Malekutu
(Randburg)
- ★ Nomsa Mtsweni
(Empumalanga)



Kwa-Sophie

Give women the choice

A male friend of mine was telling me the other day that he is against abortion being made legal. "Women are just going to have abortions whenever it suits them," he said. "They will forget about taking contraceptives," he added.

Since when is it only women who are responsible for preventing pregnancy? This attitude is easy to understand, as it is not men who carry a child for nine months. Furthermore, we are not saying women must have abortions. We are merely pointing out that the choice should be a women's basic right.

Settlers of all colours

I recently saw an ANC supporter with a poster that said, "Comrades Come in All Colours". Well, to some young PAC comrades on a march in Cape Town, settlers also come in



all colours. A friend of mine was taking photographs of a PAC march for a Cape Town newspaper. A few PAC supporters shouted in a very rude way, "Hey settler, get out of our way." My friend was very shocked. "But I am a coloured," she said. "Well, you are a coloured settler," replied the youths. I wonder if they see PAC chief negotiator at the multi-party

negotiations, Patricia de Lille, as a "coloured settler" too.

Women don't use phones?

Are men the only one's who use telephones? Well, this might be the case, according to Cosatu leader Jay Naidoo. In an interview on TV about Telkom's intention to introduce cellular (mobile) telephones, Naidoo said that cellular phones would be out of the reach of ordinary South Africans.

He said every man in every squatter camp should first have a telephone before introducing something no one can afford.

Was he saying that only men live in squatter camps or that only men use telephones? Or was he merely using the sexist language so many leaders have problems letting go of. Come on Jay Naidoo, we know you can do better than that.



Challenge

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(011) 339 2513/38/62

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

**Say No, Black Woman. Say No
When they give you a back seat in
the liberation wagon. Say No.
Yes Black Woman. A Big No.**

Poet Gcina Mhlope

South African
**LABOUR
BULLETIN**

South African
**LABOUR
BULLETIN**

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Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri

The SABC's new boss

As her car stops in front of the Matsepe home in the township of Seisooville in Kroonstad, a group of children rush forward to greet Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri. "We saw you on TV, Auntie Ivy," they shout as she laughs and hugs them. They run next to us as we walk to the house.

When we enter the kitchen, the elderly woman standing at the coal stove throws up her hands in joy. "Doc-tor Ivey Matsepe-Casabuuri," she cries. "I will tell the media about you. I will send them pictures of you as a bare-footed teenager with mud all over your feet." Matsepe-Casaburri introduces me to her 82-year-old Aunt Elizabeth or "Topi", as everyone calls her.

We sit around the kitchen table to look at the Sunday newspapers, which have articles about Dr Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri, the first black person and the first woman to be chairperson of the board of the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC).

From the dusty Orange Free State town of Kroonstad to the board of the SABC, Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri has come a long way. Two years ago, few

Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri is the first black person and the first woman to become chairperson of the SABC board. Elinor Sisulu takes a closer look at this remarkable woman who will steer the new SABC

people would have believed that an African woman would be chosen to lead the SABC. It is an organisation which has always been controlled by white Afrikaner men, most of them members of the secret Afrikaner organisation, the Broederbond.

Many people are not happy that Matsepe-Casaburri has been chosen to head the SABC board, simply because they do not want to see a black woman in that position.

Sheila Sisulu, a board member, says: "I would not like to



“Two years ago, few people would have believed that an African woman would be chosen to lead an organisation which has always been controlled by white Afrikaner men, most of whom are members of the secret Afrikaner organisation, the Broederbond.”



be in her situation. This is not because I think she cannot do the job, but she will be made to carry the burden of all African people and all women. If she does well, they will say she is very good. If she does badly, they will say it is because she is an African woman.”

Billy Modise, another SABC board member, believes Matsepe-Casaburri has the right qualities to deal with the difficult job of trying to change the white Afrikaner SABC to serve all the people in the country.

“She never allows anyone to ignore her because she is black or because she is a woman. She mixes easily with people from all walks of life, including rural and working-class people. She also speaks all the major languages of South Africa,” he

said.

Matsepe-Casaburri did her primary schooling in Kroonstad, her matric at Marionhill in Natal and her first degree at Fort Hare. She studied to be a Doctor of Sociology at Rutgers University in the United States of America (USA).

Matsepe-Casaburri left South Africa in 1963 and went to Swaziland. She taught there for a few years before going to work for a firm of lawyers. While she was travelling in Europe in 1971, she learned that the Swazi government would not allow her to return to Swaziland. She believes this may have been because of a political case which the law firm was handling.

Her work in Swaziland made her interested in studying society, especially the oppres-

sion of women in society. She went on to study Sociology at Rutgers University.

“While working as a lawyer, I had to defend women who had been arrested for prostitution and living on the streets. The same women were arrested over and over again. They were not able to change the way they lived because there was nothing else for them to do. I began to see that the people in the country had no part in making the laws and that not all the laws were right for Swazi society.”

Matsepe-Casaburri is well known for her writing on women in South Africa. Her article, “On the Question of Women in the South African Struggle”, is one of the best studies of women’s oppression in South Africa. In this article, she looks at the



Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri back home with relatives. She has come a long way since her childhood in the dusty Free State township of Seelisoille

ways in which women from different races and ethnic groups are oppressed.

Before returning to South Africa in 1990, Matsepe-Casaburri taught for the United Nations Institute for Namibia (UNIN), a school for Namibian exiles. She enjoyed her work at UNIN and was very proud of her students. Many started off with very little education. But they worked so hard that, within a couple of years, some of them were able to go to universities in Europe and America. Today, many of her former students hold high positions in the Namibian government.

While working at UNIN, Matsepe-Casaburri became active in the ANC Women's

League. She worked on the ANC's policies on gender.

Since her return to South Africa, Matsepe-Casaburri has been the director of the Education Development Trust (EDT). She is the chairperson of the Research Advisory Group of the Women's National Coalition and sits on the board of the Women's Development Foundation. She has started a Black Women's Research Network to help black women researchers to improve their skills by working together.

Throughout her years in exile, Matsepe-Casaburri kept in touch with her family. One of the first things

we did in Kroonstad was to visit the graves of her parents, Dorrington and Violet Matsepe, and her grandparents. She explains that her family is a "mixed masala". "We have Sotho, Tswana, Xhosa, Malay and French Huguenot ancestors. My parents were both teachers, very religious and popular within the community."

Matsepe-Casaburri was married in 1975 to Angelo Casaburri, an Italian American. They parted because she did not want to stay in the USA and he did not want to live in Southern Africa. Though they agreed to end their marriage, they are still very good friends. "He is my closest friend," she says.

She does not like to talk about her private life because, she says, "women are always judged by whether they are married or not; how many children they have or what they look like".

She is a strong supporter of SPEAK magazine, "because it promotes positive images of women by showing what women do in society, rather than who they are married to or what they look like."

She believes the views of black women must come out more strongly in the media.

"Because the South African media has always been controlled by white men, it looks at things from a white male point of view," says Matsepe-Casaburri. "We must look at things from all sides and through the eyes of all people — women and men, young and old, black and white, rural and urban." ☺



The new SABC board. In the centre is its chairperson, Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri

It's your SABC

The SABC used to be a mouthpiece for apartheid and the Nationalist Party government. Now it has a new board and has promised to serve the needs of all South Africans

The South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) was set up in 1936. During the years of Nationalist Party (NP) rule, it was used to push apartheid policies. Until recently, no voices against the government were ever heard on SABC radio and television stations.

The SABC now has 22 radio stations, broadcasting in 11 languages, and two television services. Its headquarters are in Johannesburg and it has regional offices around the country.

The SABC has a Board which decides on policy for radio and television. Until this year, the SABC Board was made up mainly of members of the Broederbond or the government's Military Intelligence.

For a long time, organisations and political parties have demanded that the SABC should be free of NP control.

The Campaign for Independent Broadcasting (CIB) was set up to fight for a free and open SABC. It is made up of media unions, Cosatu, political parties and other groups. The CIB said the SABC was paid for by all South Africans through taxes and TV licences. It must now start serving the interests of all its listeners.

Public participation

The campaign had some success. This year the NP agreed to appoint a new SABC Board. The public was asked to choose people to sit on the Board. Four judges interviewed all of those chosen and

decided on who should be on the Board.

State president FW de Klerk blocked this process. He did not agree with the judges' choices and he made changes to their list of Board members.

People protested against this. But the new Board has decided to go ahead and change the SABC to meet the needs of all South Africans.

It has a difficult job. Some of the SABC employees are still locked into the old "apartheid" way of thinking. We wish them luck!

It's up to you

The SABC belongs to all of us. The listeners have to try to make sure it serves their needs. The new Board says it wants to make sure the SABC plays a role in building the new South Africa. The listeners should also play a role in this. If you hear anything racist or sexist on radio or TV, or have suggestions to make, you should write to: The Chairperson, SABC Board, Room 2847, Piet Meyer Building, Private Bag X1, Auckland Park, 2006, Johannesburg. ★

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The ANC Women's League offers you the chance to win a Fiat Uno worth over R30 000!



For just R10, you can win one of three wonderful prizes:

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Each entry costs just R10 – so the more you spend, the better your chances of winning.

The draw will be held on 5 December 1993

Just answer the questions and send your entry form (with your R10 entry fee) to:
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RULES:

1. The prizes will be awarded for the first correct entry drawn.
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5. Winners will be notified in writing.
6. The competition is open to all.

ANC WOMEN'S LEAGUE COMPETITION

QUESTIONS 1: On what date is National Women's Day?

QUESTIONS 2: Which dealer is supplying the Fiat Uno?

Name

Address

Tel (H)(W).....

I agree to abide by the rules of the competition

Signature



SPEAK 55



Queen Semane Bonolo Molotlegi celebrates her 50th birthday with friends and relatives

Semane Bonolo Molotlegi longs for the day when she and her husband, Chief Lebone Edward Molotlegi, can return to their village without fear of being harassed by the Bophuthatswana government. In August, she was granted a 14-day permit to celebrate her 50th birthday with her family and her people. David Madingwane was invited to attend the event

The queen who longs for home

The Bophuthatswana government would allow Semane Bonolo Molotlegi just 14 days to celebrate her 50th birthday with family and friends.

The queen of Phokeng village in Bophuthatswana cannot live in her own house because the government won't let her. She and her husband, Chief Lebone Edward Molotlegi, left Bophuthatswana because they faced harassment all the time. Chief Molotlegi, of the 400 000 Bafokeng tribe, also spent a lot of time in jail because he does not support the government's way of ruling the homeland.

"Coming back home for my birthday means a lot to me. Being with people who raised me and who grew up with me made me very happy. But the most important person, my husband, is missing," says Molotlegi sadly.

"The situation my family has been forced into is very unfair. As human beings, we should have the right to live our lives in peace with our families. I should not be forced to live in a rented flat in Hillbrow," she says angrily.

Molotlegi is even more angry because she is separated from her husband.

"The whole village came to celebrate their queen's 50th birthday. Everyone knew what her wish was as she cut the cake..."

"My husband is in exile in Botswana while I have to live in Hillbrow. A family should not be divided like that," she adds.

Molotlegi was, however, happy about one thing. She was able to spend her birthday with her children and her people in their own house for the first time since she was ordered to leave the country in 1991.

When SPEAK visited the

Molotlegi mansion, the whole village was celebrating the return of their Queen. Elders were preparing for the feast and the young children were running around. Everyone was very excited.

"I long for the day when I can come back to my home for good. But, as long as this government is in power, it will not happen. It is something that cannot be solved legally, because our family has always been against the government," she says in a strong voice.

The children of Chief and Queen Molotlegi have not forgotten their family duty. As the village elders, they keep the home fires burning.

Their son, Lebone Jr, has called on the youth of the Bafokeng tribe to get involved. "You are making it easy for others to divide us. You can only be part of us if you get

involved in the tribe's matters," he says.

The Molotlegi children have paid the price for carrying on the work of their parents. The eldest son has been harassed by the Bophuthatswana government. Last year he was arrested and accused of murder.

The case did not get to the courts because there was no evidence. The police did not even have the name of the person they said he had killed.

Despite all the sadness, the birthday celebrations went ahead.

The whole village came to celebrate their queen's 50th birthday. Everyone knew what her wish was as she cut the cake. "We always live with hope," says the Queen, "and my hope is that my husband will be right here with us to share in the celebrations for my 51st birthday." ☺

COMPETITION

THREE CALCULATORS TO BE WON!

BE ONE OF THE LUCKY WINNERS!

Answer the question below and you could be one of our lucky winners

If SPEAK was a person, how would you describe it?

Answer.....

.....

Name.....

.....

Address.....

.....Code

Sex (tick the correct block):

MaleFemale

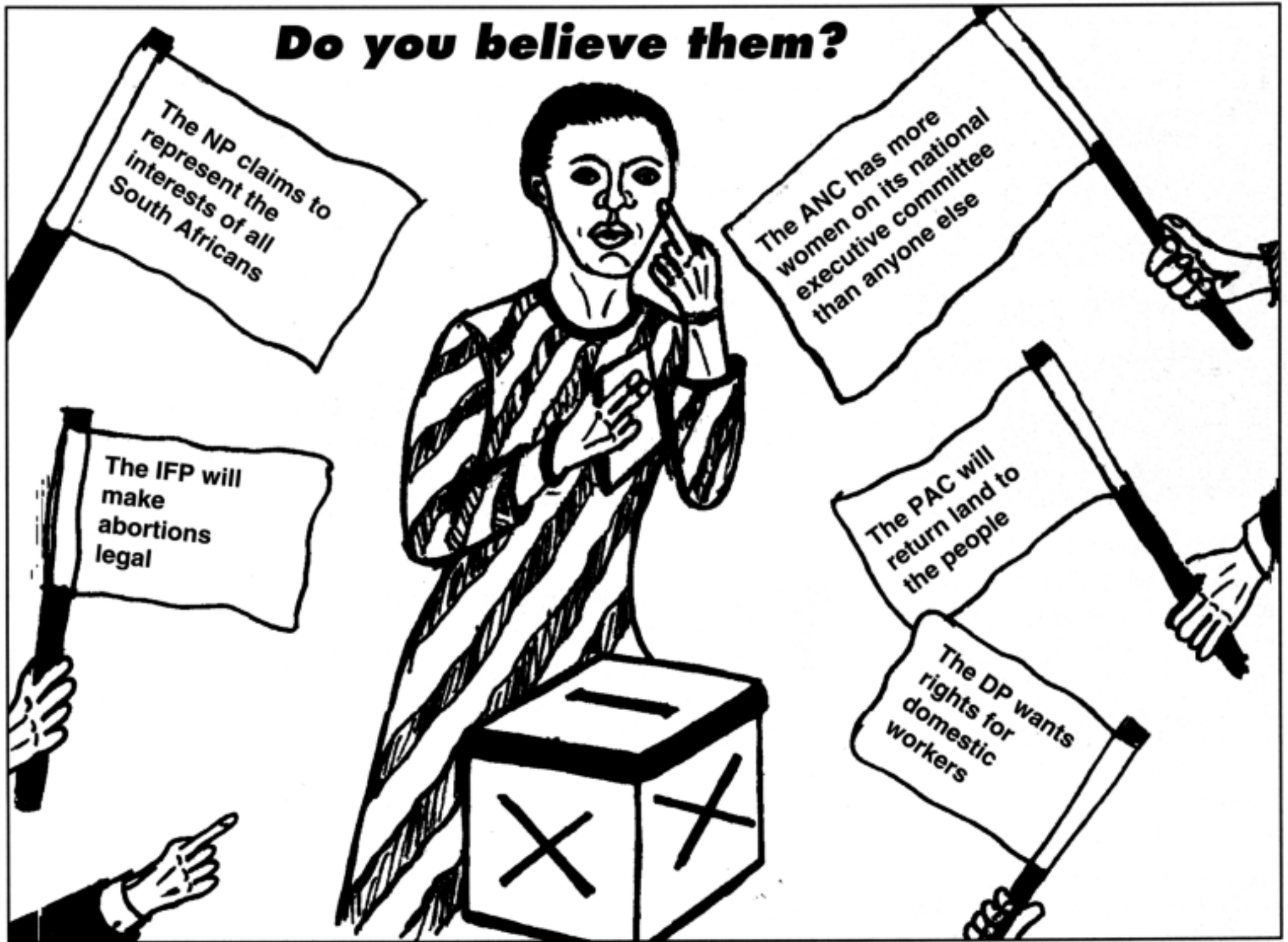
Age

I agree to abide by the rules of this competition.

Signature

Send your entry to:
SPEAK Calculator Competition,
PO Box 261363
Excom 2023
South Africa

Competition rules: The decision of the judges is final. This competition is open to people living in South Africa. Employees and relatives of employees of SPEAK are not allowed to enter. The closing date for entries is 25 November 1993. The winner will be announced in the December/January issue of SPEAK



Graphics: Maya Wendenig

Choosing the party to vote for

Election fever has struck... *SPEAK* looks at how to choose which party to vote for...

Which political party should I vote for? That's a question many people will be asking as next year's election gets closer.

All the political parties taking part in the election will try to win voters' support. There will be advertisements on radio, in newspapers and on many posters in the streets. Political parties will hold ral-

lies. Members of political parties will be knocking on people's doors to speak to them in their homes.

All the political parties will say that they are "the best".

Many of them will speak the same language and make the same promises – democracy, equality, justice, a better life...

How do you decide which one to support?

What do you want?

You need to decide what you want a new government to do for you.

It is important, for example, that the new government fights for equality for women. Owning land and having health clinics close to where you live are also issues close to the hearts of many women.

All the demands cannot be answered immediately by a new government, but you should choose the political party which will take your issues most seriously.

Look, Listen, Ask

You need to find out which political party will take up your issues.

The political parties must explain their policies to every-

Some demands

SPEAK asked four women what their most important demand from a new government is.

■ Thoko Msane, Women's National Coalition

"I think they must make equality the most important principle in the constitution. Nothing else must be more important than equality. For example, they should make sure women are not oppressed by traditional laws."

■ Gille de Vlieg, Black Sash

"The main thing the government must do is to actually listen to what women are asking. They

have to move beyond just saying they believe in gender equality to actually doing something about it."

■ Dorothy Mokgalo, Cosatu

"Labour laws should be changed so that women workers' rights are also included. The labour laws we have now do not cover women. These laws must be changed."

■ Crecentia Mofokeng, Nactu

"As a trade unionist, one thing I want to see a new government do is to make sure the economy empowers women. Women should have access to all the benefits of the economy."

one. You can tell some things about a political party from the way they explain things, and by what they leave out. Do they talk about women first or last? Do they mention women's needs at all?

You should also ask representatives of the different parties questions about their policies. Do they plan to protect women's rights in the workplace and at home? Will they pay special attention to women's needs regarding housing, land, education, health care?

Promises, promises...

All the political parties will promise they will be the best government. You need to think carefully about whether you can trust and believe them.

Don't only judge a party on what it says, but look at what it has done in the past. Have they abused or lied to us before? Who are the leaders of the party? Can we trust them?

More things to watch

In the election next year, we will be voting for a political party – not a person. The party which wins the most votes will get the most seats in parliament.

Before the election, each party has to prepare a list of the names of the people it has chosen to sit in parliament. Not everybody on the list will end up in the government. If a party wins 100 places, it will take the top 100 names from its list and send these people to represent its supporters in parliament.

You must study these lists. They will help voters to choose who to vote for. If a party does not have many women's names on the list, or if it puts women's names near the bottom of the list, you can see it does not really care about women's needs.

We should vote for the party that puts many strong women leaders near the top of its list. Women must be able to speak for themselves in the government – as must workers, rural people and so on.

Remember – the choice of who to vote for is yours and yours alone. No-one can force you to vote for any particular party. You must choose the party you think will represent you best. Look, listen and ask lots of questions. ★



Matla Trust

This page is a joint project of
MATLA TRUST & SPEAK

COMPETITION WIN A RADIO!

Answer the question below and you could be the lucky winner of a radio

■ In the elections coming up next year, will you be voting for a party or a person?

Answer

Name

Address

.....

.....

.....

Code

I agree to abide by the rules of this competition

Signature

Send your entry form to
SPEAK/Matla Trust Voter
Education Competition,
PO Box 261363, Excom, 2023,
South Africa

Competition rules: The decision of the judges is final. This competition is only open to people living in South Africa. Employees and relatives of employees of SPEAK are not allowed to enter. The closing date is 26 November 1993. The winner will be announced in the December issue of SPEAK.

When you are buying a house or borrowing money to build a house, you will enter into written legal agreements with the seller, the builder and the bank or building society. If you are 21 years old or older and unmarried, you can enter into these agreements on your own. However, if you are married, you might need your husband's permission to do this.

If you are married in civil law

Until the government passed a new law in September this year, many women married in civil law could not enter into agreements without their husband's permission. This was called marital power.

The marital power has now been stopped for all marriages and women are in the same legal position as their hus-

The bank or building society can ask your husband to be a "surety". They often do this in a sexist way and make you feel as if you are not able to take a decision about buying a house on your own

bands. This means that a woman can enter into agreements without her husband's permission.

In "community of property"

However, your husband's permission may still be necessary

When a woman buys a house

In the fourth and final article in our series on housing, Cathy Albertyn looks at women, the law and buying a house

for some agreements if you are married in "community of property". You can check this on your marriage certificate.

Being married in "community of property" means that you and your husband share each others property. You own half and he owns half of the property. This property is called the matrimonial estate. Because both of you share the property equally, you both manage it. This means that you will both have to sign the documents for the house and bond. And the one cannot sell any property without the permission of the

other.

You will also need the written agreement of your partner if you want to enter into any other legal agreements.

Out of "community of property"

If you are married out of "com-

munity of property", you do not need your husband's permission to buy a house or to get a mortgage bond. However, many banks and building societies will require your husband to be a "surety" on the mortgage bond. This means that, if you cannot pay the bond, the bank can make your husband pay. This is not decided by the law. It is decided on by the bank.

The bank or building society can ask your husband to be a "surety" but they often do so in a sexist way. They make you feel as if you're not able to take such a decision on your own, even if you know you are able to.

Banks and building societies would probably not ask you to be a "surety" for your husband, should he decide to take out a mortgage bond on his own.

New law still does not apply

The situation is different in the



Some women need their husband's permission to buy a house

Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda, Ciskei and other homelands. The recent changes in the South African law do not apply.

Here the majority of women still fall under the marital power and need their husband's permission before entering into legal agreements. You can talk to a lawyer or an advice office worker about entering into an agreement if your husband is not living with you.

Customary law in Natal

Women married in customary law are not seen as minors. In KwaZulu, however, they are

still subject to marital power. The removal of marital power, in September this year for civil marriages in the rest of South Africa, does not apply in Kwazulu. Women still need the permission of their husbands before they can buy a house or take out a mortgage bond.

Customary law in the rest of South Africa

Women married in customary law are seen as minors and their husbands are their legal guardians. However, there is one exception where the husband's control over his wife

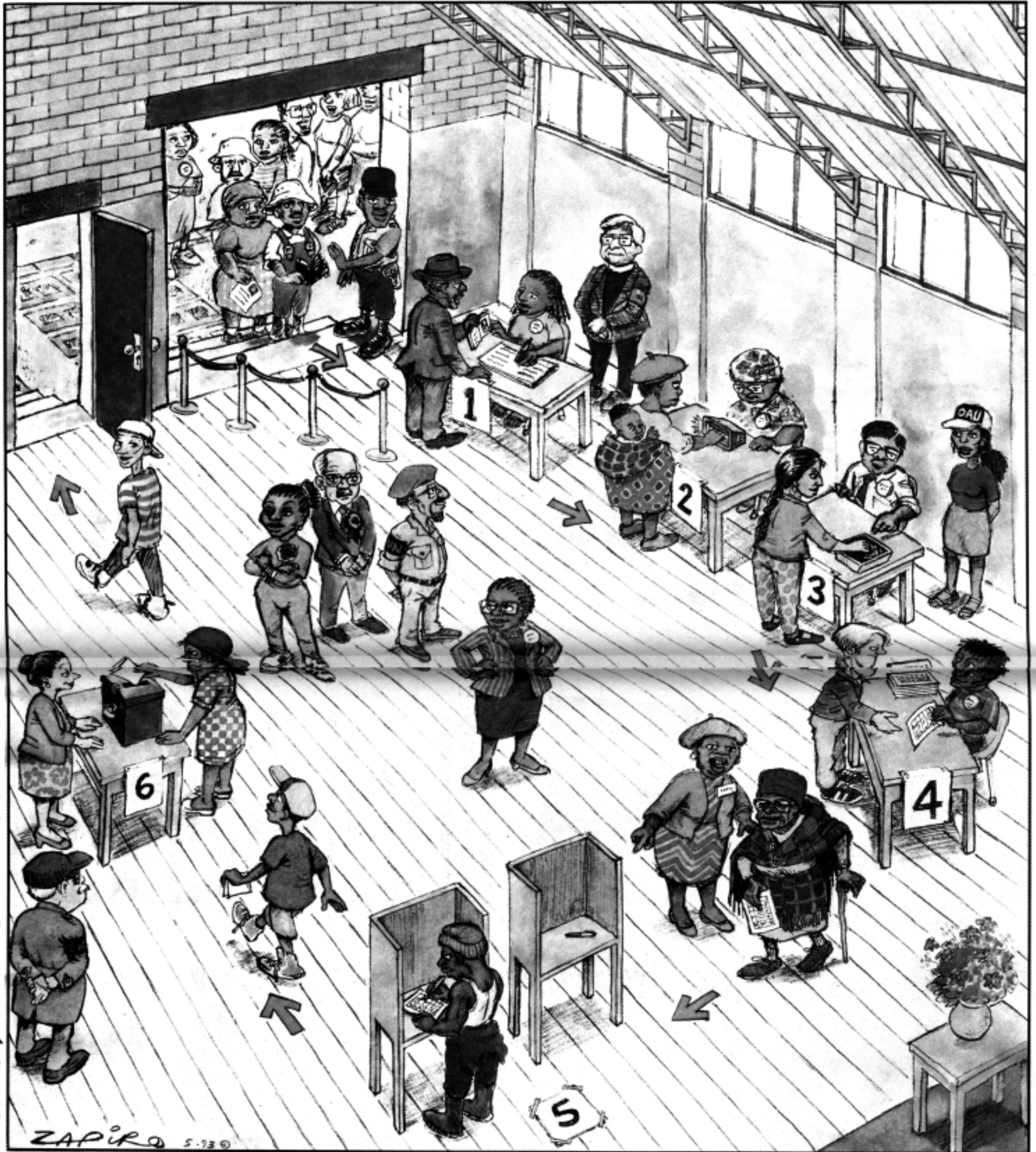
does not apply.

When you want to buy or sell a house or take out a mortgage bond, you do not need your husband's permission. However, banks often ask your husband to be a "surety". You can decide if you want him to be a "surety" or you could say you want someone else.

Many banks still apply the old laws. It is necessary that you check everything you do with a lawyer or your nearest legal advice office.

You can contact the local branch of Lawyers for Human Rights and Black Sash for advice. You will find their telephone numbers in the telephone book. ☼

VOTING STATION DITULO TSA DIKGETHO STEMLOKAAL



THIS IS A JOINT EFFORT OF MATLA TRUST & SPEAK

1. Show ID or voter card
2. Check hands
3. Mark hands
4. Get ballot paper
5. Make cross on ballot paper
6. Put ballot in box

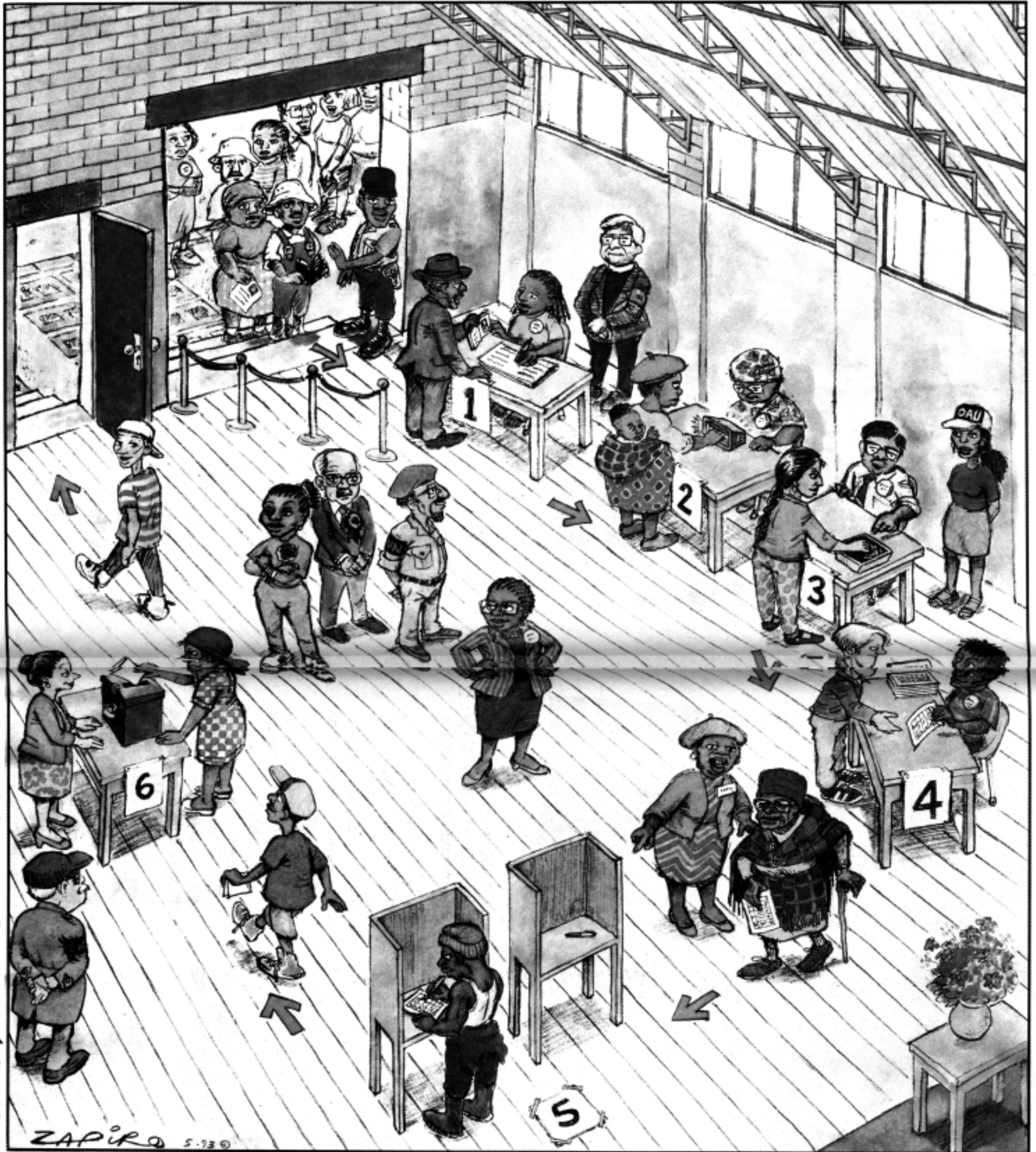
1. Shupa lokwalo – tsupo (ID) kgotsa karata ya go vouta (tlhopa)
2. Seka – seka matsogo
3. Tshwaya matsogo
4. Tsaya pampiri ya go vouta (tlhopa)
5. Dira sefapano mo pampiring ya go vouta (tlhopa)
6. Letloleng la dingwalo tsa ditlhopo

1. Wys ID of kieserskaart
2. Ondersoek hande
3. Merk hande
4. Kry stembrief
5. Maak kruisie op stembrief
6. Plaas stembrief in stembus

A VEETU POSTER (VOTER EDUCATION AND ELECTIONS TRAINING UNIT)

VEETU is a project of ERIP at the University of the Western Cape, in partnership with Afesis (East London), CCLS (Durban), HAP-ODS (Johannesburg)

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In South Korea, factory owners get away with paying low wages because the government banned trade unions and other worker organisations

So much profit, such low wages

What do women workers in South Africa have in common with women in Asia? A lot says *Althea MacQuene* who looks at the situation of women workers in South Korea

In Asian countries like Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea, governments have built economies that mainly make goods which are sold to other countries. Many of the televisions, radios, computers and toys that we buy in South Africa are made in these countries. This means that factories produce goods for the international market instead of for the people inside the country. It is the factory owners and foreign bosses who gain from this system, not the people.

The governments of these countries offer foreign companies very good conditions and charge them low taxes and



Bosses believe that women are "obedient" and will not join unions. But women are proving the bosses wrong. All over Asia, women are forming organisations and unions to fight against their bad working conditions. They are fighting against things such as sexual harassment, low wages, no job security and a lack of childcare facilities

rents. Foreign companies are also promised that the workforce will "behave", even if wages are low and conditions are bad.

Women form a large part of the work force, because they are paid less than men. Many of the women work in industrial areas called Free Trade Zones or Export Processing Zones. These are places where factories only make goods which are sold outside the country.

Bosses believe that women are "obedient" and will not join unions. But women are proving the bosses wrong. All over Asia, women are forming organisations and unions to fight against their bad working conditions. They are fighting against things such as sexual harassment, low wages, no job security and a lack of childcare facilities.

South Korea is no different

In the last few years, South Korea has become the world's fastest growing economy. Capitalists all over the world use South Korea as an example of economic development.

One reason for South Korea's economic growth is

because it makes goods to be sold in other countries. But another important reason is that the government banned all worker organisations and unions. This meant factory owners could pay low wages and make big profits.

Workers fought hard against this, and it was women workers who played the leading role in this struggle. One of the most important events in the history of workers' struggle in South Korea was at a clothing factory. Here 12 000 women began organising themselves to demand better working conditions.

They formed a union and, for the first time, elected a woman as chairperson of the union. Some of the women were arrested and harassed. It was their actions which led to the establishment of many trade unions all over the country. Strong worker organisations, like the Korean Women Workers Organisation, were formed after the strike to fight for women's rights.

Women demand childcare

One of the biggest demands that women in South Korea are

making is for proper childcare for their children. This demand has united women workers from different trade unions and organisations throughout South Korea. They want their companies and the government to provide proper childcare facilities in the areas where they live.

While workers continue to demand this, some parents said: "We can no longer wait for the bosses while our children suffer". They started their own childcare centres and are actively involved in running them. They have complete control over the kind of care their children get.

Back home

For the majority of women in South Africa, childcare is an equally big problem. Their families cannot survive unless they go out to work. Women workers in South Africa can learn from the experiences of those in South Korea.

Women workers in Cosatu, Nactu and other trade unions must come together to force their unions to put childcare high on the agenda when negotiating with the bosses. ★

These pages have been made possible by NPPHCN National AIDS Programme



Speakers at the launch of Cosas' campaign against AIDS

Condoms – a weapon

The song about AIDS, “Silamulele wena condom, safa saphela iSizwe, si bulawa ingculazi”, could be heard miles away as students, teachers, parents and health workers joined the Congress of South African Students (Cosas) at the launch of their campaign against AIDS. Rosalee Telela was there

In September the Congress of South African Students (Cosas) launched their national campaign against AIDS.

Thandi Modise of the ANC Women's League was one of the speakers. “In the past, when we had gatherings like this, it was to talk about what De Klerk's regime did to us... what others did to us. Today we launch a campaign against our second enemy, AIDS,” shouted Modise.

“We have lost comrades, family members and leaders because of AIDS and we have to learn to defend ourselves against AIDS,” she said.

Modise added: “Education is our greatest weapon. We need to educate people about AIDS and teach them to accept people who are HIV-positive or have AIDS. Through education we will realise just how serious AIDS is.”

Speaking about safe sex,

Modise said: “Condoms are not things we should joke about. They should be seen as a weapon against AIDS.”

She said condoms and safe sex should be the responsibility of both partners.

“If you are able to speak openly about sex and both see the importance of wearing condoms, then you've already won the battle,” added Modise.

Cosas national projects co-ordinator, Albert Mahlangu, said: “I know some of you think AIDS is an American idea to stop us from having sex, but it is not. Even students are being killed by this disease.”

AIDS is a sexually transmitted disease caused by a virus called HIV. AIDS cannot be cured, but the spread of the virus can be prevented by practising safe sex. Using condoms during sex is one of the best weapons against AIDS.

“We must protect each other. As students we must educate



Hands up who knows what to do to prevent AIDS

against AIDS

What some students said

SPEAK asked some of the students at the launch their views about AIDS.

Pat, 19, a matric student, said: "I'm not sure what AIDS is, but I do use a condom when I have sex with my girlfriend. I use a condom because I do not want a child. I think the campaign will help me and other students to learn about AIDS and how to prevent it."

Teboho, 17, also a matric student said: "I'm afraid to have sex with anybody because of this disease. I read in the newspapers of people dying of AIDS. I don't want to end up like them."

Nqedi, 16, a standard 7 student said: "I know what AIDS is. It is a disease you get when you have sex with someone who has the HIV virus. If you use a condom, it does not get into your body and you won't get sick. People must use condoms, even if they do not like feeling the plastic on them."

ourselves and our community about practising safe sex."

Mahlangu shouted a slogan which got the crowd very excited:

"One round, one condom, one condom, one round."

Cosas, with the assistance of the National Primary Health Care Network's AIDS programme, plan to take their campaign to schools across the country.

They intend to hold meet-

ings and workshops all over the country.

"We want students to become responsible about sex. We want students to know everything about sex before just doing it."

Mahlangu added: "People must stick to one partner since many sexual partners increases your chances of getting HIV. If you choose to have many partners, then, for your own sake, **USE CONDOMS.**"

He said the slogan, "No con-

The PPHC National AIDS Programme helps communities fight ignorance about AIDS. If you need the support of a community worker or if you have any further questions contact the PPHC National AIDS Programme. The telephone numbers of their offices are:

National office: (011) 337 8539
Eastern Transvaal: (01315) 41 181
Northern Transvaal: (01521) 91 4221
Southern Transvaal: (011) 337 7126
Orange Free State: (057) 396 5509
Natal: (031) 301 2582
Natal Midlands: (0331) 45 0453
Northern Natal: (0354) 74 181
Border: (0431) 43 6733
Eastern Cape: (041) 41 1618
Transkei: (0471) 31 0757
Western Cape: (021) 696 4154

dom, No sex", should become part of our everyday lives.

Mahlangu said he was concerned about the way society treated people who are HIV-positive or who have AIDS. "We must not discriminate against people with AIDS. They are part of our community. We cannot fight AIDS if we do not stand together as one."

To discuss and deal with the issue of AIDS openly, students have to be able to hold meetings and workshops within their schools. "We must fight for the right to know about our bodies, our health and our sexuality. We must demand sex and health education in our schools. We do not want to die of AIDS because we don't know anything about it," Mahlangu argued.

Cosas hopes to involve other student, teacher and community organisations in their campaign against AIDS. ★

For famous soccer player, Gora Ebrahim, scoring goals on the soccer field is just as important as scoring with his students. Ebrahim teaches Geography and Afrikaans part-time at Waterval Islamic Institute.

As much as he scores goals during his soccer matches, he also scores with his pupils. He proudly says: "It is not that I cannot decide on taking a full-time job. The way I see it, teaching and playing football go together. As a player of a well-known team, I'm a hit with my pupils."

Waterval is a private school, which takes in mainly pupils who are needy and homeless. "Although they are African, Indian and so-called coloured pupils, they are all Muslim," he says.

What happens in a day in the life of Ebrahim? "My day starts at six in the morning. I teach until half past two in the afternoon, then I go home to spend time with my wife. Soccer practice starts at half past six in the evening.

"Soon I will be coaching football for youngsters in the afternoons," he adds.

All these activities take up a lot of his time, but, says Ebrahim: "I enjoy what I do."

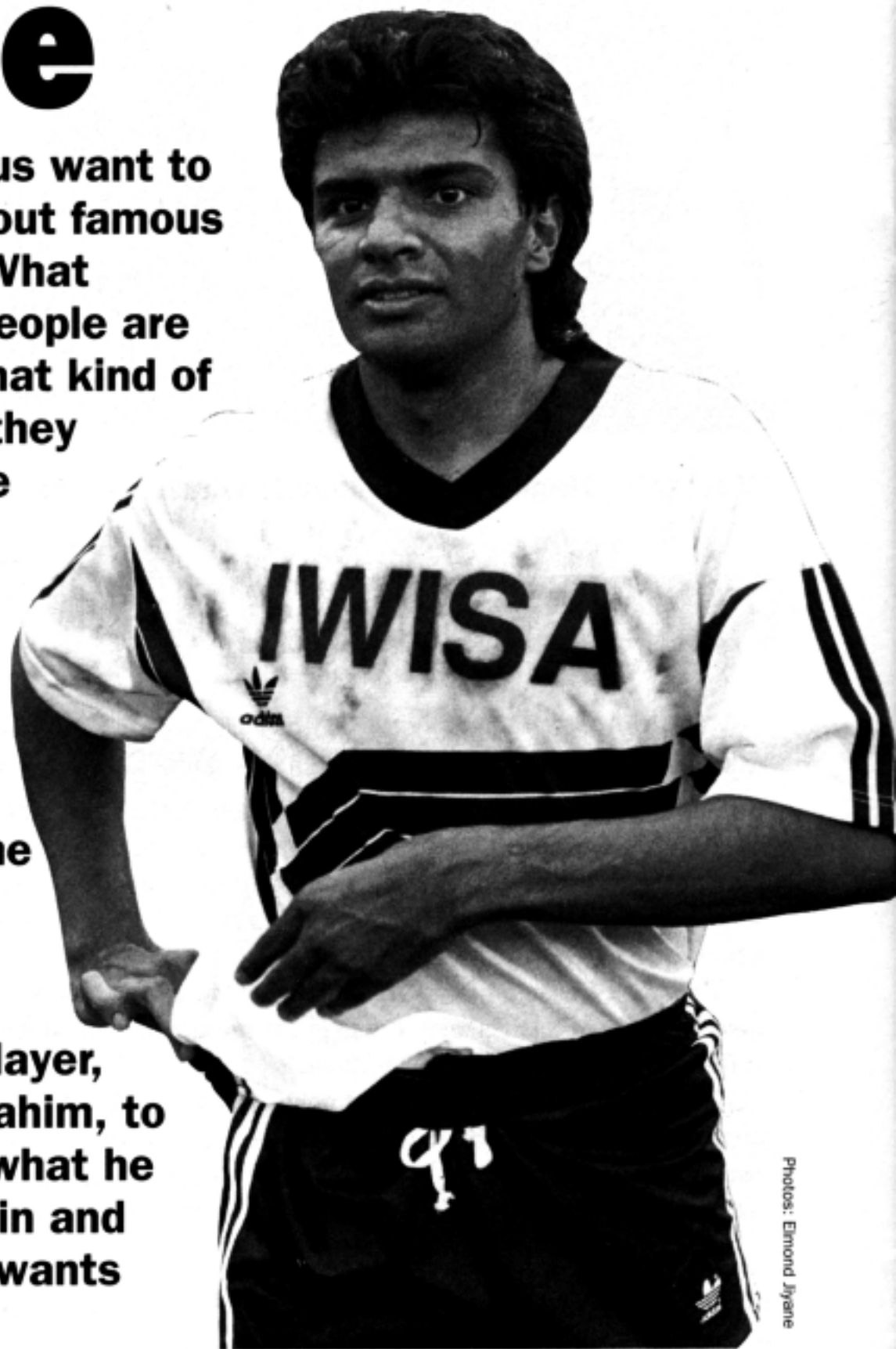
He studied to be a teacher at the Transvaal College of Education. At the time he was living with his mother, sister and three brothers in Vereeniging.

"I lost my father, who was an excellent soccer player, when I was in matric," Ebrahim says sadly. "It was one of my saddest years."

It was also a year when he had to take a stand for things

Scoring in life

Most of us want to know about famous people. What kind of people are they? What kind of lives do they lead? Are they are just like us? Rosalee Telela spent some time with Orlando Pirates soccer player, Gora Ebrahim, to find out what he believes in and what he wants from life



Photos: Emmond Jiyane

he believed in. "Although I was head prefect, I went against the rules of the school when I led a school boycott of the 1984 tri-cameral elections." Because of this, his mother refused to send him to university. "She was afraid I would get more involved in politics," he says.

As a young boy, Ebrahim's love for soccer was deeply influenced by his father. "He

wanted me to be one of the best players in the country," he says.

While at college, Ebrahim played for a professional club, Swaraj, and joined Dynamos in 1991.

"Dynamos was the only club that gave me the chance to play in the first division," he says.

Ebrahim is one of only two male teachers at the school. SPEAK asked him what it is



Pirates defender Gora Ebrahim celebrates a goal. He says women should have rights and be given a chance to prove themselves. And men should realise and accept that women can lead

does not come to the front, unless I call her.”

He wishes this would change: “She was brought up like that and I do not want to make her feel uneasy.”

Ebrahim says the changes in attitudes towards women must go beyond the home: “Women should have rights and must be given the chance to prove themselves. Some already have. The number of women leaders in business and politics is increasing. Men should realise and accept that women can lead.”

One of Ebrahim’s greatest wishes is to see an end to the violence. “We should not have to pay such a high price for change in this country.”

He believes the key to many problems is education. “Education in the black community is in a very bad state. I can understand and do support those teachers who go on strike. They barely survive on the money they earn.” While he understands, Ebrahim warns: “People must make the best of the chances they have, while at the same time trying to change things.”

Most of us have hopes and dreams. Ebrahim’s wish is for peace. “So that the children, my wife and I are going to have, do not grow up in all this violence.” ★

like working mainly with women: “I prefer working with women because I feel very comfortable with them. I find it easy to talk to young women. We talk about things like the role of women in the new South Africa. I treat them as professionals, as people.”

He says the way he sees women was influenced by the way he was raised. “My mother

took part in all decisions made at home. I never thought of women as being inferior to men.”

Ebrahim tries to put into practice the things he learnt, not only at work but also in his home.

There are, however, a few things in Ebrahim’s marriage that could be changed. “If I have male visitors, my wife

Angola – The forgotten war

In September last year, millions of Angolans walked hundreds of miles to voting stations all over the country to vote in Angola's first democratic elections.

Angolans did not only vote for a government, they also voted for peace. The elections were to bring an end to the 16-year civil war between the MPLA government and the rebel movement, Unita. Both the government and Unita agreed that they would no longer fight against each other. They committed themselves to free and fair elections, and to peace.

The MPLA won the elections. But Unita refused to accept the election results. A year after it had agreed to peace, Unita started fighting with the government again. Since then, the number of people killed and injured is higher than ever before. More than 1000 people are dying every day. People are dying faster than they can be buried. But the rest of the world is simply not interested.

In the past, some countries took more notice of Angola. This was because they wanted to destroy the MPLA government's efforts to rebuild the country. The Angolan government was close to the former Soviet Union and to Cuba. The

Every day, over one thousand people lose their lives in the war in Angola. People are dying faster than they can be buried. Why is the world not taking any notice of it? Laurance Mazure reports

United States of America (USA) and South Africa governments openly gave military and financial support to Jonas Savimbi and his Unita movement.

Since the fall of most socialist governments around the world, Angola has become a forgotten country, and its war, a forgotten war.

The world is more worried about the war in Bosnia. Yet more people are killed and injured daily in Angola than ever before. Thousands of people are starving because there is no food and medical supplies.



This woman only just escaped death from starvation and now she is recovering in a hospital in Luanda. But many thousands are still dying

How did all of this happen? It all started right after the September 1992 elections. The MPLA, led by President Eduardo dos Santos, won the elections with 49.5% of the votes. Savimbi's Unita lost, with 35% of the votes.

The United Nations said the elections were free and fair. But there was no international effort to prevent trouble. Within a month, Unita had started the civil war again. They could do this because their soldiers still had their weapons. In 1991, both the MPLA and Unita agreed to disarm their troops, to form one national army. The MPLA kept

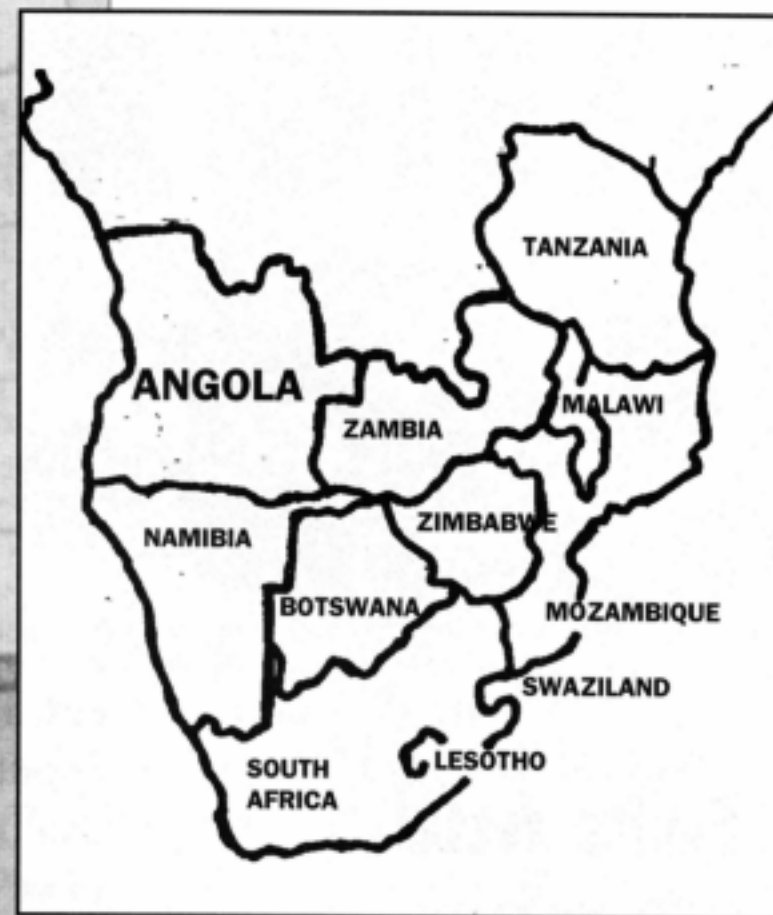
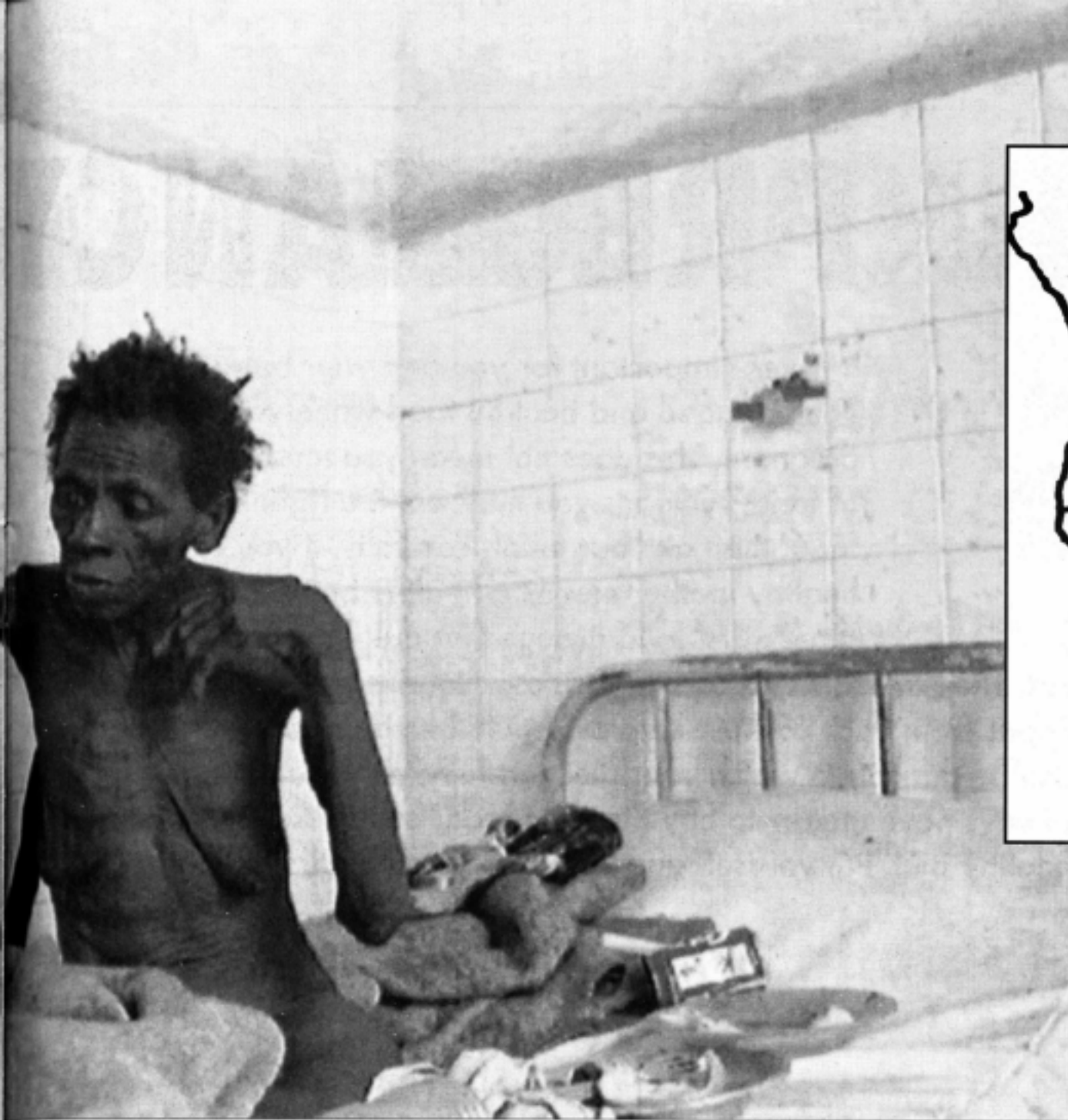


Photo: John Moore, AP

The terrible thing about this war is that the outside world is not seeing how bad things are. Journalists have kept away from the war zones because it is too dangerous. Even in Luanda, the national television does not show any pictures of the fighting. The only information comes from radio reports. The reports tell of rivers of blood flowing in cities where there is fighting and of people dying faster than they can be buried.

Where exactly is the fighting happening? What is the military situation on the ground? How many victims are there? These questions are still unanswered.

Refugees tell stories of what has happened to them. People are eating rats, cats, roots and anything else they can find. There is no wood left to cook with, so people are burning doors and window frames. The situation could be solved with help from the outside world. But the world forgets about this major conflict because they have nothing to gain from it. ★

Just two among thousands

Maria lies in a hospital in Malange, one of the Angolan cities that has been cut off from the rest of the country by the civil war. She is sick with fever and one of her legs has been blown off by a bomb. In her arms she holds a thin and dying three-month-old baby girl, Elana. Hospital workers say she found Elana tied to the body of her dead mother. Maria's own child died of hunger a few months earlier. They are just two of the thousands of victims of the bloodiest war in African history.

— *Sowetan* 20 September 1993

to the agreement but Unita did not.

At the beginning of this year, Unita rebels — through using force — controlled large parts of Angola. It took the MPLA government months to organise its soldiers again. The MPLA has only recently started gaining a few victories against Unita. All negotiations to stop the war have failed.

At least 50 000 people have been killed in the war in the past year. And even more will die from starvation. Two million people out of a population of 10 million, do not have enough food. People are running away from their villages to escape the war. This means crops are not being harvested. In the cities, food is scarce. In Luanda, the capital city, one child dies every hour.

PREGNANCY



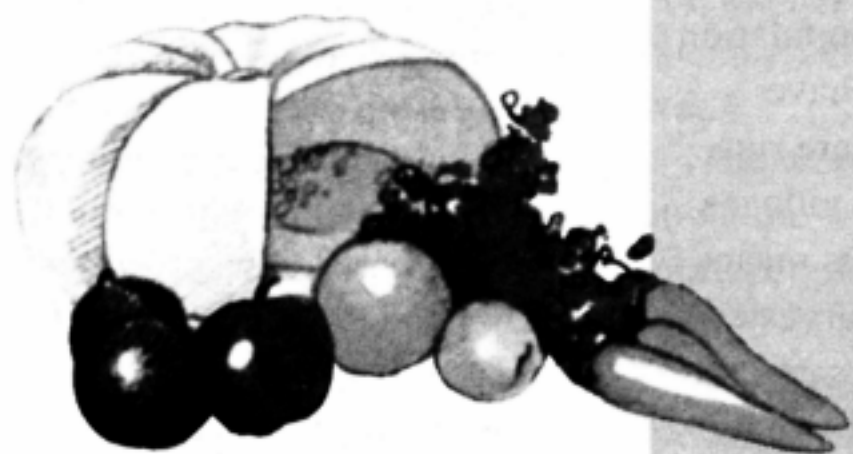
Fats and starches

Foods which have fats and carbohydrates (starch) will give you a lot of energy. Brown bread, whole wheat bread, samp, sunflower oil, brown rice, butter and margarine give you a lot of energy and strength as your baby grows in your uterus (womb).

It is a good idea to eat a lot of these foods all through your pregnancy.

Brown bread is much healthier than white bread. Also, brown sugar and brown rice are healthier than white sugar and white rice.

Things to eat everyday:
2 cups of cooked porridge;
4 slices of bread with 2



It is very important for you and your baby that you eat good and healthy food when you are pregnant. This does not mean you must eat a lot of food, it means you must eat the right kind of food. Plan all your meals carefully, if you can. A healthy mother means a healthy baby. There are three main food groups that are important to

eat. They are fats and carbohydrates, vitamins and proteins. Foods from each of these groups should be eaten every day. It can be difficult to watch your diet carefully, as you may not always have money to buy the right food, but try to follow a healthy diet. Put yourself and your unborn baby first.

Vitamins and minerals

Vitamins and minerals are found mainly in fruit and vegetables. Fruit and vegetables helps your body to fight against disease and will keep you and your baby healthy, during and after pregnancy. They help build strong bones, nails and teeth. Fresh fruit and vegetables are much healthier than tinned ones. Raw fruit and vegetables are very good for you. When eating fresh uncooked fruit and vegetables, it is important to wash them properly. The skins of most fruit and vegetables are very

good for you. Some of the goodness is lost when fruit and vegetables are cooked,

so cook them for a short time in small amounts of water.

Try to eat at least two vegetables and one fruit everyday.

Some of them are:

Foods rich in vitamin A

sweet potatoes
squashes
carrots
pumpkin
paw paw
mango
yellow peaches
apricots

Foods rich in Vitamin C

guavas
oranges
naartjies
raw cabbage
pineapple

Foods rich in iron

spinach
morago
beetroot leaves

Foods rich in other vitamins

beetroot
bananas
apples

AND YOUR DIET

Protein

Foods rich in proteins are important as protein helps to build up the body of the baby. Chicken, fish, eggs, dry beans, peas, meat and lentils are foods which are rich in protein. These foods will help you to produce enough milk to breastfeed your baby.

Try to stay away from tinned or processed food like polony, fatty sausages, tinned meat and meat pies. They will not give you the protein your body needs.

Try to eat at least two different foods from this list everyday:

- Half a cup of cooked dry beans or lentils;
- 2 tablespoons peanut butter;
- 2 pilchards;
- 1 egg;
- a piece of chicken, meat or fish;
- 1 - 2 cups fresh milk, amasi, or yoghurt; cheese; or
- 3 - 6 tablespoons dried milk powder.



A Healthy Mother means a Healthy Baby

Some health tips

Eating foods which are rich in fibre will help if you are constipated. Fresh fruit, vegetables, brown bread and dried fruit are all rich in fibre.

Drink at least 6 to 8 glasses of water a day. It is a good idea to drink a glass of hot water when you get up in the morning. This will help prevent bladder infections. It also helps with heartburn, which many pregnant women suffer from.

These foods can make heartburn worse – orange juice, tomato, pineapple, fizzy cold drinks, spices, onions and garlic, fatty meat, pies, fried chips and nuts. Try to avoid them if you have heartburn.

Keep healthy during your pregnancy

Smoking cigarettes or breathing in smoke from other people's cigarettes is bad for everyone's health. It is especially bad for a pregnant woman and her unborn baby. If you are a smoker, stop smoking. If others around you smoke, tell them they should not smoke in front of you.

Avoid drinking alcohol as it can affect the growth and health of your baby.

Coffee and tea have caffeine in them which is not good for you and your baby. You can drink rooibos tea or caffeine-free coffee;

Avoid fizzy cold drinks. Rather drink water and fruit juice;

Eat small amounts of food regularly. Overeating is bad for the baby. At each visit to the ante-natal clinic you can ask if your weight gain is normal.

Do not eat late at night and try not to lie down for at least two hours after a meal.

Get lots of rest. Your body is doing a lot of extra work – make sure your partner and others in the family do their bit to make it possible for you to get enough rest and sleep.

Pregnancy can be a wonderful thing. Eating the right foods and doing the proper exercises will help you along the nine months of pregnancy.

In the next issue, SPEAK will offer some exercise tips for you during pregnancy. ★

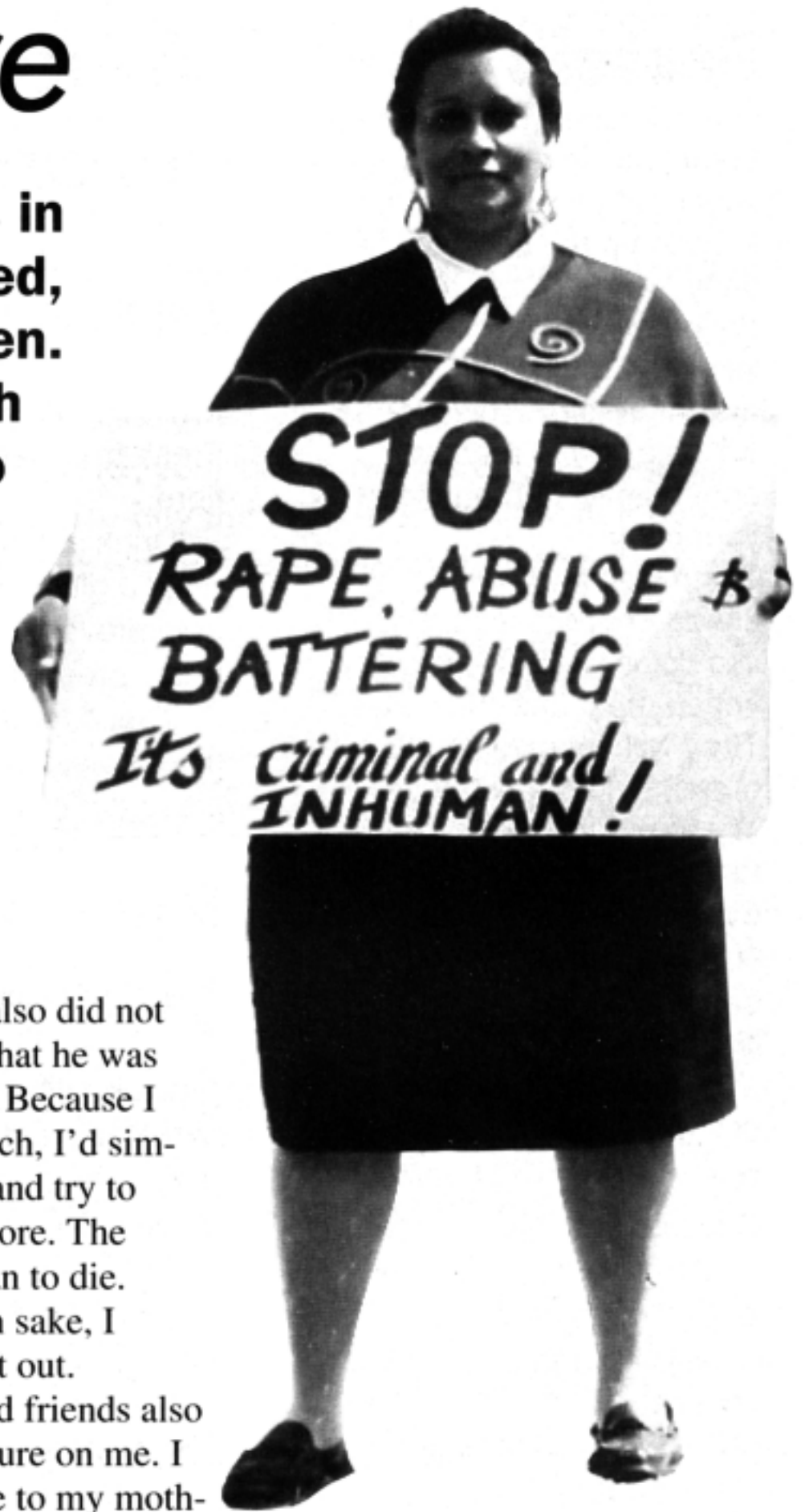
Alone in their silence

Not any more

Each and every woman is in danger of being raped, abused, beaten up and killed by men.

Most women who go through these painful experiences do so alone, in fear and shame. Yet, they are not alone in their pain, only in their silence.

Some are coming out, speaking loud and clear about the abuse against them, writes Rosalee Telela



Suzette Mafuna is a woman who was abused by her husband for a long time. She lived with the abuse until, one day, he nearly killed her. She left him. This is her story.

“I survived the abuse, but healing from the scars and the pain never ends. It is still difficult for me to trust any man who wants to get close to me. I’m so scared of the same thing happening all over again. I still have nightmares.

It was not easy for me to leave my husband, I was scared of what he might do to me. The day he nearly killed me, I knew that I had no other choice.

There were many reasons why I stayed in my marriage. I felt pity for my husband. Every time he said: ‘I’m sorry, please forgive me. I love you,’ I felt

sorry for him. I also did not want to believe that he was a violent person. Because I loved him so much, I’d simply forgive him and try to love him even more. The love slowly began to die. And, for my own sake, I knew I had to get out.

My family and friends also put a lot of pressure on me. I used to run home to my mother when he abused me. My mother would tell me that a woman is supposed to handle these things.

I started believing that I was not good enough and that I deserved what was happening to me. Later, I got a lot of support from women, friends and family. I was lucky.

Women must see that it is not a shame or their fault if they are abused by their part-

ners. They should not feel scared to speak about what’s happening to them. It’s the only way something can be done about their abuse.”

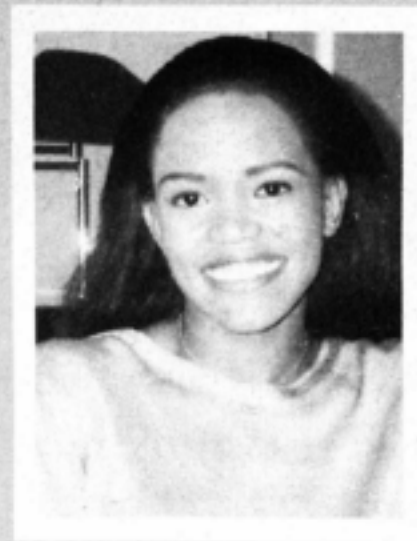
Many women have stopped taking this abuse. They have formed organisations that give

Voices against violence

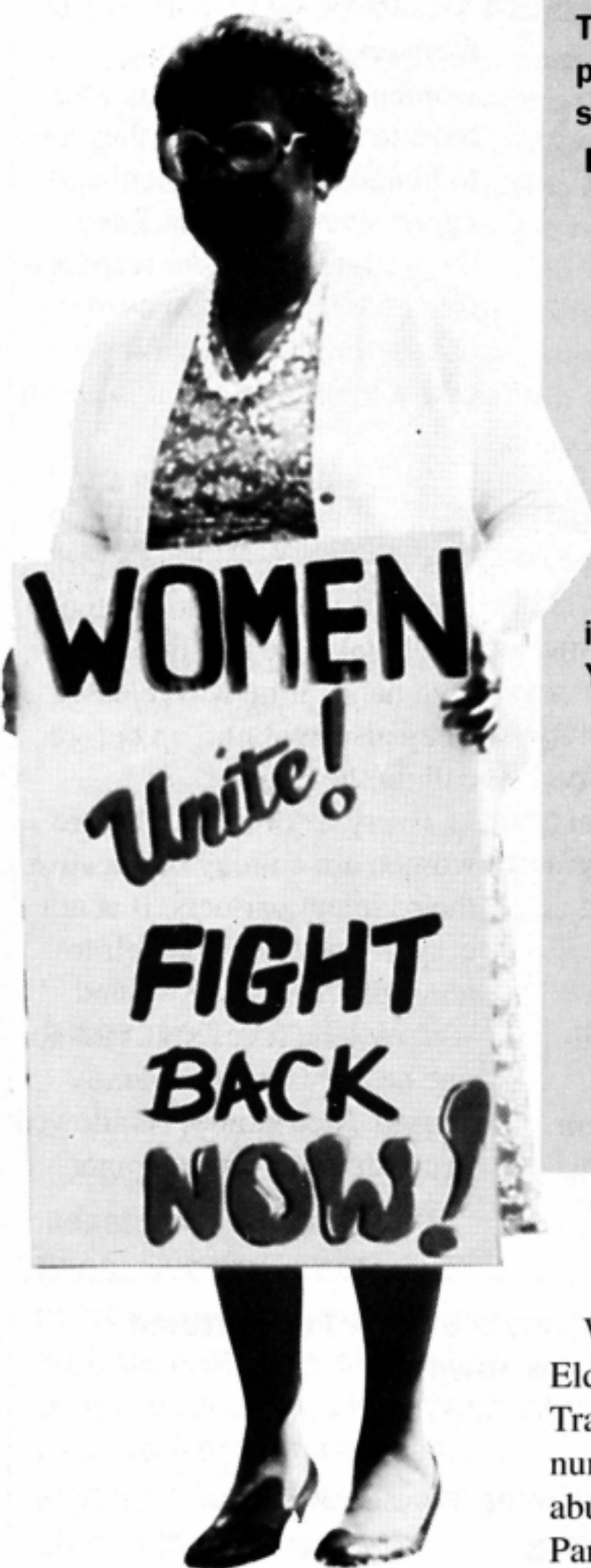
The Women's National Coalition produced a tape in protest against violence against women. This is what some people had to say:

■ Orlando Pirates soccer player GORA EBRAHIM says: "You can kick a ball around... just don't kick a woman."

■ Miss South Africa JACQUI MOFOKENG says to all women: "You have a right to say when, if and how you want to make love or have sex. Do not let anyone force or pressurise you to do anything you don't want to do. That is rape, even if it's your boyfriend. You and I have the right to say no."



■ YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA says: "You know – too often rape is blamed on the women or girl who is raped. 'She is wearing a mini-skirt,' people say.' 'She always looked too sexy'. 'What did she expect?' they'll always ask. "We hear those words too often. Let me tell you, what we wear and how we look has nothing to do with rape. Rape is a crime of violence... it can happen to you, your child, grandmother... or anyone. So, women, let us stand together and fight this violence."



According to Belinda Martin of Women Against Women Abuse (Wawa), Eldorado Park, in the Transvaal, has the highest number of battery, rape and abuse cases. Based in Eldorado Park, Wawa gives safety and support to women who are in abusive relationships.

Martin believes there is a need for training and support: "It is important that a woman who has come out in the open about her abusive relationship feels safe with the person she talks to. She must know she is speaking to someone who

believes her and wants to help her," she added.

Many of these organisations have shelters that serve as places of safety and support. "The first place a woman who is abused needs is a place of safety. Family and friends are often too afraid to help the woman because they are scared of the abuser. The woman finds herself running around with nowhere to go to. The shelter is a place of safety for the woman where she can begin to recover from the pain," Martin said.

"With the shelters and counselling, women will become strong and will see their strength, a strength which gets

support and counselling to women who have been raped, abused and beaten up. These organisations provide places of healing and safety, but they also add to the voices calling for and working for a change in men's attitudes towards women.



“Women must see that it is not their fault if they are abused by their partners. They should not feel scared to speak about what’s happening to them. It’s the only way something can be done about their abuse.”

*Suzette Mafuna,
an abuse survivor*

destroyed when they are abused by men.”

Lisa Vetten of People Opposing Women Abuse (Powa) said her organisation focusses on education as well. “We see education as a way to make people aware and to put pressure on the government, hospitals and the police to change their attitudes towards women who are abused.”

She believes one of the reasons for the violence women face is because society does not value women as highly as it values men. “The lack of resources for women, housing, social assistance and even the law does not protect women from abuse. An added factor is the political violence in the country – more women are being beaten since the increase in the violence,” Vetten said.

“Men must take responsibility for their behaviour. They must stop being excused. There is no reason or excuse for men to beat up and abuse women.”

Mmatshilo Motsei of Agishanang (which means “lets build together”), in Alexandra, said: “Our project focusses on counselling women rather than men. Men have to be shown that they are to blame for their violent and aggressive behaviour. They themselves must take responsibility for it. Men also need counselling. That is going to take a long time, but it is worth doing.”

She added: “Women are fighting back. When a man was arrested for raping a girl, a group of women told me they would take the law into their own hands if he was released. They also beat him up before calling the police.”

Every day more and more women are coming out against their violent partners. It is not easy to convince yourself to leave the man you love and who says he loves you. But no-one deserves to be violently abused. Men cannot be allowed to control and abuse women any longer. ★

Who to contact

If you being abused or know somebody who is being abused, you can contact:

Centre for Peace Action, Eldorado Park
Tel: (011) 342 3840

**Advice Desk For Abused Women,
University of Durban Westville**
Tel: (031) 820 2862

Laudium Advice Office, Pretoria
Tel: (012) 374 4792

Agishanang, Alexandra Clinic
Tel: (011) 440 1231

**Salvation Army’s Shelter For Battered
Women, Cape Town**
Tel: (021) 696 0787

**People Opposing Women Abuse,
Johannesburg**
Tel: (011) 642 4345

Coordinated Action For Battered Women
Tel: (021) 47 4000

Ilitha Labantu, Gugulethu
Tel: (021) 448 4016

**Women Against Women Abuse,
Eldorado Park**
Tel: (011) 945 5531

As a matter of fact...

Politician resigns over sexist remark

A deputy of the Conservative Party in Austria resigned after he was charged with making a sexist remark to a female member of the Green Party.

Paul Burgstaller told Terezija Stoisits, who was struggling with a microphone during a meeting, to "put it in your mouth and suck hard". Women deputies, despite their political differences, united in their anger and disgust over Burgstaller's statement. It was a victory for them when he resigned.

Policeman gets seven years for rape

A Cape Town policeman was sentenced to seven years in jail for raping a woman in a police station toilet last year.

Warrant Officer Patrick Elder pleaded not guilty to the rape charge, saying the woman agreed to have sex with him. He said she offered him sex in return for being granted bail.

The 25-year-old woman from Nyanga, who had been arrested for shoplifting, said this was not true. She said Elder followed her to the toilet and raped her.

The magistrate who convicted Elder, described what he said as "the most ridiculous story under the sun."

Dangers faced by working women

For today's working woman, health and safety dangers are a fact of life. Job discrimination against women means that women face certain dangers more than men. Most women do clerical, services, sales, health, teaching, farm and factory work. Many of the dangers they face have to do with poor working conditions, tools and equipment. Jobs such as typing require one to do the same thing over and over again and to sit all day. This results in women developing muscular aches, lower back pain and varicose veins.

Abortion Worldwide

At least 200 000 women die every year because of illegal and unsafe abortions. But that's not all, 3 million women suffer from serious problems caused by the abortions. Despite this, abortion still remains illegal or not freely available in many countries. In many cases where illegal abortions are performed, women suffer verbal, psychological and sexual abuse.

Bosses and workers agree

The Chamber of Mines and

HEALTH BRIEFS

National Union of Mineworkers signed the first agreement in industry on AIDS. The agreement states that workers suffering from AIDS will not be discriminated against or harassed by bosses.

It further states that no worker will be dismissed or denied employment if they are HIV-positive.

Also, support and counselling services will be made available to workers.

Four million women will die of AIDS

The World Health Organisation (WHO) says four million women will die of AIDS by the year 2000. The latest AIDS figures show that women make up about half of the new cases of people infected with HIV, the virus which causes AIDS.

According to WHO, more than one million women will be infected this year. By the year 2000, over 13 million women will have been infected with HIV and four million would have died of AIDS. ★

TAXI TALK

Don't take out your condom in a taxi



Graphic: Maya Wedenig

Carry a condom and win the respect of health workers, anti-AIDS campaigner Reuben Sher and the World Health Organisation (WHO). But never accidentally show a condom on the back seat of a taxi, unless you are AIDS-fearing enough to deal with the laughter of young women travelling to Turfloop.

I was on my way from Jane Furse to Pietersburg sitting at the back of a taxi. Three young women speaking proudly about their studies at Turfloop sat on either side of me.

"Every seat collect your fare and send it forward to me," our driver shouted over the loud music. I somehow got

By Montsho Matlala

the job of collecting the fares.

I put my right hand into my back pocket and felt a piece of paper in it. "A five rand note," I thought as I pulled my hand out of my pocket and opened it. The three young women, instead of passing their money to me, started to laugh. I looked down and saw a condom in the palm of my hand.

I felt very very shy and cursed the condom which had made me look like a fool. I did not get to collect the fare and decided to get off at Lebowakgomo and wait for another taxi to Pietersburg.

As I watched the three

women in the taxi disappear down the road, I thought, health workers should put in a lot of effort to make "condom" a household word. I know of women who get angry about the use of condoms. They say: "Do you think I am a prostitute infected with STD's (sexually transmitted diseases). Never use that rubber in my body".

Men think in the same way: "I want sex flesh to flesh, I don't have AIDS."

For AIDS awareness to be successful, health workers must join hands with business people, the church, political and civic organisations and the youth to carry the message of the importance of using condoms. ★

NOTICES

● Violence Against Women: A Guide to Your Rights ●

This book, written by two women, provides information and advice for women who are survivors of violence.

Anshu Padayachee and Navi Pillay explain the different types of abuse against women. These are physical, sexual and emotional abuse. They also suggest ways of dealing with the abuse. The book has a section on the legal rights of women who are abused.

It is available in English, Afrikaans, Sotho, Xhosa and Zulu and costs R20.

For your copy, write to:

The Advice Desk for Abused Women
University of Durban Westville
Private Bag X54001
Durban 4000

Free Housing Advice

By dialling 0800 111 663 (a toll-free telephone number), you will be given free information and advice on housing. This free service has been established by more than 30 community organisations, the private sector and professional service bodies. All you have to do is phone them. The person who answers your call will refer your problem to the relevant advice office staff, or to other organisations. These include Lawyers for Human Rights, the Legal Resources Centre, the Estate Agent's Board and the Urban Foundation. Remember, the number to dial is 0800 111 663. You won't be charged for this call.

● Calendar celebrates women ●

Rape Crisis in Cape Town is excited to announce the release of their 1994 Women's Calendar. This year's theme is "A celebration of South African women". Photographs by leading South African women are used. The calendar will be available at selected bookstores countrywide and from the Rape Crisis office. Rape Crisis is a service organisation which was founded in 1976. It is committed to fighting violence against women and provides support, advice and education to survivors of sexual violence and to the broader public. Given the high level of violence against women and children in South Africa, Rape Crisis needs all the support you can give.

For further information regarding the calendar or Rape Crisis, contact Lieze Kotze at (021) 262 311 (h) or leave a message with the Rape Crisis answering service at (021) 497 762.

Cutting Costs

"A space to learn and play - Equipping Educare Centres on Tight Budgets" is a booklet which looks at community-based educare programmes and centres which deal with the education and care of children. It shows how these centres can meet their needs on a small budget. The booklet, produced by the Liberty Life Foundation, is aimed at educare workers, parents and anyone involved in that field. For more information write to:
The Liberty Life Foundation
P O Box 10499
Johannesburg 2000
Telephone: (011) 408 3299

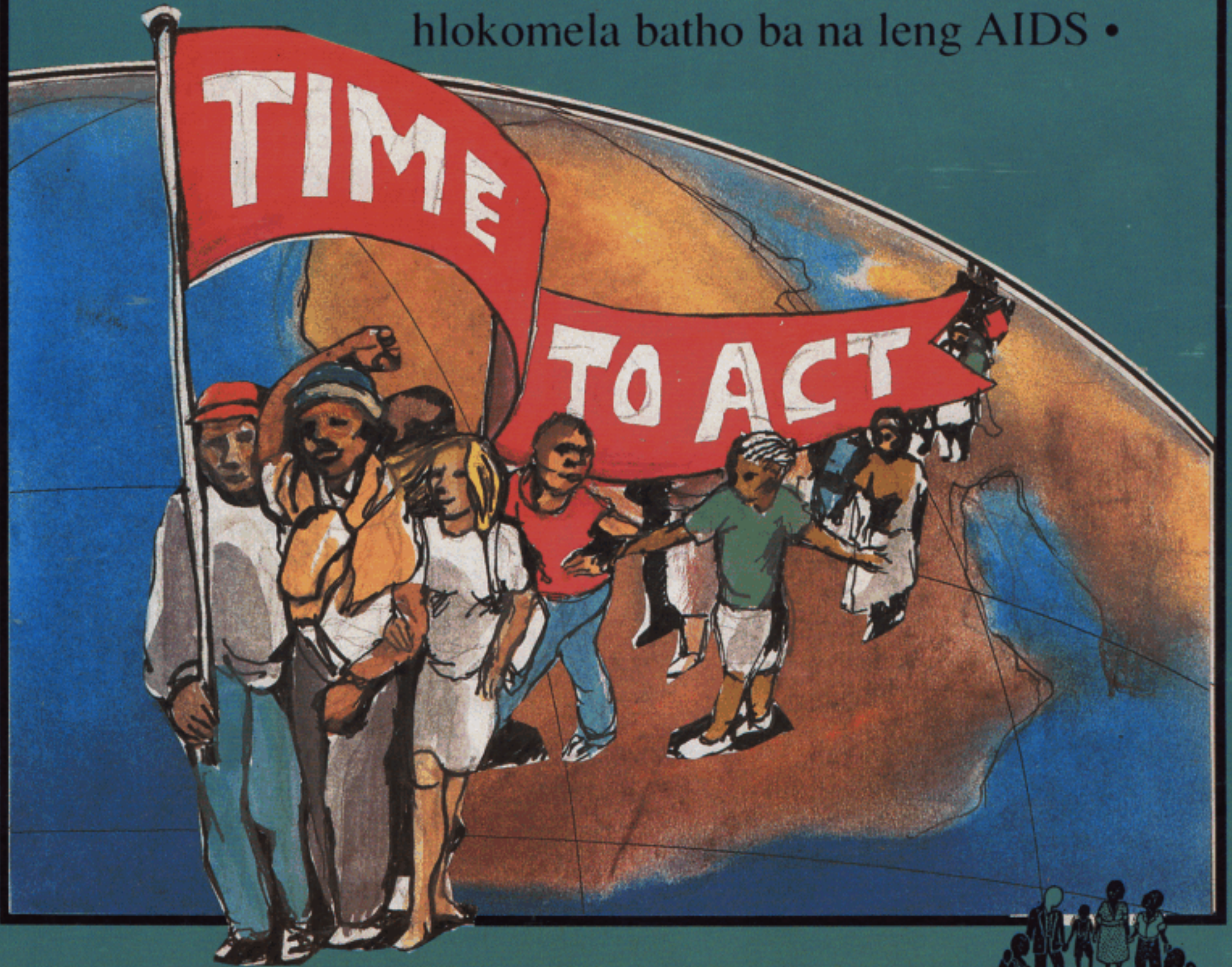
Music Courses

The Children of Soweto Action Centre (Cosac) is a school that offers music lessons to talented young people who want to make music their career. The first full-time course will begin in January 1994. At the moment, the school offers part-time classes every day, in the evenings and over weekends.

For more information, write to:

Cosac
57 Jeppe Street
Johannesburg 2001
Telephone: (011) 838 2642

educate about AIDS & HIV • prevent it from
spreading • care for people with AIDS •
fundisa ngengculasi • vimba ukuthi ingandi •
banakekele abantu abanengculasi •
onderrig oor VIGS • verhoed verdere verspreiding •
versorg mense met VIGS •
ruta ka AIDS • e thibele hore e se ke ya ata • ba
hlokomela batho ba na leng AIDS •



WORLD AIDS DAY

DECEMBER 1 • 1993

NPPHCN NATIONAL AIDS PROGRAMME

