

S152

SPEAK

SEPTEMBER No. 43
R1.50 (incl. VAT) R1.36 (Other Countries)



**SIBONGILE
KHUMALO**
MUSIC MAKES MY
WORLD GO ROUND

**BEAUTY
CONTESTS**
WHO ARE
THE WINNERS?

**TEN YEARS OF
BEATINGS**
AN ABUSED WIFE
TALKS

MASS ACTION
THE POWER OF
THE PEOPLE

**ARE YOU
DEPRESSED?**
HOW TO COPE

WIN!
★ CAMERA
★ BOOKS



9 771019 137001

What do others say about SPEAK?

"**SPEAK** shames all women's sections of newspapers and women's magazines with its broad reflective reporting on women's issues"

The Sowetan

"**SPEAK** is the best magazine for keeping up to date with issues regarding women, health and the nation at large"

Morgan Gomati, union shop steward

"Echoing the voice of women"

The Argus

"A magazine with a difference"

The New African

"**SPEAK** offers a voice with which they may speak so that others may learn"

MMEGI, The Reporter, Gaberone

"**SPEAK** is educative. You'll find people discussing articles from **SPEAK** in their spare time"

Maggie Magubane, Cosatu Wits Women's Forum



Shouldn't you be a **SPEAK** subscriber?

Send your money, name and address to:

SPEAK, PO Box 53085, Troyeville, 2139, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Subscription rates for:

South Africa	six issues	Individuals R12.00;	Organisations, institutions and donor subscribers	R40.00
	12 issues	Individuals R24.00;	Organisations, institutions and donor subscribers	R80.00
Overseas	six issues	Individuals US\$40.00;	Organisations, institutions and donor subscribers	US\$80.00
	12 issues	Individuals US\$80.00;	Organisations, institutions and donor subscribers	US\$160.00
Southern Africa	six issues	Individuals R18.00;	Organisations, institutions and donor subscribers	R45.00
	12 issues	Individuals R36.00;	Organisations, institutions and donor subscribers	R90.00

INSIDE

PEOPLE

Sibongile Khumalo	5
Music in my heart	
Reginald Tanda	18
Fighting sexism	
Lavonia Pule	24
A woman soccer referee	

FEATURES

Claiming our rights	8
Cosatu women's conference	
Beauty contest	11
Some women give their views	
Mass action	16
Photos tell a story	
A Cuban poet visits	22
Abused women	27
A centre offers support	

STORIES

Women rap!	10
We Miss You All	20
AIDS in the family	
A marriage of blood and beatings	26
A woman's true story	

ADVICE

Planning a gender workshop?	14
Some ideas	
Are you in an abusive relationship?	28
Places which help	

HEALTH

Dealing with depression	29
-------------------------	----

WIN

Win a camera!	25
Win a book!	14

REGULARS

Readers talk back	2
Kwa-Sophle	4
As a matter of fact	31
Taxi Talk	32
Community notice board	33



Sibongile Khumalo Page 5



Mass Action Page 16



Beauty contests Page 11

SPEAK STAFF

CO-ORDINATOR

Roshnie
Moonsammy

EDITOR

Karen Hurt

ASSISTANT

EDITORS

Libby Lloyd

Elinor Sisulu

DESIGN ARTIST

Dipuo Masetlha

JOURNALIST

Thoraya Pandy

OFFICE

ADMINISTRATOR

Jacqueline Mathabe

ADMINISTRATIVE

ASSISTANT

Pumla Baloyi

VOLUNTARY

MANAGEMENT

COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

Gill Lincoln, Nise

Malange, Shamim

Meer, Boitumelo

Mofokeng, Refiloe

Ndzuta, Helen Rees

SPEAK offices:

Office 7, 17th Floor,
Conlyn House, 156
President Street,
Johannesburg, 2001,
South Africa.

Telephone:

(011) 29-6166

Fax: (011) 29-4354

Postal address:

SPEAK, PO Box
261363, Excom
2023, South Africa

Subscription enquiries:

NND

Telephone:

(011) 402-1205

Cover photo:

Anna Zieminski

COMMENT

If music is the food of love, sing on. Living in a bleeding and war-torn country, it is good to be reminded of the healing power of music. We bring you singer and teacher Sibongile Khumalo, who talks about her life of music.

The fighting spirit of our people runs deep. More than five million people took part in the week of mass action last month. It ended on August 9, National Women's Day - making the struggle for women's rights part of mass action. This is how it should be.

Cosatu Women's Conference looked at how to run an economy in which women are not exploited.

Beauty competitions - we in SPEAK are against them but are we in the minority? What do SPEAK readers feel about this issue? Write in!

We offer advice on running gender workshops; where to seek help if you are abused by your partner; and how to cope with depression.

Phambili ngomzabalazo wabesifazane! ●

Talk back

Disabled people organise

A group of disabled people in Langa Township, Cape Town have started an organisation called the Lukhanyo Association for the Disabled People (LADP).

As disabled people, the members of this organisation have suffered and struggled all their lives. They are determined to fight for their rights and work hard for the future happiness and well-being of their families.

The LADP urgently needs help to start an income-generating project. The group needs a place in which to work, sewing and knitting machines, wool, material, needles, crochet hooks, knitting needles, buttons, linen, curtains and second hand clothes.

Anyone who can help please contact: The Secretary, NJ Setoela, Lukhanyo Association for Disabled People, No 1 Rose Innes, PO Langa 7455.

Why women become feminists

I believe a feminist woman must provide her husband with enough food, sex, respect and love. She must cook the best food for her husband and give him the best piece of meat at table. She must keep the home clean for her husband.

She must accept her

husband's friends and she must also try to show an interest in his hobbies, like sports. She must be peaceful. She must plan carefully when buying clothes or food. She must never be extravagant and buy herself anything special.

However, if her husband wants something expensive for himself it is his right to have it. After all, it is his money. Only if she works can she buy herself something, after paying for the necessities, of course.

No doubt many of today's young women saw their mothers behave in this way. That is why they have opted to remain single and become feminists.

*Eric Skheshe Khanyile
Hammarsdale, Natal*

Confused about freedom

I am very confused about the freedom which women want. I believe the more freedom women get the more prostitution we will have. Prostitution started when women started to work.

Be aware of a danger - the freedom you want will kill your marriage.

*Robert Mdakiti Khanyile
Hammarsdale, Natal*

As far as we know prostitutes exist because there is a demand from men.

Some women take advantage

Thank you for the glorious work you are doing in the struggle for women's emancipation. Women should liberate themselves from the curse and yoke of male chauvinism and other forms of oppression and exploitation. You do not have to wait for the men to decide the pace of your emancipation.

I am a male person, who is a sworn enemy of looking down on women. I always respect women and treat them with the dignity they deserve as people with basic human rights. I hate the idea of women being beaten. But sometimes some ladies take advantage of my politeness towards them. How do I handle that situation?

Malibongwe. Yours in the women's charter campaign.

*Worried
Natal*

*Discuss it with them openly.
Tell them how you feel.*

SPEAK is also for men

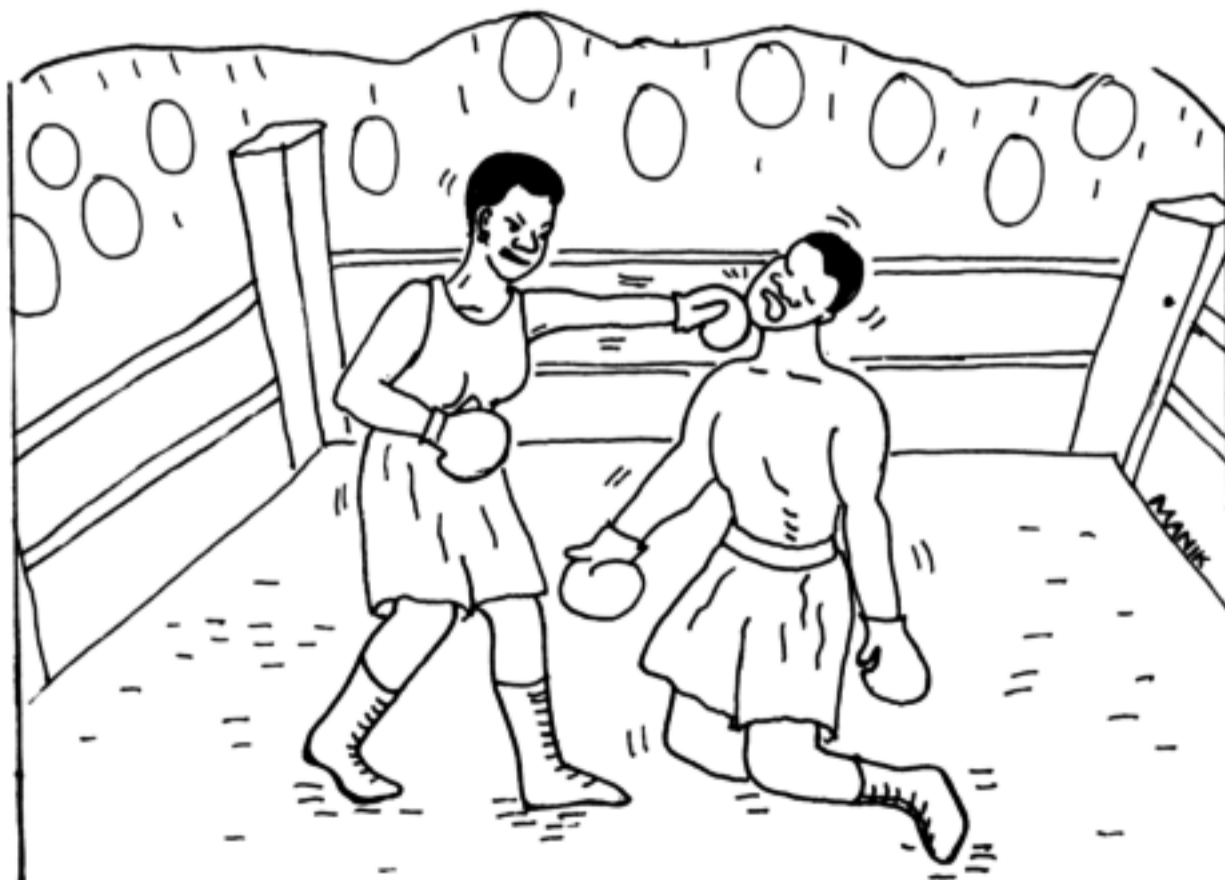
I feel honoured and fortunate to be exposed to this educative magazine. Your magazine is an eye-opener for me. I also believe SPEAK isn't for women only. Men can also learn about their selfishness towards women. The fact that women are the ones taking the lead in the fight for their rights makes me very happy.

If women take leadership positions in this country, many problems would be solved, especially problems which face the youth.

I agree women are equal to men as far as intellectual power is concerned. But when it comes to physical power I don't think there can be a woman who can challenge Mike Tyson and Holly Evander in the boxing ring. I do not believe there is a woman who can work in an underground mine in Johannesburg.

I would like to know what women think about this.

*Madoda M Bhamoyi
Umlazi, Natal*



Write to SPEAK

Thanks to all 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 261 363, Excom, 2023 Johannesburg South Africa**

Congratulations to our competition winners!

★ **A WINNER!** ★

Thandiwe Mayedwa of King Williams Town, you are the lucky winner of our 'Win a Dress' competition in SPEAK 39. You will soon receive your prize in the post.

MORE WINNERS!

Y Jadwat of Newcastle, Natal; E Motitsoe of Witsieshoek; Cylia Morongua Moremi of Pietersburg; Grace Castle of Joubert Park; Pratibha Narano of Doornfontein; F Skhosana of Siyabuswa in KwaNdebele; Sikheto Joe Kubayi of Louis Trichardt; Lunneck Mashego of Graskop in Eastern Transvaal; Josephina "Phina" of Ramolobeng and Mathews M Mudau of Louis Trichardt are all winners of the book "Hurry on the Machines". Well done!

SPEAK women went to see a movie the other day. We stopped for some refreshment along the way. The man serving us asked if we "belonged somewhere". We wondered what he meant. When we asked he said we "look like something strong."

* * * * *

A woman's organisation recently invited women to a one day workshop 'on men'. We thought for such a workshop to be successful it would need to last at least a year.

* * * * *

"I am aware we have problems as women," said a male church minister in his speech at a National Women's Day meeting on August 9 this year.

* * * * *



Kwa-Sophie...

A Cosaw member welcomed guests to an evening of poetry reading. "Good evening, ladies and gentlemen," he said, "although I don't know if I should say 'gentlemen' because not all men are gentle." That's man to man talk for you.

* * * * *

We've heard complaints from men about using the name 'commercial sex workers' instead of prostitutes. What's their problem? There isn't even a name for the men who create a demand for prostitutes - it's as if they don't exist. Maybe we should call them 'commercial sex buyers'.

* * * * *

Quote of the month:

*You can't kill the spirit
She is like the mountains
Old and strong
She'll go on and on
and on
You can't kill the spirit. o*

* * * * *



6 cards for
R3.00



We have these and many other designs.

Send your money along with your name and address to:

SPEAK, PO BOX 261363,
Excom, 2023
South Africa



Photo by Anna Zieminski

Music in my heart

Music makes her world go round. Singer Sibongile Khumalo tells Bobby Rodwell why

When Sibongile Khumalo steps onto the stage, her strong, beautiful voice and dynamic performance is a reminder that music is food for the soul.

Khumalo is not only a singer - she also teaches and does research on music.

Music is the love of Khumalo's life. She grew up with it, she performs and teaches it. Full of energy, warmth and ideas, Khumalo gave freely of her time to tell SPEAK about her life.

SPEAK: When did you become interested in music?

Khumalo: I went to my first concert when I was two weeks old! Of course I did not sing that night! I was taken there by my mother who was the main soloist for the Ionian group in Soweto. My parents passed their love for music on to me. My father, Khabi Mngema, was professor of music at Zululand University for many years. My brother is

also a musician. So you see, I grew up with music in my home and in my heart.

SPEAK: Was your father a great influence in your life?

Khumalo: Oh yes! My father was my teacher, guide and advisor. Even now I call him up to ask for advice. Growing up with a father who taught music was not easy. He would wake me up at six in the morning and make me do my exercises. I could not get away without practising!

SPEAK: What influence did your mother have on your life?

Khumalo: My mother, born Grace Mondlane, was a beautiful, strong and quiet person. She worked for 25 years as a nursing sister and health visitor. From her I learnt how to get on with people and work in the community.



Teenager Sibongile teaching music

SPEAK: What type of music do you sing?

Khumalo: I grew up with classical music and African choral music. I played traditional African songs in a youth orchestra. I listened to the radio. My brother loved jazz. So I am influenced by and sing songs from all these traditions.

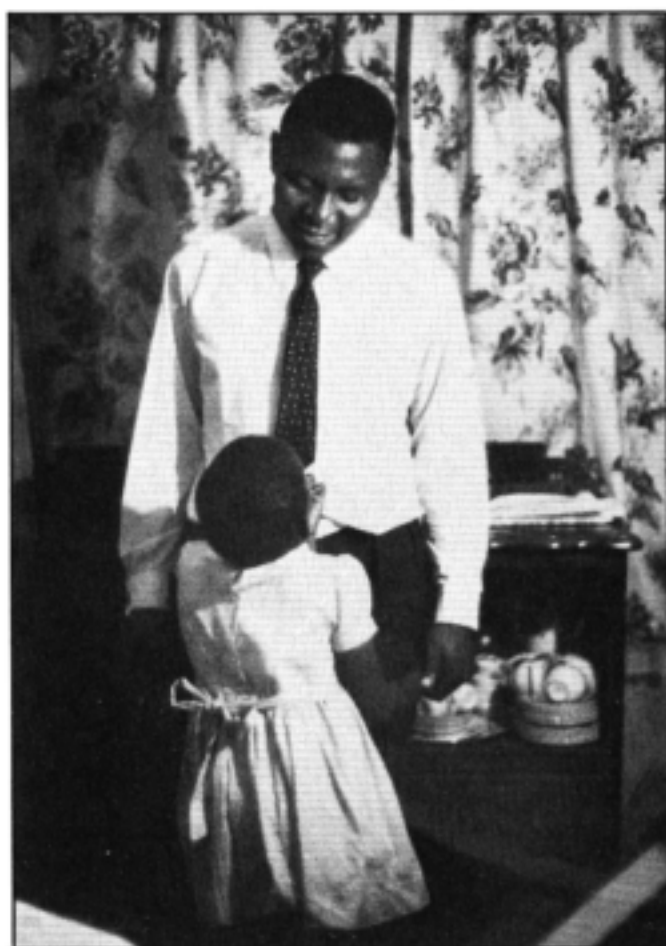
SPEAK: Where did you study?

Khumalo: I grew up and went to school in Orlando West in Soweto, where my father worked for the Jubilee Social Centre in 1960s. I studied for a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in music at the University of Zululand and a (BA) honours in music from the University of Witwatersrand (Wits). For my honours degree I concentrated on the history of music.

SPEAK: Where do you perform?

Khumalo: I sometimes sing at Kippies jazz club in Johannesburg. Companies and organisations often ask me to sing on their special occasions.

SPEAK: You have taught music at both Funda



Sibongile with her father, Khabi Mngema, in 1967 at 7015 Orlando West, Soweto

Centre in Diepkloof and Fuba at the Market Theatre. What do you think of such community art centres which teach art, music and acting?

Khumalo: Without community arts centres there would have been no arts training in the townships. Community art centres should work out what arts education is and develop a programme for it.

SPEAK: What type of music do you think community arts centres should teach?

Khumalo: We must stop arguing about what is European music and what is African music. If we watch children we will see how easy it is to develop what we need. Each community and each language develops as it needs to. I was listening to my daughter singing a song I sang when I was young. It was the same tune but the words were different. They were words which make sense to her life now. We must share our ideas and experiences in life. Most of all we must have arts education in the schools so all our children can have a chance to learn about the arts.

SPEAK: How do you find time to be involved in so many activities?

Khumalo: I am lucky. I have a lot of love and support around me. I am married to a wonderful man, Sphiwe Khumalo, who supports my career. He is one of my biggest fans and my best friend. Sphiwe does his share of

looking after our three children. We have a young cousin who lives with us. He also helps to care for the children.

SPEAK: Which singer do you admire most?

Khumalo: Letta Mbulu. I loved her when I was a teenager in the 1970's. I later found out that we share the same birthday! I also admire Sophie Mgcina and African American singers, Roberta Flack and Nina Simone.

SPEAK: Women who are background singers are usually dressed in a sexy way. What do you think of this?

Khumalo: They are portrayed as sex symbols. If you are a singer you have an instrument - your voice - a talent. It is unfair to put these backing singers into short shiny dresses as though they are only there for men to admire their bodies. They are not seen as singers in their own right.

SPEAK: You were once asked to perform in a show without ever having practised. Can you tell us about that?

Khumalo: I had gone to watch the show and was sitting in the audience. There was panic when one of the main singers did not arrive. They asked me to sing - I knew the songs - what could I say? I love the stage and I love to sing and I was helping out some friends! ●



Photo by Anna Zierniski

"We must have arts education in the schools so all our children have a chance to learn about the arts"



Photo by Elmond Jiyane, Dynamic Images

There was lively debate and much participation by delegates at Cosatu's 2nd National Conference

Claiming our rights!

Being a woman worker is very different to being a male worker. Men get better paid, more skilled jobs with better promotion possibilities. Women face sexual harassment, earn lower wages and get inadequate maternity leave. These are just some of the ways women suffer in the economy. Delegates at the Congress of South African Trade Union's (Cosatu's) second National Women's Conference, held at Nasrec outside Soweto, addressed these and other issues.

Most of the 172 delegates from Cosatu unions all over South Africa were women. The conference was full of lively debate with full participation

Strong voices rang out at Cosatu's 2nd National Women's Conference last month. Thoraya Pandya was there

from delegates. The main issue of concern was the many factors which prevent women from becoming economically independent.

The conference said apartheid, laws and tradition made it difficult for women to own land.

They said women must be given independent legal status in society. They should have the right to sign contracts, own land and open bank accounts in their own name.

"In rural areas women are the ones who look after the home and the property, yet it does not belong to them," said a National Union of Metal Workers of South Africa (Numsa) delegate.

"Land reform programmes must make sure women can own land," she said.

"Taxation policies must also not discriminate against women and higher taxes placed on married women must stop," another delegate said.

Women were employed in the lowest paid sectors, like domestic and textile work, and in the lowest paid jobs. Training and promotion opportunities were limited and favoured men, conference said.

“We in Cosatu need clear and active policies on equal pay for work of equal value and promotion chances for women. Women must be encouraged to enter all sectors of employment.

“Special attention must be given to the employment of women in the public works programmes and at least half the jobs must be for women.”

Delegates spoke about the work women do in the home. They said women carry the “domestic burden” in the home. This affects the whole of their life.

“Because of this (domestic burden) women cannot fully participate in the economy and society,” said a delegate.

A male delegate had something to say about this.

“It is part of our culture for



Delegates could listen to speeches and discussion in different languages

women to carry the most responsibilities in a home.

“We have to go through a slow process and cannot just change things overnight,” he added.

He did not get much support for his views! Other delegates said a ‘family code’ needs to be developed in South Africa. It should state that domestic work should be shared between men and women.

At the end of the conference delegates agreed to campaign to achieve:

- a family code on domestic work;
- wage and employment policies which are fair to women;
- representation by women at all levels of the economy and society (starting with Cosatu!).

Cosatu women have battled long and hard to get their issues and demands taken seriously in their unions and in the federation. Their years of hard work are bearing fruit. Cosatu now has a gender co-ordinator. Women’s forums are growing in strength and number. Debates about women’s issues are being listened to by men more seriously.

It is going to take a lot to stop women in Cosatu from claiming their rights. If this conference is anything to go by women unionists will not allow their issues to be put at the bottom of the agenda. ●



Forward with the struggle for women workers' rights!



Women rap to the nation!

Now men them say
 women's life's okay
 Them sit about while
 we works all day
 Them sit in the sun,
 drinks lotsa tea
 Their life is happy and
 their life is free,
 Them play with
 children, them cooks a
 meal, them sits about
 saying how them feel.

Well now men, listen
 we got news for you
 Cause we happen to
 have a different point
 of view
 We don't have the time
 to sit in the sun
 And you can hardly
 say this life is fun

I got the baby to feed
 I got the garden to weed
 I got the children to heed
 I got a story to read

I got the beds to make
 I got the bread to bake
 I got the leaves to rake
 I got the kids to take

I got the floor to mop
 I got the vegies to chop
 I got to go to the shop
 I got the fights to stop

I got the socks to mend
 Got to see a sick friend
 birthday cards to send
 And grandpa to tend
 I got the sausage to fry
 I got the baby to dry



This rap was written and performed by women from the United Women's Congress (now ANC Women's League), from left to right: Hajiera Arnold, Avril Hoepner, Begum Pandey, Karen-Brooke Anderson and Mariam Jaffer. Later Kay Arnold and Zubeida Brey (not in the photo) joined the rappers. The rap became so popular, they were soon performing all over Cape Town

I got the food to buy
 I got to bake a pie

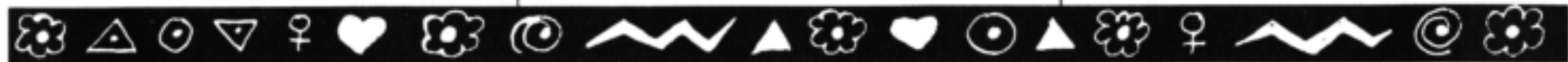
 I got the shirts to iron
 I got the floors to shine
 I got his boss to dine
 I got to make sure he's fine

 I got the teacher to meet
 I got the priest to greet
 I got the carpet to beat
 The baby's cold to treat
 So on a march we're ready
 to go
 Hey there world we've got
 something to show
 We're not stupid and we
 sure ain't weak
 We're half the world and

we're going to speak

 For workers, for jews, for
 gays, for blacks
 for children, and for people
 who live in shacks.
 For nurses, for cleaners, for
 the press to speak
 for all in this land who are
 too weak
 for miners, for teachers we
 all must fight
 for mothers, for sisters, for
 wives that's right

 We'll say it loud, we'll shout
 it from a tree
 No-one is free until the
 women are free! ☆



Beauty contests - who wins?



Irene Khumalo:
"There are times when we have to look presentable and beauty contests are one way of showing us how"

Little Miss Highgate, Miss Soweto, Miss South Africa ... it's hard not to notice beauty contests are everywhere. Do women really benefit from them?
By Thoraya Pandy.
Photos by **SPEAK**

Little girls, teenagers and young women are walking up and down ramps in crowded halls in our cities and townships hoping to win prizes because of their looks. Are these popular beauty contests really in the interests of women?

Don't they just make it harder for all women - young and old - to be treated like people with ideas, thoughts and achievements instead of as objects to look at and judge? SPEAK asked four women political activists for their views on beauty contests.



Nomboniso Gasa: "Learn to see yourself as a person first then you have won the greatest battle"

Gosego Dingake, a member of the African National Congress Youth League, told us she supports beauty contests.

"I think women have the right to show off a beautiful body, face and intelligent mind. It is okay for people to admire beauty. There is nothing oppressive or degrading about it.

"I admire beauty, good clothes and a good figure like everyone else".

"I support beauty competitions," said **Irene Khumalo** of the Pan Africanist Congress's African Women's Organisation (AWO).

"There are times when we have to look presentable and beauty contests are one way of showing us how," she said.

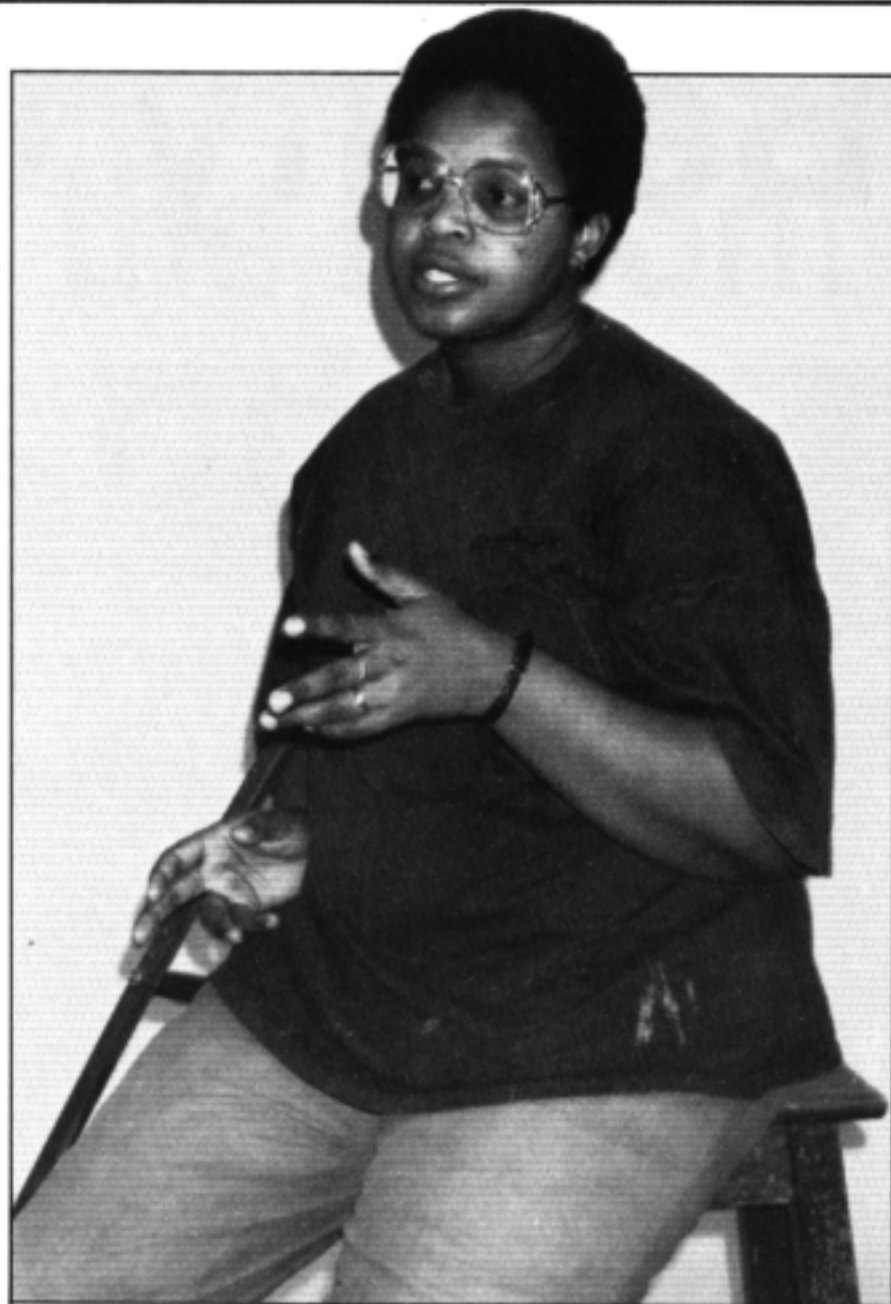
Khumalo said she did not believe beauty contests put pressure on women to spend a lot of money on clothing, make-up and to go on diets.

"If you want to be something you are not, then you are the one who will be unhappy," she said.

Khumalo said organisations have the right to oppose beauty



Gosego Dingake:
"Women have the right to show off a beautiful body, face and intelligent mind"



Phindi Mavuso:
"Beauty contests put women down It is like taking women to a parade like cattle"

contests.

"If there are people who do not support them it is okay but they should not stand in the way of others," she said.

Phindi Mavuso of the Azanian Youth Organisation

does not support beauty contests.

"Beauty contests put women down. For me it is like taking women to a parade like cattle," said Mavuso.

"I went to a beauty contest once and the sounds men made and the things they said made me very angry. I just could not take it and left!"

Mavuso said she felt like going onto the stage to protect the women from the "ugly remarks".

"Beauty contests are, I suppose, an easy and fast way of making money and selling products".

Mavuso said changing people's ideas about beauty contests is going to be difficult.

"People have a democratic right to hold these contests. Organisations should take up the matter and educate their members.

"While we are fighting for the liberation of women others are fighting against us," she said.

"I do not support beauty contests. They show women as sex objects," said former university student **Nomboniso Gasa**.

"Women do so much in society but beauty contests focus mainly on what women look like - not who they are or what they do.

"Because so much importance is given to a woman's looks, many women spend a lot of time trying to look beautiful ... they spend money on clothing they cannot afford".

"The sounds men made and the things they said made me very angry"

Gasa also blamed advertising for making many women feel they are failures if they don't look "right".

"Some adverts are insulting, like the stockings advert which says 'let your legs do the talking' as if women do not have any brains!

"Advertisements which insult women must be challenged. We need to build a strong feminist movement to challenge advertising and also society as a whole.

"Women must not let society tell us what we should do, how we should do it, what we should wear and how we should look.

"Learn to see yourself as a person first then you have won the greatest battle," added Gasa. ●



Thoraya Pandy attended this year's Miss Soweto beauty contest at the Standard Bank Arena in Johannesburg last month. She writes

Beauty is skin deep

The Standard Bank Arena was crowded with excited people - with still more trying to get in. I began to ask myself if I had been wrong to be against beauty contests. Surely if they are so popular they can't be so bad?

The music started playing and 23 slim young women walked onto the stage. The crowd roared. Each contestant had a number stuck to her costume near the top of her legs. Each walked in a sexy way, much to the delight of the crowd which cheered and whistled as the contestants came forward. The announcer shouted out to the crowd, "Which number to do want ... which number do you want to win?"

The women were just numbers. The numbers were just bodies.

Who were they? What do they think and do? This seemed unimportant.

Each walked up and down the ramp: smiling, serious, sexy. At the end of their walk they told the crowd their name and which part of Soweto they "represented".

Not long after the announcer shouted again and again, "Which number do you want? Which number do you want to win? Shout it out!" Their names were forgotten.

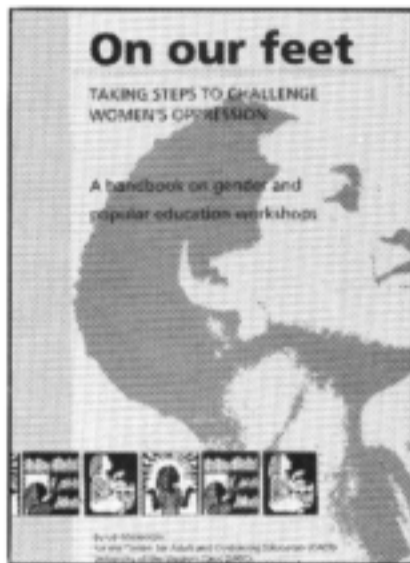


Above: Lindi Mswane, a contestant at the Miss Soweto beauty contest, 1992

Below: "Which number do you want?" Judges at the Miss Soweto contest 1992

I left before the show ended, feeling sick at heart. I felt convinced beauty contests, no matter how popular they are, do not help women's struggle to be respected as human beings. ●

Win the book “On our feet”!



**All you have to do is send us
your name and address, and you
could be the winner in our lucky
draw competition!**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal code: _____

Send your entry form to: SPEAK "On our feet" Lucky Draw, PO Box 261363, Excom, 2023, Johannesburg, South Africa. This competition is only open to people living in Southern Africa. No employee or relative of an employee of SPEAK may enter this competition. The winner will be announced in the December issue of SPEAK, so make sure your entry form reaches us by 4 November 1992.

“On our feet”

“On our feet” is a great new book which helps people understand and challenge women’s oppression!

“On our feet” is an exciting new book which gives advice on interesting ways to understand and deal with gender and women’s oppression.

The first section of the book is useful for anyone who wants to understand women’s oppression because it explains what we mean when we talk about gender, women’s oppression and patriarchy. It tells how gender oppression happens and gives examples of sexist behaviour. It also explains what popular education is and how popular education can be used to challenge women’s oppression.

The second section gives practical advice on how to plan and design a workshop on gender and women’s oppression.

The third part of the book gives examples of things you can do in a workshop to help people to share their own experience of oppression, so they can learn from each other and do something to change it.





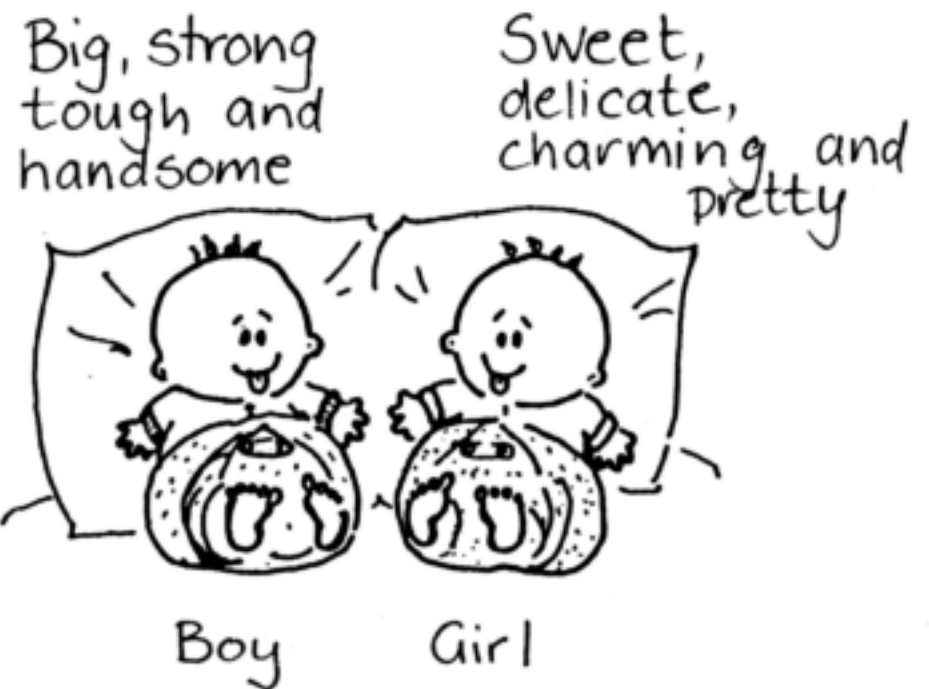
**Are you planning a workshop on women's oppression?
Here is a practical exercise you can try from "On our feet"**

You can start by asking how gender oppression happens.

When babies are born, one of the first things we ask is: "Is it a boy or girl?" We treat boy babies differently from girl babies because we want our children to be like other boys and girls.

As children we learnt how boys and girls were supposed to dress, how to sit and how to treat others. We learnt to know what is expected from girls and boys.

This process of gendering goes on throughout our lifetime



Exercise: "If I were a boy"

This exercise helps people to talk about and understand the roots of gender oppression.

Ask people to discuss these questions in small groups and write down each person's answer on a piece of paper:

1. When you were growing up what work did girls do in your home? What work did the boys in the home do?
2. How did you learn what your responsibilities were?
3. Think of how your life would have been different if you were a boy.

Men can be asked to do the same exercise by asking the question "If I were a girl?"



Drawings from "On our feet"

"On our feet" was written by Liz MacKenzie for the Centre for Adult and Continuing Education (CACE) at the University of Western Cape (UWC). You can order the book from The Secretary, CACE, University of Western Cape, Private Bag X17, Belville, 7375 South Africa. The book costs R38.00 including postage. ☛

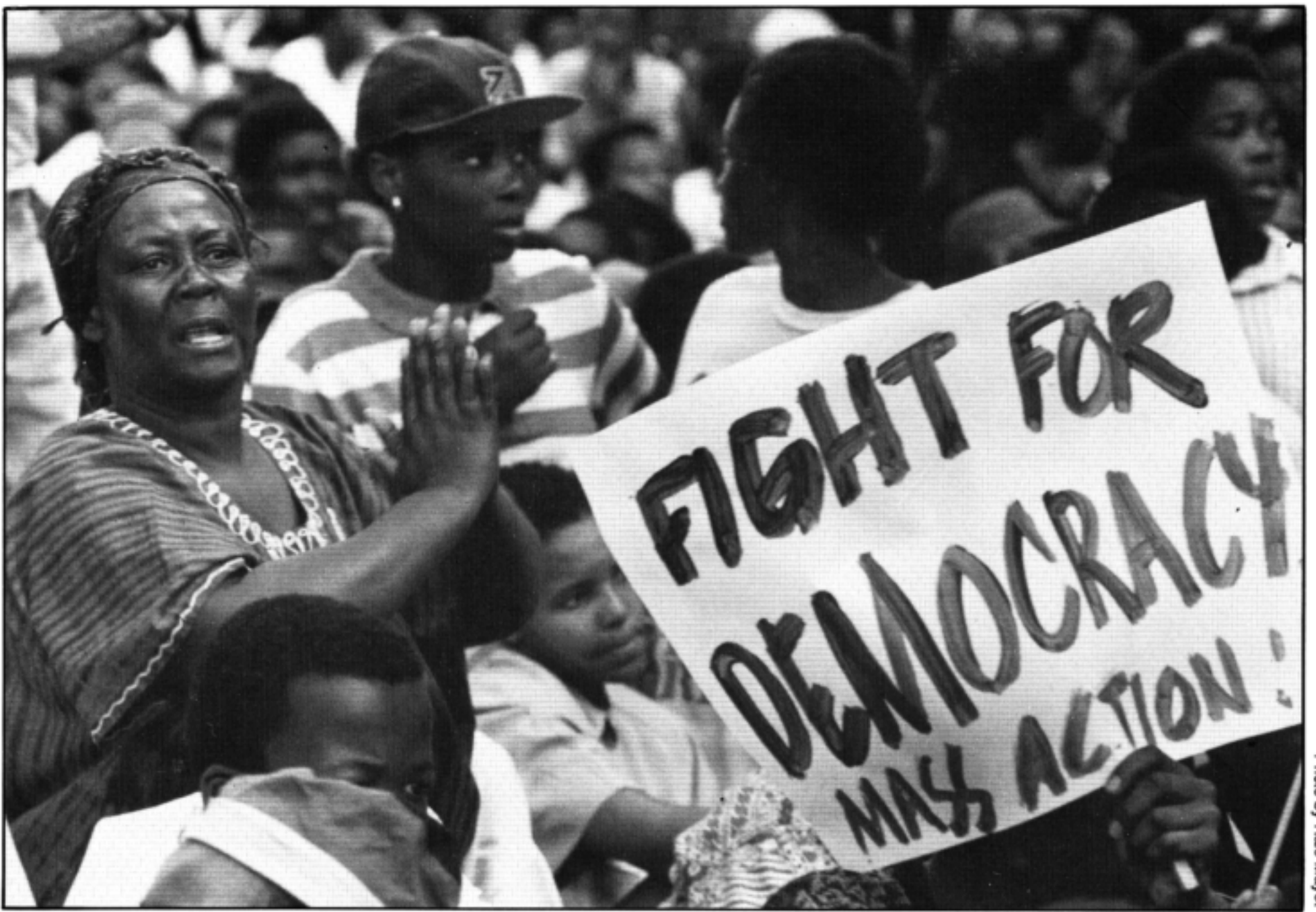


Photo by Rafs Mayer

Mass action, Durban, 5 August 1992

Breaking the chains of oppression. More than 70 000 people marched to the Union Building in Pretoria. The march was led by ANC president Nelson Mandela, 5 August 1992



Photo by Rashid Lombard, Cape Town Press Centre

Further than the eye can see! 30 000 people marched from Langa Township to Cape Town city centre, 5 August 1992



Photo by Cecil Sols, Dynamic Images

MASS ACTION 3 - 9 AUGUST



Photo by Elmond Jiyane, Dynamic Images

The struggle for women's rights was part of mass action. Women join together to celebrate National Women's Day at Ipelegeng, Soweto, 9 August 1992



Photo by Rashid Lombard, Cape Town Press Centre

Women march for freedom. Mass action march, Cape Town, 5 August 1992

“Lets talk about sexism”

“A woman can do anything a man can do” says Reginald Tanda of the Transport and General Worker’s Union



Photo by TGWU

“Sexism is an issue which needs to be discussed more and more.” Reginald Tanda (centre) with TGWU president Alfred Ndlovu (left) and Cosatu’s assistant general secretary, Sam Shilowa (right)

I became aware of this issue of sexism during my youth. The whole society is dominated by men; women are always in a subordinate role.

I wondered why this was happening. Our older people will tell you it has been created by God. But the more I get involved in organisations and exchange views with other people I see that a woman can do anything a man can do. She can drive a tractor, she can take

a pick and shovel and dig a hole.

But women are used to being in a subordinate role. If I go out with a woman, I have to wait for her to go out the door first. That is another sexism. The whole thing is a question of tradition and culture.

Sexism is an issue that needs more and more discussion. How can one reach the stage of a non-sexist society when women are still at the

back? We can’t because it has to be addressed first at home. Men and women can assist each other in the running of the home - like washing of the dishes. In all things done at home you need to take turns. Have a chart, a roster, on which you write who does the dishes today, who cleans the toilet today. In these ways we can start addressing the inequality between men and women.

From the book “No Turning Back: Fighting for gender equality in unions” ★

No Turning Back



SPEAK is both proud and pleased to announce the arrival of **No Turning Back** - fighting for gender equality in the unions, a book written and produced jointly by Cosatu Wits Women's Forum, Lacom (SACHED) and SPEAK.

"We have written this book because we believe the struggle for equality between men and women is part and parcel of the struggle for national liberation. If we don't fight for this equality now, the revolution sweeping our land is going to leave women in the dust - and still sweeping in the kitchens at home, at work and in the organisations."

No Turning Back costs R14.00 for those living in southern Africa. You can order it from: SPEAK, PO Box 261363, Excom 2023, South Africa. Please write to us for rates for other countries. ✪

**Don't miss out!
become a
SPEAK
subscriber and
get your copy
delivered to
your doorstep
each month.**

See inside front cover for details.

Challenge

A New Ecumenical Magazine of Church and People

*Published in Southern Africa by Contextual Publications
(an initiative of the Institute for Contextual Theology)*

- news, views, comment, reflections on current issues
- contextual bible studies, liturgy, theology, spirituality

Editor: Albert Nolan

Editorial Board: F. Chikane, J. Cochrane, T. Farisani, K. Mgojo, S. Mkhathshwa, K. Mofokeng, M. Mpumwana, B. Naudé, B. Ncube, C. Villa-Vicencio

Subscription Rates (10 issues p.a.): South Africa-R22.00; Neighbouring Countries-R25.00; Africa, Asia, Latin America-US\$20.00; Europe, North America, Australia-US\$50.00

Contributions and Subscriptions:

Challenge, P.O. Box 32047, Braamfontein, 2017

Agenda

**A JOURNAL ABOUT
WOMEN & GENDER**
Puts you at the forefront of
gender analysis

AGENDA has
* up to date research, debate and
discussion on women in South
Africa
* international women's news
* regular columns: women and
the law; women and health.

AGENDA is published four times a
year.
Get your AGENDA from leading
bookstores or subscribe for only R28 a
year. Write to :AGENDA
P.O. Box 37432 Overport 4067
Telephone: 031-3054074

We Miss You All



AIDS in the family

Noerine Kaleeba's world changed in June 1976 when she was told her husband, Chris, who was studying in England was seriously ill with AIDS. This month SPEAK brings to you the second part of a three part story from the book "*We Miss You All*"

Ugandan couple, Noerine and Chris Kaleeba, were married in December 1975. They had four daughters. Noerine looks back on their marriage before she found out Chris had AIDS.

Our marriage

Family planning was a problem. The pill did not agree with me, and I was scared to use an intrauterine device (IUD). We used condoms. Chris did not like them. He would use them, but become sulky afterwards, as if he was not satisfied. Then Chris had an affair with another woman because he wanted a boy. The result of Chris' boy-seeking was another little girl who looked just like him.

I've thought a lot about the arguments, the other woman, there never being enough money — the ups and downs of life. Early marriage is difficult. The babies are always crying. You are tired from work. You have to prepare food. Then your husband goes out when he should be there to hold the baby while you cook. Our arguments were about this, but the real problems ended by the time Marion was born.

Visiting Chris in hospital

In 1985 the family was full of hope for the future when Chris went to England for further studies at Hull University.

Our hopes were shattered by the news that Chris

was seriously ill. I left Uganda to see Chris on 12 June 1986. I hardly remember the journey. At the hospital the doctor explained that Chris was so ill I might not recognise him and I needed to be very strong when I went into his room. When I saw what was left of my handsome young husband, I thought of two things. First, I did not have a husband anymore - he was dying. Second, I would have to be very strong for myself, for what was left of Chris, and for the girls. I moved towards his bed like a zombie. He lifted his arm, the one which was not strapped with tape and tubes, and tried to smile.

As I write this I am having to fight hard to keep the tears back. I don't know how I did not cry in front of Chris, then or ever.

Though we were the only black couple on the ward we were treated with such care and love, I will never forget it. On Chris' birthday, the hospital staff made a big cake and sang "Happy Birthday". Although Chris wasn't happy at all, he managed a smile. This, his 36th birthday, was to be his last. I was so touched I went to my room and cried forever.

The doctors asked me if I knew where Chris could have got the HIV infection. I couldn't think. They asked me if Chris had ever had a blood transfusion.

I remembered Chris had been given blood in 1983 after losing a lot of blood when he was hurt in a road accident. One of the people who gave him blood was his younger brother, Godfrey. At the beginning of 1984 Godfrey became ill. He had a skin rash and fever. He lost a lot of weight. In the end he died of meningitis. We did not know then that Godfrey had probably died of AIDS.

I realise now Chris was never the same after the accident. He was tired all the time. We were only having sex about once in two months. He would say "I'm not feeling well. I'm not sick, but I'm not strong."

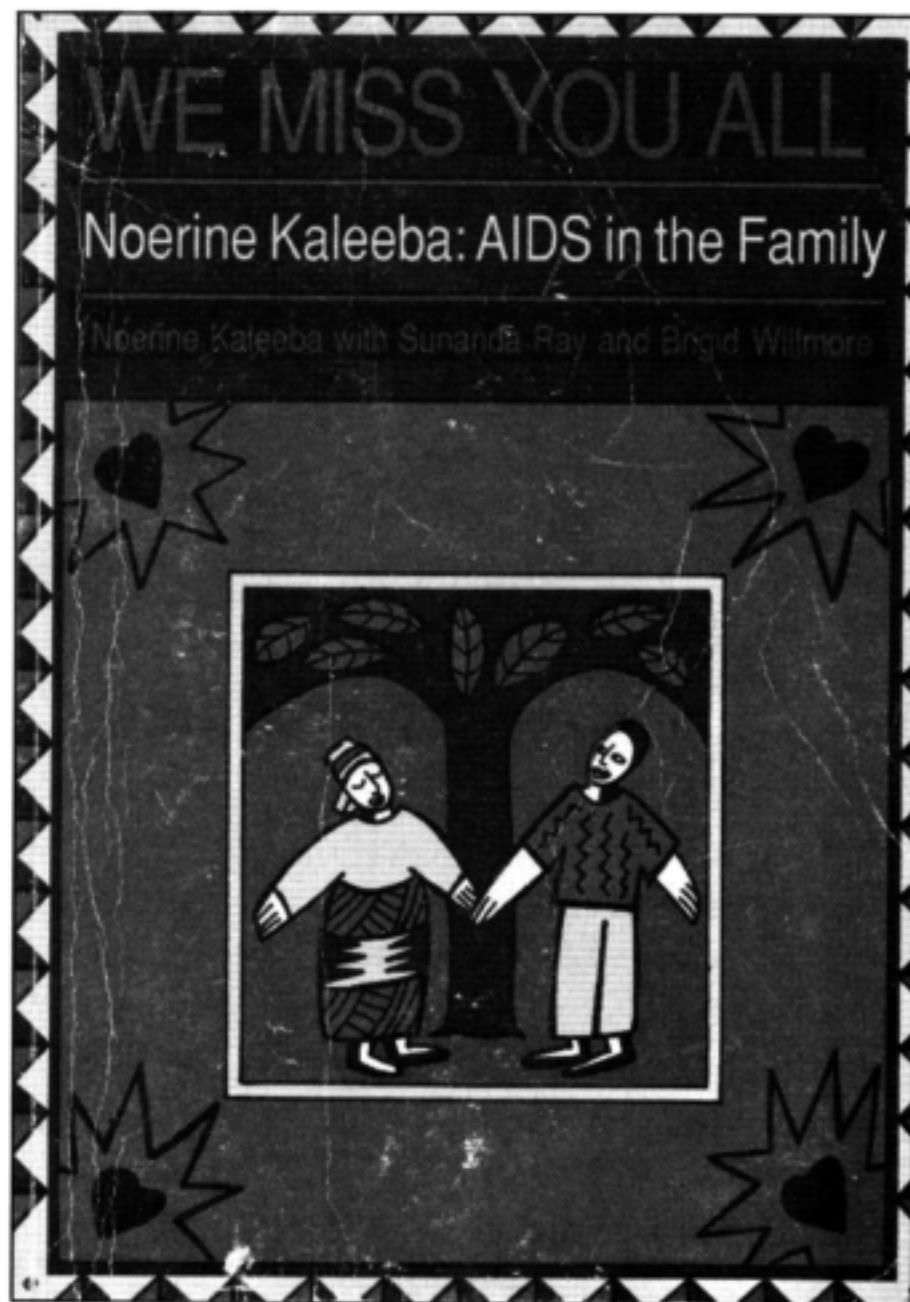
My HIV test

The doctors told me AIDS is a sexually transmitted disease and I might have caught it from Chris. Up to that time all I could think about was Chris dying, and how I would cope with the children on my

own. But after my blood was tested for HIV I had to think about myself. Six days later they told me my tests were negative. They said this might change and I would have to have another test six weeks later. When I told Chris the tests showed that I did not have HIV, he felt better. He had been afraid I would also die and leave the children with no one.

In September 1986 Noerine had to go back to Uganda. At home she noticed peoples attitude towards her had changed. Some of her neighbours and people she worked with avoided her. Her children suffered at school because other children had a bad attitude towards them because their father had AIDS.

Mark and Johnny, two homosexual friends she met in England had warned her of the bad attitude towards people with AIDS. Noerine had not been prepared for the same attitude from her own people.



In next month's SPEAK we will read about how Noerine copes when Chris comes home. ●

A Cuban poet visits

During her recent visit to South Africa, well-known Cuban poet, Nancy Morejon spoke to Thoraya Pandy

When Cuban poet Nancy Morejon entered SPEAK's offices during her recent visit to South Africa, her warmth and friendliness brightened our day! Morejon told us about her country and her love for poetry.

Morejon wrote her first poem when she was nine years old. Since then she has written ten books of poetry. Her poetry has been translated into different languages and her poems are read in many countries. She has received many awards for her poetry.

"In Cuba we have poetry readings in the streets, and often people from the crowd read their own poetry. It brings people together and everyone enjoys it.

"If this happens in Cuba, it can happen here too!" she said.

SPEAK asked Nancy if she feels free to write what she wants in her poems. She said she has criticised Cuban society in some of her poems but has never had problems because of it.

"Many people believe because Cuba is a communist country, the government stops people from writing or saying what they want. This is not true. If this was the case then



Nancy Morejon: "There is still discrimination against black people and women in Cuba"



"Poetry brings people together"

Photos by Karen Hurt, SPEAK



SPEAK meets Nancy Morejon. From left to right: Thoraya Pandy, Dipuo Masetlha and Elinor Sisulu

people would not support the government."

Morejon was born in 1944 in Havana, the capital city of Cuba, where she still lives. She has lived through the revolution in 1959 and says although many things in Cuba have changed, there is still a lot to do.

"Cuban law protects the rights of women and states that men and women are equal. The law does not allow racial discrimination. Everyone has the right to education, jobs and

health but this is not enough.

"There is still discrimination against black people and women. Cuba has one of the most macho-man (sexist) cultures in the Caribbean. It is very hard to uproot 400 years of slavery and backwardness in only 33 years of change.

"Countries which are against communism - like the United States of America - have made the problem worse. They destroy what we have achieved in Cuba." US sanctions against Cuba have caused economic

problems such as shortages of many things, amongst them oil and medical supplies.

Morejon said sanctions and shortages have not yet destroyed the will of the people. Instead, she says, it has forced them to be more creative. "For example, because of the paper shortage, the workers at one of the magazines have now learned to make their own paper in order to produce the magazine".

Morejon is a member of the women's movement in Cuba.

She believes it is important for women to organise themselves separately within organisations because, "we are the only ones who will make sure people take women's issues seriously".

Morejon was invited to South Africa by the Congress of South African Writers (COSAW) to hold workshops around the country with local poets.

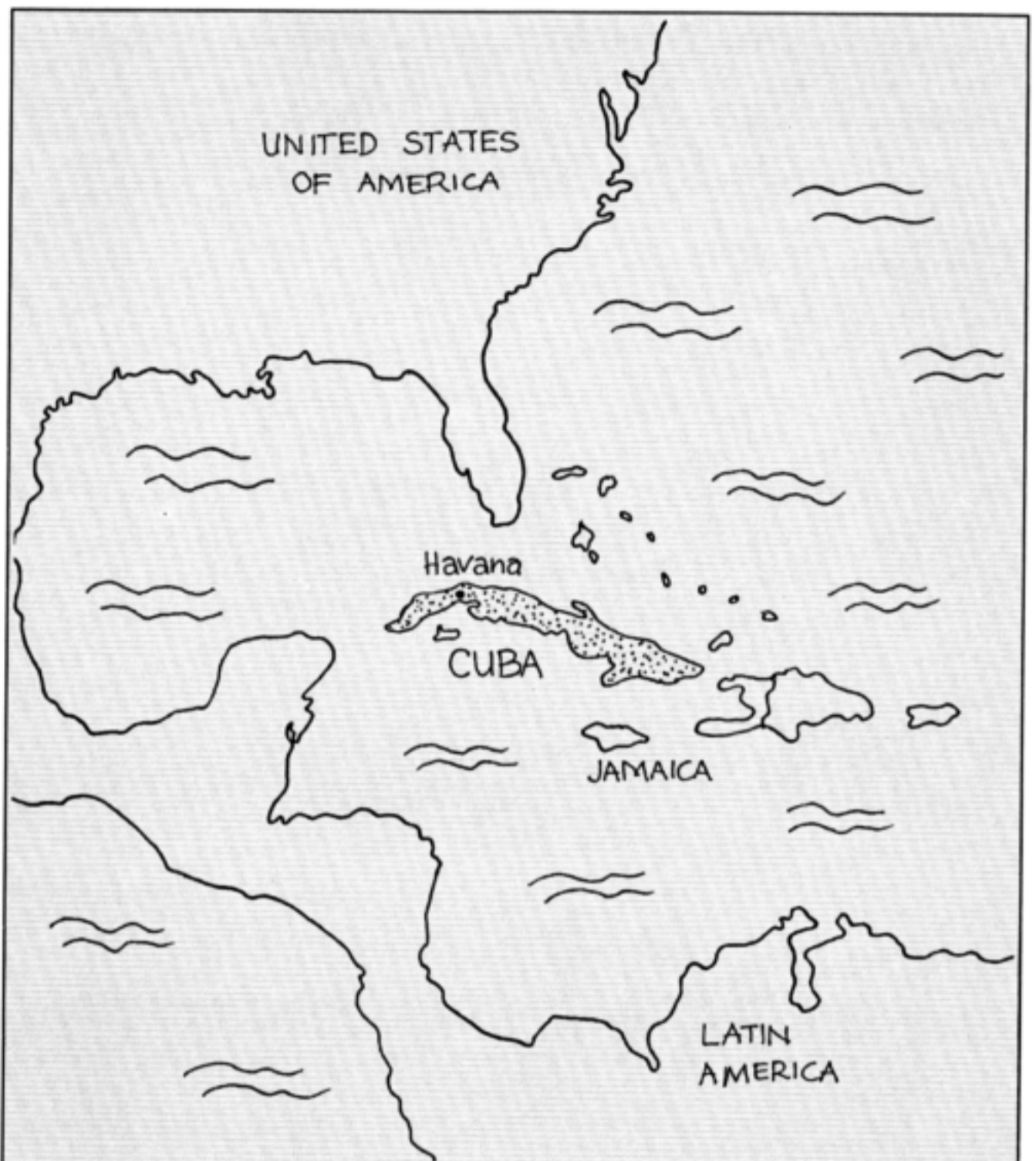
Before she left our offices, Morejon gave SPEAK one of her poems to share with our readers.

Rebirth

Daughter of ocean waters,
Asleep in that womb,
I am reborn
out of the gun-powder
sown over the mountain
by a guerilla rifle
so the world in its turn

might be reborn,
and the vast sea
and all the dust,
all the dust of Cuba.

by Nancy Morejon ☼



A bit about Cuba

Cuba is an island in the Caribbean between Latin America and the United States of America (USA)

Closest neighbours: Jamaica, Haiti, Bahamas, USA and Mexico

Capital city: Havana

Official language: Spanish

Population: about 11 million

Type of government: Communist Party under the leadership of President Fidel Castro

Economy: The USA and other Western countries' sanctions against Cuba has made life difficult for Cubans because of many shortages

Some important dates:

1959 - The Cuban people won the revolution against an oppressive government

1960 - The Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) formed with almost 70 000 members

1975 - The Family Code was adopted with guidelines for equality between women and men in the family

Cuba has helped many liberation struggles, especially in Africa. Cuba helped Angola defeat the South African Defence Force at the battle of Cuito Cuanavale in 1988. Many say this was the turning point of the South African struggle and also led to the independence of Namibia ☼

Blowing the whistle on men!

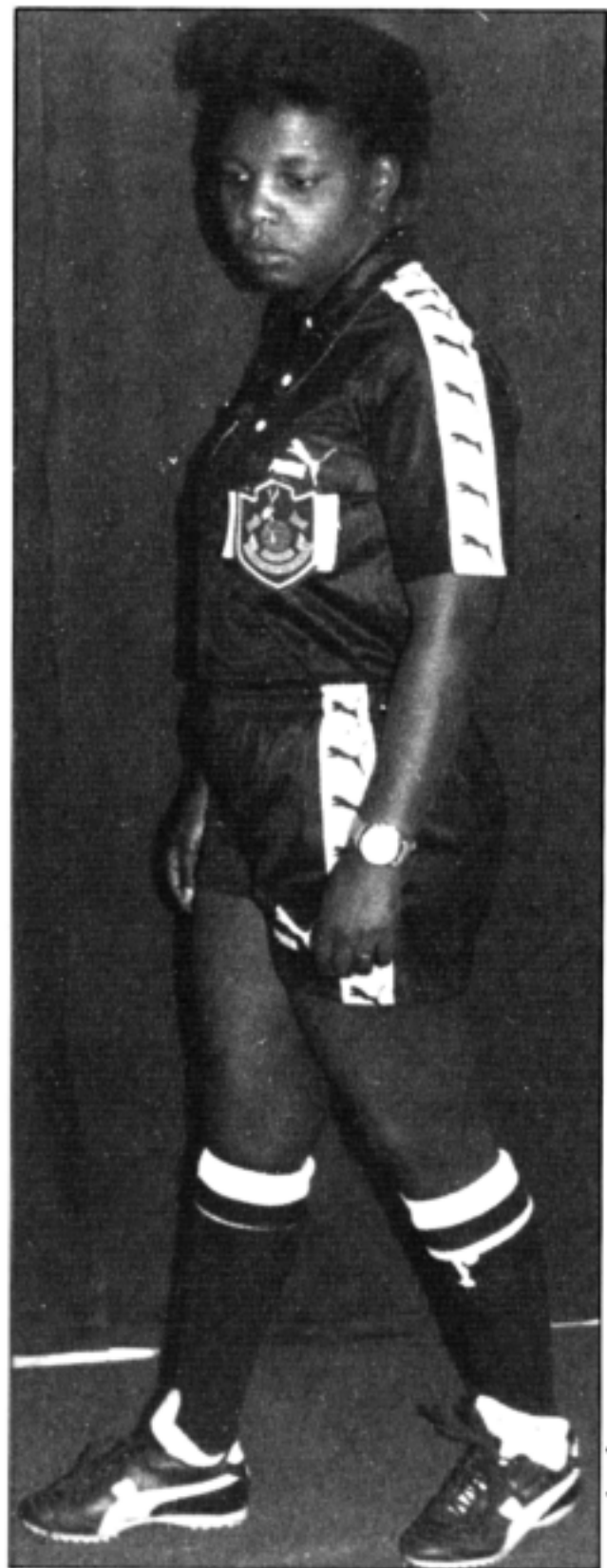


Photo by City Press

What is it like to be the only woman on the field? *Thoraya Pandy* asked soccer referee, *Lavonia Pule*

"Go home and do the cooking and cleaning like other women!" - a player once told her when she sent him off the field. This did not stop 25 year old Lavonia Pule from following her dream to become a soccer referee. Pule, who comes from Diepkloof, Soweto, is one of three women soccer referees in the Transvaal. Pule is also a soccer player. From the age of 13 Pule longed to play soccer.

"This was difficult since there were only soccer teams for boys and men". Family and friends all laughed at her but it did not discourage her. "They said I must do things ladies do, but my mind was

made up and I ignored them," she laughed.

In the beginning she played soccer with friends in the community and soon proved to be a keen soccer player. A few years ago an all male soccer team, the Diepkloof Gunners, asked Pule to play for them. "I was so happy. I worked very hard, training everyday, even over weekends," she told SPEAK. "At first the other soccer players made fun of me and some were very nasty. When I made mistakes they said it was because I'm a woman but when I scored goals they just said nothing. I think they were jealous because I was in the 'A' team," laughed Pule. She was soon seen as part of the

team after scoring goal after goal. I no longer felt like a woman when I played soccer. I became part of the team!"

SPEAK asked Pule how the men in the other teams treated her. "I cut my hair like a man but I forgot I had breasts which could not be hidden away. A player from one of the teams we played against looked at my chest and asked me if I am a woman. When I said 'yes' he just turned away and shook his head. At first he left me alone but after I scored two goals he said 'no you are dangerous' and started to mark me closely", added Pule.

"If women really love soccer and know the laws of the game then they will make it"

"My love for soccer made me more interested in the game and I wanted to become a referee." After attending a meeting of referees in her area she joined the Johannesburg Referee Association and had to study the rules of soccer before being able to referee matches. Pule says although being a woman referee is difficult, it is very challenging.

Soccer players cannot accept it when a woman is the referee. They always have bad things to say especially when I do not rule in their favour. Players sometimes become rude and insulting when I give them warnings or send them off the field. One player even told me to go home and cook and clean like other women when I sent him off the field. I felt hurt but I remained calm and said nothing - I knew I did the right thing."

"I have accepted players will always be more upset with me than with other referees because I am a woman. This does not bother me because I know I'm good at what I do," she added.

Pule says she has to keep fit. "I exercise everyday from early in the morning until late in the day. Being a referee means a lot of running around. You have to run with the ball and the ball never stops. It really is hard work," sighed Pule.

She encourages other women who want to be soccer referees. "If women really love soccer and know the laws of the game then they will make it. Knowing I made it is proof that a woman can do things which are normally done by men." ◊

★ **WIN** ★

a camera worth R170!



Tell us the names of two South African men you would most like to read about in SPEAK and you could be the winner in our lucky draw competition! Just fill in the form below and send it to us.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal code: _____

Telephone number (if you have one): _____

I would most like to read about the following South African men in SPEAK:

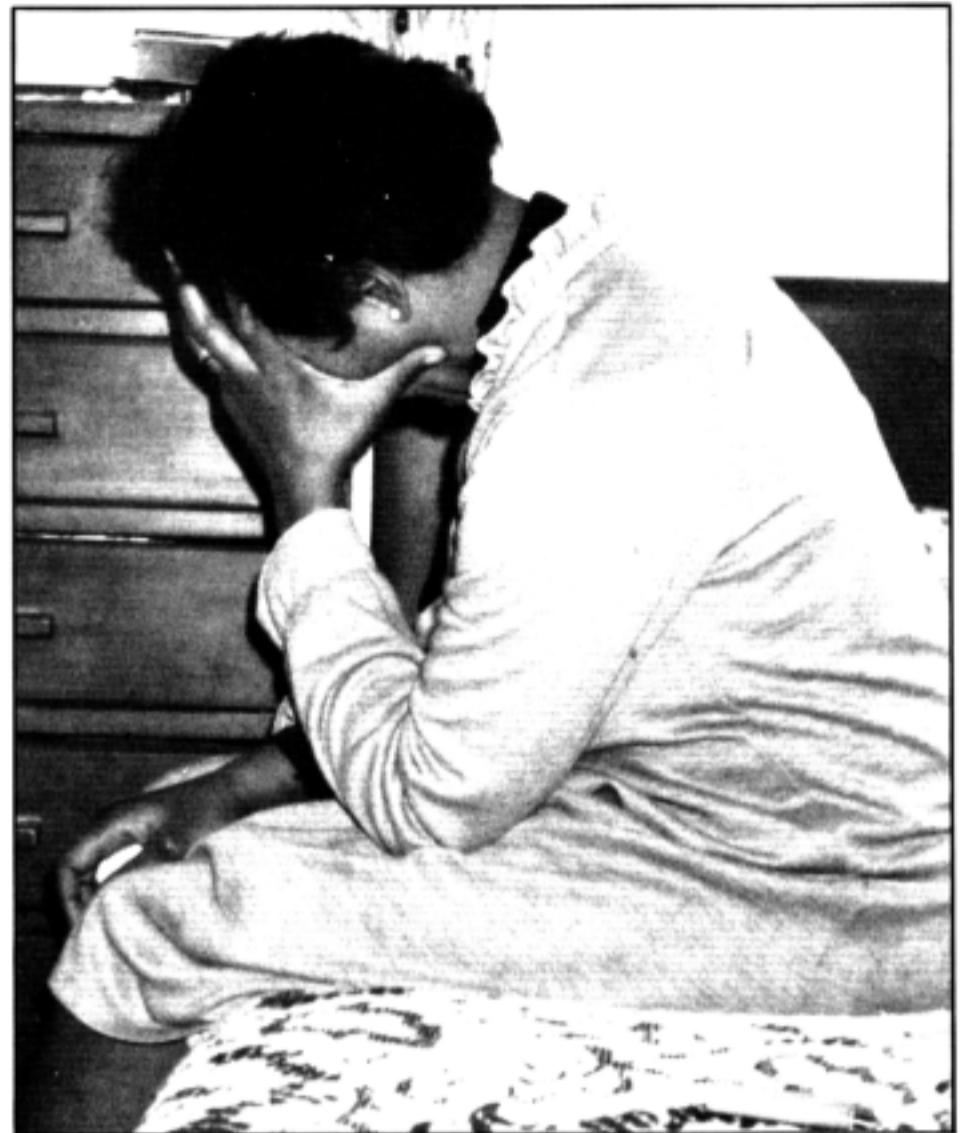
1. _____

2. _____

Send your entry form to: SPEAK Magazine, PO Box 261363, Excom, 2023, Johannesburg, South Africa. This competition is only open to people living in southern Africa. No employee or relative of an employee of SPEAK may enter this competition. The winner will be announced in the December issue of SPEAK, so make sure your entry form reaches us by 1 November 1992.

A marriage of blood and beatings

34 year-old Helen Smith (not her real name) of Johannesburg stayed in a terrifying marriage of beatings and humiliation for ten years. She tells her true story



Photos by Thoraya Pandy, SPEAK

"Even when I was pregnant he beat me!"

A few weeks after getting married my husband Joseph started to beat me. The beatings got so bad I ended up in hospital.

From that time the hospital staff saw me more than the shopkeeper did.

If it was not the general wards I was admitted to then it was the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

I do not remember a single happy moment in my marriage of ten years to Joseph. What I do remember is being beaten, sworn at and humiliated.

My husband drank a lot and was a drug addict.

Even when I was pregnant, he beat me. With my second pregnancy my baby stopped growing inside me. I thought I was going to lose it.

I left Joseph a few times but I always went back to him, I don't know why.

I know it wasn't for love. He is

the father of my children and I did not want to break up the family.

I tried to kill myself many times. I drank paraffin, took tablet overdoses, tried to cut myself... I



"He cut open my stomach with a knife"

can't even remember what else.

Because of the beatings, I am blind in one eye. I have stab wounds all over my body. My bowel is not working properly. My face has been damaged and I get headaches all the time. It all

became too much.

I heard of the Eldorado Park Violence Prevention Programme from a nurse.

I visited the centre but when Joseph found out he beat me up. I recently decided to divorce him. Lawyers told me to give my marriage another try. I did.

Two days later, Joseph cut open my stomach with a knife.

I had to hold my intestines in my hand on the way to the hospital.

I have left him now, this time forever. I am staying at a shelter for abused women trying to get my life together once more.

There are many scars I will never be able to get rid of but I know I'll end up in the mortuary if I go back to him again.

Many women, like Helen, are seeking help from the Eldorado Park Violence Prevention Programme. Read about SPEAK's visit to their centre on the next page. ●

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN MUST STOP!

The centre provides counselling and advice for survivors of domestic violence and their families. It also looks at other forms of violence in the community.

Since October last year 120 abused women have visited the centre seeking help.

"Abused women need a place they can go to for help," said project co-ordinator, Zubeda Dangor.

Some cases of wife abuse are so bad the centre finds safe houses to protect women against violent partners.

"Although a woman can stay at a safe house for only a short time it helps her to find safety, peace and quiet. A woman needs time away from her abusive partner to sort out

One out of every six women in South Africa is battered by her partner. The men who beat these women are white, black, old, young, rich and poor
The Eldorado Park Violence Prevention Programme has set up a centre in Eldorado Park to support and advise battered women. SPEAK visited the centre

her life," said Dangor.

Pearl Cannel, a counsellor at the centre, said violence in the home was

increasing. She believes the government should take more responsibility for the needs of abused women.

"Many people say domestic violence is a private matter. Some men make life in the home painful and unbearable!"

"And they are the ones who hit, kick and humiliate their partners and children," said Cannel.

She said women who speak to family or religious leaders are often told they should 'try to keep the family together.'



Lerato Sesell of the Eldorado Park Violence Prevention Programme gives advice and support to a woman who has been abused by her partner

“Women take this advice and stay in a relationship of beatings, swearing, insults and humiliation,” said Cannel.

Dangor added that police are not always helpful towards women who report domestic violence.

“They, just like society, believe domestic violence is a private matter.”

“It is a big step for a woman to lay charges of assault against her husband or partner. It is the duty of the police to be helpful.”

Dangor said it will take a long time for society to change its attitude towards women and domestic violence.

“Boys and girls must be taught it is wrong for any woman to be beaten by her partner,” she said.

“The way to begin to deal with the problem is for women speak out and break the silence.

“Women must say ‘enough is enough!’” ●



Photos by Theoraya Pandey, SPEAK

“Violence in the home is not a domestic matter” say Pearl Cannel (left) and Zubeda Dangor (right) of the Eldorado Park Violence Prevention Programme

It is not easy for a woman to tell others her partner beats her. Society puts pressure on women not to talk about “private matters” in public. Women often feel ashamed and guilty so they keep the problem to themselves. Some are afraid if their partner finds out the beatings will get worse. There are many reasons why women stay in abusive relationships. Society puts pressure on women to stay in their marriages no matter what happens. But many women who have left their abusive partners live happier, healthier lives, free from domestic violence.

Are you or someone you know in an abusive relationship?

Does your partner:

- Hit you?
- Threaten you in any way?
- Treat children or animals cruelly?
- Behave in a over-jealous way?
- Force you to do things you don't want to?
- Try to control you?
- Kick or throw things around at home?

If this is happening to you and talking about it calmly to your partner does not help, it is important to speak to someone who can help. Here are some numbers and addresses of organisations which offer help. Some have a 24-hour answering service. Leave a message, they will call you back.

Cape Town
Rape Crisis
12 Nutall Road
Observatory, 7925
Telephone: (021) 476762

Durban
Advice Desk for Abused Women
Telephone: (031) 820 2862

East London
Legal Resources Centre
116 High Street
Grahamstown, 6140
Telephone: (0461) 29230

Johannesburg
Eldorado Park Violence Prevention Centre
8 Idaho Avenue
Extension 7
Eldorado Park 1812
Telephone: (011) 342 1140

People Opposed to Women Abuse (POWA)
PO Box 93416
Yeoville
2142
Telephone: (011) 642 4346 (Monday to Thursday between 6pm-10pm) or (011) 393 1020 code 7092 on week-ends

Pietermaritzburg
Rape Crisis
(0331) 45 6279 ●

Dealing with depression

It's normal to feel sad and down from time to time. Depression is more serious than this. SPEAK looks at the signs and treatment of depression

We all have times when we feel a bit sad - this is normal. Depression is different. When a person is depressed, that feeling of sadness seems to take over their whole life and does not go away.

For some people there is a clear reason for the sadness they feel - like a relative has passed away. For others there is no clear reason for their depression.

What are the signs of depression?

A depressed person may have one or all of these signs:

Change in eating, sleep and energy

If you are depressed, you may feel like eating less or more than you usually do. This can make your depression worse because you might lose or put on weight.

Some depressed people have sleeping problems. Some cannot sleep at all at night while others fall asleep, but wake up in the early hours of the morning, and can't get back

to sleep. These hours of insomnia (when you cannot sleep) are often a terrible time. You end up feeling very tired and anxious the next day.

Other people want to sleep all the time. Sleeping can be a way of hiding from the world and your problems.

Other feelings

A depressed person no longer feels like doing the things they usually enjoy. Often they don't want to see other people because they don't feel like talking. Everything feels like too much of an effort.

Depressed people feel worried or anxious without knowing why. If you are depressed you may find it hard to do even easy tasks. Your mind seems far away. You might find it difficult to make both small and big decisions.

Depressed people often feel guilty for no reason. They feel worthless and might want to cry a lot. They may feel they do not want to live anymore. They may even feel like killing themselves (committing suicide).



How is depression treated?

If you feel depressed and the feeling does not go away, you must get help.

- Doctors, psychologists, psychiatrists and religious ministers are among the caregivers who can help treat depression. In your therapy session they will ask you to talk about your feelings. This is called counselling. When you talk about yourself and your feelings, it usually feels as if part of your burden of sadness is being lifted from you. You begin to find out what is making you depressed;
- Tell people you are close to and trust about your depression so they understand what you are going through;
- Talk to people who have gone through depression themselves;
- Do some exercise - this helps you to put your mind on other things and can help to lift your spirits;
- Write your feelings down and dreams you may have. Talk about your dreams to your therapist. Sometimes dreams can help to explain what you are feeling inside;
- Do things you enjoy which do not take much energy - like planting seeds, sewing, listening to music or reading;
- Find out more about depression from books and other people;
- Find out if there is a support group for people with depression in your community. If there isn't, you could start one.

If your depression is serious your doctor may suggest you take anti-depressants. These tablets help you to sleep better and to relax. They also help to make you feel a little happier. Anti-depressants do not solve your problems. They help you deal with your depression.

Anti-depressants do have side-effects, some more serious than others. Ask the doctor about this and whether there is any food or drink you should not take whilst on anti-depressants.

Anti-depressants must be taken under the guidance of a doctor or psychiatrist. When you take anti-depressants at first you may feel drowsy and have a dry mouth. They take up to two to three weeks to work fully.

If you think you are depressed - reach out to someone and start to deal with it - the sooner the better.

Lifeline is a telephone counselling service. These are the Lifeline numbers:

Cape Town (021) 4611111
 Port Elizabeth (041) 523456
 East London (0431) 22000
 Durban (031) 232323
 Pretoria (012) 3438888
 Johannesburg (011) 7281347
 Welkom (0171) 3522212
 Umtata (0471) 25691
 Pietermaritzburg (0331) 944444
 Vereeniging (016) 337333

Radio 702 in Johannesburg has a telephonic and walk-in crisis centre. Phone them at (011) 6424462, or visit them between 5pm - 11pm at 35 Van der Merwe Street, Hillbrow, Johannesburg any day of the week.

The Trauma Clinic in Johannesburg offers a counselling service to people who have been victims of any kind of violence. Contact them at: (011) 7163675 ●



As a matter of fact...

"Yes" to women priests

The Anglican churches of South Africa have decided women can become priests. The decision was made at the 27th Synod of the Anglican church held in Swaziland.

Three women will be ordained as priests at the Grahamstown Cathedral in September.



African women win gold

Ethiopian runner Derartu Tulu became the first black African woman to win a gold Olympic medal on the athletics track when she won the 10 000 km race at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona. South Africa's Elana Meyer won a silver medal in the same race. Hassiba Boulmerka of Algeria won a gold medal in the 1500m race and Nigeria's 4x100m women's relay team won a bronze medal.



Make prostitution legal

The Attorney General for the Orange Free State, Mr TP McNally, believes prostitution should be made legal. McNally said prostitution was difficult to control. He said if society allowed prostitutes to work from licensed premises it would be possible to control their areas of work and to make sure they have regular medical examinations.



Disabled people unite

Organisations representing disabled South Africans are forming a new organisation to protest against the government's failure to address their problems.



New drug for breast cancer

British scientists believe they have discovered a way in which a drug known as 'Tamoxifen' acts against cancer cells. Their findings show Tamoxifen prevents breast cancer in women at high risk of getting it. It may also stop the spread of the cancer.



Japanese women first to be retrenched

Women workers in Japan are the first to lose their jobs when companies cut their workforce. In most companies women still have less skilled jobs and are first to get fired. Over a nine-month period in 1991 - 1992 the workforce in Japan was reduced by 10 percent. 75% of those who lost their jobs were women.



Workers fight for paid maternity leave

Men joined women workers in Hong Kong in their fight for full paid maternity leave. Presently,

women workers who go on maternity leave only get paid two-thirds their normal salary. Workers also demanded 14 days paid leave for the fathers of new-born babies.



Child labour on the increase

An International Labour Organisation (ILO) study says child labour is on the increase all over the world. The study said children as young as five years are working. Twenty-five percent of all children between the ages of ten and 14 are already working. Many children have also been forced into prostitution and the drug trade.



Tragedy in Somalia

At least 1.5 million people are in danger of starving in Somalia. "People are dying like flies," said Patrick Vial of a French medical aid organisation in Somalia. "One-tenth of the children at our feeding centres have died and one-fifth of the population could die within six months," he said. Because of the war in Somalia, food is not distributed to some areas.



Information from: local daily and weekly newspapers, Asian Women Workers Newsletter and magazines. ◉

Taxi Talk

Society puts too much pressure on women to have children, writes *Nana Gumede*, who doesn't want to be a mother



So much for our "right to choose". Try explaining to your family and friends that you have chosen not to have children.

You have had it! Everyone looks at you as if you are mad and an embarrassment to the family. "How can you go against nature?" they ask. "How can you deprive your mother of holding the little "bundle of joy" in her arms?"

Friends come up with all sorts of stories to try to make you change your mind. They tell you how your life will change on the arrival of this little person. They tell you of this great miracle - the birth experience - and how it is something only women can go through. You are told of the great love you will feel; how empty your life is, has been and will be until you have gone through childbirth.

All this is said by the very people who have complained about the pain of childbirth, sleepless nights, midnight feeds, dirty nappies - not forgetting useless partners who sleep through all of this!

Well, to every one of them I say, "To each her own poison."

Having seen some examples of these "bundles of joy," I prefer to call them "bundles of woe."

I made my decision not to have children more than twenty years ago. It is a carefully thought out decision. It is not because I do not like children. It is just that I choose not to have any of my own.

I choose to sleep peacefully without having to wake up to entertain someone else. I choose to think for myself and of myself first. I choose to be myself and not to be someone else's Mom.

It is time society accepts and lives with the fact that people hold different views and want to live different lifestyles. A woman should have the right to be called child-free and not childless (as if there is something lacking in her because she does not have a child). The right to choose should rest with each person. ●

NOTICES



A group of women in Port Elizabeth have set up a Rape Crisis Centre to help rape and battery survivors. The centre provides advice, moral support and legal advice.

Contact Sureshni Moodliar at:

Room 505 Alfin House
510 Main Street
North End
Port Elizabeth, SA
Telephone: (041) 564 905
The office is open between 5.00pm and 7.00pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

A Canadian organisation, the Coalition of Provincial Organisations of the Handicapped (COPHO), is collecting poems from disabled women who live in developing countries. The poems will be published in a book.

Disabled women are invited to send poems on any subject, in English, if possible. If you have translated the poem into English from another language, please include a copy of it in that language. Also write something about yourself in 50 words yourself.

Poems should be sent to:
Dianne Drieger, Editor
The Voice of Women with Disabilities
Poetry Project
COPHO
926-294 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0B9 Canada

IF YOU WANT TO PLACE A NOTICE IN SPEAK, GET IT TO US BY THE 10th OF EVERY MONTH!!!

SEND IT TO US:
PO BOX 261 363, EXCOM, 2023
TELEPHONE: (011) 296166
FAX: (011) 294354

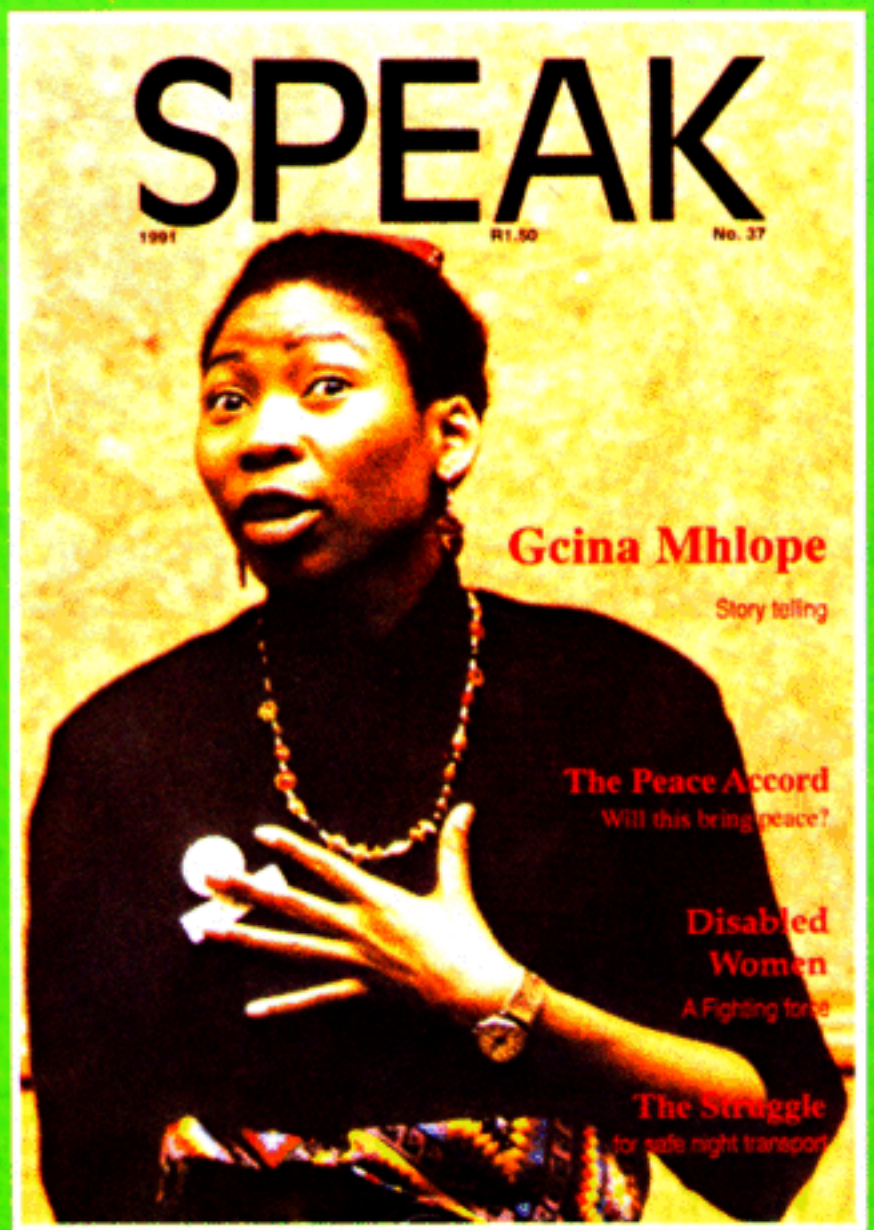
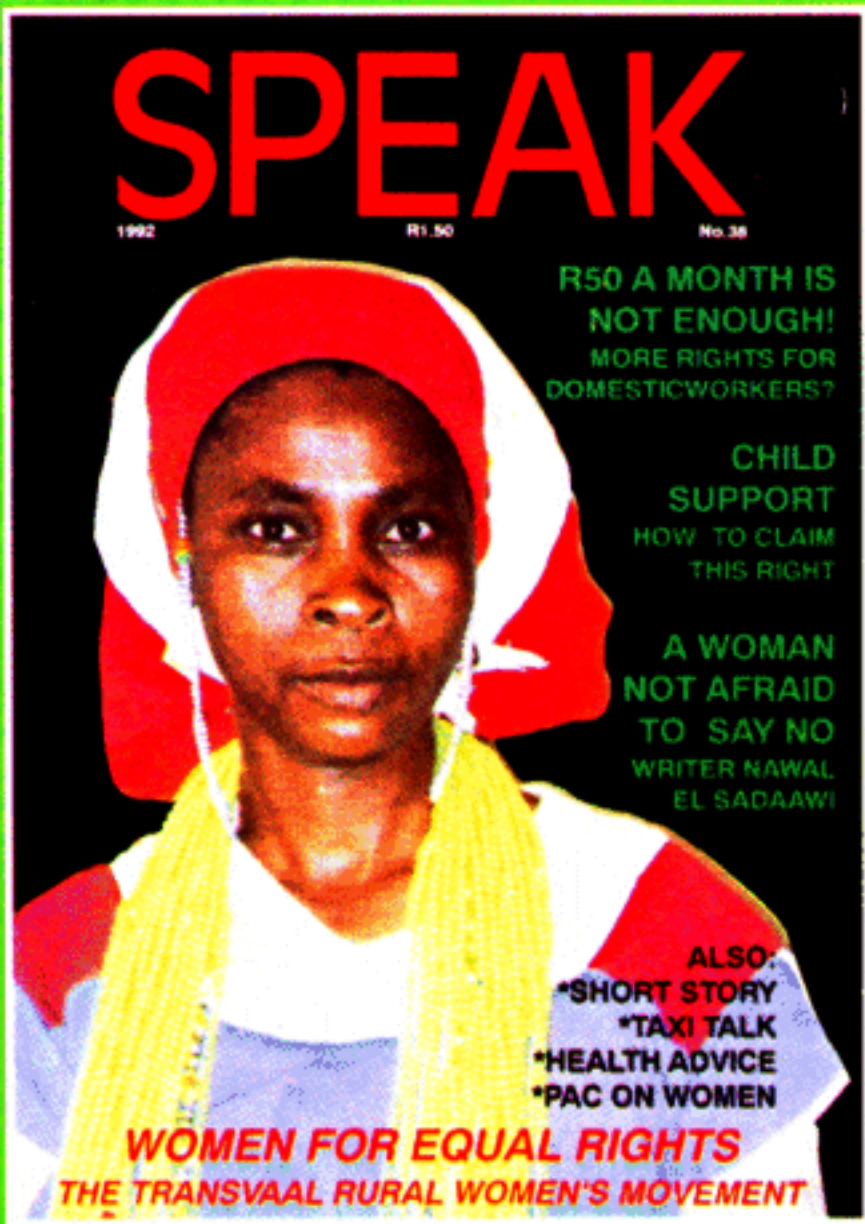
THE WORKERS LIBRARY is hosting workshops on labour law in SA.
19 Sept - "Collective bargaining"
26 Sept - "SA labour and the liberation struggle"

For details:
Telephone - (011) 337 8145



A video on how to obtain child maintenance has been produced. It costs R49 (including Postage)

Write to:
Vukani Makhosikazi
Socio-Legal Unit
UCT
Rondebosch, 7700
Phone: (021) 650 2505
For viewing (groups only)
Phone: (021) 47 6168



Don't slip up...
Remember to buy SPEAK

See subscription details on inside front cover

Printed by Hortors Print