

5152

# SPEAK

SEPTEMBER 1993

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No. 53

## WIN!!

- \* GOLD EARRINGS
- \* RADIO
- \* TAPES

**ABORTION**  
 What the  
 politicians say

**Is feminism African?**

**All about pregnancy**

**VICKY SAMPSON**  
 Making it to the top





# What do people say about SPEAK?

*"I think SPEAK magazine is a women's liberator because it is the powerful women's voice and always upholds the women's struggle at heart. I strongly call on other magazines and journals to follow SPEAK."*

**Elizabeth Thabethe, Chemical Workers Industrial Union (CWIU), Germiston**

*"SPEAK magazine is the voice of the oppressed women especially the black working class women because it lets them speak for themselves; it speaks in a manner meaningful and understandable to them, it highlights their needs and aspirations."*

**Thenjiwe Mthintso, South African Communist Party, Marshalltown**

*"SPEAK is an important magazine. It is one of the few publications which dare to present interesting and relevant stories of women. They are not gossip, not fairy tale, not make believe. They are real life stories of so-called 'ordinary' women. As their stories get printed and get known, one realises they are not ordinary at all."*

**Lota Bertulfo, Asean Women in Development Forum, Cebu City, Phillipines**

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Above: Sophie Mgcina brings her experience and understanding of life in South Africa to the team

Right: Jennifer Ferguson, Felicia Marion, Gloria Bosman, Sophie Mgcina, Tonia Selley and Michelle Maxwell (not in photo) sing about love and peace



# Love all the way

**SA** Love Uthando Lerato Liefde played at the Market Theatre in June 1993. The theme was love all the way. In a powerful call for peace in our land, six women sang a wide range of South African songs. It was more than a night of music, it showed how South Africans can live together in harmony. And the audience loved it.

## The songs they sang

There'll Come a Time  
There'll come a time  
When we will be together  
There'll come a time  
When we won't be apart  
There will be songs  
of love and harvesting weather  
Then they'll understand  
What's deep in our hearts

As was deemed by the creator  
Time is the greatest liberator  
Check it now  
or dig it later

There will come a time

Song written by Abdullah Ibrahim

Lakutshan'ilanga  
Lakutshan'ilanga  
zakubuyinkomo  
ndagucinga ngawe  
lakutshan'ilanga

Yakovelinyanga  
Phešheya kolwandle  
Zakubuyi nkomo  
Lakutshan'ilanga

Ndahamba ndikufuna  
azindlini nasezitrweni  
ezibhedlela etrongweni  
ndide ndikufumane

Lakutshan'ilanga  
Zakubuyinkomo  
Ndakucinga ngawe

Lakutshan'ilanga

Just as the red sun dies  
just as the night fires burn  
that's when I think of you  
just as the red sun dies

There is a golden moon  
rising above the sea tide  
That's when I think of you  
just as the red sun dies

I'll be searching for you  
in all the jails on every street  
I'll be calling you name  
I'll find you where you may be.

Song written by Makwenkwe Davashe



Felicia Marion sings from the heart

# A sad goodbye...

**Kate Truscott, a dedicated woman activist in the struggle for working class women's rights and socialism, died of breast cancer on July 19. Her life was an inspiration to many**

**K**ate Truscott died as she lived. She fought against the cancer she was suffering from every step of the way. Her mother and father had died of cancer, but she never thought she would get it at such a young age. She felt she had so much more to give and there was so much more she wanted to do.

Kate loved music and art. She sang, she composed music, she drew, she painted and wrote poetry. She was also a very gifted photographer who always took pictures of the struggle and particularly of women. One of the ways she used to put forward women's issues in South Africa was by writing stories and taking photographs for SPEAK magazine.

Kate had a genuine belief in socialism. She was passionately anti-racist and anti-sexist.

"I met Kate in the last 1960s during a union demonstration.

She was a militant shop steward in a health union in Britain," says Carl Brecker, her long time partner, comrade and friend.

At the time, Brecker was a South African exile working in British unions.

Kate was an active member of Big Flame, a revolutionary socialist organisation in Britain. She was also an active member of the National Abortion Campaign and the Women's Liberation Movement.

"When we got together Kate started working with us in the anti-apartheid movement and the support movement for Zimbabwe," remembers Brecker.

He says: "We shared a life of struggle for 15 years in three countries - England, Zimbabwe and South Africa."

The moment President Robert Mugabe came to power

in Zimbabwe in 1980 she had no hesitation in joining the struggle to build socialism in that country.

"We moved to Zimbabwe in 1981. She spent the next ten years working on various projects. Most of her work was in rural development and focusing on women," says Brecker.

**A**lthough Kate worked with the Women's Ministry in the Zimbabwean government, she did not believe they were taken seriously. She became convinced of this when the government arrested 6 000 women and charged them with prostitution. Kate and a number of other Zimbabwean women started the Women's Action Group (WAG).

"In 1990 we came to South Africa where she joined the Workers Organisation for Socialist Action (WOSA).

"Kate was an active support-



*A poem written by Kate Truscott in July 1992*

## Time Feels Different To Me Now

er of women's struggles and fought side by side with women comrades from Azapo, PAC, ANC and the union movement.

"Kate's approach to her suffering from cancer was, 'well the hospitals have got to look for a cure and I have to find a way to heal myself'."

At the time of her illness, Kate started a support group for women who have cancer.

She was surrounded in the last period by a group of friends who cared for her at home and in the hospital, taking on these tasks in a collective manner in which Kate was very proud of. ☉

One of the photographs of rural women taken by Kate while she was living in Zimbabwe

Magazines show s  
glamorous grandm  
Mandela prepares  
After 27 years in p  
His sentence start  
was older than me  
As if it's the most  
in the world.

Time feels differen  
Next year is the ot  
the moon  
The year after that  
No more thoughts  
sion  
About life assuranc  
About who will still  
When I'm 64.

Now, time is  
Feeling the achieve  
waking up in the m  
Planning a day's w  
Thinking about sup  
Feeling good about  
at the end of the d

Time used to be so  
else  
Beyond thinking  
Beyond daily conce  
Time used to tick o  
dently  
Unhurried  
Unworried  
Forgettable

Time feels differen  
Now time caresses  
traitorously  
Seducing me with a  
smile  
I reach for that old  
But time has its ow  
And slips, conspirat  
out of reach.



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a name for herself**

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Pumla Radu, ANC Photo Unit



# COMMENT

September 18 is International Day of Peace. But not even a day that calls for peace in the world will bring an end to the brutal killings of innocent people in our country. Townships which once were peaceful, have been turned into war zones. Residents are scared to go to bed at night because they fear the "men with masks" will burst into their homes and shoot them down. It is clear a third force is involved in the violence. It is a force that does not want South Africa to be non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and free. Every time we move a step closer to elections, it is met with violence. This has happened over and over again. Many say the violence has reached a point where it cannot be stopped. This is not true. Why is it that the police, under the Nationalist Party government, could detain thousands of political activists during the days of apartheid, but are not able to make any real progress in finding these killers? The Nationalist Party is still in power and it still has the might to end the violence. Communities also have a role to play. It is the duty of everyone to put their political differences aside and work towards peace in our land. In this issue of SPEAK we bring you the story of six women making a powerful call for peace, through songs. Their songs show how South Africans can live together in peace and harmony. Let us all try a little harder to make 27 April 1994 – the day of our elections – a day to look forward to.

# Talk Back

## Simply over the moon

On behalf of the staff and committee members of Leretjhabetse Primary School we would like to express our deepest gratitude to SPEAK magazine for once again showing the real situation we face in black schools. We were simply "over the moon" when we saw our principal Julia Nhlapo on the front cover of the July issue.

In reading the story we noticed that you did not mention the assistance we get from organisations in our community and an education trust. We would not like to be seen as leaving them out and claiming all of the success to ourselves. We wish to thank you.

*Julia Nhlapo and Basil  
Lenkoe  
Sweetwaters*

## Send SPEAK to Namibia

I am a girl of 17 years and I am doing Grade 10 at Ngweze Secondary School in Katima Molilo.

One of my class mates had a copy of SPEAK magazine. I like the magazine very much because of the many

**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**

**Excom 2023**

**Johannesburg**

**South Africa**

interesting stories and advice it gives, especially to teenagers. There is a lot I need to know about being a woman. Please send me a copy of SPEAK.

*Priscilla Maiba  
Katima Molilo  
Namibia*

## Men! will they ever stop

I work in a factory where most of the workers are men. When I started at the factory everything was fine. My co-workers had respect for me, and I had respect for them.

The problem started one day when one of the male workers touched me on the breast. I did not say anything as I thought he would



not do it again. Well, I was wrong because he did the same thing again. I swore at him but he was not worried, he just laughed at me. When I asked him why he was laughing, he said he was only playing with me. I asked him if he would like another man to do that to his wife. He did not answer me.

Since that day, he has never said a word to me and all his friends look at me as if I am dirt.

The happy working situation is gone. It hurts working with people who hate you for being honest and expressing your feelings.

The problem is that the other women workers do not seem to mind when the men touch them. Now, when other workers talk and joke together, they become silent when I walk up to them.

Workers need to look forward to working together, rather than having a negative attitude.

Men have to stop their childish actions and begin to regard women as human beings, and not as sex objects. After all, this is a free world. Women have the right to say 'no' and still be good co-workers with men.

*June Madingwane  
Johannesburg*

## Men, take responsibility!

As women of South Africa we must face our problems together.

We need to look at all

areas: education, housing, old age homes, childcare and healthcare.

Women living in rural areas experience poverty, a lack of health care and educational facilities.

But it is only when men take full responsibility in the home that women will be able to take part fully in organisations which can help to bring changes to the situation that women find themselves in.

*Shiela Jacobs  
Khayelitsha*

## Drinking problem – what can I do?

My husband drinks a lot of beer on the weekends. This is a problem because we do not have a lot of money and every Saturday he spends money on beer.

When he is not drinking he is very kind to me and the children. But when he has been drinking he becomes violent and hits us.

This is a big problem in our home. Can you help me?

*Worried Wife  
Hammanskraal*

**You can contact the South African National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence (SANCA) on telephone: (011) 725 5810 or Alcoholics Anonymous on telephone: (011) 836 8735. These organisations will help you deal with your situation in a confidential manner. – Editor**

**AS A MATTER OF FACT**  
We wish to correct something published in an article 'AIDS – getting the community involved', in the August issue of SPEAK Magazine. Instead of saying "750 000 South Africans will be infected with AIDS", we should have said these people would be infected with the HIV virus, which leads to AIDS.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**WINNERS!**

**Matla Trust  
Voter  
Education  
Competition**

**Florence Nkosi is the  
lucky winner of a  
radio**

**Congratulations to  
Tshegofatso Matjila  
who is the lucky  
winner of a beautiful  
blanket**

**SPEAK would like to  
thank all the readers  
who sent in their  
readership survey.  
Your SPEAK T-shirt is  
in the post**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



# Kwa-Sophie

**When women demand an end to sexist language, we are always asked "what is this sexist language you are talking about?" Well, here are good examples which I came across while reading a Namibian women's magazine:**

## Job descriptions

Tea lady, tea girl, cleaning lady, office girls, sales lady, lady doctor...(try calling the postman post-boy and see if you ever get your mail again)

**So where are the women?** Are we really such an unmentionable part of "mankind"? Could it be that the woman carries an image of greater strength and independence compared to the words girl and lady? Is this why the word woman is avoided by so many men? Including some women?



## Street Manlish

Hey man, how are you man? I'm not a man, I'm a woman. I know, but listen man...

## Telephone Manlish

Could I speak to Mr Swartz please? Speaking, lady. What can I do for you lady? Yes lady, yes meisie, listen girl...(Let's start calling men like him boy, seun and see if they like it)

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

**"I feel safe with women. No woman has ever beaten me up. No woman has ever made me afraid on the street. I think the culture that women put out into the world is safer for everyone."**

— Alice Walker, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for her novel, *The Color Purple*, a popular poet and short story writer.

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Photos: Phumla Radu

**Cooking can be fun. Sampson checks to see if her food is ready**

# At home with a star

**I'm not a star. I'm a singer who has just been taken a lot more notice of lately," says pop singer, Vicky Sampson. Vicky Sampson is fast becoming a popular music star. She told *Rosalee Telela* about herself, family, beliefs and hopes for the future**

**V**icky Sampson is a 27-year-old singer and single parent who thinks of herself as "an ordinary person". Sampson comes from a township in Cape Town called Hanover Park. She spent most of her teenage years there before leaving home in 1983.

Her early life was not easy. "At the age of 12, I went to live

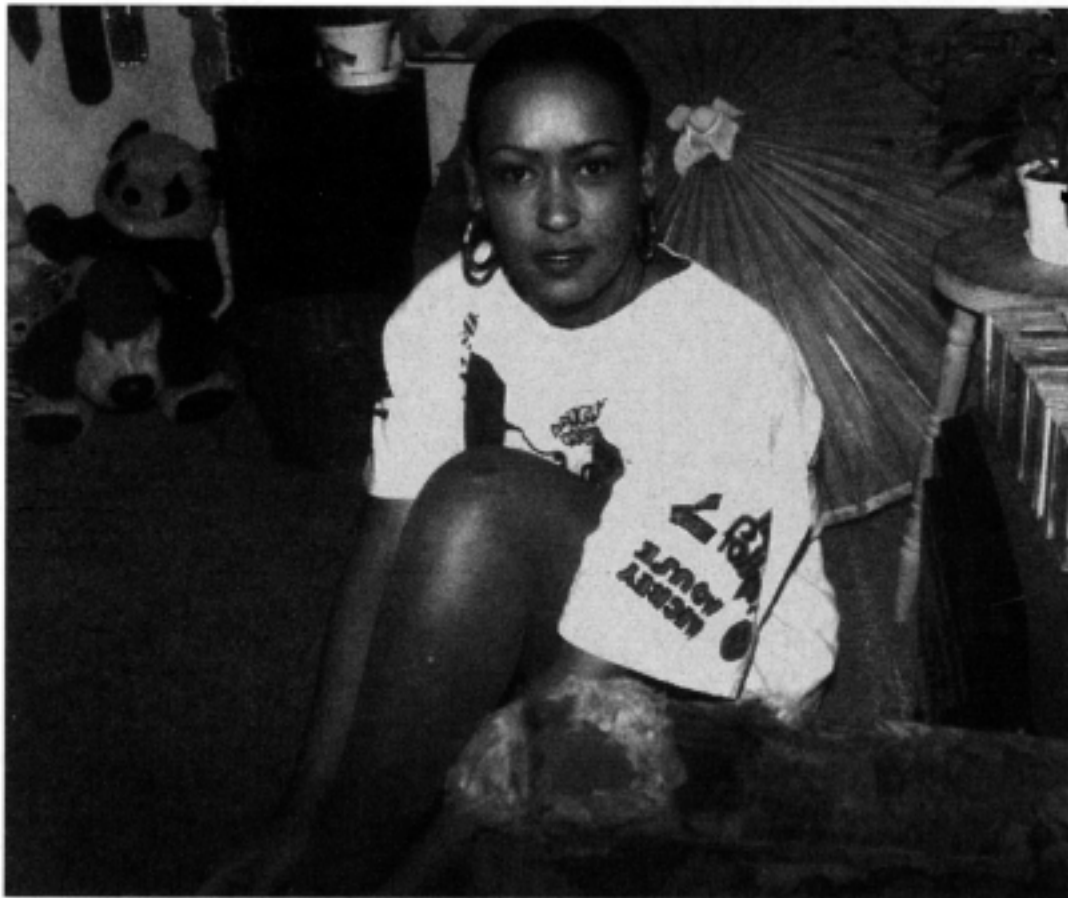
with my grandmother because my parents were going through a divorce. I was separated from my mother and father from an early age.

"My mother worked as a housekeeper for some white family and I could therefore not live with her," adds Sampson.

She attended school in Salt River where she began her long



**"I'm not a star. I'm a singer who has just been taken a lot more notice of lately," says Sampson**



road towards a career in music. "I always sang at school concerts and events, and I was also part of our school choir," she says.

One lesson Sampson learnt at an early age was the role a woman plays at home and in society: "My mother was the backbone of the family. She played the role of a mother, father, teacher, and everything else in our lives. As my grandmother had done when I lived with her."

**N**ow Sampson is doing the same. "I have grown up and become strong. I support my son, mother and my brother," she says.

Life can be frustrating and lonely she told SPEAK: "I'm going through a difficult time in my life. I have a wonderful gift but I often doubt myself. I don't always feel confident about the things I do. Also, I do not get to see my family, especially my son, as often as I would like to because they live in Cape Town.

"You meet many dishonest, greedy and strange people in this business and you have to learn to be strong in order to deal with them. There is a lot of sexism in the industry and that is why my image tries to appeal to women like me: single parents, women with dreams of going back to school or getting a job they will be happy in."

Although her first album was a success, she says: "one has to be prepared for the bad times and disappointments. It comes with the job."

Sampson is now working on getting her own band together, doing live performances and

## COMPETITION

**SPEAK and Tusk records are giving away 3 copies of Vicky Sampson's cassette "Shine".**

**Answer the question below and you could be a lucky winner.**

**How many albums has Vicky Sampson produced?**



Answer .....

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

.....

Code .....

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 the 15 October 1993. The winner will be notified in the post and will be announced in the November issue of SPEAK.



her second album.

Being a single parent of a six-year-old son has been both difficult and satisfying for her. "My son is with my mother because it is difficult living in Johannesburg with a child when you are not settled down. As a singer, I move around too much.

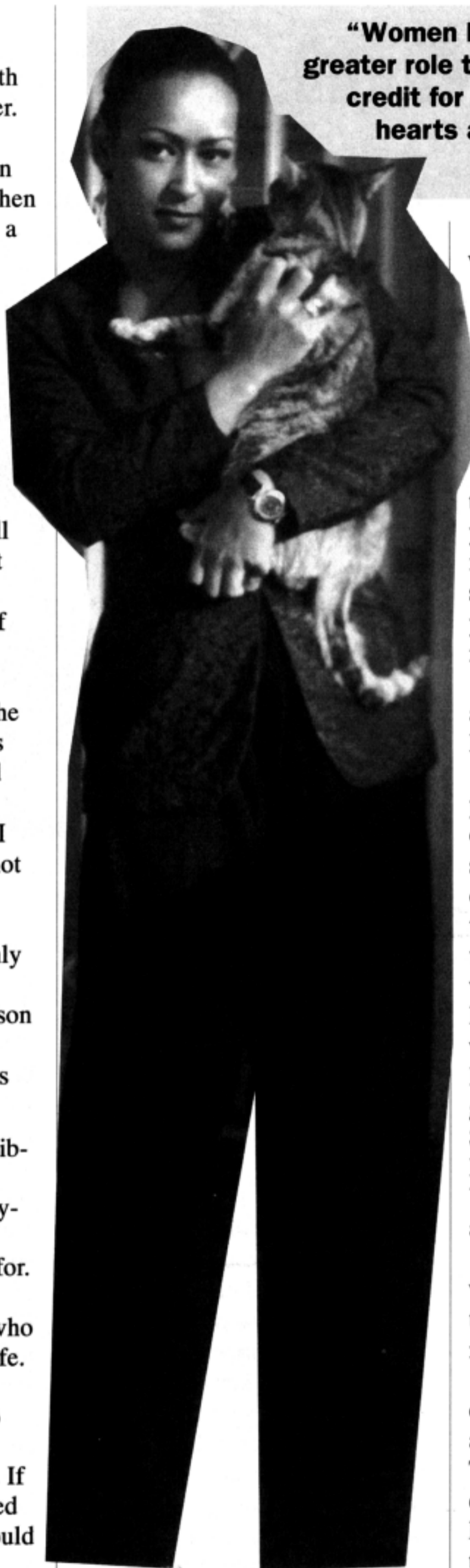
"I do, however, spend a lot of time with my son when I go home or when he comes to visit me. My own experience with my parents' divorce has taught me to teach my child to love and respect his father. We are still both his parents. It's just that we are not living together. I think I've done a good job of raising him so far," says Sampson.

SPEAK asked her what she thought about South Africa's political situation: "It's a sad mess. If there is something I could do bring about peace, I would. Political parties are not dealing with the real issues. They have to start with the small issues like why is it only black children roaming the streets of Hillbrow? The person in the street is the one who counts but is the one who has the least say."

**T**alking about women's liberation, Sampson says: "Women have been playing a much greater role than they have been given credit for. We have been in the background yet we are the ones who deal with the real issues in life.

"We think with both our hearts and minds. We can do everything. We take care of children, we drive, we work. If we were allowed, and allowed ourselves to do more, we would achieve a lot as women."

**"Women have been playing a much greater role than they have been given credit for ... We think with both our hearts and our minds. We can do everything."**



She holds strong views on women's right to choose.

Abortion is an issue that touches the lives of many women and for her, "it boils down to rights. If a woman does it, she has a good reason for doing it. I do not think we go around having abortions for the sake of it. You try not to get yourself in such a situation, but if you are in that situation you should have a choice whether you want to have the child or not."

Sampson feels the same about the right to choose who to love.

"I believe you cannot banish people because they are lesbian or gay. They are part of our society and should be respected." She says: "I regret the fact that in school we were not taught skills that are helpful when one is older. I'm grateful I know how to count, read and write, but I'd rather have learned to speak other languages or how to raise a child. School should prepare you for life, it should give you skills. Unfortunately we were kept away from those things."

Her hopes? "As a person, woman, musician and parent, that I continue to have self-respect and respect for others.

I hope and dream there will one day be peace for myself and all the people in this country. The people in power have a duty to perform, but the problem is when people have power they abuse it." ★



# Freedom for all?

**“W**hen I got home from the war I realized our tradition had not changed we were still second to men being told what to do

We had to wash and to cook and to clean the house we had to bear a child every year

When I risked my life during the war I thought liberation was meant for men and women... but today I see we women are still not free”

This is part of a poem called “Independence Yes But Not For Women??” written by a group of women who had fought in the liberation army in Zimbabwe.

Although these women had taken up arms alongside men, after the war they went back to being “second to men”.

Zimbabwe is not the only country where this has happened. In many countries women have found that the freedom they fought so hard for, did not change their lives.

Judith Chikore from Zimbabwe spoke at a conference in Durban last year about working in the Women’s Ministry in the government.

“After Independence the new government set up a Women’s Ministry to deal with women’s issues,” she said, “but we had too few resources and no power within the govern-

**Women in South Africa have played an important part in the fight for liberation. Does this mean that the “new” South Africa will bring “new” freedom for women? *SPEAK* looks at experiences of other liberation struggles**



Photos by John Liebenberg, Southlight

## **Women standing in a queue to vote in Namibia’s first democratic elections in 1989**

ment. It also gave an excuse to other government ministries. The department dealing with land for example could say it didn’t have to look at land and women as the women’s question was being dealt with by us.”

What can we do to stop this happening in South Africa?

■ Women make up more than half of the population of South Africa. The women’s vote is therefore very important. We must let parties know that if they don’t take women’s issues seriously, women will not vote for them.

■ We must make political parties state clearly before an election what they will do to make

sure women are equal partners in the “new” South Africa. If they do not spell this out, they could “forget” after an election.

■ We must make sure women know how to vote.

In the Angolan elections last year, it was said many women spoiled their ballot papers. This meant their vote was not counted as they had made a mistake on the voting form.

Zimbabwean journalist and former guerrilla William Bango says the same thing happened in the 1980 elections in his country.

“In the rural areas most voters are women, many of whom cannot read and write,” he said. “Many of these women spoiled





**Preparing to vote: Women attending a SWAPO event before the 1989 Namibian elections**

their ballot papers by not putting their cross in the right place.”

■ We must make sure women who will fight for gender equality are elected onto national, regional and local power structures. This means making sure these women's names are near the top of the lists political parties will draw up before elections.

**T**his could be difficult. In Zimbabwe Bango says there was “a street fight between men and women at a local level in the 1990 elections. Women got elected on a local level in rural areas because women are in control there as men are away in the cities.”

He says that the ruling party would not accept this vote. “It was said the women couldn't cope with the stress of parliament,” said Bango. He remembers this happening at least six times.


Some people say South Africa is lucky as we can learn from other countries' experiences. South African women have already begun to try to

make sure we don't make the same mistakes. The Women's National Coalition has united different women's groups to fight for all women's rights.

Women from political parties have already fought to make sure women are part of the talks about our future. That is the first step, but women at the Multi-Party Talks have found they do not have the power to push for gender issues to be taken seriously.

We have to make sure this doesn't happen after elections. We must all make sure we know how to vote and that we vote wisely.

As the poem from Zimbabwe ends off: “as a person cannot walk with only one leg this country cannot develop without us! We are Zimbabwe's second leg we are needed oh yes, we are!” ★



**Matla Trust**

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of  
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## COMPETITION WIN A RADIO!

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

■ **What is the name of the poem written by a group of women who fought in the liberation army in Zimbabwe?**

Answer .....

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

.....

Code .....

I agree to abide by the rules of this competition

Signature .....

Send your entry form to  
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Education Competition,  
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South Africa

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**Politicians  
wake up!  
Women  
are dying**



# Abortion Who makes the decisions?

**September 28 is International Abortion Rights Day. SPEAK finds out what the politicians in South Africa have to say about making abortions legal**

At Baragwanath Hospital, in Soweto, 4 000 women are admitted every year with problems caused by "backstreet" abortions.

Illegal abortions are usually dangerous because they are done in places which are not clean. The methods used are not always safe. Bad infections, infertility and even death happen as a result. Every year more than 200 000 women have illegal abortions in this country.

Those people who are against abortion (pro-life) believe abortion is murder and should not be allowed at all. On the other hand, those who believe abortion should be made legal (pro-choice) say women should be allowed to have control over their own bodies. *Rosalee Telela* asked political organisations, parties and a wide range of people what their views are.

## ■ Azapo

Dr Gomolemo Mokae of the Azanian Peoples Organisation (Azapo) said his organisation believes abortion should be legal.

"The number of illegal abortions are very high and women often land up in tragic situations. An alternative must be provided, and the only way is by making abortion legal," Mokae says.

At the same time, he says, there is a danger in legalising abortion.

"It could easily lead to abortion being seen as a form of contraception. People will start thinking of it as a way of preventing pregnancy."

## ■ IFP

The Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) does not have a policy on abortion. It does, however, agree with a constitution that has been drawn up if KwaZulu becomes an independent state. The constitution says people will have "the right to receive sexual education, to use contraception and terminate unwanted pregnancy when it is safe".

However, a statement from

the organisation says: "the IFP has not taken a final position on the issue of abortion. The issue is controversial and there is unlikely to be complete agreement within the party on such an important matter."

## ■ NP

The National Party (NP) did not say whether they are pro-choice or anti-abortion.

Danie du Plessis of the NP told SPEAK: "the government should deal with the abortion issue carefully and should only change the law once a wide range of interest groups had been consulted."

## ■ DP

The Democratic Party (DP) says it allows its members to

make up their own minds if they support abortion or not.

"They are free to vote according to their own principles," said DP Member of Parliament, Dene Smuts.

## ■ ANC

The African National Congress's (ANC) Baleka Kgositsile, member of the organisation's National Executive Committee, said: "the matter was discussed at a conference and was referred to branches for further discussion."

On the other hand, the ANC Women's League says: "women must have the right to control their own bodies, the right to contraception and the right to determine whether they want

children or not."

While many organisations are still making their minds up women are forced to dangerous, unhealthy and humiliating backstreet abortions.

Today, there are only three countries in Africa (Zambia, Burundi and Tunisia) which do not have strict abortion laws.

In the rest of Africa, abortion is either not allowed at all or only under very strict conditions.

For women, especially black women, in this country the question of whether abortion will be made legal still remain unclear. Women have to put pressure on their organisations to take a stand. ★

# What the people say:

**Number of people interviewed:** 20

**Area:** Hillbrow, Berea and Soweto

**Age group:** 16 - 35

**Sex:** Male and female

**Views:** 12 – pro-choice; 8 – anti-abortion

### What people said:

**Bongi, 25, of Soweto is convinced:** "As a woman I should be given a choice whether I want a child or not because it is always the woman who has to raise the child. I will not have a child if I know that I'm not ready to have one or if I know I will not be able to feed it."

**Sipho, 27, lives in Hillbrow and says:** "I would not let my girlfriend have an abortion. That will be killing my child and it will be a waste of my sperm."

**Brenda, 18, who lives in Soweto, believes:** "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."

**Lindi, 30, who lives in Berea, argues:** "Abortion is wrong in the eyes of God. When you have an abortion you are killing a child, a human being. I believe it should not be allowed."

**Peter, 23, of Hillbrow says:** "The law must give those women who wish to have abortions the right to do so. Then the high level of women dying or becoming infertile because of illegal abortions will decrease."





Photo by Paul Weinberg, Southlight

Women at a literacy class. They are some of the few who have the means to go to classes

# The power of writing

**International Literacy Day is celebrated on 8 September every year. SPEAK looks at what this day means**

“I cannot think of not being able to read or write any more,” says Boniswa Msibi. Three years ago Msibi could not read or write and decided to join a literacy class in her community.

“I was scared to go because I did not want people to know I could not read and write,” remembers Msibi.

“When I got to the class, I saw there were many people, some were even younger than me, that also could not read or

write,” she adds.

“Our teacher was very kind and asked all of us to speak about ourselves. It was the first time I remember feeling so important,” says Msibi.

She says her happiest moment was when she could write her own name.

Msibi is one of the lucky ones. More than one third of the adult population of the world cannot read or write.

In South Africa there are between 11 and 15 million adults who are not able to read our magazine. There are thousands of young children of school going age roaming the streets, who are not in school. This means the problem is likely to carry on into the next generation.

The reason for the high rate of illiteracy in South Africa is because of the Apartheid sys-

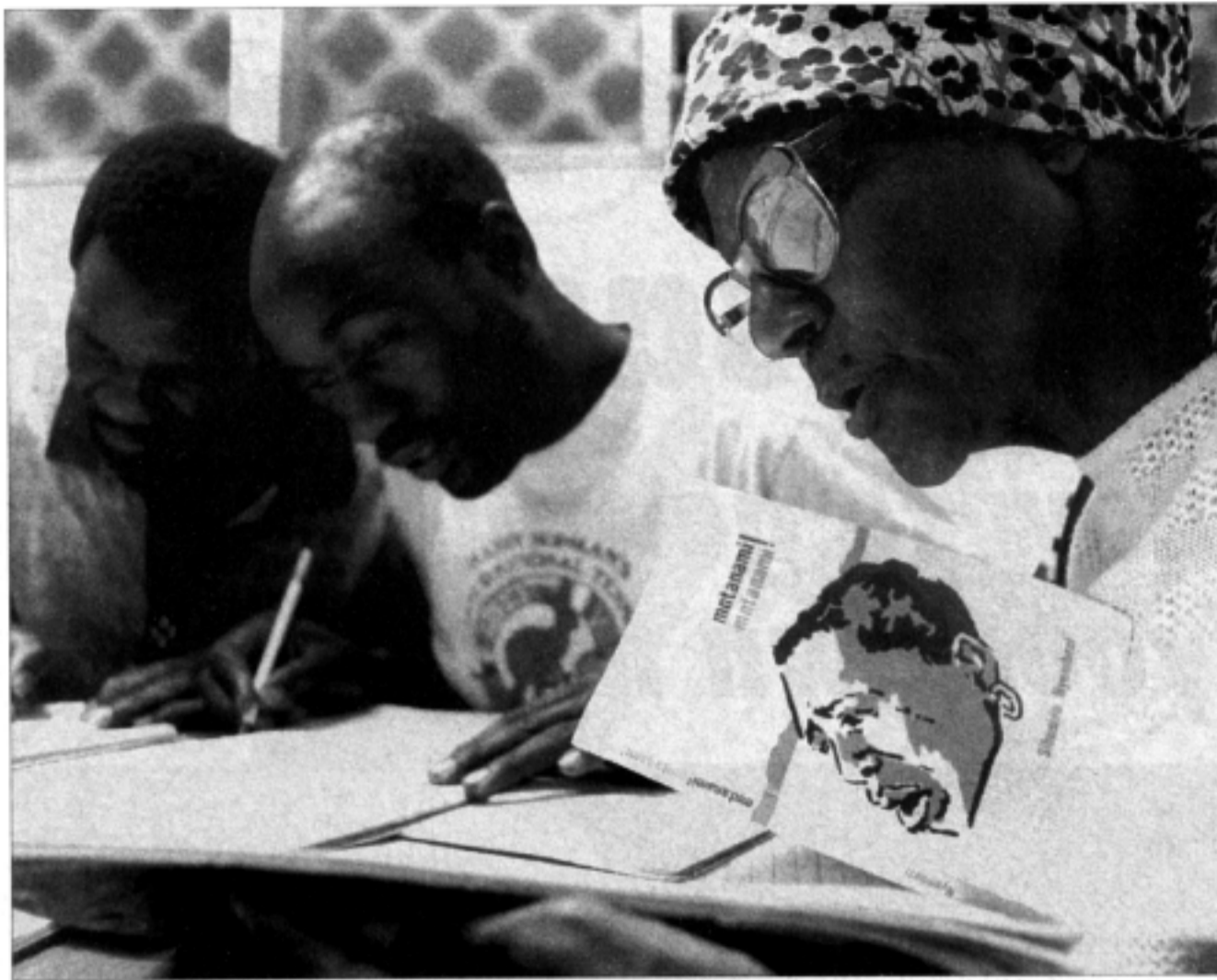
tem. Presently in this country, only 25 percent of children living on farms are attending schools. In many cases there are no schools, and in others they are forced to work on the farms. Many of these children begin to work from as young as six-years-old.

## What is being done?

Adult literacy classes are run in various communities around the country. However, only ten percent of people who cannot read and write attend these classes. These classes are run by three major sources: the government, companies and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

All of these efforts do not reach the majority of people who are illiterate.

Many people who teach literacy to adults say the govern-



### A woman learns to read and write

ment must take the responsibility for literacy in the future. They say it is only the government that has the resources needed to reach the large numbers of people across this country who are illiterate.

To deal with the problem in the long term, laws will need to be passed to make education free and compulsory for children.

#### How can this be done?

There are different ways in which other countries have tried to deal with the problem of a high rate of illiteracy. The one way is mass literacy campaigns. The problem with these campaigns is that they did not last as long as it was necessary to root out illiteracy. To really deal with the problem in our country we need a campaign that will have long lasting results. There are also many different NGOs which run literacy programmes. Many of these programmes will have a greater effect if they worked

closely together. If these NGOs put their resources, money and energies into a joint effort, they will be able to teach more people to read and write.

#### Why is it important to Read and Write

Many adults who cannot read and write have been able to get by in life. However, they still run into problems if they have to sign documents or to fill out forms. Often, they simply exclude themselves from having to do such things.

Learning to read and write teaches an individual their rights.

In the words of a woman on a literacy programme in the Western Cape: "I always thought the policeman is the one that has the last say. After the lesson where I was taught what my rights are, I got a fright. Something happened inside me. I cannot explain how I felt. It is as though I became part of the nation." ★

If you know of someone who wants to learn to read and write, here are some of the literacy projects you can contact:

#### Western Cape

Peninsula Technikon  
Adult Basic Education  
Programme  
Telephone: 959 6537  
Cloetesville Lees en Skryf  
Projek  
Stellenbosch  
Telephone: (02231) 5531  
Montague Ashton Gemeenskap  
(MAG)  
Read and Write Project  
Telephone: (0234) 411 75

#### Eastern Cape

Eastern Cape Literacy Project  
Telephone: (041) 54 6876

#### Transkei

Adult Literacy and Advice  
Centre (ALAC)  
Telephone: (0471) 31 0226

#### Border

Kopana Education Project  
Telephone: (0551) 3744  
Zingisa Project  
Telephone: (0433) 33 323

#### Natal

English Resource Unit  
Telephone: (031) 305 9866

#### Johannesburg

Learn and Teach  
Telephone: (011) 838 3473  
English Literacy Project  
Telephone: (011) 403 2594

#### Northern Transvaal

Bulamahlo Learning  
Programme  
Telephone: (0020) Shiluvane 1  
Itereleng Education Project  
Telephone: (0152482) 1038



**Building your own house can be very exciting but go into it with your eyes open. Here is some advice on dealing with Building Contractors**

**T**here are many people who want to build their own home. This can be very exciting. It can also be disappointing if you hire a contractor who does a bad job or runs off with your money.

**How to find a good contractor**

The most important thing about building your own home is finding a good, honest and reliable contractor.

Before you meet the contractor, find out if anyone you know of has used them before. Ask around. Speak to people whose houses the contractor has built. Find out whether they were satisfied with the work.

Many contractors will show you fancy pictures of houses they've already built, to show they are the best in the business.

Listen to what they have to offer but do not agree to anything.

Meet with different contractors to see who you trust the most and who has been given a good reference.

This might take some time but in the end, you can only benefit from it.

Once you've decided which contractor to hire, you will have to sign to a building contract.

**Building Contracts can mislead you**

The Building Contract will say

# Dream home or disaster...

## *how to get building your own home right*

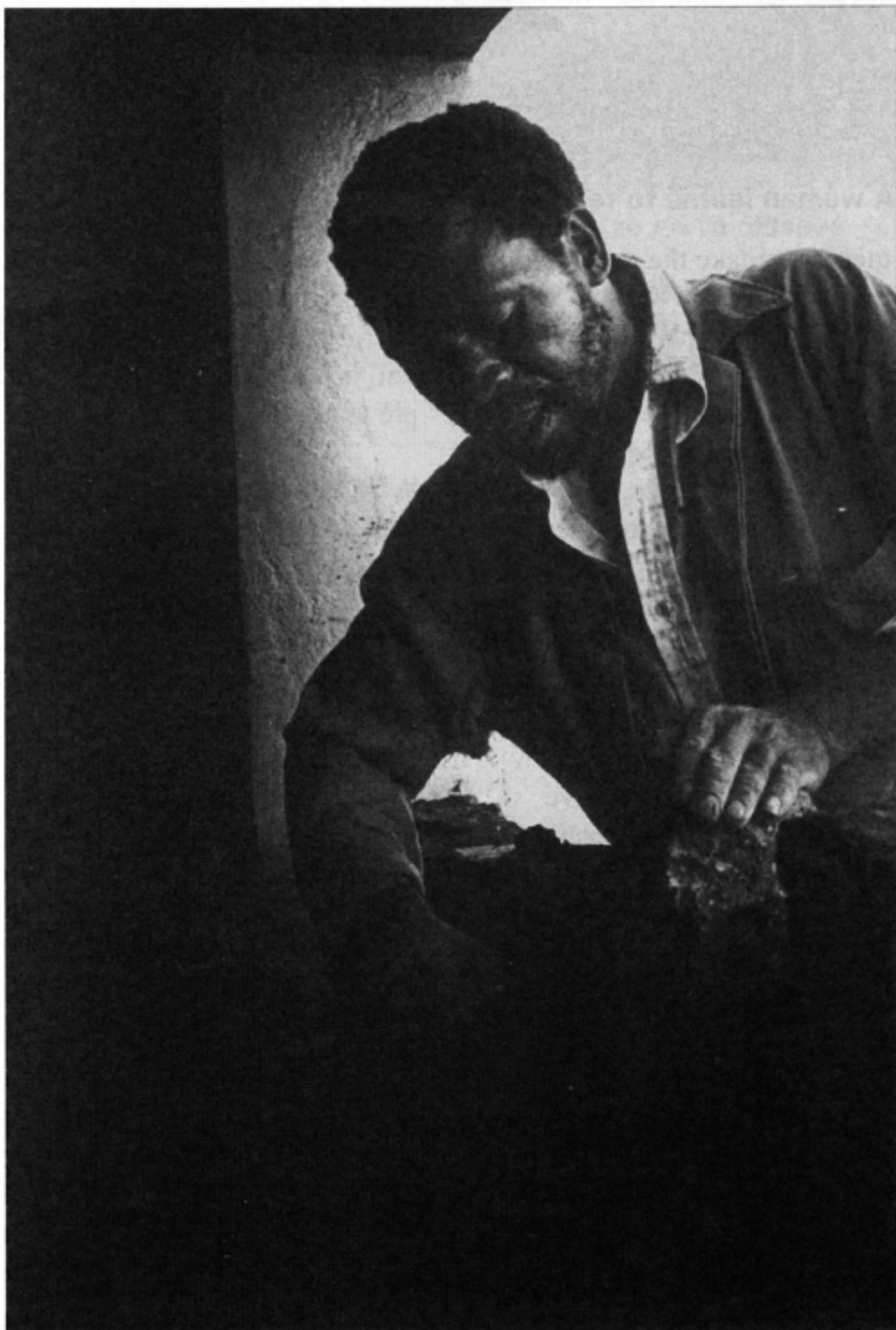


Photo by Paul Weinberg, Southlight

**Make sure the contractor's work is of a good quality**



**Building your own home can be an exciting experience. It can also cause a lot of misery if you are let down...**

that the contractor will build your house and you, in turn, agree to pay them.

It is very important to have this agreement in writing and that everything in it is stated clearly. Before signing the contract, take it away and discuss it with a friend who has already built a house, or a lawyer.

**DO NOT** let the contractor tell you that things not in the contract will be added in later. Later never comes. Do not let anyone rush you into signing the contract.

A couple ended up with their house having only one door because their contractor said he would "add it into the contract later". He never did. The couple had to pay another builder to add in the other door.

Once you've decided which contractor to hire and the building plans have been drawn up, take it to the bank where you have applied for a loan. Once the bank says it will give you the loan, then you can sign the contract with the builder.

**Signing the contract:**

■ The house plans are attached to the contract and are signed by both you and the contractor.

Make sure the smallest details are included. For example; the type of roof tiles, electrical points, geysers, kitchen equipment and ceilings you have agreed on. Give yourself time to check every detail;

■ The contract must say when the building work will begin and by what date the building work will be finished. Any extra costs caused by the contractor not finishing the work on time is not your responsibility;

■ You have the right to make any changes to the plans, before or during the building of your house. These changes must be signed by both the contractor and yourself;

■ Do not sign the contract unless it has everything you have agreed upon written in it.

**Things to remember**

■ Never pay a large deposit to the contractor. Many so-called contractors take the deposit and run away with the money. Never give more than 1% of the cost of your house as a deposit. Always ask for an official receipt when you pay your deposit;

■ The contractor should, while

building your house, ask you to sign progress reports. First consult the bank's building inspector if she/he is satisfied with the progress;

■ Only pay the contractor the agreed amount after the building inspector from your bank says the work done is of the right standard;

■ Do not move in to your house before it is finished. Contractors often do not finish the building on time. They then try to force people to move into their homes. Send the contractor a registered letter stating you will take them to court if they do not complete building your house. You can take your contractor to court if they do not do what is said in the contract.

Building your own home can be an exciting experience. It can also cause a lot of misery if you are let down.

Make sure you are satisfied before making any decisions or signing any documents. Good luck! ★

*Information from The Housing Rights Unit of Lawyers for Human Rights, PO Box 5156, Johannesburg 2000*

Graphic by Maya Wedemig





**Above: Sophie Mgcina brings her experience and understanding of life in South Africa to the team**



**Right: Jennifer Ferguson, Felicia Marion, Gloria Bosman, Sophie Mgcina, Tonia Selley and Michelle Maxwell (not in photo) sing about love and peace**

**SA** Love  
Uthando  
Lerato  
Liefde

**played at the Market Theatre in June 1993. The theme was love all the way.**

**In a powerful call for peace in our land, six women sang a wide range of South African songs. It was more than a night of music, it showed how South Africans can live together in harmony. And the audience loved it.**

## The songs they sang

There'll Come a Time  
There'll come a time  
When we will be together  
There'll come a time  
When we won't be apart  
There will be songs  
of love and harvesting weather  
Then they'll understand  
What's deep in our hearts

As was deemed by the creator  
Time is the greatest liberator  
Check it now  
or dig it later

There will come a time

*Song written by Abdullah Ibrahim*

Lakutshon'ilanga  
Lakutshon'ilanga  
zakubuyinkomo  
ndagucinga ngawe  
lakutshon'ilanga

Yakuvelinyanga  
Pshesheya kolwandle  
Zakubuyi nkomo  
Lakutshon'ilanga

Ndohamba ndikufuna  
ezindlini nasezitatweni  
ezibhedlela etrongweni  
ndide ndikufumane

Lakutshon'ilanga  
Zakubuyinkomo  
Ndakucinga ngawe

# Love all the way



Photos: The Market Theatre

## Lakutshon'ilanga

Just as the red sun dies  
just as the night fires burn  
that's when I think of you  
just as the red sun dies

There is a golden moon  
rising above the sea tide  
That's when I think of you  
just as the red sun dies

I'll be searching for you  
in all the jails on every street  
I'll be calling you name  
I'll find you where you may be.

*Song written by Makwenkwe Davashe*



**Felicia  
Marion  
sings  
from the  
heart**



# A sad goodbye...

**Kate Truscott, a dedicated woman activist in the struggle for working class women's rights and socialism, died of breast cancer on July 19. Her life was an inspiration to many**



**K**ate Truscott died as she lived. She fought against the cancer she was suffering from every step of the way. Her mother and father had died of cancer, but she never thought she would get it at such a young age. She felt she had so much more to give and there was so much more she wanted to do.

Kate loved music and art. She sang, she composed music, she drew, she painted and wrote poetry. She was also a very gifted photographer who always took pictures of the struggle and particularly of women. One of the ways she used to put forward women's issues in South Africa was by writing stories and taking photographs for SPEAK magazine.

Kate had a genuine belief in socialism. She was passionately anti-racist and anti-sexist.

"I met Kate in the last 1960s during a union demonstration.

She was a militant shop steward in a health union in Britain," says Carl Brecker, her long time partner, comrade and friend.

At the time, Brecker was a South African exile working in British unions.

Kate was an active member of Big Flame, a revolutionary socialist organisation in Britain. She was also an active member of the National Abortion Campaign and the Women's Liberation Movement.

"When we got together Kate started working with us in the anti-apartheid movement and the support movement for Zimbabwe," remembers Brecker.

He says: "We shared a life of struggle for 15 years in three countries – England, Zimbabwe and South Africa."

The moment President Robert Mugabe came to power

in Zimbabwe in 1980 she had no hesitation in joining the struggle to build socialism in that country.

"We moved to Zimbabwe in 1981. She spent the next ten years working on various projects. Most of her work was in rural development and focusing on women," says Brecker.

**A**lthough Kate worked with the Women's Ministry in the Zimbabwean government, she did not believe they were taken seriously. She became convinced of this when the government arrested 6 000 women and charged them with prostitution. Kate and a number of other Zimbabwean women started the Women's Action Group (WAG).

"In 1990 we came to South Africa where she joined the Workers Organisation for Socialist Action (WOSA).

"Kate was an active support-



er of women's struggles and fought side by side with women comrades from Azapo, PAC, ANC and the union movement.

"Kate's approach to her suffering from cancer was, 'well the hospitals have got to look for a cure and I have to find a way to heal myself'."

At the time of her illness, Kate started a support group for women who have cancer.

She was surrounded in the last period by a group of friends who cared for her at home and in the hospital, taking on these tasks in a collective manner in which Kate was very proud of. ★

*A poem written by Kate Truscott in July 1992*

## Time Feels Different To Me Now

Time feels different to me now  
Time is melting  
Clocks don't make sense  
Months emerge at random  
It's still warm in winter  
The bitter winds are dragging  
their feet  
To confuse the seasons  
And me

Time feels different to me now  
Old people look strange and  
healthy  
Youngsters take risks and grow  
wisely early  
A friend is happy to be preg-  
nant  
Unlike me, she can part the  
mist to see eighteen years  
ahead

**One of the photographs of rural women taken by Kate while she was living in Zimbabwe**

Magazines show strange and glamorous grandmothers  
Mandela prepares to govern  
After 27 years in prison  
His sentence started when he was older than me  
As if it's the most natural thing in the world.

Time feels different to me now  
Next year is the other side of the moon  
The year after that is Mars  
No more thoughts about pension  
About life assurance  
About who will still feed me  
When I'm 64.

Now, time is  
Feeling the achievement of waking up in the morning  
Planning a day's work  
Thinking about supper  
Feeling good about being tired at the end of the day.

Time used to be somewhere else  
Beyond thinking  
Beyond daily concerns  
Time used to tick on independently  
Unhurried  
Unworried  
Forgettable

Time feels different to me now  
Now time caresses me traitorously  
Seducing me with a beguiling smile  
I reach for that old reassurance  
But time has its own agenda  
And slips, conspiratorially out of reach.



**P**regnant women are often tested for HIV when they go into hospital to deliver their babies. Some scientists say we need to know how many people have HIV in order to help make the situation better. But often women who are tested HIV-positive are left alone and no help is given to them. These women do not know what the blood test is for. Often the test is not explained properly and women are not prepared for the kinds of problems they will face if they are HIV-positive.

Sometimes women are sent by private doctors to the hospital. These women are often not told why they have been sent. They arrive at the hospital with a sealed envelope which has a letter saying the woman is HIV-positive. They are only told that they have the HIV virus after the hospital doctor reads the letter.

Most pregnant women who are HIV-positive face a lot of problems. It is very stressful for anybody to find out they have a serious disease for which there is no cure. Most people think about death the same time they think about AIDS. This is despite the fact that one can live with HIV for many years.

### **Fears of infecting the baby**

Pregnant women worry about their unborn babies. They are worried about their babies becoming ill and dying. They are worried about leaving their children without a mother if they die of AIDS.

Most mothers think all the babies born to mothers who are HIV-positive will also be infected. This may not happen.

# Pregnant women and AIDS

**At Baragwanath hospital in Soweto one out of every 25 pregnant women are found to be HIV-positive. HIV is the virus which leads to AIDS. This shows how widely HIV is spreading through the community even though we do not see many people sick with AIDS**

Out of every ten women who are pregnant and HIV-positive, only about three babies will get the virus.

### **HIV and breastfeeding**

HIV-positive pregnant women want to know whether they might pass the virus onto their baby by breastfeeding. It is true the HIV can be passed onto the baby by breastfeeding. But this seldom happens.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has advised all mothers living in poorer countries to breastfeed their babies because breastmilk protects the baby against many serious childhood diseases.

However, each woman must decide for herself what to do. The hospital must give her all the important information to help her make the right decision.

If a woman decides to bottle-feed her baby, she has to buy an expensive baby milk formula and must have clean boiled water. The fight against AIDS must be linked with the struggle for general improvement of living conditions.

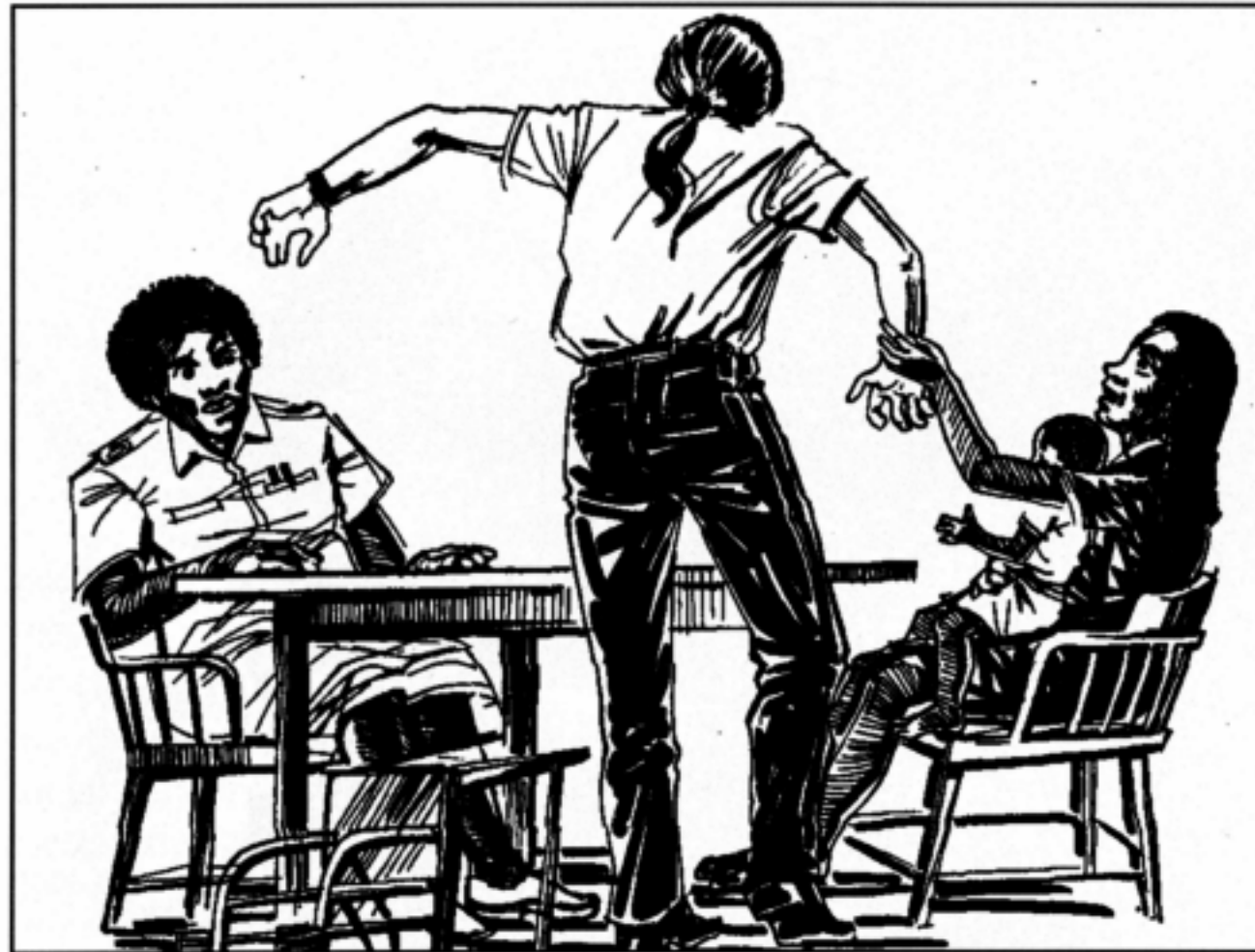
### **Telling the partner**

Most women are afraid to tell their boyfriends or husbands they are infected. Some are so afraid they do not say anything. Women fear their partners may leave them without food, clothing or shelter. They also fear being beaten up.

If a woman is tested for HIV in the hospital, her partner usually is not tested at the same time. The partner usually also does not get any counselling or information about HIV and AIDS. This can lead to the man blaming the woman for sleep-



**Pregnant women who are HIV-positive have difficult decisions to make**



**Many people refuse to believe it when they are told they are HIV-positive**

ing around and for putting him at risk. The man can still blame the woman even if he has given the HIV to her.

**Pregnant women with HIV need support**

Because of the many problems

pregnant women with HIV have to cope with, they need lots of support. Good counselling must be given before and after the test. The right of a woman to refuse the test must be respected. Counselling should also be provided for the

woman's partner.

An HIV-positive mother of a newborn baby need lots of support from her family, friends and her community.

There is no point in blaming someone with HIV. HIV cannot be passed on in day to day contact. Where blame is happening community organisations and womens organisations need to fight it. ★

*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 futher 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

**These pages have been made possible by NPPHCN National AIDS Programme**



Graphics reproduced from the Macmillan Botswana AIDS Awareness Programme



**J**oe Mafela, otherwise known as 'S'dumo' or 'Jabu' in his roles of the television programmes 'S'gudi S'nice' and 'Going Up', is a 51-year-old actor born in Venda, Sibasa. "When I was a boy my family moved to Sophiatown and later to Kliptown," said Mafela. It was while growing up in Kliptown that Mafela's love for acting began: "I started going to the movies at the age of three. I used to imitate everything I used to see in the movies."

Mafela says he believes: "even though talent is something you are born with, a gift from God, you have to work on it."

He is the eldest of four brothers and four sisters. Mafela never let go of his dream of becoming an actor.

"I used to have my own Penny Whistle band. We used to sing, tap dance and perform for our parents whenever we had a family day at school," remembers Mafela.

Straight after high school, in 1959 he went to Dorkay House. This was where all the black actors were based and where the drama school was.

"I was there when they began auditions for the King Kong musical, but I did not get a part because I was still very young and inexperienced.

"I was part of a small singing group. Our heroes were a group of American singers, the Manhattan Brothers. This was when I started gaining experience and getting some direction in my career," adds Mafela.

In 1960 he decided to go for speech and drama lessons.

"I went to classes for an

# S'dumo speaks about Joe Mafela

**Going Up! That is the way Joe Mafela's life and career has gone since the time he was a child imitating the stars of movies he used to watch over and over again. He tells *Rosalee Telela* about the road that led him to where he is today**



**"Today young people are lucky because opportunities are open for them," says Mafela**

Photos: Compliments CCV

hour every night — for three years.”

Mafela did his very first play in 1963. “This was my first break. The play was about news and I played the role of the editor,” Mafela remembers.

“After that, I did a traditional dance show called ‘Mzumba’, which I co-produced with the late Solomon Mda,” he adds.

Mafela believes actors are in the entertainment business not because they want to get rich but because they love

time when we could not perform to white audiences. You had to apply for a permit to do that. This actually killed the spirits of many of our artists. Very few continued after that law came out. It was when people like Gibson Kente

**“I never gave up my dream of becoming an actor.”**

turned to township theatre.”

Mafela did not follow the example of other actors who gave up. He believes “when acting is in your blood, you forget everything else.”

In the entertainment industry itself, the relationships between the different races were neither good or bad. “In that world you have to work together. One did not feel racism, particularly when we were working on movies with international actors. Of course, being black, we were always paid less than the whites,” said Mafela.

**A**t that time, there were very few black female actors. “We had a lot of women singers and dancers. It was, however, difficult for women in show-business. Many people called them ‘cheap women’,” Mafela says.

While Mafela was ‘going up’ in the world of show-business, he spent very little time with his wife and his three children: “It is hard being a father and an actor at the same time. My wife refused to work saying that if she did, the children would have nobody to look after them.”

He added “today young people who want to act are very lucky because opportunities are open for them, and parents know a career can be made out of showbusiness.

“In our days we were not allowed to take speech and drama in any university and we were not allowed to go to a film school. We had to teach ourselves.” ★

what they do:

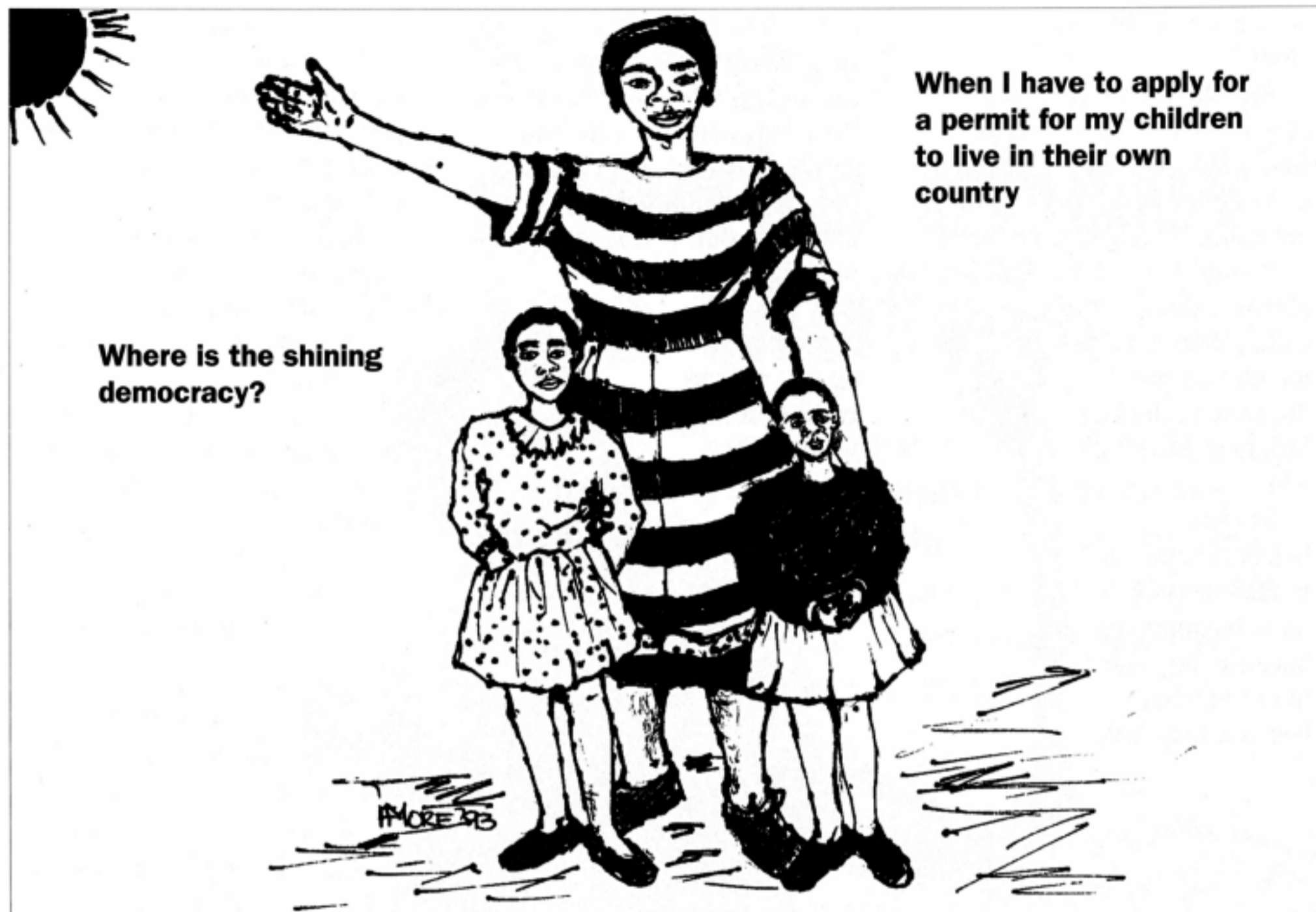
“even today, actors are not doing it for money, otherwise we would be having rich actors, which we don’t.”

**B**ut money was a problem: “there was a time when I used to get R35 a week. This was after my big break when I was already quite involved in the business.”

Mafela’s career began at a time when apartheid laws ruled in the world of entertainment like everywhere else.

Mafela says: “there was a





Where is the shining democracy?

When I have to apply for a permit for my children to live in their own country

# Where a married woman is a child

Botswana is not all it's made out to be, argues *Pamela Dube*

**B**ehind the walls of a shining democracy, a simple fight for human rights shows that Botswana is not everything it is seen to be.

Botswana is often regarded by the Western media as the only democracy in Africa. It is true that the country has practised democracy for 27 years, since its independence in 1966.

To people on the outside, Botswana is a wonderful place. It is stable both economically

and politically.

But recently there were many questions being asked about who benefits from the democracy in Botswana?

"Mosadi o a nyalwa, monna o a nyala — a man marries, while a woman is married by a man," say many Batswana men.

According to the laws of Botswana, a married woman is considered a minor. That means she has no rights. She has as little rights as a child in the mar-

riage. She cannot sign legal documents, make loans or even apply for her own ID without her husband's permission. If a woman's husband is not available at the time, then a male member of the husband's family is in charge.

The children of Batswana women, married to foreigners are considered foreigners under the country's law.

This was brought to the surface in 1991, when a young

Motswana woman lawyer, Unity Dow took her government to court to argue the nationality of her children.

Unity Dow is married to an American. She and her husband have lived in Botswana for 13 years. All their children were born and bred there. Yet Dow had to apply for residence permits every year for her children. She argued that as a Motswana woman, her children were rightful citizens of the country. In 1992 Dow won the case.

**T**he government would not accept defeat and appealed against the judgement. Again in early 1993 Dow won the case.

Women in Botswana believed the Unity Dow case would make the Botswana government change the parts of the constitution that discriminated against women. This did not happen.

Instead the government said it wanted to hold a referendum to vote on the matter. The people of Botswana will therefore decide if the law should be changed or not.

It was reported in March this year that the Ministry of Home Affairs — of which the Women Affairs Division falls under — formally proposed that a referendum be held on the matter.

“Botswana have to be consulted on issues affecting the nation,” says the Botswana government.

However, Women’s Organisations see it differ-

ently: “the government has the resources and can get their own views much easier across to people. They will go out and convince the people that women are not discriminated against. This might lead people

to vote against the rights of women,” says Dr Athalia Molokomme president of Emang Basadi.

Many Botswana women are asking the question: “Did the government consult us when they passed the law?”

Since independence, very few Botswana women have got into high positions in the government and in companies, even though they make up 50% of the population. Presently, women are taking jobs in areas like the police force, administration, journalism and business that were before reserved for men. But women are still fighting to be accepted in these fields.

In politics, women’s participation has been very low. Their role has generally been to organise meetings, and sing and dance to the tune of the leadership at political gatherings.

**D**r Gaositwe Chiepe, the current Minister of Foreign Affairs, is the only woman so far who managed to occupy a position in the cabinet.

But there is some hope. Early this year, one brave woman Eitlhopha Mosinyi, formed the first women led political party known as “Lesedi La Botswana”.

Lets hope that through the party, women of Botswana are able to make the changes that are necessary to make sure they take their rightful places and share in Botswana’s democracy. ★





**E**arly this year, I was having tea with friends in a restaurant in Kampala, Uganda. As we had not seen each other for a long time, we were all excited and talking at the same time. It took us a long time to notice the excitement outside and the crowd that had gathered just a few metres from where we were. We could have ignored what was happening but in Kampala one cannot afford to ignore such things. The cause of the uproar could be anything: a bomb that's been found or people stuck together after committing adultery! (runyoka).

Like everyone else, we were very nosy and went to find out what was happening. When we got to the crowd, I asked a man in the street what the excitement was all about. He was so excited that he could hardly explain.

He said something about a naked prostitute. As he was not able to give us any details, we moved closer to the circle. After listening to the crowd we found out it was about a young woman and her mini-skirt. The young woman had been walking on the road when suddenly she was surrounded by people who were angry about the shortness of her skirt. In a city like Kampala where there are always hundreds of people around, it is easy for something like this to draw a large crowd.

Some of the people who gathered were so mad that they were swearing at her. "It will not be long before God's wrath

# Wearing what we want writes Hope Chigudu



comes down like lightning to burn Kampala prostitutes like you who go about naked," shouted people in the crowd.

I wondered if a mighty God would not have more important issues to deal with such as the war in Angola.

**S**ome agreed that no worthy man would marry a woman like this one. Others cursed her mother whom they said had brought

her up badly and did not teach her "our" culture. Most of the people swore, screamed and abused the woman. A few undisciplined men even tried to beat the young woman.

My heart bled for her.

Eventually people either got tired or they had no more insults for this woman. People started moving away from the crowd. The young woman was left to go her way. When I finally looked at her properly, she was not naked at all. She was wearing a jean miniskirt. It was short all right, but then this is the fashion these days. Surprisingly she walked with so much confidence and pride that I admired her strength. I felt proud of her, as I often do when I meet a strong and defiant woman.

**M**y friends and I talked a bit about what had happened but then returned to speaking about other issues. When I went home I could not get the incident out of my mind. The more I thought about it, the angrier I got. What right did people have to treat this young woman the way they did? Whom had she offended? How much did she know about the culture that she was supposed to (be a custodian of) follow? Was wearing a short dress such a crime that this woman deserved to be punished the way she was? How were people who committed crimes such as stealing money from the people when they are in government treated? How about drunkards who vomit and were all over the

place, are they ever humiliated? How come the same angry crowd never humiliate rapists and other criminals?

Did this young woman deserve what she got? After all, who defines what is acceptable? Is it, for example, acceptable for some members of our

society to wear tight trousers which show off their bodies? To me this appeared like a clear case of sexual harassment. I left Kampala sad but hoping the day would come when a woman could walk anywhere in this world without fear of being molested. ★

*This story was taken from Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre and Network – News Bulletin, Volume 2 No.1, May 1993*

## CALLING NON GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

We're looking for decision-makers who can't manage any more.

Today, with so many urgent community needs, Non Government and Community Based Organisations are finding it difficult to cope. Only effective organisations can adequately respond to the challenge. And effective organisation starts when men and women in co-ordinator positions have the necessary management skills to do so.

The Community Based Development Programme (CBDP) realises the importance of gaining these crucial management skills and have designed a special tailor-made course exclusively for managers in the non-profit sector.

It teaches you how to organise yourself and manage time productively. It gives you leadership and team-building skills to motivate those people that you oversee. You will learn how vital strategic and operational planning is. You'll gain negotiation and mediation abilities. And it is structured so that you can apply what you have learnt immediately.

Running successfully since 1989, the course has been tried, tested and recommended by over twenty top organisations and associations nationwide. It is certificated by the University of the Witwatersrand.

Take one step closer to more effective management and phone Blessing, Sally or Erika today at (011) 484-3720/1/2/3.



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COMMUNITY BASED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND



# I am pregnant

## What are the changes taking place in my body?

**E**very woman has two ovaries which carry thousands of eggs. About 14 days after a woman's period, an egg leaves one of the ovaries and moves through the tube to the womb.

At this time the woman can fall pregnant. During sexual intercourse, sperm from the man's penis moves through the vagina and into the womb and tube. If the sperm meets the egg, they join together and form an embryo. The embryo

will grow into a baby. Seven days after the embryo is formed, it pushes into the side of the womb. There may be bleeding at this time. The bleeding is lighter than a normal period.

The afterbirth (a fluid the baby lives on while it is in your womb) slowly begins to form. The afterbirth takes food and air from the blood and passes them along the umbilical cord to the baby. The baby grows slowly at first and after four months grows more quickly.

As the baby grows so does your stomach. There are many other changes that will take place. Although each woman is different, there are some changes that will take place in

most women's bodies.

### The changes in the first 3 months of your pregnancy?

● The first big change is that you stop having a period.

Your stomach and breasts will get bigger. They may itch and hurt as they grow. Your nipples, breasts, face and stomach may also get darker in colour.

● You'll get very tired quickly because your body is carrying an extra load. You should demand that others in your family do some of the heavy work in the house.

● Some women may vomit in the morning, or during the day. This can get worse in the second and third month of pregnancy.

Taking medicine may harm the baby. It is better to eat a lot of small meals. If you vomit each time you eat, go to the clinic or doctor.

● Most women who are pregnant get constipated. Eat brown bread, green vegetables and

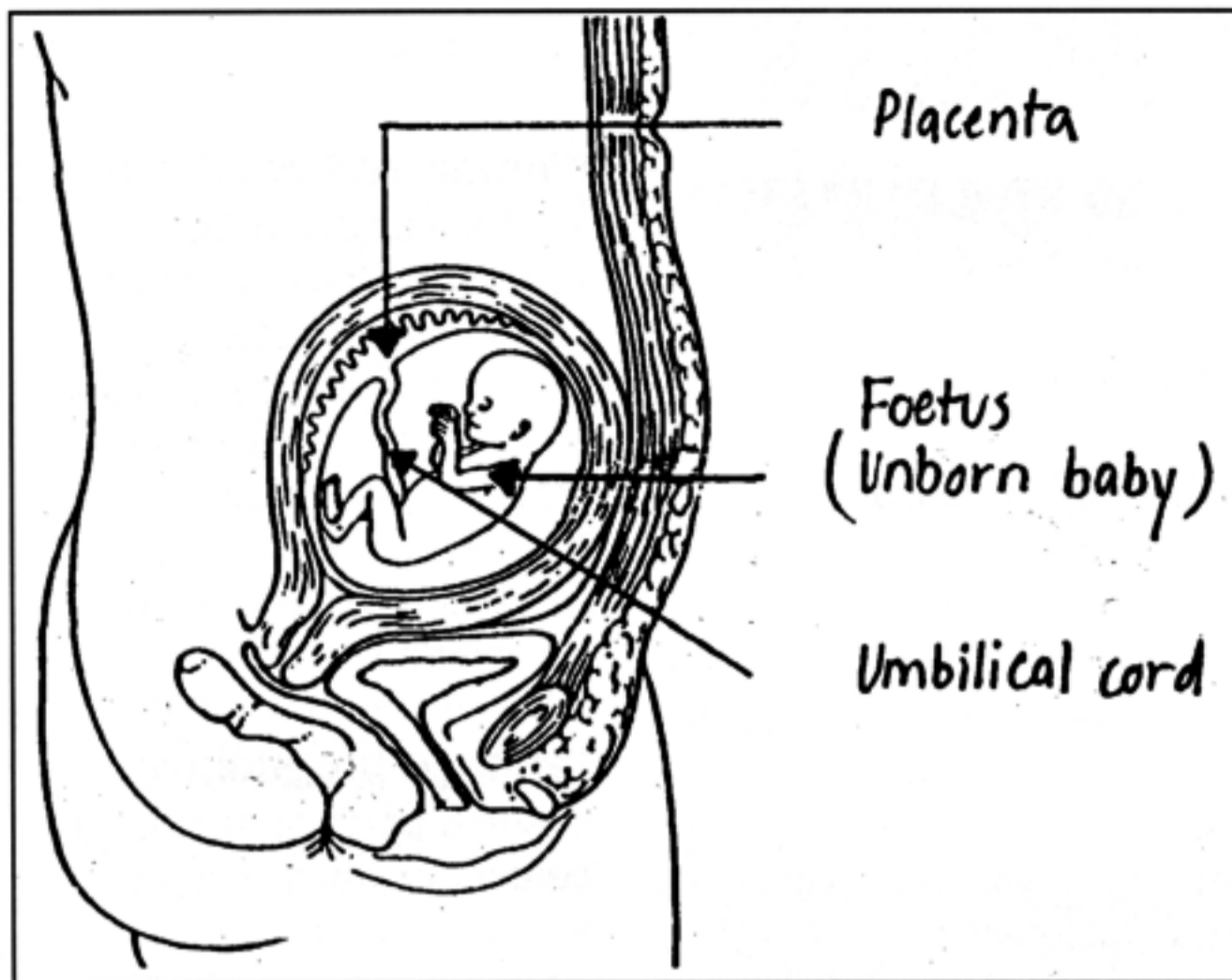


**Left: It is good to exercise regularly.**

**Below: Visit your clinic or doctor to make sure everything's fine.**

**Below right: Make time to rest and relax**





**This drawing shows the baby in the mother's womb**

fruit, and drink lots of water.

● Because the baby may press against your bladder, you may wish to go to the toilet more often. If it burns there may be a bladder infection. You will have to go to the clinic or a doctor.

● There may be more discharge from your vagina than usual. If the discharge gets smelly, or the vagina gets itchy, there may be an infection. Consult the clinic or doctor. Be careful with medicines for vaginal infections. Most pills and creams for vaginal infections should not be used in the

first three months of pregnancy.

### **What happens in the 3-6 months of your pregnancy?**

Many of the problems discussed above happen in the first three months of pregnancy. From three to six months women often feel very well, and have lots of energy. The baby might start kicking at 5 months.

### **The last part of your pregnancy?**

The last part of your pregnancy is between 6 and 9 months.

● At this time the stomach

makes more acid. The food stays in the stomach longer. You might get pain in your chest and stomach which will get worse if you lie down. Sleeping with the chest and head lifted up with pillows may help. Drink milk and eat small amounts of food.

● The baby gets heavy during the last three months. It presses on the nerves at the top of your legs. This causes pain down the back of the legs. There may also be pain in the lower part of the back. Exercises that are not hard to do may help. Standing with a straight back helps.

● Your varicose veins will get swollen if the baby is pressing on the veins. You must rest as often as you can.

● Constipation can be another problem and can cause a lot of pain. The pain can be relieved by kneeling down for a short while, with your bottom in the air.

● Feet may swell. This is because the baby is getting bigger and heavier. It is important to rest your feet as the baby gets bigger.

● At the end of nine months stretch marks may develop on your stomach and breasts, and your skin might get itchy. Cool water or calamine lotion may help.

● It is possible to have sex in the last months of pregnancy. You should find new sexual positions that are comfortable.

It is important that women look after themselves during pregnancy, by resting and eating healthy food. All those around should take over some of the heavier work, and give special care to the pregnant woman. ☆





# HEALTH BRIEFS

## Pesticide can cause breast cancer

A study has found that women who are highly exposed to the pesticide DDT (a substance used to kill insects) are more likely to develop breast cancer compared to women who are less exposed to it.

This may explain why breast cancer has increased in the last years and is the most common cancer amongst women.

In 1972, DDT was banned in North America because cancer was found in animals exposed to it.

Yet, pesticide companies continued to sell their stocks outside the Western world and is still commonly used in Latin America, Asia

and Africa.

## AIDS figures go up and up

About 13 million adults worldwide are infected with HIV - the virus which causes AIDS. The total number of people with AIDS is 2.5 million, 20 percent higher than last year.

Five out of every 11 people newly infected with the HIV virus are women, and about 1 million babies have been infected by their mothers. In South Africa alone, there are about 400 new infections every day.

## Women and childbirth

As many as 150 000 women in Africa die and an equal number suffer permanent disabilities as a result of problems during pregnancy and childbirth. The average woman in Africa is reported as having six children.

## Teenage pregnancy

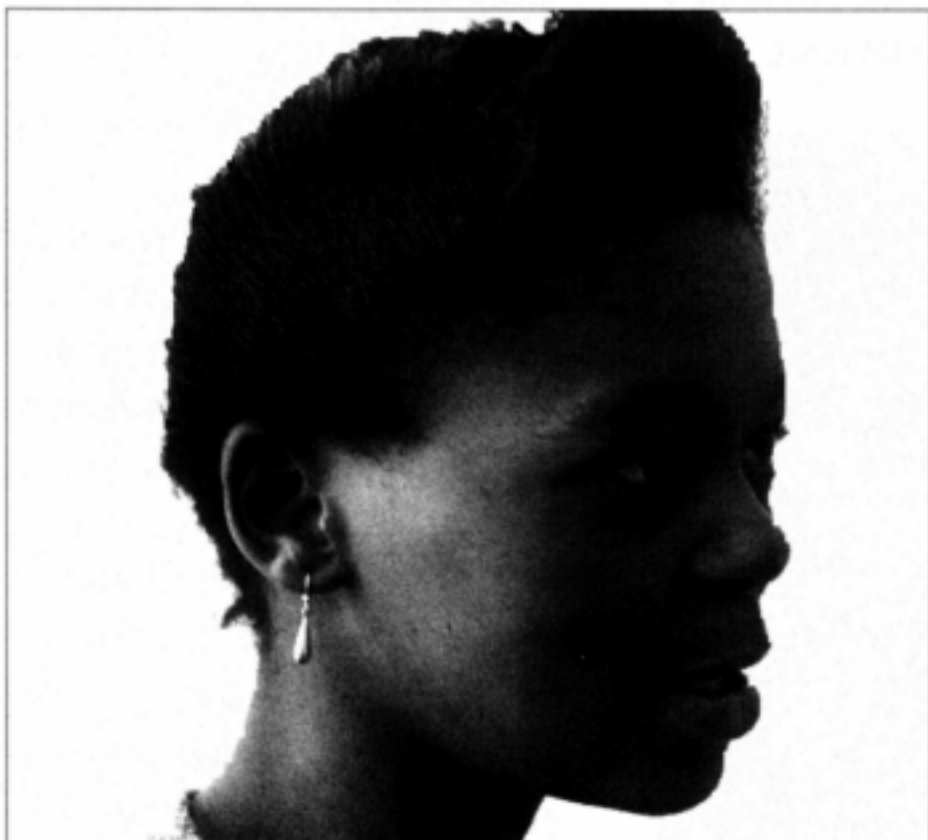
In some parts of Africa, 23 percent of young women already have children despite the risk involved in early childbearing for both the mother and child.

The bodies of teenage girls are not fully developed for childbearing and often result in complications during childbirth. ★

# COMPETITION

## Be a lucky winner!!!

Two lucky SPEAK readers stand a chance of winning a pair of gold earrings (below).



Answer the question below and send in your entry

**How many new people in South Africa get infected with HIV, the virus that leads to AIDS, everyday?**

Answer .....

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

.....

Postal Code .....

**Send your entry to:**

SPEAK Magazine

PO Box 261363

Excom 2023

Johannesburg 2000

**Rules of the competition:** The decision of the judges is final. This competition is only open to people living in Southern African. Employees and relatives of employees of SPEAK are not allowed to enter. The closing date is 1 October 1993. The winner will be announced in the November issue of SPEAK.

# As a matter of fact...

## No jobs for millions

According to the South African Council of Churches (SACC), at least 3,5 million young South Africans between the ages of 16 and 30 are presently unemployed. The SACC said the majority of youths no longer believe the Church care about them and feel that their concerns are not being properly addressed by political organisations. The Education and Renewal Ministries in the SACC have called on the council to launch a programme to give ministers skills to work with the unemployed youth.



Graphic: Liz Mackie/ISIS

## No! to racist officers

The Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union (POPCRU) says in future its members will not obey orders from racist officers in the police and prisons services. This was in response to claims made by black police who said they were told by white senior police to keep out of the way during the occupation of the World Trade Centre at Kempton Park by the right-wing. The organisation said: "It was a message that blacks cannot maintain law and order if whites are the offenders, while white police could do what they wanted in the townships."

## Village watch as woman is gang raped

Villagers and officials in Beijing, China, simply stood by as a young teacher was raped for two hours by two 17-year-old boys. The woman was raped in a school room while people stood outside doing nothing to help her. She fought her attackers off and tried to run away, but they caught her and raped her again, this time in front of school and town officials, who did nothing to stop the boys. No action was taken against the boys.

## Poor health-care in Zimbabwe's prisons

According to a report by a Catholic human rights group, medical care for Zimbabwe's 20 000 prisoners is very poor. Female prisoners often give birth in prison cells without any medical help. Most of the time, prisoners are locked in overcrowded cells for 16 hours a day. Many of them die of tuberculosis (TB) and pneumonia because of the lack of regular medical checks, the report said.

## Child labour in the Philippines shocking

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates that 5,7 million children in the Philippines work. They work on farms, factories and the streets. Children as young as six earn a living by selling cigarettes, flowers and sometimes sex. There are about 20 000 child prostitutes in the Philippine capital city, Manila.

*Information from local and international publications*



**W**hen you listen to the slogans of progressive organisations you would think a non-sexist society is just around the corner. In speeches, comrades are always at pains to add "non-sexist" when they call for a "non-racial, united and democratic" South Africa. This is good, though it is often an empty slogan. As one woman comrade put it, "men have a long way to go". This fact was brought home to me at a political meeting recently.

The mood was high with everyone taking part in the discussions. There was one prob-

## Feminism is African, writes Sihle Mabaso

lem: food had not been organised. A few comrades went to buy food. They returned and said the food had to be served onto plates. The chairperson called for volunteers. One male comrade shouted, "Women's League".

**A** female comrade objected, saying anyone can serve the food. She was shouted down by a choir of sexist male voices. The chairperson called for order in the

meeting and the moment passed without an apology to the female comrades.

While we ate, I overheard a comrade telling the one who objected that she thinks because she's in the struggle she's no longer an African woman. I added my voice of support for the woman comrade and was told that I am influenced by Western values. That I'm not worthy of being called a man because I am "under the dictatorship of feminists".

When it came to electing an executive committee we agreed to vote for a woman. When I asked one male comrade to vote for a certain comrade he refused, saying: "That one is a feminist. We need a woman who will listen to us". Another comrade said: "No, there is already one woman on the executive, we don't need too many useless people."

This is the kind of talk you hear from many male comrades.

**S**ometimes one feels like rushing to a calendar to check whether this is the twentieth century or the Stone Age. It is clear that freedom day will be a sick joke for women in our country unless we change the attitudes of our people with regard to gender discrimination. All we will win is a freedom where men are no better than their former oppressors.

Let us stand up now, men and women together, and start creating the truly non-sexist society we have fought so long and so hard for.

Phambili ngo mzabalazo wa bafazi. ★

# TAXI TALK



# NOTICES

## ● A call for contributions from women ●

Carol Camper, a black woman is creating a collection of the work of women. Send fiction, poetry, articles, interviews, photography and artwork. Written material must be typed or neatly hand written. Do not send originals. Enclose a self addressed envelope if you want your work returned. If you live outside Canada, send an international reply coupon.

**Send your submissions before 31 October 1993 to:**

**Carol Camper c/o SisterVision Press  
P O Box 217  
Station E. Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
M6H 4E2**

## ● Adult Education ●

The Skills Directory of Adult Education is an essential resource for all involved in adult education. The directory lists adult educators and their skills, the aims, activities and resources for adult education. This directory costs R15 and you can get it from:

Forum for the Advancement of Adult Education  
3rd floor  
Sable Centre  
41 de Korte Street  
Braamfontein  
2001  
or call: (011) 339 6322

## ● People's History ●

The Natal Worker History Project Publications (NWHP) has produced four books written in simple English and Zulu which can be used to both entertain and educate. These books and videos tell the life stories of ordinary people whose contribution to history has been ignored under apartheid. One of the books, "Flashes in the soul", tells the story of Jabu Ndlovu, a NUMSA shopsteward killed in the Natal violence in 1988.

**For more information contact:  
Natal Worker History Project  
c/o CILS  
University of Natal  
King George V Avenue  
Durban, 4001  
or call: (031) 816 1413**

## ● Tuberculosis (TB) can be cured ●

What is going to make us realise just how serious TB has become? It kills more people a day than road accidents, political violence and even AIDS. A quarter of a million people already have TB. The most frightening part about TB, is that many people do not know it can be cured.

**For more information please call the TB hotline on:  
(011) 29 9636 or contact your local South African National Tuberculosis Association (SANTA) branch.**



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# PEACE IS NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ANY ONE PARTY OR GROUP BUT OF ALL OF US.

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The time has come for all South Africans, ordinary men and women, to accept responsibility for peace. To make peace with one another. And to make peace with the past.

Because only if we work together can we ensure that the doves of peace live. Live as a symbol of hope for the future. A future characterised not merely by the

absence of strife, but by economic prosperity and social harmony.

But, to make all that the peace emblem symbolizes a reality we need the help of all South Africans.

So if you want to find out how you can use the peace symbol write to: The Peace Office, P.O. Box 785203, Sandton 2146. And help to build peace in our land.



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## PEACE IN OUR LAND