

S152

# SPEAK

PUTTING WOMEN FIRST

No.64

SEPTEMBER 1994

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**WIN  
GREAT  
PRIZES!**

**GCINA  
MHLOPE**

**Thirsty for life**

**WEDDING**

**RINGS**

**Who  
wears  
them?**

**SEXIST TALK**

**Time for a  
language  
spring clean**



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## COMMENT

**B**etween January and July, a total of 221 children, including toddlers, have been raped in Soweto. This is in Soweto alone and these are only the cases which have been reported to the police.

Children are not safe in their own homes since most of the rapists are adults living in the same home.

Parents sometimes choose to turn a blind eye. The child is at times blamed for what has happened. Some parents even refuse to listen to their children when they tell what has been done to them.

Children's lives are being ruined. We have to act now to save them. Something has to be done about the rapists. Community organisations, the police, in fact, all of us must come up with a plan.

We can no longer debate whether sex education programmes should happen at school. It must! School committees must discuss and come up with ways of dealing with the problem.

Jessie Duarte, PWV Minister for Safety and Security believes this is one of our biggest problems. "We need to take a well-run education programme into schools, factory floors, on television, radio — you name it," she said.

"Most people, even women, do not have a real understanding of the tragedy of rape, especially against children."

Children have a right to be children, not be faced with terrible abuse. Let us work towards that.

# Talk Back

## The people's magazine

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for a wonderful magazine. I always feel great after reading stories about women who stood in the forefront of the struggle to free this country from apartheid. Your magazine tackles real issues which affect people daily. It educates us about our rights as individuals.

I would also like to know more about that powerful woman — the late Ruth First, her life and her family. Could you please help?

*Kingsley Moleko  
Potchestroom*

**We are encouraged by your comments. It is really nice to know that we are of some help to our readers. For information on Ruth First, write to:**  
**Mr Joe Slovo**  
**Private Bag X9144**  
**Cape Town**  
**8000**  
**— Editor**

## Let's learn sign language

I am a reader of SPEAK magazine and I was impressed by the article The Deaf Speak Out in your June issue.

**Thanks to all our readers who have written in. Please keep your letters flowing. We are often forced to shorten letters because of space. Send your letters to:**  
**SPEAK**  
**PO Box 556**  
**Johannesburg**  
**2000**  
**South Africa**

People need to learn sign language in order to communicate with the deaf. Maybe once they can talk to the deaf, their attitude towards these people can change. We need to understand the problems these and other disabled people face every day.

I was really shocked to read that Shirley Makutoana's husband left her because of their daughter's condition. It is a shame that this man could behave in such a way.

*T Sebola  
Seshego*

**We agree that if people took the trouble to learn sign language our**

relationship with deaf people would improve a lot. But we always take things for granted. As for Pearl Makutoana's father, we hope that one day he will realise that running away from responsibilities is not the best way to solve problems. — Editor

## Mandela is a good man

This is the first letter I have written to SPEAK. I have known President Madiba since I was in school in Pietersburg in the early 1960s. He is a man who has fought for freedom in South Africa, just like Moses did for the people of Israel.

Words cannot explain how I feel about him and the new government.

What we need to do as South Africans is to give him all the support he needs to run the country well.

He also needs our prayers to give him the wisdom to carry this big responsibility the nation has given him.

*Phillip Mogashoa  
Randfontein*

**Our president is indeed a very hard working man. And it is true that we must support him as he carries out the big task of running this country. SPEAK magazine will do its best to support all efforts by government to improve the standard of living for all people in general, and women in particular.— Editor**

## The solution to your problems?

**Do you have any problems that have been bugging you? Write to our Agony column at SPEAK, for caring, considered advice. We will not be starting the Agony column this month, as promised. We hope to start next month. So watch out for it...**

## In praise of the President

I would like to praise President Nelson Mandela for the ANC's victory in the April election. This was after a long and difficult road to freedom. He is a true son of Africa who suffered for many years to liberate black people in this country.

He spent 27 years in prison, but when he came out he was not bitter at all. The whole world speaks of the new democratic South Africa because of this brave man. I salute President Mandela and the government of national unity.

*Knowledge States Basupi  
Botswana*

**Now that the struggle is over, we must all work towards rebuilding our beautiful country. — Editor**

## Drop oppressive cultures and traditions

I want to appeal to all men to stop oppressing women. Stop using cultures and traditions to do that.

I would also ask women prostitutes to stop what they are doing because it destroys the name of women. Their lives can be improved if they are organised. Join the Women's National Coalition, ANCWL, African Women's Organisations and so on.

Let us continue with the struggle for the emancipation of women, like our late leaders Chris Hani and Oliver Tambo did.

*EM  
Morokweng*

**Thank you for your encouraging letter. — Editor**

## WINNER

**★ The lucky winner of our SPOT THE DIFFERENCE competition is Melita Matseke, Bandelierskop.**

**Don't miss our new competition on Page 33**

# Kwa-Sophie

■ My friend, who is usually very calm, was shaking with anger when she visited me the other day. She had invited a few friends to dinner at her place the night before. After supper they were sitting around having a good discussion about marriage. Then Thulani, one of the guests, spoiled everything. "Marriage," he said, "is an expensive way of getting your laundry done free."

"Not only do men see women as washing machines," said my friend, "It seems we are the type you don't even have to pay."

Can the world please start changing???

■ What do men call a man who can cook?

Answer: a chef.

What do men call a woman who can cook?

Answer: a cook.

■ Listening to Radio 702 the other day, I heard a discussion about a new pill which makes sh\*t smell nice. The pill will be used mostly in hospitals, they said. I was just thinking what a good idea this was, when they added that the pill would also be good for mothers because they won't have to deal with the sh\*tty smell when



they change their babies' nappies.

Why is it people always think of the mothers when it comes to cleaning up sh\*t?

■ The wind really waaied in Windhoek, Namibia, a few months ago. A soul-sister there joined a group of men and women who took to the streets to demand safe and legal abortion.

A placard carried by one of the demonstrators said it all: "Just say no to sex with pro-lifers".

## Quote of the month:

"I want to encourage women to untie their apron strings and make the most of their lives." - *Thokozile Zulu, one of the few Zimbabwean women to have written scripts for television and radio.*



**Don't you wish all men were as concerned as this one about AIDS?**

# STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART

Colourful artist of words and powerful performer, TV presenter Gcina Mhlope, took time out to talk to SPEAK's Rosalee Telela

**G**cina Mhlope is a celebrated poet, writer, actor, story-teller, director and television presenter. I found her to be as magical, dramatic and fantastic as the characters in her stories.

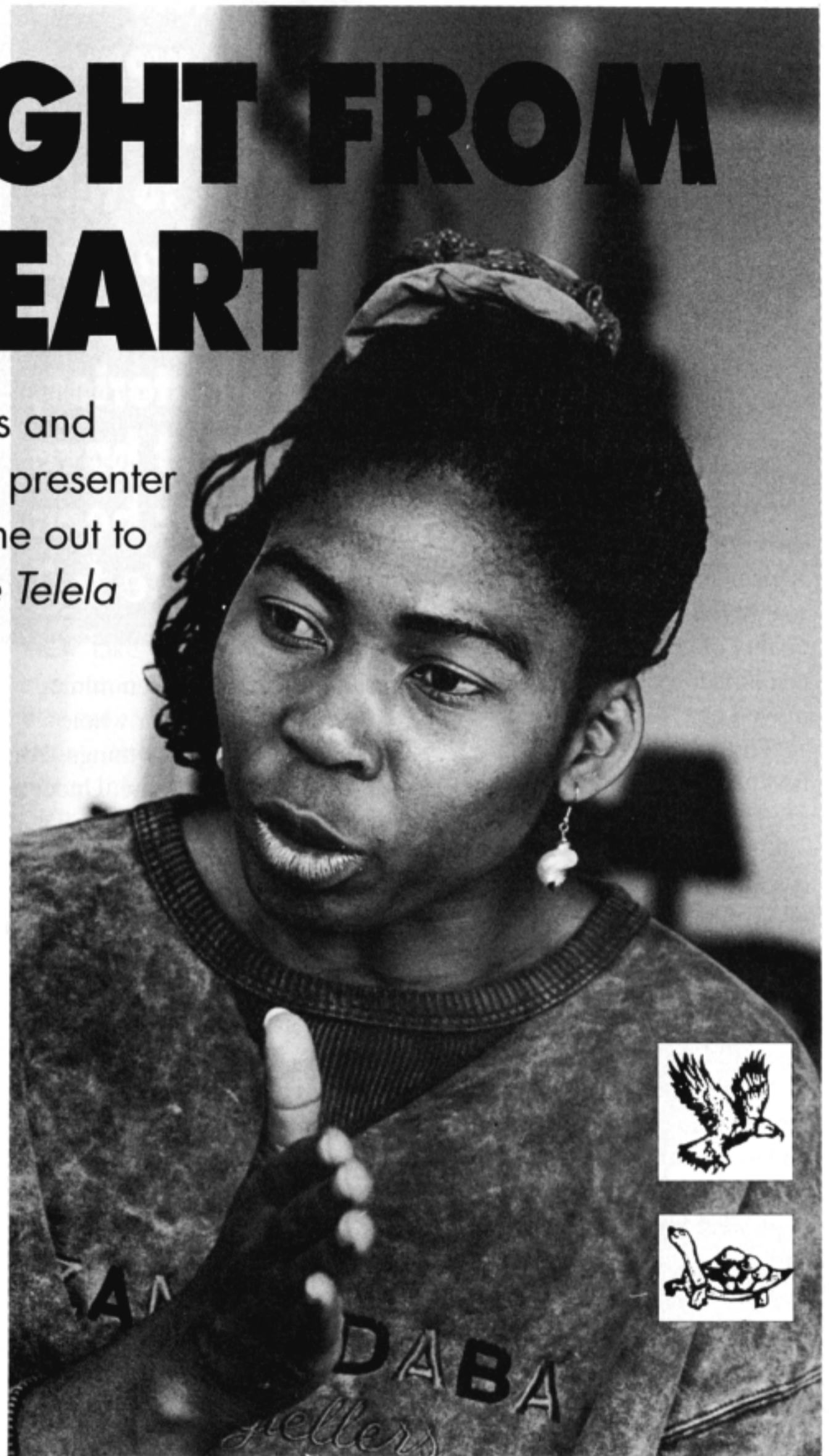
Mhlope lives in a big, sunny flat in Berea, Johannesburg. Her pictures, furniture and books all tell a story of who she is. Paintings of proud black women; a picture of herself, serious but with laughing eyes; a beautiful African-style carved chair and a tortoise (not alive) hanging on a wall.

She was born in Hammersdale, Natal, near the Valley of a Thousand Hills, but her teenage years at school were spent in the Transkei.

"At first I was terrified because I had to study Xhosa as a first language. My home language is Zulu. However, I made it a point to speak and learn the language," she told SPEAK.

She came to love the language so much that she wrote her very first poem in Xhosa.

Mhlope was brought up in a



## Gcina Mhlope

family which was thirsty for education.

"Education came first. It did not matter if you were a boy or girl. At school all I ever did was

read. I did not want to take part in sports, even though I was a good runner. I was hungry for knowledge. I'm still like that," Mhlope said. She has travelled

far and wide but Hammersdale will always be home.

"When we all get together, we sing. It does not matter if you don't know how to sing. When the singing starts, I know I am home. This is where I get support when I'm running away from the troubles I get myself into," said Mhlope with a smile.

In 1991, Mhlope started a storytelling group called Zanendaba. A tortoise and an eagle are the group's symbols.

"We take time to know our surroundings, like the ancient African tortoise. Our dreams soar high like an eagle. The quality of our work will tell the tale long after the storyteller has moved on," Mhlope said.

The voice which Mhlope first heard tell stories was her grandmother's.

"She was strong, warm and caring. Today I'm able to tell and listen to stories because of her. She was the one who taught me to believe in myself as a woman and to love and respect myself.

"My grandmother was the person who listened to what I had to say and explained things to me. She was exciting. Her bags were always packed, ready for us to travel wherever she decided to go."

As a storyteller, Mhlope feels she is able to change people's views of life and themselves.

"You've got to be able to paint pictures in people's heads. You take them on a journey."

She does not believe a storyteller should lead her listeners.

"I allow myself to be influenced by my audience. Like water, if I'm put into a round container, I become round."

Mhlope explained how a

**"There are many women who have stories to tell, women who want to tell their stories, but have never been able to"**

story is told. "You can mime, sing and dance. Your whole body becomes those things. You can perform anywhere. Under a tree, in a church or theatre."

Mhlope said it is time women stood up and told their stories. "There are many women who have stories to tell, women who want to tell their stories, but have never been able to."

The Zanendaba storytelling group has 12 members, both women and men.

**T**hey perform and run workshops, mostly for young people. They also plan to write books for children and produce tapes of the stories they tell.

Only some members work full-time because there isn't enough money to pay everybody.

Mhlope is always ready to take up new challenges in her career.

"One time I agreed to direct the play 'Have You Seen Zandile?' in the USA. I had just put down the phone and I thought, 'How can I?' When the



**Gcina Mhlope with her parents (above left) and in action on the stage (above right)**

time arrived, though, I did it. I always try my best."

Mhlope has written and directed plays like 'Have You Seen Zandile?' and 'Somdaka'. She was also the in-house director at the Market Theatre in Johannesburg between 1989 and 1991.

SPEAK asked Mhlope to describe herself.

"I'm easy going and hard-working. I speak my mind," she said.

Mhlope clearly has a passion for language. She worries about what is happening to African languages in this country.

"The problem we are going to face in South Africa now is of children who go to private schools and are encouraged by their parents not to speak African languages. These children are going to grow up with no sense of identity. Who are you if you don't have your own language? You are nobody. Simple."



Kuzwayo and Laretta Ngcobo," she said.

Although she looks up to these women, African-American writer Zora Neal Hurston is her main role-model. Mhlope came across her writings when she was in the USA.

"People thought Zora was a crazy woman because she used to drive around the streets in a battered car, stopping at she-beens to listen and later write those people's stories. She inspired me and I admire her for the way she was," said Mhlope.

**B**eing a woman writer is not easy. "People don't take you seriously. At conferences you are expected to deal only with women's issues. People also talk to you as if you are an inferior being, even if their criticism of your work might be right. They can make you feel so small, but you have to be strong," said Mhlope.

She is still trying to get used to being famous.

"Slowly I'm feeling that I'm a role model to young people. I believe in education, and although I'm not a trained writer or performer, I've made it."

She tries to communicate this message in all her work.

"I tell people to work hard, admit when they make mistakes, and to listen to other people who have walked the road before."

Mhlope calls herself a 'womanist'. What does this mean to her?

"I love being a woman and I don't apologise for it. I encourage and help other women to grow. I'm someone who believes there is a place in the world for both men and women."

And there certainly is a place in our world for more people like Gcina. ★

It was not easy for Mhlope to get used to being a television presenter. When she took up the challenge of presenting an arts programme, 'ArtWorks' on NNTV, she felt a bit lost in the beginning.

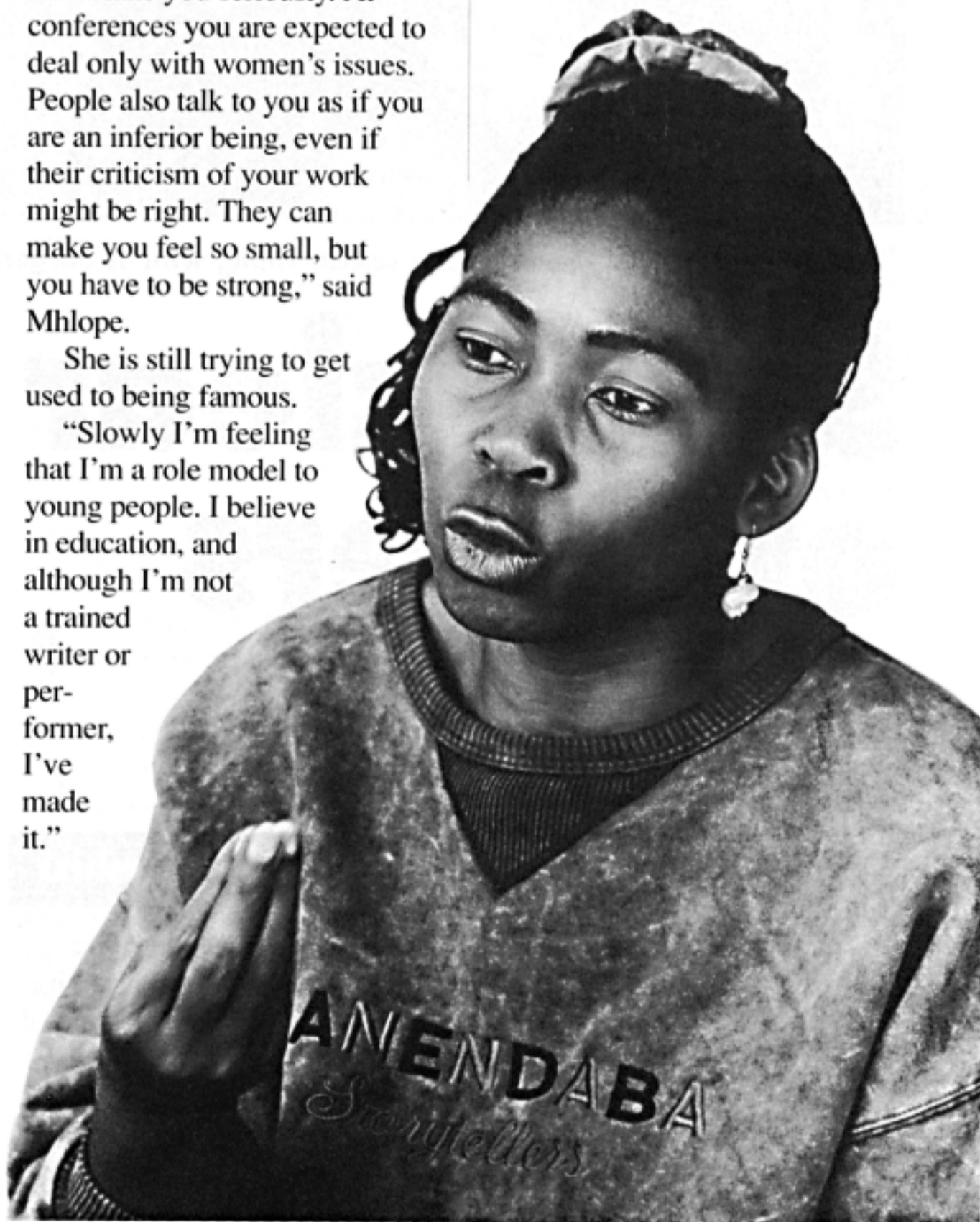
"I'm used to being in touch with my audience. With TV presenting, I did not have the sense of reaching out to my audience. It took me a while to relax," she said.

**A**nother of Mhlope's passions is writing and she has written books, plays and poems. She says her writing helps her to find herself and communicate with other people.

"Writing helped me decide who I am, and who I want to be. I use it to explain things for myself, but I also write about and for other people. I try to share my emotions and the way I see things."

Her writing is inspired by other South African women writers.

"My favourite woman writer is Bessie Head. I also love and admire Miriam Tlali, Ellen





**Steers: Selling sexism along with its burgers and chips**

# Steer clear of Steers

Some TV ads show little respect for women

**P**icture this: Two young women dressed in tight fitting and revealing clothes in a car. One is driving at high speed while the other one is flirting with a passing truck driver who, for some reason, looks agitated.

Halfway through this TV advert, it is still difficult to under-

**By Doreen Zimbizi**

stand the link between fast cars, 'sexy' women and an aggressive truck driver. He pulls off the road. Before he walks towards the women's car, he pulls his jeans up in a macho way and the words "real beef" flash on the television screen close to his waist line. He

strides over to the women's car and reaches down towards a seductive-looking young woman. It looks as if he is going to grab her. But he grabs the hamburger instead and stuffs it into his mouth.

This is Steers Fast Foods' way of selling you their beef burger and chips. I find it disgusting.

Surely they could have done better than this?

"Steers are not advertising food. Those two women are seducing the truck driver," said a friend of mine. "It's disgusting how women can be used in an advert like that," he said.

I will be forgiven, then, if I say the advert is downright sexist.

What it does is that it degrades women. It says it's okay for men to be aggressive towards women and shows women as sex objects (as usual) whose main purpose in

life is to please men.

Many people I spoke to were offended by it.

Two men in the advertising industry agree that it is indeed sexist.

"I wouldn't watch that ad with my grandchildren in the same room. That's how bad it is," said one of them. "From the little I have seen of it, I think it is very sexist," said the other.

But Steers marketing manager Achilles Zoulas does not believe the ad is offensive.

He says it's a new humorous and "open road" approach of advertising to show that their food is irresistible. After chasing after the two women in the sports car, the truck driver pulls off the road, grabs the burger from one of them and eats it in a way that shows that it is indeed irresistible, says Zoulas.

**S**PEAK asked him if he sees women as being as irresistible as food. "You have to look at the whole commercial to get the message. It shows women as sensual. The advert shows a new standard of advertising ...it gives you the freedom to walk into Steers and buy their irresistible food," he says.

"There is a need for the advertising industry to be more creative and bring in new ideas. The problem is that the South African advertising industry has been closed for a long time, not like overseas," says Zoulas.

He admits that there have been complaints about the advert. The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA), the industry's controlling body, has also received complaints from individuals and women's groups about the advert being sexist.

It is ASA's new policy that "advertisements should not contain anything which offends consumers. In particular, claims or

statements which directly or by implication, discriminate or exploit on the basis of colour, creed or gender will not be permitted unless, in the opinion of the ASA, the advertising is justified and in the public interest."

I asked for their opinion on the Steers advert.

"It is a very sensitive advert. There is a lot of controversy around it and we have had a meeting with Steers on the issue. They have assured us they have no intention to degrade women. After receiving complaints, they have agreed to have the advert shown after 9pm at night, when only mature people are watching television," said an ASA spokesperson.

Zoulas says Steers did a survey to see how many people were offended by the advertisement. Only three percent of those interviewed said the advert was offensive, he says.

"We have no intention of withdrawing the advert. While there are people who feel offended, the majority don't think so. We cannot please everybody. However, we are planning a new advertising campaign and we will take these complaints into consideration," he adds.

**I** asked him why the company did not use men instead of women.

"It would have had a different impact," he replied. "Women show more sensuality than men. We don't consider the advert to be sexist at all. It does not degrade women in any way."

The advert leads you on. You think the man is going to grab the woman. Yet he grabs the burger instead. Where is the humour in this? Doesn't it give the impression that women are more tempting than food? Or that women are just up for grabs? ☺

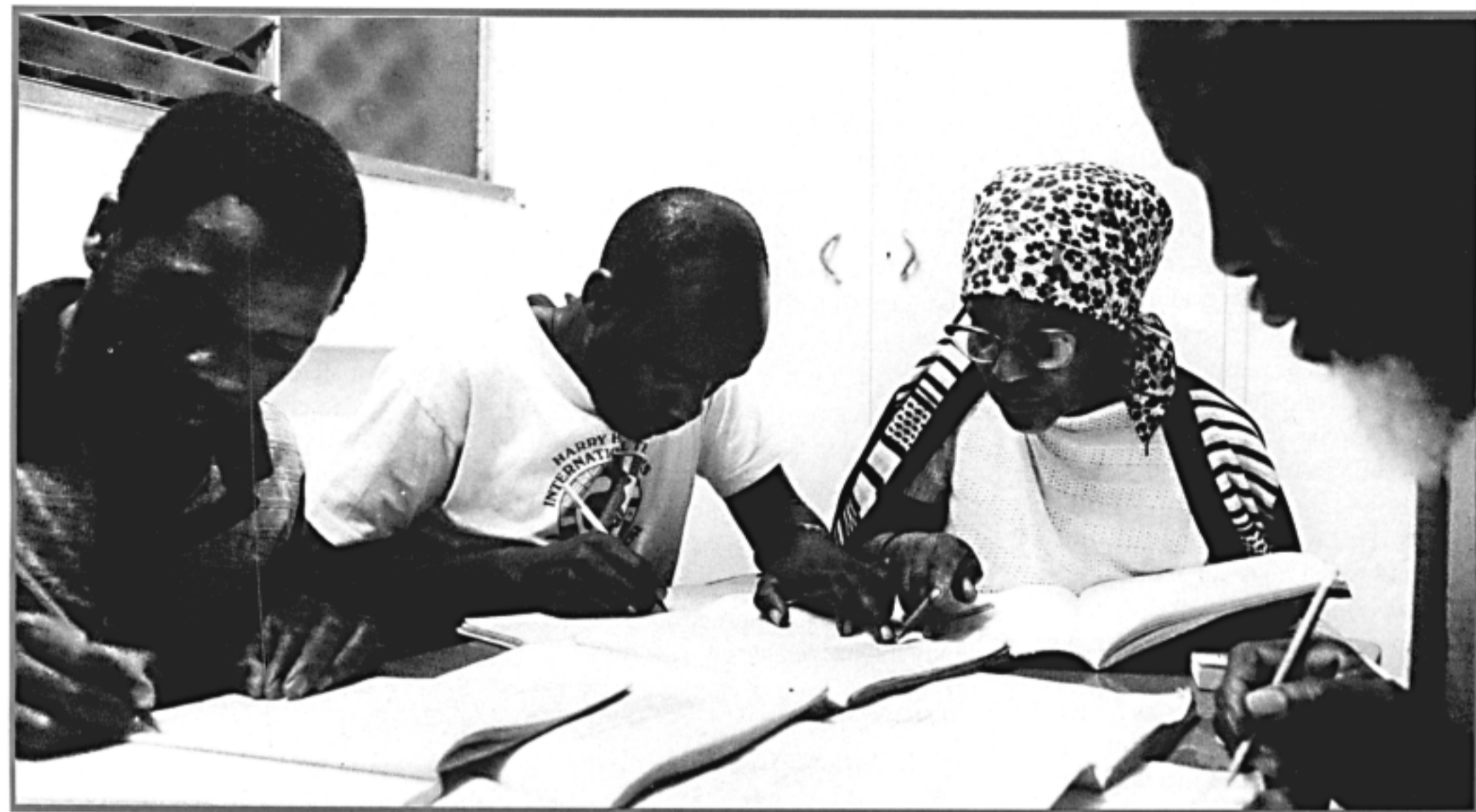
## What about this one?

**Citi Golf has also been running a number of adverts in the press and on television as part of their 10th anniversary celebrations. One which really caught my eye is the one of a young man who, each time he falls in love, has the name of the woman tattooed on his arm. The moment the woman disappoints him, he has her name crossed out and adds the name of the new girlfriend on his arm. After going through three women, he finally decides to stick with his Citi Golf and has it tattooed on his arm. The message is that his car is more reliable and it is the only thing which has stuck by him throughout his other relationships.**

**Niel Hamaan of Citi Golf had this to say: "We use a humorous approach to show that failed relationships are not good. His Citi Golf was the only thing that stayed with him throughout all the disappointments. In a naive way, one almost calls the look on his face "puppy love". He gave his heart and soul to all the women. He admired them and was committed to the relationships, although they didn't work in the end," says Hamaan.**

**"We are saying that, at the end of the day, the Citi Golf stays with you. It is a reliable car. These adverts are part of our 10th anniversary celebrations and they had to be different. We prefer to use everyday consumer slogans which have a broad appeal to fun-loving people and it is not our intention to degrade women in any way," he said.**

**To me, the Citi Golf advert also undermines women. It says a car is more reliable than a woman. It seems to me a lot of "humour" in the new adverts are at the expense of women. I'm not laughing. I'm steering away from Steers — and you can be sure, not in a Citi Golf.**



# Let's get literate!

**On September 8 this year, South Africa joins the rest of the world in celebrating International Literacy Day. Gladys Ryan of the English Literacy Project in Durban says it is time the government did something about empowering people through education**

**W**hen the United Nations (UN) declared 1990 as International Literacy Year, millions of people throughout the world who cannot read and write thought something was being done to help them at last.

All countries which are members of the UN were expected to draw up programmes to fight illiteracy. For the next 10 years, these countries would focus their attention on literacy.

In 1990, nine million South Africans could not read and write. This means one out of every two adults were illiterate.

It is now almost four years since that declaration and very little has been done, especially

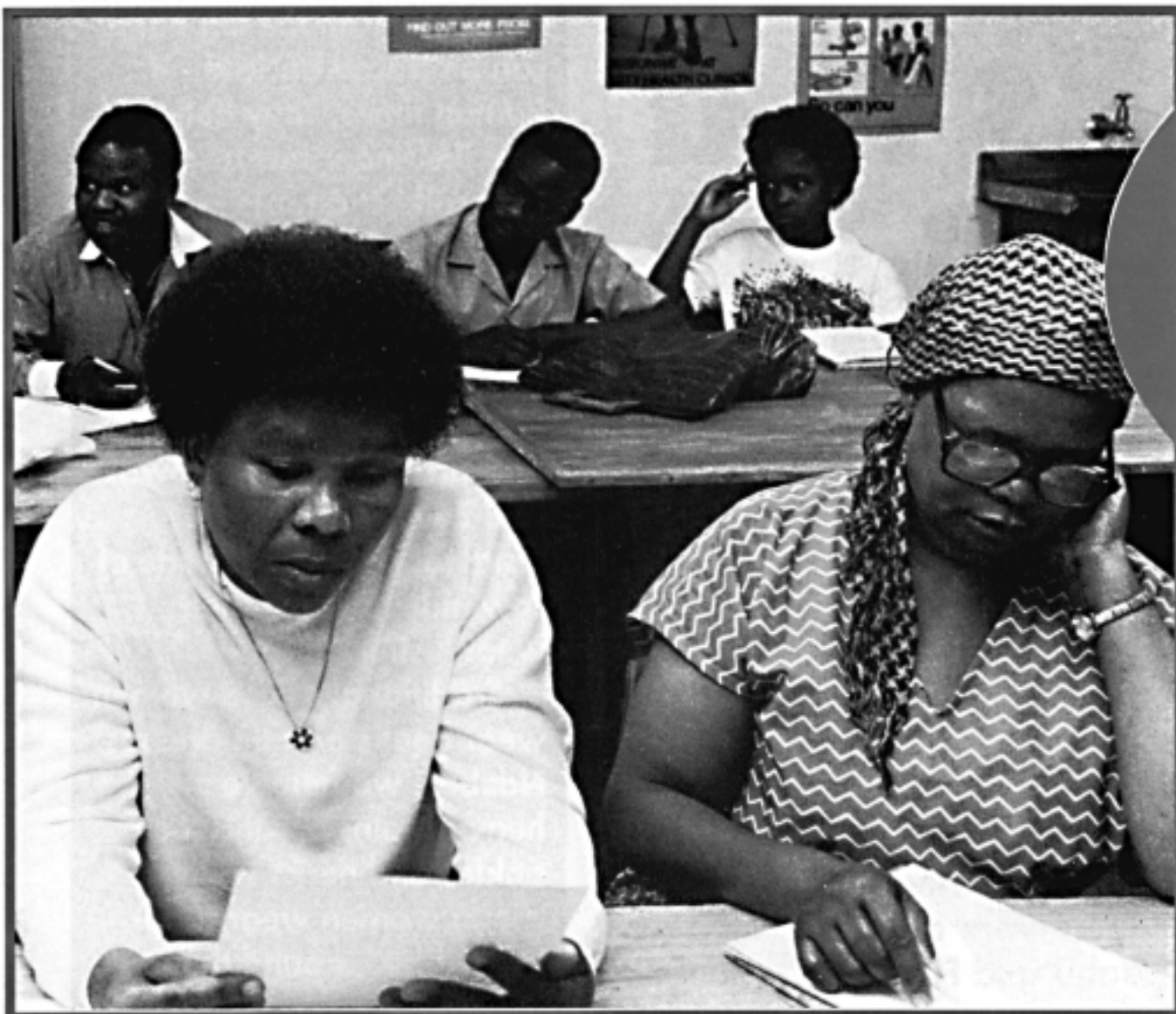
in South Africa.

Between 11 and 15 million South Africans still cannot read and write. The majority of these are women.

September 8 has been set aside as International Literacy Day. On this day, people all over the world come together to raise awareness on illiteracy and discuss ways of fighting it. South Africa joins the rest of the world in celebrating this day.

## **The government and illiteracy**

In the past, adult education was neglected. Most adult education work is done by non-governmental organisations (NGOs), trade unions and



If you need more information on where you can find the nearest literacy project in your area, write to:  
**National Literacy Co-operation**  
 6th Floor, Randkom House  
 176 Smit Street  
 Braamfontein  
 Johannesburg  
 Telephone: (011) 403 7657 or  
 (011) 711 2464

***Many women have not been given the chance to go to school. As a result, the majority of people who cannot read or write are women***

political organisations.

But these organisations cannot continue to carry this big task alone. It's about time the government — which has the necessary resources — joined hands with these organisations.

The government needs to explain its policy and plans and how much money it is prepared to spend on this.

Quality education should be provided for those who need it. This can only be done if those involved work together.

Black women in South Africa have been most disadvantaged. Apart from suffering triple oppression, they have had to fight hard for their rights as women.

In our patriarchal society, girls do not have the same opportunities as boys. Most parents chose to send their sons to school rather than their daughters. As a result, many women missed the chance of going to

school. The majority of people who cannot read and write are women.

There are also thousands of children roaming the streets who should be in school. Only 25 percent of children living on farms attend school. In most cases, there are no schools for them and many of them are used as cheap labour.

If children don't get an education, the future of this country will suffer. Children are a country's biggest investment and, if South Africa fails to address this problem now, it will be a disaster.

## **Community literacy**

We need a community-based literacy programme which will reach people in urban, rural and resettlement areas.

Although there are several literacy programmes throughout

the country, only 10 percent of people who cannot read and write attend these classes. More needs to be done to encourage people to attend such programmes.

At the same time, the government needs to pass laws to make education free and compulsory.

When people can read and write, they are aware of their rights. And they can defend them with a lot of dignity. We want to bring back the dignity in our society and we can only do this through education.

We have to continue to fight illiteracy. We know that knowledge gives us power. It gives us the power to negotiate; the power to fight; the power to run businesses; the power to help others.

Ruby Manikom, a woman from India, said: "If you educate a man you educate one person. If you educate a women you educate a family". ☼

# What's in a wedding ring?

## To wear or not to wear

Why do some people wear rings when they get married or engaged? Why do others not? *Thenjiwe Nhlapo* went to find out what wedding rings mean to different people

**SPEAK: Should married people wear and exchange rings?**

**Jabu and Fikile:** Partners should exchange and wear rings. It is a symbol of commitment. It shows a difference between married and single people.

**Thami and Rose (recently married):** A ring does not signify love and is purely a western tradition.

**Sue (a journalist):** It is an individual choice whether couples exchange and wear rings, but they should know what the ring means to them.

**Susan (married but does not wear a ring):** There should be a mutual understanding. Generally people wear rings because it is expected of them.

**Phyllis (a married Anglican Church Deacon):** I didn't buy my husband a ring for financial reasons, but that does not mean I love him any less.

**Khotso (a Catholic priest):** Yes, wearing rings symbolises that the couple have become one in God's eyes.

**SPEAK: In your opinion, do**

**more married women than men wear rings?**

**Jabu and Fikile:** Yes, definitely. A ring protects a woman to some extent. An admirer will think twice before making a move on a married woman.

**Sue:** Absolutely, it gives some women a feeling of not being "jong ou noois" and having someone in their lives.

**Susan:** More women wear rings for traditional reasons. It shows that a woman belongs to someone and is not available.

**Phyllis:** More women than men wear rings because women are classified by rings and it somehow gives them respect and security.

**Are men who wear wedding rings protected in any way?**

**Jabu and Fikile:** Men feel it is irrelevant to wear rings because they are the ones who initiate relationships.

**Thami and Rose:** Wearing rings do not really protect men, but it helps discourage them from temptation.

**Sue:** Men don't suffer from the

The wearing of a ring on the third finger on the left hand can be traced back to Roman times. They believed that the finger has a special vein called "amoris — the vein of love" leading straight to the heart.

In most South African cultures, however, a ring does not signify marriage.

Married traditional Swazi and Zulu women wear "isidwaba", a skirt made of cow hide. Zulu women wear "isitolo".

Traditional Xhosa women wear doeks or long dresses. Ndebele women wear heavy chains around their ankles and necks while Hindu women wear a ribbon "thali" around the neck.

On the whole, women traditionally wear something to show they are married, not men.

same problem of harassment as women do — so they need less protection. A man who wears a wedding ring usually does so more to show his commitment to his wife than for protection.

**Khotso:** Men who wear rings also drive away would-be admirers, although some people don't see the wearing of a ring as a sign of commitment to someone.

**Phyllis:** A person who wears a wedding ring is not necessarily going to be faithful.

**Are wedding rings just part of Western culture?**

**Jabu and Fikile:** Wearing a ring these days is more of a fashion statement. In African culture, wearing rings is not an issue.



**Sue:** It becomes a problem when wedding rings are bought to show wealth rather than a commitment to each other. They lose their meaning.

**What does wearing a ring mean to you personally?**

**Fikile:** Most of us wear rings because it is the thing to do, it's fashionable.

**Jabu:** It does not mean anything to me. I'm a staunch believer in black culture — honesty counts more than a ring.

**Rose:** I feel sentimental about it because my husband bought it for me. It's a wonderful feeling to receive gifts from your loved one.

**Sue:** I'm not married so I don't wear a ring. But when I do, I'll wear one. Wearing a ring is part of the whole reason for getting married. But, if I get a wedding ring, I might as well get a nice one — as actress Marilyn Monroe sang, "Diamonds are a girl's best friend".

**Susan:** "I don't wear a wedding ring or use my husband's sur-

name. I feel more comfortable with it this way. At some point I might wear a wedding ring, but I won't change my name as I see no point in it. I like people to see me as an individual — not as someone's wife. It allows me to keep my own, separate identity.

**Phyllis:** I wear a ring which just shows I'm a married woman, nothing unusual.

**Khotso:** Couples should do what they feel is correct to show their commitment. If they do not feel it is necessary to wear rings, then they should not do so. ★





# Dynamite Duarte

**Jessie Duarte embodies dynamism and guts, determination and compassion — all of which she needs to be the PWV's Minister of Safety and Security — probably the province's most difficult job. *SPEAK* managed to steal some time from her hectic schedule**

**T**he PWV's new Minister of Safety and Security, Jessie Duarte is a woman with a positive outlook on life. She is a rap-loving socialist and calls herself a feminist. She is prepared to rock the boat when it comes to her politics, job and life.

Duarte finds her new job a challenge she could not resist. I found that out for myself when she had to cancel our first appointment and could only talk to me on a cold Saturday afternoon. The interview was well worth the wait.

Duarte has been a political activist since she was a teenager. She grew up in a family where politics was a way of life.

"My grandmother was a socialist in her beliefs and actions. She had the most influence on me as a child and through my teenage years.

"I started out being active in the residents association in Newclare, Johannesburg, where I grew up. I moved from there into my first years of real political activity. I got involved with the Labour Party," she remembered.

It was the same Labour Party that later joined the tricameral parliament in 1983. Duarte had left the party many years earlier, in 1969.

Duarte continued the struggle against apartheid and the fight for non-sexism.

In 1982, she was elected secretary of the Federation of Transvaal Women (Fedtraw) and was twice elected its representative in the United Democratic Front (UDF).

## ON WOMEN'S ORGANISATION

"I believe there is a need for women to be separately organised. When I was a women's representative on the UDF, somehow the voice of women was organised and heard in that forum," she said.

For almost a decade Duarte has remained involved in women's organisations and attempts to build a national women's movement. She believes the Women's National Coalition tried to do this, but failed.

"Unfortunately the Coalition tended to raise more

issues of the middle class instead of issues affecting working, unemployed and women who are not organised.

"They did have a vision. I applaud that. If it was not for the coalition, we would not have clauses in the constitution that recognise the special problems of women.

"What we need is a women's movement that looks at all the needs of women. We need a national women's movement that will give strength to different groups of women," Duarte said.

## ON MOTHERHOOD

Like most other women, Duarte has also played her role as a mother.

"I don't like it when women's role as mothers is overemphasised. However, the reality is that I still have those tasks. Even though I'm Provincial Minister for Safety and Security, I still have to make sure that my family is taken care of. As a woman, I still have to fight a struggle in a male dominated world."

Through all this, Duarte has had the support of her family: "I feel I have achieved a situation in my family where we all share the tasks. The pressure on me to be the mother figure is not so much there."

But this is not true for every woman. Women themselves are partly to blame for this, she says.

"We are not saying what our problems are. We are not making a list of issues that need to be addressed. We are not saying triple oppression still exists.

## ON GENDER EQUALITY

"We have educated men on the language of gender equality but we haven't actually educated them on the reality of gender equality. Even if the constitution says we are equal, without solid organisation we are not going to achieve equality."

Duarte is keen to work with other women in parliament to make sure that equality becomes a reality.

"I would like to see women in parliament raising issues from a women's perspective. I see myself raising

**Duarte at a women's conference some years ago: "Even if the constitution says women are equal, without solid organisation we are not going to achieve equality," she says.**



Photo: Phumla Radeu

the profile of women within the police force," she said.

### ON THE POLICE SERVICE

What is the position of women in the police service? "Women are not getting any kind of opportunity to rise. There is one woman brigadier in this province and women make up about 30 percent of the service. Women are expected to look feminine and are not practically equipped to deal with their job. They just have to look right.

"There are no childcare facilities available for women police who work night shift. The women still do the secretarial work and only a few are on active duty."

Duarte knows she has a tough job ahead of her. She not only has to deal with sexism, but racism as well.

She plans to deal with these issues as part of an affirmative action programme. "We've got to give special attention to women, black women in particular. I have to make sure that black people in general are also affirmed."

It is not only relationships within the police service that need changing, but those between communities and the police.

"Community policing is about the community taking control of how they want to be protected by a service for which they pay out of their tax money."

### ON CRIME

One of the issues Duarte has to deal with as a matter of urgency is how to free people from the fear of crime.

"Take Soweto for instance. They need protection and freedom from fear of crime. People fear crime more than there is crime. To get rid of this fear, the community and the police have to decide together how to deal with crime," she argued.

The process of getting the community involved in

policing has already begun.

"The Community Policing Forums (CPFs) educate people about the laws and their rights. People still see the police as that old enemy. CPFs are a way of letting communities own the service," Duarte explained.

"We also need workshops run by women's organisations to give the police an understanding of gender issues."

### ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Duarte is worried about domestic violence.

"What the police have to understand is that abuse of any person is abuse. If a person reports that as a crime, they need to arrest and charge the person," she said.

But the responsibility of stopping domestic violence does rest only on the shoulders of the police.

"A lot of this abuse is seen as part and parcel of a good marriage. I've heard comments like 'if my husband does not beat me it means he does not love me'."

"Women have to recognise they have rights and they have to learn to use those rights. The issue has to be taken up by the communities themselves. If you hear your neighbour being beaten up, you must try to help. The constitution and the Bill of Rights will also help," she added.

### ON GUNS

She says too many people in South Africa own guns, legally or illegally.

For Duarte, reducing the number of guns, and therefore violence, is a real problem: "If you give people licensed firearms, it could become a way of discouraging criminals. On the other hand, you are putting guns in the hands of people to kill other people."

She said: "I have to do it slowly. I have to first deal



Photo: Phumla Radu

**Duarte being congratulated by PWV premier after being sworn in as the province's new Minister of Safety and Security**

with illegal firearms. Then I have to provide safety and security to such an extent that people don't need to apply for licences anymore. But while the one is not there, I cannot take away the other."

Duarte believes crime has nothing to do with race: "I resent this idea that black townships are violent. I find it more violent to live where I'm living now than I did in Riverlea. In the 15 years I was living there, my life was never threatened. But I have been threatened in Yeoville several times."

## ON RAPE

"There's nothing at the moment that makes a woman feel safe anywhere. One way we can begin to develop better security for women against crimes like rape is more education for women on how to protect themselves. But we also have to train police to protect women," she added.

Rape is a big worry for Duarte. "The number of rapes that occur in the family is on the increase and it is happening to very young children. I read a story where a young girl was raped and, when the man was convicted, the family blamed the girl because the rapist was the breadwinner."

According to police statistics, 221 children, including toddlers, have been raped in Soweto since the beginning of the year.

"We need to take a well-run education programme into schools, factories, television, radio — you name it.

"Many people, even women, do not have a real understanding of the tragedy of rape. I've heard many women say 'it's her fault because of the way she was dressed', 'she asked for it' or 'she seduced the man'."

Rape becomes even more of a tragedy because of HIV and AIDS.

"Rape is contributing to the spread of HIV and AIDS

but we are failing to get to the communities successfully with education around it."

Duarte, who describes herself as someone with firm and definite beliefs, is not shy to say what she thinks about issues others avoid.

She believes society must be liberated to accept the rights of gays and lesbians. She also feels a woman should have the right to have control over her own body.

## ON PROSTITUTION

On prostitution, Duarte said: "Prostitution is the oldest profession. In the old days, prostitutes were stoned, but that did not end it. It is the way some women make a living. We have to find a way to make it healthy and safe. We have to protect women from being exploited by pimps and police who buy the services or get them as favours for not making arrests."

"I would want to see some kind of an age limit. The present legal age in countries where prostitution is legal, is 18. We need to work towards a situation where we can perhaps suggest it be legalised," she added.

Duarte, a lover of rap music, thinks Shabba Ranks harasses people with his music: "I don't think he should be allowed to be a musician. He is sexist. I prefer Queen Latiefa and Arrested Development."

## ON RETIREMENT

When she retires, Duarte, who is also a poet, wishes to write books. But there are really only three wishes she would like to be granted in her lifetime: "I would like to see more women in powerful positions. I wish there would be a way to deal with homeless children. I don't have the answer and I feel so powerless. I wish there was a magical solution. Lastly, I wish I could find enough time to read because I have none," she laughed. ☼

# How the media selects violence

The media is not fair in their coverage of violence against women, writes *Chiara Carter*

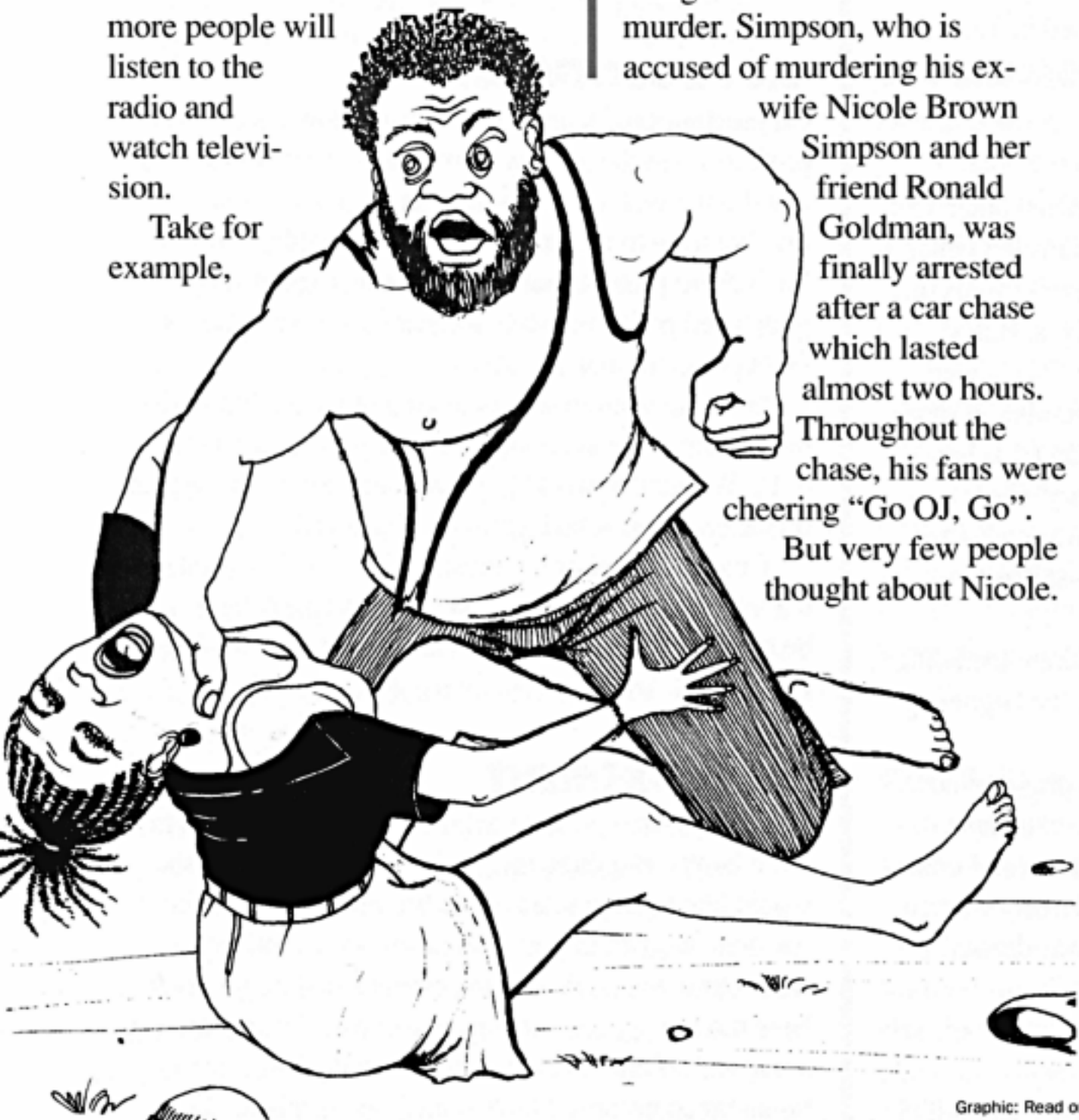
**C**ourt cases in which famous men (and sometimes women) are charged with violence against women always make headline news. In fact the more sensational and shocking they are, the better for newspaper sales. It means more people will listen to the radio and watch television.

Take for example,

American sports hero OJ Simpson's double murder case in June. The case was given so much publicity with the focus on OJ Simpson and not the crime. Millions of people watched a televised police chase. The police wanted to arrest him and charge him with two counts of murder. Simpson, who is accused of murdering his ex-

wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman, was finally arrested after a car chase which lasted almost two hours. Throughout the chase, his fans were cheering "Go OJ, Go".

But very few people thought about Nicole.



Graphic: Read on

Her friends claim she was a battered wife. Her husband had numerous affairs during their marriage. He had threatened to kill her and although she had reported to the police several times, nothing was done about her abusive husband. Was this because he is famous?

Simpson's fans felt sorry for their hero. After all, he grew up poor in San Francisco. He went on to be a successful American football player and earned a lot of money. He also worked hard as a sports commentator and actor.

Although Simpson has pleaded not guilty to the horrible double murder, he is not the first American "star" to end up in court charged with violence against women. In 1992, world boxing champion Mike Tyson was sentenced to six years in prison for raping beauty queen Desiree Washington. It was a "date rape" case that drew international attention. Most of his supporters still think he was wrongly charged and convicted. He still denies that he raped Washington and has refused to apologise for the crime.

**W**illiam Smith of the famous Kennedy family, was charged for raping a woman he brought home to the family mansion after he had been drinking. He was however acquitted.

In South Africa, the trial of radio journalist Brett Hilton-Barber, who was accused of raping and assaulting Natalie Holmes, drew a lot of attention.

Holmes told the court that Hilton-Barber assaulted and raped her in the mailroom at Radio 702. He also forced her to have anal sex, she said. In his

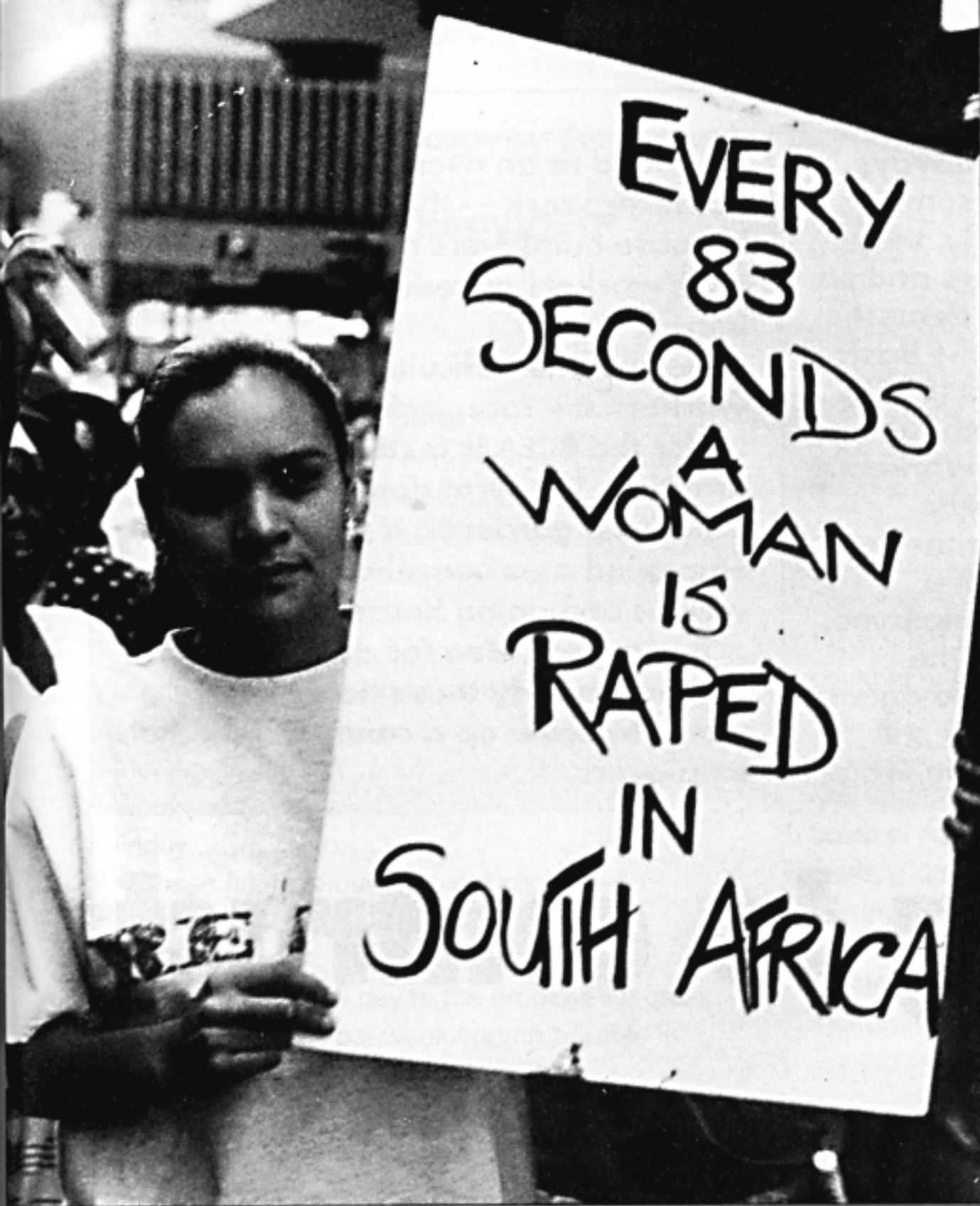


Photo: Elmond Jiyane

defence, Hilton-Barber said Holmes had agreed to have sex with him.

The magistrate found Hilton-Barber not guilty of raping Holmes. In his judgement, he said there was no way Hilton-Barber could have raped her when he could have had sex with her anytime he wanted.

After the case, Hilton-Barber said he felt sorry for the real rape victims. He said his name had been dragged in the mud and pleaded with the media to give him time to re-build his damaged public image.

The comment shows how the media treats rape cases.

Everyday, courts in this country hear many cases of rape and violence against women.

But most of these are never covered in the media. It is only when famous people are involved in such cases, that the public reads or hears about them. If the victim is middle-class and rich there is more publicity given to the case than that involving ordinary poor people.

**D**oesn't it make sense to give all cases equal coverage to help raise awareness on how bad rape and violence against women are? These women's rights have been violated and they need all the support they can get. But sometimes even their own families do not give them the support they need.

In South Africa, marital rape

## A few places you can contact

- Centre for Peace Action, Eldorado Park  
Telephone: (011) 342 3840
- Advice Desk For Abused Women, University of Durban Westville  
Telephone: (031) 820 2862
- Laudium Advice Office, Pretoria  
Telephone: (012) 397 4792
- Agishanang, Alexandra Clinic  
Telephone: (011) 440 1231
- Salvation Army's Shelter for Battered Women, Cape Town  
Telephone: (021) 696 0787
- South African Police Services  
Telephone: 10111

is now a crime. So is date rape. A special court which deals with rape cases has been established in Cape Town and in Johannesburg there is a team of prosecutors who focus on rape and child abuse cases. It has also become easier for women to get court orders stopping their partners/husbands from assaulting them.

Several organisations are helping victims of violence and rape survivors.

The way our legal system deals with cases of violence against women is changing. What remains to be seen is whether the media too will change the way it sees women and how it deals with cases of violence against them. ☘

**D**omestic workers have always been treated badly by some employers. Until recently, they have had no rights as workers and no protection by the law. Today domestic workers are included under the Basic Conditions of Employment Act (BCEA). The BCEA Act provides for both full-time and part-time domestic workers.

With the inclusion of domestic workers in the BCEA Act, no consideration is given to the relationship between the employer and employee. Employers continue to dictate the terms and conditions of employment. For example, the wage issue is still under debate. A fixed minimum wage

may lead to an overall reduction of domestic work — this may happen because employers may either dismiss their workers or reduce their hours of work.

Despite the difficulties domestic workers still face, including them under the BCEA is a step in the right direction. The term domestic worker includes a gardener, a person employed as a household driver, as well as one doing household work.

It is a good idea for domestic workers, particularly those doing casual work, to draw up a contract with their employers.

# Working to contract



**Here is a suggested contract for a regular day worker**

**Contract of employment**

between  
 (name of employer) ..... and  
 (name of employee).....

**1. DAYS AND HOURS OF WORK**

(Maximum number of ordinary working hours each day, example, 9 and a half hours)

The employee undertakes to work for the employer for the following hours on the following days of each week/month : .....

.....

*(State days and hours per week)*

for example:

Monday ..... to .....

Wednesday .... to .....

Friday ..... to .....

- *These hours should not include breaks*

**2. SALARY**

The employer shall pay to the employee a cash amount of R..... per week/month payable in arrears on the last working day of the week/month.

**3. OVERTIME**

The employee undertakes to work no more than 3 hours overtime per day when required by the employer upon reasonable notice to do so, provided that the maximum overtime worked by the employee in any week shall not exceed 10 hours. The rate for overtime shall be calculated at one and a third times the hourly rate of pay.

**4. WORK ON SUNDAYS**

If the employee works on a Sunday for 4 hours or less s/he will be paid not less than a day's pay. If the employee has worked longer s/he will be paid either:

- 4.1** Her/his salary for two days or at double her/his rate of pay for the whole time worked; or
- 4.2** One and a third normal pay rate for the whole day worked and be granted one day's leave on full pay within 7 day of such Sunday.

**5. PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**

If any of the state public holidays falls on a day which is an ordinary working day for the employee,

the employee shall be entitled to paid leave for that particular holiday.

If the employee works on any public holiday s/he shall be paid either:

- 5.1** double her/his normal rate of pay; or
- 5.2** one and a third normal pay and the employee shall be entitled to a day's leave within 7 days of working on that particular holiday.

**6. MEAL BREAKS**

The employee shall be granted a half hour lunch break after not more than 5 hours' work on any day that s/he works.

**7. LEAVE**

The employee shall be granted one working day's leave of absence on full pay in respect of every 26 working days for which s/he has been employed by the employer.

**8. SICK LEAVE**

The employer shall grant the employee who is absent from work through incapacity, one working day's sick leave on full pay in respect of every 26 working days for which s/he has been employed by such an employer.

**9. NOTICE**

The employer or the employee shall give the other one week's/month's written notice to terminate this agreement. This notice must be given on or before the 1st day of such week/month.

- *Delete which is applicable — one week's notice if an employee is paid every week or one month's notice if an employee is paid monthly.*

Signed at ..... on .....1994

.....

(Name of Employer)

(The employee acknowledges that this agreement has been interpreted into her/his language namely

.....

by..... on ..... and that s/he understands the contents hereof.

# When women are girls and men are men

## It's time to sweep sexism out of our language, writes *Karen Hurt*

**O**ne school term I was the joke of the English department in which I taught. Being the feminist I was (and still am), I always set English grammar questions which I hoped would challenge female and male stereotypes. Correct the mistakes in the following sentence, went the question I asked, which caused all the fun:

*The sailor had a leek in her boat and the water came in.*

Thirty-three students out of 33 duly answered:

*The sailor had a leek in his*

*boat and the water came in.*

My colleagues thought this very funny. I saw the funny side and laughed along, but also felt a bit sad. Did not one of my students imagine a woman could be a sailor? And surely they knew a leek was a vegetable?

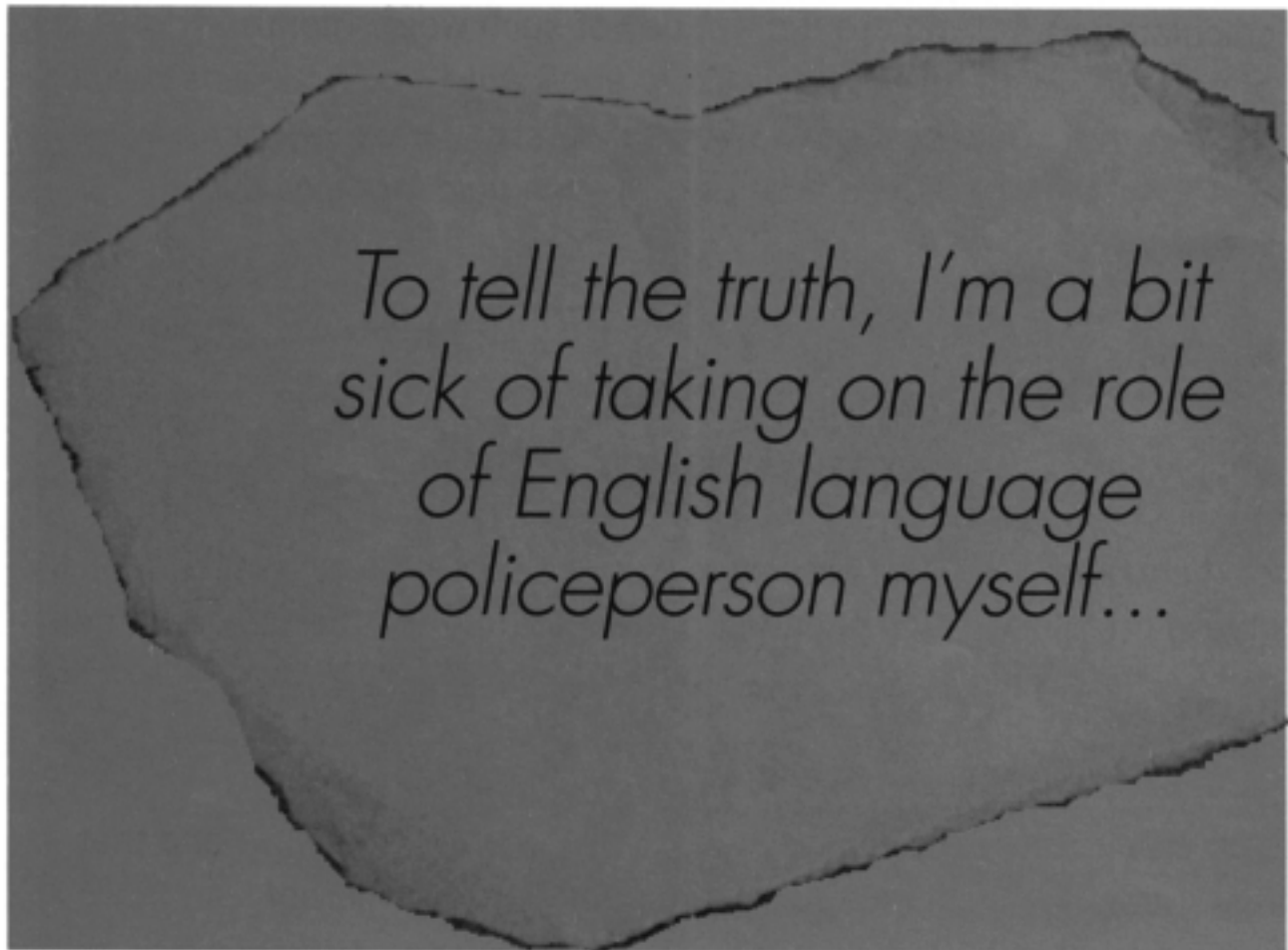
Some of my male friends, I can tell, are sick and tired of me correcting their sexist language. To tell the truth, I'm a bit sick of taking on the role of English language policeperson myself. I don't see myself as perfect, make no mistake. We all carry around a lot of prejudice. The

question is, isn't it time every one of us paid more attention to what the words we say really mean? It is just too easy for men to say: "When I am talking about mankind, *of course* I mean women as well," as if you are being ridiculous when you complain. When they (men) say: "Why don't all the men go to the bar for a drink," do they, by the same token, mean the women should go as well?

**C**reative people, probably women, have done a bit of thinking around sexism in language. They have dusted off some old words and created some new.

The idea is that a common word is used for a job done by men or women. For example, fireman becomes firefighter; cameraman becomes camera operator; steward and stewardess becomes flight attendant; postman becomes post deliverer, and so on.

People often add the word male or female to certain jobs, especially when the jobs are seen as mainly male or female. This encourages us to



*To tell the truth, I'm a bit sick of taking on the role of English language policeperson myself...*



*Then there are words  
that have a lot of men in  
them. Chairman,  
manpower, manmade,  
mankind, spokesman,  
the list is endless...*

think that certain jobs should or shouldn't be for you, depending on your sex. You hear people talk of a male nurse, for example, yet a woman is called a nurse. The same goes for engineer. Men are called engineers, but people will usually talk of a woman engineer. You hear people talk about a doctor as a man. If the doctor is a woman they will say "My woman doctor says ...". Women commercial sex workers are called prostitutes, but a man who does the same job is called a male prostitute. The suggestion is that one common word should be used for the person. So both men and women are nurses, engineers, prostitutes or whatever.

Women and men should be put in an equal way, but very often they are not. For example, women are encouraged to take part in beauty competitions at work while men play in the company's sports team. Women are referred to as "the girls at work. Aren't the girls beautiful?" These are sentences we often hear, even when people are talking about adult women.

Adult males are always "men." Why is that?

Then there are words that have a lot of men in them. Chairman, manpower, manmade, mankind, spokesman, the list is endless. Many words can change to being non-sexist by taking the 'man' away and putting 'person' in. So we get chairperson, spokesperson and so on. Instead of mankind we can talk about humankind, people or humanity.

**S**ome women have gone further with words. They want the **men** part out of **women**. Instead, they write **womyn**. Another one is **history**. They say **herstory**. We could go on all day once we start. In fact, it can be a lot of fun.

The point is that much of the English language either oppresses women or denies they exist. It's time for both men and women to get rid of the words we don't need in our lives anymore. Let's each pick up a broom and sweep that sexist language out of our vocabulary. ☛

# WORD WATCH

**Perhaps you'd like to send in suggestions for changing sexist words in our different languages in our brand new country?**

**Send them to:**

**"Wordwatch"  
SPEAK  
PO Box 556  
Johannesburg  
2000  
South Africa.**

**We'll publish the good ones.  
The winner will receive an English dictionary.  
Unfortunately, it will probably still have some of the old-fashioned, sexist words.**

# Building hope out of horror

**What has violence done to the minds and lives of our children? Ruth Bhengu is one of the people who is trying to find out. By Lakela Kaunda**

In 1991 a boy Ruth Bhengu knew very well fired shots at her car while she was driving in Imbali township outside Pietermaritzburg. She wondered why a child who was well brought up had started to shoot at passing cars? This made her want to find out what the violence was doing to the minds of children, and how she could help.

Even if the war in Imbali — which was at its worst between 1985 and 1992 — is really over, the emotional wounds are not. Thousands of survivors need help of all kinds. An organisation of which Ruth Bhengu is both co-founder and co-ordinator has been set up to help. The Imbali Rehabilitation Programme (IRP) is working to assist the survivors of violence, especially the children.

With the decrease in violence, children with post-traumatic stress (PTS) may be forgotten, says Bhengu.

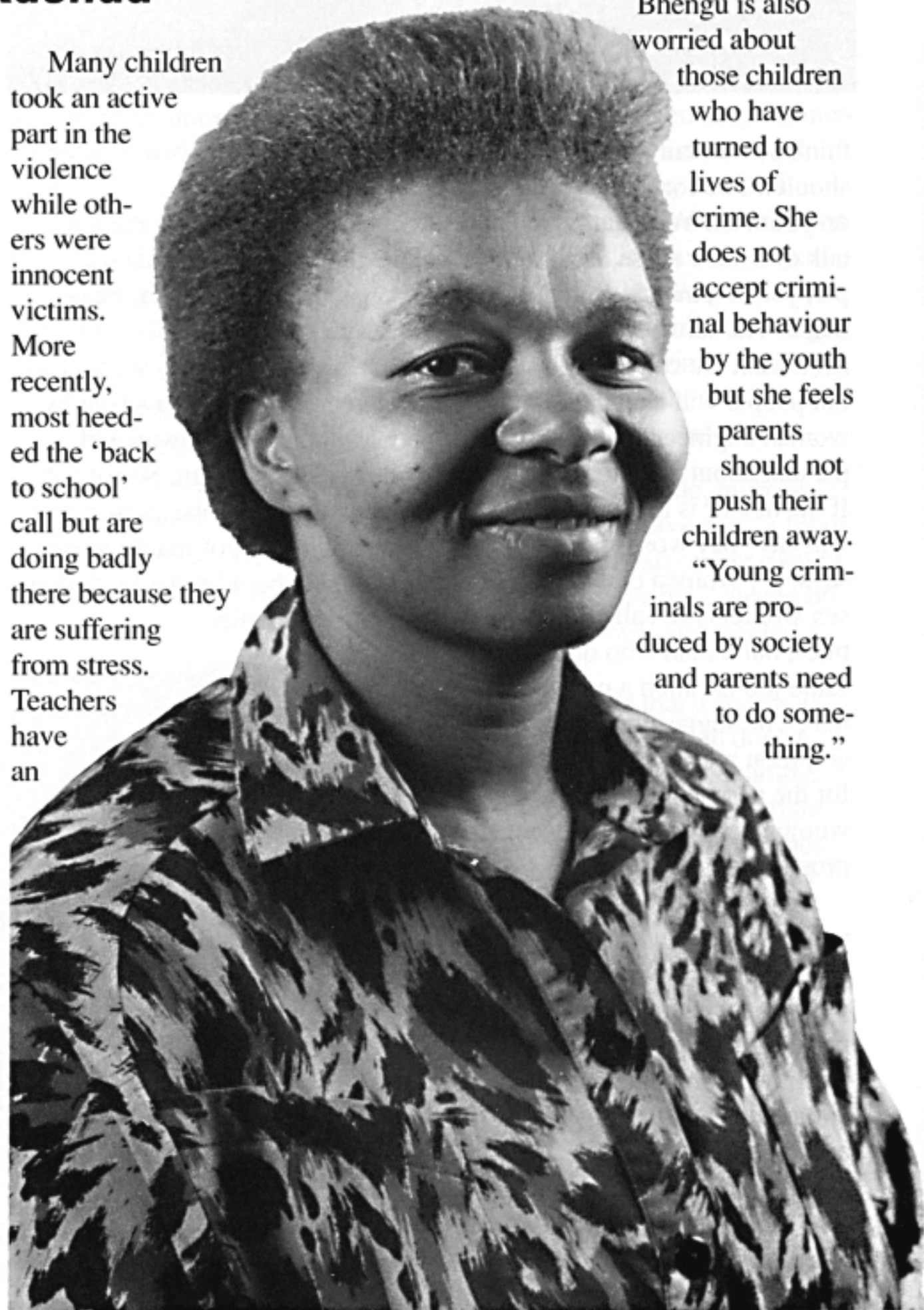
PTS is caused by the fears that exist in the minds of people after living through terrible events. This stress can affect the lives of sufferers for many years.

Many children took an active part in the violence while others were innocent victims. More recently, most heeded the 'back to school' call but are doing badly there because they are suffering from stress. Teachers have an

important role to play here, says Bhengu.

"If teachers are not trained to identify children with post-traumatic stress and are not given the skills to work with them, the teachers will be frustrated and so will the children. In the end, the victims will get blamed. If a child cannot sleep at night because of nightmares and then sleeps in class, the teacher will think the child is lazy. The child will have no support system and will run away from school."

Bhengu is also worried about those children who have turned to lives of crime. She does not accept criminal behaviour by the youth but she feels parents should not push their children away. "Young criminals are produced by society and parents need to do something."





**Ruth Bhengu (left) and (above) with Nomusa Zuma and Skhumbuzo Mvelase with the book, written by young people, which they were involved in**

The IRP involves the youth in programmes of drama, creative writing and music to help them deal with PTS. Out of this has come a book, "Ayofezeka Amaphupho — Dreams Will Come True", written by 13 youths. The book is a collection of stories about their lives and how violence affected them. Writing the book was part of the therapy to help them heal. It got them to pour out their frustrations. The group will be performing plays and holding music shows in their communities as a way of making some money.

The IRP has built links with other organisations, institutions and individuals in its effort to help understand and deal with the huge problem facing the

youth. In one case, they were able to get 47 matriculants who were sitting at home to be admitted to a science programme at the University of Natal.

**I**mbali teachers, principals and the IRP met with the Department of Education to set up a matric finishing school to give another chance to those who failed matric.

Bhengu is also involved with the Natal Programme for Survivors of Violence. They plan to link with psychology departments of universities. Some academics have been asked to run training programmes for teachers and parents to identify needs of children who have survived violence. ☪

## A bit about Bhengu

Ruth Bhengu was born in Harding in Southern Natal. Her mother was a domestic worker and her father a mineworker. She learnt to stand up for what she believed in from her grandfather, who she never met. Bhengu tells why: "My grandfather was sentenced to death because he fought with a white man and killed him. The man had treated my grandfather like a small boy and trampled upon him. Although I would not approve of his actions, I am proud of him because he saw himself as a person who would fight any form of dehumanisation. That inspired me."

Bhengu has been a community worker since 1984. She trained in community development at the Wilgespruit Fellowship Centre in Roodepoort. She also studied people-centred development at the Cordi International Institute in Canada.

Women's emancipation is top on her agenda and she is co-chairperson of the Natal Midlands Women's National Coalition. Change cannot be brought about by producing a new constitution only, she says, but by changing attitudes towards women.

Bhengu looks forward to the day when advantaged women will begin to fight for the development of disadvantaged women. She explains: "In most cases, less educated women and less privileged women are expected to join forces with advantaged women when fighting gender oppression. When it comes to fighting racial and class oppression, the advantaged women resist. They see no oppression beyond gender."

Bhengu is also actively involved in local government negotiations in Pietermaritzburg.

Her main interest, however, remains helping children to deal with and heal from the horrors of the violence they have experienced.



# Moms battle for benefits

**What are maternity benefits like in South Africa? SPEAK takes a critical look. By Trudy Wagenstroom**

**M**any women are single parents and many are also the family's sole breadwinner. It is a woman's right to have maternity benefits and leave which give them the dignity they deserve.

Maternity benefits are covered by the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF). It is a fund run by the government and controlled by a Board. The UIF offers benefits in the form of cheque payouts for maternity leave, unemployment, illness and, for dependants, after death. Payouts are also given when a

child under the age of two is adopted.

Not everybody can claim from the Fund. Only those who have contributed to the fund each month qualify for these benefits.

At present, domestic workers, public service workers (not local authority workers), casual workers who work less than eight hours a day, those who are self-employed, and those who earn over R58 188 a year do not qualify.

Let's take a look at the system of maternity benefits.

## International standards

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) sets minimum conditions and standards for the world on issues of concern to workers. A woman's right to paid maternity leave was one of the earliest rules to be adopted by the ILO. This was done to make sure a woman worker is able to support herself and her baby before and after she has given birth.

The minimum ILO maternity conditions are that women should:

- Not receive less than two thirds of their previous earnings;
- Not work for a certain period (3 to 6 months);
- Receive cash payments for maternity benefits;
- Get their jobs back after maternity leave;
- Be allowed to make special arrangements for their babies, for example, with breastfeeding.

## Back at home

Maternity benefits have improved in some ways in South Africa. For example, women can get maternity leave payouts for 6 months instead of three.

But there are still lots of problems:

- Women are not allowed to get more than one third of their earnings from their employer while on maternity leave. If they do, the UIF fund will not give them maternity benefits. This is called the 'one third rule' in the Unemployment Insurance Act.
- Women are often treated badly when they visit regional UIF offices.

## How to apply for maternity benefits

The documents you need:

1. Record card (blue card)  
Your employer should have it. Ask for it when you go on maternity leave.
2. Identity document or reference book
3. Bank account number  
The cheque can be posted to you if you do not have a bank account.

Steps to follow:

1. Your record card must be filled in by your employer. They must also fill in a form called UF125 with details on how much you earn and from when you worked for them.
2. Collect a form called UF92 from the Department of Labour (Manpower). If there is no Department of Labour near you, then you can get it at a magistrates office.
3. Fill in your application on form UF92. The medical certificate in form UF92 must be

filled in by a doctor.

4. Take the UF92 and your record card to the department where you got the forms from. They will only pay you when you have shown them your completed record card.
5. You will then receive form UF93 which you must complete and return to the same office. If your baby is already born when you fill in your forms, you may be asked by the department official to fill in more than one UF93.
6. You will receive a cheque about six to eight weeks after the birth of your baby. If you go to collect the cheque, you must always take your record card and ID with you. If you want someone else to collect your cheque for you, you must write a letter giving them permission to do so. They must then take the letter of permission, your record card, your ID and their ID with them.

- Officials often do not know how the system works, causing hours of time wasted at the offices.
- Urban women have to wait for about six weeks before they receive any payments.
- In the Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and the Ciskei, and throughout South Africa's rural areas, women have to wait even longer. They face many problems, including transport difficulties and officials misplacing forms which applicants have to fill in again.
- *At the time of writing, Trudy Wagenstroom was a researcher at NALEDI (National Labour and Economic Development Institute), the Congress of South African Trade Union's (Cosatu) research institute. The views expressed are the writer's and not necessarily COSATU's.*

## Conditions of payment

**I**n order to qualify for maternity benefits, you must have contributed to the fund for at least 13 weeks within the 52 weeks (about one year) before going on maternity leave.

You will receive 45% of the amount you earned in your last week before going on maternity leave.

You will receive one week's benefit for every six week's worked. You can receive a maximum of six months maternity benefit if you have contributed to the UIF for at least three years.

## New Board

The present UIF Board ends its term of office in October 1994. We need a new Board which is sensitive to the experiences of women. Women who are able to influence and change the way women are treated should sit on the board. A new UIF Board must look at things in a new, progressive light.

Questions which need to be asked:

- Why are women (and children) punished by making them live on less money during maternity leave? This is a time when they really need more money.
- Why are women expected to put up with delays in getting their money?
- The majority of pregnant women in South Africa do not qualify for maternity benefits. Why?

## Women's Demands

- The scrapping of the 'one third rule';
- That more women are represented on the UIF Board;
- An easier and quicker way for women to get their payments;
- Trained and polite officials to deal with people;
- Maternity benefits for those not covered by UIF;
- That the Department of Labour employ more black women officials.
- That people are able to claim benefits and discuss problems in their home language;
- Maternity benefits for domestic workers.
- *At the time of going to print, it was unclear how nominations for the UIF Board will take place. Keep an eye open for this. You may be able to submit names of women you think would push women's interests on the Board.*

# Face to face with AIDS

● **Don, a migrant worker who lives in a hostel in Jeppestown, Johannesburg, was recently told by his doctor that he is HIV positive.**

*Don's attitude to this was: "I do not want to practice safe sex for two reasons. Whether I practice safer sex or not, I will die anyway. So why should I bother?"*

*"When I go back home to Natal, how do I explain to my wife why I am wearing a condom."*

**SPEAK:** We can understand that you must be feeling very angry and it may help if you get counselling. It would be wrong, because you are angry, to put your family at risk. You have no choice but to tell your wife. She will probably understand what the migrant labour system has done to families. She is probably well aware of what happens when men are away working in another city. Do not think that your wife does not understand. You just have to be honest with her.

It is important to know that a person with HIV is not necessarily going to die immediately. The HIV virus acts very slowly and people who are infected can have many healthy years to live. You can improve the quality of



**SPEAK went to find out what questions and worries people have about HIV and AIDS infection. Don and Thami said they were too scared to open up about HIV/AIDS. With the help of health workers, we tried to address their concerns**

your life by looking after yourself both emotionally and physically. This involves reducing stress; eating healthy food and not smoking, drinking alcohol or taking drugs.

It is important for you to practise safer sex because re-infection with the HIV virus or other Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) could speed up the development of full-blown AIDS.

Practising safer sex also protects your partner(s). Everyone has the responsibility to prevent the spread of AIDS.

This is a difficult situation to be in. However, it requires complete honesty on your part. You should discuss HIV and AIDS with your wife and explain the risk of her being infected. You will probably have to tell her the truth about your sexual relationships with other women in the city. This might upset her. But if

there has been openness, trust and commitment in your marriage, she might understand and forgive you. But make sure you discuss the problem with her. You may also contact your local AIDS organisation for counselling.

The migrant labour system creates conditions which disrupt people's lives and this contributes to the spread of AIDS.

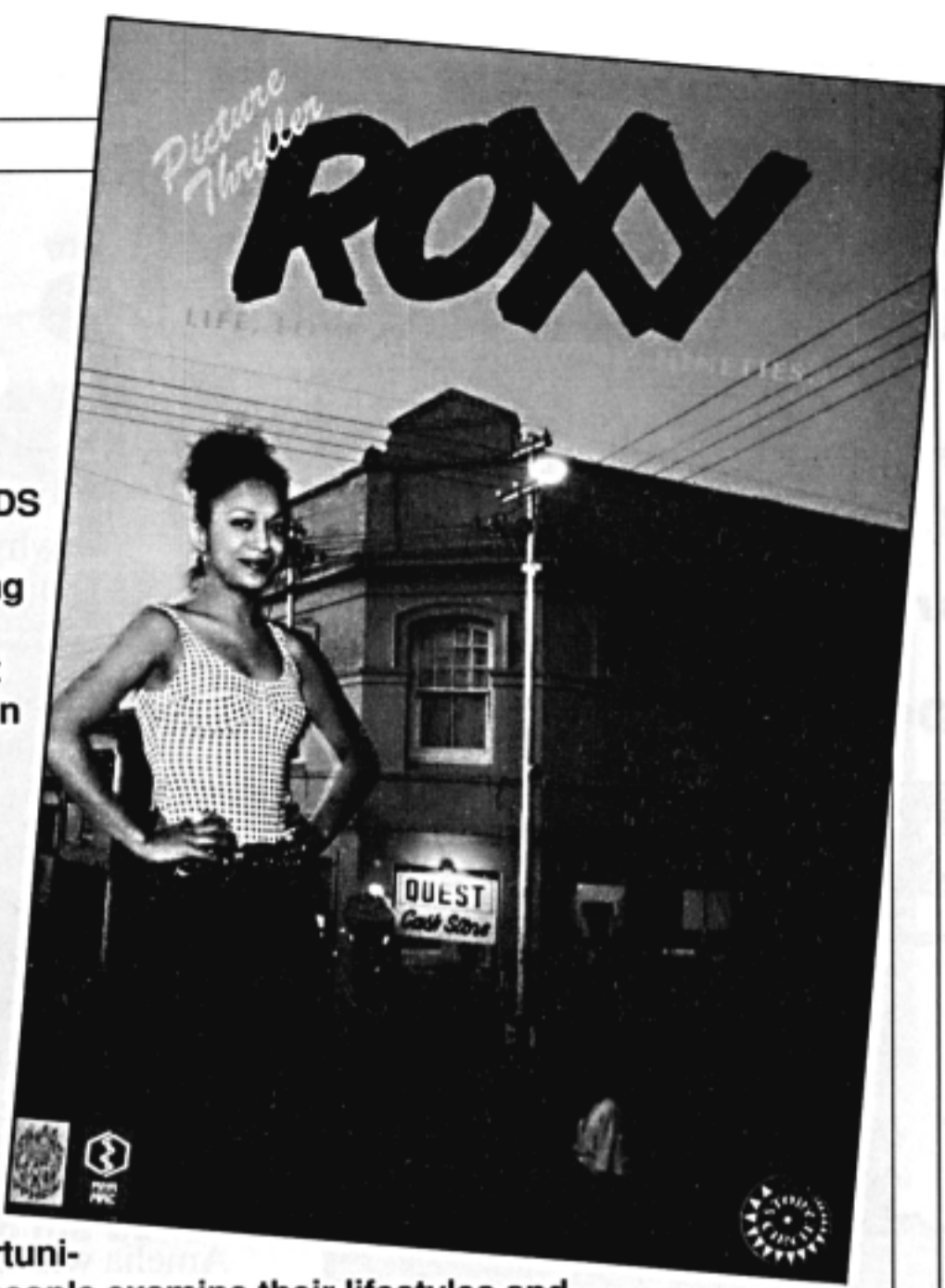
● **Thami, a student, recently got a scholarship to study overseas. She is required to undergo a medical examination, including an HIV test, before she goes. Thami does not want to go for the test because she fears she could be HIV positive.**

*"I am scared", she says. "At my age and with my ambitions, I am not prepared to cope with that result. But this is a once in a life time opportunity which I cannot afford to lose. What can I do?"*

**SPEAK:** You are obviously in a very difficult position. We strongly believe that no one

# Free offer

PPHC National AIDS Programme and SPEAK are offering a picture book called **Roxy** about life, love and sex in the nineties to 10 lucky readers. This photo-comic shows how to deal with peer pressure, poor self-image, ignorance and the importance of control over one's body. The threat of AIDS



gives us an opportunity to help young people examine their lifestyles and to assume greater responsibility for their future. Tell us the questions you have about HIV/AIDS and send your entry to **PPHC/SPEAK Competition**  
 PO Box 556  
 Johannesburg 2001

Answer .....

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

.....Postal code .....

Telephone number .....

**Competition rules:** The decision of judges is final. This competition is only open to people living in South and Southern Africa. Employees and relatives of employees of SPEAK are not allowed to enter. The closing date is 15 August 1994. The winner will be announced in the October issue of SPEAK.

should be forced to take an AIDS test for whatever reason. However, certain countries, and even some insurance companies, insist that an AIDS test be taken. It will be impossible for you to enter the country without results of the test.

The decision lies with you. If

you choose to take the test, it is important that you go for counselling before, especially since you appear to have strong fears about it.

Clinics usually offer only one counselling session before taking the test. If you feel you need more counselling, tell the coun-

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

**National office:** (011) 337 8539

**Eastern Transvaal:**  
 (01315) 41 181

**Northern Transvaal:**  
 (01521) 91 4221

**Southern Transvaal:**  
 (011) 337 7126

**Orange Free State:**  
 (057) 396 5509

**Natal:** (031) 301 2582

**Natal Midlands:** (0331) 45 0453

**Northern Natal:** (0354) 74 181

**Border:** (0431) 43 6733

**Eastern Cape:** (041) 41 1618

**Transkei:** (0471) 31 0757

**Western Cape:** (021) 696 4154



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

sellor. You could also contact your nearest PPHC-AIDS programme office for help.

You will also have a counselling session after you have received the results. No matter what the outcome of the test, it is important that you go for the counselling session after you are told the results. It will also help to speak to friends and even family about your fears and worries. Remember, talking to people who care really helps. ☺

# Golf is for girls too

**Golf is a game for rich white men with lots of spare time. Right? "Wrong!" two teenage girls cry out, with one voice.**

**By Richard Maguire**



Photos: Saul Mooli, Learn and Teach

**Top junior golfers Amelia and Letitia Moses — hard work and practice is paying off**

**"I'm as good as any boy. There's no reason why women can't be good at golf,"** 15-year-old Amelia Moses insists.

Older sister Letitia, who is 17, adds: "Our dad taught us how to play golf, and now we are showing mom how to play. Golf can be a game for the whole family."

The sisters, who live in Coronationville, in Johannesburg, tied for first place in the SA junior golf championship last month. Last year Amelia was the winner.

They are both members of the Transvaal women's senior golf team, and Letitia has been a reserve for the South African senior team. She will be traveling to Belgium this month to represent the SA juniors at the world junior championships for the second year in a row.

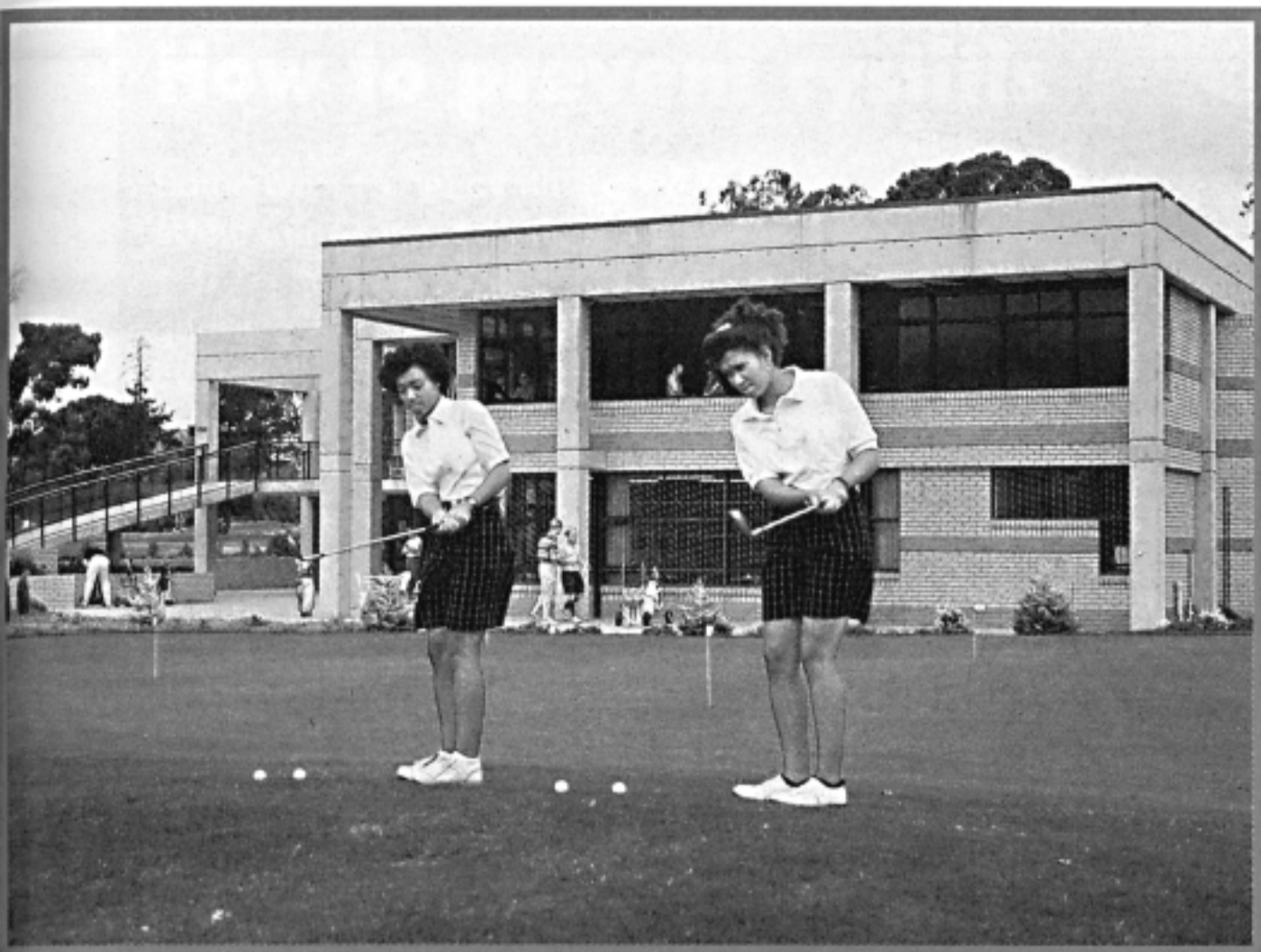
The girls learned to play golf by following their father, Oliver, whenever he went to play.

"We used to caddy for dad and look for his lost balls. Then he would buy us sweets — we liked that," Amelia laughs.

"We sort of grew up on the golf course — but we soon got tired of caddying. I mean, those clubs are heavy to carry," Letitia says. "So we started playing the game instead."

Letitia was 12 when she was given a set of junior clubs and golf shoes. Amelia took the set over when she was 11. She surprised a lot of people by winning the Southern Transvaal women's bronze championships later that year.





**Sisters Letitia and Amelia are serious about golf. But if they want to become top class professionals they will have to move to the US where women's gold is taken seriously**

"A lot of top golfers ask me 'What's the recipe, how do you get your daughters out of the kitchen and onto the golf course?'" Oliver Moses says proudly.

"The problem in this house is getting the girls into the kitchen," their mother, Sharon, adds with a laugh. "They go straight from school to the golf course."

**T**he hard work and practice is paying off. Letitia and Amelia are probably the most promising young woman golfers in the country. They regularly play against senior women and teenage boys — and win.

"The boys try extra hard, because they don't like to lose to girls," Amelia laughs.

Letitia explains that they prefer playing against the boys because "we get good competition and it helps us improve". There are very few good young women golfers.

What upsets the Moses sisters is that they are not allowed to compete against boys in inter-provincial tournaments and there is very little support for woman golfers their age.

"This ruling is sexist because it gives the girls less chance to improve," Oliver complains. "The boys have a strong foundation, but when you ask about development for young girls, you are told 'the women must look after the girls'.

"But there is very little money for women's golf. Even the senior women do not get much support and recognition. Very little is spent on publicity and development."

Oliver and Sharon Moses have committed their time and the family budget to making sure their daughters reach their goal and become professional golfers.

"We made a decision five years ago as a family, that we are going to support them in their golf, because that's what

they want to pursue as a career," Sharon says.

"Oliver and I don't mind putting every last penny into their golf, because they appreciate it so much. Other things suffer — we started building an extra room on the house, but that had to stop because our money is going to golf."

But if the sisters are serious about becoming top class professionals, they will have to move to the United States, where women's golf is taken seriously.

In January next year, Letitia will be leaving for the USA. She has won a scholarship to go to a university in South Carolina, where she will study sports psychology and train to become a top golfer.

"This is South Africa's loss. Letitia will end up representing her university in America and then, hopefully, she will turn professional," Oliver says.

**A**melia, who is every bit as good as her older sister, also aims to turn professional.

"Maybe if Letitia turns pro one day and starts winning tournaments in America, people back here will sit up and take notice," Oliver says.

"Women's golf needs big names. We've only had Sally Little. Maybe Letitia Moses can achieve something too — that will do a lot for the confidence of our women and they might get some support."

And if Letitia and Amelia do make the grade overseas, little sister Samantha is waiting to take their place back home. According to her mother, the nine-year-old has the best golf swing in the family. ☼

**You are in a taxi going home. Suddenly, you feel a burning feeling in your bladder. You feel like screaming because you want to urinate so badly. You probably have cystitis...**

**What is cystitis?**

Cystitis is an infection of the bladder. Most women get it at least once in their lifetime. You suddenly feel like you have to pass urine, and when you go to the toilet, it burns like crazy.

**How do you get cystitis?**

The bladder is the bag that keeps urine. Urine is made up of all liquids that the body does not need. This is taken out of our blood by the kidneys. The urine passes from the kidneys to the bladder, where it is stored. It then passes down the urethra (the small tube between the bladder and the outside) when you pass urine (see diagram).

When germs get into the bladder, they cause infection. This is when you get cystitis.

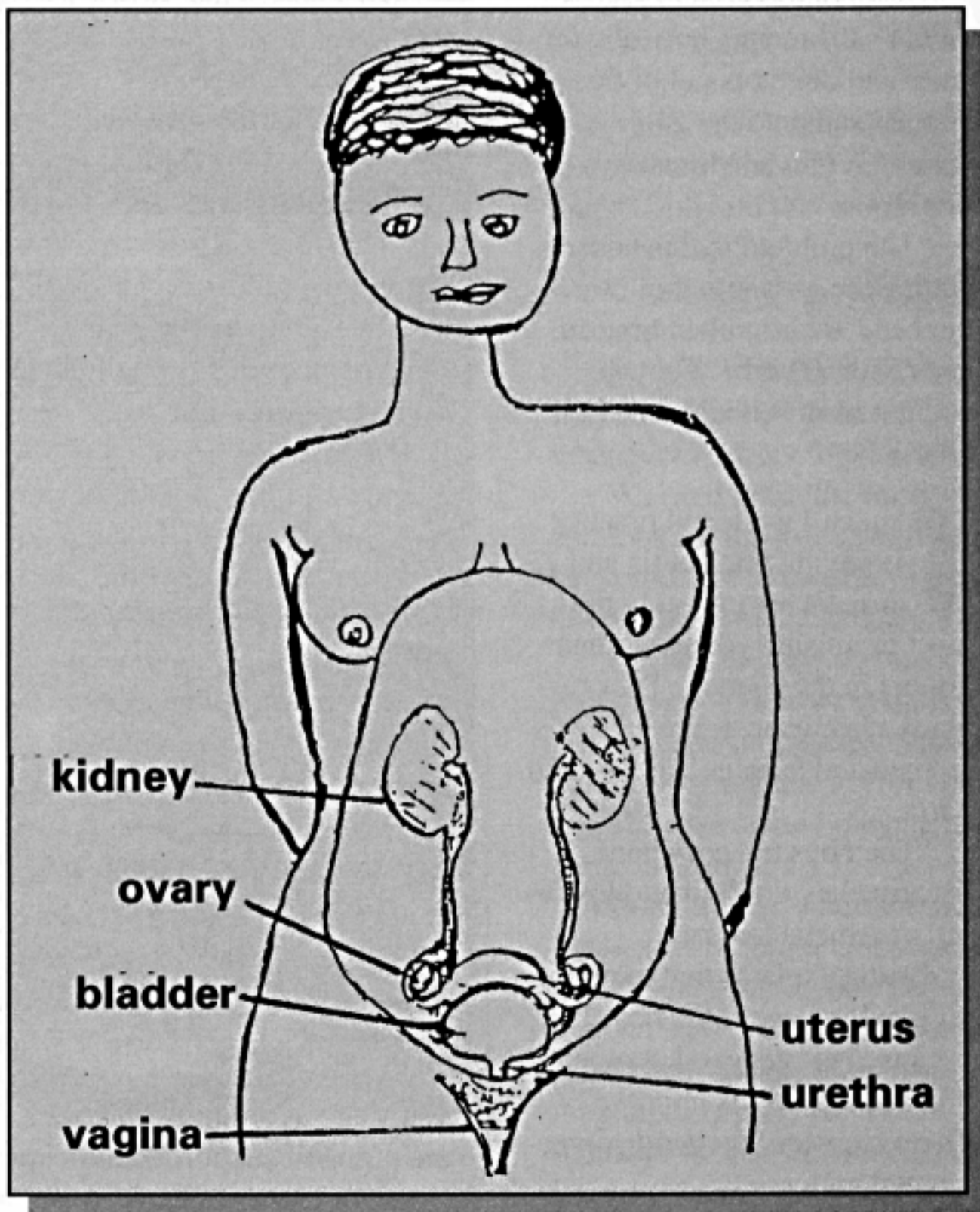
This is not a serious problem but it must be treated, otherwise the infection will spread to your kidneys. Kidney infection can be very serious. You must go to the clinic or doctor immediately.

**What causes cystitis?**

Usually cystitis is caused by germs that get into the bladder. Sometimes the germs are spread from the kidneys to the bladder. There are different ways germs can get into the bladder.

• Germs may get into the bladder when a woman wipes herself after going to the toilet. This is likely to happen if she wipes from back to front.

# That burning feeling



# How to prevent cystitis

Some women get cystitis over and over again. There are some things you can do to help stop these attacks.

- 1 Drink a lot of clean water. If you drink a lot of liquids, the germs are flushed out of the bladder before they cause cystitis.
- 2 Try to urinate whenever you need to. Do not try to hold it in.
- 3 Try to pass urine before and after having sex.
- 4 During sex, don't do anything uncomfortable. Work out which positions bring on a cystitis attack.
- 5 After using the toilet, avoid wiping from back to front, because this spreads germs.
- 6 If you are using a diaphragm and you feel it is irritating you, see the doctor. Sometimes a different size diaphragm may help.
- 7 Keep yourself as healthy as possible, because if you are healthy, you are less likely to get infections like cystitis.

● Cystitis may also start after having sex — particularly if the woman has had sex more than once. This is often called "honeymoon cystitis". When a man's penis rubs on the opening of the passage that leads to the bladder it allows germs to pass up the bladder. If a woman does not want to have sex because of the pain, she should say no.

● Contraceptives like diaphragms sometimes cause cystitis because they press against the urethra and can cause infection.

## How is cystitis treated?

If you get cystitis, you can treat it at home. But if you are pregnant, you should see your doctor or go to the clinic. Infections during pregnancy can be dangerous to the baby.

● The most important thing to do is to drink a lot of water so that the germs are flushed out of the bladder.

● You can also buy citrus soda from the chemist. This makes the urine less acid. Mix two teaspoons of citrus soda with half a

glass of cold water. Drink this at least three times a day.

● If you can't get citrus soda, you can mix a teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda in a glass of orange juice and drink the mixture. You should drink this every hour for three hours.

The citrus soda and orange juice/bicarbonate of soda mixture can make you feel better but they DO NOT kill the germs.

If the cystitis does not clear up within two days or you get reinfected, you should see a doctor or go to a clinic.

## Testing for cystitis

The health worker who sees you will test your urine to see if there is an infection. If you are infected, your urine will be sent to a laboratory to see which germs are in your bladder. You will then be given antibiotic tablets to kill the germs and clear the infection.

If you are pregnant or you get cystitis very often, you may need to have more tests done to make sure that your kidneys are not damaged. ★

# Competition

Can you spot SPEAK's slogan on the front cover? If you can, tell us what it is and fill in the entry form below. You can be the lucky winner of a wonderful camera.

● What is SPEAK's slogan?

Answer .....

Name .....

Address .....

Postal Code .....

Telephone (if you have one) .....

Send your entry to:  
**SPEAK SLOGAN  
 COMPETITION  
 SPEAK Magazine  
 PO Box 556  
 Johannesburg  
 South Africa**

**Competition rules:** The decision of the judges is final. This competition is only open to people living in Southern Africa. Employees and relatives of employees of SPEAK are not allowed to enter. The closing date for the competition is 15 July 1994. The winner will be announced in the September issue of SPEAK.

# HEALTH BRIEFS

## Measles is a killer

More than 600 children die from measles every year in South Africa due to a lack of vitamin A.

According to Dr Greg Hasty of the University of Cape Town, studies have shown that vitamin A reduces childhood deaths by 30 percent. The World Health Organisation recommends that all children with measles be given vitamin A. Measles is a preventable disease which can be controlled by immunising children at nine months. Foods with vitamin A include margarine, vegetables and liver. A Vitamin A deficiency results in pneumonia, diarrhoea, malnutrition and mouth ulcers.

## Fertility rate drops

The National Population Development Programme (NPDP) says South Africa's fertility rate has dropped from 4.6 percent in 1984 to 4 percent in 1994. Although those in charge of the programme feel the nineties has been a decade of success, some people associated with the NPDP feel the strategy it uses is wrong. They feel the NPDP cannot address the population problem without including effective family planning.

## President Mandela's nutrition project

President Nelson Mandela's primary schools nutrition scheme will be launched on September 1. The scheme, which is part of the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), will benefit thousands of school children in rural and urban schools.

The government has asked communities to take part in the feeding schemes.

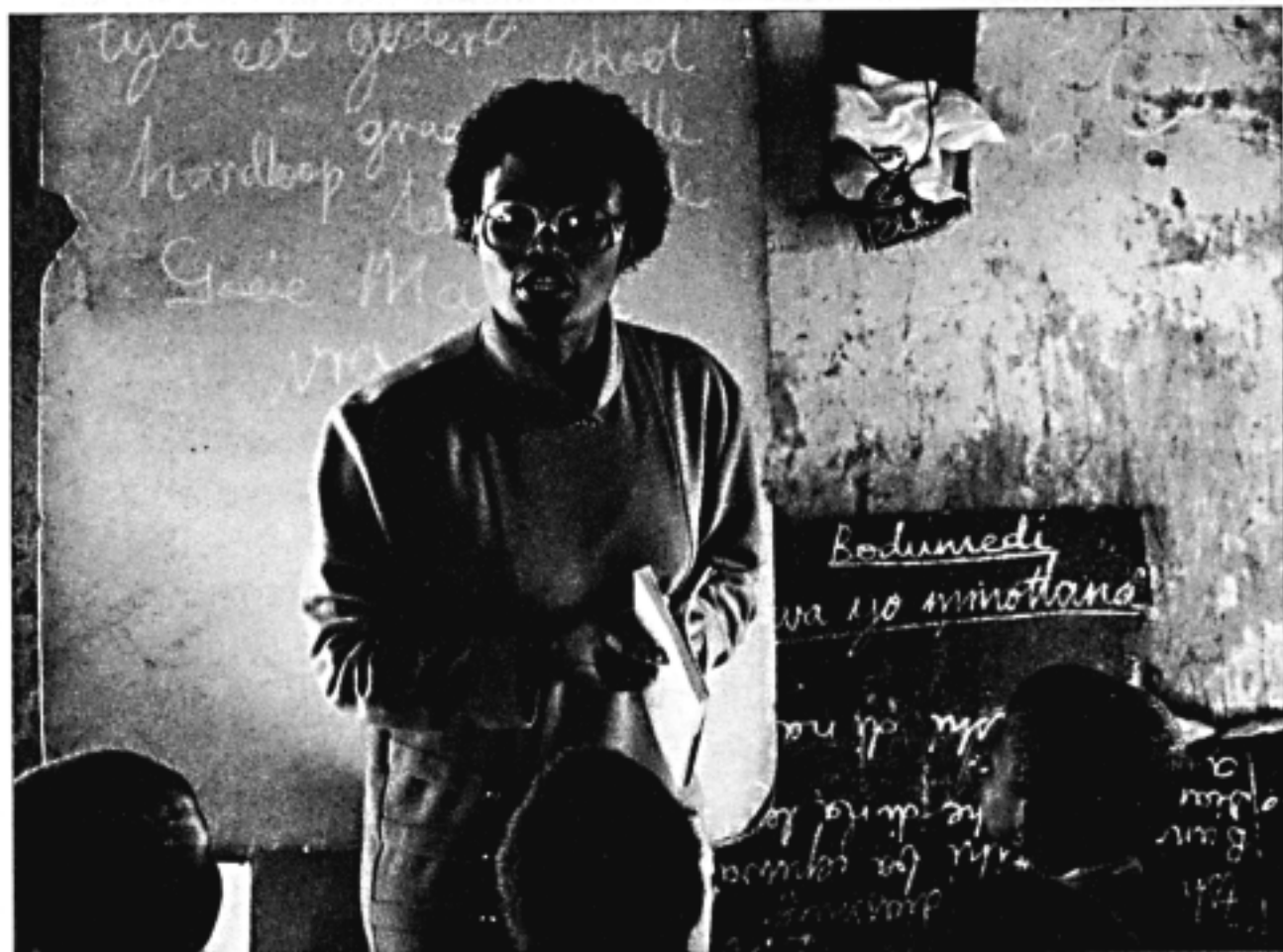
Hunger among school children affects their attendance and concentration in class. The new scheme will not affect existing ones.

## Cocaine fuels AIDS epidemic

Public health workers in Puerto Rico struggling to contain the spread of HIV face a new threat. More people are using crack — a strong form of cocaine that they smoke. Researchers say the drug increases the desire for sex and those addicted to crack, especially women, tend to sell sex more cheaply and frequently than other sex workers. They rarely use condoms.

With 13 223 reported cases on the island, AIDS is the leading cause of death among men aged 25-49 and women aged 25-39.

Meanwhile, the first oral AIDS vaccine will be tried out in the United States soon. The vaccine is designed to protect people from contracting HIV during sexual intercourse.



# As a matter of fact...

## **John Bobbitt at it again**

**John Bobbitt**, whose wife cut off his penis after he abused and raped her, is at it again. His new girlfriend (can you believe it?), Kristina Elliot, had to call in the police after he assaulted her. Although Elliot did not want to press charges, Bobbitt was arrested and prosecutors are taking up the case. He was granted bail and was reportedly seeking counselling. A spokesperson said of the couple: "They both hope to get back together."

## **Sisterhood that works**

**Four teenage boys** were recently arrested in New York for raping a woman who was jogging. Police had not made any progress in the case until three young women who knew the rapists turned them in. The women, outraged at the boys' boasts after the attack, walked into the police station and gave them information on all the boys involved. The rapists, aged between 14 and 18, took turns to rape the woman. They also assaulted her. After the attack, she struggled for more than half a mile to get home where she called the police.

## **Doctors charged for negligence**

**Two doctors** from Leratong Hospital are on trial following the death of a 27-year-old woman and her newborn child at the hospital four years ago.

Drs Jan de Bruin Smuts and Thomas McDonald Kluyts attended to Irene Duma who was in labour for 24 hours before she had an operation. An inquest found that Duma died of excessive bleeding caused by instruments used during the birth of her baby. The baby died just after birth.

## **Zimbabwean girl made as offering**

**A young girl** in Masvingo, Zimbabwe, was offered as part of compensation to a family of a man her uncle is alleged to have killed.

Hama Manokopa died after being assaulted by Taguta Maungira (31) at a beer drink (she-been). Maungira's brother offered Manokopa's family the young girl and 16 head of cattle to appease ngozi (a nasty spirit).

## **World Cup battery**

**Thank goodness** the World Cup only comes once every four years. During the 1994 World Cup, the number of women battered by their partners in France increased. More than 10 percent of the battered wives who called the Paris-based "Stop: Aid for Battered Wives Association" said their husbands became violent when called to the table for dinner or when their favourite teams lost. Children were also beaten for making a noise during the matches. But unlike the French, the Israeli Association said the World Cup had cut calls for help by 50 percent.

# TAXI TALK

## Teach them young

Respect for women begins at home, or does it?

By Camilla Rose

**T**here is one thing which is common to all women, regardless of the colour of their skin. South African women all fall prey to the patriarchal attitudes and prejudices of our society. Too many South African men have no respect for women and no concern for our rights.

We live in a society with many differences and difficulties. Very often, it is women who are left with the responsibility of raising the children. The mother is the first woman her children know. She is the first to impress upon her children's minds what it means to be a person. She is often the one to shape

their young minds. After all, the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.

Or does it? Why then is it that so many women are still being oppressed in their own homes and society does not seem to care? Perhaps it is because so many children grow up seeing their mothers in a position where they are always less powerful than their fathers. They see their mothers dominated, abused and humiliated by men. The "head of the household" is usually a man, even if he is not the breadwinner. The trend is for society to expect women to be obedient and dutiful. Children who grow up in

homes where the mother is treated as inferior to the father, learn that society's expectations are correct.

But women must realise that prejudice begins in the home. Men and women are not born with these attitudes and beliefs. These are taught. Fortunately, women can choose to teach their sons and daughters healthy attitudes of mutual respect.

Mothers: teach your sons to appreciate women and respect their rights. Teach your daughters that they do not need to apologise for being women. Teach them to treat men with the respect they earn, not the respect they demand. ♣



# NOTICES

## Get alive with the Arts Festival

In September 1994, streets, galleries, theatres and community centres will come alive as Johannesburg celebrates the annual Arts Alive Festival. The festival runs from September 9 to October 2.

Events include music, dance, creative art, poetry and storytelling. Your ideas and experience can help shape this year's festival.

For more information write to:

Arts Alive  
Directorate of Culture  
P O Box 1049  
Johannesburg 2000  
Telephone (011) 407 7256/6111

## Women's writing wanted

Chantal Bigras is looking for writings from women who had or still have an eating disorder, who are alcoholics or former alcoholics, and lesbians.

Please send your submissions to:

Chantal Bigras  
60 Avenue Des Pins West  
Apt. 515  
Montreal, Quebec  
H2W 1R2  
Canada

## The facts about SA's 11 official languages

South Africa's language policy, as contained in the Constitution, is causing debate throughout the world. Attention is focused on the fact that South Africa now has 11 official languages — Zulu, Xhosa, Afrikaans, Northern Sotho, English, Tswana, Southern Sotho, Tsonga, Swati, Venda and Ndebele.

If you want to know why we have so many official languages, or have any other related question, write to:

The Director General  
Department of National Education  
Private Bag X122  
Pretoria 0001  
Telephone: (012) 314 6313

## A conference on learning

All persons involved in learning are invited to 'A Global Conversation About Learning' conference to be held in November in Washington DC, United States.

The purpose of the conference is to bring together people from different countries to promote experimental learning, which includes a wide range of practical learning methods.

For more details about the conference, write to:

Tony Saddington  
Department of Adult Education and Extra-Mural Studies  
University of Cape Town  
Private Bag  
Rondebosch 7700  
Cape Town

## Organising against Violence

Women's Solidarity is a non-governmental organisation in Namibia involved in counselling, education and research on violence against women.

They hold talks, workshops and seminars. They have done educational work in a number of local schools, with women's groups, church groups, the Namibian Police and other people who deal with survivors of violence.

The organisation offers support to any woman who has been raped or abused — physically or emotionally.

Counselling is offered in English, Afrikaans, Damara/Nama, German and Oshiwambo.

If you live in Namibia and require their services, their postal address is:

Women's Solidarity  
P O Box 23941  
Windhoek

Or visit their offices at the CNN headquarters in Katutura

# September 8

# International Literacy Day

## Help a friend read and write

Has a friend asked you to read their letters or a neighbour asked you to fill in their forms?

There are many adults in our communities who never went to school and cannot read and write.

If you want to help someone you know with reading, writing and numbers, English Literacy Project (ELP) and SPEAK magazine will get you started. The first 15 readers who send us a letter will get 2 workbooks. The workbooks are *Counting* which is about the number system and *Write On* which teaches the alphabet and making words.

### For more information on ELP's books, write to:

ELP  
13th Floor RSA Centre  
82 Jorissen Street  
Braamfontein, Johannesburg

### For information about literacy, write to:

The National Literacy Co-operation  
6th Floor Randkom House  
176 Smit Street  
Braamfontein, Johannesburg

