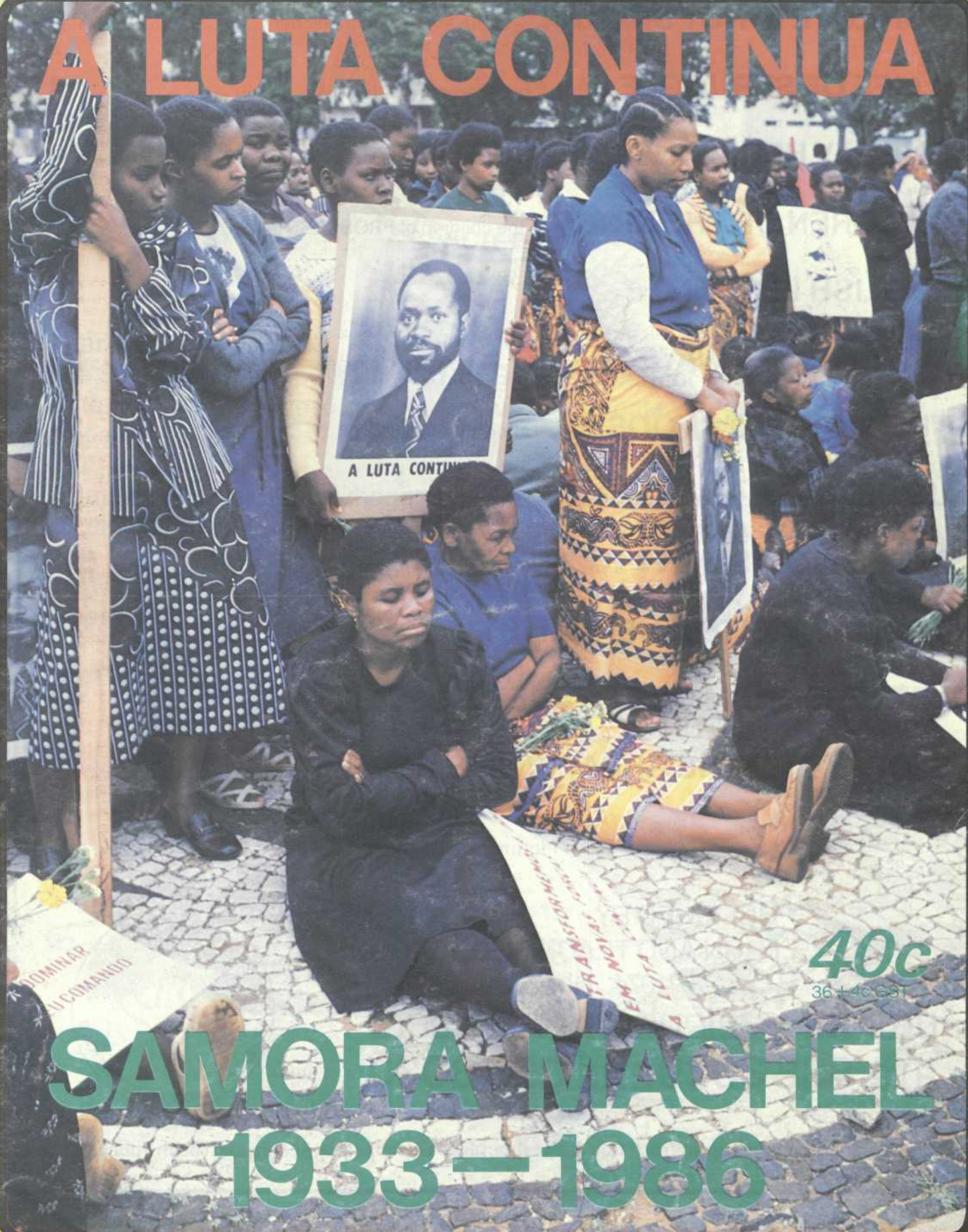


Learn and Teach

NUMBER 7 1986

A LUTA CONTINUA



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SAMORA MACHEL 1933—1986

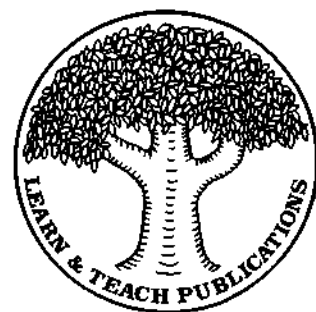
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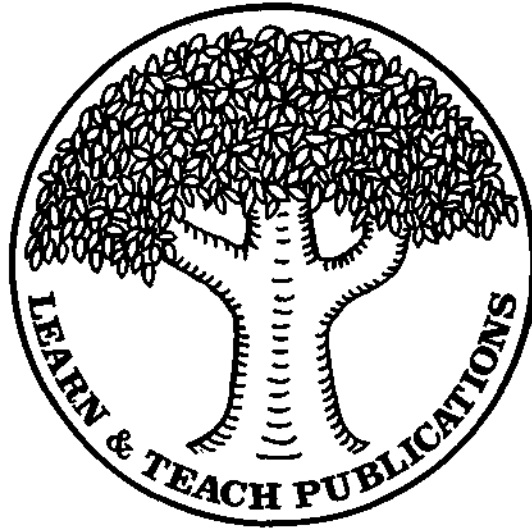
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Dear Readers

The State of Emergency is still with us. So we still cannot write what we want to write. And we still have to be very careful about what pictures we put in the magazine.

Whatever you read in this magazine, and all other magazines, is only part of the story. Whatever you hear on the radio or see on TV is only part of the truth.

But we go on and we tell you as much as we can. And we say that the State of Emergency must end.

The Editor





Marcelino dos Santos leads President Machel's funeral procession.

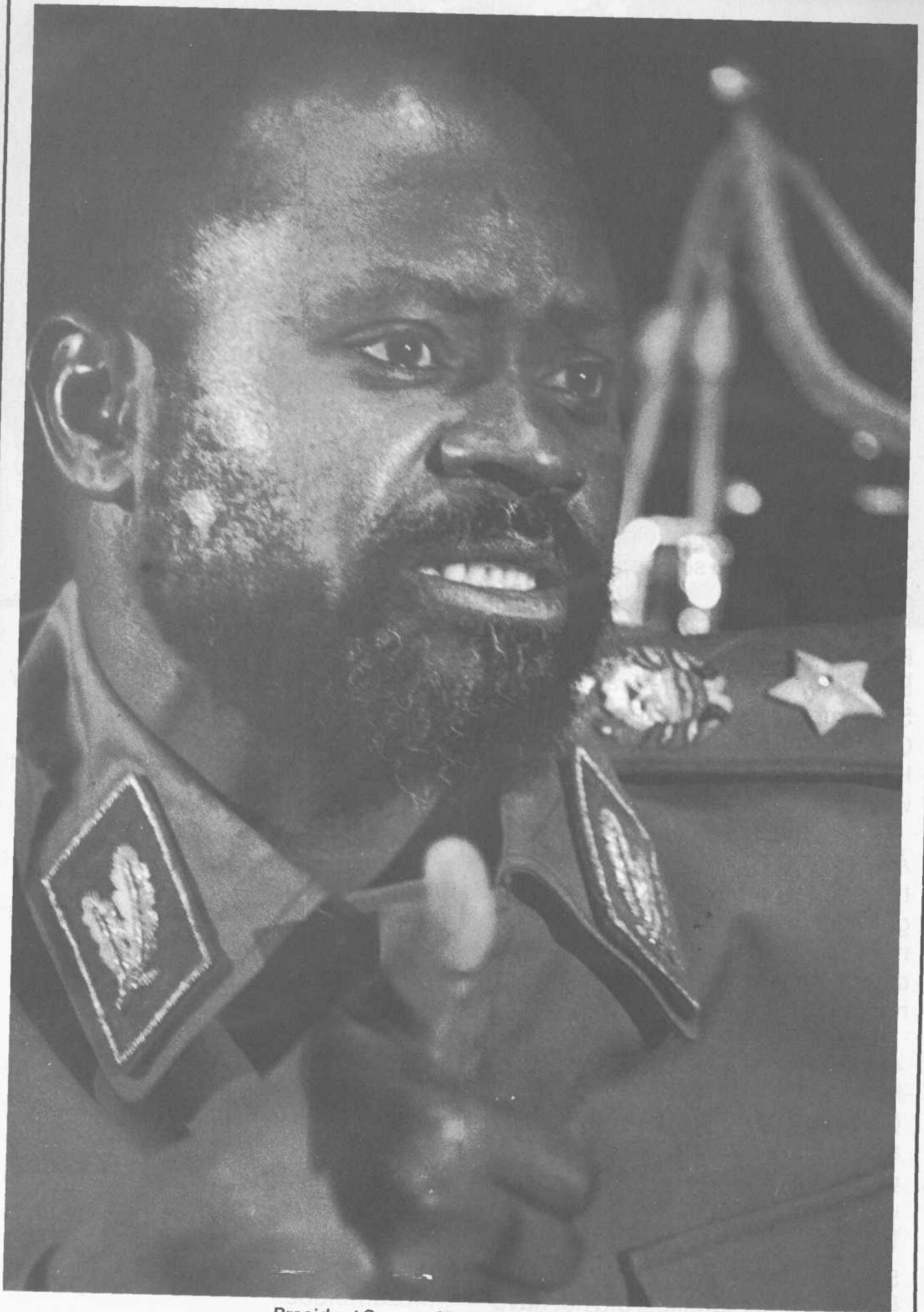
OUR LOVE IS NOT SHAKEN

And when the wind
whips the sky
and the sword falls
tearing flesh
And horror touches
the naked face
Our love is not shaken
This is the land
where we were born
its sorrow
is our grief
and today's bitter cloud
is a moment's pain
which the rain must dry.

Marcelino dos Santos, a poet and a leader from Mozambique, wrote this poem many years ago. He did not know that one day his words would be so true.

Last month Marcelino dos Santos walked alongside the coffin of his closest friend and comrade, Samora Machel. His heart was filled with sorrow and he shared his nation's grief. The summer sky was black and the rain came down to dry the nation's "bitter cloud" of pain.

President Machel died in an accident of "tearing flesh, when horror touched the naked face". May he rest in peace, knowing "our love is not shaken".



President Samora Machel 1933 — 1986

A LIFE OF STRUGGLE

President Samora Machel was not in a hurry to get on the plane that was waiting to take him home from Zambia. He kept his friends and comrades waiting — because he wanted to sing along with the choir that came to say farewell.

Samora Machel, the President of Mozambique never got home. He and thirty three other people died when their plane crashed into the Lebombo Mountains inside South Africa.

Who was this leader that loved to sing and loved to laugh? Where did he come from and what did he believe in? Why was he loved so deeply by his people?

FROM A FARMING FAMILY

Samora Moises Machel was born on September 29, 1933 in the village of Chilembe in southern Mozambique. He came from a poor farming family who lived off the land.

At that time, and for a long time before that, Mozambique was ruled by Portugal. The Portuguese were cruel masters. They took everything they could from Mozambique and gave nothing back.

As a young child, Samora Machel heard how his grandparents and great-grandparents had fought against their Portuguese masters. His grandfather fought in the army of Magwegwane Khosa against Portugal in the 1890's.

Samora Machel's family, like thousands of other families, did not have

food to eat. His older brother was forced to work as contract worker in the gold mines of South Africa. His brother did not come back after one contract. He was killed in an accident in a gold mine.

A CLEVER CHILD

The young Samora wanted an education very much. There was only one place where he could get this — at the Roman Catholic mission schools.

Life at the mission school was not very nice. When the children were not in the classroom, they had to work in the fields. Some of the priests were very cruel. Samora Machel remembered later in life that "white priests used to say that God was white and that black people did not go to heaven when they died."

Many of the priests did not believe that blacks and whites were equal. But even they had to say that the young Samora was a clever child. When he finished six years of primary school, they said he should study to become a priest. He refused and got a job instead.

A JOB AT THE HOSPITAL

As a young man, Samora Machel worked in the day and used his wages to go to night school. At night school he studied to become a nurse. That was the best job a young African could hope to do. After he finished the nursing course, he went to work at a hospital in Maputo, the capital of Mozambique.



People mourn for their leader.

At the hospital he got less pay than the white nurses — for the same work. He also saw how much better white patients were treated. Later in life he told a newspaper in England that “in Mozambique the rich man’s dog got more health care than the workers who made the rich man rich.”

THE BIRTH OF FRELIMO

In 1960 Samora Machel met a man by the name of Dr Eduardo Chivambu Mondlane. The two men became close friends. They found that they shared the same dream. They wanted freedom for their people. They wanted a new Mozambique where people would not go hungry.

In June 1962 many of the small groups who were fighting for freedom in Mozambique joined together and

FRELIMO was born. Its first president was Dr Eduardo Mondlane.

THE ARMED STRUGGLE

Soon after FRELIMO was born, Samora Machel left Mozambique for the FRELIMO headquarters in Dar es Salaam, the capital city of Tanzania. Samora Machel was sent for military training.

In 1964 Frelimo began the armed struggle against the Portuguese in Mozambique. 250 FRELIMO soldiers crossed the Rovuma River into northern Mozambique. Samora Machel was the leader of these men. He shared their hardships and dangers.

WORKING WITH THE PEOPLE

The soldiers of FRELIMO fought well. Soon a large part of the countryside in

Mozambique was in the hands of FRELIMO. Samora Machel and his comrades worked with the people in the parts of Mozambique that were free.

In the towns they worked with the people to start people's committees. On the farms they worked with the people to start co-operatives where the people farmed together. FRELIMO began learning groups where people learned to read and write. And they built clinics and trained people in health care.

BATTLES INSIDE FRELIMO

Samora Machel had to fight battles inside FRELIMO. He fought against those who wanted to sign an agreement with Portugal. He also fought against those who believed in tribalism. He said: "Our struggle killed tribalism. We killed the tribe to give birth to the nation."

A man by the name of Alfonso Dhlakama was one of those who was kicked out of FRELIMO. He was kicked out because of corruption. Later, in October 1976, Dhlakama started the MNR — with the help of the old Rhodesian government and some rich whites who left Mozambique after independence. The MNR, or Renamo, has killed, raped and robbed the people of Mozambique ever since.

In February 1969, Mondlane was killed by a letter bomb from the enemies of FRELIMO. Two months later FRELIMO elected Machel and two other comrades, Uria Simango and Marcelino dos Santos as the leaders of FRELIMO. In 1970 Samora Machel was elected president of FRELIMO.

A NEW GOVERNMENT IN PORTUGAL

The Portuguese army was not strong enough to win the war against FRELIMO. Portugal is one of the poorest and smallest countries in Europe. They were not only fighting the people of Mozambique. They were fighting the people of Angola as well.

The people in Portugal were tired of the war. They were also tired of their leader, Salazar. The people in Portugal, like the people of Mozambique and Angola, wanted a government that was for the people — and not against the people.

On 24 April 1974 some officers in the Portuguese army threw Salazar out and took over the government in Portugal. They said that the people of Portugal would have a democratic government. And they gave the people of Mozambique and Angola their freedom.

THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF MOZAMBIQUE

Samora Machel left Tanzania and went home to a free Mozambique. But he did not go straight to Maputo. He travelled all around Mozambique first, talking to the people.

On 24 June FRELIMO had a big meeting at the football stadium in Maputo to talk about their freedom.

Samora Machel spoke at that meeting. He told the people that their country would now be called the People's Republic of Mozambique. He said that all the land, businesses, schools and

hospitals now belonged to the people of Mozambique.

That night the central committee of Frelimo chose him as the country's first president.

ALUTA CONTINUA!

The people of Mozambique had won their freedom from Portugal. But their struggle was not yet finished. As President Machel told his people time and time again: "Aluta continua — the struggle continues."

There were many problems after independence. Many white people left the country. The country was left with few doctors, dentists, teachers, mechanics and other skilled people. Very few people in Mozambique could read and write.

President Machel's people also suffered because of their wish to help the people in Zimbabwe and in South Africa win their freedom. In the first years after independence, President Machel let the ZANLA army of Robert Mugabe use Mozambique as a base. The people of Mozambique paid the price. The soldiers of Ian Smith attacked and bombed Mozambique time and time again.

After the people of Zimbabwe won their freedom, President Machel tried to help the ANC in their struggle in South Africa. The people of Mozambique paid the price again. The South African government began helping the MNR in their cruel war against the people of Mozambique.

People came from near and far to pay their respects.



NO HATE, NO BITTERNESS

The people of Mozambique had suffered in the war and in the years after independence. But President Machel and his people were not full of hate and bitterness. They were more interested in building a new nation rather than settling old scores.

They did not kill those who had helped the Portuguese in the war. Some were sent to special camps for "re-education". But for most, President Machel had a different kind of punishment. The names and photographs of the "comprometidos" were put on the walls of government offices and factories for two years. President Machel said that these people must not be punished in any other way.

President Machel and his people spent many years fighting the white people from Portugal. But he did not hate white people. He chose many white people to work in his new government. President Samora Machel often said: "I did not fight the Portuguese so black racists could take over from white racists."

A TRUE LEADER OF THE PEOPLE

Machel was a true leader of his people. He was not scared to say when he made a mistake. He said that he made two mistakes after independence. His first mistake was not trying hard enough to ask the whites to stay in Mozambique. And his second mistake was giving the factories and farms to the people of Mozambique — before they had the skills to run them.

President Machel was also a true

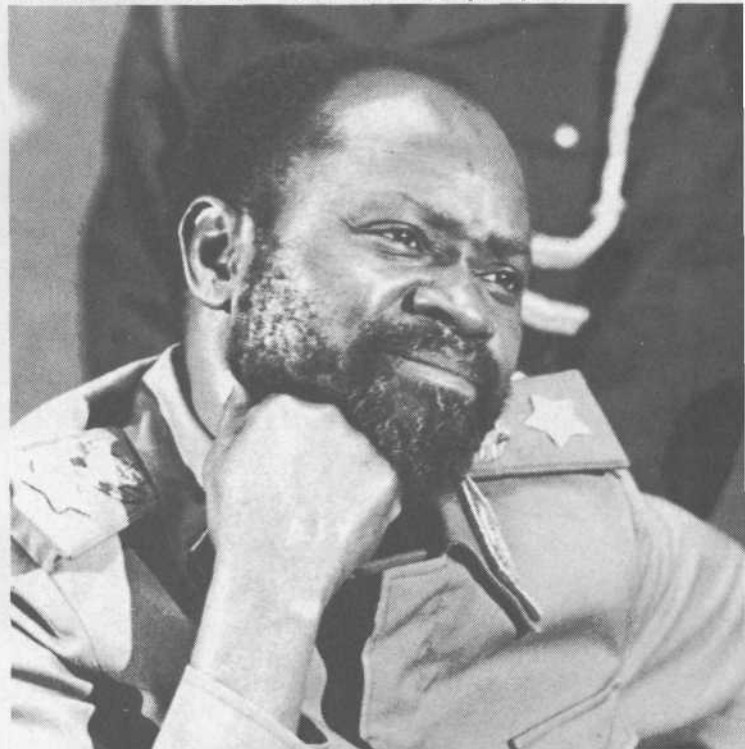
leader in another way. When members of his government stole and cheated, he did not look the other way. When his army or police tortured people, he did not try to protect them.

In 1981 President Machel called his people to Independence Square. He told them that members of the army, police and security police were guilty of torturing people, rape and robbery. He told the people to arrest any policeman or soldier if they caught them in a criminal act.

At the meeting he told his people: "Beatings and torture are not allowed in Mozambique. We don't want a secret police — we don't need it." Then he called members of his government and army on to the stage and told them to answer to the people for their crimes.

How many leaders do we know that have done the same? Yes, the smiling President who loved to sing was a special man, a great leader and a true son of Africa. ●

President Machel — a man of the people.





ONE DAY HERE, ONE DAY THERE

Mrs Violet Voyiya is a widow with two children. She lived in Nyanga Bush squatter camp, near Cape Town, with her family until May this year. Then the 'witdoeke' came and burnt her house down. Mrs Voyiya ran away with her two children. They went to stay in the nearby Methodist church, together with many other people from Nyanga Bush who lost their homes.

Mrs Voyiya moved out of the church because it was so crowded. She built a shack in the KTC squatter camp. Then the 'witdoeke' came and burnt down KTC and Mrs Voyiya and her children had to move again. This time they went to stay in a mosque in Athlone.

Mrs Voyiya has now left the mosque. She built a new shack in a new squatter camp right next to the Administration Board offices in Nyanga township. Mrs Voyiya has moved five times in four months!

TEN YEARS OF CROSSROADS

The Cape Town squatter story started more than ten years ago. Many people left the Transkei to come to Cape Town. The men wanted work because there are no jobs in the Transkei. The women wanted jobs too. But they also wanted to live together with their husbands who were working in Cape Town.

There were no houses for these people. So they started building their own houses in a place called Crossroads. People organised themselves and fought to stay in Crossroads. Their houses were knocked down over and over again. But in the end the government said that people could stay in Crossroads.

PEOPLE LEARN FROM CROSSROADS

People living in hostels and back rooms in the townships saw that the people of Crossroads had won. So



Khayalitsha — a new home?

they moved to Crossroads too. But there was not enough space for everyone in Crossroads. So new squatter camps started.

There was Crossroads, Nyanga Bush, Nyanga Extension, Portland Cement and KTC. Most people built their houses out of old, corrugated iron. The houses did not look good — but for the people who lived in them, they were home.

MRS NTLOYA'S STORY

Mrs Ntloya lived in one of the squatter camps. She told Learn and Teach her story.

"I was born in Cape Town," said Mrs Ntloya. "I got married in 1977. My husband was a contract worker from the Transkei. He lived in a hostel in Langa. We had nowhere to go when we got married so I moved into the hostel with him. Three of my children were born in that hostel."

'A WILD PLACE WITH LIONS'

"Then in 1981 the Administration Board came. They chased all the women and children out of the hostel. They put us on buses to the Transkei. They said they were sending us home. But the Transkei is no home to me — I had never been to the Transkei before.

"I was put on a bus to Qumra. It's really wild there. At nine o'clock at night the lions come out of the bushes," said Mrs Ntloya, laughing.

BACK TO CAPE TOWN

"We did not stay in the Transkei. As soon as we could get a bus, all the women from Cape Town went back. The police were waiting for us but they did not catch us.

"When we got out of the bus in Cape Town, our husbands were there. But we had nowhere to go. We couldn't go back to the hostel. So we went to Crossroads. We built plastic houses

near Mr Ngxobongwana's house. Mr Ngxobongwana is the 'mayor' of Crossroads.

"Church ministers and our leaders helped us to get permits to be in Crossroads. The Administration Board gave us sites and we built shacks in Nyanga Extension camp. After that we paid R7 a month for services."

AN OFFER TO MOVE

"We had no problems there — until last year. Mr Bezuidenhout from the Administration Board came. He said that we must move to Khayalitsha, a new township they were building, very far away from everything.

"He said if we moved, the Administration Board would help us to find jobs. And they said people from the Transkei would be allowed to stay in Cape Town for eighteen months, before they got sent home."

'NO TO KHAYALITSHA'

"But we told Mr Bezuidenhout that we did not want to move. And then he said we could stay in Nyanga Extension. He said that they would fix Crossroads and make it a better place for everyone to live in.

We heard nothing more about Khayalitsha. Then in May the 'witdoeke' came. No-one warned us. The 'witdoeke' just came and burnt our house and belongings. People say they are Ngxobongwana's men from Crossroads. But I don't know why Ngxobongwana's men wanted to attack us."



People from KTC squatter camp, fighting off the 'witdoeke'.

FIGHTING HELPS THE GOVERNMENT

“And then there is the Administration Board. The Administration Board wants people to move to Khayalitsha, far away from Cape Town. That is part of the government’s plan for black people in the Western Cape.

“When the Administration Board and the police saw that the men were angry with the ‘comrades’, it helped them. Some people say that the police fought with the ‘witdoeke’.

“Whatever happened, it doesn’t matter. In the end the police, the Administration Board and the ‘witdoeke’ all got what they wanted. The people who were against Ngxobongwana, and the people who did not want to move to Khayalitsha all had their houses burnt down. They were left with nowhere to live.”

PEOPLE RUN TO THE CHURCHES

But burning people’s houses did not work. People still refused to move to Khayalitsha. They took shelter in churches all over Cape Town. But people knew that they could not live in the churches forever.

“We did not stay in the church for a long time,” Mrs Ntloya said. “It was very crowded and people started to fight. The Administration Board came to the churches. Again they said we must go to Khayalitsha.

“The Administration Board said there were tents for the people whose houses were burnt. But we cannot go to Khayalitsha. There are ‘witdoeke’ living there. How can we live with the people who burnt our houses?”

NEW CAMPS

“My husband and I moved into an

PROBLEMS IN THE SQUATTER CAMPS

Mr Fukutwa lives in Crossroads. He told us how he understood the 'witdoeke' and their fight with the other squatters.

"There were problems in the squatter camps. People living here in Crossroads are under Ngxobongwana. They pay money to him. Today Mr Ngxobongwana is a very rich and powerful man.

"When the other squatter camps started, the leaders in these camps did not want to be under Ngxobongwana. At the same time, organisations like the Cape Youth Congress (CAYCO) started to work in the squatter camps.

"Young people started to ask questions about Ngxobongwana. They wanted to know what he and his committee did with all the money they got. And Mr Ngxobongwana did not like that."

PEOPLE ARE DIVIDED

"Many of the older men in Crossroads were very unhappy with the young people. They did not like the way the youth told the old people what to do. They say that the young people must respect them.

"Mr Ngxobongwana used this. He said the squatter camps were full of 'comrades'. And soon people were divided — the 'comrades' on the one side, and the 'witdoeke' on the other side."

People try to save their furniture during the fighting in the squatter camp.



open space. We built a new shack for ourselves and our children. We were the first people there. But now about four hundred people have also built shacks there.’

The camp the Ntloya’s started is not the only new squatter camp. People are building shacks wherever there is open space. There is a new camp called Oscar Mpetha’s Square near the old fighter’s home.

There is the camp near the Administration Board offices. There is a camp called Brown’s Farm. And there is a new camp near the highway out of Cape Town.

None of these camps have toilets or taps. And people living in the camps

One of the ‘witdoeke’ gets ready to shoot.

do not know what will happen. So far the Administration Board has not knocked down any shacks, except at Brown’s Farm.

‘TWO MORE THINGS TO SAY’

Mrs Ntloya still had more to say. She said, “First I want to ask the government some questions. How long are they going to treat us like this? When are they going to build houses for us — where WE want to live — not where they want us to live?

“And then I want to say something to people living in the squatter camps. We must never, ever let ourselves be divided again. And to stop this, we must make sure that our leaders work for us, not against us” ●





CHILDREN OF THE NIGHT

Taelo is thirteen years old. He lived in Mofolo, Soweto with his mother and stepfather. Taelo's stepfather used to beat him every day when he came back from work. He said Taelo ate all the food he bought for his children. In the end, Taelo ran away.

Taelo had nowhere to go. So Taelo joined the many children who live on the streets in Hillbrow, Johannesburg. There Taelo met Stanley Sibeko. Stanley is also thirteen. He comes from Pretoria.

A BEATING A DAY

"I ran away from home because my sister was angry with me," said Stanley. "She used to beat me every day for no reason. My parents saw what she did. But they did not stop her. So at the beginning of this year, I decided to leave. I was doing Standard One at school.

A hard, lonely life for children with nowhere to go.



"One day I just left home and caught a train to Johannesburg. When I got to Jo'burg, I did not know what to do. I begged for money. At night I was very frightened. I had nowhere to sleep. Then I met some children like myself who were living on the streets."

LIFE ON THE STREETS

"They asked me to join them," said Stanley. "After that life was much better. I didn't feel frightened anymore. Everything we did, we did together.

"Sometimes we went to Park Station to do 'shoeshine'. And with the money we got from 'shoeshine' we bought food and played video games or 'kop-piedice'. Some of my new friends used the money to buy glue."

FINDING A POZZIE

"At night we slept in a 'pozzie'. A 'pozzie' is any safe place to sleep. Sometimes we slept in the doors of shops, sometimes we slept at Park Station. When it was warm we slept in the parks.

"We had no blankets — we just used cardboard to cover ourselves. When it was cold, we made a fire. No-one worried us, except the police. Sometimes the police arrested us. Then we would spend the night in jail."

FOOD FROM FONTANA

"We often woke up in the middle of the night to go to a shop called Fontana. Fontana stays open the whole night. Fontana throws their leftovers out in the middle of the night. We used to take their leftovers out of the rubbish bins and eat them.

“If there were no leftovers, we had to make money. Then we helped people to find places to park their cars. People gave us ten cents or twenty cents for doing this. Then we would go back to bed.”

HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE

“We did not stay in Hillbrow all the time. Sometimes, we went to Rosebank. Sometimes we went to the Rio Cinema to watch movies. Sometimes we caught a train to Jan Smuts Airport to ask for money there.

“But when times were bad, when there was no money — we jived in the streets so that people would give us money.”

FINDING A HOME

“Then one day my friends and I met a woman. She asked us if we wanted work. We all said ‘yes’. Then she said

we must come with her. She never gave us a job but she took us to an old building in Hillbrow called ‘Halfway House’.

“At Halfway House they gave us a shower and clean clothes. We also got good food. But we did not like living there. They refused to give us money. They thought we would buy glue and sniff it. So we ran away. But in the end we came back.

“At least here we have our own beds, we don’t have to sleep inside cardboard. And we don’t have to worry about getting money for food. Now we are used to the Halfway House. It feels like home here.”

NO PLACE TO GO

Two years ago a woman called Serna Kramer met five children near her home. They were living in an empty

Living and learning together at PROCESS’s Halfway House.





Children at PROSCESS, getting a second chance in life.

block of flats. Every day after that, Serna took food, clothes, and blankets to the children.

The children asked Serna to find a place for them to live. Serna tried everywhere but she could find nothing for them. So in the end, she took them to her father's farm near Klerksdorp. Her father said they could stay there for a short time.

PROJECT STREET CHILDREN

Serna was looking for a place where these children could live when she met Jill Swart. Jill and Serna spoke to other people who worried about the children on the streets. They started a committee and they called themselves PROSCESS — Project Street Children; Educational and Social Support.

The committee helped Serna to find a place for the children. They were

given some land in Magaliesberg. But they knew that a home in Magaliesberg was not enough. There were hundreds of children on the streets in Johannesburg.

THE HALFWAY HOUSE

“We started the Halfway House in Hillbrow in November 1985,” Jill told Learn and Teach. “We wanted a place where the children could come and get used to living like children again.

“In the beginning very few children came to the Halfway House in Hillbrow. The children came one by one. They did not trust us. Then in February this year, the children started to come in big groups. They saw that the children who came here were well-treated.

“We try to help the children here. People come and give lessons in the morning. Then the children are free in the afternoon. We leave the doors open

all the time. The children are free to come and go. But they must tell us when they are going out.’’

FINDING THE CHILDREN’S FAMILIES

‘‘We always try to find the children’s families and we try to get the children back to their families. Sometimes it is very difficult.

‘‘We had one child here whose mother worked on a farm near Krugersdorp. We asked her if she wanted to see her child. The mother said yes. So we went to the farmer and asked him if the child could spend the weekend on the farm.

‘‘When we went to fetch the child on the Monday, we found him hiding in the bushes, together with his mother. The mother said that after we left, the farmer came and said she must leave. The farmer did not want the child to even visit his mother.’’

PROBLEMS AT PROSCESS

‘‘The biggest problem with the children is glue-sniffing,’’ Jill said. ‘‘Many of the children on the streets sniff glue. It makes them feel better. We try to help the children to stop sniffing glue. But it is very difficult. Their bodies are used to the glue and need the glue. The children feel very sick when they first stop.

‘‘We also have money and space problems. We have very little money.

So we must be very careful when we spend money. And we have no space for the children to play. When we take the children to the parks around us, people are sometimes very unkind to the children.’’

PROSCESS’S PLANS

‘‘We have about fifty boys with us now. At the moment we are building houses for a hundred children in Magaliesberg. We want to give these children a second chance in life.

‘‘People say that there are five thousand children living on the streets in South Africa — and we hope to help one hundred of these children. It seems like nothing but it is a beginning.’’

WITH NO LOVE AND NO HOME

‘‘People ask us how we can stop children living on the streets. But we say there will be children on the streets until people can live a decent life. There will be children on the streets until parents can live together, until people earn enough money to look after themselves and until people have decent houses to live in.’’

So next time you see young, dirty ‘vuilpops’ dancing in the streets, think again. These children are not gangsters. They are just children with no love and no home ●

ENGLISH LESSON



Many people have problems after they start a job. They get very little money, or they do not get any time off. When they complain, the boss does not listen. The boss says they must do what he tells them.

When you start a job, you must be very careful. Try to find out all about the job before you begin. Here are some questions to ask your new boss. If you ask these questions, you will know more about your work. You will know before you start working if your boss is fair.

How much do you pay?

If your boss tells you this, he cannot change it later and pay you less money.

Will you pay per hour, per week or per month?

This will help you to know how your boss works out your wages. Then you can check to see that you are getting the right money.

What money will you take off my wages?

Your boss can only take off tax (P.A.Y.E.), U.I.F., pension money and money for medical aid. If he wants to take off any other money, he must ask you first.

How many hours must I work?

You will know how much you must work. You will also know if you must work overtime.

Do you pay for overtime?

Factories must pay for overtime. But bosses do not have to pay farm workers and domestic workers for overtime.

What work must I do?

Your new boss must tell you what he wants you to do. Then he cannot make you do other work.

Do I get sick leave?

Find out how many days sick leave you get before you get sick. If the boss agrees to give you sick leave, he cannot change it afterwards.

How much leave will you give me?

You must know how much leave you will get and when you can take it. Then you can plan what you will do during your leave.

Do I get public holidays off?

Ask the boss when you start. Do not wait for public holidays to come around before you ask.

Do I get leave if I am pregnant?

Women must know how much time

they get off if they have babies. Women must know if they will get their jobs back after the baby is born.

These are just a few questions to ask. Different jobs need different questions. But try to find out all about the

job before you start, not afterwards.

When you have started your job, ask your fellow workers if there is a trade union for you to join. Try to find out if there are special laws for your type of work.

1. DIFFICULT WORDS

Here are some difficult words

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| U.I.F. | Unemployment Insurance Fund - money you get when you do not have a job. |
| Pension | money you get when you are old and cannot work. |
| overtime | working more hours than the law says you must work. |

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| sick leave | when you stay away from work because you are sick. |
| fair | when someone treats other people well. |

TEST YOURSELF ON THE DIFFICULT WORDS

Can you use the difficult words here?

1. When Rosina was fired, she got money from the _____
2. Elijah got his _____ when he was 65 years old.
3. People who work more than nine hours a day, work _____
4. My boss is _____ because he listens to what we say.
5. Josiah took _____ when he went to hospital.

ANSWERS:

1. U.I.F. 2. pension 3. overtime 4. fair 5. sick leave

ASKING QUESTIONS

There are many questions in the story. Can you write the questions for the answers below?

1. **Question:** _____

Answer: You must work nine hours a day.

2. **Question:** _____

Answer: U.I.F. and pension will be taken off your wages.

3. **Question:** _____

Answer: Yes, you must work overtime.

4. **Question:** _____

Answer: No, you do not get public holidays off.

5. **Question:** _____

Answer: You will be paid every week.

ANSWERS

1. How many hours must I work?
2. What money will you take off my wages?
3. Must I work overtime?
4. Do I get public holidays off?
5. Will you pay me per hour, per week or per month?

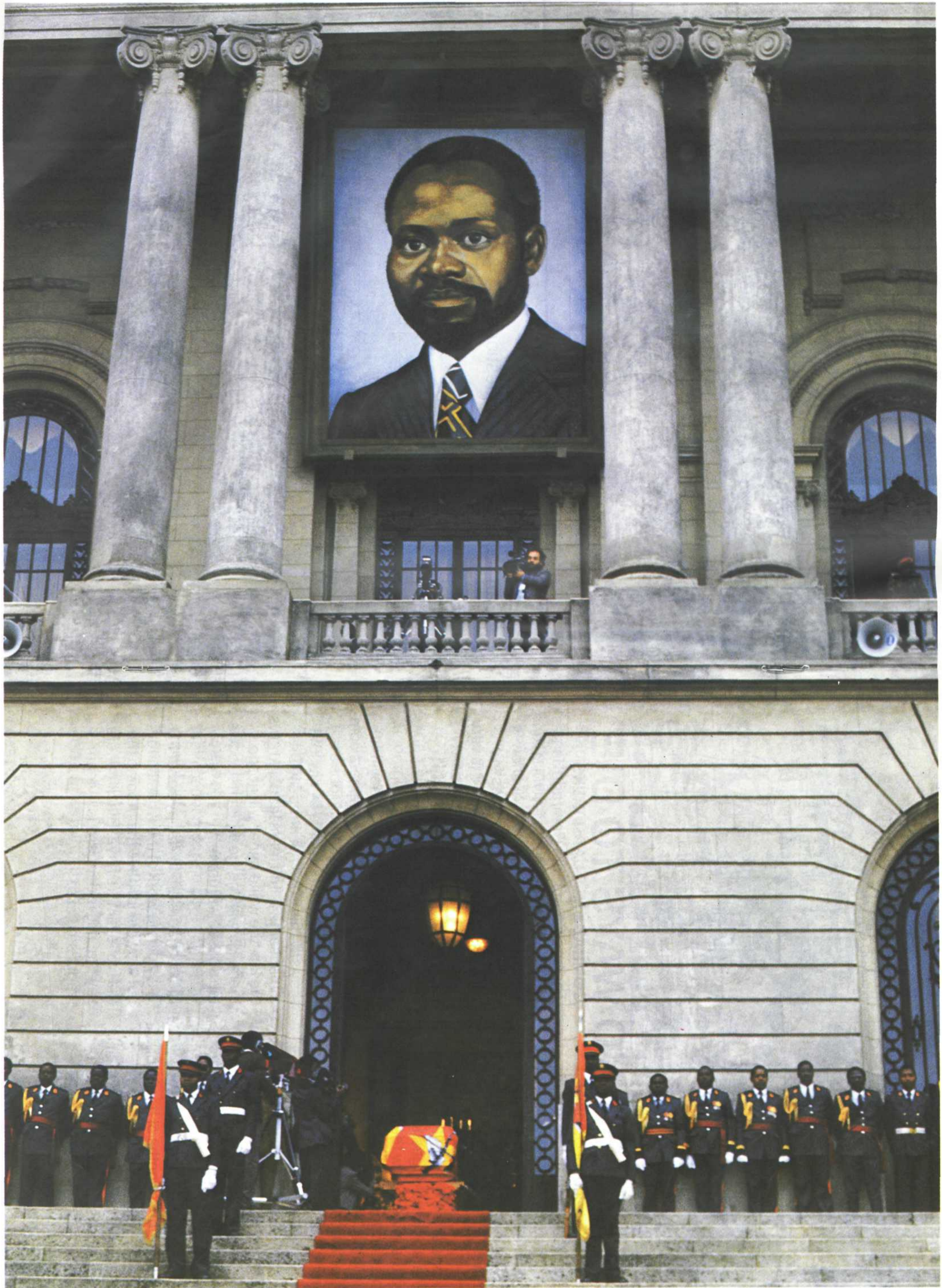


Look at this picture.

Can you answer these questions?

1. How many people can you see? _____
2. What is Sloppy doing? _____

3. What does Sloppy have in his hand? _____
4. Who is winning? _____
5. How does Sloppy feel? _____



A LUTA CONTINUA



'A THOUSAND WAYS TO DIE'

Last year the National Union of Mineworkers came to Learn and Teach. They asked us to help them. They wanted Learn and Teach to write a book for them about accidents on the mines.

Someone at the university had spoken to miners who belonged to NUM. He asked the miners how they thought accidents happened. And he asked the miners how they thought accidents could be stopped. Then he wrote a long report about it.

NUM wanted this report to be written so that miners could understand it easily. They wanted to use the book to get miners to think and talk about accidents and safety.

Now, after many months of hard work, the book is finished. It is called 'A Thousand Ways To Die'. That is what one old miner said about working in the mines.

COMRADE MOTLATSI TALKS

The book starts with Comrade James Motlatsi, the president of NUM talking. Comrade Motlatsi talks about how many people die in the mines every year. Comrade Motlatsi says it is very important for workers to take safety into their own hands.

ABOUT WHITE MINERS

Then the workers say why they think accidents happen. Black miners complain that there are certain jobs that only white miners can do by law. But they say this does not happen. One miner said, "If the team leader knows the job, the white miner will not go there. He will only go when he knows the bosses will come."

Black miners are unhappy about this. They do the work of the white miners but they do not have the training that the white miners have. Black miners say that this is dangerous. A team leader said this:

“We team leaders are doing our best for the safety of the workers down there in the mine. But we are doing our best without proper training. The white miners are the ones who are getting the training. But they are not there to help us with their training.”

COMPLAINTS AND BONUSES

Miners also are unhappy because they say they have to work now and complain later. If they refuse to work where they think it is dangerous, they get punished. They say that this is not fair.

Black miners say that white miners push them to work hard because of the bonuses which they get. They say that the bonuses are dangerous. “You cannot kill people for a fifty cent,” said one miner.

TOO MUCH NOISE

Miners also complain about the noise underground. Drillers work with machines that make a big noise. A driller said, “When I am drilling, the machine makes such a noise that I cannot hear the sound of the hanging wall when it is falling. I also can’t hear any warnings that there is danger.”

BETTER HATS AND BOOTS

Miners say that the mines must give them better hats and boots to protect them. Better hats and boots will stop them from hurting themselves while they are underground. “When the rocks fall, the hat is the first thing to go. So the rock finds a bare head and the worker gets hurt,” a miner said.

NUM’S BILL OF RIGHTS

NUM are very worried about safety in the mines. They have a bill of rights about safety on the mines. Their bill of rights says miners must have these rights:

- * the right to choose safety stewards and safety committees
- * the right to refuse to work when it is dangerous
- * the right to call inspectors and go with them on all inspections.
- * the right to good health and safety training
- * the right to know everything about health and safety on the mines
- * the right to protection from threats and punishment
- * the right to have a say in the running of the mines and all future plans

The NUM says if workers win these rights then there will be fewer lives lost on the mines.

If you are a miner and you want to read this book, speak to your shaft steward. He will know how you can get it.

If you are not a miner and you want to learn more about the miners and their struggle for safety on the mines, you can buy ‘A Thousand Ways To Die’ from Learn and Teach. Please send two rand and fifty cents to:

Learn and Teach Publications
P.O. Box 11074
JOHANNESBURG
2000

THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE

This article is about contraception, or family planning. It is about all the different kinds of contraception, for both men and women.

We know that many people feel shy to talk about contraception. They feel that it is a very private thing. We also know that many people don't trust any talk about family planning. Many of these people don't trust the government and its family planning clinics.

We are writing this article because we believe that people must have the right to choose if they want to use contraception. And we believe that if people decide to use contraception, they must also have the right to choose what kind of contraception to use.

People can only choose if they know about the different kinds of contraception, how they work, and why some kinds of contraception are good and other kinds of contraception are bad.

A WOMEN'S PROBLEM?

Many men believe that it is the women's job to worry about contraception. The women must worry about not getting pregnant. Many men are completely against contraception. They think it is good for their manliness to have as many children as their wives can make. Some women use contraception without their husbands knowing.

DECIDING TOGETHER

But men and women make babies together. So men must also help to decide about contraception. Men and women must decide together if they are going to use contraception or not. Men and women must share these big decisions. And if people decide that they want to use contraception, then the man and the woman must decide together what kind of contraception they want to use.

CONTRACEPTION AND TEENAGERS

Many young girls fall pregnant while they are at school. This can spoil their lives. Often they fall pregnant because they do not know about contraception.

They are frightened to tell their parents that they are having sex with boys. They are frightened to go to the clinic. Some clinics want parents' permission before they will give contraception to teenagers.

Parents must try not to get angry when they know that their children are having sex — being angry does not help. But talking helps. So try to talk to your children about sex and contraception.

CHOOSING CONTRACEPTION

Often nurses and doctors choose for us. They do not tell people about different kinds of contraception. Here is a list of different kinds of contraception. So, if you want to use contraception, you can know about all the differ-

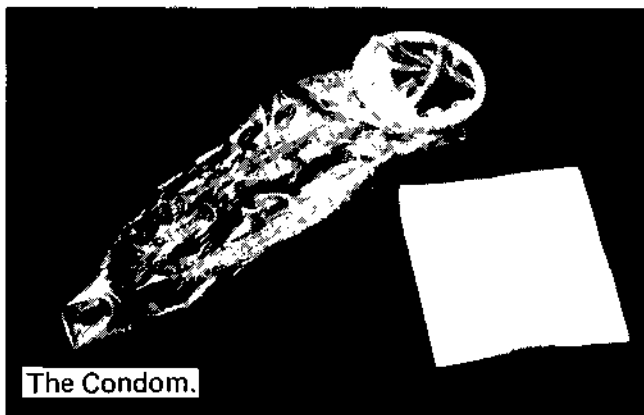
ent types — and you can choose which one to use.

If you want to know more about contraception, then ask at your family planning clinic. But be sure that before you start using contraception, you know what it does and how it works. Before you start using contraception, you must decide who is going to use contraception — the man or the woman.

CONTRACEPTION FOR MEN

THE CONDOM

A condom is a rubber bag that fits over a man's penis. It stops the sperm from going inside the woman. The man must put the condom on before he puts his penis inside the woman. He must hold the condom when he pulls out so that it does not come off.



The Condom.

THE GOOD SIDE: You can buy condoms anywhere and they are cheap. You can also get them free from family planning clinics. Condoms also stop V.D. or 'vuilsiek' from spreading.

THE BAD SIDE: Some men say that they do not enjoy sex when they use condoms. You also must stop love making so that you can put it on. The man must be very careful that the condom does not come off while he is still

inside the woman. Sometimes condoms can have holes in them. If you use condoms, be sure that you do not use old ones.

VASECTOMY — A SMALL OPERATION

The vasectomy is a small operation. If you have this operation, you will never make children again. The doctor make two cuts just above the man's balls. The doctor cuts and ties the man's sperm tubes so no sperm can go into the woman during sex. Men often worry that a vasectomy will change their lives. But men who have had a vasectomy say they still enjoy sex like before. They still "skiet out" but there is no sperm in it.

After the vasectomy operation, your body keeps sperm up to three months. So you must use other contraception until the doctor tells you that you have no more sperm.

THE GOOD SIDE: After the operation, men never have to worry about making a woman pregnant again.

THE BAD SIDE: Sometimes there is a small bump where the cut was made. The bump often goes away by itself. The sperm tubes in one out of every thousand men grow back together again and once again the sperm can get out.

CONTRACEPTION FOR WOMEN

THE RHYTHM METHOD

The rhythm method is when women count the days between periods. They

will only have sex when they know they cannot fall pregnant. You must count the first day of your period as Day One. You count the days until your next period.

For most women it is twenty eight days. You must count your days for a few months because sometimes your period can take longer to come. The best way to count is by marking your period on a calendar like this.

| | January | February | March |
|------|-------------------|------------|---------------|
| Sun | 2 9 16 23 30 | 6 13 20 27 | 6 13 20 27 |
| Mon | 3 10 17 24 31 | 7 14 21 28 | 7 14 21 28 |
| Tue | 4 11 18 25 | 1 8 15 22 | 1 8 15 22 29 |
| Wed | 5 12 19 26 | 2 9 16 23 | 2 9 16 23 30 |
| Thu | 6 13 20 27 | 3 10 17 24 | 3 10 17 24 31 |
| Fri | 7 14 21 28 | 4 11 18 25 | 4 11 18 25 |
| Sat | 1 8 15 22 29 | 5 12 19 26 | 5 12 19 26 |
| Week | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 | | 9 10 11 12 13 |

| | April | May | June |
|------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Sun | 3 10 17 24 | 1 8 15 22 29 | 5 12 19 26 |
| Mon | 4 11 18 25 | 2 9 16 23 30 | 6 13 20 27 |
| Tue | 5 12 19 26 | 3 10 17 24 31 | 7 14 21 28 |
| Wed | 6 13 20 27 | 4 11 18 25 | 8 15 22 29 |
| Thu | 7 14 21 28 | 5 12 19 26 | 9 16 23 30 |
| Fri | 1 8 15 22 29 | 6 13 20 27 | 10 17 24 |
| Sat | 2 9 16 23 30 | 7 14 21 28 | 11 18 25 |
| Week | 13 14 15 16 17 | 18 19 20 21 22 | 22 23 24 25 26 |

Once you know how many days there are between the first day you start bleeding and your next period, you can work out when your egg is made. It is made fourteen days before you start to bleed. A woman's egg lives for three days and men's sperm lives for five days.

So doctors say it is best not to have sex for five days before you make your egg and five days afterwards. If you do want to have sex during this time, then you must use some other kind of contraception, like a condom.

Roman Catholics use contraception called the Billings method. Women look at the water that comes out of their vaginas. They can tell from this

water when they are making an egg. If you want to use the Billings method, speak to the women at the Catholic Church.

THE GOOD SIDE: Any woman can use this way of contraception. It does not hurt women's bodies at all.

THE BAD SIDE: It is difficult to be sure exactly when your body makes an egg. If you make a mistake, you will fall pregnant. If you do not have regular periods then you cannot use this method. You also have to be good about not having sex when you can fall pregnant. Women often fall pregnant when using this method.

CREAMS, JELLIES AND FOAMS

Spermicides are creams, jellies or foams that kill sperm. You can buy them at any chemist. They kill the man's sperm that come into your womb. The creams and jellies come with something to help you get them into your vagina. You must put it in just before you have sex.

THE GOOD SIDE: You can buy spermicides at any chemist. So anyone can use them. But they are a bit expensive.

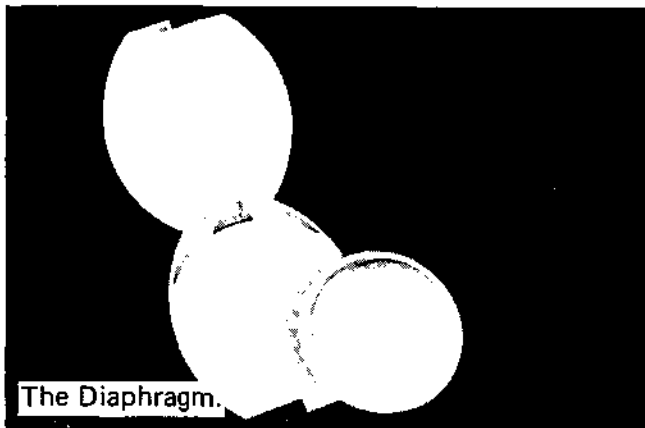
THE BAD SIDE: Spermicides are not made to be used alone. You should use them with other contraception, like the condom or the diaphragm. If you only use spermicides, you can fall pregnant.

THE DIAPHRAGM

The diaphragm is a small rubber cap that women put in their vaginas. It

stops the sperm from going into the womb and joining the egg. You must put the diaphragm inside you every-time you have sex. You put it in before sex. You must keep it inside you for about eight hours after sex. When you take your diaphragm out wash it carefully with soap. You must use the diaphragm with spermicide - a jelly that kills sperm.

THE GOOD SIDE: The diaphragm does not change women's bodies at all. It stops pregnancy in 98 out of 100 women.



The Diaphragm.

THE BAD SIDE: If you do not use the diaphragm every time you have sex, you will fall pregnant. Some women do not like the diaphragm because you must stop love making to put it in. Family planning clinics do not always have diaphragms as they are very expensive — they cost more than R30. You must get the right size for you as all women have different size vaginas. You must check your diaphragm for holes. You do this by holding the diaphragm to a light. Diaphragms last for about three years.

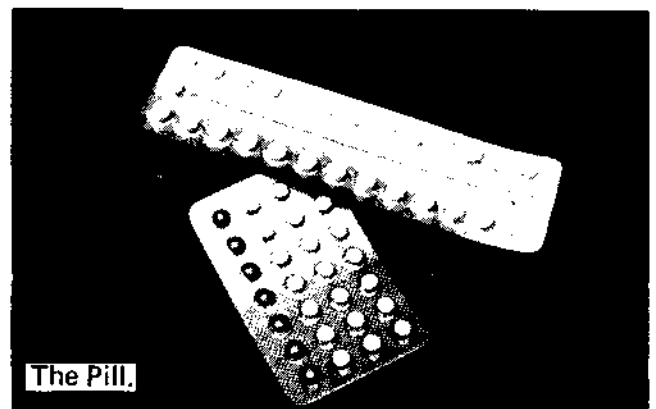
THE PILL

Women can take a little pill **everyday** to stop them getting pregnant. The

chemicals in the pill stop your body from making an egg. There are different types of pills. They have different amounts of the chemicals in them. Some pills are not good for some women. We cannot tell you what kind of pill you must take. But we can tell you that women who have high blood pressure, blood clotting problems or heart problems must not take the pill at all.

When you get the pill, you must ask the doctor or nurse what kind of pill it is and if it will change your body. If you are taking the pill, and you do not feel good, then you must go and tell the clinic about your problems. Maybe they can find a pill that is better for your body.

THE GOOD SIDE: The pill is easy to get at clinics. If you get them from a family planning clinic, you do not have to pay or you only pay a little. Very few women who take the pill get pregnant.



The Pill.

THE BAD SIDE: Sometimes the pill is not good for your body. Some women get headaches and feel sick, especially when they first start to take the pill. Because the pill changes the chemicals in your body, your periods can change. Some women also get fat

when they take the pill. If you forget to take a pill, you can fall pregnant. Pills will only work for you if you remember to take them everyday.

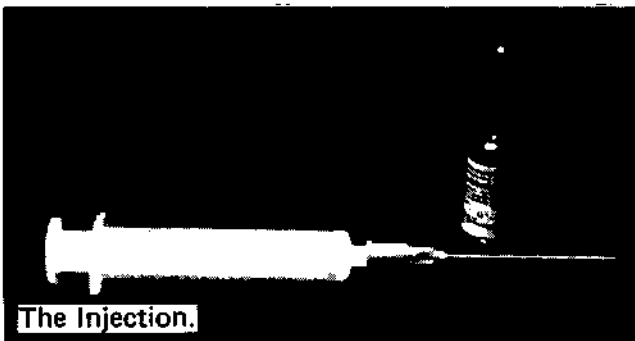
THE INJECTION

The injection is given to women every two or three months. Injections work like the pill - the chemicals in the injection stop your body from making an egg. Women who have high blood pressure, blood clotting problems or heart problems must not use the injection.

THE GOOD SIDE: You do not have to worry about taking the pills or any other kind of contraception. The injection is easy to get at any family planning clinic.

THE BAD SIDE: Some women do not have periods when they use the injection. Other women bleed a lot. If you feel bad from the injection, you cannot stop it — the chemicals are inside you for three months.

There is another big problem with the injection. Sometimes doctors give it to women without telling them what the injection does. They do not worry about what the women want. In some factories bosses did not want to lose women workers who got pregnant. So the women were given the injection.

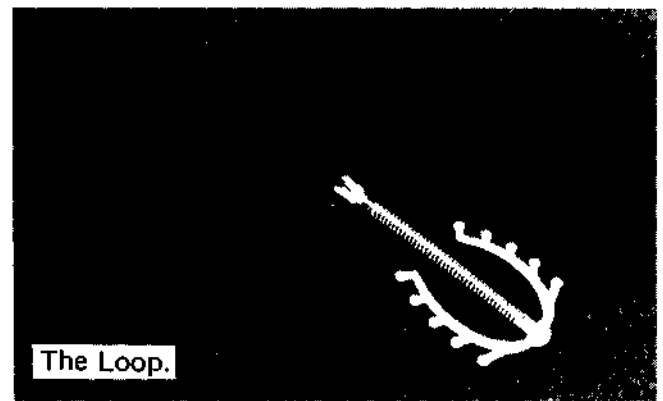


Remember that it is your right to choose. Do not let anyone give you the injection unless you think it is the best contraception for you.

THE LOOP

The loop is a small piece of plastic. Sometimes it has copper on it. You must go to a clinic if you want a loop. The loop is put right inside the woman's womb. No-one really knows how the loop works. Some people say the loop stops the egg from sticking onto the womb. Other people say your womb makes chemicals that kill the sperm if you have a loop.

THE GOOD SIDE: Once you have the loop in you, you do not have to worry about contraception at all. You can have a loop put in at any family planning clinic.



THE BAD SIDE: Sometimes the loop makes women have very bad periods. So doctors do not like to give loops to women who bleed a lot during their periods. They do not like to give it to women who have bad pain with their periods. They also do not like to give the loop to women who have not had children. They say their wombs are small and the loop can cause pain.

The big problem with the loop is that women get infections in their wombs easily. The loop has strings that hang down into the vagina. The strings make it easy for germs to get into the womb. Bad infection can stop women from having babies again. Doctors say that the loop is better for women who only have one lover. If you have a loop, and you get an infection, then you must go to your clinic straight away.

TYING YOUR TUBES

Tying your tubes is an operation. If you have your tubes tied, you will never be able to have children again. You cannot undo this operation.

The doctor ties and cuts the tubes that take the eggs into the womb. They can also put clips on the tubes. This means that the egg can never get to the womb. The egg can never join the sperm and make a baby. Women still have periods if their tubes are tied.

THE GOOD SIDE: You will never have to worry about getting pregnant. Tying your tubes does not make your body feel different.

THE BAD SIDE: Having your tubes tied is a big operation. You will feel sick and weak for about a week. With a few women the tubes grow together again. Then you can fall pregnant again. Sometimes people think that having your tubes tied is the same as a hysterectomy.

A hysterectomy is an operation that women have if there is something wrong with their wombs. The doctors then cut the womb out. The woman can never have children again. But doctors only do a hysterectomy if there are big problems.

CONTRACEPTION THAT DOES NOT WORK

Some women think that if they wash themselves after they have sex, then they will not fall pregnant. This is not true. Sperm swim up into the womb quickly. They can get to the womb before the woman washes.

If you really do not want to get pregnant, then speak to someone at the family planning clinic●

Learn and Teach Publications

Please send me the next 8 copies of the magazine in the post. I enclose a postal order for R5.00. (People who live in Namibia, Lesotho, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Mozambique must please pay R6.00.)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Send this form to:
LEARN and TEACH PUBLICATIONS
P.O. BOX 11074
JOHANNESBURG 2000.





USWE — A SCHOOL FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS

Dear Teacher
 Why don't you teach us as
 before? I am still not writing
 well. I want to know why not.
 I am talking about spelling. You
 must help me with my spelling.
 Then I will write easily.
 Judas Mosothwane

Judas Mosothwane wrote this letter to his teacher. Judas was telling his teacher what he wants to learn in his lessons. Judas is a learner with USWE.

USWE is a school for domestic workers in Johannesburg. USWE means Using Spoken and Written English. That is what USWE are doing. They are teaching people to speak and write English.

'WE NEED ENGLISH'

Learn and Teach went to speak to USWE. We spoke to Marian Clifford who works there. She told us how USWE started. "There was an organisation called the Domestic Workers Project. They helped domestic workers with their problems.

"Many people who came to the Domestic Workers Project said they had one big problem. They needed to speak and understand English. They needed English at work.

Someone at the Domestic Workers Project decided to start an organisation to teach domestic workers English. And so in September 1981, USWE was born."

ENGLISH FOR EVERYTHING

Today USWE has groups all over Johannesburg. At nights and on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons,

you will find people together, learning English at churches and halls all over Johannesburg.

We spoke to people who are learning English at the OSSAC Centre. We asked them why they are learning. Thomas said he wants to read newspapers. He wants to know what is happening in the world around him.

Elizabeth and Myriam want English so that they can write down messages at work. They also want to write to their friends in English.

Victor said, "I want to understand what the doctors at the hospital say. Also at my factory, all the notices are in English. I need to know what they say.

"You need English everywhere — even when you go to the shops. The shop keepers talk in English but you do not understand. Then sometimes the shop keepers are very rude to you. You need English for everything."

LEARNING FROM LIFE

USWE says that learning English is very difficult. But Marian said, "We soon saw that people learn easily if you are talking about their lives, their problems, and the things that they know.

"So, that is what we do in USWE. People talk and write about their lives. We do not read books about Spot, the dog, and Benny and Betty.

LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER

People learn different things at

USWE. But people learn what they want to learn, not what the teachers think they must learn.

Julia Tshabala lives far away from her family. So she often has to send things home. She wanted to send clothes to her children. But Julia was worried that the clothes would get lost in the post.

Julia's teacher helped her to insure her parcel. Then Julia and her teacher made a lesson on how to send insured parcels. So everyone in Julia's group learnt from Julia.

TEACHING THE TEACHERS

"Many people think that because they know English, they can teach English," says Marian. "And people who teach in schools think it is easy to teach grown-ups. But this is not true.

"At USWE we teach the teachers that they must listen to the learners in their groups. They must learn from their learners. Sometimes it takes the teachers a long time to learn this."

PEOPLE WORK TOO HARD

"Our biggest problem at USWE is that people do not come to their groups all the time. Sometimes people come for one lesson, then they will miss the next four lessons. This makes learning very difficult.

"When we ask people why they do this, people say they do not have enough time. Many domestic workers work for twelve or fourteen hours every day. They are often too tired to come to their classes.

“Some people come to classes on their day off. But even these people miss classes a lot. If you only have one day off a week, then often you must do other things on that day. People must use their day off to go to the doctor, or to do shopping.”

BOSSSES MUST UNDERSTAND

“Employers must understand their workers’ problems. Many people did not go to school when they were young. We, at USWE, feel that people must get more time off. People must get time off to do their shopping. And they must get time off to learn.

“But we know that it will be a long time

before employers hear this. So, until they do, the learners and teachers at USWE will struggle on, as best as we can” ●

If you want to learn English with USWE, their address is:
118 9th Street
Orange Grove
Johannesburg, 2192.
Telephone:(011) 640-3073

USWE also teach in Cape Town. Their address in Cape Town is:
175 St Kilda Rd
Rondebosch East Extension
Cape Town, 7700
Telephone:(021) 64-4572



Everyone learns together.

IN THE LIONS' DEN



Themba, the lion, looks out of his cage.

Remember the story of Daniel in the lion's den? Daniel is not the only guy who can walk into the lions' den and not get eaten for supper. There are two guys in Johannesburg who can do the very same thing.

Their names are Johannes Madopa and Chris Hannock and they both work at the Johannesburg Zoo. Learn

and Teach went to talk to them. We walked and walked to get to the lions' cage. And then we waited for them to come out from behind the lions' cage.

Soon Chris came out, dressed in khaki. We told him that we were from Learn and Teach and we wanted our readers to know what being a lion-feeder at the zoo is like.

LEARN AND TEACH MEETS THE LION-FEEDERS

“Wait here,” said Chris. “I’ll call Johannes. He works with the lions all the time. I am in charge of the elephants and the rhinoceros as well as the lions.”

When Johannes came out, he was pushing a wheelbarrow. He shook his head and laughed when we told him what we wanted. But he agreed to talk to us and we all went to sit in the shade under a tree.

A LONG WAY FROM HOME

“I come from Soekmekaar, near Louis Trichardt,” Johannes told us. “There is no work around Louis Trichardt, so when I was a little bit old, I went to work on the mines at Thabazimbi. That was terrible work. When my contract finished, I did not want to go back to that place.

“But my parents need money so I went and got a contract for Johannesburg. They did not tell me what kind of a job my contract was for. I was very frightened when I came to the zoo and they told me that I must work with the lions.

“And when I wrote and told my family about my work, they did not believe me. My wife, my brothers, my sisters all laugh when I tell them that I work with lions here in Johannesburg. I sent them a photograph. But still they don’t believe me.”

JOHANNES AND THE LIONS

“I had only seen a lion once before in my life — when I was young. Some

lions came to our cattle kraal and tried to steal some cows. We were very scared. We made a big fire near the kraal to chase the lions away.

“But now I am used to lions. I come in the mornings and clean out their cages. Then in the afternoons we feed them. We do not feed them here where you can see them. We take them to the back of the cage.”

TEACHING THE LIONS TO LISTEN

“When I first started working here, the lions would never go to the back. I



Johannes Madopa — lion feeder.

didn’t know what to do. Then I remembered how the cats at home hated water. So I took a hose and sprayed the lion. He was very cross but he ran into the back. Since then, he listens to everything I say.”

“It is very expensive feeding the lions,” said Chris. “Each lion eats six kilograms of meat a day. We feed them rabbits, or donkey meat. On Thursday, to save some money, we don’t feed them at all. On Fridays they are very hungry. They roar all day for food. We never have trouble getting them into the back on Fridays.”

ACCIDENTS AT THE ZOO

“You have to be very careful here,” said Johannes. “If you make a mistake, you can lose your arm, or even your life. I have never had an accident here. But Chris has.”

Chris started laughing so we knew his accident was not serious. “It happened early one morning, in the middle of winter,” said Chris. “I was cleaning the front of the lions’ cage. I was busy sweeping and I was not watching where I was going.

“The next minute I was falling. I fell into the water around the cage. The water was ice cold. I looked around and I was pleased to see that there was no-one to laugh at me - only the lions. I got a very bad cold from my ‘swim’.”

DOLLIE AND THE HOSEPIPE

“But Dollie, the elephant nearly ended my life here at the zoo,” Chris said. “One night someone left a hose out and the elephants got it. When I came to work in the morning, all the elephants were swinging bits of hose around, above their heads.

“We thought that we had got the hose away from all the elephants. I went up

to Dollie who was drinking some water. Dollie put her trunk down and the next minute I heard something just above my head.

“I ducked down, otherwise I would be a dead man today. Dollie was hiding a piece of hose. I think she was cross because I took the hose away from all the elephants.”

IF YOU WANT TO WORK AT THE ZOO

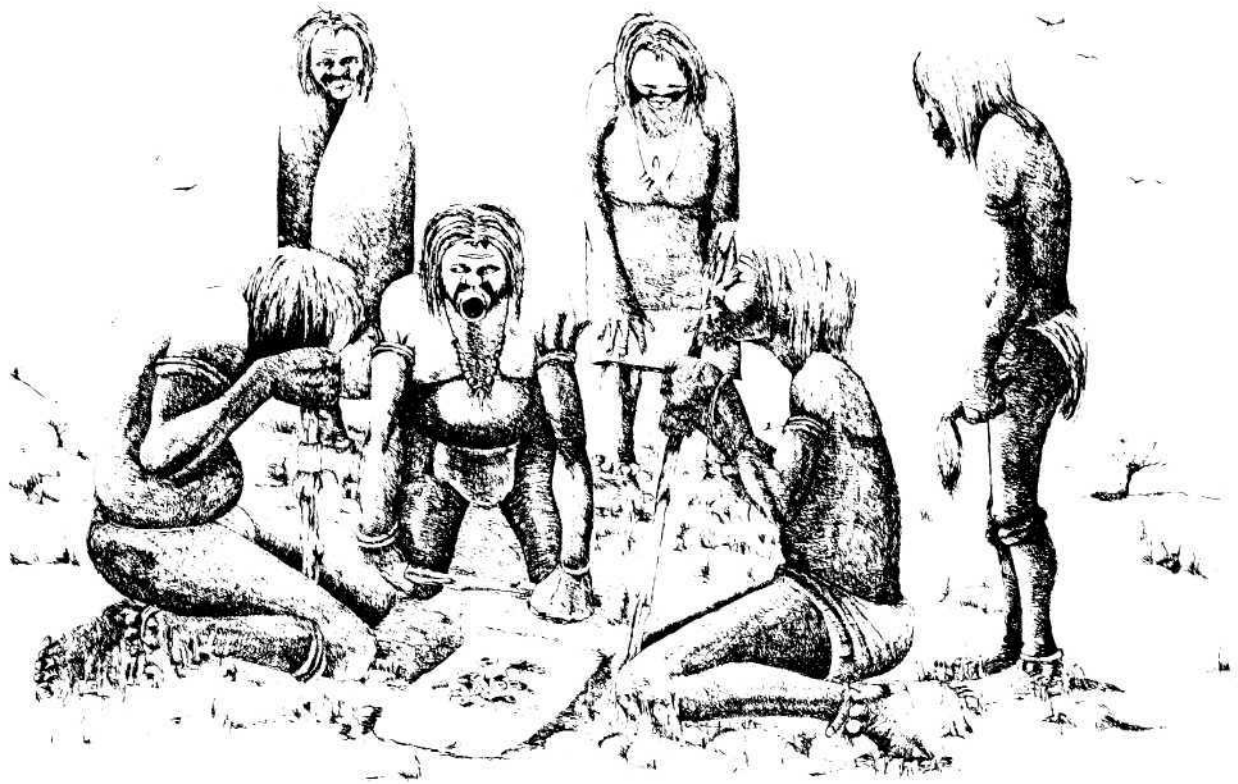
We asked Chris and Johannes for tips about working in the zoo — just in case any of our readers want to work there.

Chris said, “The animals in the zoo are just like pets at home. You get to know and love them and they get to know you. One thing I can say is, if you work with elephants, never leave hosepipe lying around.”

Johannes said, “If you work with lions, you can go into the cage with one lion — but never with two lions. If there are two, they will eat you. Also, you must never look a lion in the eye. If you do, they will attack you. You have to watch out.”

Learn and Teach thanked Johannes and Chris for talking to us. Then we went back to our office. Our heads were full of stories about lions and tigers, elephants and hosepipes. But we enjoyed our trip to the zoo — and we hope that you have enjoyed this story ●

Heyta daar — see you next time at the zoo.



THOMAS GOES TO A HERBALIST

“Thomas, Thomas, wake up,” said a deep voice. My eyes were very heavy when I tried to open them. Then I woke up. I saw my friends laughing at me.

“I think you must go and see a herbalist to help you with your problem,” said one of them. “You like sleeping and you snore very loudly. We cannot even listen to the radio because of your snores.”

My friends thought that a herbalist was a great idea. I did not listen to them. But they would not leave me alone. So, in the end, I agreed to go and see one.

They said they knew of a herbalist right near my offices. They had read about her in the newspaper. The people in her building chased her out because they did not like the smells that came out of her rooms.

My friends said they wanted to come with me to visit the herbalist. But when we got to the herbalist’s offices, I made my friends wait outside. I did not like the smiles on their faces.

Inside the herbalist’s office I found a good looking, fat woman. She told me to take off my shoes. I took off my shoes very slowly. I was thinking about the holes in my socks.

Then the herbalist asked me to follow her into another small room. In that room there were bottles full of dark medicines. Grass mats and animal skins covered the floor.

And there was a funny smell in the office. It was the first time I had smelt such a smell. I asked the herbalist about it and she said: “It is the smell of my ‘lucky charm’. It gives me luck and brings me customers.”

The herbalist asked me what my problem was. I did not want to tell her about my loud snores. So I just said I do not know but I have problems. “We must ‘bhola’ (throw bones),” she said to me. I was surprised to hear that herbalists use bones — I thought only ‘sangomas’ used bones.

“O.K., let’s start,” she said. “Have you seen the bones before?” “Yes,” I thought to myself, “I give bones to my dogs every day.” But I knew she was not talking about those bones. So I just kept quiet.

The herbalist threw her bones on the floor. Then she pointed at each and every bone. She said: “This bone is your father, this bone is your mother. That bone says you are having problems with your wife. And this bone says you are fighting with your friends.”

I listened very carefully but I did not hear the bones say anything. But the old lady was right about one thing. I was having problems with my friends who won’t let me sleep in peace. I decided to tell her why I was there.

“I’m here because my friends say I snore. Can you do anything to help?” The herbalist laughed — just like my friends. “Why didn’t you tell me that when you arrived?” she asked me.

She fetched a bottle from the cupboard. Then she took some grass (and I do not mean dagga). She mixed it with some dark ‘muti’ in a bottle. She shook it for a few minutes and said: “Here is your ‘muti’. Drink it and you will stop snoring.”

My time was now up. I put on my shoes and I met my friends on the way out. One of them held his nose and said: “Hey Thomas, you smell funny. What were you doing inside there?”

My friend was right. I did smell funny. I smelt of the herbalist’s ‘lucky charm’. What could I say? Nothing — so I kept quiet.

We all took a taxi home. We went by taxi because there is a bus boycott in Johannesburg. I was tired of my friends laughing at me. So I started to read my newspaper as soon as we got into the taxi.

The first thing I saw when I opened the newspaper was an advert for Alibaba, the herbalist. In the advert Alibaba promises to fix everything and anything. He says he will send you ‘muti’ in the post. “How can a herbalist help someone through the post?” I asked myself.

Suddenly I heard laughing. I looked over my newspaper and I saw that everyone in the taxi was laughing and holding their noses. But more than that, everyone was looking and pointing at me. And my friends were laughing more than anybody.

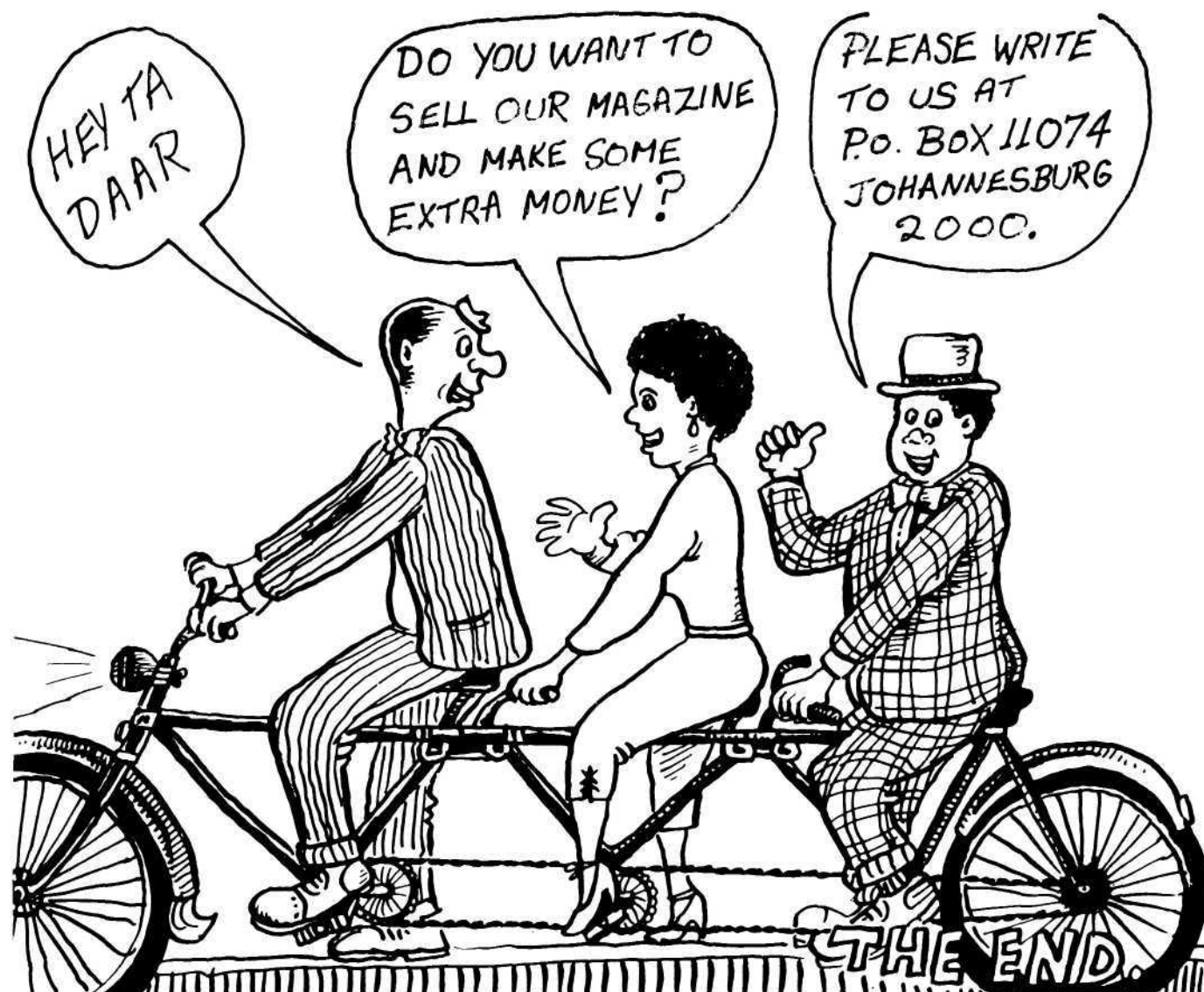
If I go to a herbalist again, I will not tell my friends, that’s for sure. And I will not catch a taxi home. If the boycott is still on, I will not catch a bus either. I think next time I go to a herbalist, I will walk home to the township — even if it takes me a week.

Now it is time for my sleep. I will drink my 'muti' and I will see if it works. I just hope no-one is listening to their radio.

Don't get me wrong. I am not saying that herbalists are no good, no. I think herbalists are good for some people and bad for others. But I do not think that a herbalist can help someone through the post.

Ek se, keep healthy. Till next time.
Heyta daar.

Before I forget, I received a letter from one of our readers. He told us that the story I wrote about "abomantshingelani" is like the story of his life. I was very sorry to hear about this man's story. But I was happy to see that some people read what Thomas writes. I will be very happy to hear what other readers think of my column ●



LETTERS

from our readers

Dear Learn and Teach

Greetings to all the readers of Learn and Teach. I have a problem. I am chairman of a cultural committee. I want to find doctors to help me stop people from smoking. Smoking is bad, good people. I think that dagga is also bad for people. There are many people who die because of cancer from smoking. What is the government doing about this? I also want to say that young people must stop drinking alcohol.

Themba Stephen Zizi
SOWETO

Thank you very much for your letter. We think that all doctors will agree with you that smoking and drinking is bad for people. You can write to SANCA — the South African National Council for Alcohol & Drug Abuse. They help people with drinking and smoking problems. Their address is:

**SANCA
P.O. Box 10134,
Johannesburg,
2000.**

Dear Learn and Teach

I am a young man with a matric certificate. I want to go and study at a university in South Africa. But I do not have money. I want to work and study at the same time. Please give me the address of a university where I can study through the post.

Hendrick Khumalo
TEMBISA

Thank you for your letter. You can write to the South African Institute of Race Relations and ask them about bursaries. Their address is: P.O. Box 97, Johannesburg, 2000. You can also write to the University of South Africa (UNISA). They offer correspondence courses. Their address is: P.O. Box 394, Pretoria, 0001.

Dear Learn and Teach

I am writing this letter to ask taxi drivers to be careful. Here in Daveyton taxi drivers do not even stop at stop signs. They knock down and kill our lovely brothers and sisters. In two months we have buried three children from our school. They were all killed by taxis. Please tell us what to do.

Student
DAVEYTON

Thank you for your letter. We are very sorry to hear your story. Drivers cannot be too careful. If the taxi drivers are so bad in Daveyton, you must go and talk to them. Talk to the South African Black Taxi Association (SABTA). Maybe they will help drivers to drive more carefully.

Dear Learn and Teach

I want to praise you for doing a good job. I do not live in South Africa but I like your magazine. I think you help many people with their problems. I am now reading Number 5, 1986. I think it is like all the other issues. It is very good. The centrefold 'Your rights under the emergency' is very nice. But I am sorry that you had to write such a poster.

A reader
ZIMBABWE

Thank you very much for your letter. We are very happy to hear that you enjoy reading Learn and Teach. We hope that you keep on reading the magazine.

Dear Learn and Teach

Things are really difficult when you are looking for work. And when you do not work, life is very difficult. A lot of black people are not working. And they do not have a place to stay. They are hungry and troubled. Sometimes I get very angry when I see such people suffering. I ask myself: Is God for black people or for white people? Does he like white people more than black people?

Tebogo Jacob Mokhoto
MAMELODI EAST

Thank you for your letter. We know how you feel. There are many people who are unemployed right now. But we hope that one day, things will change. We hope that many people will get work and be able to feed their families. Some people say it is the government who likes whites more than blacks — not God.

Dear Learn and Teach

I have a problem. On June 16th this year, I did not go to work. The next day when I went to work, my boss asked where I was on the 16th. I just kept quiet. He told me he would beat me. So I said I would hit him if he hit me. So we started fighting and then I was arrested. Please help me because people like my boss do not have a right to treat us like this.

Young Comrade
TEMBISA

Thank you very much for your letter. We need to know more about what happened. Why were you arrested and what were you charged with? If your

boss hit you first, then your boss is in the wrong. But you must prove that he hit you first. You must find other people who saw him hit you. Go to the Tembisa Advice Office. They will help you find a lawyer. Here is their address: Methodist Church, 816 Mashemong Section, Tembisa. We hope they will help you with your problem.

Dear Learn and Teach

I know that you have helped many people with their problems. I hope you will also help me. Last year, I was working at a shop in Cradock. Then we went on strike. We wanted our bosses to stop hating blacks and liking whites. Our manager treats blacks like slaves. For example, one of my friends got sick and he wanted to go to a doctor. The clerk at the doctor's office wrote the wrong date on his sick letter. When my friend came back to work, he was fired without a warning. But people of other races do not have to show doctors' letters if they go to the doctor. Our manager is also a rude man. He tells us that if we are not satisfied, he will fire all of us.

Vuyisile Joka Goniwe
CRADOCK

Thank you very much for your letter. We are very sorry to hear about your story. Maybe you should join a trade union. A trade union will help you to fight for your rights. The trade union you can join is the Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers Union (CCAWUSA). Their address is: 3rd floor, Print House Building, 365 Kempston Rd, Port Elizabeth. Or you can phone them at (041) 49456.

Dear Learn and Teach

I pass my greetings to all the readers of Learn and Teach. I say keep it up. I was very shocked to read the story of an old man, Mr Mojapelo in your magazine. I also liked your story about Mrs Sibanda and her fight for a better South Africa. I want to ask women who are in the struggle the following question: If you were Mrs Sibanda, would you follow your husband or would you stay? What I want to tell you is that as long as we are under PW Botha's government, everyone who fights for their rights will be arrested. Just like the first general secretary of the ANC, Canon Calata who was arrested for nothing. I want you to always remember this.

Thomas Mosipidi Kgotseng
VARKKVLEI

Thank you very much for your letter. We are very happy to see that you enjoyed some of our stories. We also hope that one day people will live in peace. And that apartheid will be gone forever.

Dear Learn and Teach

I read my story in our favourite magazine, Learn and Teach. It is a very interesting story. But I am not happy about parts of the story, especially the sentence:

"Today Bra Jake drinks a drop too much. He no longer gets free dops on the house and he has no friends who love his music." Let Bra Jake put it straight. I am still respected by my fans. Even now when I touch my horn, people forget their blues. They start to follow my beat and my kind of music. So please don't say that I have no friends and I drink a drop too much.

Bra Jake Khotle
JOHANNESBURG

Thank you very much for your letter, Bra Jake. We are very sorry that we hurt your feelings. We want to say that we respect you and we like your music. Please forgive us for our mistake.

Dear Learn and Teach

Greetings to all the readers and writers of Learn and Teach. I have a problem. In 1977, I met two men who told me that they want me to join an insurance company called 'African Friend Insurance'. They said I must pay R2-00 every month. They told me that if I was a member for three years, their company would buy me a car. They said if I hurt myself badly, their company would pay me R5000-00. I joined that insurance company. I have paid money for five years now. I tried to borrow some money from them but they refused. They said I will only get money when I am dead! They also said that if I stop paying, I will not get my money back. Then I got sick and I went to hospital for three months. I had no money to pay for my insurance. When I came out of hospital I received a letter from the insurance company. They said I must start as a new member again. So I cancelled the insurance and I lost all the money.

Mzwandile Mzamane
CAPE TOWN

Thank you very much for your letter. It sounds like you were treated badly by the insurance company. They should have paid you some money. We know that the Legal Resources Centre is keeping a file about these companies. Maybe you should go and see them. And maybe they will help you to get your money back. Their address is: 1st and 2nd floor, 144 Church St, Cape Town.

Dear Learn and Teach

I like Learn and Teach magazine like my sister's nose. I started reading Learn and Teach in 1982. I say, 'Angikhathali ngawe Learn and Teach.' Please help me, I am looking for a school where I can learn agriculture. I am in standard 7.

Cynthia Madonsela
TSAKANE

Thank you very much for your letter. And thank you for the nice things you say about Learn and Teach. We think that you must write to the Educa-

tion Information Centre and tell them where you want to study. They will help you with your problem. Their address is: 601 Dunwell House, 35 Jorissen Street, Braamfontein, 2017.

Dear Learn and Teach

Please help me with my problem. I live in Soweto with my father. My mother ran away from home. My problem is that I went to school in the Transkei. I lived with my grandparents while I was in the Transkei. I have a Transkei travel document. But now I want to get the new South African Identity Document. I do not have a birth certificate to show that I was born in Soweto. Also I am not on my father's house permit. What can I do?

Luthando Mantanga
SOWETO

Thank you very much for your letter. We are very sorry to hear about your problem. We think that you should go and speak to the people at the Black Sash. No one knows what the new laws mean. But the people at the Black Sash know better than us. You can visit them at this address: 1st floor, Khotso House, 42 De Villiers Street, Johannesburg.

Dear Learn and Teach

I like Learn and Teach because I think it is useful and it helps a lot of black people. But I did not like your story called 'Workers of the World'. I think that the writer of that story says mine workers here are like mine workers in Bolivia. I also think that the writer says mine workers here will be happy if they do not have bosses — just like the mine workers in Bolivia. I think that this story is written in a communist way. And some of the things in the story are not true. I think that you must read page 21 of the Sunday Star of September 14, this year. It is about how the mines in Bolivia are having big problems.

Q.M. Lamenle
PRETORIA

Thank you very much for your letter. We are very sorry to hear that you did not like that story. In fact, it was not a story written by Learn and Teach. It was about a book written by the Labour History Group. We have given your letter to them.

Dear Learn and Teach

I hope that you are going to solve my problems. I am a domestic worker. I worked for one family in Highlands North for 30 years. Then in 1985 my bosses started telling me that they would fire me. They did not tell me why. So I did not think it was serious. Then one weekend, they told me to pack all my things and go. I asked for my salary, long service pay and overtime money. But they only gave me my salary. I have gone to a few people for help but no-one

has helped me. So please Learn and Teach, help me get my long service pay and my overtime money.

Worried woman
JOHANNESBURG

Thank you very much for your letter. We are sorry to hear about how your bosses treated you. We think that you should go to some people called SADWA — the South African Domestic Workers Association. Their address is Tudor Mansions, Troye Street (corner of Bree Street), Johannesburg. We hope that they will help you get your money.

Dear Learn and Teach

I would like you to know that the letter written by Alfred Vuso in Learn and Teach Number 5 of this year, is not true. What he says about his work, pay and treatment is not true. Alfred worked for the Schoenstatt Sisters as a contract worker. His contract ended on the 8th of August 1986. And we did not sign a new contract with him. Alfred said we said he could not join a trade union. This is not true. We do everything to help our workers who want to join unions. It is not true that when Alfred asked for more money, we told him to go and speak to the bishops. And we do not tell our workers to pray for what they want. We try to help the families of our workers. Maybe you should have checked with us before you published Alfred's letter.

Sister M. Judith Steib
Secular Institute of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary
CONSTANTIA

Thank you very much for your letter. We are very sorry to hear that you think we made a mistake. We receive many letters from our readers. We do not check on any letters that we get. We feel that our letters page belongs to our readers and so we try to print as many letters as we can — just like we are printing your letter.

Dear Learn and Teach

Please put my jokes in Learn and Teach.

Question: How long was a Chinese person?

Answer: How Long.

Question: If there is butter in the kitchen and I went in and you came out, what will be left in the kitchen?

Answer: Bitter.

Question: What takes you and gives you back?

Answer: A camera.

T.J Makhatholela
SOSHANGUVE

Thank you very much for your jokes. We hope the readers will like them.

Dear Learn and Teach
 Please help me. I am looking for the address of the
 'Hall of Karate' in Pietersburg, Louis Trichardt or
 Sibasa.

Albert A. Matamela
 BRAAMFONTEIN

Thank you very much for your letter. We do not
 know any addresses of the 'Hall of Karate'. But
 maybe one of our readers knows the address. If
 anyone knows, please write to Albert at:
 S.A.Division, P.O. Box 31429, Braamfontein, 2017.

Dear Readers of Learn and Teach

We want to start something new in the
 magazine. We want to have two pages
 of stories from our readers.

If there is anything interesting or excit-
 ing happening in your area, please
 write a story for us about it. If you know
 interesting young or old people, write
 and tells us about them. But please do
 not make your stories too long.

We want our readers to get to know
 each other. And we want to know what

is happening everywhere in the
 country.

If you write a story for us, please try to
 send us pictures or drawings too.

We think these pages will be very ex-
 citing. We are waiting for your stories
 to come in. Our address is:
Learn and Teach Publications
P.O. Box 11074
JOHANNESBURG
2000



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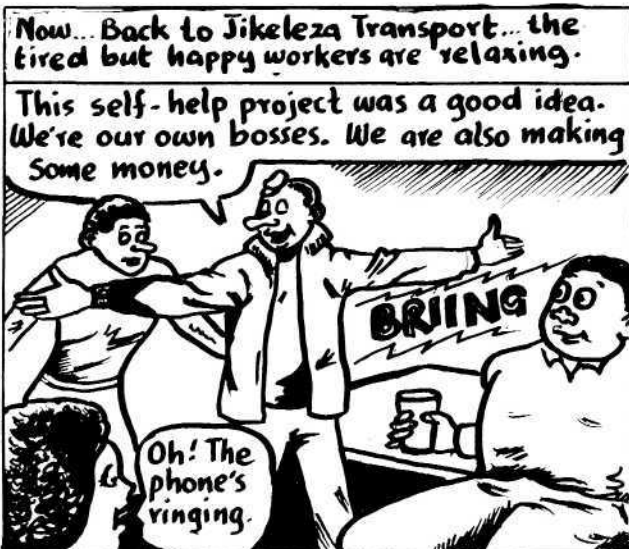
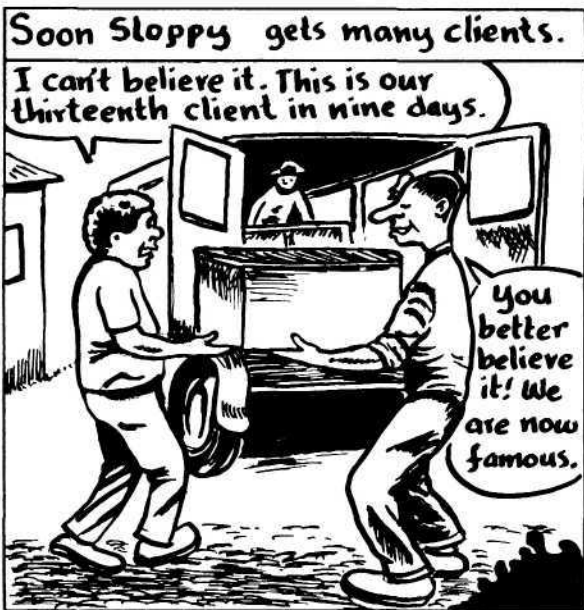
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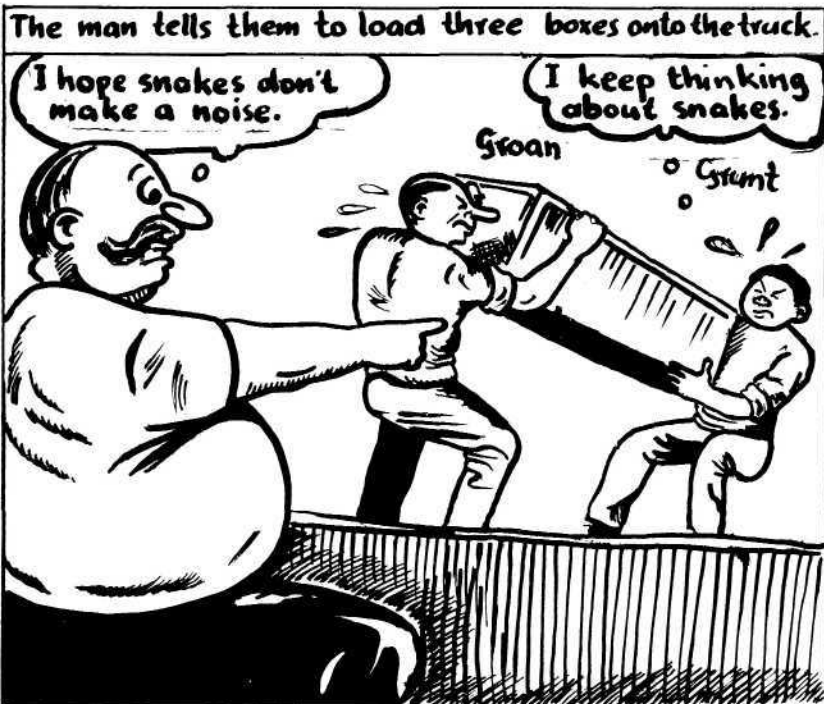
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 Johannesburg, Tel: 011 434 1905

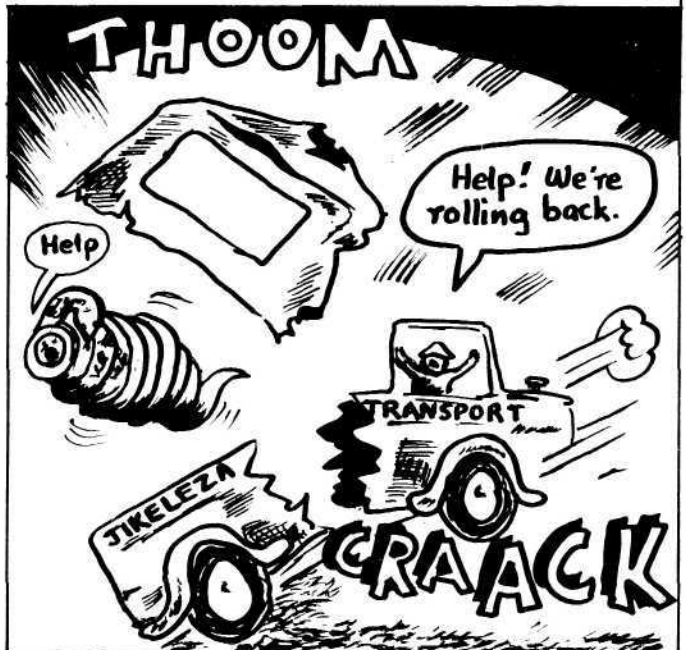
SLOPPY

THE GREAT SNAKE ROBBERY





Suddenly they hit a pothole. A box opens... a snake comes out...





Howw! Forget about that snake. Look at how this man has lost weight!

Maybe the snake squeezed him to normal size. See how he's sweating.

I'm also sweating. But about stolen snakes.

The man suddenly sees his picture in the pool of sweat at his feet...

Egad! It's true! I am thin!

Nobody'll know me again.

Uh... er except the three here, of course.

The man thinks fast... First I must get them to help me with my plan. Then I'll get rid of them.

This Dumpy knows too much already.

I have a plan, guys. If you help me I'll give you bonuses and buy you a new truck.

Yes! But the truck must be the same as my old one.

What is the job?

I want you to give the rest of my family the 'snake treatment'.

It's a deal.

So Jikeleza starts on the job... Okay, down you go!

Yah! Roll on

Help!

Help!

...with good results...day after day...till everyone is cured...

How do you like the new me, Pa?

Um, good!
Very good!
Now Burp give me some more fried chicken and chips!



Now for your bonus, boys!

Lock them up

Wha-?

I knew it. The Fat Gang!



The man jumps up to lead the attack. But he has put on more weight than before...

Help! I'm stuck in the doorway!

Stop! You're breaking the house down!

crack



Part of the house collapses.

We're safe.



Dumpy decides to see what is inside the other boxes... Some snakes escape...

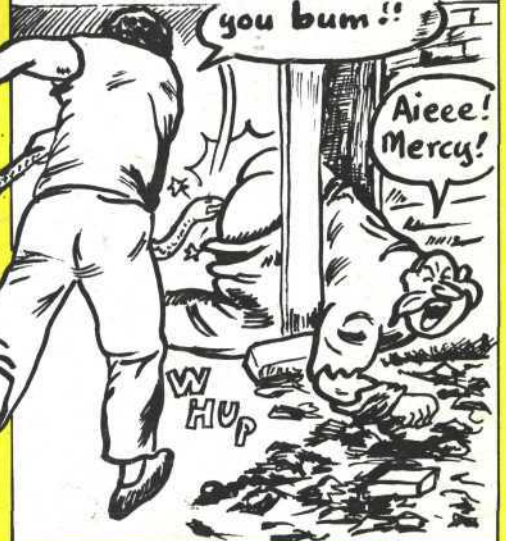
Ulk! Are these the stolen snakes?

Yah! I told you so.



Aha! How does a snake on the bum feel like, (you bum!!)

Aieee! Mercy!



Well, at least the bum bought a truck. We must let Thabo keep it. It'll only be fair to do that.

And let's get away from here. I've had enough of snakes, man.

Sure, mja.

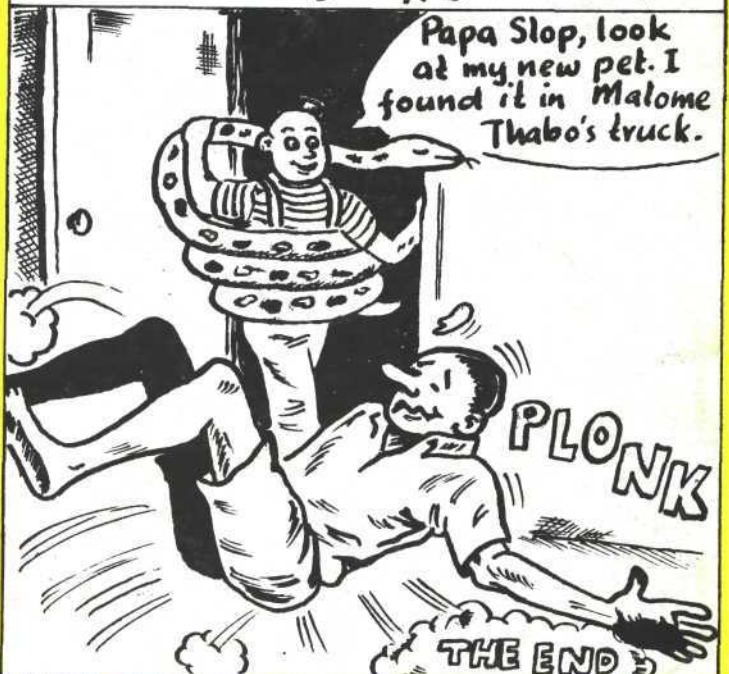


Later the same day, Sloppy is at home...

Papa Slop, look at my new pet. I found it in Malome Thabo's truck.

PLOONK

THE END



More fun with Sloppy in the next magazine.