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A GUIDE TO AIDS

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LITERACY YEAR

THE HISTORY OF SOCCER
IN SOUTH AFRICA

FORWARD TO THE
CONSTITUENT
ASSEMBLY!

THE HOTTEST
RESTAURANT IN TOWN!!

ANC WOMEN'S LEAGUE RE-LAUNCHED:

An Interview with Gertrude Shope

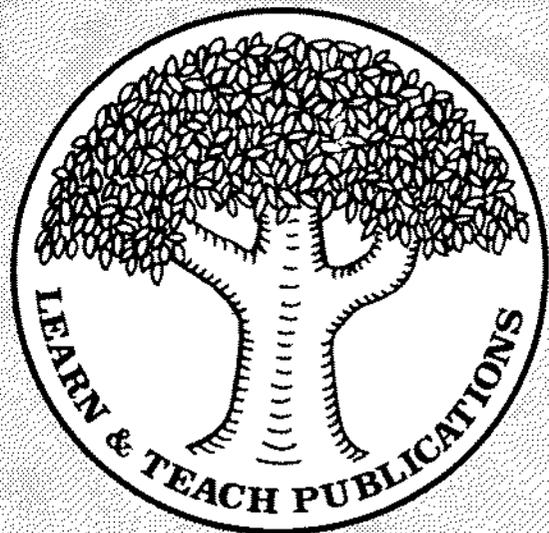
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Produced by:
Learn and Teach Publications
P.O. Box 556
Johannesburg
2000

156 President Street (corner Nugget)
17th Floor Conlyn House
Johannesburg
2000

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"PRAISE BE THE WOMEN!"

An interview with Gertrude Shope, a member of the ANC's National Executive Committee and head of the ANC Women's Section

Malibongwe, malibongwe
Malibongwe, malibongwe
Igama la makhosikazi
Malibongwe, igama la makhosikazi
Malibongwe

Malibongwe, malibongwe
Malibongwe, malibongwe
Igama lika Ma-Shope
Malibongwe, igama lika Ma-Shope
Malibongwe

(Praise be the women!
Praise be the name of Ma-Shope!)

Many of us know the words of this song of freedom. We have often sung the praises of Ma-Shope at our meetings and rallies. But we have never seen her face. The reason for this is that Gertrude Shope has been living in exile for 24 years. At long last, she is back home.

Learn and Teach interviewed Ma-Shope at the ANC offices in Johannesburg. She spoke about her life in exile and her joy to be home. She also spoke about the ANC Women's League which was re-launched in Durban on 12 August this year, and the challenges that are facing both men and women in the struggle to build a new South Africa.

Learn and Teach: Welcome home Ma-Shope! How do you feel to be back after such a long time in exile?

Shope: It is the most wonderful feeling in the world to be home! I am very excited! I never thought that I would be back so soon. You know, even though we were welcomed with warmth



Ma Gertrude Shope: "Let us, together with our menfolk, correct the wrongs in our society"

everywhere we went, it is not the same as being in your place of birth, in the country you love. Home is always "home sweet home"!

Before we ask you about your involvement in the ANC, can you tell us something about your youth?

Well, I was born on 15 August 1925 in Pimville. My father was sent to Zimbabwe to work when I was a young child and we all went with him. I went to school and did a teacher's course there. When we came back to South Africa, I taught at Endaleni High School in Natal for a while and then I moved to

Johannesburg where I taught domestic science at Pimville High. In 1954, I worked in the Occupational Therapy section of Coronation Hospital and later moved to the Johannesburg City Council. This was my last job before I left the country.

Why did you decide to leave South Africa?

Well, it was not an easy decision to leave although it was made easier because my husband, Mark Shope, had already gone into exile in 1963. He is a trade unionist with SACTU. We got married in 1957 while he was one of the accused in the famous Treason Trial.

One Sunday in 1966, I packed our things and took all the children — we had three together and Mark had three from another marriage — and crossed the border into Botswana. We stayed there for a year and then went on to Zambia. Later, I joined my husband in Czechoslovakia where he was the co-ordinator of the World Federation of Trade Union English-speaking African countries.

Have your husband and children come back with you?

No, Mark is still in Lusaka. Some of the children are also in Zambia at school and others are working for the ANC in other countries. But don't worry, I am used to being on my own!

Can you tell us how you became involved in the ANC? Was it because of your husband's activities as a trade unionist?

It is impossible to live in South Africa and not see that apartheid stinks. The damage that apartheid has caused can

be felt in the family, in the streets.... apartheid is everywhere. As a young child, I saw how our parents were arrested for not carrying their passes and how our mothers were forced to carry the evil books.

When we came back from Zimbabwe, I saw that nothing had changed and I started to get involved. I joined the ANC in 1954, before I got married. Another thing that inspired me to carry on the struggle was the women's march to Pretoria in 1956 when 20 000 women protested against carrying passes.

Were you only active in the ANC or were you also involved in the ANC Women's League?

I was active in both. Later, I joined the Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW) and was the Transvaal Secretary until I went into exile.

Can you tell us about your work in the ANC during the years you were in exile?

Well, I have already told you that I went to join my husband in Czechoslovakia. After a while, I returned by myself to Tanzania where I worked as Florence Mophosho's secretary. Florence was the head of the Women's Section and a member of the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the ANC. Two years later, I was sent to Lusaka. I worked for the head office of the ANC and in 1974 I was elected as one of the chief representatives of the ANC in Lusaka.

By that time, my husband had been transferred to Nigeria. I stayed with him until 1981 when I was chosen to be the head of the Women's Section.



ANC women at the press conference before the re-launch of the ANC Women's League. From left to right: Baleka Kgositsile, Albertina Sisulu, Frene Ginwala, Gertrude Shope and Mavivi Manzini

In the same year, I was appointed to serve on the NEC. Finally, at the 1985 Kwabe Conference, I was elected onto the NEC. I still hold the two positions.

What is the difference between the Women's Section and the Women's League?

The Women's League was the name of the ANC's women's organisation until 1960 when the ANC was banned. At the time, the Women's League was an affiliate of FEDSAW. When the ANC was banned, we continued to work as members of FEDSAW.

But those of us who were in exile wanted to carry on the work of the Women's League. We started to have discussions about starting a women's section. What prompted us was that many of our male comrades could not accept the contribution that women were making in the struggle. They still

thought women were a side issue, without much importance. So we formed a new grouping called the ANC Women's Section.

But now you have re-launched the ANC Women's League. Why is that?

When the ANC was unbanned on February 2, a lot of exiles started to make plans to come home. Those in the Women's Section felt the need to build a strong Women's League inside the country. Already organisations in South Africa that are part of the MDM were discussing the possibility. Many of them have aligned themselves with the ANC and have adopted the Freedom Charter and the FEDSAW Women's Charter.

Then, in April this year, a meeting was held in Lusaka between women in exile and those from inside to decide whether to go ahead and build the

Women's League. It was agreed that we should. Ten women were elected to serve on the Interim Leadership Core — five from exile and five from inside. Our aim is to prepare the ground for a strong mass-based Women's League.

Some people say that they don't see any need for women to organise separately because women are in all the structures, be they civic, youth, students, trade unions and so on. Others say that women are organising separately to revolt against men. Why is it important for women to organise separately?

Are there still people who think that way? I thought we had gone beyond that! But to answer your question: Yes, it is important for us to form women's organisations that fight for women's rights. Just look into most of our structures and you will see that it is men who hold all the leadership positions, not women. I think the time has come to change this situation.

But let me explain a bit more. All women in South Africa suffer a double oppression — as women and as workers. Black women suffer a further oppression, because of the colour of our skin. As women, we are looked down on and regarded as the servants of men. They see us as sex objects that they can play with and then throw away. We want men to know that we are their equals, we are human beings just like them.

The laws in South Africa give our men the right to keep what we earn and to do whatever they like with our property. We cannot take out a contract without our husbands' signatures and we are not even allowed to make decisions about our children. This attitude must go!

But by saying this, we are not declaring war on men! We know that the society we live in has made men think that way. So men are also victims. Together, men and women must change their attitudes to each other.

Our second oppression is as workers. In the work-place, we are paid less just because we are women. When there are problems in the economy, we are the first to be fired. Thirdly, are also oppressed because we are black.

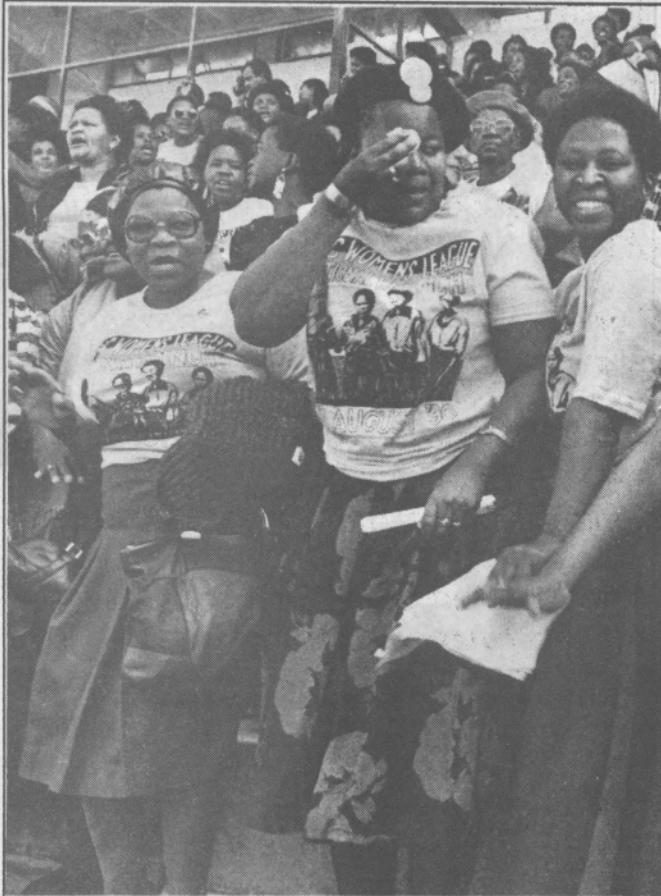
What are the plans of the Women's League? Are you going to start any campaigns?

Our first plan is to start correcting the oppression of women in the home, at work, in our organisations and in all other places.

We also want to organise as many women as possible into the League. We hope to have half a million women by December 16 when the ANC will hold its National Conference.

We especially want to organise in the rural areas. Not enough work has been done there in the past. This was a big mistake and it must not happen again. We need to educate and develop the women in these areas. The young women should be encouraged and helped to go back to school. We will teach the older ones skills to help them to do things on their own. Women in the towns should be helped in the same way.

In October this year, the Women's League will hold a conference in Kimberley. We will elect the national executive, draft the constitution and decide which issues to take to the national conference in December.



Young and old alike celebrate the re-launch of the ANC Women's League on 12 August this year

adopted in 1954? The ANC Women's League was there when the Charter was adopted.

It is true that we were part of the launch of the FEDSAW Charter and the FEDSAW Charter is still an important and useful Charter. The ANC's Constitutional Guidelines only speak about women's issues in passing. Our Charter will spell out all the issues that affect women. In this way, women's rights will be put high on the agenda for a new South Africa.

Lastly, Ma-Shope, do you have any message for the women of our country?

My message to women is that we should stand up for our rights. The time for women to be found in the kitchen only is long past. Let us, together with our menfolk, correct the wrongs and ills in our society.

This is the challenge facing us today. Join your organisations in your thousands for without you there is no revolution. The ANC Women's League is for you. It is there to serve you and to be serviced by you!

We will also decide what campaigns we should take up.

But perhaps I can say now that one campaign will be for the children of our country. We need a charter for our children because I believe that a nation that does not care about its children is doomed. History will never forgive us if we don't look after our children's rights.

We are also planning to have a Women's Charter. We will go from door to door asking people what they want to put in the Women's Charter, just like we did with the Freedom Charter in 1953. We will go to all women, not only those in the ANC.

Why do you need another charter when we already have FEDSAW's Women's Charter which was

NEW WORDS

appoint — when a group of people choose you to do something, but **NOT** by a vote

elected — when a group of people choose you to do something by a vote

minors — people under the age of eighteen. Minors need their parents permission to sign forms and so on. In South Africa, women are seen as minors and need their husband's permission to sign forms or contracts

doomed — when we say something is doomed, we mean it has no future

FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME

A Short History of Soccer in South Africa

Six hundred years ago, the rich people in Britain could be seen on weekends in their checked caps and long socks playing their favourite sport: archery. The poor, on the other hand, could not afford the bows and arrows they needed to play this game. So they started playing a new sport.

First, the players organised themselves into teams. Then, they ran up and down a big playing ground trying to kick a ball. When they got the ball, they tried to kick it through the opponents' goal posts. If one of them succeeded, the whole team would shout: "Ggggooooaaaallllllllll!"

The name of the game? Soccer, of course.

The rich were unhappy about this new game. They said it was rough and "not a gentleman's sport". But by the 1800s, archery was a lost sport and soccer had won the hearts and minds of many British working-class people. It quickly spread to other countries where youngsters and "old crocks" alike were quick to learn it.

All over the world, every weekend, thousands of soccer die-hards — often dressed in the colours of their favourite



Moroka Swallows players celebrate a goal in the Mainstay competition in 1986

team — fill up the stadiums. Those fans who are too lazy to go to the stadium, spend the afternoon glued to their television sets. Most towns and

villages — even the smallest ones — can boast of their own soccer club. Soccer has become like "an opium of the people" — as the famous German philosopher, Karl Marx, once said about religion.

The mine bosses saw how soccer kept the workers occupied. "If the workers are busy they won't have the time to think about their terrible lives," the mine bosses thought.

ON THE MINES

The game first reached South Africa during the 1860s, at a time when British soldiers were occupying Natal. Soccer was the soldiers' favourite sport. During their spare time, they organised matches and invited the local population, black and white, to watch. The spectators soon developed an interest in playing themselves. The soldiers encouraged them to form their own teams. By 1880, many of the locals were proudly playing in their own teams.

Soccer soon spread to the other provinces. But it was in the Transvaal, especially in the Witwatersrand area, that soccer rooted itself firmly. In 1886 gold was discovered in Johannesburg. People from the rural areas flocked in their thousands to the Witwatersrand in search of jobs. Some of these people — mainly Indians from Natal — brought along their knowledge and experience of the game.

The introduction of soccer in the mines was good for the lonely migrant workers. The miners' weekends were boring and they were frustrated because of the low pay and bad working and living conditions. Sometimes the workers went to the nearby locations to look for women and to drink beer. But often they killed time by watching soccer.

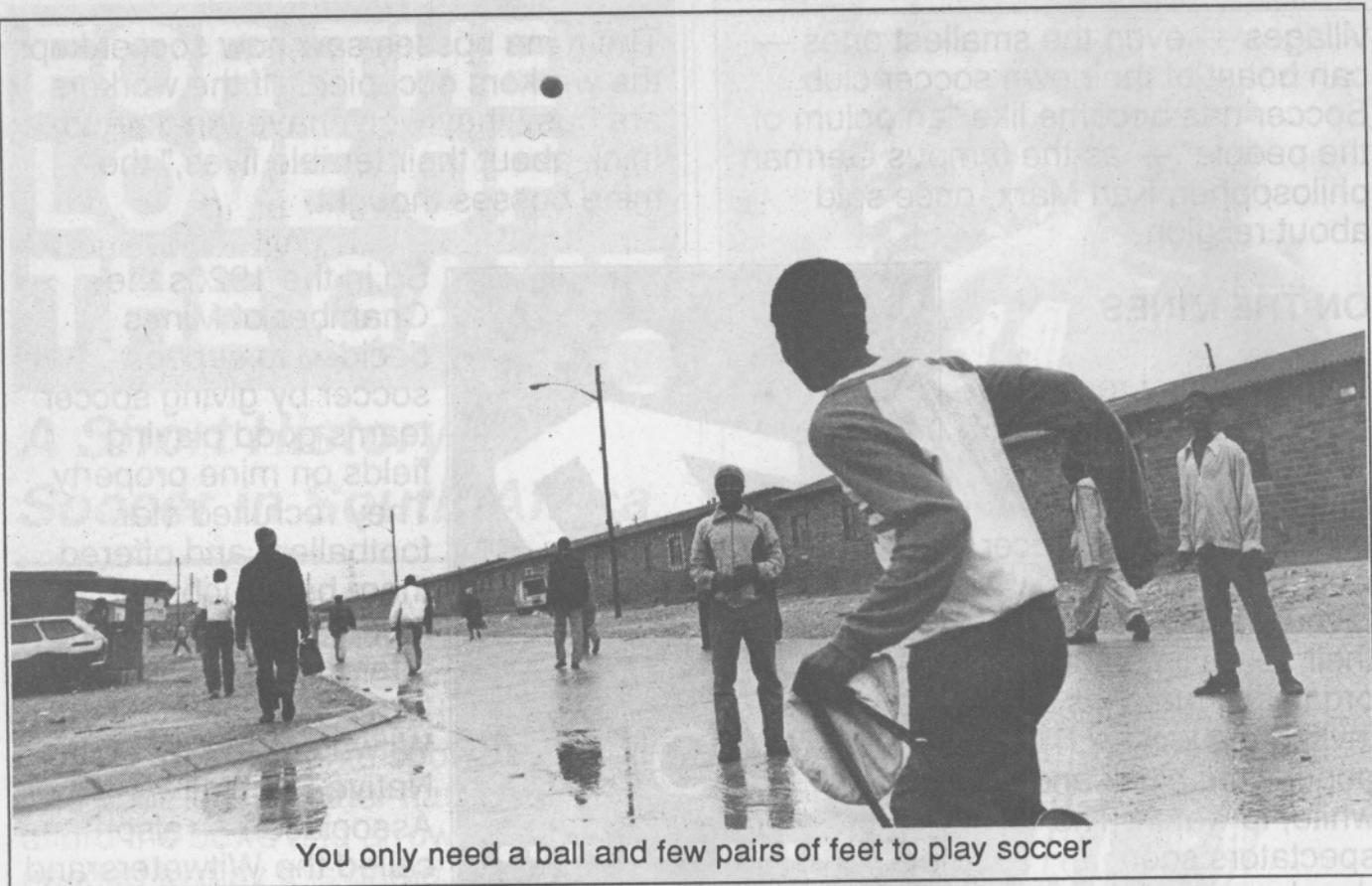


So in the 1920s the Chamber of Mines decided to support soccer by giving soccer teams good playing fields on mine property. They recruited star footballers and offered them better jobs at higher wages. Not long after that, the mines formed the Witwatersrand District Native Football Association — also called the Witwatersrand African Football Association (WAFSA).

"BETTING" SOCCER

At the same time, the residents of the nearby locations — Doornfontein, Vrededorp and Prospect — "copied" soccer from the mines. Players in one location-yard would form a team and challenge another yard team. Sometimes they played for money. Each team gave its "betting" money to the referee at the beginning of the match. At the end of the game the winning team took all the money as its prize. The treasurers of the teams were usually the "aunties" who supported the teams.

"Laaities" — small boys — also liked playing football in the streets. Sometimes they also played for money like their big brothers. Often they had no proper balls, so they tied together pieces of rags and paper and made a ball.



You only need a ball and few pairs of feet to play soccer

The locations had no proper sports grounds. So the teams played on the flat tops of mine dumps or used the fields on the mine properties. The Johannesburg municipality realised that the bad conditions and lack of facilities in the locations might lead the residents to revolt one day. These authorities liked the way the Chamber of Mines was keeping its workers busy by promoting football. They wished to do the same with the location residents.

So when Wafa died, the municipality wasted no time — they recruited Wafa's organiser, Solomon "Snowy" Senoane, and appointed him director of "Native Recreation" for the locations. In 1929, "Snowy" formed the Johannesburg Bantu Football Association (JBFA) and also organised "coloured" and Indian associations. It was clear that the JBFA and these other bodies were the "babies" of the municipality.

The municipality was hated by many residents who were harassed by its police for all sorts of offences, like "illegal squatting". So, many of the location clubs refused to join the JBFA. Instead, some of them joined a new body which replaced the dead Wafa. This was the Johannesburg African Football Association (JAFA).

APARTHEID CREEPS IN

From the beginning, the JBFA and JAFA were rivals and bitter enemies. The labels, "Bantu" and "African" were part of the reason for the rivalry. The "Bantus" were those bodies which were controlled by the municipalities. The "Africans" were supported, not controlled, by the mines and were independent.

The teams in Alexandra Township would not join the JBFA, even though they were under the Johannesburg

Municipality. In 1947, when the municipality moved some residents to Moroka in Soweto and the soccer lovers formed a new team called Moroka Swallows — "The Birds" — the old history of resistance against the municipality continued. Once again, even though Moroka was under the Johannesburg Municipality, Swallows joined the Jafa.

But some clubs did join the JBFA, mainly because they had problems getting private playing fields. Orlando Pirates, "The Mighty Bucs", was one such team. "Bucs" had no place to play except the municipal grounds in Orlando. However, as soon as it could, the team moved across to Jafa.

When the National Party (NP) came into power in 1948, the divisions got worse and soccer became clearly racial. In 1949, the government introduced the Separate Amenities law. This law stopped black teams from using fields in the "white" areas. On the other hand, there were no real facilities in the "black" townships.

In 1956, the government announced a policy which stopped whites and blacks from playing in the same team or against each other. All kinds of sport in the country suffered as a result of this unjust policy... and are still suffering today.

ONE CODE, ONE ASSOCIATION

The results of apartheid could also be seen in the national soccer associations that existed from 1933

until 1950. There were five of them: one for whites, one for "Bantus"; one for "Africans"; one for "coloureds"; and one for Indians. In May 1951, the last three met in Cape Town and formed a non-racial body, the SA Soccer Federation (SASF). The first two — the Football Association of South Africa (FASA) and the SA Bantu Football Association (SABFA) — were

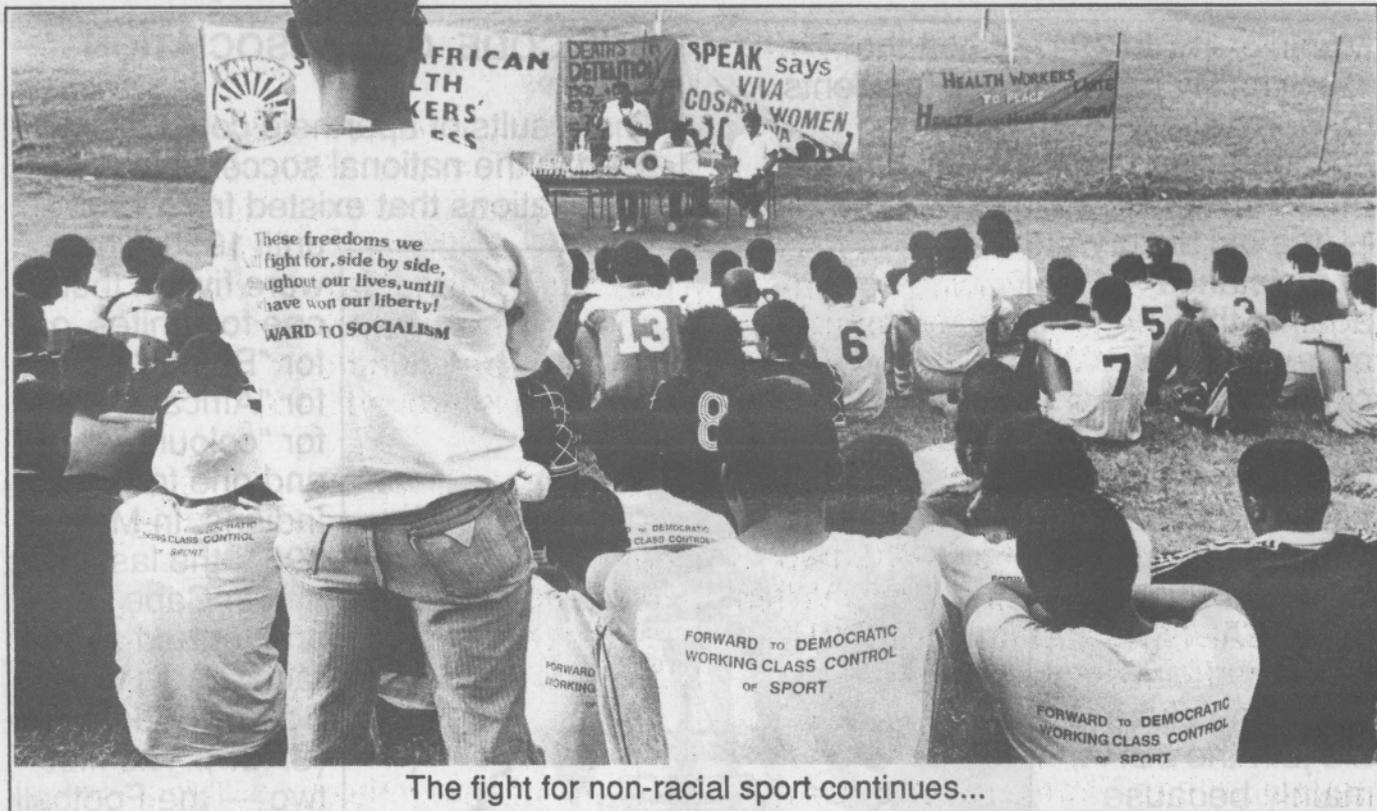


SABFA's 1971 Castle League trophy

to remain outside the non-racial camp forever.

FASA was accepted in the late 1950s as a member of the world soccer controlling body, the Federation of International Football Association (FIFA). However, FASA's membership of FIFA did not last long. In 1964 it was kicked out of FIFA because it was racist and did not represent all the soccer associations in the country.

Since then, South Africa has been booted out of many sports bodies and has never been allowed to play any soccer match under FIFA or the Confederation of African Football (CAF) — the soccer controlling body in Africa. Players who came to South Africa in search of "green pastures" were also banned from playing matches under associations affiliated



The fight for non-racial sport continues...

to FIFA. The international soccer bodies demand that one non-racial controlling body should be formed if we want to play in international games again.

Meanwhile, the campaign against apartheid in sports was being fought tirelessly. All praise should go to those anti-apartheid sports organisations who throughout the years fought for an end to racist sport. At the forefront were the SA Sports Association (SASA), the SA Non-racial Olympic Committee (SANROC) and the SA Council on Sport (SACOS). SASA was formed in 1959, SANROC in 1963 and SACOS in 1973. In 1988, the National (Olympic) Sports Congress (NOSC) was formed. One of its aims is to fight racism and to bring about unity in sports organisations.

THE DIVISION GROWS

Despite being kicked out of FIFA, no non-racial umbrella body was ever formed. Professional soccer was no

exception. In 1959, white clubs from FASA formed the National Football League (NFL). In 1961, SASF teams formed the non-racial SA Soccer League (SASL). Pirates and Swallows were among the first teams to join the SASL.

It is a well-known secret that in 1962 the "Bantus" formed the National Professional Soccer League (NPSL) to try and counter the rise and popularity of the SASL. From the beginning, the NPSL was allowed to use municipal fields freely. But the SASL teams were forced to struggle. The municipalities refused blankly to let them use their fields. By 1966 things were so bad for the SASL teams that even Pirates and Swallows finally gave up and joined the NPSL. Other teams followed them and the SASL died.

The death of the SASL meant that there was no longer a non-racial professional soccer body. So, in 1969, teams which remained in the SASF formed the Federation Professional

League (FPL). Like the SASL, the FPL struggled to get fields and the teams never gave up.

Before the SASL died, SABFA and the NPSL were weak and they struggled to attract fans. After Swallows and Pirates joined with their thousands of fans, it became strong. With the help of FASA and the NFL, these organisations slowly found their feet under the leadership of George Thabe, SABFA president and chairperson of the NPSL. By the 1970s, the NPSL had become the most powerful body. When Kaizer Chiefs was formed in 1970, it also joined this body.

One wonders what would have happened had Pirates, Swallows and Chiefs decided to leave the NPSL and joined the Federation League. What happened to the NFL in 1978 and to the NPSL in 1985 is a good answer to the question...

By 1978, white teams could no longer attract many crowds or sponsorship money. The NFL was dying. Its clubs, like Arcadia Shepherds, Highlands Park, Hellenic and Wits University, joined the NPSL. But the NPSL's strength was shortlived.

In 1985, a quarrel arose between the NPSL and Thabe. The clubs wanted to be given more power in the running of the league. But Thabe refused to give in. These teams broke away and formed the present National Soccer League (NSL). Pirates, Swallows, Chiefs — in fact, all the big clubs — joined the NSL. The sponsors followed them without delay. Today, of the three bodies — NPSL, FPL and NSL — the NSL is the strongest and together with its amateur body, the SA Soccer Association, has most of the sponsors on its side.

NOW IS THE TIME!

South African soccer has travelled a long way from the 1880s to where it is now. In spite of all the divisions and isolation we have seen, much progress has been made. The standard of soccer in this country compares well to other African countries. Our facilities have also improved a lot.

The recent visit of SANROC's Sam Ramsammy holds good promises for our entry into world soccer. Ramsammy will report the findings of his trip to the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA).

Since it was formed two years ago, the NOSC has been holding talks aimed at uniting all the soccer bodies under one national, non-racial body. In September this year a united professional body was agreed upon between the NSL and the FPL. As from next year 18 teams from the NSL and six from the FPL will play in one first division league. These are good signs indeed. We hope that the goal of forming one non-racial soccer body will be realised soon so that we can be allowed back into FIFA.

Apartheid has kept us out of world soccer for too long. We have missed a lot in all these years. It is now time that we take our rightful place among the other soccer-playing nations of the world. We are sure to enter world soccer with a big bang!

NEW WORDS

opium — a drug that comes from the poppy flower. Opium makes people sleepy and dreamy

rival — an enemy

to counter something — to fight against something

IT'S GOOD AND CLEAN AND FRESH!



A taxi driver stops for lunch at Grace Diseko's restaurant on wheels

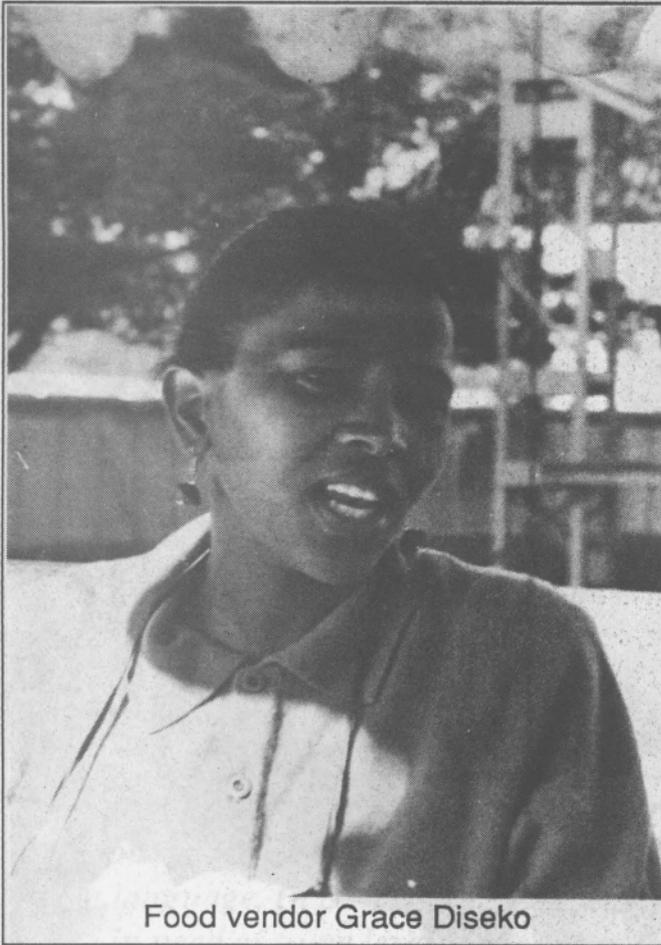
I WAS walking near Park Station in Johannesburg the other day when I saw a very strange sight. A long line of taxi drivers and marshalls were standing in a queue! "That's funny!" I said to myself. "I thought **commuters** were supposed to queue, not the other way round! I wonder what's going on..."

So I went to get a closer look. And there, behind a colourful food trolley was a young woman. She was handing out sandwiches, tea, coffee and even pap and steak. The smell was delicious.

I told my stomach to stop chanting its slogans of hunger. It would not listen. So I went to join the queue. It was still early so I bought a cup of hot, sweet tea and a sandwich. I sat on the pavement in the morning sun and listened to my new friend's story — free of charge!

A GRADUATE OF "MANTLWANENG"

"My name is Grace Mokgadi Diseko," she began. "I am a food vendor. You can find me here, on the corner of Noord and King George Streets, every day, serving my customers."



Food vendor Grace Diseko

Grace told me that her love of cooking started when she was just a little thing. "As a child, I used to play a game called "mantlwane" (housy-housy). One little child would be the "parent" and would cook food for the rest of the family. I always wanted to play the "parent", because then I could do the cooking."

Grace soon graduated from playing "mantlwane" to being a real cook. Both her parents worked so it was up to Grace to make sure that there was food on the table when they got home. "But I never thought I would make cooking my job," she says. "I wanted to get matric and be a secretary."

Grace finally completed matric in 1985. But then she couldn't find a job. "Times are hard," she says. "There is no work. That's when I got the idea of being a hairdresser."

AN HONEST SMILE

The same year, she did a hairdressing course and opened a saloon in her home in Naledi, Soweto. But she soon realised that she did not have enough training to do the job well. "I could not answer some of the customers' questions and I didn't want to be dishonest to them. So I closed my saloon. It was in the best interest of the customers," she says with an honest smile.

Grace then looked around for another way of earning a living — and her thoughts went back to the days when she used to play "mantlwane". "I started selling lunch packages to school students at Prudence Junior Secondary and Moletsane High School. I sold a quarter loaf of bread, with polony and chips."

Her business did well for a while, but then came the school boycotts. Grace was operating at a loss. So once again, she tried to find another way of making money.

She went to speak to the taxi drivers at West Gate station and asked them if they thought it would be a good idea for her to sell to them there. They were very happy with her idea and told her to start as soon as possible.

Grace bought a trolley and applied for a hawker's licence. She set up shop. But business was slow. Then she thought about all the commuters at Park Station — the most famous station in South Africa — and she decided to move there. Grace has been there for a year now and her business is flourishing. So much so that she has employed two other women to help her.

"HEALTH FIRST, PROFIT LATER"

Grace told us about her working day. "We get here at about seven in the morning, six days a week. The first thing we do is clean and make tea and coffee for our early morning customers. Then we start cooking." All the food that Grace sells is fresh. Grace says that her motto is: "Health first, profit later".

A cup of tea costs 70 cents and sandwiches cost R1.20. But Grace's speciality is her pap and steak which costs R3.80. "People always come back to buy from me because of my cheap prices and good quality food," says Grace.

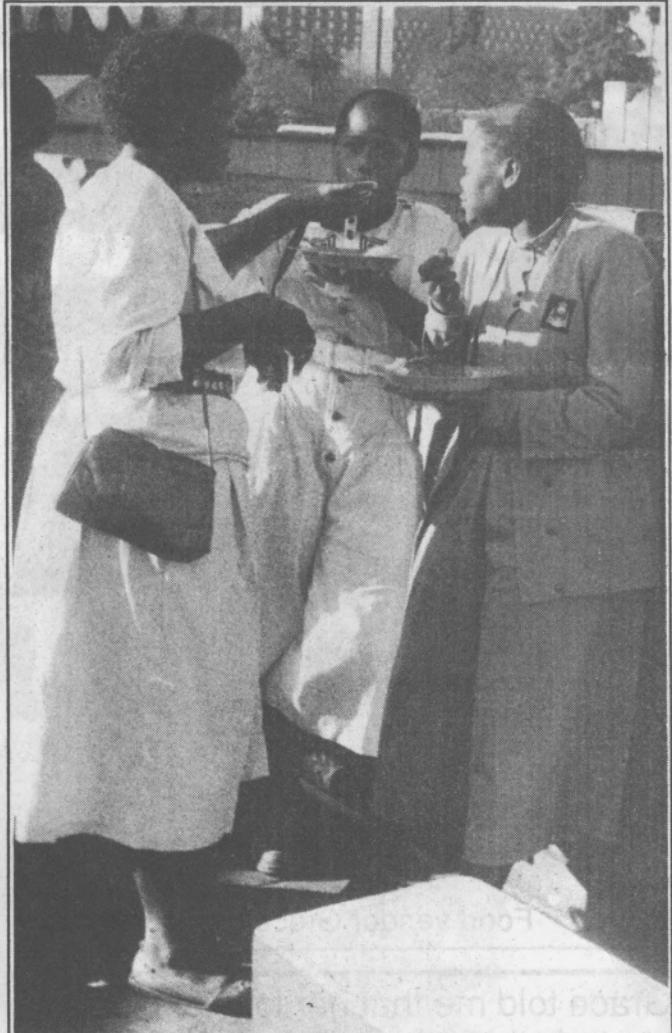
A PROBLEM OR TWO

Many commuters complain that taxi drivers and marshalls are rude and cause trouble. Does Grace have any problems with them? "No, not at all. I think that's because I have a very different relationship with them. I am like a mother or sister to them.

"I always try by all means to respect them and to keep my temper. Even if someone is howling at me, I stay cool and calm. And do you know, on Sundays when I'm not working, I even miss their company!"

Grace has only two problems and they have nothing to do with people. One is the rain. "We work in the open air and so if it rains, we can't cook. Now we are happy because it's winter. The other problem is the price of red meat. This year the price has gone up and I find it difficult to make money."

It was nearly twelve o'clock now. People were queueing up for lunch. One old taxi driver who travels from



Satisfied customers enjoy a finger-licking good meal of pap and steak

Johannesburg to Venda every day, licked his lips. "Makoti! (Daughter-in-law!) Make me a good lunch because I am going to Venda this afternoon."

"Sure, baba!" said Grace with a big smile.

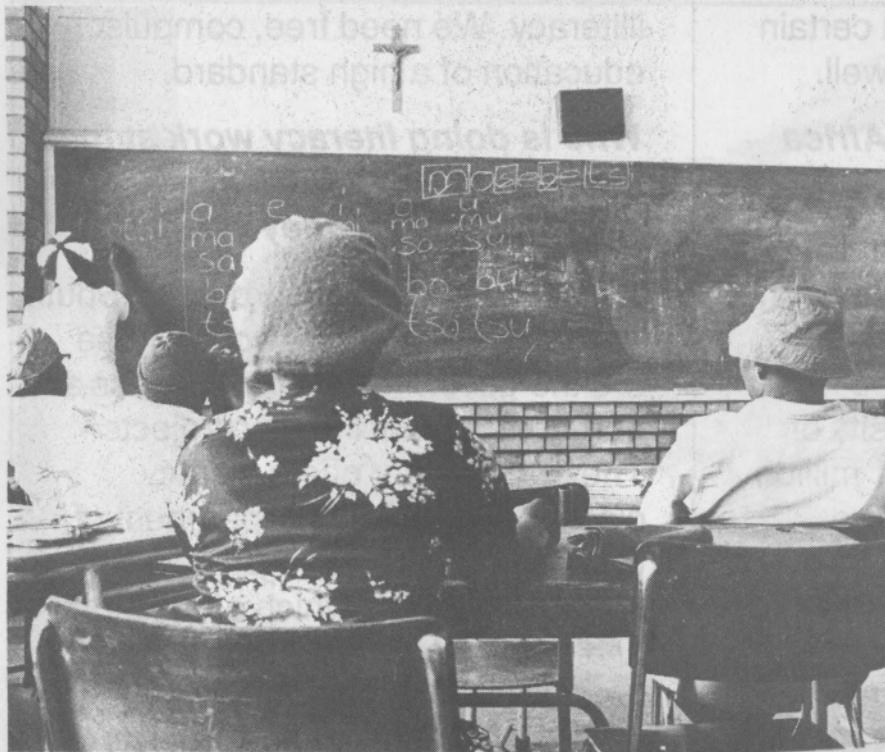
"And me too!" I asked. My stomach was beginning to talk to me again. The pap and steak looked finger-licking good!

NEW WORDS

commuters — people who travel by train or taxi to work

graduate — someone who passes a course

operating at a loss — losing money



A STORY FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T READ

If you are able to read this story, consider yourself lucky. Nine hundred million adults – one out of three in the world – could not read this story, even if it was written in their own language. In South Africa alone, it is claimed that over half the adult population are in need of some level of literacy training. To fight this huge problem, the United Nations has declared 1990 International Literacy Year. But what is the UN's campaign all about, and what is being done in our own country to provide literacy for our people?

To find the answers to these and other questions, Learn and Teach spoke to Brian Cooper, the national organiser of the National Literacy Co-operation, an umbrella body of progressive literacy organisations in South Africa.

Can you please tell us about the aims of International Literacy Year?

The United Nations has declared 1990 to be International Literacy Year, and the period from 1990 to the year 2000 as the Decade of Literacy. The aim is to get people, organisations and governments across the world to think about literacy and to do something about it. This is because illiteracy is a problem in nearly every country in the world. The aim of the campaign is for every adult in the world to be able to read and write by the year 2000.

What exactly is meant by the term literacy?

It is not easy to say what literacy is. Some people say that literacy is being able to read and write. Other people – such as those in progressive literacy organisations – say that literacy is not just reading and writing. It is being able to understand the world and to do something about it. Literacy means people having the confidence and knowledge to enter into debates and to fully take part in the democratic process. So for some people, literacy goes beyond the teaching of how to

read and write, and includes a certain amount of adult education as well.

How many people in South Africa are illiterate?

Again, this is a difficult question to answer. No proper studies have been done. The last time a person tried to answer this question was in 1984. Linda Wedepohl at the University of Cape Town worked out that 11 million adults in South Africa need some form of literacy training. But to do a proper, up-to-date study would be very expensive and literacy organisations do not have the money for this.

What, in your opinion, are the causes of illiteracy in South Africa?

We need to remember that when we talk about illiterate people, we are talking about illiterate adults. Children who are still at school are not thought of as illiterate. But illiteracy is linked to schooling. Everyone knows that so-called "Bantu Education" has never offered people proper schooling. The poor conditions which people live under and the poor education they received means that there are millions of adults who did not receive proper schooling. These adults cannot read and write. There are also many adults who can read and write, but only a little. So the biggest cause of illiteracy in South Africa is apartheid. Apartheid has denied the people of South Africa many rights, and education is one of them. But it would be wrong to think that just removing apartheid will sort out the problems of education and

illiteracy. We need free, compulsory education of a high standard.

Who is doing literacy work at the moment in South Africa, and how many people are they reaching?

There are three main groups in South Africa who do literacy work. These are the government, big business and non-government literacy projects. The government offers literacy classes through the Department of Education and Training. There are some companies which offer literacy and training to their workers. And there are a small number of non-government literacy projects which offer literacy. But these three groups who are providing literacy training do not share the same understanding of literacy. Some see literacy as a way of helping people to live with apartheid, or as a way of increasing the productivity of their workers. Some see literacy as a way of building democracy and fighting apartheid. All of these literacy groups, however, are together reaching less than one out of every 100 illiterate adults.

Why are so few people being reached?

Providing literacy skills is a very expensive job. Teaching adults is different to teaching children. Adults who work cannot go to school, and need a different type of teaching. It is not good to have more than 10 adults in a literacy class. If there are 11 million adults who need literacy skills, then there is a need for thousands upon thousands of teachers.



A group of learners read Learn and Teach magazine in their class

Progressive literacy projects do not have the number of staff, or the money to train this number of teachers. It is only the government and big business who have the money, but they have not really been interested in adult education. When there is a people's government in South Africa, then we may see more attention being paid to literacy and adult education.

Could you please tell us about the structure which has been formed by progressive literacy organisations?

In 1989 a number of non-governmental literacy projects across the country formed a national network called the National Literacy Co-operation (NLC). The aim was to work together to find ways of providing literacy and adult education

to more people. More than this, the aim was to use literacy as a weapon in the struggle against apartheid. To do this, members of the NLC work with people's organisations and trade unions. At the moment the NLC has more than 20 member projects which meet in their regions to share ideas and skills. There are regional groups in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Natal, Southern Transvaal, and in the Northern Transvaal.

How are the progressive literacy organisations celebrating International Literacy Year?

Literacy organisations, in their regional structures, have set their own goals. But the main focus has been to increase the awareness of people and organisations about literacy. The idea is for literacy organisations to host public events in

each region, with a degree of national co-ordination. It is hoped that other progressive non-literacy organisations in each region will be involved, either as co-hosts or as participants. Each region will decide what kind of events they will have. There will probably be rallies in the different regions to celebrate International Literacy Day, which is on the 8th of September.

What are the biggest challenges facing literacy organisations, now, and in the future?

I think there are three main challenges facing progressive literacy organisations. Firstly, literacy organisations need to form a common vision of – and approach to – literacy work by coming together in an effective national body.

Secondly, to find ways of

strengthening the link between literacy work and the broader struggle, by consulting with mass based organisations in order to put literacy on the agendas of these organisations.

Thirdly, for literacy organisations to work with those people and organisations that are at the moment formulating education policies for a post apartheid South Africa. Literacy organisations must be part and parcel of these discussions, and not continue, as they have done, to work in isolation. Literacy organisations need to prepare for the day when a people's government comes to power because, in the end, only a future progressive government will have the resources and the will to provide literacy training and adult education on the large scale that is so urgently needed.

<p>Here is a list of progressive literacy organisations that belong to the National Literacy Co-operation group.</p> <p><u>JOHANNESBURG REGION</u></p> <p>English Literacy project 314 Dunwell House 35 Jorissen Street Braamfontein 2017</p> <p>Learn and Teach P.O. Box 11074 Johannesburg 2000</p> <p>Using Spoken & Written English (USWE) 138 Oxford Road Rosebank Johannesburg 2196</p> <p><u>NATAL</u></p> <p>English Resource Unit 36 Ecumenical Centre 20 Andrews Street Durban 4000</p>	<p>LACOM Sached Trust 140 Queen Street Durban 4000</p> <p>Adult Basic Education Programme Centre for Adult Education University of Natal King George V Avenue Durban 4001</p> <p><u>WESTERN CAPE REGION</u></p> <p>Using Spoken & Written English (USWE) 1 Strubens Road Mowbray Cape Town 7700</p> <p>Adult Learning Project 4 Ashley Street Mowbray Cape Town 7700</p> <p>Montagu Ashton Gemeenskapdiens Lees en Skryfprojek Sultana Singel Montagu 6720</p>	<p>LACOM/Education Resource Sached Trust 5 Church Street Mowbray Cape Town 7700</p> <p>Masifunde P.O. Box 100 Langa 7455</p> <p>National Language Project (NLP) 15 Durham Ave Salt River 7925</p> <p>West Coast Council of Churches P. O. Box 20 Diazville 7397</p> <p><u>EASTERN CAPE REGION</u></p> <p>104 Agency House 39 Perkins Street North End Port Elizabeth 6001</p> <p>These organisations can help people who want to learn to read and write.</p>
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WORKING TOGETHER LEARNING TOGETHER

In the tiny rural village of Mbhokoda, women from two co-operatives have decided to go back to "school". They are learning to read and write with the help of the Intermediate Technological Small Industrial Development Unit (ITSIDU)....

They say you can find beauty and success wherever you look.

But in South Africa's homelands, these are not so easy to find. Mostly, the homeland villages are just dry, dusty – and poor.

The village of Mbhokoda near Louis Trichardt in Venda is no different. But out of the ugly poverty, the women of Mbhokoda make some of the most beautiful things you have ever seen!

In 1983, some of the women formed the Twananani Textile Co-operative. The co-op makes colourful duvets with matching pillow cases, as well as the latest fashion in shirts, skirts and trousers. All the material is painted by hand. Not only do the women make the goods, they also sell them and manage the co-op.

Two years later, the Athlari Textile Co-operative was formed. This co-op makes lovely bangles, belts and necklaces. Both co-ops have gone from strength to strength.

There was only one thing stopping

the women from being an even bigger success – they did not know how to read and write. The women decided to do away with this problem. Since 1986, they have been learning with an organisation called Intermediate Technological Small Industrial Development Unit (ITSIDU), a project that works in Venda and Gazankulu.

RUDE CLERKS

On the day Learn and Teach visited Mbhokoda, a group of women were sitting in a classroom. With them was a young woman called Nomsa Ndzimande, who has been their teacher for the last year. That day, the women were learning how to fill in a form for the Post Office.

One of the learners, Ma Margaret Nkuna, told us why they were learning to fill in these forms. "We sell most of our goods to shops in the big towns, and we often have to post things to our customers," she said.

"Sometimes we have to sign for the money our customers send us. Most of the post office clerks are not sympathetic to people who cannot read and write. They harass us a lot."

Signing and filling in forms are not the only problems. The women also need to know how to speak good English because most of their customers are white people. Ma Mphephu Kubayi



The women from the Twananani Co-operative in Gazankulu say that you are never too old to go back to "school"

explained: "We do not speak the same language as our customers. So we find it difficult to market our goods because there is a communication break-down."

In class, the learners practise speaking English. For example, one learner acts as a rude clerk in the Post Office. Another learner acts as someone who cannot read and write. She must ask the clerk for help. Or, one learner acts as a customer asking questions about the goods. The other one has to answer the customer's questions. All this helps the women to improve their business.

A LONELY JOB

Nomsa, the teacher, told us that the learners decide for themselves what they want to learn. "Each group is different. They want to learn different things. So they tell me what their problems are and we work out the lesson together."

We asked Nomsa if she enjoys her work. "I love it!" she said with a big smile. "But it is very hard. You see, I am the only teacher for all my groups. Literacy organisations in the cities have lots of teachers and books to teach from. But I have to prepare all the lessons myself.

"On top of that, my classes are mixed. Some people have never been to school at all. Others have got Standard One. So I must do two lessons in one!

"There is also the problem of time. Sometimes the women tell me that they can't come to class because it's

month end. The end of the month is when they sell the most. This frustrates me a lot but I have to stomach it because they make their living from selling."

A HAPPY FAMILY

We asked the women what it was like to go to "school" at their age. Ma Mphephu, who is not too sure of her age but thinks she is 51, answered. "It's just fine! You know, you're never too old to learn. Most of us never had the chance to spend even one day in school when we were children. Here, we are learning and sharing our knowledge all the time.

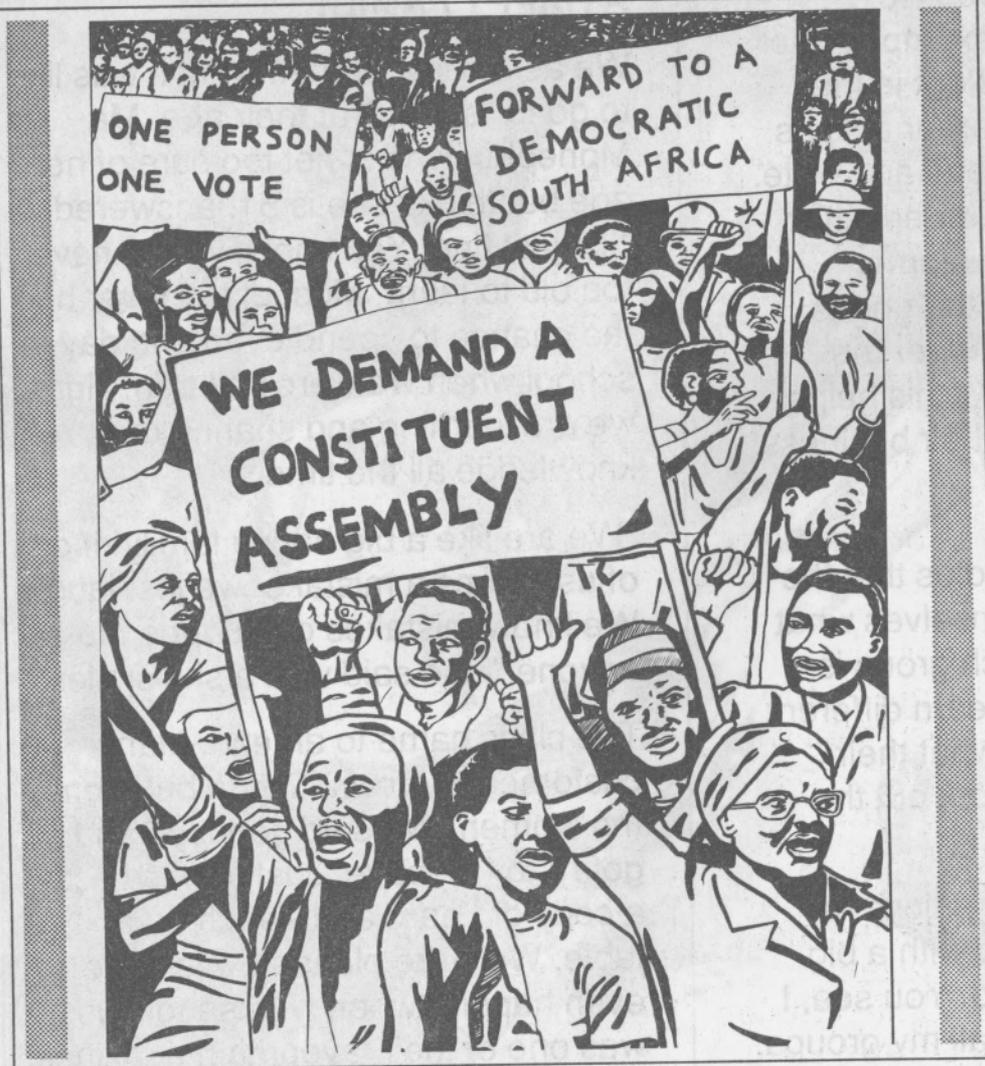
"We are like a big happy family! If one of us makes a mistake, we just laugh. We know mistakes can happen to anyone," she said with a shy smile.

The class came to an end. Many customers were waiting to buy from the women. We said goodbye and got ready to leave. Just then, we saw a copy of Learn and Teach on a table. We were pleased. We were even happier when Nomsa told us it was one of their favourite magazines.

"We often read the stories in your lovely magazine," she told us. "Especially the ones about the rural areas."

On the long drive back to the bright city lights of Jo'burg, we asked ourselves about the evil system called apartheid that took away this important gift from our people – the right to read and write. Then we thought about the determination of the women of Mbhokoda – and we were filled with admiration and pride.

FORWARD TO THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY!



In Namibia a new constitution was drawn up this year after the country had been under foreign rule for more than a hundred years. A settlement was reached in 1989 and now the country is independent.

Now, the time has arrived for South Africa to make a break with its past political history. A new chapter is being opened. Hopefully, negotiations leading to a solution of our problems will succeed and a new and democratic constitution that will accommodate all South Africa's people will be drawn up.

The African National Congress (ANC), the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) and other organisations are demanding a constituent assembly that will draw up a constitution for a "new South Africa". In this article we explain what this constituent assembly is all about.

NEW Constitutions are usually drawn up when countries are "born again" — when the old way of ruling is changed and a fresh political start is made.

One way of drawing up a new constitution is by electing a constituent assembly to debate and accept the constitution. But before we can discuss what a constituent assembly is, we need to look at what a constitution is.

WHAT IS A CONSTITUTION?

A constitution is the foundation on which many countries' laws are built. Different countries do not have the same constitution. But normally a

A small section of the Magna Carta

constitution provides for four areas: the structure of the government; the duties of government officials; the limits on the powers of government officials; and the process for changing the constitution — normally a two-thirds majority of the population or members of parliament.

Constitutions can be written or unwritten. In countries where all the laws are set out in one document we speak of a written constitution. The agreement of the "Union of Utrecht", drawn up in the Netherlands in 1579, was one of the very first constitutions to be written down. Perhaps the most well-known example of a written constitution is that of the United States of America (USA). It was drawn up in 1787 and is certainly one of the oldest constitutions.

Some countries have no such single document. The constitution is contained in several laws, documents, agreements, customs and traditions. Britain's constitution is one example of an unwritten constitution. The way that country is governed is stated in a number of documents starting with the Magna Carta which King John signed in 1215. Governments which came after King John's have ruled in the spirit of this document.

For example, clause 39 is still as relevant today as it was 775 years ago.: "No free man may be taken, imprisoned, dispossessed, outlawed, exiled or in any way injured... except by the lawful judgement of his equals and by the law of the land".

DRAWING UP A CONSTITUTION

A constitution, as we have said, is an important document. It contains the feelings, and the wishes of the population as a whole — "the will of the people", as it is often said.

There are several ways of drawing up a constitution. The National Convention is one method. In this case, leaders of all the political parties in a country meet to work out a new constitution. Afterwards, they ask the people to vote for or against it.

However, dictators often ignore the masses and draw up constitutions on their own — without even bothering to have a referendum. This happened in Spain in 1939 during Francisco Franco's rule.

Many people believe that the most democratic way of drawing up a constitution is through a constituent assembly. The constituent assembly consists of representatives of all political parties of a country. Normally the representatives are elected in free and fair elections open to all citizens of 18 years or older.

In the constituent assembly the parties are proportionally represented. This means that seats are given to the parties according to the number of votes they receive in the elections. Let us take the following example: There is a constituent assembly with 80 seats being fought for by several parties. A

total of 6000 people vote. One party, say "The Blues" get 1200 votes. How many seats will "The Blues" get?

The first step is to calculate what percentage of the total votes is 1200 votes. The answer is 20%. The second step is to calculate how many seats make up 20%. The answer is 16 seats (see box). The remaining 64 seats will be given to other parties in the same way. This then, is what is called "proportional representation".

STEP ONE	STEP TWO
$\frac{1200 \text{ votes}}{6000 \text{ votes}} \times \frac{100\%}{1}$ $= \frac{120\%}{6}$ $= 20\%$	$\frac{20\%}{100\%} \times \frac{80 \text{ seats}}{1}$ $= 2 \times 8 \text{ seats}$ $= 16 \text{ seats.}$

WHY A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY?

If a constituent assembly is elected by the people, then the result of the election will show who among the parties has some support and who has none. Only parties with support get the chance to draw up the constitution. A constitution drawn up in this way represents the majority of the population.

The idea of a constituent assembly started long ago. It was first put into practice in France. After the "French Revolution" the citizens decided that it was time they drew up a constitution on their own. So, on 9 July 1789, their representatives sat in the assembly to start the work of drafting the constitution.

Since that time, this idea has been accepted internationally as one of the best ways of drawing up a constitution.

Many other countries have used it and some have called it by different names, but the spirit has remained the same.

For example, when Mozambique became independent in 1974 they called their constituent assembly a "People's Assembly". In November 1989, a 72-member constituent assembly drew up Namibia's first constitution. This constitution was put into effect on 21 March this year when the country became independent.

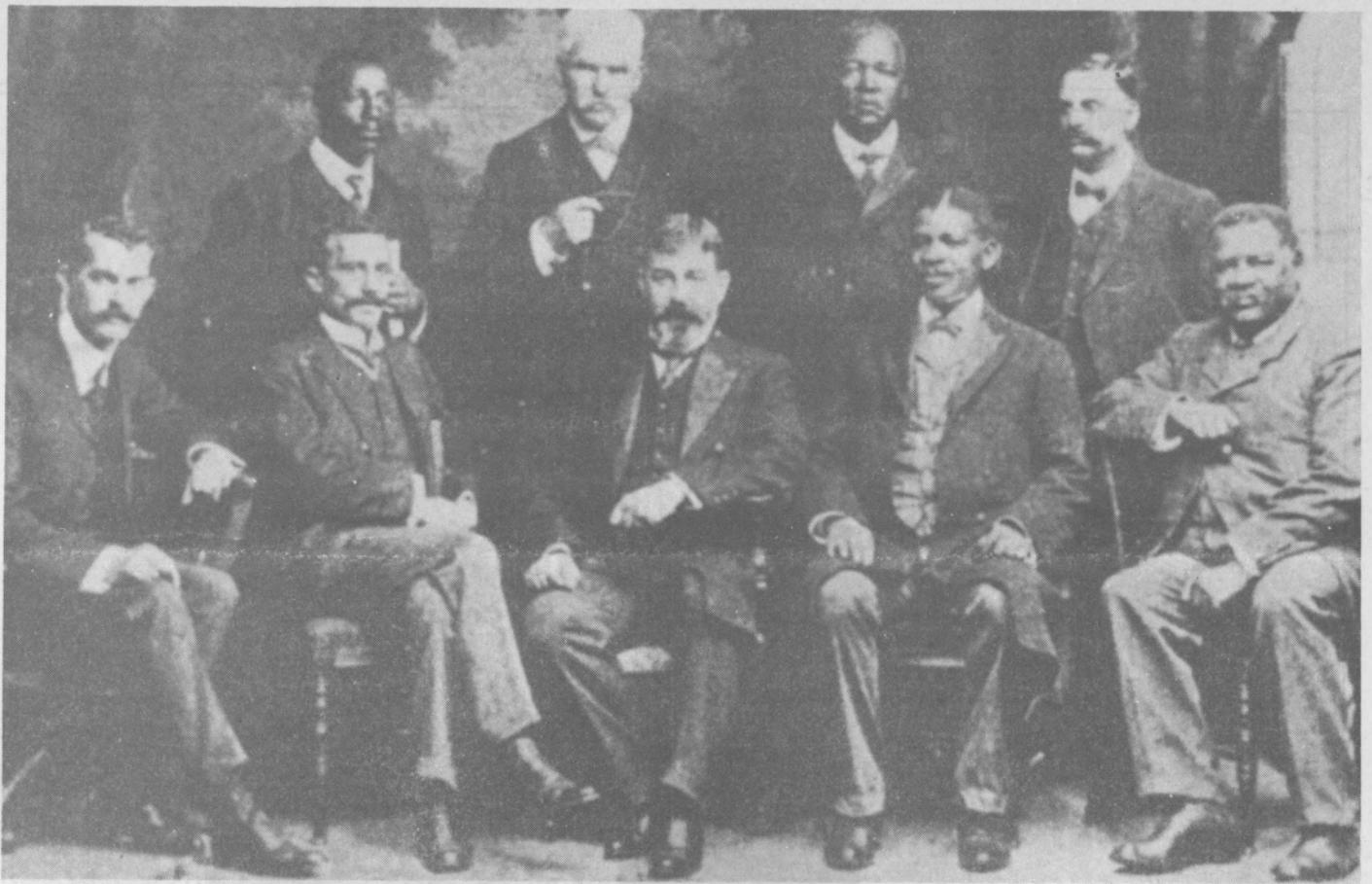
In the history of South Africa this method has never been used before. The ANC, the PAC and other organisations are now demanding that the new constitution of South Africa be drawn up by this method. It would be the first democratic constitution this country has ever had.

SA's CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY

Since 1910 South Africa has had three constitutions. All of them have been unjust, undemocratic and racist. The first one was drawn up in 1909 by an all-white National Convention. This was when the four provinces — Transvaal, Natal, the Cape Colony and the Orange Free State — agreed to form the Union of South Africa in 1910.

This constitution totally left out the black people from participating in the government of their own country — except for the "coloureds" who were allowed to vote until 1956.

The black people have never accepted this situation. Soon after the draft of the (Union of) South Africa Act was published in February 1909, a "national convention for the Africans" was called by the Orange River Colony Native Congress. This was to be one of the most important meetings to be held by the black people.



The nine members of the delegation that went to Britain in 1909 to protest against South Africa's first "racist" constitution

On Wednesday, 24 March 1909, the South African Native Convention (SANC) was opened by the chairman, Joel Goronyane of the Bechoana Mutual Improvement Association. This convention was held in a schoolroom in Waaihoek township, Bloemfontein. It was also attended by the "coloured" people's African Political Organisation (APO).

The convention discussed the South Africa Act and noted that the new constitution did not promote the progress and welfare of all the citizens. "The colour bar is a fundamental wrong and injustice," the delegates said.

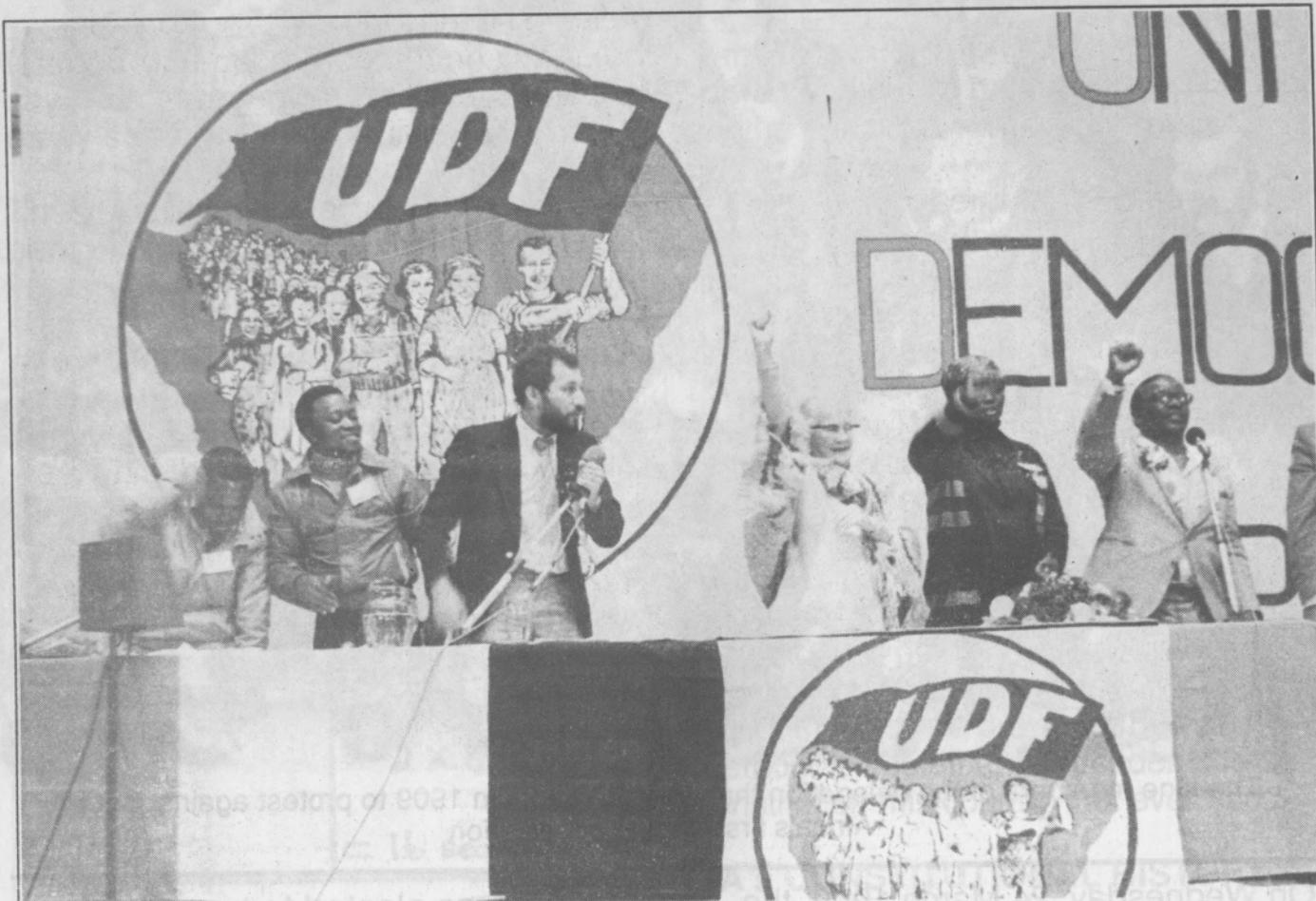
At the end of the the convention the delegates agreed to continue fighting for the rights of the black people.

But nothing changed the views of the white South African leaders and they went ahead with the 1909 constitution. That same year a delegation of nine

leaders was elected to travel to Britain to put the case of the black people. In the delegation were Thomas Mapikela, Dr. Walter Rubusana, Daniel Dwanya, John Tengo Jabavu, APO's Dr Abdulla Abdurahman, D.J. Lenders. M.J. Fredericks and W.P. Schreiner, At that time South Africa was still a colony of Britain.

The SANC had been an important meeting for the black people: it had cemented the seeds of unity and co-operation that had existed among them for some time.

It was in this spirit that on 8 January 1912, the African people gathered in their hundreds in Bloemfontein and formed one organisation, the South African Native National Congress — later to be called the ANC. This organisation became the most important weapon in the struggle for the birthright of the African people.



The United Democratic Front (UDF) was launched in 1983 to oppose the Tricameral constitution

In 1961 South Africa broke ties with Britain and the country became the Republic of South Africa. The ANC and other organisations called on the government to call a non-racial National Convention to draw up a new constitution. Once again the government closed its eyes and ears and went ahead.

The present Tricameral parliament — so-called because it has three houses of parliament (for whites, "coloureds" and Indians) — started in 1984 and is based on South Africa's third constitution. This parliament is still racist and excludes the great majority of the country's population. The United Democratic Front (UDF) was formed in 1983 to oppose this constitution.

It is seventy-eight years since the ANC was formed to fight for the inclusion of

blacks in the central government. That struggle still continues.

The ANC and the PAC demand that there should be a constituent assembly to draw a new constitution. Learn and Teach interviewed a member of the ANC and PAC to hear what they have to say about their organisation's positions on the new constitution.

THE ANC SAYS...

Zola Skweyiya is the Director of the ANC's Department of Legal and Constitutional Affairs and also the chairperson of the ANC's Constitutional Committee.

Skweyiya explained why his organisation is calling for a constituent assembly. "For a change, the constitution must come from the people



The ANC's Zola Skweyiya: "The constitution must come from the people"

themselves. Our people must elect those people they trust and have faith in to sit on the Constituent Assembly.

"The ANC has set up a Constitutional Committee which will organise seminars, debates and educational workshops around the constitution. Many people in this country have never been involved in any constitution-making. Therefore, we must educate them in order to improve their knowledge and understanding of a constitution," said Skweyiya.

Who should supervise the elections for this constituent assembly? "Our position is that an interim government accepted by all the parties should be set up to run the country during the transitional period of constitution-making.

"We cannot be expected to simply believe that the National Party will be neutral during the transitional period

while it still runs the country, controls the army and the police, and the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC)," Skweyiya said.

Does the ANC see the possibility of forming an alliance with other organisations calling for a constituent assembly? The ANC, Skweyiya said, believes in the unity of the democratic forces.

"Our view is that there should be two camps at the negotiation table. One camp should consist of the democratic forces and the other one of those who believe in group rights," said Skweyiya.

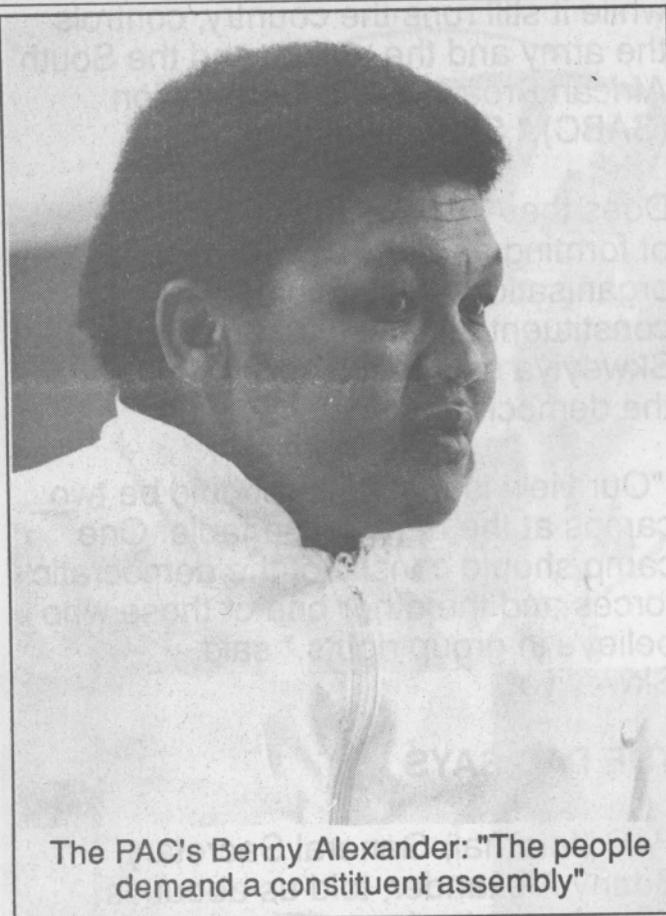
THE PAC SAYS

PAC (Internal) General Secretary, Benny Alexander, told us about this organisation's views. "The demand for a constituent assembly is not a request to the 'Boers'. It is a demand of the masses. It is a way we can use to destroy white domination in a democratic way.

"We are proposing that there should be 265 seats contested at an election by all the parties. The parties elected will be proportionally represented in the constituent assembly," Alexander said.

Who should supervise this constituent assembly? "That will be sorted out before the elections start. But as far as we are concerned the present government is illegitimate — it does not have the support of the majority — and therefore cannot be given the duty of supervising the elections.

"As far as the constitution is concerned we want a one-house parliament, one



The PAC's Benny Alexander: "The people demand a constituent assembly"

person one vote, and one united Azania," said Alexander.

Is there any chance of the PAC forming an alliance with other organisations calling for a constituent assembly? "We do not know what the views of other organisations are on this matter. Once we know we can take a position," said Alexander.

There are many political organisations in South Africa and all of them claim that they have support. Both the ANC and the PAC agree that an election for the assembly will show once and for all who has support.

THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW

The government is opposed to the demand for a constituent assembly before negotiations are held. At a press conference in June this year, the Minister of Constitutional Affairs,

Dr Gerrit Viljoen, explained the government's position.

Viljoen said that to agree now to a constituent assembly before negotiations was giving in to one-person-one vote before negotiations begin. An election for a constituent assembly would commit parties to policy positions which they would have to stick to during negotiations.

He said that a constituent assembly is only suitable where a new state — like in Namibia — is born. In South Africa a state and a constitution already exist. Therefore, this constitution can simply be changed by agreement by all the parties, Viljoen said.

ORGANISE OR LOSE!

It is obvious why the government refuses to have elections for a constituent assembly. It fears that in a free and fair election it will not get enough votes and its power and role will be reduced to that of the other parties. This, the government does not like.

The government is also aware that in the election its "friends" — some homeland leaders, for example — may not get many votes and their power will be reduced. The government prefers to write out a constitution before any election. It also wants all parties to have equal representation — irrespective of whether there is proof of any support for them — when the constitution is debated.

Whether the government will agree to the election for a constituent assembly

or not is still to be seen. But the democratic forces should not wait for the government to agree.



The NP's chief negotiator, Gerrit Viljoen

They must put the demand for a constituent assembly at the head of all the demands.

At the same time they should organise many people to their side so that they can become strong enough to see that the constitution truly represents the majority — by this we do not mean only the black majority, but the majority of all South Africans, black and white.

We should not forget what happened in Namibia. Many people thought that the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) would get the required two-thirds majority votes — 48 out of 72 seats. This would have enabled it to draw the constitution on its own. This was not to be — it got 42 seats instead — and we were disappointed. This was a good lesson for all of us.

If we do not want to be disappointed we should start organising now! Forward to the constituent assembly!

NEW WORDS

constituency — a town or area which is officially allowed to elect someone to represent them in parliament. For example, we can speak of the Grahamstown constituency

assembly — a gathering of people for a particular purpose

constituent assembly — an assembly of leaders who have been elected to draw up a new constitution.

convention — a large meeting of an organisation or political group

interim government — a government that will rule the country until a new constitution is drawn up

transitional period — while negotiations for a new constitution are going on but before it is accepted

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Security guards Michael Nqushu and Alfred Vanqa fought for their rights — and won!

"AIKHONA! ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!"

ALFRED VANQA and Michael Nqushu tried hard to get work near their homes in Queenstown. After a long search they realised that their chances of getting employment in the area were slim — the job opportunities were very few. It was a year ago when they decided to pack their bags and take a train to Johannesburg.

Alfred and Michael were lucky this time. A Boksburg firm called Argus was desperately looking for employees. They accepted the job of security guards with this firm. The two workers were happy because they knew that

their families back in Queenstown would be pleased with them.

Their happiness, however, did not last long. They soon realised that they could not do much with the low wages they got. For many months they worried but they did not say anything to the other workers. They were afraid that if they opened their mouths to complain they would be put on the next train back to Queenstown. But one day in February this year they decided: "Aikhona! Enough is enough! We cannot work like this!"

Later, that same day, these two workers arrived at the offices of the Transport and General Workers' Union (T&GWU) in Johannesburg. After patiently listening to their problems, Jane Barret, a T&GWU organiser, told them that the union was their home. Since that day in February they have never looked back.

BECOMING A UNION MEMBER

"When we started to work here we were earning R300,00 a month from which R20,00 was deducted for accommodation. We worked a 12-hour shift every day without getting any days off. Sometimes when a fellow security guard did not arrive for work we were forced to work the next 12-hour shift — in other words we had to work, twenty-four hours. We did not get overtime pay for working these long hours," says Alfred.

"We then heard about a trade union which organises security guards, office cleaners, and so on. Michael and I decided to visit the offices of the union. The union told us what their aims were, and how to join. We were impressed and we joined on the spot.

"When we arrived at the hostel we told fellow workers about this union. More than 80 workers decided to join. Later, Alfred and I were elected shopstewards," says Alfred.

WAGE DETERMINATION 460

Alfred went back to the union's office a few weeks later to collect a government document which says how much security guards should earn. This document is called Wage Determination 460. It says that security guards should be paid a minimum wage of R413,00 per month.

Back at the hostel Michael was waiting for Alfred. When Alfred arrived with the document at the hostel, Michael helped him to arrange a meeting to discuss Wage Determination 460. The workers were disappointed with the government's minimum wage. But they were angrier still when they found out that their employers, Argus, were paying them far below the minimum wage.

"While we were still discussing this document, an Argus supervisor called Steyn, walked in. It was obvious to us that he had heard that we had been meeting and that we wanted to take some action. He looked at all the people who were there and left without saying anything," Alfred says.

"Some moments later he came back with the police. One policeman argued with Michael about the holding of the meeting. The police then arrested Michael and another worker. Nobody knew why they were arrested. So, those workers who were supposed to go to work for their evening shift decided that they would not work unless the two workers were released.

"Later, Steyn brought Michael and the other guard back. Michael was injured. His ears were sore and he had a pain in his kidneys. We decided that the following day, on Monday, we would take the matter to the union to ask for advice. The workers who had boycotted work, decided to return to their jobs," says Alfred.

"NOT FATHER CHRISTMAS"

On Monday morning while Alfred and Michael were still at the hostel, Steyn arrived. Says Alfred: "He told us to report to the Argus head office in Boksburg to collect our pay.



Theodora Tshangala, Michael Nqushu and Alfred Vanqa — "comrade security guards" in the struggle for better pay

When he said this, we concluded that we had been fired. Still we decided to go to the union offices as we had planned."

After Alfred and Michael had told their story to the union, T&GWU's Jane phoned Argus' boss, Kobus Esterhuizen. Esterhuizen said the two workers had not been fired but that they were being called to the company offices because they were "creating unrest at the hostel."

Says Jane: "This man's language was very bad. He called the two workers 'kaffirs' and also accused Michael of being drunk when he was arrested. He said to me 'if they want to work for the union, I am prepared to let them go.'"

Esterhuizen said to the union: "This man Michael is working for two

bosses — the union and me. I found a whole lot of union forms in the control room after he was there. How would you like it if people in your union were working for two bosses?"

Esterhuizen continued: "I have never had a problem with workers here in nineteen years. If Michael had only brought his complaints to me like all the other guards, instead of running to the union, it would have been better. What you people do not realise is that it does not mean that since Mandela is out of jail then it's Christmas. If Mandela can pay these workers, let him do so. I am not a Father Christmas of the workers."

ARGUS HITS BACK

A few days later Michael was transferred to a farm near Brakpan.

The union said the transfer was unfair. "I have the right to transfer any worker to any workplace," Esterhuizen told the union.

"I would be happy if Michael does not accept the transfer. Then I will get a court order against the union for harassing me and involving itself in the running of my firm. If the union worries me again, 70 people will be out of work because I will fire all the workers who are members," he said.

Michael told us that he was not the only one who was transferred. Alfred was transferred to Randburg, more than 30 kilometres from where he lives. When Alfred complained that it was too far, Kobus offered to give him a lift and drop him there.

Alfred says a day later Esterhuizen pretended that he was taking him to Randburg. Instead he took him to Booyens, just outside the Johannesburg city centre and left him there. Alfred found his way back to the hostel and refused to accept the transfer. Michael also continued to work where he used to. He only went once to the farm and then refused to accept the transfer.

NO MONEY TO PAY

In the meantime the workers continued to be members of the union. They were not frightened by Argus at all. It was not long before Esterhuizen and his company realised that the workers and their union meant business — and were not easily intimidated. So, Esterhuizen decided to talk to the workers and their union.

One day Michael and Alfred found Argus's lawyer at the union offices. The lawyer had come to tell them that the

company was going to pay the workers the money they had been underpaying them.

The lawyer said because Argus did not have enough money, the workers would be paid in installments. The workers were very pleased to hear this good news but they knew that their struggle was still far from being over.

We asked the two workers whether their working conditions have changed. "Yes," Alfred replied. "The firm treats us better than before. There is a new spirit of co-operation and understanding. Now we can even take days off even though we do not get paid for them.

However, there are still many improvements that can be made to improve the working conditions of security guards. The minimum wage set by the government is too low. What can a person with a family to support do with R413,00?" he ended angrily.

"NO REGRETS"

It took Esterhuizen a long time to accept that he could not just bully the workers. The workers and their union were fighting back. And Esterhuizen realised that he had to negotiate with the union.

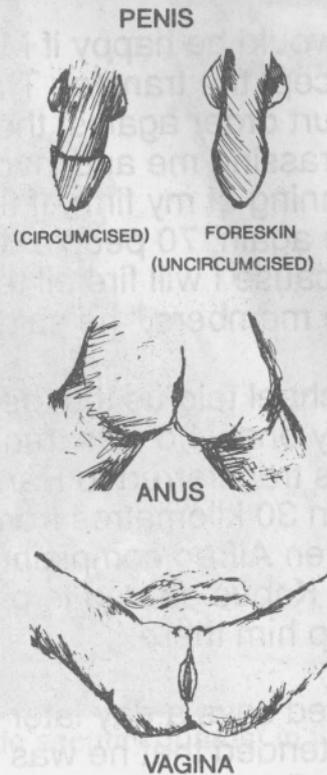
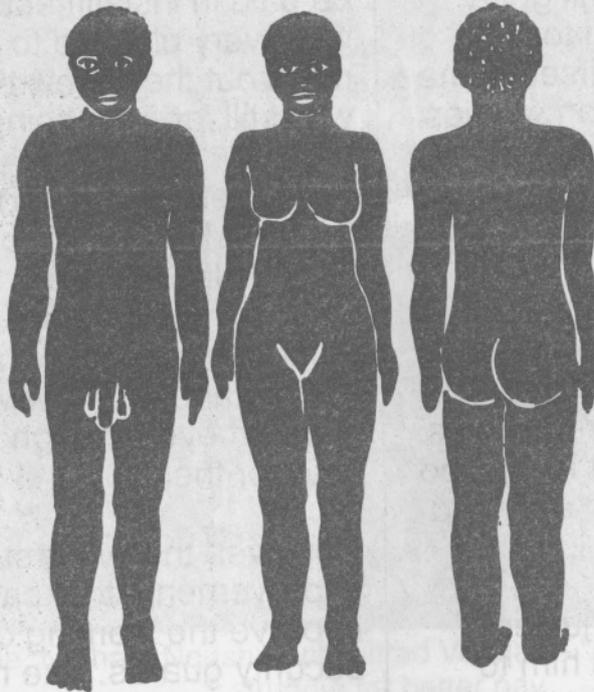
Michael and Alfred say: "Joining the union has helped us a lot because now we know our rights and the bosses know this. We are happy that we fought our small struggle and won. Now our boss knows that we are also people.

"We would like to encourage other workers who have not yet joined a union to do so. As for ourselves, we will never regret the day we said: 'Aikhona! Enough is enough!'"

A GUIDE TO AIDS

PARTS OF THE BODY

SOME people might find some of the pictures in this story offensive. Because AIDS is a serious, incurable and deadly disease we had to use them. Our aim is to help people understand how this disease can be prevented.



DICTIONARY OF TERMS

SEMEN — the liquid that comes from the penis during sex.

VAGINAL SECRETIONS — fluid that comes from the vagina.

SEX DISEASES — also called venereal diseases, sexually transmitted diseases, or STD. Any sicknesses which can be spread through sex.

SYPHILIS — a sexually transmitted disease which can affect both men and women. Syphilis can be cured.

ANAL SEX — when a man puts his penis into the anus (the backside) of another man or a woman.

ORAL SEX — when there is contact between the mouth and the penis or vagina.

MENSTRUAL BLOOD — a woman's normal monthly flow of blood through her vagina.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION — when a doctor puts blood from one person into someone else's body.

CONTRACEPTION — ways of preventing pregnancy, for example, with condoms or the Pill.

ABORTION — an operation to end a pregnancy.

GAY — a person who has sex with someone of the same sex. Gay people are sometimes called homosexual (for men) or lesbian (for women).

GONORRHOEA — this is the most common sexually transmitted disease. Both men and women can catch it, mainly from sex with a person who already has it. There is a cure which works well if the infected person is treated as soon as the sickness starts.

FORESKIN — the loose skin at the tip of the penis in an uncircumcised man.

WHAT IS AIDS?

Why do they call it AIDS?

A is for Aquired

I and D are for Immuno Deficiency

And S is for Syndrome

That is a disease that you can catch from someone who has that disease already

When your body is unable to fight off diseases and infections

A collection of complaints or illnesses that can happen at the same time

IS THERE A MEDICAL PROTECTION OR A CURE FOR AIDS?

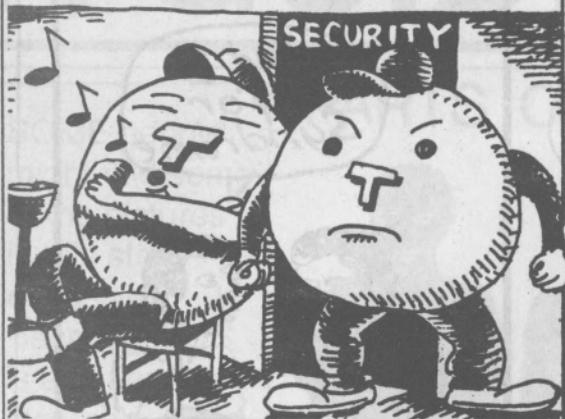
■ **The is no injection or medicine to protect you from the AIDS germ and no cure for the AIDS sickness.**

Scientists say that it will take at least five years to find a way of curing people with AIDS. Even then, most people with AIDS will probably not get the drugs and treatment they need because there are not enough hospitals and clinics in South Africa, especially in the rural areas. Also, Aids may not be discovered in many of those who do go to hospitals and clinics, because of the shortage of doctors and nurses and the general low standard of health in this country.

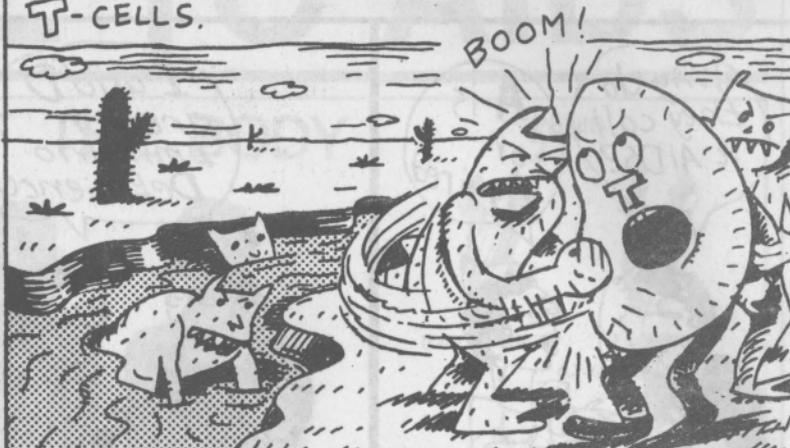
At the beginning of the sickness you can...

- * get a swelling of the glands in your neck, between your legs, or in your armpits
- * get fevers or the shivers, or night-sweats
- * quickly lose more than 5kg for no obvious reason
- * get diarrhoea for more than two weeks at a time
- * feel very tired all the time
- * have a sore mouth and throat for a long time

YOUR BODY NEEDS
T-CELLS (WHITE BLOOD CELLS)
TO FIGHT ILLNESS.



BUT THE AIDS VIRUS BEATS THE
#@*% OUT OF THE
T-CELLS.



When the sickness is fully developed...

the AIDS germ kills the white blood cells which normally fight other sicknesses. This makes the body weak when other sicknesses attack it. A person with full AIDS can get one of the following sicknesses, and one of them will eventually cause death. (If you have one or some of these sicknesses, it does not always mean that you have AIDS).

- * Fevers and diarrhoea that will not stop
- * An unusual kind of pneumonia
- * Cancer of the skin or mouth — pink and purple marks show up
- * Sicknesses of the brain and nerves. You can get paralysed or lose your memory, speech, balance or understanding
- * Tuberculosis (TB)
- * Kidney and liver diseases
- * Herpes

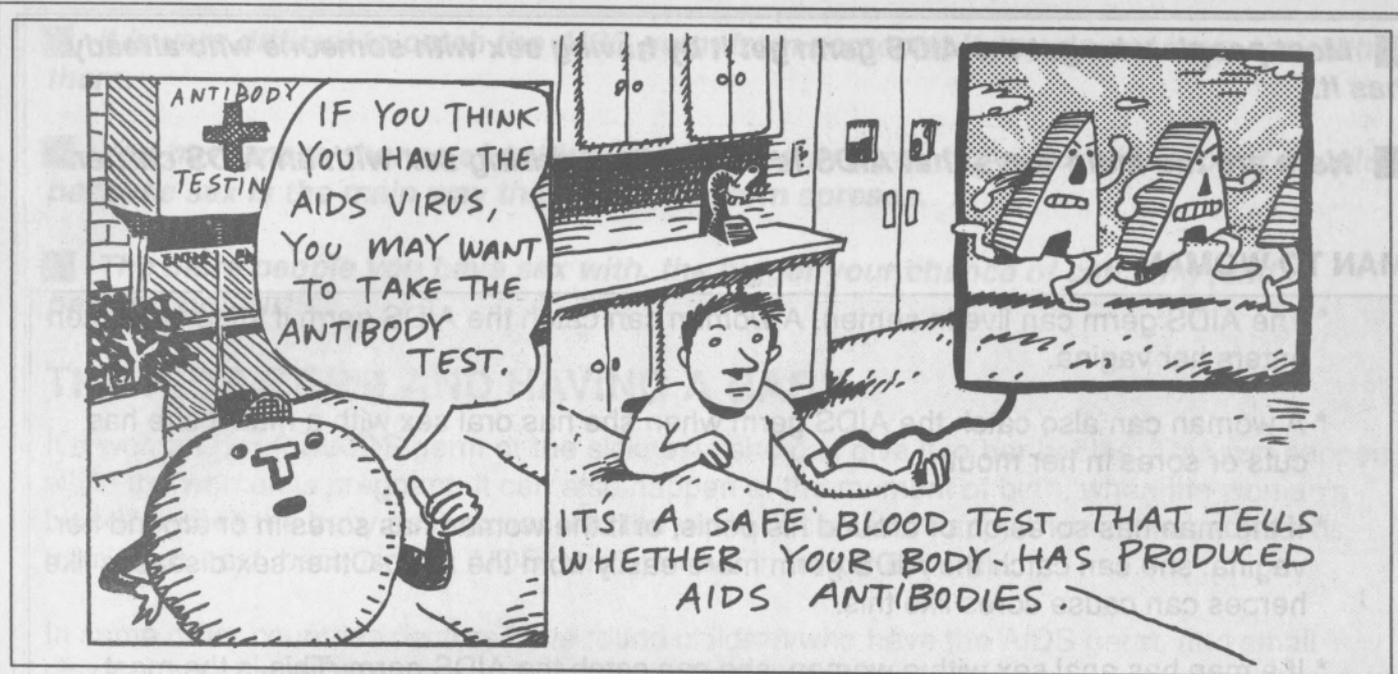
HOW CAN YOU TELL IF YOU HAVE THE AIDS SICKNESS?

Some people who get the AIDS germ will not get the sickness straight away. During this time, they do not know they have the germ, but they can give it to other people. These people are called "AIDS carriers". This is one of the biggest problems with the AIDS germ. People who do not know they have the germ can pass it on to others, so the disease spreads. Doctors believe that all AIDS carriers will finally become ill with AIDS after 8 to 15 years.

THE AIDS TEST

Scientists have made a blood test for the AIDS germ. The test looks for evidence of the AIDS germ in a person's blood.

When the AIDS germ gets into your blood, your body produces antibodies which try to fight the AIDS germ. The AIDS test looks for these antibodies in your blood. If it finds these antibodies, it knows the AIDS germ is also in your blood. A test which finds these anti-bodies is called a positive test.



There are some problems with the AIDS test. The test will not find the antibodies for 6 weeks after the person has been infected. If you are worried that you have AIDS, you must have at least 3 tests over a period of months before the test can say for sure if you have it.

It can be a terrible shock to find out that your AIDS test is positive. You can worry that you might get sick and die at any time. But maybe you will not get sick for a long time. It is important that you are given a good explanation of what AIDS is before you have the test, so that you can be prepared for the results.

If the test is positive, this must be carefully explained. A trained person must talk to an AIDS positive person about their feelings and worries.

The Government Department of Health and Population Development has recognised the importance of these points in a recent book on AIDS called: "HIV and AIDS: CLINICAL FACTS FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION: Dept. of Health and Population Development, November 1988.

The book says: "All HIV antibody testing should always be done with the informed consent of the patient and should be accompanied by counselling before and after the test".

HOW CAN YOU GET THE AIDS GERM?

The AIDS germ can only move from one person to another in certain body liquids — you can get it if someone else's blood, semen, vaginal secretions enter into your blood. Mother's milk can also carry the AIDS germ, which can infect babies.

- * You can get AIDS by having sex with an AIDS carrier.
- * Pregnant mothers can give AIDS to their babies while the baby is in the womb.
- * You can get AIDS by injecting yourself with a needle which has been used by someone who has the AIDS germ.

■ **Most people who get the AIDS germ get it by having sex with someone who already has it.**

■ **Here are the main ways that AIDS is transmitted during sex with an AIDS carrier.**

MAN TO WOMAN

- * The AIDS germ can live in semen. A woman can catch the AIDS germ if infected semen enters her vagina.
- * A woman can also catch the AIDS germ when she has oral sex with a man if she has cuts or sores in her mouth.
- * If the man has sores on or around his penis, or if the woman has sores in or around her vagina, she can catch the AIDS germ more easily from the man. Other sex diseases like herpes can cause sores like this.
- * If a man has anal sex with a woman, she can catch the AIDS germ. This is the most dangerous type of sex from the point of view of AIDS.

WOMAN TO MAN

- * The AIDS germ can live in a woman's vaginal secretion. If this secretion enters a man's penis or mouth during sex, he can catch the germ.
- * If the woman has sores in or around her vagina, or if the man has sores on or around his penis, he can catch the AIDS germ more easily from the woman.
- * Menstrual blood from an infected woman can also pass on the AIDS germ.

MAN TO MAN

- * If a male AIDS carrier has anal sex with another man, this man can catch the AIDS germ. This is the most dangerous form of sex from the point of view of catching the AIDS germ.
- * Oral sex man to man has the same dangers as oral sex between a man and woman.

WOMAN TO WOMAN

- * There have been no women recorded who have caught the AIDS germ from sex with other women.
- * In theory, the germ can spread from woman to woman if blood or vaginal secretions from a female AIDS carrier come into contact with cuts or open sores on the fingers, mouth, or vagina of another woman.

RAPE

Rape is sexual violence, usually by men against women or girls, but also sometimes by men against men or boys. If the rapist is an AIDS carrier, then the victim can get the AIDS germ. There may be a greater risk because the victim can have their vagina or anus torn by the rapist. The AIDS germ can then easily pass into the blood this way.

■ *It is very difficult to catch the AIDS germ from someone if you do not have sex with them.*

■ *You have more chance of getting the AIDS germ if you have sex with a lot of people because sex is the main way that the AIDS germ spreads.*

■ *The more people you have sex with, the bigger your chance of catching (and passing on) AIDS.*

THE AIDS GERM AND HAVING A BABY

If a woman has the AIDS germ or the sickness, she can give it to her babies. This can happen while the woman is pregnant. It can also happen at the moment of birth, when the woman's blood touches the baby as it comes into the world. It can also happen when the baby feeds from the breast, because the AIDS germ can live in a mother's milk.

In some other countries doctors have found children who have the AIDS germ, and small children with the AIDS sickness. This can make their bodies deformed, and can stop them from growing and developing properly. It can also give them permanent diarrhoea.

In South Africa, doctors have reported over 30 children with AIDS. If we ignore the AIDS threat, many more children will become victims. Both men and women need knowledge to protect their children from AIDS.

Although scientists say that the AIDS germ can be found in breast milk, they do not know if this is an extra danger to babies born to women with the AIDS germ.

■ *Therefore, it is more important that mothers breastfeed their babies than worry about giving them AIDS.*

As AIDS begins to spread in South Africa, more women and their babies will get AIDS. It is very difficult for some women with AIDS to get contraception, or an abortion, especially in the rural areas. It can be even more difficult to get an AIDS test. The health services, especially in the rural areas, badly need improvement to cope with these problems.

DRUGS TAKEN BY INJECTION

Some people take dangerous drugs by giving themselves injections with a needle. Drugs like heroin, cocaine, and opium can be taken like this.

If you take drugs this way, it is dangerous to share a needle with someone else, because you can get someone else's blood into your body. If you or the person you share the needle with is an AIDS carrier, the germ can be passed on this way. You must have your own needle if you cannot stop injecting drugs.

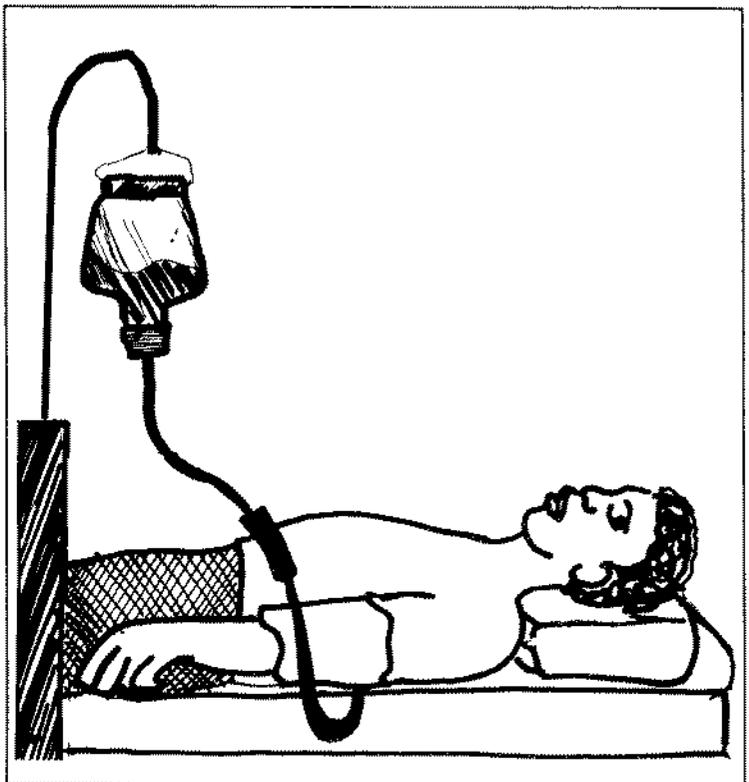
If a doctor or a nurse gives you an injection, they always have a new needle for each injection, and throw away the old needles — so you don't get the AIDS germ when a doctor or nurse gives you an injection.



BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS

The blood transfusion service takes blood from volunteers, and gives it to people when they need it. The giving of blood to a sick or injured person is called a transfusion. Because the AIDS germ lives in human blood, it is possible to catch it by having a transfusion of blood taken from an AIDS carrier.

In South Africa, all the blood in the transfusion service is tested for the AIDS germ. This means that you can only get AIDS from a transfusion if the blood came from a person who gave their blood before the tests were started. Very few people in South Africa have got the AIDS germ from transfusion, and there will be no new cases as long as the blood banks continue to test for AIDS.



■ ***You cannot catch the AIDS germ by giving blood at the transfusion service***

YOU CANNOT get AIDS if a person with the AIDS germ sneezes or coughs near you.

YOU CANNOT get AIDS from an insect bite, such as a mosquito.

YOU CANNOT get AIDS if a person with AIDS touches you, washes you or cuts your hair, shaves you, embraces you, kisses you on the cheek, or punches you.

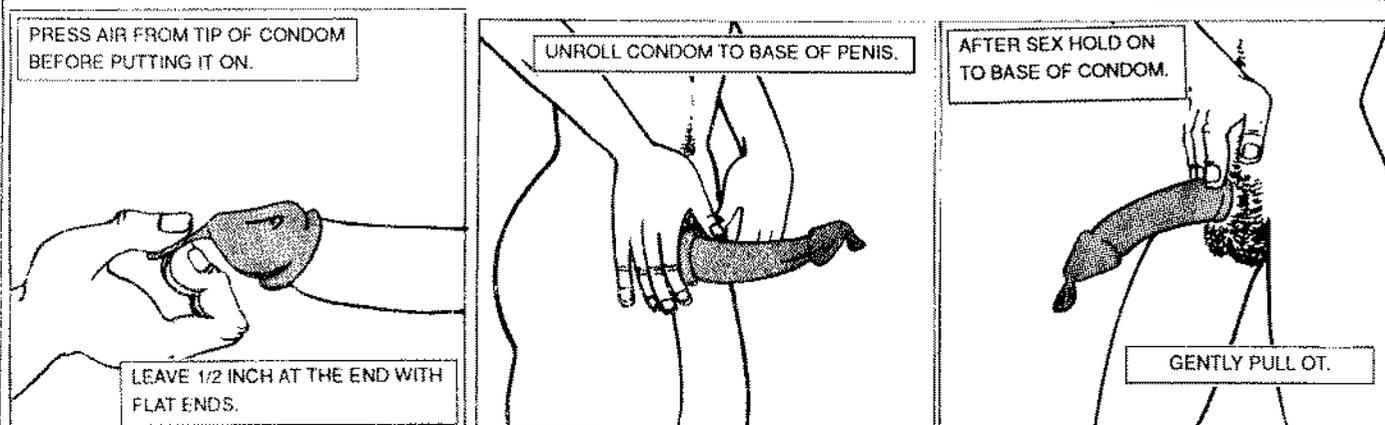
YOU CANNOT get AIDS if a person with AIDS wears the same clothes as you, sits in the same chair, or sleeps in the same bed as you.

YOU CANNOT get AIDS if a person with AIDS washes in the same water as you, or uses the same toilet as you.

HERE ARE SOME THINGS WHICH PEOPLE CAN DO TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AGAINST AIDS:

- * Don't sleep with many different people.
- * If you have a lot of sexual relationships, use a condom.
- * Before you start a new sexual relationship, ask your partner about his or her past sex life.
- * Prostitutes are in danger from AIDS, and can also pass it on. They need the right to AIDS education without victimisation. They can also demand that men who go to them must use condoms.
- * Get involved in AIDS education in your trade union or community organisation.

■ **A condom is a sheath which a man wears on his penis when he has sex. Condoms are sometimes called French letters, or Durex (this is one of the biggest companies that make condoms). Condoms are made of thin, soft latex.**



CONDOMS CAN DO THESE THINGS:

- * If you use them properly, they are quite an effective way of preventing pregnancy.
- * They can protect men and women from the AIDS germ, or any other sex disease like syphilis, herpes or gonorrhoea.

■ **Condoms must be used properly if they are going to protect people from sex diseases like AIDS.**

HERE ARE SOME POINTS ABOUT HOW TO USE MALE CONDOMS:

■ **If you think you need to protect your partner and yourself against the AIDS germ use a condom every time you have sex.**

Condoms come in different types. Some are stronger than others. Use one of the stronger ones — these are less likely to break when you have sex.

The condom must be put on to the penis of the man before he penetrates his partner.

If the man is not circumcised, the foreskin should be pulled back before he puts the condom on his penis.

When you take it out of the packet, the condom looks like a ring made of rubber.

The end of the ring should be put over the end of the penis, and the condom must be rolled down the penis.

After sex, do not wait long before you and your partner separate. The man should hold the condom onto his penis while separating from his partner.

Throw the condom away after sex. You must never use it again.

You can use a special gel on the condom. This is called lubricant gel. You can ask about this at a chemist. This will protect the condom from damage while you are having sex. Do not use vaseline or petroleum jelly because this can damage the condom.



Keep your condoms in a cool, dry place before you use them.

Do not use condoms that are old. Throw these away.

HOW BIG IS THE AIDS PROBLEM?

The World Health Organisation has said that 8 million people have the AIDS germ. This is about 5 times the number of people in Johannesburg and Soweto put together.

By June 1989, there were a total of 226,294 people with AIDS reported to the World Health Organisation. According to the World Health Organisation, two years from now, there will be about 2 million people with AIDS sickness in the world. All of these people have already got the AIDS germ. In four years from now, many of them will already have died from AIDS.

This is a very serious health problem, especially because everyone who has the AIDS sickness will die if scientists do not find a cure.

In South Africa, the problem of AIDS is just beginning. By July 1990, there were 455 people reported with AIDS sickness. 215 of these people have already died, and there are new cases every day. Doctors say that there are over 65 000 people in South Africa with the AIDS germ. These figures are probably lower than the real figures.

AIDS is new in South Africa, but the number of people with the AIDS sickness more than doubles every year. It is important to do something to stop the spread of disease.

HOW IS AIDS SPREADING IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES?

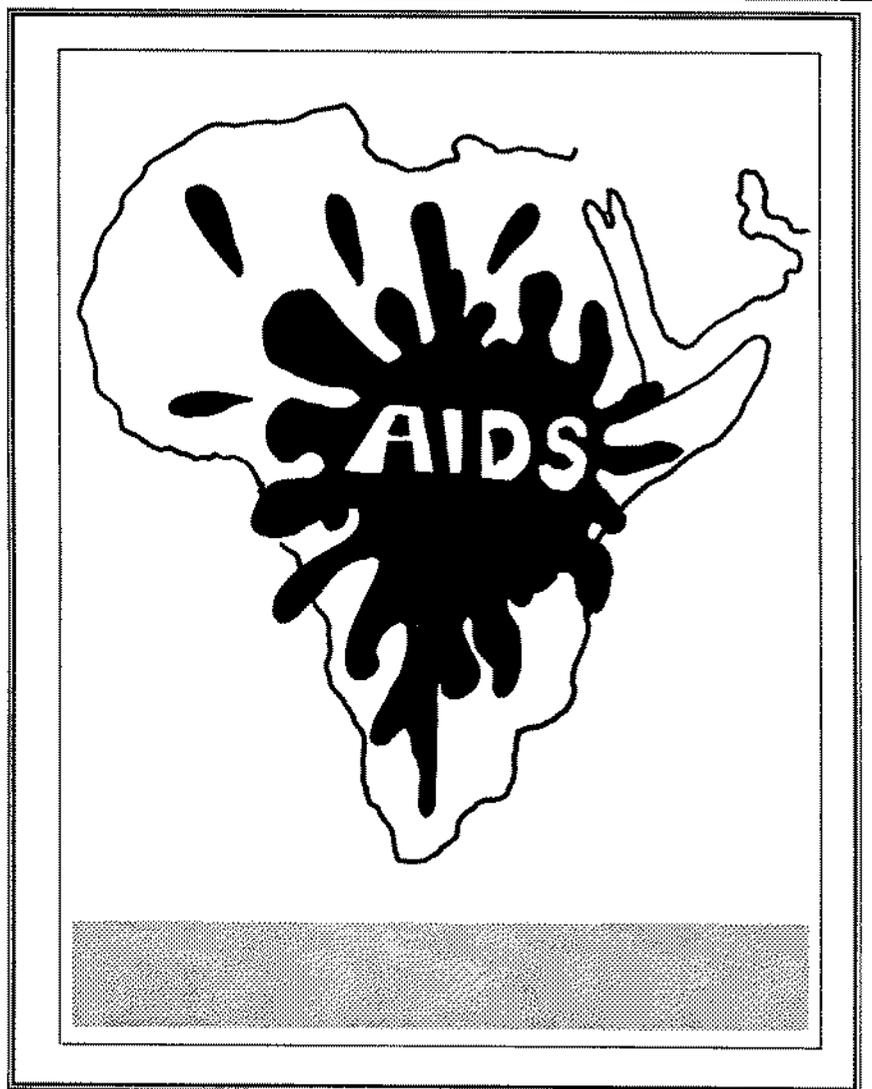
No-one knows how many people have the AIDS germ or the AIDS sickness in Africa, but the number is very large, and AIDS is an extremely serious health problem in Central and East African countries.

Many people with the sickness never get to a doctor or hospital, and not all doctors know about AIDS. In some Central and East African countries, the health services do not have enough money to test blood for the AIDS germ, so it is impossible to know how many people have the germ. Also, more people can get the AIDS germ from having blood transfusions in these countries because the transfusion service does not always have the money and technical staff to test the blood for AIDS.

Doctors first found AIDS in African countries in 1979. Since then they have found large numbers of people in Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Malawi, Zaire, Zambia, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe who have the sickness or the germ.

There is a very important difference between the ways the AIDS germ spreads in the USA or Britain and in Africa. In the USA it has mainly been gay men who have had the germ. There are some women with the germ, but not so many. Scientists say that this is now changing, so that many more women are getting the AIDS germ.

In African countries, there are equal numbers of men and women who have the sickness and the germ.



■ **This means that sex between men and women is the main way that the sickness spreads in Africa.**

In South Africa, most of the people who have been reported to have AIDS sickness have been foreigners, or gay men. Most of them have also been classified "white". But this does not mean that AIDS is a "whites only" disease in South Africa.

Many black people can have AIDS which is never discovered because health care for them is poor compared to that for white people, especially in the rural areas. Also, more black people are being discovered now with AIDS. It is very possible that AIDS in South Africa will spread mainly in the same way as in other African countries — through sex between men and women.

It is clear that we need to do all we can to stop AIDS from spreading. We can do this by educating ourselves and others about the ways that AIDS can be caught or passed on. So when you have finished reading this article, give it to a friend or family member to read. The more people who know about AIDS, the more chance we have of fighting this terrible sickness.

The democratic organisations are taking up campaigns to educate communities about AIDS. These organisations have agreed that these campaigns must be co-ordinated by the Progressive Primary Health Care Network (PPHCN) at a national level. Below are the addresses of PPHCN regional offices.

HEAD OFFICE

Suite 204
Lancet Medical Centre
74 Lorne Street
Durban
4001
TEL: (031) 309-3306

SOUTHERN TRANSVAAL
P.O.Box 2346
Johannesburg
2000
TEL: (011) 23-5486

NORTH-EASTERN
TRANSVAAL
P.O.Box 5404
Pietersburg North
0750
TEL: (01621) 913171

EASTERN CAPE
P.O.Box 14348
Sidwell
6061
TEL: (041) 43-2186

WESTERN CAPE
P.O.Box 192
Gatesville
7764
TEL: (021) 696-8470

EASTERN
CAPE/BORDER/TRANSKEI
P.O.Box 14348
Port Elizabeth
6001
TEL: (041) 41-1618



* This article was adapted by Learn and Teach Magazine from a booklet called "A Guide to Aids — a resource book for trade union educators", written by members of the Industrial Health Research Group, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700 Tel: (021) 650- 3508

Note: You can use or reproduce this article, in whole or part, without the permission of the authors.

Name: _____ Address: _____

LEARN AND TEACH READERS SURVEY

Dear Readers, Heyta daar!

Learn and Teach magazine is nine years old this year. We would very much like to know what you — our readers — think of the magazine.

Please answer the questions and send them to

Learn and Teach Readers Survey,
Freepost JH2424,
PO Box 556,
Johannesburg,
2000.

You do not have to put a stamp on the envelope. Just tear out these pages and send them to us before 10 October 1990.

We are also offering a prize to the first 15 entries that we open on 11 October 1990. The prize is a free subscription to the magazine for one year. If you already have a subscription, we will give you a year's free subscription starting from the date your subscription ends. So hurry! Fill in the survey!

1. How long have you been a reader of Learn and Teach?

Tick one. ✓

- less than a year ()
1 to 2 years ()
3 to 4 years ()
more than 5 years ()

2. How do you get the magazine?

Tick one. ✓

- I am a subscriber ()
I buy the magazine from a seller ()
I buy the magazine from a bookshop ()
I am a seller ()
I borrow it from someone else ()

3. If you get the magazine by post, answer this question.

Do you have problems getting the magazine by post? Please explain what your problems are.

4. Where do you live?

Town, Region or province

5. Can you find the magazine easily where you live? Tick one. ✓

Yes () No ()

6. Are you a man or a woman?

Tick one. ✓

Man () Woman ()

7. How old are you? Tick one. ✓

- Under 21 years ()
21 to 30 years ()
31 to 40 years ()
Over 40 years ()

Tear out this page and send it to: Learn and Teach Readers Survey, Freepost JH2424, PO Box 556, Johannesburg, 2000. No stamp is needed. Postage is free.

8. How much do you earn a month?
Tick one. ✓
- Under R300 ()
R301 to R700 ()
R701 to R1400 ()
Above R1400 ()

9. What type of job do you usually do?

10. Have you got a job at the moment? Tick one. ✓
- Yes () No ()

11. What was the last standard you did at school?
Standard _____

12. In what year did you complete this standard?
19 _____

13. Did you study or do any training after school? Tick one. ✓
- Yes () No ()

14. What did you study or train for?

15. Are you studying or doing training at the moment? Tick one. ✓
- Yes () No ()
- If yes, what are you studying or

training for at the moment?

16. The magazine costs R1.50. Would you still buy the magazine if it cost.... (Tick one. ✓)
- R2.00? Yes () No ()
R2.50? Yes () No ()
R3.00? Yes () No ()
more than R3 Yes () No ()

17. At the moment Learn and Teach does not have any adverts.
- How would you feel if Learn and Teach had adverts? Tick one. ✓
- I think it's a good idea ()
I think it's a bad idea ()
I don't know ()

18. How many stories do you read in each Learn and Teach magazine? Tick one. ✓
- all the stories ()
most of the stories ()
a few of the stories ()

19. About how long does it usually take you to read one story? Tick one. ✓
- a few minutes ()
about half an hour ()
about one hour ()
more than an hour ()

20. How easy do you usually find the stories to read? Tick one. ✓
- easy ()
difficult ()
very difficult ()

If you don't have enough space to answer the questions, please feel free to add another page

Name: _____

21. Tick one. ✓ Do you find the stories

- too long ()
- just right ()
- too short ()

22. After you have read Learn and Teach, what do you do with the magazine? Tick one. ✓

- try to keep it ()
- give it to a friend or family member ()
- throw it away ()

23. Do you read other magazines or newspapers in English? Which ones?

24. The magazine has many different kinds of stories. Which of these kinds of stories do you like best? Tick only five (5). ✓

Stories about the church or church leaders ()

Stories about political leaders ()

Stories about singers, musicians or artists ()

Stories about sports and sports people ()

Stories about the history of South Africa ()

Stories about workers, trade unions, strikes and so on ()

Stories about ordinary people ()

Stories about other countries ()

Stories about education ()

Stories about women ()

Stories about health ()

Stories about the environment ()

Stories about progressive organisations ()

Stories that give information, for example, about pensions or tax ()

Stories about rural areas or co-ops ()

25. Is there a story in a past issue of Learn and Teach that you really liked? Which one was it?

26. Is there a story in a past issue of Learn and Teach that you did not like? Which one was it?

27. At the end of Learn and Teach there's a cartoon called Sloppy.

How often do you read Sloppy? Tick one. ✓

- always or usually ()
- sometimes ()
- never ()

Tear out this page and send it to: Learn and Teach Readers Survey, Freepost JH2424, PO Box 556, Johannesburg, 2000. No stamp is needed. Postage is free.

YOUR GUIDE TO FARM WORKERS AND THE LAW



The working conditions of farm workers — like this one — are worse off than those of other workers

WE do not have to tell you how the workers of this country have suffered — and continue to suffer — under apartheid. But we can remind you that some workers are worse off than others — like farm workers.

Farm workers have no minimum working hours and no minimum wage. They cannot claim from Workmens' Compensation when they are injured at work, nor do they qualify for UIF when they lose their jobs

For a long time a book about the situation of farm workers — and what they can do about it — has been needed. Fortunately, an organisation in Cape Town answered the call.

A few years ago, the Rural Legal Services Project (RLSP) — an organisation of lawyers, rural workers, farm workers and advice officials — decided to write a handbook for farm workers.

But, before the RLSP could publish the book, the government set up the National Manpower Commission in 1982 to investigate the conditions of farm workers and domestic workers, who are the other most exploited and unprotected group of workers.

The lawyers and rural workers were encouraged by the appointment of the Commission. They hoped that it would say that the law must change for the better. So they waited for the Commission's report because they wanted their book to be up to date.

Then in 1984 the Commission finally released its report and gave it to the government. The government gave the report to the farmers' unions to look at. The RLSP waited, and waited.

The farmers' unions have sat with the report for many years, and nobody else has seen it yet.

So, the lawyers and rural workers decided to stop waiting. In 1988 the RLSP published their book, "Your guide to farm workers and the law, Book 1". A year later, in 1989, they published Book Two.

The two pocket-size books are written in easy English, and are useful for farm workers, rural advice workers, union organisers, church workers, teachers and any person who wants to know about farm workers' legal rights.

The two books try to teach farm workers about their rights. "If you know what your rights are, there is a lot you can do without a lawyer," the books say. "And even if you do consult a lawyer, there are still things you can do." Book One gives a step-by-step explanation of the law.

The books also encourage workers to be organised. "But, the law will not help farm workers much. You must also organise yourselves into trade unions!" Book One also looks at the four main industrial laws — Basic Conditions of Employment Act, Labour Relations Act



A farm worker carries boxes on an avocado farm in the Northern Transvaal

(LRA), Wage Act and Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF). There is also a chapter on "Unions and the right to organise" which is very important for farm workers who want to start or join a union.

Book Two has a chapter on "You and the police". There is a section on important laws like the "Citizenship and the Aliens Act" which affect many workers from the bantustans.

This book also has a chapter which looks at people living on the farmer's land while working for the farmer. It explains how a farmer can remove you from the land and how one can stop such evictions. Another important chapter in this book is "Pensions" and how to apply for one.

At the end of each book, there are addresses of advice offices, legal resources centres, general resource organisations, trade unions, useful addresses for pensions enquiries and church organisations. It also has a list of useful publications.

"We hope that these books will help you in the struggle to free farm workers from exploitation and oppression," the authors say.

Perhaps one of the nice things about the books is that they try to "avoid sexist language". Instead of using "he" all the time, it uses "he or she". The authors say: "We feel that women are just as important as men, even though the law often treats women as if they are weak or less important."

Book One and Book Two cost R6 each. You can get them from:

Black Sash

5 Long Street

MOWBRAY

7700.

or

2nd Floor Khotso House

62 Marshall Street (off Sauer Street)

JOHANNESBURG

2000

SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEW EDA JOURNAL

From 1990 EDA will be producing a new Journal,

NEW GROUND

a Journal of Development and the Environment

An exciting new publication from EDA will be appearing quarterly from 1990. What do liberation, development and the environment mean for you. The journal will explore these issues with in-depth articles on the land question, rural politics, urban environment, development strategies in other African countries and much more. We will be interviewing leaders in the liberation movement to bring you their views on these important issues. The journal will look at how these issues affect our daily lives and what we can do to shape a better future for all.

* There will be 3 editions in 1990

* For R10, you will receive 3 issues of the journal, and a calendar.

Individuals R10; Neighbouring countries R15; Other countries: surface mail:R25; Airmail: R35

Fill in this section in block letters and send it to EDA, P.O. Box 62054, Marshalltown, 2107, South Africa

Name _____

Address _____

Money enclosed _____

Date _____

Signature _____

Letters from our readers

*Dear Learn and Teach,
I feel an exciting sensation running through my bloodstream when I read Learn and Teach. I like Learn and Teach! I love Learn and Teach! When I read Learn and Teach, I hear Learn and Teach sounds drumming melodiously into my ears in a heart-soothing manner.*

When my mother has no sugar in the home, she brings me my tea together with a copy of Learn and Teach because the very reading of Learn and Teach makes my tea sweeter than honey, even without sugar in it. Too much to believe? Believe me, upon my troth, it's true!

*Thulani Mhlanga
MKHULU*

Dear Learn and Teach,
Please can you give me the address of the African National Congress?
Freedom lover
NEBO

**Thank you for your letter. The ANC's head office address is:
3rd Floor Munich Re Centre
53 Sauer Street
Johannesburg
2001**

Dear Learn and Teach,
I am a student in Standard 7. I need a part-time job so that I can help my mother. I used to work in Alrode on Saturdays and get R10 every two weeks, but I no longer have that job. I would like to sell your magazine so that I can make some money. I try to buy Learn and Teach whether I have money or not.
Thabang Makolo
KATLEHONG

Thank you for your letter, Thabang. We would be very happy for you to sell Learn and Teach. This is how we do it: you can either collect the magazine at our offices or we can post it to you. At the moment, the magazine costs R1.50. From this issue, sellers pay R1.10 for each copy. You must also pay half the postage costs. Send us a postal order or a cheque with the money for the number of magazines you want and then we will send you the magazines. We hope that selling our magazine will go some small way towards helping your mother. Good luck!

Dear Learn and Teach,
My father had a life assurance policy with Colonial Mutual from 1979 to 1985. He died in 1987. We have written to the company three times, but they don't want to answer.
Evaristus Willem
OSHAKATI

Thank you for your letter, Evaristus. We spoke to Mrs van der Vyver who is a department head at Colonial Mutual. She said that they have written to you several times and you have not answered. Perhaps this is because you now have a different box number. We gave her the new one. Colonial Mutual needs you to send your father's policy document, not just the number. If you can't find it, you must write and say why it can't be found. Colonial Mutual has also sent a copy of the policy to the magistrate in Oshakati to sign because your father did not say who he wanted to leave the money to. The magistrate has not yet replied.

Mrs van der Vyver also said that your father stopped paying in July 1982. You say he paid until 1985. If you have any proof that your father did pay until 1985, you must send it to her. If you have any questions for Mrs van der Vyver, phone her at (021) 488-6111. Good luck!

Dear Learn and Teach,
I want to congratulate you on the work that you do for the oppressed nation of this country. Your magazine broadens the reader's knowledge of present day politics. Through your magazine ordinary people like me can get the chance to communicate with all our comrades out there. For them I have to say that the light turned green for us on February 2 1990. Now we can openly write and strive for the goal our forefathers set for us nearly eighty years ago. I urge readers to join political organisations and do your best to get your highest education so that we can walk the last few steps with the ANC to victory. I love you comrades!
Raymond Dube
EMGWENYA

Dear Learn and Teach,
I am an exploited and confused worker from a certain printing company in Brakpan. We don't have any union yet. My complaint is that we are forced to work on May Day. Why don't the printing companies respect Workers Day?
D. N.
TSAKANE

Thank you for your letter. Last year, May 1 was not a public holiday but this year the government did declare it a public holiday. But in many companies where the workers are not organised, the bosses ignored the public holiday. Since you don't give us the name of your company, we cannot ask them why they ignored the holiday. We suggest that you contact the

Printing, Paper, Wood and Allied Workers' Union (PPWAWU) and think about joining the union. The address is:

**Palladium Building
Cnr 4th Street and 3rd Avenue
Springs
Tel: (011) 56 7925**

Dear Learn and Teach,
Please tell me where I can get books on the following subjects: the Freedom Charter, the formation of the ANC until the 1980s, the formation of SWAPO until liberation, the formation of COSAS, the formation of COSATU and Karl Marx's socialism.
Mr. P. Thatho
BOTSHABELO

Phew! That's quite a list of books! You can write with your request to:

Ravan Press	Skotavilla Publishers
P.O. Box 31134	P.O. Box 32483
Braamfontein	Braamfontein
2017	2017

COSAW	Phambili Bookshop
P.O. Box 421007	22 Plein Street
Fordsburg	Johannesburg
2033	2000

Dear Learn and Teach,
We greet you in the name of the struggle. We write this letter to honour the magazine we get news from. The hand of apartheid is still very strong in our area. If you are a member of the Murraysburg Youth Congress or the ANC, you get fired from your job. The youth are becoming the slaves of alcohol. There are few public telephones and the Post Office people listen to our phone calls. Conservative Party members are promising us bullets. We will appreciate it very much if one of the ANC leaders comes down to Murraysburg to address the people and to secure peace.
A Murraysburg Youth Congress Member
MURRAYSBURG

We are sad to hear of your suffering. As you know, old attitudes die hard and we can only hope that there will come a day soon when racist attitudes are well and truly buried. We hope that the ANC sees this letter in our magazine.

Dear Learn and Teach,
I have been a reader of your magazine for ten years now. I think it's a very important magazine for the poor people of South Africa. I have worked for the same Caltex garage for 31 years as a garage attendant. But I am not happy with my wages. I get R99.25 every six days for a 55 hour week. Please help me.
Worried worker
LETSITELE

Thank you for your letter. The government has set a minimum wage for garage attendants. In the rural areas, it is R1.78 an hour. So for 55 hours, you should get a minimum of R98 a week. So your boss is not underpaying you according to the minimum wage. On the other hand, the government minimum wage is not a living wage. We also think that after 31 years of service you should be getting more. The government also says that if you work shifts, you should get an extra R10 a week and R1.50 a day for meals. It seems that your boss is not paying you this. You should also get free overalls. If you want to take this further, you can do two things. You can phone the Industrial Council and tell them your problem. They will send an inspector to the garage and he will tell your boss to pay the correct wage. You can also join the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa. They have agreements with Caltex garages and will help you get a better wage. We wish you luck and hope that you will carry on reading the magazine for another ten years! The addresses are:

Industrial Council
Manpower Office
Tzaneen
Tel: (01523) 71197
NUMSA
601/602 Nedbank Building
Landros Main street
Pietersburg, 0700
Tel: (01521) 5828

Dear Learn and Teach,
I am 19 years old and have just completed standard 6. My problem is that I can't find a job. The managers say that they want a senior certificate and work experience. How the hell can I have experience after I've just finished school? Please help me. I don't want to find myself in the streets robbing hard-working people. I really do want to work and make an honest living.
Unemployed worker
NELSPRUIT

Thank you for your letter. We are sorry to hear that you can't find a job. We get letters from people like you all over the country who want to make an honest living and can't. Please contact the Unemployed Workers Co-ordinating Committee. They are trying to organise many things for unemployed people.
UWCC
P.O. Box 260143
Excom
2023

Good luck!

A soccer fan from Soweto asks for the telephone numbers of the following football clubs:

Moroka Swallows	402-5535
Orlando Pirates	23-3180
Kaizer Chiefs	337-6245
Mamelodi Sundowns	337-4150
Sharp Blackpool	616-3144
Jomo Midas Cosmos	29-5161
Sharpeville United	29-9933

Dear Learn and Teach,
I have been trying to get hold of a copy of
Comrade Govan Mbeki's book "South
Africa: The peasants revolt" for a long time.
Progressive bookshops and activists failed
to help me but I am not bitter because I
know Learn and Teach will not fail.

Mdumzeli
WESTRAND

**We are pleased to say that we can help
you. Phambili Bookshop in
Johannesburg has a copy of the book.
You can phone or write to the bookshop
to arrange how you can get it.**

**Phambili Bookshop
22 Plein Street
Johannesburg
2000**

Tel: (011) 294944

N. E. Makumu sent us this poem:

**EDUCATION CAN MAKE DREAMS
COME TRUE**

Education is priceless,
It is a stream where water falls
It is a key to success
In all cities

It is so hard to be clever
Read hard and you'll see what will be your
rewards
Do not think about your financial problems
at home,
Even if you are poor, you can achieve as
much as the wealthy man did

Doctors, teachers, editors and
accountants have experienced the same
problems,
So stand up and get your EDUCATION
Because LEARNING will be your crown
one day.
Education is the key ...

Dear Readers

Do you have a problem that you would
like us to help you with? Any thoughts
or ideas you would like to share with
our readers? Then write to us. Our
postal address is:

**Learn and Teach Publications
P.O. Box 556
Johannesburg
2000**

LEARN AND TEACH MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Do you want the next eight magazines through the post? Then send your name,
address and a postal order or cheque to:

**Learn and Teach Publications
P.O. Box 556
Johannesburg
2000**

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

South African students and workers: **R13.00**
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Swaziland: **R15.00**
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Companies and Donor subscriptions: **R50.00**

ENGLISH LESSON COMPETITION

There are three quizzes in this English Lesson. They are taken from a new book called "The Read Well Write Well Exercise Book".

Follow the instructions for each quiz and send your answers to:

The Learn and Teach Quiz Competition, PO Box 556, Johannesburg, 2000.

Your entry must reach us before 15 October 1990. The ten best entries will win a copy of "The Read Well Write Well Exercise Book".



What's the use?

How creative are you? How many unusual uses can you think of for everyday objects?

Here are some suggestions to help you start:

A brick can be used to hold up the leg of a wobbly table.
You can use a brick to hold a door open.
You can use a brick for pounding dried bread into breadcrumbs.

A brick can be used to _____

A candle can be used for _____

An empty margarine tub _____

An old gramophone record _____

A ballpoint pen whose ink has run dry _____

A piece of string _____

Write sentences using the following phrases:

A _____ can be used to _____

A _____ can be used for _____

You can use a _____ to _____

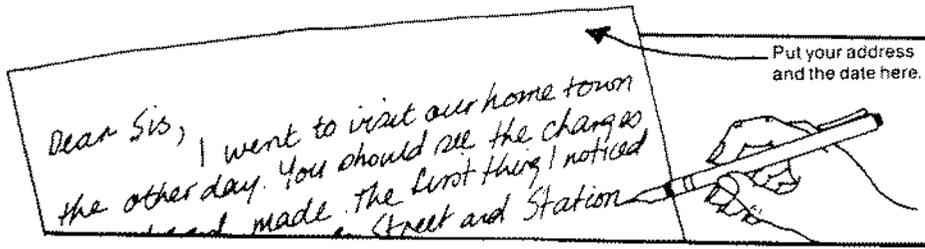
You can use a _____ for _____

A _____ is useful for _____

There are no correct answers for this quiz. Any clever ideas are acceptable – the more creative the better.

QUIZ

Spot the changes

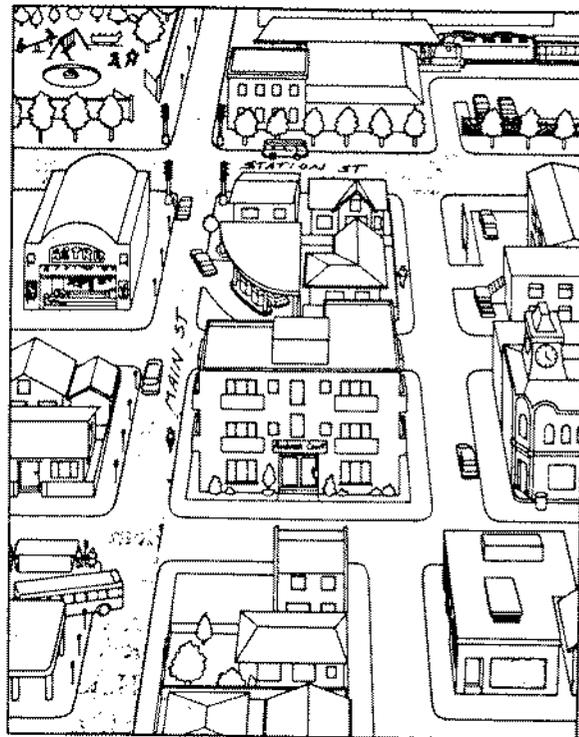
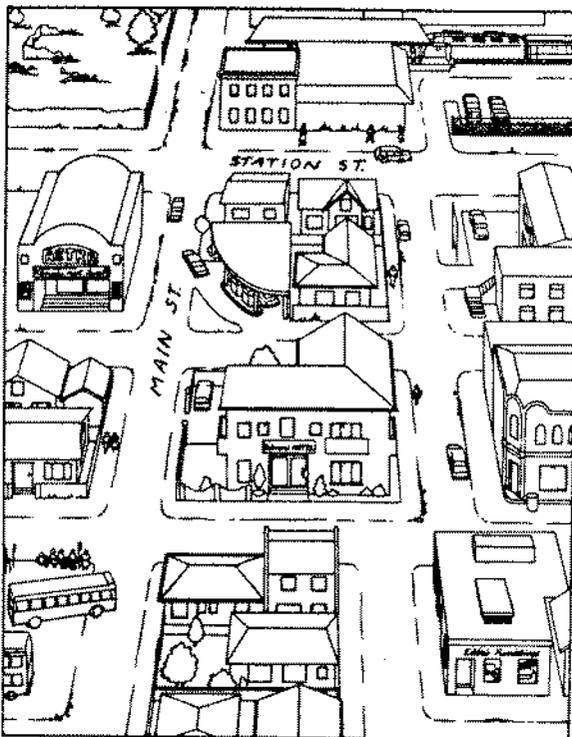


Abraham went to visit his old home town. He had been away for six years, and he was surprised to see the changes that had been made. He wrote to tell his sister about the changes. Can you spot the changes and complete the letter?

Look at the pictures below to see the changes in the town.

The town six years ago.....

The town now



Use the form 'has been ... ed' or 'have been ... ed' to show what changes have been made, e.g. 'Main Street and Station Street have been tarred.' Be sure to use the correct form of the verbs.

Here are some words you can use in your letter:
 intersection, robots, pavement, tower, empty plot, shelter, install,
 add, turn, convert, enlarge, lay, build, demolish.

QUIZ

Double trouble

English speakers often use pairs of rhyming words when they are speaking informally.

Can you match these rhyming pairs with their meanings?
Number 1 has been done for you.

Meanings

- 1 whether you want to or not - (willy-nilly)
- 2 what you say when you pick up a child
- 3 to dither, i.e. to be unable to make up your mind or decide what to do
- 4 a very stupid person
- 5 meaningless words, supposed to be magic
- 6 upside-down
- 7 unimportant social conversation about small matters
- 8 undesirable characters, hangers-on, unimportant people
- 9 be familiar or friendly (with important people); visit or go to parties (given by important people)
- 10 the basic facts, the most important and practical parts of an idea
- 11 telling bad gossip behind people's backs; telling other people when somebody has done something wrong

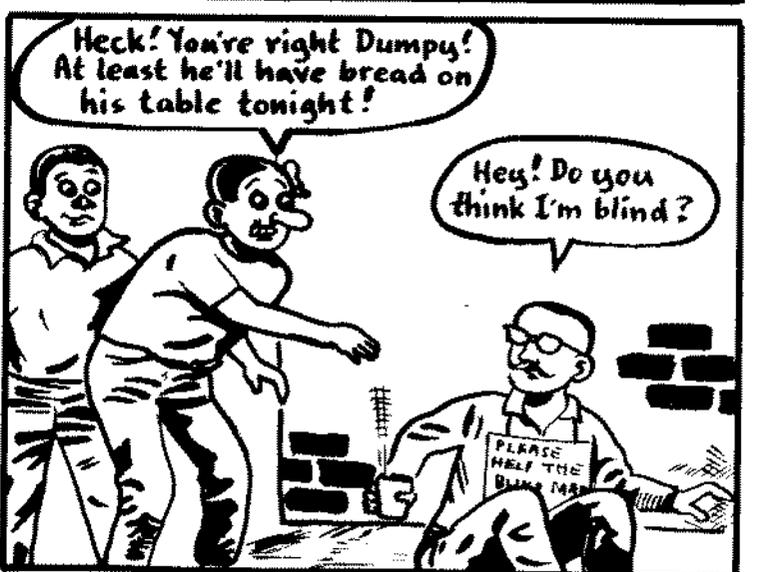
riff-raff
topsy-turvy
tittle-tattle
hob-nob
shilly-shally
nitty-gritty
chit-chat
nit-wit
mumbo-jumbo
upsy-daisy

If you are not one of the ten lucky winners, you can buy "Read Well Write Well Exercise Book" for R16.76 (including tax and postage) from:

RAVAN PRESS
PO Box 31134
Braamfontein
Johannesburg
2017

SLOPPY

ONE BRIGHT SUMMER DAY





Who are you fooling? Bread's worth more than 71 cents these days, y' know boss!

Hey, listen! I was only trying to help!

Let's go, Stoppu!



After all it's the thought that counts!

Yeah! I shouldn't let anyone spoil my happy mood!



Ohmy! Looks like that old lady's having trouble crossing the street with that cart!

Know what? Help her across while I also look for someone in need of help!



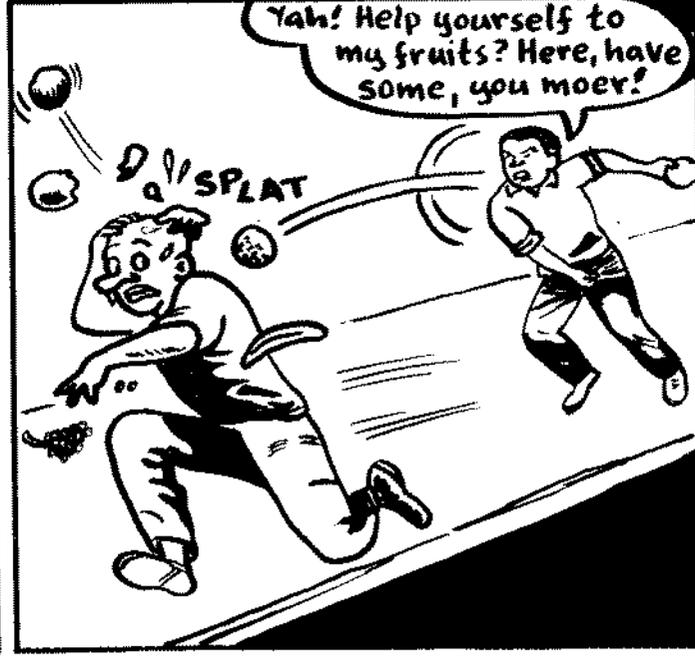
You can stop worrying, mama! Oi Stoppu's here to help you with your cart!

And you should start worrying! Here comes the owner of that cart!



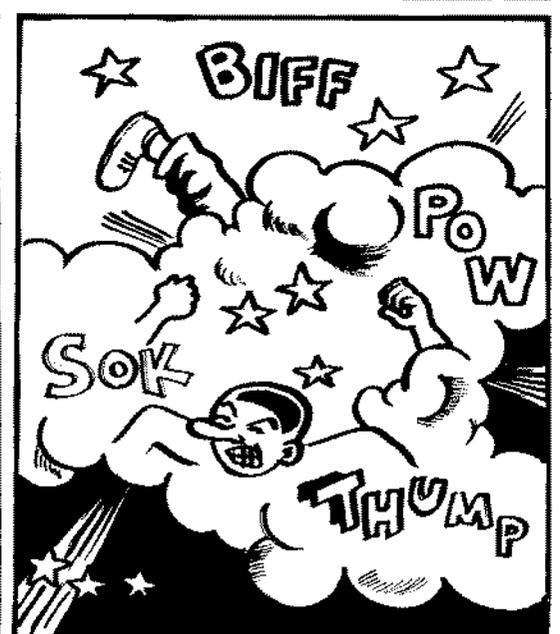
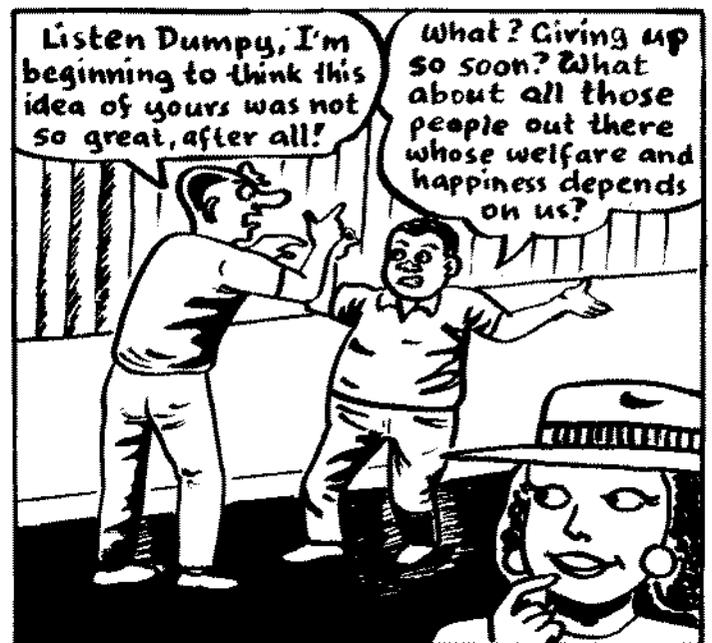
And where do you think you're going with my cart, you thief!

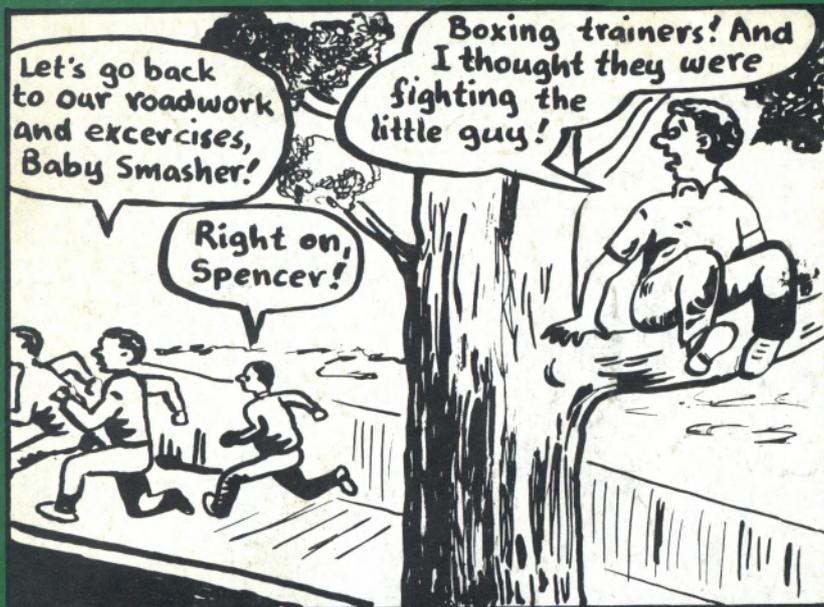
Your 'guip' cart? Whoa! Listen! I was only trying to help---



Yah! Help yourself to my fruits? Here, have some, you moer!

SPLAT

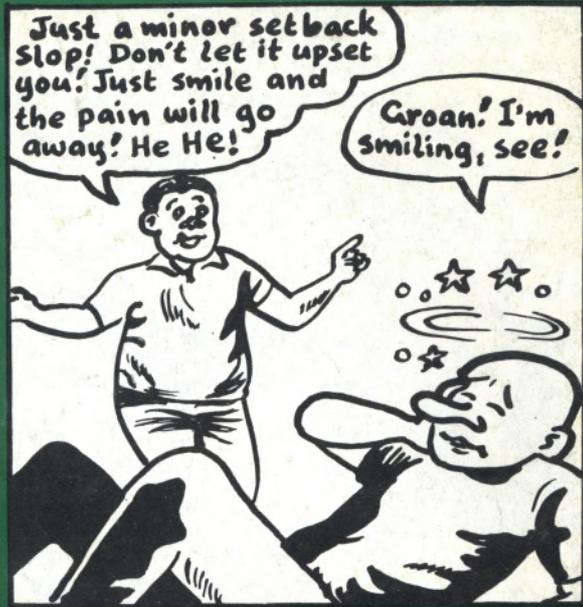




Let's go back to our roadwork and excercises, Baby Smasher!

Right on, Spencer!

Boxing trainers! And I thought they were fighting the little guy!



Just a minor setback Slop! Don't let it upset you! Just smile and the pain will go away! He He!

Groan! I'm smiling, see!



Dumpy, so far there's been one thing wrong with this idea! And I plan to change that!

Shoot mfo! I'm listening!



You've been behind me throughout this whole rough time, right?

But of course! Hey what else are friends for?



Whatever you propose, I'm still behind you, ol' sport!



No! I'm going to be the one behind you, starting now!

Ulp! No! Sloppy, you could hurt someone, y'know! Espically me!



Yikes! Maybe it's time I thought 'bout my own welfare and happiness!

Come back here... with a smile ol' man! You won't feel any pain!

THE END