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PDN 104

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**YOUTH FESTIVAL BULLETIN**

(2)

THE YOUTH FESTIVAL BULLETIN ..... an editorial

Dear friends, this bulletin is intended to be a vehicle for the communication of ideas, suggestions and criticisms on the preparations for the 2nd Transvaal Youth Festival for Peace and Friendship.

With the preparations getting speedily underway, the publication of this bulletin became imperative as a medium for bringing to individuals and groups the widespread activities of youth in the schools, clubs, factories, churches, universities and every conceivable place where South African Youth will be found, in preparation for the Festival.

It is your bulletin, Youth of the Transvaal, make full use of it. Whatever your particular field of interest is, whatever your colour of skin, whatever religion you believe in, there is a place for you in this Festival of all races. We have outlined, elsewhere in this issue, the cultural and sporting programmes of the Festival, take your pick and prepare to enter one of the many competitions.

If you have any new ideas and suggestions to communicate to the Festival Committee, or other youth preparing for the Festival, we will be glad to have them for publication in this bulletin.

Address all such communications to:

The Editor,  
Festival Bulletin,  
P.O. Box 2948,  
Johannesburg.

(3)

TRANSVAAL YOUTH FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

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The aim of this committee is to promote its ideals of peace, friendship and racial harmony through the holding of annual festivals at which the youth of all races can meet and get to know each other whilst participating in sporting, cultural and social events.

The first Festival, which had the blessing of prominent people such as the Bishop of Johannesburg, Mr. Julius Lewin, Professor Gillman and others, was held in September of last year and proved an unqualified success. Hundreds of young people of all races spent two days getting to know one another, taking part in football and netball, attending concerts and singing themselves, and having a very good time. During this weekend these young people took an important practical step towards achieving mutual understanding and racial harmony between the youth of all races and at the same time demonstrated their desire for peace and friendship with the youth of the world. So great has been the interest and enthusiasm shown that it has been decided to hold the next Festival in April instead of September 1954.

The April Festival will be on a larger scale than the last one and will extend over four days instead of two. Cultural groups and sports teams from schools and associations will participate in competitions and perform in the various programmes together with well-known sportsmen and artists. There will be photographic, fine arts and crafts exhibitions and many other events. The Committee's objective is to obtain the greatest possible participation of all sections of the youth in the Festival. There will be no racial restrictions and all those who wish to join in will be welcomed.

The committee is composed of young people of all races and from many different walks of life. It would be grateful for assistance from any organisations or groups, especially in the cultural and sporting fields.

The importance of maintaining peaceful relationships between all sections of our South African community is becoming more imperative daily, and all our efforts are required to do this. For this reason we urge you to give the forthcoming Festival your fullest support.

(4)

## THE CULTURAL PROGRAMME

As with the rest of the festival, the cultural sub-committee is keeping the theme of "Peace, Friendship and Racial Harmony", constantly in mind in all its planning.

At this stage the work is being planned in three main divisions. Firstly there are the competitions leading up to festival; then pre-festival cultural programmes are being organised whilst lastly, of course, there is the actual festival cultural programme to be arranged.

Competitions are being designed to cater for the widest possible participation. Entries are being invited of short stories, poems, essays, plays and musical scores, which in addition to carrying book prizes, will be published in the special Festival Magazine, which will come out just prior to the opening of the Festival.

A schools essay competition is also being run in three sections - for primary schools, up to J.C., and for matriculation pupils. Here again the winning entries will be published.

Choir competitions will be a major feature of the Festival. The preliminary stages will be arranged in conjunction with pre-Festival concerts, whilst the finals will be staged at the Festival.

Entries are also being invited for the Festival Art Gallery. All forms of the visual arts are to be encouraged; from paintings, photographs, sculpture and poster art, to weaving, pottery and tapestries. Meritorious works will be awarded prizes in addition to being displayed at the Festival Art Gallery.

The pre-Festival cultural activities will serve the dual purpose of arousing enthusiasm for the Festival, and of raising funds. Plans are being made to have concerts in the various Reef and Johannesburg townships, and also in the central areas.

As far as the cultural programme at the Festival is concerned, this is still very much in the melting pot. The broad plan at the moment is to have several activities during the morning and afternoon periods, with a major activity planned for the evening.

An opening pageant is being planned, to incorporate the voices of a mass choir with acted tableaux.

The first evening programme is to be a one-act play festival. A play by Joe Podberry, called "Alfred and the V.I.P." is to be performed by a mixed cast. Cecil Williams is producing a play with an Indian cast - probably a comedy.

On Saturday night there will be a programme of folk art, comprising songs, dances and sketches by groups of Europeans, Africans, Coloureds and Indians.

(5)

A film evening will be presented on the last night. A programme of films which are not normally available to most festival participants is being collected.

After each of the evening programmes there will be dancing, a feature of which will be communal dances such as the Square -Dance.

To return to the daytime programmes, great emphasis is going to be placed on mass participation. Community singing will be encouraged, as will be the participation of people in concerts and discussions.

Small study circles are being organised to discuss subjects like the appreciation of music. Debates and Brains Trusts are also being contemplated. There will be groups reading short stories, poetry and possibly radio plays.

Tentative plans have been made to provide a few major daytime cultural programmes.

Contemplated at the moment are a classical concert, for which we are trying to arrange an orchestra; a jazz concert - here our idea is to invite a number of different jazz outfits to participate, ending in a massed jam-session; and a ballet recital.

Children will be catered for by special programmes such as a puppet show, a children's concert and possibly a children's play.

One thing cannot be too strongly emphasised. Even if our plans are beyond criticism, both in conception and execution; the ultimate success of our festival cultural programme depends on the mass of festival participants. We need hundreds of entries for the competitions, new ideas for the programmes, suggestions as to the names of people we can contact and most important of all, the wholehearted participation of every single person at the festival. Given a full measure of enthusiastic support we can make this festival a magnificent experience for us all.

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SECOND TRANSVAAL YOUTH FESTIVAL  
FOR  
PEACE, FRIENDSHIP AND RACIAL HARMONY  
AT  
FESTIVAL FARM  
FROM APRIL 30th TO MAY 2nd.

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(6)

## APPEAL TO PARTICIPANTS

The preparations for the next Transvaal Youth Festival are well under way. A glance at the provisional programme makes it clear that in all respects this one is going to be a bigger, better and longer Festival than the first. And it cannot be otherwise. The first Festival had hardly ended when the requests and suggestions already started pouring in for the next one. Those who could not attend were very sorry when they heard the reports, which spread like wild fire throughout the length and breadth of the country.

Now what is this Festival all about and what are its aims? Who organises it? Who is eligible to participate? These are questions that ring through young people's minds everywhere today. I am certain that most of them are adequately answered in the other pages of this bulletin. I would, however, like to stress a few points which, to my mind, make gatherings such as this Festival imperative in the South Africa of today.

Let us take a look around the country, at the people, their environment, their education, their sports, their culture, their future. Immediately our country presents a picture of gloom, of a growing conflict, of the suppression of culture, of a rapid deterioration in race relations. We find that the young African child grows up in the shanties of Moroka Township in a world of his own. His only contact with the other races is that of master and servant. He grows up to despise the conditions under which he lives, to condemn and to hate the perpetrators of this system, that relegates him to a status of perpetual inferiority. Similarly, the Indian and Coloured children from Germiston and Noordgesigt. Take the white child growing up in Parktown and it also lives in a different world. From childhood, at school, in its entire social life, it is taught that the Non-White is inferior, something to be despised and looked down upon. So the people of our country grow up to take their places in society. Where there is no hatred between black and white, there is fear, suspicion and jealousy.

We, of the Festival Committee, believe that there is plenty of room in this country for understanding between the races, to develop friendship, peace and brotherhood, so that together all can go ahead and build a genuinely happy and secure future for all. We believe that a major cause of race hatred is the fact that people of different racial groups just do not get to know each other sufficiently.

We believe that the FESTIVAL will provide a grand opportunity for all young people to get together. There they will be able to meet each other, to see something of the culture of the different people, to see something of the culture of other peoples in distant lands. There, for the first time, many young South Africans will break the barrier of ignorance that divides them. There they will realise that ALL people are alike, have the same ambitions, the same desires and the same capabilities. There will be a practical demonstration to refute the lie that the various races just can not live together without friction.

(7)

So we send out an earnest appeal to all young South Africans to come forward in their thousands and help make this Festival a memorable one. We address ourselves to all young South Africans no matter what the colour of their skins, no matter what their religious backgrounds, no matter what political opinions they hold. We appeal to all who love this country, who wish to see it progress, who wish to see a future of peace and love and friendship. YOU HAVE A JOB TO DO.

Become a messenger of the Festival. Spread its gospel wherever you are, wherever you go. Enrol participants, organise meetings. Let your "Good Mornings" be FESTIVAL, let your "Good Nights" be FESTIVAL.

Come in with us and let the message of "PEACE, FRIENDSHIP AND RACIAL HARMONY" ring throughout the length and breadth of our land.

TO ENSURE THAT YOU RECEIVE THIS BULLETIN REGULARLY PLEASE FILL IN THIS FORM AND RETURN IT TO:-

The Editor,  
Youth Festival Bulletin  
P.O. Box 2948,  
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

Please send me the Youth Festival Bulletin regularly, at the address below. I am preparing to participate in the Festival as a Sports/Cultural Delegation from .....

(mention the organisation, school, church or residential area you will represent at the Festival)

MY NAME (in block letters).....

MY ADDRESS.....

Thank you.

Yours fraternally,

\_\_\_\_\_  
(sign)

THE BULLETIN IS SENT FREE OF CHARGE TO ALL BUT WE WISH TO ENSURE THAT THOSE WHO ARE ACTUALLY PREPARING FOR THE FESTIVAL GET IT.

(8)

## FESTIVAL SPORTS ARRANGEMENTS

Work has been going on for some time in organising sporting activities which will be held during the second Transvaal Youth Festival in April.

Invitations have already been sent to African, Coloured, European and Indian Sporting Organizations and schools and to prominent sportsmen and women. To nearly all these invitations we have received replies of enthusiastic support.

Competitions are planned in table-tennis, basket-ball, boxing and athletics. Matches are also being arranged in soccer and cricket.

The Festival Sports Committee is also working on a programme for children, which will include a tug-of-war, relay and sack races.

We are confident that the sporting activities outlined above will provide an excellent opportunity to all young South Africans of all races to come together and compete in true spirit of racial harmony and sportsmanship.

### EXCERPTS FROM SOME REPLIES RECEIVED BY THE SPORTS COMMITTEE

#### A SPORTS ORGANISER HAS WRITTEN AS FOLLOWS:

"I have already spoken to a few sports clubs which are very much interested to join you. I shall be very much pleased to receive your programme."

#### FROM A BASKETBALL TEAM COMES THE FOLLOWING:

"The honour of representing Transvaal young women is simply overwhelming, and the girls can hardly wait for April!

We are sincerely and profoundly interested, and shall await any further information you can give us in connection with this invitation."

The Festival Sports Committee will welcome any suggestions in connection with sporting activity for the Festival.

Letters appertaining to sports will be published on this page with every issue of the Festival Bulletin.



PDN 103

Press Release

The statement released by the Minister of Native Affairs, Dr. H. F. Verwoerd, on the 15th. April, 1955, relating to the withdrawal of African children from schools in Brakpan, Benoni, Germiston and Alexandra Township, has been considered by the Working Committee of the African National Congress.

It will be remembered that the Bantu Education Act was forced through Parliament amidst a powerful chorus of opposition from the every non-Nationalist section of the South African population, and in open contempt and defiance of the protests of the African people. These protests have since then mounted. The African people have consistently, and emphatically declared their rejection of Bantu Education, despite the Native Affairs Department's intense propaganda to persuade and even intimidate the people into accepting Bantu Education, and Dr. Verwoerd's frantic personal efforts in this respect.

When Dr. Verwoerd alleges that "Thousands of Bantu parents, heads of tribes and other responsible leaders had agreed to serve on school committees and school boards to enable them to play a part in the educational progress of their own people" he pretends to be ignorant of the fact that in various areas throughout the country, the people are boycotting these boards and committees, and in many others the Native Affairs Department, did not even hold elections, and confined itself to its nominees. Dr. Verwoerd's reference to 'heads of tribes and responsible leaders' is a reference to Government minions and Government created 'leaders' who are responsible only to the Government's <sup>and</sup> ~~policy~~ have never been associated with the progress of their own people but with the progress of the Govt's policy.

There is no doubt that it is the parents who are opposing the Ministers' schemes. When therefore, Dr. Verwoerd, states that the withdrawals of children in the East Rand and Alexandra Township is a "blot on the good name of the Native people" which is a result of "intimidation" by loafers and tsotsi gangs" he is clearly adding insult to injury, and is providing yet another of the characteristically contemptuous and irresponsible manner/.....

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**RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961**

**TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961**

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