

TENSE ATMOSPHERE AT FORT HARE

A.N.C. Youth League calls for return to normal

(Based on a report by our Port Elizabeth correspondent supplemented by material sent by students.)

AN atmosphere of great tension still persists at the African university of Fort Hare, which was reopened on July 1 after being closed down by the Principal following a student boycott of the graduation ceremony earlier this year.

The majority of the students were allowed to return to the university after the authorities had satisfied themselves according to information gathered not only from the individual students about themselves but also from confidential reports submitted by others. But as a result of the screening, 13 students were not readmitted.

No charges were ever presented against the 13, and they were given no chance to defend themselves or even to appeal against their exclusion from the university. There is strong feeling amongst the student body that the 13 should be readmitted and that no considerations of face-saving or prestige should influence the authorities to continue to deny them justice.

Returning to Fort Hare in this atmosphere, it is no wonder that the suspicion among students should resemble the distrust that prevailed in occupied Europe when Hitler stood on the crest of the wave of success. To the casual observer there seems to be a disciplined quiet which may be mistaken for that of repentance.

EXTREME DISTRUST

But a little scratching reveals a state of extreme distrust of one another. The net result is a state of tension among students, and between students and staff which calls for immediate easing.

According to the final letter sent by the Principal to each student informing him that he was to be readmitted, the authorities are bent on further witch-hunting. The letter said:

"You are being readmitted to the College, but if you are to return in the right spirit it is necessary that you should recognise the seriousness of the action taken by you in participating in the disturbances organised by the students. These disturbances were deliberately designed to bring discredit on the College and to embarrass the Senate and the Principal. It was a direct violation of the pledge given, and now repeated, on your form of application for admission, which is the basis of your contract with the College.

"You are being readmitted now because it does not appear that you were among those primarily responsible for planning this action, but if it should become apparent that you were among those more deeply involved, the right is reserved to refer your case for further consideration by the Discipline Committee.

Students cannot be blamed for resenting this letter, which first categorically accuses them of "participating in the disturbances," then says "it does not appear that you were among those primarily responsible," and finally threatens them with the Discipline Committee "if it should become apparent that you were among those more deeply involved." They feel that a sword of Damocles is poised above their heads.

ACTIVITIES AT STANDSTILL

All activities are at a standstill. Although the Students' Representative Council resigned last session, no new Council has been elected yet. The students claim that the onus is on the authorities as returning officers to arrange for the election of a new S.R.C. The authorities on the other hand seem to feel that as the S.R.C. resigned during the course of the year the duty devolves upon the students to arrange for fresh elections.

Societies such as the Literary and Debating Societies are non-existent. Sports activities have not been revived. From the point of view of the students the absence of normal activities is an outward sign of their sympathy with the students who have not been readmitted. The authorities on the other hand regard this as an indication of the students' determination to make up for lost time.

OUT OF CONTACT

The failure of the authorities to size up the feelings of the students is a measure of the lack of contact between the authorities and the students. In the absence of the S.R.C., authorities must naturally rely on some other channel to convey to them the students' feelings on matters affecting them as students. Thus distrust and suspicion breed still more distrust and suspicion.

When the authorities disallowed a public meeting of students to discuss the regulations affecting the Women's Hostel because the Governing Council had recently approved of the regulations, the students held public meetings without the knowledge of the authorities.

Now that organised social and sporting activities are not available and there is no S.R.C., individual students have resorted to writing anonymous bulletins and cartoons which are stuck at strategic points in the Main Buildings. In these neither members of staff nor students against whom there exist grievances, real or imaginary, escape unscathed.

ENFORCED RELIGION

A new rule in one of the hostels, where there has been the greatest dissatisfaction since the beginning of the year, has added to this charged atmosphere. It reads:

"The students of Iona House are expected to attend evening Prayers and Sunday service 9-10 a.m. By instruction of the Iona House Committee a roll call will be held at Chapel at intervals and a record of attendance kept. This record will be taken into account in any report that the warden is required to make of a student's conduct and character."

Normally attendance at prayers is voluntary and it is significant that this notice has been issued since the re-opening. Where a hostel warden threatens to ruin the career of a student for failure to attend prayers, is it any wonder that a state of tension exists?

The hostels at Fort Hare are semi-autonomous and the provision of hostel amenities would appear to be unduly dependent on the nature of the warden concerned. Most of the hostels are run by one or other of the church missions.

ANTI-APARTHEID

There is no doubt that as far as the students are concerned, what is happening at Fort Hare is a reflection of the general opposition among Africans and democrats generally to the apartheid policy of the Nationalist Government. As

for the authorities, it would be difficult for them not to reflect, however unconsciously, in their sayings and doings the attitudes of the rulers of South Africa against which the students, in common with all decent people, are reacting.

A leaflet headed "The Fort Hare Debacle" which was circulated among the students recently, apparently by the A.N.C. Youth League, said: "The fundamental cause of the poor atmosphere in the college is due to the uncertainty created by the tyrannical Nationalist Government which is itself continuing the disastrous policies pursued by all Union Governments since 1910. . . . The

time has come for us to examine ourselves as students if we are to play a true role in the mighty struggle for Freedom in South Africa.

"Today we have been back to college over a month. There are no sports; our societies which were dead are even more dead; there is no S.R.C.; we are all full of suspicion; we are afraid to talk seriously with one another; we are all afraid to be called sell-outs and informers; we are waiting for someone else to make the first move. We all seem to be paralysed.

SLANDERERS ACTIVE

"But there is a group that is active. They are the only people active. This is the group of name-callers and slanderers." The leaflet says these intellectual cowards spend their time attacking the African National Congress and its leaders inside and outside the college. They belong themselves, for the most part, to the All African Convention.

The Youth League has suffered a great deal from the activities of these people, says the leaflet. Most of those who were refused re-admission to the College were

Youth Leaguers. Meanwhile the arm-chair intellectuals continue to pour out their own poison from the safety of their homes.

"Outside college our people are suffering more and more from the onslaughts of the Nationalist Government of Strijdom, Verwoerd and Swart. Meetings of the A.N.C. are virtually banned throughout South Africa; our leaders are banned; some are exiled and many suffering imprisonment. . . .

CLEAR-THINKING INTELLIGENTSIA

"Our job at Fort Hare is to try and cultivate a clear-thinking intelligentsia without which no struggle can succeed today. Our task is to study intensively the political, economic and cultural problems of the African people in particular and the world in general. We must hurry to get out of college to take our place in the mighty army of liberation being created by the African National Congress."

The leaflet calls for a return to normal life at the College as soon as possible. But it is clear that unless some attention is paid to the grievances which are widespread amongst the students, it will not be possible to restore good relations and a spirit of harmony at the university in the near future.

SIXTH WEEK OF EVATON BOYCOTT

Residents Stand Firm

EVATON.

THE Evaton bus boycott is entering its sixth week, and more and more people are taking part. Last week the bus company suspended about half its staff as a result and now only operate four buses on the main Evaton-Johannesburg route—and these buses run empty.

Last week the bus company offered the people a compromise of 16s. for weekly tickets, £2 7s. 6d. for monthly and 2s. 6d. for weekdays. The original increases were to have been 18s., £2 15s. and 2s. 6d. per journey at weekends.

The Evaton People's Transport Council, however, rejected the compromise in its entirety, demanding a return to the old fares of 15s. weekly, £2 5s. monthly and 2s. per single journey.

A mass meeting of residents subsequently endorsed the decision of the committee and resolutely decided to carry on with the boycott until victory is won.

"We appeal to all men and women of goodwill and to all organisations to help the people of Evaton and Mid-Annadale by all possible means," Mr. Joe Molefi, secretary of the Transport Council, said in a statement to New Age.

"The majority of the African

people today live in absolute poverty, below even the 'sub-human' level of the poverty-datum line—below the breadline. Transport charges are one of the main economic factors which regulate the lives of the average African family in Evaton. The people live so far from their places of work, not because they want to, but because they are forced to by the Government's segregation policy.

"It is therefore the obligation

of the City Council of Johannesburg and the Government to see to it that the people get a cheaper transport service.

MEANS STARVATION

"Paying higher fares will mean a reduction in our living standards. It will mean starvation," said Mr. Molefi. "Transport charges in relation to people's wages are beyond their capacity to pay. In fact it can be said that the workers cannot afford to pay anything at all."

Mr. Molefi also informed New Age that the Transport Council was seeking legal advice on a number of alleged assaults by the police on picketers.

Tin Workers Dissatisfied

DURBAN.

A CRISIS has developed at a tin factory here where wages have been cut and working conditions have worsened.

According to Mr. B. Nair, secretary of the Durban branch of the S.A. Tin Workers' Union, the Department of Labour is responsible for this crisis because it has allowed the firm to join the Industrial Council for the Iron, Steel and Metallurgical Industries which has nothing to do with the tin industry. This allows the employers to avoid the Agreement for the tin industry which provides higher wages than those laid down by the Industrial Council.

Mr. Nair told New Age that the S.A. Metal Closures and Allied Industries Association is the recognised body for tin manufacturers throughout the Union.

Since 1952 the workers in the tin industry have been covered by an agreement reached between the Association and the Union.

Soon after establishment the firm in question accepted the agreement for the tin industry and paid their employees accordingly. Subsequently, however, this firm secured representation on the I.C. for the Iron and Steel Industry whereupon the Union wrote to the Department of Labour demanding a ruling on the matter and pointing out that this I.C. was not competent to cover the tin in-

dustry which fell outside the scope of the Council.

"Since this firm has been on the I.C. for the Iron and Steel Industry, wages have been reduced and working conditions have become impossible," said Mr. Nair. It is clear that the Industrial Council's interference has been responsible for this state of affairs. Workers in this factory are now receiving wages far below those paid in other tin factories.

"The Labour Department has supported the employers, and paid no attention to our complaints. We will make a final demand for a ruling on this matter and if we continue to receive no satisfaction from the Department our legal advisers will take the matter to court for settlement," said Mr. Nair.

BENONI LEADER CHARGED

Mr. Zachariah Mndlazi, trade union organiser, has been served with a summons to appear in court on September 13 to face charges under the Riotous Assemblies Act and also under the traffic by-laws.

The charges arise from the Benoni school boycott activity.

★ **SPORTS REVIEW**

Cohen Will Win in Six Rounds

By **JACKIE DORASAMY**

I DON'T like this one bit: all three judges at Saturday night's world bantamweight championship contest between Robert Cohen and Willie Toweel are South Africans. I am not suggesting that they will be biased, and will be all for Toweel. As Robert Cohen is a foreigner and is fighting away from his country, courtesy demands that at least two of the judges should have been chosen from outside South Africa. This seems to be the procedure in other countries, and I see no reason why South Africa should break away from this gentlemanly tradition.

However I cannot see the contest going the distance. Yes, Toweel has speed, craft and, what is very important, his countrymen to give him all the support he needs. When I saw Toweel in a Johannesburg street a week ago he looked like a fully blown welterweight. It's no secret too that Toweel has been battling against the scales for some weeks now. This must surely have weakened him. Cohen is well within the limits in this respect, is reported to be stronger, fitter and fully acclimatised.

Because the fight will be won on the power of the punch alone, Cohen is my choice. Toweel cannot punch as effectively as Cohen and add to the latter's greater maturity and experience a colossal punch and you will get the answer quicker than Einstein. Don't forget Cohen has tangled with the best black men including Ankarah and Tuli; Toweel has fought the best of his countrymen only and that's not saying much for experience and maturity. **Cohen will win by a knock-out inside six rounds—you can put your shirt on that!**

WILL THEY GET PASSPORTS?

Arising from the controversy over South Africa's affiliation to the Federation of International Football Associations, the London correspondent of the Natal Mercury poses this question: assuming the Non-Europeans were to be recognised by the F.I.F.A. as the South African authority, would they then enter for the World Cup and the Olympic Games?

Why not? My dear fellow, they will do their best to be represented at these two games, for that is what they have been fighting for all along. The real question you should ask is will they be given passports by the Nat government?

PRESS KICKED OUT

I was asked to leave the dressing room at which a meeting of the South African Indian Football Association took place last week after a decision was taken to exclude the press. Publicity shy administrators just don't like to be embarrassed by newspapers which quote some of their less discreet utterances. Said Kitty Samuels: "We are capable of preparing a report for the press." Nonsense, Samuels, we like the real thing—not imitations!

FIGHTS WERE DISAPPOINTING

Seaman Chetty's last boxing tournament at the Durban City Hall was a disappointment. Not that it was the promoter's fault. Three title fights in one programme, featuring some of the best fighters in the country, is handsome fare in any country.

All three champions retained their titles. The Black Hawk found himself out of his depth when he gave nine pounds away to the hard-hitting but crude and unpolished Joe Flash, South African middleweight champion; Hawk showed flashes of class but this was not enough. While Flash showed a determination to end matters quickly, he had neither the

skill nor the ability to do so. Hawk kept close to his opponent, and smothered the latter's best punches, and although quicker to the punch could not be effective because of his over-cautiousness.

The Hawk never was in trouble although the Flash's right eye was so exposed that it caught several of the contender's best blows and was little more than a narrow slit by the time the fight ended. Flash was exultant when he was announced the winner and jumped thrice into the air to demonstrate his happiness.

NGCOBO AND ARNOLD

Ezrom Ngcobo overwhelmed the shuffling, slow-moving, ponderous Elliot Arnold to keep his light-heavyweight crown. It was a mauling affair in which Arnold was outclassed not because of his lack of courage but because of a lack of boxing knowledge. He has neither the competence nor the experience to be rated a contender, and his being recognised as such must certainly reflect on the low standards obtaining in that division at present.

Ngcobo is no Archie Moore but he is a slight improvement on Arnold. If Arnold can learn to shift his legs and practise a more correct boxing stance he will be able to overcome at least some of the difficulties in his way. He weathered a stormy second round in which he caught some of Ngcobo's best punches to last the distance with sheer courage and blind, instinctive punching which seemed to force Ngcobo to the view that it would be dangerous to be persistent. If Ngcobo is the type of champion we can produce in this division then it's time we did a great deal of thinking along the lines of more respectable standards.

MOKONE WNS AGAIN

A familiar tale was repeated in Mokone's fight with Gabriel Seleke. Before the challenger could settle down he found himself being counted out exactly one minute and fifty seconds after the first round began. Mokone punched open Gabriel's defence and after flooring him for a brief count took advantage over another opening and struck with accuracy and power to put Gabriel down for the final count. It was a well-

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timed, well-executed right which sent Gabriel in the direction of the smelling salts.

SOUTHERNS WIN

I was right. I predicted a Southern Natal win in this column. Stamina, speed, understanding and accurate shooting brought the Sam China to its familiar surroundings in Natal where it has nestled for well nigh twenty-five years, the Transvaalers having captured it only last year. Transvaal, who were cocksure of victory, tore down the line and registered a brilliant goal through Paddy off Links, and followed with some menacing and daring raids.

The great Matambu was not there, but brother Rajgopal put enough spark and fire into his boot to keep the ball from the net. Southern took a while to settle down, and when they did Terrance Thomas, Moosa, Ivan and Sydney Moonien worked hard and tigerishly to keep the anxious, eager and hungry Natal forwards away. Partnered by prickly, penetrating Papu on the right Natroon Soobramoney and Cousy Govender got away. Curly-haired, hard and exact shooting Natroon collected a beautifully placed ball from Papu and shot, leaving Dinky Gabriel all perplexed and puzzled.

Nineteen-year-old Natroon got the other two goals and scored his second hat-trick in a vital match. Crafty, agile, fleet-footed trickster Links hurt himself at this stage in a collision with Rajgopal. Links, of whom great things were expected, crumbled after this injury and the Transvaal forward line became loose, disjointed and ineffective. The game ended with the score 3-1, and Southern became the champions of Indian soccer again.

MY SIXTEEN

Who would I pick for a South African XI from the players on view at this tournament? Here are my names for this national side: V. C. Moodley (Southern Natal), Miley Adams (Western Province), Dinky Gabriel (Tvl.), Bob Ganas (Northern Natal), K. Rajgopal (Southern Natal), Terrence Thomas (Tvl), Ismail Moosa (Tvl.), Ganson Naidoo (Southern Natal), Thiripath Naidoo (Southern Natal), Links Padyachee (Tvl.), Natroon Soobramoney (Southern Natal), Shunmugam Paddy (Tvl.), Papu A. K. M. Akbar (Southern Natal), T. Rampath (Northern Natal), Bob Pillay (Northern Natal), Teddy Jamolodien (Northern Natal). I have not given the names in order of positions. For instance Terrence Thomas, who has great versatility, can fill in at any of the half positions as capably as he does at right back, and should therefore not be restricted to this position.

DURBAN RACING

First race: 1. WHITE SUGAR, 2. Naid, 3. Liebestraum.
Second race: 1. JAGUAR, 2. Braemar, 3. Ancona.
Third race: GOOD BOY, 2. Devils Gold, 3. King's Rhapsody.
Fourth race: NAUGHTY/DOLL 2. Bonny, 3. Platter.
Fifth race: KNOWSLEY, 2. Dowry, 3. Magnet.
Sixth race: 1. PIETY, 2. Fair Tactics, 3. High Boy.
Seventh race: BALLAD, 2. Pan Ally, 3. Poort Man.
Eighth race: 1. ST. GREY, 2. Worthyness, 3. Ever Rules.
Ninth race: NUPTIAL, 2. Penisel, 3. Demagogue.

STRIJDOM WANTS TO STOP ALL CRITICISM

BY COLIN JAMESON

SOUTH AFRICA had to listen to another of Mr. Strydom's tirades last week. It was the first time that he had addressed one of his party congresses in his capacity as Prime Minister, and it brought out the whole tyrant in him. Mr. Strydom made it plain that all this opposition to Nationalism is a lot of nonsense and it must stop.

Mr. Strydom is perfectly serious. He and Verwoerd and Swart and the rest of the clique know exactly what is good for South Africa, and anyone who obstructs them is un-South African. Therefore any measures to suppress opposition are permissible.

What is the opposition that Mr. Strydom objects to? Let's leave aside the growing resistance that comes from the democratic forces in the country and deal purely with bourgeois opposition.

STRYDOM ANGRY

Mr. Strydom is angry with the English-speaking newspapers because they waged a "scandalous campaign" to try to get Africans classified as Coloureds. He is referring to the reports in these newspapers on the present "reclassification" of Coloureds as Africans. The newspapers have waged no campaign. They have simply reported what Mr. Strydom's officials are doing.

Mr. Strydom also referred to the "false propaganda stories" of the United Party and its Press, to "misguided" ministers of religion, and to the "lying propaganda of certain foreign correspondents."

According to Mr. Strydom, it is all lies, lies, lies, starting with apartheid and the Coloured vote and ending with the Senate Act and the "police state" propaganda. Mr. Strydom worked himself into quite a fury.

Why? The answer is not simply that Mr. Strydom is cross. He IS cross, of course, but more important he is softening-up the Opposition, its Press and representatives of the foreign Press in preparation for an assault on their right to speak their mind. All the thunder and fury has a definite purpose: to condition South Africans to the idea that a halt must be called to all the criticism.

Study Mr. Strydom's speeches since he became Prime Minister, and even immediately before. If I remember correctly, his very first speech on arriving at Jan Smuts Airport from his nicely-timed trip abroad contained a vicious attack on the Press. He said something to the effect that "we will talk about that later."

VITRIOLIC ATTACK

Regularly since then he has attacked the Press. Ignoring the existence of the Press Commission, he has singled out South African newspapers, the S.A. Press Association and even foreign correspondents by name for vitriolic attacks. What is Mr. Strydom trying to do? Dictate to the Press Commission?

His attacks have not been in vain. Opposition politicians are already choosing their words carefully and "moderating" their language. Newspapers have followed suit. Editorials and news reports no longer have a keen edge. The voluntary capitulation

by the Opposition and its Press has been considerable.

But that is not enough. Mr. Strydom is determined to stop all criticism of apartheid, of the police state, of the violation of rights. And to achieve this he MUST impose forcible control.

Control of what? Of thoughts. And ideas. And, naturally, of speech and expression. The attempt to impose this control will come fairly soon, too.

Demoralisation in the Opposition continues at a rapid rate, meanwhile. The United Party moves from one futile congress to the other, its debates enlivened only by the equally futile splutterings of its "progressives," who are now so thoroughly brow-beaten and pitiful that one hesitates to criticise them. It is even rumoured that the United Party is trying to press them into action against Dr. Friedman in Hillbrow.

I imagine that the United Party is preparing for a last-minute blitz in Hillbrow. It faces opposition on several fronts: the Liberal Party, the Labour Party, the Anti-Republican League, the Bekker group and a host of United Party supporters who are either pro-Friedman or anti-Strauss. The interest of these political parties in Dr. Friedman's campaign is obvious. They are sure that if Dr. Friedman wins, they will be able to re-shuffle the political pack and gain adherents for the "liberal" cause. This proposition requires closer study.

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