

The Grahamstown team which contested the first-round EPCU Sunday League fixture against Walmer at the Albany Sports Club last week, going down by six wickets. Left to right, standing, Basil Scheepers, Andre Nel, Meryck Pringle, Phillip Amm, John Ekron and Grant Long. Seated, Stan Long, Mike Burton, Lorrie Wilmot (captain), Sean Long and John Dugmore.

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All out battle to curb TB menace

Incidences of tuberculosis in the Eastern Cape are higher than anywhere else in South Africa and in Grahamstown alone, 250 cases are reported annually. These startling figures are a source of great concern to

government health officials and to the South African National Tuberculosis Association (SANTA) who have proposed a new self-help scheme to help combat what is considered to be the major infectious disease in the country.

According to a Grahamstown doctor, TB is a "socio-economic" disease caused by overcrowding, overpopulation, malnutrition and alcoholism and until living conditions for Grahamstown's vast black population are improved there is little hope of bringing the disease under control.

In medical jargon, TB is known as a "cavitating lung disease" because it attacks the inside lining of the lung and will eventually lead to pneumonia if not treated in time. The symptoms include rapid loss of weight, coughing up blood and sweating at night.

Although the advanced tuberculosis cases usually leave permanent lung damage, treatment can never be too late. According to health officials, the earlier the disease is treated the better and chances of minimising permanent lung disease.

Statistics show that TB in South Africa is ten times more prevalent than in the United Kingdom and more than 60 000 new cases are reported annually. A total of three million people worldwide will die from the disease by the end of 1984.

A nursing sister at Grahamstown's TB clinic said a patient who is positively diagnosed as having TB will be taken off work for two weeks and will undergo daily treatment for six months.

"Unfortunately in Grahamstown many employers fire their workers when they learn they have TB for fear they might infect their other staff. This is not so at all. Once a patient has received treatment for two weeks, the disease is no longer infectious", she said.

The chair of SANTA in Grahamstown, Mr B. G. Coetzee, said his organisation was embarking on a new project aimed at preventing the disease by treating young infected children

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Petrol Bomb Attack On Township House

Infighting between opposing political factions in the Grahamstown Black townships entered an ominous new phase this week, after a potentially lethal petrol bomb was thrown into the Mankanaskop home of Mr Ntsokolo Sandi early Tuesday morning.

Mr Sandi is the secretary of the controversial Grahamstown Civic Action Association (GRACA) - a newly-formed political grouping which is currently involved in an acrimonious campaign urging the resignation of the Rini Town Council, elected in a low 4.6% poll last December.

The petrol bomb failed to ignite and no-one was hurt in the attack, which came hard on the heels of a call by GRACA for township residents to boycott Monday's opening, by deputy minister of Cooperation and Development Mr C. de V. Morrison, of the first official meeting of the Rini Council.

Mr Sani and his schoolteacher wife Xolelwa live alone in the house. He told Grocott's that they had read and worked till 1.30 am on Tuesday, before going to bed. When they woke up at 6 am they were horrified to find the house reeking of petrol fumes; a window in their study was broken and the shattered remnants of a one litre bottle were lying on the floor in a pool of petrol and sand. A cloth fuse lay nearby.

Mr Sandi said that if the bomb had gone off he and his wife could have been burnt alive. "I think this is the dirty work of the opponents of GRACA", he concluded grimly.

He thought that the incident might have been connected with GRACA's campaign to discourage people from attending the opening of the Rini Council.

"The campaign was very successful. We sent messages to churches and schools and distributed pamphlets to the public. Very few township residents attended the ceremony".

Mr Ntsikelelo Sandi, GRACA's publicity secretary, said that the Association would not be discouraged by the attack: "even petrol bombs won't stop GRACA from doing its work for the benefit of the community".

This is the first time that the fledgling organisation - which claims support from 75% of township residents - has been subjected to intimidation. However, the incident has served to reaffirm the Association's commitment to non-violence. "We are totally opposed to

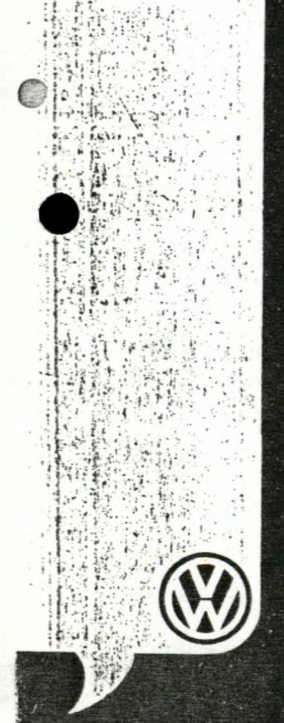
violence of any kind", he said, "because we think that violence only begets more violence".

A police spokesman told Grocott's that the matter was not being investigated as it had not yet been officially reported. "If they

report the attack to us now, we will launch an investigation", the spokesman said.

Mr B. B. Zondani, the Mayor of Rini, was reported as saying he would investigate the incident once he had been officially informed.

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Tenders out for new sewers

The City Council's R850 000 project to renew sewers running from Rhodes University to Allen street, Fiddlers Green to Wincanton Road, and Wincanton Road to the Military Base, is due to go out to tender this week.

The work should take about 12 months to complete.

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