

*Item 55.
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NEW SENSE

Broadsheet of the S. Tvl. Branch of Neusa

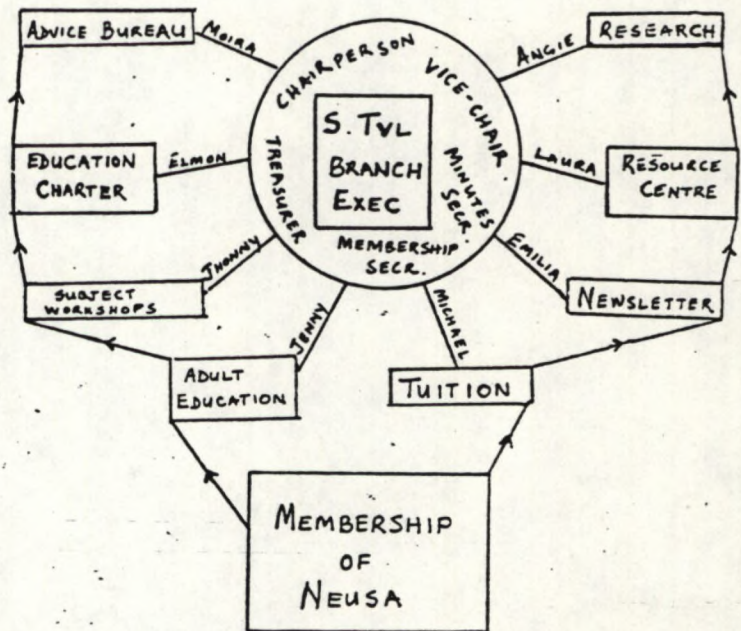
March/April 1984

Our new structure

THE SOUTHERN Transvaal branch of Neusa promises to be a dynamic force in education. The executive has adopted a similar structure to that of our new branch in Pietermaritzburg. Each member of the executive has a portfolio or project and is in the process of setting up groups to work on the projects. What this means is that there are multiple opportunities for Neusa teachers to become active depending on their interests, e.g. if you are interested in working on the newsletter and developing those kinds of skills — editing, layout, design, you can join the newsletter subcommittee. (Contact Emilia Potenza 648-0495). You could then also perhaps start a newsletter at your school and show the pupils how to do it themselves.

Our weekend seminar is going to be a bit later in the year, March 24 and 25, so don't wait till then to join a subcommittee. Contact any of us and we'll get you going. Education in S.A. is in such a crisis that issues arise all the time: chronic matric failures, unrest, victimisation of teachers, etc. We need to build Neusa into a strong organisation so that we can play a productive role in the education struggle. We need new people, new ideas, lots more discussion and, above all, an active membership. Let us use the Million Signature Campaign to reach out to new teachers and draw them into our organisation.

Some subcommittees have already been set up and are in the process of deciding on activities for the forthcoming year. Here is a summary of these subcommittees and whom to contact if you are interested in joining any of them.



This blow has come at a particularly bad time as the TAB has more than 50 cases pending, which include a number of cases that are of an urgent and serious nature.

The TAB sub-committee is attempting to keep the Advice Bureau office open and running by staffing it on a voluntary basis. This has involved a number of people working in the office during the week, as well as on Saturday mornings, and taking responsibility for cases. This situation is by no means

ideal, for two reasons: firstly, most of the volunteers are teachers and are therefore very pressed for time on weekday afternoons; secondly, it has been our experience, that sufficient continuity cannot be maintained with this system of rotation.

However, this sub-committee is committed to continuing with the cases that have been taken on. Our situation is actually desperate at the present moment and we would like to make an appeal for help to anybody who could work in the office or could make approaches for funding.

Co-ordinator: Moira De Groot 837-4486

The Teachers' Advice Bureau

The Neusa Teachers' Advice Bureau opened in 1982 and has grown considerably since then, both with regard to the number of people coming in and the amount of work undertaken. It has recently run into a crisis situation due to a shortage of funds. This has meant that the TAB is no longer able to employ a full time worker and will be hard-pressed to meet even such basic financial demands as rent, telephone or advertising.



Moira De Groot

The Tuition Project

The purpose of this project is to link teacher and education groups, as well as worker and community organisations, into a service for teachers who are upgrading their qualifications. Tuition will be provided with the discussion of current educational and social developments in South Africa.

Co-ordinator: Michael Gardiner 648-0729

The Resource Centre

In our experience in Neusa over the past few years, we have found that many teachers are working in isolation, often producing innovative and thought-provoking teaching material. This sub-committee of Neusa plans to sift through and pool, by means of a filing system, as much of this material as possible in all the different teaching subjects to facilitate the sharing of ideas and teaching methods. Other material, such as teaching aids and teachers' resource books that have already been published, will also be housed in the Centre which will be situated close to Soweto.

The Centre will not function as a lending library, but as a work centre where teachers will be able to photostat the material they require and work on related ideas. A part-time person will be employed once the groundwork has been done to give advice to teachers using the Centre as well as to refer teachers to other sources of information and to Neusa activities, e.g. subject workshops in which teachers can participate actively in generating new teaching material.

All this can only be made possible if we receive the grant we have applied for. At present we are collecting all the material we can to sort through and file. If you do have resource material in any of the teaching subjects that you think will be of value to other teachers, or if you wish to lend a hand in setting up the Centre, please contact us.

Co-ordinator: Laura Dison 837-4486



Jenny Marcus

Adult Education

Another new venture is the development of the Adult Education Interest Group. This group hopes to cater for the needs and interests of all those involved in formal and non-formal education activities with adults. We believe that the education of adults in South Africa is no longer an area which Neusa can ignore.

The kinds of activities which come under adult education would include literacy teaching, skills training, community development, worker education, social action, self education etc. The group is still in the process of formulating more precisely its aims and activities. A wider membership drive will soon be launched through the post and **New Sense**.

Co-ordinator: Jenny Marcus 640-4208.



Tapping resources: Colin, Reena and Laura

Education Charter

Neusa has links with Azaso and Cosas who are engaged in establishing Education Charter Committees at various universities, colleges and schools.

This is the outline of the Education Charter Campaign:

- Regional committees will be formed to co-ordinate and popularize the Charter campaign.
- A national conference will then be held and a National Education Charter Committee will be elected to correlate the demands for the Education Charter. It will also supervise the drafting of the Charter document.
- A National Adoption Conference, attended by a broad range of progressive organizations, will adopt the Education Charter.

As part of the Charter Campaign, seminars and workshops are being held in various institutions.

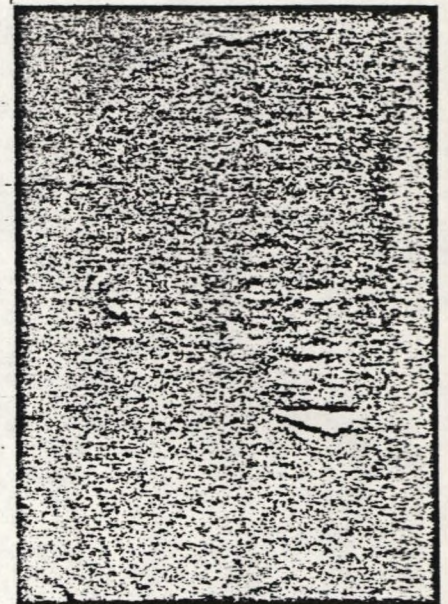
Basically, the Education Charter will strengthen the call for a free, compulsory and democratic education system.

Large numbers of children are attending school in a state of near starvation. Teachers, students and workers must advocate publicly organized maintenance for all children in schools. Attention will also be paid to the "new" vocational education which has caused a general outcry in the Black community. It should not be the purpose of the school to provide specific vocational education for workers, but to give a general education.

The basis of Neusa's stand on the Education Charter is contained in this statement made at the Pietermaritzburg Conference in 1983:

"We hold that all education should be free for all and that everyone should be fully educated at the cost of the community so as to become useful citizens."

Co-ordinator: Elmon Mathonsi 339-3321



Elmon Mathonsi

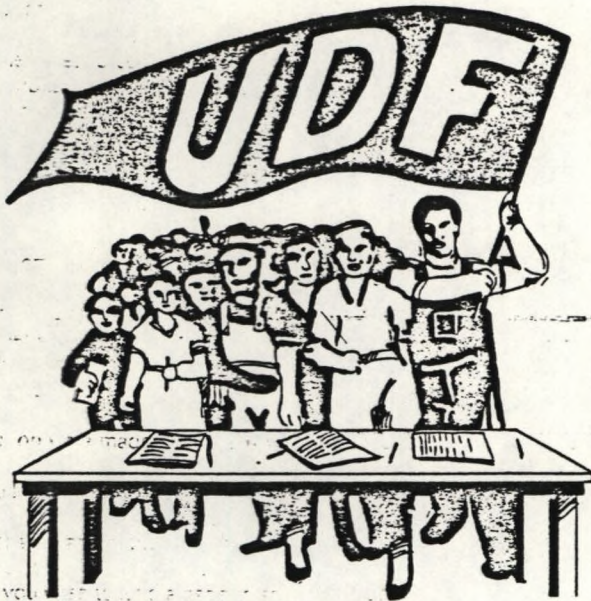
Subject Workshops

On Saturday the 28 February, Neusa had its first subject workshop meeting of 1984.

We discussed the exciting new prospect of the Resource Centre which is to start functioning very soon. Every subject workshop is to collect material which will be valuable for all members of the workshops. This will be made available to everyone through the Resource Centre. We intend to have a subject workshop programme for 1984, which will be circulated to all members. There will also be a slot for subject workshops at the Neusa weekend workshop, where people will be able to decide their needs and requirements for the year.

Co-ordinator: Jonny Campbell 648-0495

Millions to make mark against Apartheid



Don't forget to sign the UDF million signature campaign

ONE MILLION supporters of the UDF are expected to demonstrate their rejection of the government's new constitution and the Koornhof Bills.

The million signature campaign was launched at a rally in Soshanguve, Pretoria on 22 January 1984. It will last for 4 months, and is intended to demonstrate concretely, the widespread rejection of the new constitution and the Koornhof Bills.

The aim of the campaign is to collect at least one million signatures countrywide. Furthermore, it is hoped that the campaign will educate and organise all the people of South Africa against the new constitution.

Neusa will help to collect signatures for the UDF campaign. Neusa calls on all its members and supporters to sign the declaration in support of the UDF.

Volunteers who would like to assist in this campaign are kindly requested to contact Jenny Marcus 640-4208.

Editorial

IT IS 1984 and the education system is no less inadequate than it was a decade ago.

The Government White Paper on the De Lange Commission highlighted the extent to which the recommendations went hand in hand with government policy. The stated aim is "education of equal quality." But, we know that keeping black and white education separate means keeping black education inferior.

As is apparent from an article on the topic in this edition, the Matric results are perfectly in accord with the designs of the White Paper. For this reason, we reject them as fraudulent.

It was the Matric results that sparked off the Atteridgeville boycotts, which resulted in the death of Emma Sathekge. We mourn her death and we salute her and her fellow classmates for standing up against the age-limit laws. These laws place grossly unfair restrictions on pupils by denying them the opportunity of attending school once they are above a certain age.

Neusa calls upon all people involved in education to join forces in opposing these injustices.



Neusa Weekend

IT'S CONFERENCE time again! Diarise March 24 and 25 and put aside your files and your marking and your doubts about teaching and come to Wilgespruit for the weekend.

Come to commiserate with people who understand the stress of teaching, come to argue, come to learn, come to jorl ... but come!

The theme of this year's conference is Neusa in the Community. We plan to discuss the roles of teachers and teacher organizations in S.A. today.

Education has featured prominently in the news this year. The Matric results have given rise to much anger and debate; the White Paper on De Lange has fueled the irritation of many teachers and students; more recently, the violence of the Pretoria boycotts has affected all who are concerned about the path that S.A. education will take. We keep hearing about inadequate facilities, control, overcrowding, age-limit laws, corporal punishment, unfair dismissal etc. What are we doing about it? What can we do about it?

Many of these issues will be discussed at the Wilgespruit Weekend Seminar. The purpose of this discussion will be to decide on a programme of action for the forthcoming year.

All Neusa members are urged to participate in making these decisions by coming to this seminar.

Representatives of any organizations as well as individuals, with similar aims to Neusa's will be most welcome to attend.

If you need transport to Wilgespruit, please phone either

Ian :724-2675 (H)
716-2368 (W)
or Emilia: 648-0495 (H)
642-4657 (W)

Educate us, do not kill us!

Events in Atteridgeville leading to the death of Emma Sathekge on Monday 13 February 1984.

A chain of class boycotts started at various schools in Pretoria early this year when students at Saulsville High School boycotted classes for two weeks demanding the reinstatement of 90 expelled students ... The grievances at the trouble-torn schools include the DET's age-restriction on students.

City Press 1984.02.05

Three trouble-torn secondary schools in Atteridgeville, Pretoria, were closed yesterday by the Department of Education and Training.

The Star 1984.02.08

Several students were hurt when violence broke out between pupils after the Department of Education and Training had closed three Pretoria schools yesterday ... The students are demanding that colleagues who were not re-admitted when schools reopened, be admitted ... Police were called when violence broke out, but the Police Directorate for Public Relations yesterday announced that its members had not at any stage been involved in any incidents.

The Sowetan 1984.02.09

The Minister of Education and Training, Mr Barend du Plessis, has said that Atteridgeville pupils who wanted to repeat matric would be accommodated at adult training centres if there was no space for them in schools ...

On the question of schools which refused to re-admit pupils who had failed matric, Mr du Plessis said: "We don't want to deprive people of the opportunity of doing their matric, but too many pupils in a class lowers the quality of the instruction given in that class."

A Pretoria police spokesman yesterday emphatically denied any police baton charge on school pupils at Atteridgeville. He said police were in the area but had not taken any action against any student.

The Star 1984.02.10

In black education, there has been real and admirable change since 1976. Inequalities are less but far from wiped out. The area remains volatile. A current example is the boycott which has affected three Pretoria high schools, involving 2 600 pupils.

The main grievance, ironically, is over admission to school ... The latest unrest is a symptom of the great thirst for education among blacks — and of how far there is still to go until that most basic of aspirations is fully met.

Editorial, The Star 1984.02.10

The body of Emma Sathekge (15) of Ramapulane Street, Atteridgeville, was sent

to the state mortuary ...

A girl pupil said that police in camouflage uniform arrived in about 15 vans and crashed open one of the padlocked gates.

Male pupils retaliated by throwing stones at the advancing police, who were also armed with batons. A police spokesman said that police took action after their vehicles were stoned.

The Star 1984.02.13

Earlier the senior superintendent of the Kalafong Hospital, Dr C Joubert, said eight other pupils were treated for teargas inhalation. Four had been discharged and four were being kept under observation.

The Sowetan 1984.02.14

The death of a teenage girl during the boycott by Pretoria high school pupils brings

juries received during unrest at the school on Monday morning.

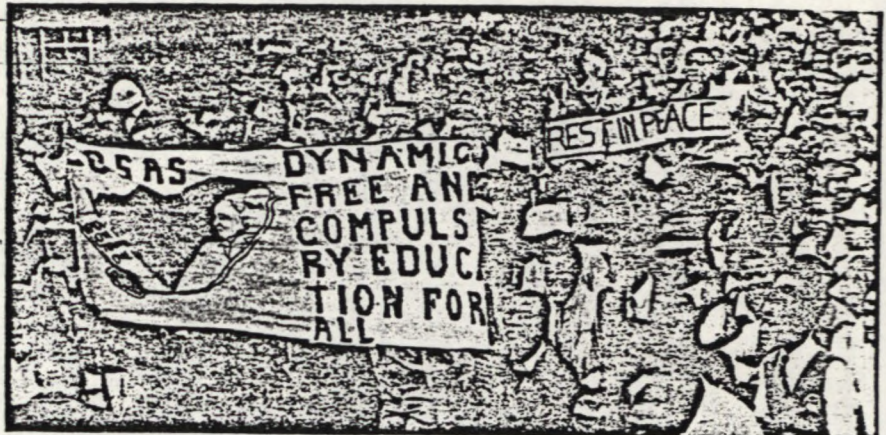
The Star 1984.02.16

Not a single policeman was to be seen when the mourners pushed the coffin on a donkey cart for about five kilometres to the cemetery. Police vehicles were confined to the Atteridgeville police station.

A placard reading "Educate us, do not kill us", was among the placards carried by the students during the service ...

Daily Mail 1984.02.20

More than 10 000 mourners attended the emotion-charged but incident-free funeral on Saturday of 14-year-old Atteridgeville schoolgirl Emma Sathekge, who died when police clashed with pupils at D.H. Peta High School recently ...



us ominously near the kind of deplorable situation we experienced — and still shudder at — in June 1976 ...

We have to reiterate our unhappiness about the presence of police at points of friction that involve minors like schoolchildren. There is no doubt that the police are needed to maintain law and order, but it has become almost desperately evident that their presence often becomes inflammatory.

Editorial, The Sowetan 1984.02.14

Twenty youths arrested on Monday night are still being held ...

The Minister of Education and Training, Barend du Plessis, said: "I am extremely sorry about the accident and I offer my condolences to the pupil's family."

Mr du Plessis described the girl's death as "so unnecessary".

The Star 1984.02.15

Ten Atteridgeville pupils charged with public violence, and released on bail today, have been told not to attend the funeral of a colleague who died during unrest this week.

Emma Sathekge (15), a Form I pupil at D.H. Peta High School, died of internal in-

The coffin, which was carried on a donkey cart, was draped with the colours of the ANC, and the mourners — mostly schoolchildren — sang a freedom song.

The Star 1984.02.20

All those with opinions, read this:

- Do you have something important to tell us?
- Do you want to express an opinion on Neusa issues?
- Do you want to advertise something interesting?
- Are you prepared to share useful teaching resources?
- Are you having salary problems or experiencing difficulties of any kind at your school?

Then write to us!

We have plenty of space for your letter. Pass on your opinions, your information and ideas. Discuss problems with us — we have expert advice available for your use.

Participate in Neusa — write a letter!

Neusa Press Statements

What are the results?

Press Release: to the Education Reporter, The Star. 8.1.1984

THE 1983 pass rate of 50% and matric exemption of 11% for black students must not be compared merely with the same figures for whites. The high figures for whites make matriculation an absurdity. Comparisons of this kind also imply that if blacks received the same educational treatment and expenditure as whites do, all would be well in South Africa. Black Students of 1976 have learnt, and students since then know that education is linked entirely to the political and economic situations. Therefore, reformist talk about upgrading black education without thorough change in all spheres in South Africa is dangerously misleading.

The call for a single Ministry of Education in this country has validity — then we would be more confident of comparable procedures in teaching, examining and marking. But such a call is insufficient in itself. A campaign for a fully integrated, equal system of education within a democratic and economically just political order is the proper response to the education situation.

The present matriculation figures do not reflect the talents and abilities of black pupils. A black student who reaches matric has done so against enormous odds and opportunities such as this are not squandered. Neusa calls the validity of these figures into question and rejects explanations such as poor facilities and inadequately trained teachers as insufficient in themselves. Black education is part of a structure designed to frustrate and retard. The matric figures are in accordance with that philosophy.

The matriculation figures, with a matric exemption of 11% are in line with the direction indicated in the White Paper on the second phase of the De Lange Report. Although the claimed goal is 'education of equal quality', the context is separatism, and separatism in South Africa will always mean black inferiority.

There can be no confidence in such equality, despite calls for a better educated workforce. As long as the priorities of an apartheid ideology, the ambitions of manpower and the interests of the business sector dominate educational planning, talk of equality — in the teeth of matriculation figures like these — is shameful.

Support for Mogopa

NEUSA EXPRESSES its unqualified support for the people of Mogopa. We applaud the courageous and principled resistance of the community to its forced removal.

We join with the community in opposing removals of any people in any form. We greatly admire their achievement in rebuilding their school which was demolished by the government six months ago. As the Chairperson of the Urban Committee of Mogopa said:

"We built the school like soldiers — all of us together, with sacrifice."

This community's unwavering commitment to the determination of their own future as indicated in their concern for their children's education, is fundamental to the principles of Neusa.

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