

WHITE MURDER PLOT IN AFRICA

"MURDER plot to kill Whites." "Congress aimed to Kill Europeans," said the South African daily press.

"MASSACRE PLOT IS A LIE," said New Age (March 19). Yes, New Age was the only South African newspaper which at the time exposed the massacre plot for the fraud that it so obviously was.

It is not often that New Age has the honour of being backed by a Lordship, Mr. Justice Devlin, appointed by Her Majesty's Government to inquire into certain disturbances. But in this case the findings of the commission appointed by the British Government to enquire into the events in Nyasaland four months ago could hardly have contained a more complete justification for New Age's attitude at the time.

The report of this commission, known as the Devlin Report, contains what amounts to a devastating criticism of the treatment by the Federation authorities, backed to the hilt by the Tory Colonial Office, of the African population of Nyasaland.

FABRICATION
Not only does the report show conclusively that the massacre plot was a complete fabrication after the event to justify the declaration of emergency in Nyasaland, it also points out how the territorial forces embarked upon a reign of terror in an attempt to cow the people of Nyasaland. Even now, states the report, Nyasaland is a police state in which it is not safe for anybody to express approval of the policies of the Nyasaland African National Congress.

The subsequent exposure of how the "star witness" to the massacre plot was bribed with a promise of release from detention to sign a prepared statement that he had overheard the murder plan, provides even more damning evidence of the lengths the colonialists are prepared to go to bolster up their lie.

With complete cynicism the authorities clamped down on the Congress in the Federation, gaoled hundreds of its members, conducted the fantastic plot, and then set about trying to fabricate evidence to justify their monstrous actions.

The exposure of the fraudulent nature of the massacre plot in Nyasaland forces one to wonder how much of the evidence of the so-called Mau Mau in Kenya was concocted by unscrupulous colonialists.

CONGRESSMEN HUNTED
The tragedy of the situation in Nyasaland is that despite the findings in the Devlin Report, the country still remains a police state. Katoba Musopole, ridiculously styled General Flax by the Federal authorities, has written again to New Age to describe how Congress supporters are being hunted by the territorial forces.

"The most affected people," he says, "are relatives and friends. My sister and two younger brothers were detained and tortured for two weeks. For three days they were kept without food and water. My younger brother nearly lost his life.

"My brother's home was long ago burnt. So was my cousin's." Musopole is optimistic about the future of his people and his country, which he gives its old name, Marabi.

"Roy Welensky forgets that it is only animals and locomotives that can be forced to work for somebody, and not human beings. The happenings in Nyasaland only discredit and disgrace the British rulers to the world. Their last desperate plans of enticing us into another 'Mau Mau' have hopelessly failed.

"If the British people want to have any future prospects in Nyasaland they should not be

ashamed to repent like the prodigal son. They are very lucky to have Dr. Banda, who is reasonable and sympathetic towards them. But they are now trying to reject half a loaf which is better than nothing.

"Their first real excuse (for not granting us our rights) from 1859 to 1915 was that we were uncivilised and uneducated. Their second excuse, for which even the Labour Party must be condemned, was that we were politically immature, that Nyasaland was not viable.

"Today we have Dr. Banda and co. Marabi is viable. We have vast mineral wealth and industrial power resources abound . . .

"TO HELL WITH FEDERATION! SELF GOVERNMENT IN OUR LIFETIME! UHURU!"

UNANIMOUS
Musopole does not speak only for himself when he writes in these terms. He speaks for all the Africans of Nyasaland. The unanimity of their attitude is clearly reflected in the fact that not one

WORLD STAGE By Spectator

single African of any standing in the country could be produced to support the Federal authorities.

It was this unity of the Nyasa people that laid the foundation for the widespread protests in Africa and Britain against the emergency. It was their unity too which was behind the Devlin Report's statement that the declaration of Emergency by the Federal authorities was necessary.

In the absence of any concrete evidence of planned violence by the Nyasaland African National Congress, what the Report was really saying was that Federation was bursting at the seams in Nyasaland.

The authorities, in the face of united opposition to Federation from the Nyasa people, could no longer continue to rule in the old way. They had to go over to force as the only means of stopping the disintegration of Federation.

The person who emerges with the greatest credit from the whole business is the leader of the Nyasaland ANC, Dr. Hastings Banda. He cannot be kept in prison much longer, and once he is released the Africans will once more rally round him and keep up the pressure for independence until he is made Prime Minister.

POLITICAL IDIOT
Admittedly, history was on the side of Banda and against Federal Prime Minister Welensky. But nevertheless Banda has made Sir Roy look like a political idiot compared to himself.

For months now Sir Roy has been scheming to get Dominion status under White rule for the Federation when constitution talks for the Federation take place in 1960.

Carefully mustering his forces, and keeping a cool head while Welensky blew his top off, Dr. Banda gradually but relentlessly stepped up the non-violent pressure of his people against Federation.

It was the Federal authorities, and not the Africans, who became desperate. In a moment of panic, and in a vain attempt to smash the Congress movement throughout the Federation, they went over to a violent offensive against the

African peoples of the territory. The gamble has not paid off. Partnership has been exposed for the fraud that it is, the Congresses carry on underground, and public opinion in Britain has been roused as never before against the Federal Government.

WHITE SUPREMACISTS
If the events leading up to it and the Devlin Report itself do nothing else, they will at least scotch the last hopes Welensky might have had of gaining complete control for the White settlers of the whole of the Federation in 1960.

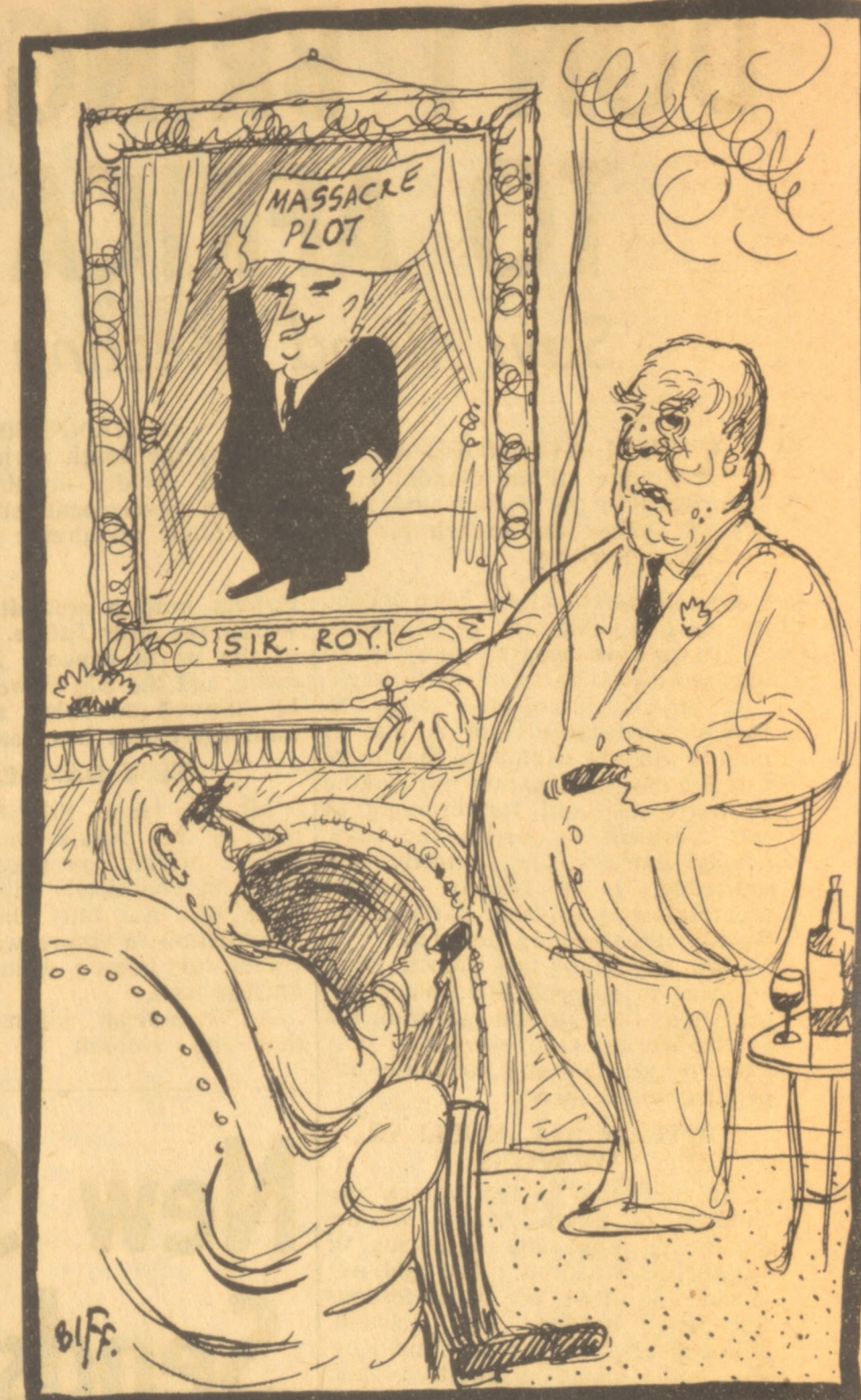
"It has been made clear to Sir Roy," reports the London Observer, "that the present Government will not favour any demands for independence for the Federation in 1960.

"That Sir Roy has at last come to understand the insuperable obstacles that stand in the way of full independence is clear from the new proposals which he is beginning to canvass. He is now arguing that all three Federal territories should advance quickly to independence side by side."

In other words, Welensky recognises that he will no longer be able to get full control over Nyasaland. Coming at a moment when, for the first time, Garfield Todd has declared publicly that his party would have to consider whether Federation should be maintained, this shows that even the staunchest erstwhile supporters of Federation are beginning to face up to its inevitable collapse.

When that happens, and when Nyasaland attains its independence, then yet another nail will have been knocked into the coffin of colonialism and white supremacy. Then, no doubt, we can expect Swart and co. to produce murder plots at an even greater rate than hitherto, and we can also expect them to be treated with the same contempt now being heaped on the Nyasaland assassination plot.

Shame, the poor white supremacists—whatever they do is wrong!



"What the Devlin are we going to do now?"

Engineering Bosses Can Now Use Child Labour

JOHANNESBURG.
THE so-called "New Deal" for the 100,000 Engineering workers has turned out to be a dangerous weapon in the hands of the employers who have now been given the green light to hire child labour.

The new Agreement which became law last Friday grants the 60,000 labourers in the industry a rise of 5/9d. per week in their pay

packets. But in exchange for this increase in wages employers can use juvenile labour at half the wage of an adult worker.

This means that thousands of engineering workers are in danger of losing their jobs. If this is allowed to stand a new all-time low level wage scale will be introduced into the engineering industry. Although the pay rise in the industry has been treated as a sensation in the daily press, the true facts behind the new agreement have not been made public. Here are the facts:—

- A juvenile must work for 3 years before receiving the top wage of £3 2s. 3d. a week.

Congresses Condemn Mpetha Ban

CAPE TOWN.
THE Western Cape consultative committee of Congress organisations have protested against the banning and confinement to Cape Town for 5 years of Mr. Oscar Mpetha, President of the Cape Province ANC and General Secretary of the African Food and Canning Workers' Union.

Mr. Mpetha was served with the orders last Saturday afternoon. The banning and confinement to the areas of Cape Town, Bellville and Simonstown was a violation of the rights of people to organise and express their political opinions, and of the functioning of a legitimate trade union in its work on behalf of the working people, said the statement issued by the Consultative Committee.

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people aroused against the Indian shop-keepers ended in dismal failure as scores of Africans gathered around the Indian shops in defence. A significant feature of this latest development is that these Municipal employees quickly got back to the safety of the beer hall and the whole incident ended within a matter of minutes.

Mrs. Mahomed Ameen, whose shop window was smashed, told New Age that there was no doubt that only Municipal employees were involved in smashing windows. "Every single one of those who passed my shop wantonly smashing windows was dressed in the blue overalls of the municipal beer hall workers," she said.

Mr. Stephen Dhlamini, who happened to be outside the beer hall in question before the trouble started, gave this account of how the trouble began: "I happened to be passing the Victoria Street Beer Hall at about 6.30 p.m. when a large lorry load of overalled municipal workers were dropped at the beer hall. After a short discussion with two White persons at the beer hall, all of them marched out and began hitting out wildly at all and sundry.

About 1,200 workers at one of the largest Durban rubber companies boycotted their lunchtime meal sold by the company when it was found to be potato curry. The demonstration was part of the potato boycott campaign, and on that day, the workers in the rubber factory said, "We shall not support oppression and slavery," and refused to buy the food from the company canteen.

They were all dressed in the blue overalls usually worn by beer hall employees. "I followed them as they

NYASAS DEMAND SELF - GOVERNMENT

JOHANNESBURG.
THE Nyasa Mourners' Society has issued a strongly worded memorandum to the British Colonial Office, and the Rhodesian Federal Government against "the Federal and British governments' continual flouting of the Nyasaland people's demand for the secession of their country from the Federation."

They also protest against connivance of the British Government with the organised mass killing of the Nyasas during the state of emergency.

The society reiterated what the Nyasas said before: that the Federation was never accepted by the people of Nyasaland but it was imposed on them against their will. They now condemn strongly the present tactics of Sir Roy Welensky to divert the attention of the people of Rhodesia and the world from the demands of the Nyasas by his over-emphasis of the 1960 review of the Federal constitution and the so-called "commission of inquiry into the Federation continuity."

COUNTRY SEIZED
In 1953, in spite of the strong objections from the Nyasaland people, the British government allowed the Rhodesian Government to

marched through Cross Street calling on the people to turn against the Indians. No one joined them and as they came to the end of

BID TO SMASH DURBAN BOYCOTT

seize our country. The society condemned the "Campaign of violence launched by Armitage and his Nnyasas in order to kill the Nyasas, to detain their leaders and to allow their soldiers to rape the wives of the detainees."

- The memorandum called for:
- (1) Immediate secession of Nyasaland from the Federation;
 - (2) The lifting of the state of emergency in Nyasaland and the immediate release of Dr. Banda and other detainees;
 - (3) The establishment of the Nyasaland national self-government with full legislative powers and based on the universal will of all Nyasa people.

NEW NAT STRIKE BAN Canning Becomes "Essential Service"

JOHANNESBURG.
THE S.A. Congress of Trade Unions has come out fighting against the latest Government attempt to interfere with the trade unions—the issue by the Minister of Labour of a blanket ban on all strikes in the preserved fruit, vegetable, canning and mineral water industries throughout South Africa.

The 14,000 strong canning Union which are not settled, must be referred to arbitration. The arbitration award is binding whether it is favourable to the workers or not.

Section 65 of the Act prohibits strikes in essential services and severe penalties for instigating, inciting or taking part in strikes are laid down.

Recently the Wage Board drastically cut present canning workers' wage levels and demands submitted to the Canners' Council have been turned down. Three years ago canning workers' wages were increased. The present wage paid to labourers who number some 12,000 is £2 16s. 6d. per week.

essential service by the Minister).

THE RAPE OF LOVEDALE

Famous Old School Is Now Run Like A Mine Compound

—By Govan Mbeki

of the teaching departments are also closed.

Reckless Destruction

In less than six years the Nationalists carried out acts of reckless destruction of work that had taken more than a century to build. And from the shambles they are attempting to erect a hideous monster fashioned according to the distorted image of the rabid racialists who control the Nationalist machinery.

One of the first acts was to close the library which had taken so long to furnish with the thousands of books that filled the shelves and the wide range of magazines and newspapers that lay on the tables. Today the students are dis-

couraged from reading outside their prescribed work.

Tribal Grouping

In the dormitories the students from the Transkei are housed separately from those from the Ciskei rural areas. Students who come from urban areas are kept separately as a group and their rooms are nearest those of students from the Ciskei. A few Sotho-speaking students whose homes are in the Transkei or Ciskei are also separated as a group. The mine compound system is enforced here far more rigorously.

One of the most intolerable practices is that the students are not allowed to stand in a group and engage in discussions. The authorities enforce

the principal demand of the Congresses in Durban.

CONGRESS VIEW

In a letter addressed to the Minister of Justice a few days before the present incident, the Joint Secretariat of the Congress Movement in Durban, replying to the refusal of the Minister to appoint a Judicial Commission of Inquiry into the recent disturbances on the grounds that the Durban City Council's investigation is adequate, says: "There is not the slightest shadow of doubt that the upheaval reflected the accumulating resentment of the African people against the actions of the Durban City Council, especially its Bantu Administration Department, over a considerable period.

"The decision not to appoint a Commission of Inquiry and the reason for this decision, in effect makes a party in the dispute that has arisen the judge in its own case," states the letter.

Similar letters have been written to the Minister of Bantu Affairs and the Chief Magistrate who has been asked to meet a deputation from the Congresses.



Mrs. Mahomed Ameer, whose son was assaulted during the anti-Indian provocation, stands beside her smashed shop window after Council beer-hall employees had smashed it. Africans rushed to her assistance.

the regulations in and out of class.

They keep the students apart even though they come from the same area. They are only allowed to be together and to talk to one another as a group in the presence of a teacher, and informers are planted in every dormitory.

Even the literary debating Society is no longer there.

Mostly Scripture

Instead, most of the time after class is taken up with manual work, while in the morning, evening and within the school time table a great deal of time is taken up with scripture teaching in which the emphasis is placed on loyalty to authority.

But the young students have developed ways of communicating with one another under these very difficult conditions. And the Nationalist Government is failing to seal the minds from the freedom currents that are warming the hearts of millions of people in Africa and the rest of the oppressed peoples elsewhere in the world, and inspiring them to courageous acts for their liberation.

DURBAN WOMEN JAILED AFTER DEMONSTRATIONS

TWENTY-FIVE Lamontville women were found guilty of public violence and sentenced to six months imprisonment, three months suspended for one year, in one of the many mass trials that have been instituted against the people for taking part in the beer hall demonstrations which lead to the recent disturbances in Durban and Verulam.

The women are out on bail of £25 each pending an appeal which has been lodged on their behalf.

In the second case eighteen women arrested at the Umgeni beer-hall were found guilty of contravening a Municipal bye-law by creating a disturbance. They were each fined £5.

Of 38 women arrested at the Victoria Street beer-hall, 13 were found guilty under the same bye-law and fined a similar amount.

Two other cases of five women arrested at Kwa Mashu and 23 at

Glebelands on allegations of public violence are pending.

DEFENCE FUND

The Joint Secretariat of the ANC, the Natal Indian Congress, SACTU and Congress of Democrats have set up a special defence fund to pay for the defence of the women. The response of the people, especially the Africans, has been magnificent according to Mr. M. B. Yengwa, the Secretary of the Fund.

So far over £500 has been collected from amongst African women alone.

In a statement to New Age, Mr. Yengwa said that this fell far short of the amount required for the defence of the women and that the Committee appointed to collect money for the defence of the women were contemplating an all-out drive amongst all sections of the community to raise the funds necessary.

Women Want Wage Increases, Social Services

AFRICAN mothers in Verulam, Natal, have appealed to the authorities for wage increases for their husbands, a housing scheme with social services, and permission to brew beer at home to prevent the small incomes of their families from being wasted at the beer halls.

A deputation of five women, led by Mrs. Agnes Gama, was received by the Native Commissioner for Verulam and discussed their grievances with him. The discussions lasted two hours and a memorandum from the women was submitted.

"Most of our husbands are employed as unskilled workers and receive a very small salary of approximately £2 per week and of this sum 10/- per week is required for transport to Durban," the memorandum stated, "This small income is totally insufficient for us as mothers to run our homes and to bring up healthy children. The hand to mouth existence is causing a serious situation and unless the wages are increased we are perpetually facing the threat of starvation."

NOT A SINGLE HOUSE

In the Verulam area the local authority had not built a single house for the people. There was no housing scheme. People in the

meantime had to live under most unhealthy conditions. They did not know why houses were not being built while the beer hall continued to make huge profits at the expense of their families.

"Although there are no houses set aside for us by the authorities, the police arrest us if we live on land within a radius of five miles of the township of Verulam. We cannot understand this for it is not our fault that those who should have built houses have not done so.

"We know of no money having been spent by the Town Board of Verulam for our social services or for any recreational and cultural activities for our people. There is no subsidised milk scheme for our children; there are no sports grounds for us and therefore can anyone blame us when we protest against the beer hall wherein our menfolk waste their money. We have no representation on the Town Board and therefore we are in the dark."

FIRE DISASTER



A tangled mass is all that is left of this family's home.

SACPO GOES TO AID OF BENONI FIRE VICTIMS

JOHANNESBURG.

ELEVEN Indian and Coloured families, screaming and terrified, watched their closely packed zinc and iron shacks, furniture, clothing, money and all they owned burn to ashes when fire broke out in the Indian section of the Benoni location in the early hours of Sunday morning last week.

The families have, all in all, 27 children, four of the mothers are sick, 2 of whom are tuberculosis cases.

The fire was discovered by Mr. Abraham Jacobs, a 30-year-old half-blind Coloured laundry labourer who was awakened by the choking smell of smoke in his

house. "I woke up my wife, and dazed from the smoke, we went outside. I knocked on the doors of my neighbours to wake them up. Everybody snatched their children up and rushed outside.

By the time I went back to my house, the whole place was in flames. I lost everything in my house including £35 in notes which

I kept in a tin with my rent receipts.

Mr. Jacobs rushed to the police station for help, but by the time the Fire Brigade came on the scene, the houses were in smouldering heaps. In the confusion, the victims stood in groups in an open plot in the bitterly cold morning.

Fire and coffee to keep the victims warm was prepared in the open plot by neighbours and members of the South African Coloured People's Organisation.

An immediate call for donations was made to the Indian community who responded magnificently donating over £100 in money and foodstuffs.

After approaches to the Superintendent of the location, Welfare Authorities, the Rotary Club and other bodies, the victims were housed in the hall of the Anglican church. The Rotary Club brought about 70 blankets and a doctor for the victims. On Monday afternoon, the Welfare Department arranged beds and mattresses for the victims until such time that better accommodation could be found. Meanwhile an appeal has been made by the Indian Advisory Board to the City Council to provide tents to house the victims.

Throughout the Sunday and Monday, SACPO members and sympathetic individuals were preparing food and whatever help they could afford to the fire victims. A statement issued by SACPO called for better housing for the Coloured people of Benoni.

Eric Louw, meet Kim Dong Jo

South Korean officials confirmed their policy of barring Japanese newsmen from this country. Vice Foreign Minister Kim Dong Jo explained to a reporter that Japanese newsmen are barred "because we are a free country. If they were admitted," he said, "we would not be able to continually check on them and prevent them from writing unfavourable, distorted stories."

—Asahi Evening News, Tokyo.

UP MY ALLEY

I HAVE an idea that very few people raised a cheer of welcome when the cop with "exceptional zeal" arrived in this town.

After reading of his exploits I wonder whether Sergeant Arlow hasn't been booted down here to a quieter climate because even his bosses think his zeal is a bit thick, even for them.

I'm sure this triggerman with thirteen African notches on his gun will feel somewhat unhappy in our quiet town and he will miss the exciting atmosphere of the Golden City where he made those thirteen donder se kaffers bite the dust.

Apart from having shot down those African suspects his record states 10,000 arrests. I wonder how many for pass offences.

A character like this should be transferred a century back to the raw towns of the wild and woolly west, instead of to Cape Town. I'm sure he would be much happier wearing a sheriff's star than the police Good Service Medal.

★

AND what are the other incidents connected with Sgt.

Arlow's zealous record? Among other things:

● At the time of the Lady Selborne baton charge on women it was Sgt. Arlow who dragged Dr. Tsele into the police van after he had been handcuffed and beaten semi-conscious;

● It was Sgt. Arlow who had phoned the police station prior to the baton charge to say he was sure the women were breaking a municipal bye-law and asked for more police to be sent to the scene;

● It was Sgt. Arlow who locked an African suspect into the boot of his car;

● It was Sgt. Arlow who was present recently at the arrest of three Africans suspected of robbery. One of them died in the cells.

● It was Sgt. Arlow who arrested a former magistrate, Kirschner, and forced him semi-clothed into a pick-up van. The magistrate was later awarded £2,000 damages for wrongful arrest.

★

WHAT a shame! Us bruin mense won't be getting our

By **ALEX LA GUMA**



own special kleurling theatre for a long time because it's all tied up with our very own special kleurling juniversity, since one of the factors for the "development" of the theatre is the music faculty of the juniversity, and the mean ole City Council won't give the Government land in our very own Coloured group area to build the damn juniversity.

That means that the opening grand opera "Daar Kom Die Alibama" written and composed by the staff of the C.A.D. and featuring the Council of Coloured Affairs, will have to be put on ice.

Another hitch in the programme I hear is due to the fact untergauler Botha can't find any volunteers for the chorus, or maybe they're too shy about having their names put up in lights.

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