

TURFLOOP STUDENTS AFRAID TO THINK

EIGHTEEN miles East of Pietersburg, at a spot far from civilisation, lies a big establishment where personal freedom is something unknown.

This place of monstrous buildings, painted in all colours of the rainbow, is where reality and the truth mean communism. My very definition of individual freedom would, at Turfloop, profit me an expulsion.

Freedom of speech at this 'tribal' college is nothing more than being allowed to talk on matters like 'lobola', or arguing that $1+1=2$. A general survey of the world by any group of students—if they can be called students—would get that particular group out of this College as fast as Major Gagarin went into space.

What more, then, would happen to a group that wanted to complain about the malnourished feeding or the use of Afrikaans which they do not understand?

Aid to Conspiracy

This sort of thing will not save an outworn and decaying authority, but only drives the complainant to conspiratorial methods.

At the time of the Republican referendum, it would have been a crime for a student to say whether Dr. Verwoerd or Sir De Villiers Graaff, or neither, was right, if that student had been heard by any authority or traitor.

At this stage my question is: Is this type of thing in keeping with the lullaby that we are being trained for future self-government? Are our universities there to help us to progress or retrogress?

BASOTHO MEMO TO UNO

The Lekhotla la Bafo Party in Basutoland has drawn up a memorandum to the United Nations concerning their rejection of the Peace Alliance Treaty made between the British Government and Chief Moshoeoe in 1843.

The memorandum was adopted at a conference of the Party held on Moshoeoe Day, March 12. The Party called on all in Basutoland, political organisations and individuals, to support the memorandum.

To Be Moved 13 Miles Away

HEIDELBERG RESIDENTS UP IN ARMS

THE people of Heidelberg, Transvaal, are up in arms against their Council's inhumanity.

Over two years ago nearly 7,000 people, two-thirds of those at the old location two miles from town, were moved to new concrete-block houses four miles further on, on the banks of the Blesbok River. The houses are very small, only 2-bedroomed even for the largest families. There is no electricity or sewerage, and worst of all, the clay soil of the river-bank does not absorb moisture.

After the rains the cement floors of the houses remain damp for weeks on end, with the result that the rate of illness among the people has increased alarmingly, particularly among the children.

Wages in Heidelberg range between £1.12.0. and £2.12.0. a week. At this rate payment for medical care is practically out of the question, and sick children remain ailing at home for weeks on end. The people are also too poor to make

The students are made to believe they are at Turfloop to build themselves up, whereas they are in fact digging the ground from beneath their own feet.

Fear To Think

The students fear to think, they fear to talk, for they believe walls have ears. At the beginning of this year, a student who did not know about the misfortune or fortune of expulsion that had come their way for the two expelled students, wondered at their absence and soon wanted to know what had happened to them.

His comrades avoided his ques-

by a former student, now living in Johannesburg

tions, fearing to hear the very word 'expulsion' uttered on their own tongues.

Students Fight Back

There have been some limited successes in the struggle against authoritarian repression. When the students were told to construct a sportsground, there were wholesale protests and the instructions were withdrawn.

Again, when it was known that the inaugural speech of Prof. Endeman, head of the department of Bantu Languages, was to be in Afrikaans, over half the students boycotted the proceedings.

On another occasion, when the students wanted a mixed instead of a segregated audience, and threatened a walkout, the Rector called in armed police in plain clothes to guard the hall. **THE AUTHORITIES ALSO APPEARED ARMED!**

When the Rector wished to appoint paid (i.e. stooge) students to form the SRC, the students refused point-blank and the Rector was forced to allow proper elections.

much use of the new bus service, and they walk to work daily.

NO ANSWER

The Council's answer to the problem of the damp sites is: move the people even further! So today foundations are being laid and lavatories built at Driemanskaap, 13 miles from Heidelberg. Are the people expected to walk 26 miles to and from work daily?

The Heidelberg Residents' Association is inaugurating a militant campaign for better conditions and a reversal of the Council's present policies. They demand adequate lighting, free transport and higher wages for the people. They say that it is ridiculous that the children should have to walk eight miles daily to the school in the old location (which is now surrounded by gaping walls and weeds) and that new facilities must be provided immediately.

The people are giving the Residents' Association their fullest support.

This college is not an academic establishment, but a place for pouring over the students a concentrated, indoctrination solution with a pungent smell. Every year the college will send into the world men and women who have had too much of this solution in their heads. Very few will escape.

While I condone their being at the college, I do not pardon these students for just sitting back and smiling as though they have reason to be happy at Turfloop.

They must realise that if things go on like this, the man in the street will point a finger at them as the people who are championing the cause of this deplorable college.

They must make the man in the street understand them—I don't care how.

Sudden Collapse After 9 Weeks' Struggle

What Happened To The Furniture Strike?

by E. R. Braverman

IT was difficult to understand the reasons for the furniture workers' strike; it is just as difficult to understand the sudden collapse of the strike.

The strike was settled on May 16, on the same terms as offered by the employers before the strike, with the exception that the union has now accepted an agreement that binds it for 3½ years instead of the 2 years as originally agreed in February.

To compensate for the longer period the employers have agreed to increase journeymen's wages by 60 cents, labourers' by 40 cents per week, after 2½ years have expired.

BACK IN STAGES

The most serious drawback of the settlement however, is that all the men will not be taken back into employment at once. The strikers are to resume work in stages according to the bosses' needs. The designers are to start at once; the polishers who go back last may be out of work for a number of weeks.

Although employers have agreed not to victimise strikers, this arrangement obviously opens the door to picking and choosing.

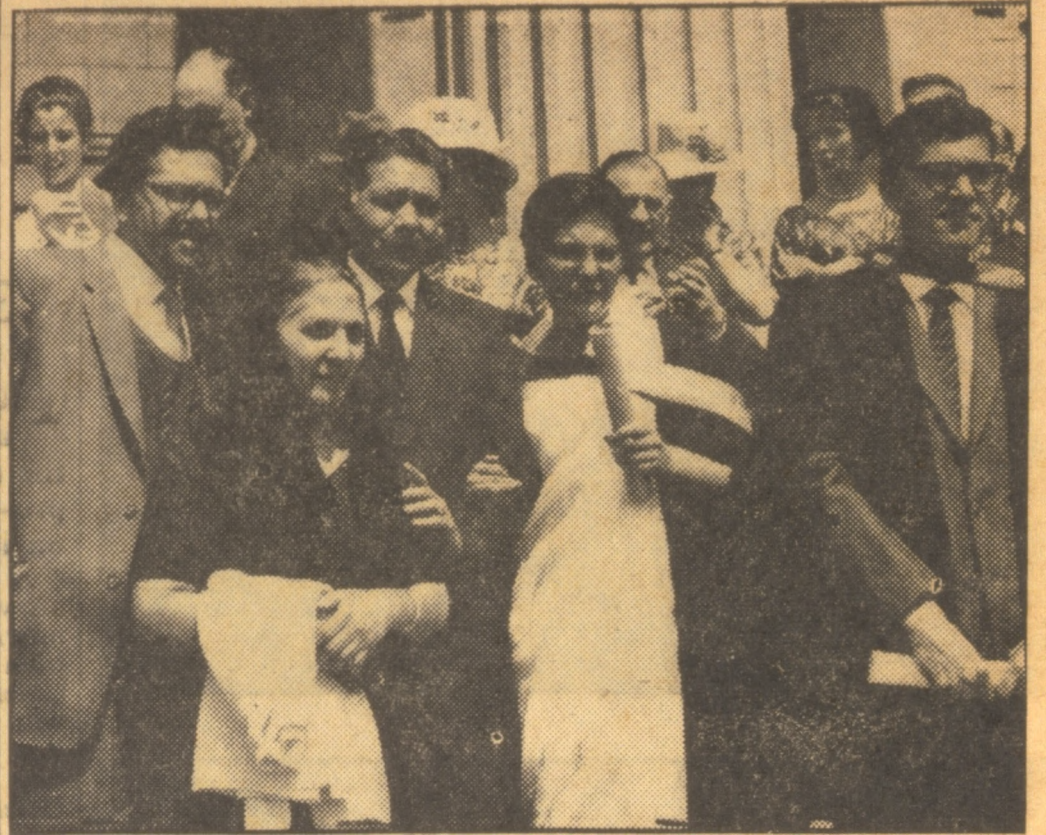
One condition of the settlement that has caused a great deal of indignation amongst the strikers is the refusal by the employers to dismiss the scab-labour who worked during the strike; many of them had been out of the industry for many years and were not union members.

It is said that the journeymen lost about R120 (£60) each in wages during the strike and many of them are asking whether the sacrifice was justified or worthwhile.

IMPORTANT WEAPON

A strike, which is the withdrawal of their labour power, is one of the workers' most important weapons, an essential element in their struggle for improved wages and conditions of work. But if a strike fails because of poor leadership and bad tactics, the result can be disheartening, if not demoralizing.

The demand for a shorter working week which led to the strike affected not only the Cape workers but the furniture workers in other provinces. The strikers therefore received full official support from the Transvaal and O.F.S. furniture workers. The



It was a happy day for the Dangor family when daughter Zohra and son Abdubaker were capped at the University of the Witwatersrand recently. Zohra obtained her B.A. in social science to become the first Indian social worker in the Transvaal, and Abdubaker his B.Sc. majoring in physics.

Natal furniture workers also sent a donation to the strike fund.

The Transvaal union took an active part in the strike, and their paid officials, Messrs. de Villiers, Kloppers and Lucas Barnard, were in Cape Town for the duration of the strike. From all accounts, had it not been for them, the strike might not have taken the form that it did.

They seemed to treat the strike as an affair of the furniture workers only, for no attempt was apparently made to enlist the support of other trade unions in the Cape. The union did, however, get official assistance from the S.A. Trade Union Council and from the S.A. Mine Workers' Union.

CHANGE OF TUNE

Shortly before the collapse of the strike, members of the union claimed their resources as well as contributions from the Transvaal would enable them to stay out of work for a long time and force the employers to yield to their demands.

If this is so, it is difficult to understand why the strike came to a sudden end on the terms that were unacceptable in March!

Some of the strikers suspect that pressure was brought to bear on the Transvaal leaders to withdraw their support.

It is suggested that the pressure came from Government circles because of the fear that the continuation of the strike would lead to unrest and discontent amongst Coloured workers at a time when the end-of-May political crisis was threatening.

Have You Seen This Boy?

JOHANNESBURG.

A 12-year-old African boy Andries Ndhlovu has been missing from his home at 495 Jabulani, South West region of Johannesburg, since April 26, and his father has appealed for help in tracing him.

The child went to school as usual early in the morning (he was a pupil at the Matafeni School) but did not arrive in the classroom. He has not been seen since.

His absence has been reported over the Re-diffusion system and to the police, but there has been no trace of him.

GRAHAMSTOWN AFRICANS VOICE THEIR GRIEVANCES

GRAHAMSTOWN.

ACCUSATIONS that the Grahamstown City Council collected grazing fees but did nothing to improve the commonage, were made at a meeting of African livestock owners and municipal officials held at the Grahamstown Location Hall last month.

The meeting had been called by the Mayor of Grahamstown, Mr. A. K. Rautenbach, in order to discuss the increased grazing fees introduced by the municipality. The Africans claimed that the increased fees were an attempt to limit their stock.

The City Council said that it had been told by the Soil Conservation Officer that under normal conditions the commonage should not carry more than 500 head of cattle, yet at present, after last year's drought there were more than 550 head being grazed on the commonage. It was stated that goats, sheep, donkeys

and horses grazed the grass right down to the roots and thereafter rhenosterbos and weeds took over the land. If the Africans reduced the number of their donkeys by half and got rid of all their sheep and goats the position would be much better.

DONE NOTHING

The livestock owners then stated that the Council had been collecting grazing fees from the people for generations and had done nothing to improve the commonage, or make paddocks for the stock. The Africans also alleged that white farmers were making use of the commonage, too, and they strongly protested against this.

The mayor promised to investigate this matter.

Another complaint raised by the Africans was that the increase in grazing fees from 35 cents to 50 cents had been made without warning or consultation with them.

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