





THURSDAY MAY 9 1996

SOUTHERN EDITION * *

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NAIS QUIL GOVI

CLIVE SAWYER Political Correspondent

DEPUTY President FW de Klerk today announced the National Party's withdrawal from the government of national unity and from all ANC-controlled provincial governments.

The announcement followed an emergency meeting of the party's federal council and a report-back to the parliamentary

He was given a standing ovation by the caucus when he made the announcement Mr de Klerk said he had informed President Mandela of his party's decision and

they had had a short discussion on the telephone. Mr de Klerk said: "We are not taking this decision in a negative spirit. It is not a crisis. We are not sour. We look at the future with expectations. Yesterday was the final

moment of the birth of a nation. That nation needs a strong multiparty system.' The decision takes effect on June 30. President Mandela said later': "I thank

Mr de Klerk for his contribution.' The party's five cabinet ministers and

three deputy ministers are expected to resign with immediate effect. Embassies were being informed of the

The pullout by the NP follows its reluctant support for the constitution, and a surge of feeling within the party that it should opt for a straightforward opposition

role, instead of its uncomfortable dual role in the GNU. The constitution adopted yesterday does not allow for the continuation of enforced coalition government after it comes into

effect in 1999. President Nelson Mandela said earlier today that it would be regrettable if the NP opted to leave the cabinet because neither the Nats nor the African National Congress

would gain anything by this. The federal executive meeting today was brought forward from its scheduled date of Tuesday because of the urgency of the matter.

NP sources said the rand, which was quoted around 454 to the dollar this morning, had fallen so sharply that it was felt that it would be detrimental to the economy to delay the announcement further.

Earlier, the African National Congress expressed anger at NP indications that the party was considering a withdrawal from government.

The NP statement that it was considering a withdrawal was designed to get attention and detract from the confidence engendered by passing the constitution and put national unity and the economy at risk. Market observers held their breath today

to evaluate the effect of the NP announce ment on the rand, which plunged yesterday following the first reports of a possible NP

In a statement last night, Mr De Klerk said people had asked whether the time had come, at the beginning of a new phase, for the NP to play to the full the role of a dynamic but responsible opposition.

Meanwhile, President Mandela says the African National Congress will continue consultations with minority groups, including Afrikaner organisations, which are unhappy with the constitution.

Speaking at a Cape Town Press Club breakfast, Mr Mandela disclosed that he had been telephoned by FF leader Constand Viljoen yesterday morning before

voting on the constitution took place. General Viljoen had explained his party's "difficulties" which would prevent

it from voting in favour of the constitution. Mr Mandela said the FF was one of the parties the African National Congress would continue to engage in discussions on

the constitution. "Adoption of the new constitution does not mean the end of our wish to bring

about peace and reconciliation. Tracing the history of the liberation struggle and talks which resulted in yesterday's approval of the new constitution, Mr Mandela said that at the initial stages leading up to the Kempton Park talks, a 'prominent politician" had proposed that negotiations should be a deal only between the three largest parties.

Mr Mandela said he had insisted to this politician, whom he did not identify, that talks had to be as inclusive as possible.

Making a deal only between three parties would have been a repeat of the mistake made in Angola and Mozambique, which had attempted settlements on a similar

This meant that 26 parties had taken part in the talks. See pages 3 and 21.





Taxi men shot in fuel price protests

FOUR taxi drivers were injured, two of them seriously, when shots were fired as drivers converged on Athlone Stadium today to protest against the latest petrol price

Another driver was wounded when shooting later broke out at the taxi rank on the deck of Cape Town station.

Bus and taxi services in Cape Flats areas including Mitchell's Plain, Hanover Park and Manenberg were disrupted as taxi drivers blockaded bus routes.

Traffic department escorts accompanying President Mandela on a visit to Mitchell's Plain were advised to avoid potential flashpoints on the Cape Flats.

A taxi driver was arrested after a minibus forced a police vehicle off the road, causing an accident on the M3 near Newlands Forest. Traffic conditions turned similar to peak hour, with a back-up stretching as far back as Constantia.

Traffic was disrupted throughout the city when taxi drivers blocked intersections. Drivers allegedly smashed car windows near the city centre.

The four drivers were wounded in Klipfontein Road near the Athlone Stadium. Two drivers who were shot, one in the chest and the other in the stomach, were taken to Groote Schuur Hospital.



ARMED INTERSECTION: Police man an intersection in Athlone while a disruptive convoy of taxis drive through on

allegedly shot at a group of drivers from the Bonteheuwel Taxi Association (BTA) after they were stopped by BTA drivers who had assembled outside the stadium for a meeting.

their way to Cape Town.

Drivers alleged the group of at least 15 men stopped about 100 metres from the BTA group and opened fire indiscriminately with pistols and at least one AK-47. At least one BTA driver returned the fire. Some protesting taxi drivers converged on

the taxi rank on the station deck in the centre of Cape Town while others split into smaller groups, disrupting traffic. A group of about 100 BTA members con-

demand the release of one of their drivers arrested for alleged reckless driving. Police reinforcements were called in, but the situation was defused after the driver was

Thousands of Cape Flats commuters were stranded as taxi drivers carried out their earlier threats to bring the industry to a standstill in protest against last week's 14c a litro petrol price increase.

Today's disruptions began when taxi drivers blockaded the Mitchell's Plain Town Centre bus terminus and caused disruptions at the Bonteheuwel and Manenberg

Taxi drivers from a rival taxi association verged on the Athlone police station to taxi ranks and along Klipfontein Road. Faiek Ariefdien, secretary of the Western Cape Taxi Task Team, condemned their actions and said the few "loose cannons" did not have the support of the industry.

Golden Arrow bus company spokesman Jeanne Welsh said buses were unable to pick up passengers at the Mitchell's Plain terminus but the company was running buses from the Kapteinsklip area in an effort to pick up passengers waiting along the route.

Police said taxi drivers were intimidating bus drivers and causing "general disruption". Members of the internal stability unit were patrolling the area.

'Execution' killing: Four get 35 years

Supreme Court Reporter

FOUR Cape gangsters have been jailed for 35 years each for the "cold-blooded" shooting of the driver and guard of a taxi they had hi-

The four were sentenced in the Supreme Court by Mr Justice W E Cooper to 35 years for murder, 25 years for attempted murder, and 20 years for robbery, with the sentences to run concurrently.

Wayne Potter, 21, Desmond Wolhutter, 22, Ryno Moses, 23, and Llewellyn van Rooyen, 28, hijacked a taxi driven by Phindile William Mngxekwa in Belhar last

They drove him and the guard, Roderick Jacobs, to a deserted, bushy area near Cape Town International Airport, where they shot them, execution-style, in the back of the

Mr Mngxekwa survived the attack and gave evidence in court, but Mr Jacobs was

When sentence was announced, the accused grinned at each other, apparently in amazement, whispering: "35 years".

Before sentence was handed down, the accused appeared to be in high spirits, leaning back against the dock and talking and laughing with friends and relatives in the public gallery above the court.

Judge Cooper said it was "miraculous" that Mr Mngxekwa survived the attack, and added that he would suffer for the rest of his

"Your victims must have been terrified when they realised they were going to be shot and killed.'

Rights violators may lose jobs and perks

COMMISSION

JOHN YELD on the Truth Commission

DURBAN. - The Truth Commission may recommend that perpetrators of human rights violations should not hold public office or be entitled to benefits such as

pensions and promotions. These recommendations could be made to the government before the commission's final report is drawn up at the end of next

This emerged after yesterday's hearings, when commission chairman Desmond Tutu and his deputy Alex Boraine reacted to the call by the family of Magoo's Bar bombing victim Marchelle Gerrard that bomber Robert McBride should not hold public office.

Archbishop Tutu said he did not think it correct to speculate publicly on any likely recommendations – but that calls such as those of Ms Gerrard's family and other victims regarding perpetrators were being taken "very seriously"

"This is a strong view which is being put forward and I want to discuss this, perhaps with the full commission. It is not an unreasonable position to have been taken by the witnesses," Archbishop Tutu said.

Dr Boraine said the request to remove Mr McBride - at present a deputy-director in the Department of Foreign Affairs

in the wider context of the commission's mandate to establish a culture of human rights in

South Africa. This meant that being able to commit human rights violations with impunity, treating such rights with disrespect or, "even worse", being rewarded for violations had to be discouraged.

"We are not going to let this drop - it is going to be debated and discussed," said Dr Boraine.

It was an issue which the commission needed to act on before its mandate expired in December next year "You can't wait two years," said Dr Boraine.

Noting that several victims - including Ms Gerrard's family - had testified that they expected perpetrators to contact them personally and apologise, Dr Boraine said it was possible the commission would contact Mr McBride and other alleged perpetrators to discuss this issue with them.

He rejected as "absurd" an alleged remark by Mr McBride that his case had attracted more attention than other bombings because the victims had been white.

'All human life is precious - it's a principle which we feel very strongly about." Archbishop Tutu also rejected the suggestion. "We seek to express our revulsion at ghastly things on all sides.'

• More reports, page 4

The Argus Correspondent

CONVICTED Magoo's Bar bomber Robert McBride was turned down for a diploeign Affairs said.

A spokesman said Mr McBride, who holds the rank of deputy-director in the depart-ment, had applied for the "normal diplomatic posting" after it was advertised internally last year.

'He applied according to procedure just like everyone else of corresponding rank. But someone else got the job." Mr McBride underwent a selection process

department said.

McBride had been turned down for the job did not mean he could not apply for posts in future - including overseas postings. 'An overseas posting - especially one as popular as New York - usually attracts many applications.

"The selection procedures apply to every-

McBride turned down for New York posting

matic posting to New York under a normal selection process "and not because he is Robert McBride", the Department of For-

when he applied for a job at Foreign Affairs and he met all the criteria as set out by the Civil Service Commission, the 'He will, in future, have to apply for any

posting according to the normal procedure and will be considered along with every-The department said the fact that Mr

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Chris Ball's father Seaman dies in accident killed by robbers' gag

A SEAMAN was killed and two were hurt when an evacuation exercise on a ship in Cape Town harbour went awry. The three were part of a group being lowered in a lifeboat into the

water from a Liberian-registered semi-container ship. The drill aboard Astra Peak at Ben Schoeman dock 604 went wrong when one of the ropes holding the lifeboat, which was secured to the side of the vessel, snapped and the craft flipped, flinging the five

Retired engineer Clifford Watkins Ball, 88, choked to death on An inflatable life raft was thrown to the men and, by the time the Johannesburg, home. police waterwing arrived, all the men were inside it.

Attempts were made to resuscitate a seaman in his forties whose head was injured in the fall. He was later declared dead.

Bone find: 'Not human'

PRETORIA. - The piece of bone found under the main bedroom of dead Pretoria child molester Gert van Rooyen's house is not of A police spokesman said today

this was the finding of an analy-

sis by Transvaal Museum deputy

director Ina Plug.

Dr Plug said the bone was too dense to have been that of a human and must be that of a large animal.

See page 3.

The circumference judged by the curving and marrow cavity is too large to fit a human

the jewellery she had been wearing. By the time Mrs Ball had freed herself and rushed to her husband's aid, he was unconscious and barely breathing. Paramedics were called but were unable to save him. "The gag was just too tightly tied and they had put blankets over his head to stop him from seeing what they were doing. He

ing the robbery yesterday, but she was not harmed.

armed and I'm sure they were looking for guns.

suffocated," she said. According to the couple's daughter, Carol White, Mrs Ball was woken by a noise about 3am. She went into the passage and saw

JOHANNESBURG. - The father of Cape Town's Olympic Bid

a gag stuffed into his mouth during a robbery at his Melrose,

His wife, Cynthia, 82, was also tied up and gagged by the rob-

"I don't think they meant to hurt us," she said. "They were not

She said the intruders ransacked the house, even stripping the

beds of sheets, but eventually left with only a video machine and

bers after they took her wedding ring and other jewellery dur-

chief, Chris Ball, has died after being attacked at his home.

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Lebanon blast: 2 soldiers injured

M A R J A Y O U N (Lebanon). – Two pro-Israeli militiamen in south Lebanon were today wounded by a roadside bomb blast for which Hizbollah has claimed responsibility.

It was believed to be the first Hizbollah attack to inflict casualties in Israel's occupation zone in south Lebanon since a ceasefire ended fighting on April 27 following 17

Liberian peace bid collapses

Regional summit off

MONROVIA. - Liberia's suffering peo- accords ple are bracing for more fighting in the country's six-year civil war after a new summit-level regional peace effort ended as a fiasco.

A leaders' meeting on Liberia in Ghana was called off at the last minute yesterday as most of the heads of state

repeatedly this week.

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tribe that dominated Liberia under assassinated President Samuel Doe, on

Attempts by Liberia's ruling council ,backed by guerrillas loyal to Mr Taylor and Mr Kromah, to arrest Mr Johnson on murder charges ignited Krahn nationalism and urban warfare in

The United States evacuated frightened foreigners and has kept warships with Marines off Liberia, a country founded by freed American slaves

Congress

to probe

buying

off' claim

The Argus Foreign Service

WASHINGTON. - The

United States Congress

will subpoena a former

American government

official to divulge on

May 21 whether the Clin-

ton administration paid

him a large amount of

money to keep quiet

about irregularities in

the US foreign assis-

tance programme in

The House interna-

tional relations commit-

tee yesterday approved

the authority to subpoe-

na Paul Neifert, who

worked in the US

Agency for International

Development's (AID)

South Africa office for

After being trans-

South Africa.

several years.



BRUSSELS. - Belgian police detained more than 150 French and Austrian fans before and after the first European soccer final in Belgium stadium disaster.

Security was tight as police tried to nip hooliganism in the bud for the Brussels European Cup Winners' Cup final between Paris St Germain and Rapid Vienna of Austria, won 1-0 by the French side.

Efforts to prevent rioting on the scale which in 1985 led to the deaths of 39 people before a European Cup tie between England's Liverpool and Juventus of Italy were largely successful.

"Everything is calm the supporters behaved in the best possible manner," police spokesman Michael Jonniaux told reporters after the game.

Historian tells court of Yugoslavia's fall THE HAGUE. - A British military his-**Prosecutor Grant Niemann, outlining**

crimes trial how Yugoslavia disintegrated into warring factions in the early 1990s - sparking the bloody Bosnian conflict that has claimed more than 200 000 lives.

ames Gow helped the prosecution in six hours of testimony to build a case of atrocity against Serb paramilitary Dusan "Dusko" Tadic.

On the second day of Mr Tadic's trial here yesterday, Dr Gow, a lecturer in war studies at London University and an expert in Yugoslav history, outlined the breakup of the former Yugoslavia, which sparked war between Serb separatists and the mainly Muslim Bosnian government.

Mr Tadic, 40, the first person to face an international war crimes tribunal since the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials after World War 2, has denied charges of killing, raping and torturing Muslim and Croat civilians in the Prijedor region of north-western Bosnia.

Dr Gow, the only witness to take the stand so far, outlined to the three UN judges the historic and political context of atrocities in north-western Bosnia in 1992, illustrating shifts in the political and ethnic boundaries on maps displayed on video monitors in the hightech courtroom.

torian has told a United Nations war his strategy on Tuesday, said horrific war crimes committed by Mr Tadio were part of a broader Serb policy of "ethnic cleansing" aimed at driving out Muslims and Croats and claiming Prijedor for themselves.

Dr Gow answered questions from the three judges on the excesses of the

Other expert witnesses will testify next week, with the first eyewitness accounts of atrocities at the heart of the Tadic case not expected until the third week of the trial. The proceedings, before judges from

the United States, Australia and Malaysia - but no jury - are expected to last several months Mr Tadic was portrayed by the pros-

ecution on Tuesday as a sadistic Serb nationalist who killed for fun, and by his defence as a hapless scapegoat who was the victim of mistaken identity.

The tribunal, set up by the Security Council in May, 1993, marks the first attempt by the UN to enforce treaties on the conduct of war and the protection of civilians.

So far it has charged 57 people, 46 Serbs, eight Croats and three Muslims, with war crimes, but holds only Mr Tadic and two others at its detention unit in The Hague. - Reuter.

Indian government faces election rout

Party today faces an unprecedented election defeat, triggering a race among rivals to patch together a coalition government.

As counting went into a second day, Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's party had won only 48 of the 112 seats declared, and had lost 26 seats it had held The Hindu nationalist

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had won 30 seats, a gain of one. It still looked set to become the largest party in parliament,

but was not faring as well as opinion polls had predicted it would. Repolling was taking place

today in more than 30 constituencies and counting had only just started in more than 100, meaning a clear result in the elec-

NEW DELHI. - India's Congress tions to the 545-seat parliament was still some way away.

Trends broadcast on state-run Doordarshan television showed Congress winning 33 percent of the national vote, its lowest showing and a certain recipe for a hung parliament.

Congress appeared heading for a worse rout than in 1977, when Indian voters savaged then prime minister Indira Gandhi for imposing two years of emergency rule. It won 34,5 percent of the vote and just 154 seats that year.

Congress was losing in almost every region, including its traditional bastions in southern India. Doordarshan said the trends indicated it would get no more than 145 seats nationally.

While it was making gains in most areas, the BJP was losing unexpected ground to socialists in its stronghold of Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, which

has 85 seats. The trends suggested the BJP would win about 170 seats, well short of the 273 needed to rule.

The situation is very fluid, said Atal Behari Vajpayee, BJP's prime ministerial candidate. The big winner appeared to be

the National Front-Left Front (NF-LF), a loose alliance of centre-left and communist parties.

The alliance had won 18 seats, 14 captured from other parties. Doordarshan predicted it could end up with between 140 and 150 seats, possibly pushing Congress into third place.

Analysts said a likely result was a coalition between Congress and the NF-LF. - Reuter.

ferred back to Washington, Mr Neifert criticised irregularities, including claims that AID contracts were being channelled disproportionately to black Americans and to Africans in South Africa at the expense of other races. At a hearing of the

international relations committee on April 25, chairman Benjamin Gilman asked AID administrator Brian Atwood whether his agency had paid Mr Neifert a large severance package to "buy his silence" about the problems in the AID office. Mr Atwood denied

that Mr Neifert had been forced out or that he had been paid to buy his silence. AID and Mr Neifert had reached an amicable settlement and it was customary not to divulge the amount of such settlements.

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main cause of pollution

LINDSAY BARNES Staff Reporter

THE thick brown layer of pollution hanging over Cape Town was "conclusive proof" that Caltex's Milnerton refinery, which was shut down for six weeks from mid-April, was not the main cause of the city's high pollution level.

This was said by company media manager Terry O'Donovan, who added that Cape Town had a serious pollution problem and something had to be done about it...

Yesterday's high pollution levels clearly demonstrated to local residents that the refinery which was shut down for a major overhaul and the installation of equipment to reduce pollution, was not entirely to

The choking air showed even higher levels of pollution than that recorded late in April.

At 10am yesterday, a high nitrogen oxide level of 1 970 micrograms a cubic metre was recorded, far exceeding the South African guideline of 1 504 micrograms a cubic metre. This was a considerable leap from the 1752 reading on April

The nitrogen dioxide reading of 346 micrograms a cubic metre was considerably higher than the 307 recorded late in April, but was still less than the guideline of 376.

Mr O'Donovan said there were many contributors to the overall problem, including car emissions, heavy-duty diesel vehicles and open fires in squatter settlements.

Ivan Bromfield, assistant medical officer of health for the Cape Town City Council. said the recommended maximum level of nitrogen oxide had been exceeded because of calm conditions and a low-lying temperature inversion, which trapped the pollution instead of allowing it to disperse.

The recorded level did not call for immediate action to decrease pollution, but the potential for health problems had increased.

A major study of the brown haze was being conducted by a group at the University of Cape Town's Energy Research Institute to identify the source and content of the pollution. The study was funded by the oil industry, said Dr Bromfield.

Proof that refinery's not House of Horrors hunt hots up

Big demolition operation may follow Malherbe Street bone find

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. - Digging began at dawn at Capital Park's House of Horrors today as the search for further clues intensified after the discovery of a bone under the main bedroom.

As forensic experts combed the excavations under paedophile Gert van Rooyen's bedroom, the demolishers expanded their operations to the front of the house, tearing down an old water reservoir outside the main bedroom window.

Demolition of the old reservoir, which had shielded access of machinery to the front of the house, fuelled speculation that police were preparing to move heavier demolition equipment

The head of investigations, Director Reggie Marimuthu, said earlier police would raze the house in the search for the five missing girls feared murdered by Van Rooyen if any positive leads were found.

It is believed that if the results of forensic tests on the bone - expected later today show it to be human, largescale demolition and excavation would follow.

Yesterday police dug down to a depth of about a metre and today they planned to reach the 1,5m level at which the bone was found.

Sophisticated equipment from the CSIR, including sonar and X-ray machines, also was expected at the house today.

The bone was uncovered during drilling operations and was found in a core sample taken out using a diamond drilling machine, said Mr Marimuthu.

A witness helping police had earlier pointed to the spot and told them he believed a body was buried there.

After obtaining an amended search warrant to allow them to look for bodies, police spent much of yesterday cutting their way through the thick concrete floor of the bedroom before they could start sifting through the soil for clues.

Mr Marimuthu said the bone could prove the key to the investigation if results showed it was human.

"We withheld the information of the discovery on Tuesday as we believed then that the investigation was still at a very sensitive stage," he said.

The parents of the missing girls had not been told about the find and police would continue with excavations until all possible leads had been followed up, said Mr Marimuthu.

Police also had excavated a spot in the passage where three witnesses earlier claimed to have seen a cellar entrance, but tests had proven

A pair of sniffer dogs was later taken to the house in the hope that they would be able to detect the possibility of human remains in the newly-excavated sections of the bedroom, but results were inconclusive.

R4-m cash, technology boost for Olympic bid

LINDSAY BARNES Staff Reporter

SIEMENS will donate cash and technology totalling R4 million to the Olympic Bid Company over the next two years.

The company would lend its technical expertise for the design and technical planning of the bid for the 2004 Games, chief executive Klaus Doering said at the company's centenary celebrations last night.

Technical support would be supplied for telecommunications infrastructure, medical engineering, transportation systems and electrical reticula-

tion, and this would free the Bid Company to focus on organ isational issues, he said.

The latest pledge joined a growing list of corporate sup-porters, said bid chief Chris

He was unable to attend the signing of the agreement at the Waterfront last night because of the death of his father.

In a statement, he said that Siemens's decision to take part in the effort to bring the Olympics to the city showed that the country's leading companies appreciated the eco nomic benefit of a well-managed Olympic Games.

Voting with their feet for a new SA

CLIVE SAWYER Political Correspondent

IT was the night constitutional negotiators found common ground on the dance floor at the Fernwood parliamentary club.

Opening proceedings at a glittering banquet last night at the club to celebrate the approval of the ne w constitution, constitutional assembly chairman Cyril Ramaphosa told the 1 500 guests: "This is a night to celebrate. Wine must flow. We want to see smiles,

especially constitutional smiles." Mr Ramaphosa sported a red plastic rose to celebrate South Africa now having a "revolutionary con-

In the long nights of trying to stave off an impasse, he had worn a pink or red rose to brighten his

Now the mood was as bright as Mr Ramaphosa's rose.

From the guest of honour, President Mandela, there was a light-hearted avuncular warning: "Let us exercise the right to freedom of expression without infringing on the right of Fernwood's neighbours to peace" Earlier this year, Newlands residents complained to police about being disturbed by the

noise from the African National Congress's start-of-session party at the club. Mr Mandela began his speech by disclosing he had been asked

to prepare two speeches for the occasion, depending on whether the constitution was passed. He quipped: "I sincerely hope

I have brought the right one. Recalling his letter to former president P W Botha seven years ago, Mr Mandela said he had then tried to address the question of reconciling the demand from black people for majority rule with that of whites who did not want to be on the receiving end of racial domi-

"How far we have moved since then. The constitution passed yes-

terday signalled a departure



from the preoccupation with the balance of demands between race groups.

The balances now were between tiers of government, workers and business, universal equality and affirmative action, and protecting those with preperty, and balancing this with the needs of those without.

The adoption of the constitu-

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SLEEPAS

tion was not the end of the negotiation process.

Speeches over, the only document for veteran negotiators to pore over was a menu, which featured an avocado and Franschhoek salmon trout starter, and Karoo lamb or kingklip as a main course.

Among ANC MPs and their allies, the mood was jovial and triumphant

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SAVE R150

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Among those from smaller parties, although they shared the sense of achievement, it was a little less exuberant.

But it was when the lights were dimmed in the big white marquee bedecked with South African flags, and the Soweto String Quartet struck up the first of its lively numbers, that the party began in earnest.

Worcester wife-killer sentenced to 15 years

DENNIS CAVERNELIS Supreme Court Reporter

A WORCESTER man, who murdered his wife and stepson, was today jailed by a Cape Supreme Court judge for an effective 15

Siebert Neethling, 51, of Protea Road, Worcester, was convicted this week on charges of murdering his wife, Marenda, and stepson Wikus Pretorius, in April last year.

He pleaded guilty to the charges, and in his plea explanation, said he and his wife had been arguing, and she had hit him with a broomstick which broke.

Neethling said his suspicion that his wife was having an affair was confirmed on the night of the murder.

Mr Justice A M van Niekerk said: "Too often we read about unarmed family members being shot in their homes. The sentence must protect the commu-

The judge said he would take into account the fact that Wikus had stormed into Neethling's room and confronted him.

Neethling had fired at him, but the shot did not go off. He fired a second time, killing him. Neethling then fired at his wife in the kitchen. She ran

out of the house and he shot her dead at the gate. He was sentenced to 12 years for murdering his stepson and 15 years for murdering his wife. The sentences will run con-

Earlier, Neethling's lawyer had argued that his client should not be imprisoned.

P A Botha, appearing for Neethling, asked the court to impose a sentence of correctional supervision on his client, and not to imprison him.

Neethling said in his plea explanation that his wife belittled him, and sided with the children in questioning his

Mr Botha said Neethling poses no danger to the com-

Neethling had not been rejected by the community, as his employers had agreed to keep him on if he was sentenced to correctional supervision, and his neighbour had brought him food shortly after he had killed his wife, said Mr

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First IFP witness recalls killing by UDF supporters

AN INKATHA Freedom Party leader and councillor has described to the Truth Commission how he was repeatedly stabbed and left for dead by United Democratic Front supporters who later burnt his house and four cars.

Silulani Nicholas Miya was the first IFP member to testify at the commission's human rights violations committee hearings in Durban this week.

He told the commission that in September 1989 he had tried in vain to save the live of a young boy who had run to his house in a township just north of the city.

The boy had come to him for help because he was a prominent IFP leader and councillor

"They stabbed at him. He fell. He was dizzy and tried to run again. They stabbed and stabbed and stabbed at him," Mr Miya said.

Because the boy's body had been left lying in the street for several hours, he had tried to negotiate with the UDF supporters who had murdered him to remove the body.

But his attempts had been rebuffed and he had been attacked.

"I was stabbed by lots of people and I fell. I thought I was going to follow the other guy.

"As I was lying there unconscious, two people put me in the street. I was just fortunate I managed to get up

again and walk to my home.' Two days later his home had been petrol-bombed and completely destroyed, and four of his cars had also been burnt out in an arson attack.

There were loud murmurs, mutterings and some laughter when Mr Miya testified that the petrol-bombs had initially failed to ignite in his home because he was using traditional medicine to protect it.

Commission chairman Desmond Tutu threatened to clear the hall if the audience did not keep quiet. "Don't interrupt - we are here to listen to everyone's story," he said.

In his evidence Mr Miya did not identify which organisation he belonged to or who his assailants

But in reponse to a question from commissioner Dumisa Ntsebeza, he said he had been an IFP chairman and councillor in his township.

"I am not hiding that ... I want to explain it clearly. It wasn't the ANC fighting Inkatha, but it was the UDF, and the UDF has been closed down now," he said.



SEARCH FOR TRUTH: Joyce Mananki Seipei, mother of murdered teenage activist Stompie, at the Truth Commission yesterday with her daughter Elizabeth. Mrs Seipei told the commission of her anguish at having to identify her son's body. Stompie was 14 when he died after being assaulted by members of the Mandela United Football Club in Soweto. Winnie Madikizela-Mandela was later found guilty of being involved in his kidnapping.

Tutu hails Inkatha's support for hearings

Party urges members to testify

THE Truth Commission has been "thrilled" to discover that the allegedly negative attitude of the Inkatha Freedom Party to its proceedings are a misconception, says chairman

He was remarking on disclosures by IFP secretary-general Ziba Jiyani during a television debate with commission deputy chairman Alex Boraine.

Dr Jiyani had said that although the IFP was unhappy with the composition of the commission and the way it had been set up, it was encouraging its members to testify and apply

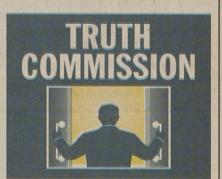
Speaking at the start of yesterday's hearings at the Jewish Club here – when an IFP leader and councillor gave evidence for the first time - Archbishop Tutu said the commission had been "very anxious" about such a significant player as the IFP not co-operating with the commission.

"This is one time when it is nice to be wrong, and I'm glad we've been proven wrong.

"Up until now we've been under the mistaken apprehension that the IFP was not co-operating with the commission.

"The IFP secretary-general said that, far from this being the case, the opposite was true and they were actively encouraging members of that party to come before the commission, and they were especially keen that its members who were behind bars should apply for amnesty.'

Archbishop Tutu said that the commission had been "quite surprised" by



Reports from JOHN YELD in Durban

Dr Jiyani's comments.

"Some of the public pronouncements of the [IFP] leaders had given the impression that the commission wasn't exactly their blue-eyed boy," he

The commission would still try to meet IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, "in line with our policy of meeting political leaders"

Told that Dr Jiyani had later issued a statement clarifying the IFP's position and that this had included reference to the "selective" use of the commission, Archbishop Tutu said he had not seen the

"But no party can avoid public scrutiny once it uses any one of the committees of the commission," he

"It is in the interests of all parties to tell their story. We are keen to stress that we are meant to tell the whole

Mozambique seeks probe

and Reconciliation Commission has been asked by a Mozambican human rights body to probe Mozambique by South Africa during the

apartheid era. The Mozambican Legal Office for Human Rights said the parcel bomb murder of Ruth First, wife of the late Housing Minister Joe Slovo, was one of many cases to be investigated.

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MAPUTO. - The Truth THE mother of one of the victims had heard that those involved were who died when four AWB mem- AWB members. bers shot at a bus carrying black tions after the shootings.

Florence Mbatha of Umlazi told the Truth Commission today that her son Stanley had been shot in the stomach during the attack when a car with four occupants had pulled up near the bus and one of them had shot at the pas-

Stanley had died in hospital four

days later.

Son died after AWB attack on bus talked about the shooting and she what's happened.

"I only heard they had been passengers near Durban North in arrested, and that was the end of October 1990 did not know there the story. There was no court case.

vent to Durban pond report, but nothing happened after Commission deputy chairper-

son Alex Boraine told Mrs Mbatha that there had been a big court case, but she told him she had not been called.

Dr Boraine said: "I think I should at least tell you, because one of the tragedies we've listened to over the past four weeks is that Mrs Mbatha said people had victims are so seldom ever told children.

'IT'S hard, growing up without broth-

ers and sisters, without parents - I

don't want to see other kids, espe-

cially today, end up an orphan like

This was the statement to the Truth

Commission from 18-year-old Kasa-

van "Terrence" Rengasamy, whose

parents, Anamalai ("Daya") and

Leelavathi, were killed by a bomb

blast on the Durban's Esplanade on

Another person died in the blast

Mr Rengasamy said he would like to

"I would forgive him if he told me

The bomb had definitely been plant-

ed by the African National Congress,

Mr Rengasamy's brother, radio jour-

nalist Gary Govindsamy, told the com-

know who had planted the bomb.

and several were injured.

why he did it," he said.

mission yesterday.

April 3 1984.

ANC 'created an

orphan' with blast

"Four men were arrested, found guilty and are now in jail. You

didn't know that? Mr Mbatha said: "No."

Dr Boraine said one of the comvide her with more details later. One of the Kwazulu Natal-Free State members of the Human Rights Violations Committee, Virginia Gcabashe, told Mrs Mbatha the AWB men had applied for amnesty and asked her what she

Mrs Mbatha asked for assistance to help educate her two young grandchildren, Stanley Mbatha's

"I called on the Nationalist govern-

ment to begin talks earnestly to stop

the carnage which was at the time

people to be killed by these types of

atrocities ... I was branded a traitor

and a betrayer ... I was completely

Mr Govindsamy was also highly crit-

'The ANC knows full well that they

planted the bomb on the Esplanade

and that they refused to accept respon-

sibility because of certain statements

responsibility for the blast - they cre-

ated an orphan in the name of Ter-

The ANC had played no part in his

"They never offered us any money,

"It is sad that even people who are

now in parliament and people who

knew us so well failed to arrive at

no sympathy card ... no nothing.

"The ANC has a duty to accept

"I said we could not allow innocent

engulfing the country.

ostracised by my family.

rence sitting here by me.

ical of the ANC.

I made," he said.

brother's funeral.

the funeral.'

wanted from the commission.

Woman who hid MK trio

Defence Force soldiers made her lie on the ground as three young uMkhonto weSizwe soldiers she had been sheltering in her house were killed by a grenade explosion

Umlazi resident Tryphina Jokweni, 72, who was 63 at the time of the shoot-out in 1987, was introduced to the commission as the first woman combatant to testify to its human rights violations com-

She told the commission she had been detained and tortured after the incident.

While being taken to the police station, she had been tightly handcuffed and a bag had been placed over her head.

"I didn't know where I was. I couldn't distinguish between day and night.

"These police did all the cruel things to me. They

put an electric shock all over me.

"I collapsed, I was urinating. I had no food, no water - the only thing I wanted was water."

Mrs Jokweni said she had been wearing only a thin nightdress when arrested, and she had not

been allowed a change of clothing.

"I had urinated in my nightdress and they said to me I was smelling ..

"They said, 'We're going to beat you in a way that

the doctors won't be able to recognise, you dirty old

She had not been able to see without her glasses, and at one stage her hand had been hand-

cuffed behind her for three days. "I said, 'God, if you could let me die!" " Mrs Jok-

weni told the hearing. In her written statement to the commission, Mrs

Jokweni said she had been constantly hit on the head and electric shocks had been administered to her ears, stomach, feet and private parts.

She named one of the men responsible for interrogating and torturing her.

ANC call to East Rand victims

VOSLOORUS. - The Vosloorus branch of the African National Congress on the East Rand has called on victims of human rights violations in the area to testify before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

A spokesman for the branch said they believed few from the Vosloorus area had attended the commission's recent hearings in Gauteng. This was due either to the limited time allocated for the hearings or a lack of understanding about the advantages of giving evidence. - Sapa.

Asked by the commission what he expected from it, Mr Rengasamy said legal blame for the deaths on that government. "I called on them to unban the ANC and other banned organisations and to

Mr Govindsamy, who took Terrence into his own family after the death of his parents, told the commission that after the blast he had made media statements condemning the then PW Botha government and putting the

allow all exiles to return home, and I also called for the release of Nelson Mandela and other political leaders.

he would like a hall or something similar to be named after his parents. "And probably any funds you should

give to the needy people, like Stompie Seipei's mother, who needs it," he

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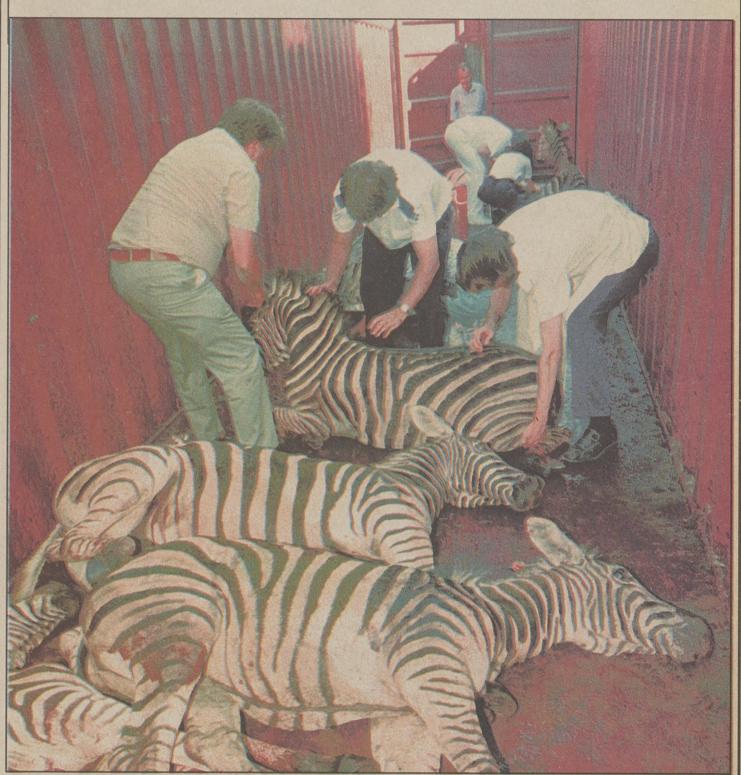
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FIRST AID: Treating injured and drugged zebras in a container in the Durban harbour are (from the left) Mr Ricardo Ghiazza, the animals' owner, Dr Louween Edwards, a veterinary surgeon, Mrs Jacqui Dewar, a SPCA inspector, and Mr Bruce Manning, SPCA chief inspector.

Eight export zebras hurt on trip to coast

The Argus Correspondent

EIGHT zebras being exported in a shipping container had to be drugged on arrival in Durban harbour so that they could be treated for injuries received in an accident.

Harbour workers were horrified when they saw pools of blood on the floor of the container soon after the zebra had arrived in the city.

But the zebras' injuries were not as severe as was first geon who treated them, Gerry tine station at the Hart-

Retief, said it was unlikely any beestpoort Dam. of them would have to be put

quite serious and those zebra will take a long time to recover," Dr Retief said.

Other zebras had only slight injuries, but they also had to be drugged so that they could be fully examined by veterinary

The zebras' owner, Ricardo Ghiazza, said they had been injured during their journey feared and a veterinary sur- to the coast from his quaran-

He said the zebras had unsuitable for export. apparently kicked a sliding "But some of the injuries are partition in their container off its railings and had then injured their lower legs on the dislodged metal.

"It happened during the night and the attendant who travelled with them did not see the damage," he said.

Mr Ghiazza said the animals would be treated for their injuries and then taken back to his quarantine station.

the animals might bear unsight-

"Then I will probably release them on my game

Mr Ghiazza said he had exported many animals over the years and had never before had such a tragic accident.

He said the zebra were part of a consignment of animals, including wildebeest and eland, that were to be shipped to Togo in West Africa.

They were destined for the He said the legs of some of game farm of Togo's president. General Gnassimbe Eyadema.

SA team plans assault on Everest tomorrow

Staff Reporter

THE South African Everest expedition is expected to begin its second attempt on the summit of the world's highest mountain early tomorrow, after winds of up to 140 km/h forced it to turn back late

The members of the first summit team are Ian Woodall, Bruce Herrod, Cathy O'Dowd and four Sherpas who are professional climbers - one whom has been up the mountain three times.

They were forced back from their Camp Four at about 8 000m by the bad weather.

Winnie loses air charter appeal

BLOEMFONTEIN. - Winnie Madikizela-Mandela has been refused leave, with costs, by the Appeal Court here to appeal against an order to pay the Forster Webb Air Charter Company more than R53 600 with interest and costs.

The case arose from the charter of a Lear jet on June 1, 1993 to convey passengers from Lanseria Airport near Johannesburg to Luanda in Angola and back to buy diamonds. Judgment against Ms Madikizela-Mandela was given in the Rand Supreme Court on November 15, 1995. - Sapa.

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Free for all as election day looms nearer

Allegations of unscrupulous behaviour by candidates are commonplace

ANDREA WEISS Metro Reporter

POLITICAL tensions are rising in the run-up to the May 29 election with all the major parties reporting incidents of inter-

The African National Congress-alliance has also expelled 30 of its members who are standing in opposition to their official candidates, many of them in Khayelitsha.

Parties have reported that posters are being removed, pamphlets torn up, and candidates have been receiving hate mail and threatening phone

In Khavelitsha, the Urban Monitoring and Awareness Committee (Umac) is actively encouraging Khayelitsha candidates to pledge themselves to a free and fair election after dissident SA National Civics Organisation (Sanco) members ing" off lamp posts while NP

were expelled for standing as posters remained untouched. "independents" in opposition to the ANC-alliance's nominees. Sanco is an ANC ally.

Umac's involvement followed the shooting of Dumiso Diamond, a member of the dissi-dent Emithini grouping of Sanco, last week. Umac spokesman Mark Jansen said the organisation had not yet found common ground between

ANC press officer Brent Simons confirmed that the ANC-alliance had expelled 30 members who were standing in opposition to their official He stressed that the ANC

had gone through a democratic process to arrive at its final nominations. Mr Simons also reported that

Achmat Semaar in Ward C30 had received hate mail, and ANC posters were "disappear-

Hennie Bester

trade their right to have a say

over the seat of parliament

when that parliament is situat-

ed in the province controlled by

them, and its loss will serious-

why would the ANC have insist-

ed on this provision if they

staying in Cape Town?" he con-

were content with parliament

'And let us not be naive -

ly prejudice the Cape.

Mr Simons said the ANC was busy compiling a list of incidents which would be submitted to the party's legal advi-

Commenting on the Electoral Tribunal's decision to award an interim interdict against MP Tony Yengeni for alleged intimidation of candidates in Guguletu, Mr Simons said the "leadership" was meeting people to establish exactly what happened. Their lawyers would decide whether to oppose the interim interdict before May

In another incident, the NP has accused the Democratic Party candidate Maggie Marks, the wife of DP provincial legislator Joe Marks, of removing pamphlets from letter boxes and tearing them up, as well as inciting children to do the

Mrs Marks has dismissed the erly developed.

allegations as a "pack of lies" saying that she will take the NP to court over the issue.

She said the allegations were an indication that the NP had no support in the area of Retreat where the incident allegedly happened in a ward neighbouring the one where she is running for election. DP leader Hennie Bester said Philip Labantu, the DP's number two candidate on the Helderberg substructure list had been "given hell" when he had announced he would be running for election in Sir Lowry's Pass village.

"He was getting 20 to 30 calls a day, but he just put his head down and the calls subsided after he was officially nominated," he said.

Mr Bester said it was clear there was still "a long way to go" before tolerance and a democratic culture was prop-



PIPE OF PEACE: Nyabili Yawa, of Lady Frere, contemplates her encounter with democracy as she puffs on a traditional Xhosa pipe on the steps of the senate. She is a member of the Masizakhe Glen Grey Cultural Group from Lady Frere in the Eastern Cape, which accepted an invitation by ANC senators to view the parliamentary complex.

NP 'protests too much' | Tygerberg renal unit

Metro Reporter

THE Democratic Party has accused the National Party of 'protesting too much" over its support for the constitutional clause which allows parliament to be moved by a simple majority Hennie Bester, Western Cape

leader, said the new constitutional provision meant the African National Congress would not even require its full caucus to shift the seat of parliament. "In practice, all the minority

parties have now lost their right to have a say in the seat of parliament," he said. Mr Bester said the NP's trumpeted "significant victory" was

He likened it to Western Province scoring a magnificent victory in the eve of the Currie

Cup, but losing on the day.

nothing else but a "pyrrhic"

'What is more astonishing, is that the NP was prepared to cluded.

faces drastic budget cuts

CHENÉ BLIGNAUT Staff Reporter

SERVICES at the Tygerberg Hospital renal unit could soon be cut by half - with dire consequences for kidney patients in the Western Cape.

Tygerberg chief medical superintendent Abul Rahman said the down-scaling of the unit, which celebrated 20 years of performing kidney transplants this week, was in line with the government's proposed drastic budget cuts to tertiary medical services at the hospital.

The government intends to reduce health expenditure at the hospital by R100 million in a period of a year. Dr Rahman expressed seri-

ous concern that the Groote

Schuur Hospital renal unit, the

only other one of its kind in

able to cope with the additional patients. The number of kidney trans-

plants at Tygerberg has progressively increased and the unit is performing about 40 transplants a year, with about 80 patients with chronic renal failure on dialysis.

Razeen Davids, one of the doctors in the unit, explained that chronic renal failure was terminal, unless the patient's blood was artificially purified. He said a kidney transplant

was the best solution for these patients, but because of a dire lack of donors, some were kept on dialysis as a temporary measure. The estimated cost of keeping one patient on dialysis for one year is R50 000.

About two thirds of kidney patients have to be turned away at the unit because of a lack of the Western Cape, would not be resources and donors.

Constituents drop in on senate

TYRONE SEALE Political Staff

FINGO girl, Hottentot, African and Malay studies. A Boer

These titles, on paintings adorning the hallways of the senate, reflect the patronising and conflicting relationships that existed between those who sat in previous parliaments and those they ruled.

As a sign of changed times, these paintings are on view just metres from the internationaly acclaimed Art Against Apartheid exhibition

In a parliamentary dispensation that prides itself on public participation and scrutiny, the descendants of those once patronised today readily and regularly claim the right to drop in on the representatives of the people and watch them

This week, this right was claimed by 72 members of the Masizakhe Glen Grey Cultural Group from Lady Frere in the Eastern Cape, who had accept-National Congress senators Vuyiswa Tyobeka and Nocwaka Lamani.

The group is renowned for its performances of Xhosa traditional music and dance, and encompasses a range of cultural activities, including craft-

RECOVERED: Detec-

tives of the vehicle

theft unit, right, exam-

ine a businessman's

"stolen" car which he

was trying to sell.

THE PEOPLE SHALL TOUR: The Masizakhe Glen Grey Cultural Group from Lady Frere in the Eastern Cape adds traditional African elegance to the imposing entrance to the senate during this week's visit.

ed an invitation by African colleagues - in conjunction with their constituency would devel-power for ordinary people". members of the Eastern Cape legislature - had elected to "bring our constituency in here instead of going out to visit

them as usual" The senators regarded the visit by the Masizakhe group, resplendent in elegant traditional costume, as a precursor Ms Tyobeka said she and her to the interaction they wished

op with the new council of provinces as provided for in the new constitution.

The council will replace the current senate and will comprise permanent and special delegations, including premiers, at certain times.

Mrs Lamani said this council would be a vehicle for "real

particularly those from rural areas.

The group toured the buildings of parliament before appearing on the steps of the senate for a photo-opportunity that turned into a musical opportunity at Ms Tyobeka's gentle



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'King of Mitchell's Pass' will defend title

Staff Reporter

OWEN MacHelm, well-known Atlantic Athletics Club athlete, will defend his title as the fastest runner through Mitchell's Pass at the Ceres Festival on Sat-The Mitchell's Pass half marathon will be just

one of many activities at the 5th annual festival. Festival organiser Hennie Richter said it would take an extraordinary effort from any athlete to dethrone MacHelm as the "King of Mitchell's Pass" as he

knew the route backwards. He said the organisers expected up to 2 000 athletes for the marathon alone.

Athletes can still enter for the race before the 8 am start on Saturday Other activities at the festival include the opening

of the first 4 x 4 route in the vicinity.

For those who believe mountains are for bicycles there is a mountain bike fun ride through the Skur-

The rest of the programme includes an appearance by the country's "strongest man" Gerrit Badenhorst, a motorcycle display by the "Globe of Power", and about 50 stalls selling the valley's products.



Man caught trying to sell his 'stolen' car

JOHAN SCHRONEN Crime Reporter

A MAITLAND businessman, who reported that his exotic car had been stolen, was allegedly caught redhanded selling the vehicle

A police spokesman said the businessman, whose name will be released when he appears in court, was selling his Mazda Astina, worth more than R100 000, for about R45 000 to a buyer in a secluded spot in a Bellville caravan park yesterday

Detectives, who were investigating the alleged theft of the car, pounced as the deal was being clinched, and confiscated R45 000 in cash.

The car, which was still being paid off by the busi-

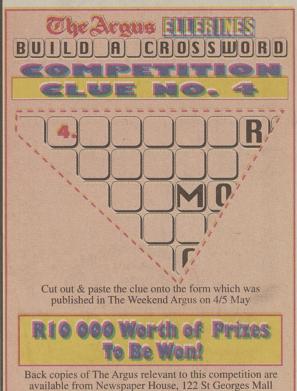
nessman, was impounded. A spokesman for the police vehicle theft unit in

Bishop Lavis said the man would face charges of defeating the ends of justice, and fraud. The spokesman said similar cases, dubbed "hoola

hoop", where vehicle owners falsely reported thefts and then claimed from insurance, were rife and wasted many police hours.







UCT is back on international map

Schools of art and architecture are singled out

Education Reporter

The Argus · B Safmarine

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THE University of Cape Town is proving that international interest in its academic programme is alive and well.

In the Vice-Chancellor's Report of 1995, Stuart Saunders says UCT students have enjoyed significant recognition and acceptance in the international community, following the demise of apartheid.

The international standing of UCT's architectural degrees, for example, was once again confirmed following a re-inspection of the degree by the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Commonwealth Association of

The unanimous finding of both professional bodies was that recognition be made retrospective to 1982, the year in which recognition and the Western Cape.

was withdrawn in protest against the government's apartheid poli-

international recognition, the Michaelis School of Art was one of 12 leading art schools selected to take part in the Hiroshima '95 International Exhibition of Art Colleges, held as part of the 50th anniversary of the bombing of that city at the end of World War 2.

Dr Saunders reports that the World Health Organisation also conferred the status of an official Collaborating Centre on an initiative undertaken by Peter Folb, head of UCT's Pharmacology Department.

The centre will be known as the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for Drug Policy, Information and Safety Monitoring at the Universities of Cape Town

UCT's department of Anatomical Pathology was also selected last year as one of eight international sites to participate in the International Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma Classification Project.

According to Dr Saunders various other university departments were invited to host prestigious international conferences at UCT last year, and a significant number of UCT researchers and scholars

honoured internationally. • The increase in UCT international contacts since the demise of apartheid, and the growing demand for formal exchange programmes with UCT, has led to a decision to establish an International Office this year.

This office will be responsible for centrally-based international programmes and research partnerships.



THANKS, BUDDY: Dixie did not need a brolly on Saturday when the rain came down during the SPCA's fun day and Mutt of the Year event, because big old Oscar was there to cover for his vertically challenged little friend. Pity he could not close the windows...

Dogs have their day in the spotlight

CHECK THIS OUT! The proof of the pudding is in the eating thereof? No. 2 Ziggy, left, is not trying to sabotage an opponent's winnings. He is merely boasting with his hardearned rosette after taking top spot in the mini dog; jumping contest during the SPCA's fun day last

Pictures: ROY WIGLEY, The Argus

JUMP MADAM, JUMP! Tammy tries her best to Germishuys of Table View how to do the hurdles, but to no avail. Jokes aside, Tammy took part in the fun of the dog show last started Saturday when the SPCA held its Mutt of the Year day to raise funds.



Black students make up the majority of first-year intake

Education Reporter

BLACK students (including those classified as coloured and Indian) comprised 52 percent of the total first-year enrolment at the University of Cape Town and 42 percent of the enrolment for all years, the Vice-Chancellor's Report of 1995 has revealed.

The report said that nearly twothirds of those enrolling for first-year engineering at UCT last year were

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Women comprised 43 percent of student enrolment in 1995.

Thirty percent of the university's students were studying at postgraduate level last year.

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Support group for abused parents restarted

Health Reporter

IT happens behind closed doors. Like other abuse, the victims stay silent, ashamed that it's happening to them. It's parent abuse, and it's sel dom spoken of, because par ents feel guilty and think they

Now Porch (Parents of Rebellious Children), a selfhelp support group for abused parents, is being relaunched in Cape Town due to demand

Jay (not his real name), himself an abused parent, started Porch six years ago, and is behind the relaunch.

Parent abuse is often physical abuse, says Jay, but it can also be emotional.

"I get calls about physical manhandling and beating up of parents, and of children who demand unrealistic financial requirements for their lifestyle," he says. But, stresses Jay, Porch

does not offer solutions to the problems of abusive children, but rather supports embattled parents.

"The intention of this group is support. "We cannot offer instant

solutions, but we can offer empathy, understanding and strength for a fresh

Porch is a lay group for parents of adult children (older than 16 years).

Porch will be relaunched on Tuesday, May 14, at 7.30pm at 227 Stanhope Building, Ground Floor, Main Road, Claremont.

Inquiries should be directed to 461 2984.

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has admitted his role in one of the worst atrocities in Nazioccupied Italy was lost in the ether of the past.

"Nobody ever mentioned him," said Elvira Paladini, the curator of a small museum in Rome's old Gestapo headquarters, a dreary stone building where the personal effects of the massacre victims repose touchingly in glass cases: a monogram from a fine handtailored shirt, a rope used to bind a pair of wrists, a father's last letter to his son, urging him always to come home before curfew.

Now, Rome's Historical Museum of the Liberation teems with visitors and their questions, and a sense of expectancy is abroad that after five decades, the Priebke case will be tried at last.

When Priebke's trial began yesterday in Rome, the 83-yearold became possibly the last German to be prosecuted for Nazi-era war crimes.

A central, enduring lesson of the case, observers say, is the ease with which middle-ranking Nazis were able to elude apprehension after the war.

ROME. – Just months ago, the name of Erich Priebke lay in peace at the bottom of the world's memory hole.

The former SS captain who The former SS c the Allies, escaped death but had his ribs broken during torture sessions in an upstairs cell at the headquarters long

> Priebke, who slipped out of Europe in 1948 and resurfaced in Argentina only two years ago, is charged as a prime accomplice to the machine-gunning on March 24, 1944, of 335 Italian civilians in retaliation for a resistance bombing in Rome the day before that left 33 German soldiers dead.

Hitler demanded 10 dead Italians for each dead German and within 24 hours. Priebke is accused of shooting two and, significantly, of keeping the list of those to be killed.

No attempt was made to find the partisans who had tossed the bomb. The victims - most of whom were dragged out of prison cells, where they were awaiting sentencing on other resistance-related charges were roped together in small groups and herded into a quarry known as the Ardeatine Caves. It was on the south side of Rome.

"As soon as the first 10 men went on their knees, the machine-guns mowed them "We don't want to persecute down," says Eric Weiss, a for-

mer British staff sergeant, who, that Priebke could be extraditat the end of World War 2, interrogated participating German soldiers and drew up a detailed

They toppled over and fell into a kind of trench, and then the next batch was marched

"To heighten their agony, they could see before them, down below, the bodies of those on whom they would fall seconds later. This went on and on, the whole night.

"The air was filled with the screaming of those who were on the verge of insanity when entering their tomb, and those who lay already on the heap of bodies but were only mortally wounded and not yet dead."

Mr Weiss, retired and living in Portland, Oregon, gave his notes to the Simon Wiesenthal Centre in Los Angeles last year after an Argentine court ruled

ed to stand trial in Italy.

The massacre is of huge emotional importance in Italy, where presidents each year still lay a wreath at the site, and where uncomfortable questions still are asked about the role of the Holy See in accommodating

And Ms Paladini is not the only observer hoping the trial will be a reminder to a world whose attention has moved on.

"The importance is not the fate of this 83-year-old man," said Tullia Zevi, head of the Italian Jewish community in Rome. "The importance of this is that we can interrogate the defendant, ask certain witnesses to appear and broaden the scope of the trial.

"It is our duty to document things as they were. This is important today, when the trend [in the apportioning of war

guilt] is toward revisionism."

At the end of World War 2, Priebke found himself in a British prisoner-of-war camp on the Adriatic coast. But he inmates and headed for the northern town of Vipiteno.

There, he lived unemployed for about a year. Asked who supported him, his lawyer, Velio di Rezze, credits "friends" the SS captain had made in wartime Rome, when he served as a liaison officer my wife and two children and between the Vatican and the nothing in my pockets but my occupying German forces.

Priebke wangled sea passage to Argentina for his family. A court-martial warrant remained outstanding against him in Italy until 1962, when federal prosecutors abandoned hope of finding him.

He could have been found. though, had anyone bothered

Nazis who got away "I [was] not running away from any accusation," Priebke said in a letter published in April in the leading Italian newspaper, Corriere della Sera. escaped with four other trying to explain why he moved to South America. "It was simply impossible to go from Vipiteno to [his former home in] Berlin [in 1949], because that

two bare hands

Indeed, post-war interrogator Weiss wrote in his account that there were not many fullfledged SS guards in Rome at

city was completely destroyed. We had no relatives elsewhere in Germany who could take us in. So I came to Argentina with

As for the killings, Priebke has admitted that he was there, but he justifies his involvement by saying that he was obeying orders and had no choice.

the time of the massacre and

24 hours allotted to him. "He had to think of some way to cope with his manpower problem," Mr Weiss says, "so he ordered the Gestapo clerical staff – all the typists and filing clerks in SS uniform - to take their part in the human target

"It soon became clear that these pen-pushing SS men were not made of the proper stuff to do that kind of work," Mr Weiss adds. "They soon started shaking like reeds, and many vomited and fainted on the spot. Thus, the longer the infernal spectacle went on, the more the victims were only wounded by the wildly veering machine guns in those incompetent, trembling hands.'

Priebke confessed to pulling the trigger twice during the night-long spree.

"If anyone tried to get out of this horrible business, he was told he would be shot," said Di Rezze. "Priebke is the only one alive anymore, so now he's got everything on his shoulders."

But Nazi hunters say Priebke's long disappearance suggests nothing about innocence of any crime but rather says everything about the world's unwillingness to go after

German war criminals in general. "[There is] a case file on any Nazi who has ever been looked

that the Nazi commander had a for," said Rabbi Marvin Hier great deal of killing to do in the dean of the Wiesenthal Centre "The Catch-22 is, there are no detectives in the field.'

Certainly, Argentina has often seemed a kind of Bermuda Triangle for Nazis on the run. Far bigger fish than Priebke ended up there: Josef Mengele, the Auschwitz physician known as the "Angel of Death" for his evil-minded medical experiments on death camp inmates. reached Argentina in May 1949 and reportedly worked as an abortion doctor there for 11 years. By the time the Argentine authorities bothered to issue an arrest warrant, he had moved to Brazil, where authorities and other international investigators say he died in 1979.

But Rabbi Hier says all Western countries - not just Argentina - should share the blame for letting lesser Nazis disappear, unpunished, in the postwar era.

"If the Allies had had the determination, in the first 10 years after the war, to really go after Nazi war criminals, then tens of thousands could have been apprehended," he said. "But it just didn't happen. because of a lack of political will. So the Nazis had a picnic. They thought nobody was looking for them. And the proof of the pudding was how easy it was to find someone like Priebke." The Los Angeles Times.



TRACKED DOWN: Former SS captain Erich Priebke, 82, enters Rome's military court surrounded by para-military police. He is accused of helping to carry out the 1944 Nazi massacre of 335 civilians outside Rome

Two charged for sending paedophile pictures on Net

PARIS. - The charging of two French storing images and text from various managers of Internet services for transmitting paedophile pictures has again raised the question of responsibility

for what goes on the system. charged with "distributing pornographic pictures of minors under 15 said WorldNet director Xavier Niel. years old" ran two networks in Paris, police said

The men, 27 and 35, face up to three years in jail and a 500 000 franc (about R440 000) fine on conviction. They were freed on police bail after a hearing at a Paris court.

Gendarmerie Gerard Browne told a press conference that that two computers in Paris received, stored and distributed the pictures but did not originate them. He said the material

was "very gross." Lieutenant-Colonel Browne said inquiries were continuing to try to find the source of the pornographic material which could have come "from any country in the entire world."

The material found its way on to the Internet through two of the largest French providers, WorldNet and FranceNet, to be used in the so-called where anonymous freedom of expression is total

Both providers hastened to emphasise that they were merely conveyors sources for their subscribers to access

"WorldNet handles some 6 900 news groups daily and we receive between 50 000 and 100 000 contributions to The two unidentified people them every day from all over the world along the lines of France Telecom,

> Mr Niel said it was impossible to monitor closely such a mass of messages. "We would have to assign five or six people permanently to watch the newsgroups," he added.

Since police searched the premises of WorldNet in connection with the pornography case, the firm has put two of its staff of 50 on the task. But they have only time to check the names of the newsgroups and not what goes on inside them

"Given the context of suspicion, we suppressed a newsgroup which contained the word 'babies,' " Mr Niel said, calling for a "clean-up" committee which would monitor the Net on behalf of all French providers.

In January already, François Beneviste, the head of CalvaCom, one of WorldNet's providers, took the step of barring access to a dozen news newsgroups, the discussion forums groups whose contents he said were morally intolerable.

This followed the decision by the US giant CompuServe to suspend 200 newsgroups allegedly disseminating and not distributors of the information, pornographic material. - Sapa-AFP.



