

## Ravenswood Site, Rents, Citizens Participation

# New Council Moves Decisively

By Bob Lowe

Over the last month the city council has been greeted with large audiences and air electric with the sense that East Palo Alto is moving decisively into the future. Recent enactments have confirmed this feeling.

The council has hired the law firm of Stuckey and Johnson to represent

the city. With only Councilwoman Wilks dissenting, it has extended the moratorium on the rent freeze for ninety days in order to have adequate time to judiciously consider a rent control ordinance. Toward this goal, it has also established a taskforce made up of renters, homeowners, landlords, and a business representative.

Acting as a planning agency, the council has approved a motion of intent to adopt a resolution that would zone the Ravenswood High School site for institutional and open space. Such a plan in all likelihood will deter the school district from selling the site to developers, thus increasing the community's chances to maintain the high school property for recreation

and community services.

A high level of audience engagement has marked the council's deliberations. Many voices have been eloquently raised in support of both the rent freeze and a measure to rezone the high school land. And, during the open microphone periods, people have addressed a constellation of community concerns.

The only significant public opposition to a measure—the continued moratorium on rents—came from non resident landlords. Councilman Abrica was compelled to rebuke one such individual who questioned the validity of the ordinance. "You were not under the the impression this was a real law?" asked Abrica, making it forever clear to this person that the council is a legitimate body that can and will make rulings that affect the life of the community.

Since council members consider full community involvement crucial to the development of East Palo Alto, they have enacted a plan to further enhance the level of participation. Articulated by Councilman Satterwhite, the plan will establish three town hall meetings for laying out issues vital to the interests of the community. Similar meetings will be held on the neighborhood level to determine more localized priorities. And permanent vehicles will be established to carry the voices of the community to the council.

There appeared to be audience consensus in support of the plan for community participation. Perhaps Reverend Joe Green best summed up people's feelings when he said, "It allows the people to see if the council's pulse beats regularly."

Now that East Palo Alto has become a city, a special excitement pervades council meetings. The council is deftly taking care of business, and it is enlarging the definition of democratic practice.

## Giving Our Children a "Jump" On School

By Carmeleit Oakes

Preparing your child for school begins long before kindergarten. A combination of many experiences—in the home, in the neighborhood—reduce the probability of language and reading problems.

Talking is the best approach to learning. The baby who is talked to, and loved, develops more rapidly than the one whose physical wants are the total concern. Children learn a vocabulary early if they hear it. The more children talk the better they are likely to read. Parents should never forget that the process of educating their child cannot begin too early. Each conversation can become a learning situation. This informal approach develops a healthy attitude toward learning. It affords children the chance to pace themselves and develop their own innate ability by adding and expanding their own ideas. Thus, they will begin to see themselves as willing and active participants. As their self security increases so will their problem solving ability.

Remember children as well as adults enjoy what they do well. Conversely, if children are doing poorly, or if they expect to fail, they resist and detest what they are doing. Many children get a "head start" via nursery school. Others get the basics right at home—in the kitchen, at the dinner table, stretched out on the living room floor, or playing with friends. Parents can start the wheels moving toward the development of their child's enormous potential for success by incorporating the following simple suggestions:

**Learning Colors:** Take a walk. We stop for red, walk on green, wait on yellow or orange. We eat green vegetables, yellow or orange fruits, and purple or blue plums. We dust brown furniture.

**Classification** easily follows: fruits, vegetables, toys, and furniture. At this point, emphasize beginning sounds. This prepares the child's ear for Phonics.

**Rhyming** is a natural: boy/toy; fish/dish; look/book; run/sun.

**Alphabet:** Using television, point out all call letters start with letter "K" (e.g. KRON, KPX). Learn call letters and numbers of favorite station. Your name starts with ( )? Lay out name. This process of association makes learning ABC's easier.

**Math:** The kitchen offers a lot of opportunities: counting, problem solving, concept of large, larger, largest; introduction to fractions using measuring cups/spoons; manipulating sets of items (e.g. lids, silver ware

Continued on page 3

# East Palo Alto Law Suit Won See Page 2



## South African Poet Wins Political Asylum

By C. Jones

On September 6, 1983, a Chicago judge granted Dennis Brutus political asylum in the United States saying there is no question that he would be in danger if returned to southern Africa. The decision was two years in coming.

Black South African Dennis Brutus is well renowned on at least two counts: He is an internationally acclaimed poet and scholar, and he is an outspoken activist against apartheid, for which he has paid heavy dues. Dr. Brutus, 59, has been in the United States for over 12 years and is currently a tenured professor at Northwestern University and a visiting lecturer at Dartmouth College. The United States Immigration and Naturalization Service sought to deport him.

At a poetry reading held a few weeks ago to raise funds for his trial, he arrived directly from the airport, fatigued, almost bony in his scholarly disarray. He read in a strong, direct and warm voice from volumes of his poetry. Jan Carrew, professor of African-American studies at Northwestern University and co-founder of the Dennis Brutus Defense Committee, said of his work, "At the beginning, Dennis wrote romantic love poems. But after prison, he began to use his poetry as a weapon for the liberation of the majority of the South African people." Between readings, Brutus described his political imprisonment on Robben Island off the coast of South Africa where he was sentenced to 18 months hard labor after testifying before the International Olympic Committee's hearing on apartheid. The former rugby player

and marathon runner had started a movement to integrate the South African Olympic team, or have it expelled from international competition.

He told us that inmates, convicted of horrendous crimes and never to be released, were put in charge of convicts like him, who had definite sentences. Among other things, he and his group were made to wade into the tortuous coral surf, pick up rocks to bring ashore, and place them in mounds. When these were "satisfactory," the mounds were to be dismantled and the rocks carried back into the water. If a prisoner slipped on the tumbling coral, guards pushed his head underwater, laughing, until the victim nearly drowned. Brutus walked barefoot because, he said, it was better to have his feet slit and still be able to grasp a foot-hold with his toes, than to wear crude sandals and fall down. While in prison, he was beaten, tortured, and shot in the back while trying to escape. Exile was a stipulation that if he ever returned to South Africa, he would immediately be arrested.

The decision for Dr. Brutus's deportation from the U.S. appeared to be based on a useful dysfunction of red tape. Robert Baker, an attorney for the defense, described the events of the case up to August 22, 1983:

In 1981, Dr. Brutus was to renew his U.S. visa, for which he needed a valid passport. He was informed his British passport would not be renewed, that he must apply to his native Zimbabwe, a process that would take some time. When he told this to the U.S. Immigra-

Continued on page 4

## Bitter Fight for Justice Continues in South Africa

By Keith Archuleta

With the march toward independence in Africa, especially with the victory of national liberation movements in Angola, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe, the freedom struggle in South Africa and Namibia has assumed historic world significance.

Liberation in southern Africa will be a major step toward securing the total emancipation of Africa after centuries of humiliation, oppression, and exploitation. It will signal the end of the tragic era of colonialism and will be a turning point in the efforts to abolish the crime of racism and racial discrimination.

The oppressed people of South Africa and Namibia, therefore, are fighting not only for the freedom of their peoples and nations, but for all humanity.

### What is Apartheid?

Apartheid (pronounced "apart-hate") is legalized segregation.

"This unjust and inhumane system runs counter not only to the basic tenets of international law but indeed to the very perception of our common humanity."

These are the words the Secretary-General of the United Nations most

Continued on page 3

# Election Process Reflects Grassroots Strength

By Elena Becks and Ron Drake

The vote for cityhood in East Palo Alto's election last June was brought about by years of hard work. As has happened throughout the nation particularly in the South, grassroots organizing and activity have contributed to community control.

Voter registration in Mississippi, for example, has increased over ten percent in the past two years resulting in Black candidates taking local and state seats that would have otherwise gone to white candidates.

Georgia and Alabama have mounted especially strong voter registration campaigns. Victories in Chicago (Harold Washington) and Philadelphia (Wilson Goode) have resulted in two additional big-city Black mayors. Jesse Jackson, head of Chicago's Operation PUSH is even mounting a presidential candidacy.

Because Blacks and other Third World people are voting in increasing numbers, major candidates of both political parties have had to sit up and take notice. East Palo Alto is a reflection of the positive side of this trend. But the aftermath of June's cityhood vote has also pointed up the fragility of that 'right.'

In April of 1982, incorporation won by a wide margin. But voters from Menlo Park defeated a measure to dissolve the sanitary district. A matter only obliquely related to the question of East Palo Alto's cityhood and decided by people with either no interest in or with interests counter to those of East Palo Alto, nullified the will of the people. It was by fighting such obvious criminality that the way was paved for the victory in June.

During a hard fought campaign, cCAIN, representing landlords, paid thousands of dollars for misinformation, tenant harassment and anti-city-

hood candidates. cCAIN hired Pete McCloskey, a former congressman, to challenge the election in the courts. cCAIN accused LAFCO of improperly allowing the cityhood election. By finding a judge agreeable to that position, the election was, for a time, deemed 'illegal.' This blunted the drive for cityhood and created confusion as to whether or not the election would even be held. McCloskey with cCAIN backing succeeded in impeding an election in an area whose votes he actively solicited a few short years before.

But the people persevered. The election was declared legal after the people had already made their decision and cast their lot with cityhood and pro-cityhood candidates. If cCAIN's actions before the election seemed odious, their drive to harass voters in general, Latinos and senior citizens in particular, into admitting voting irregularities that never occurred

shocked many. Even now, they are pressing the issue in the courts, trying to deny us our most basic democratic rights.

Vested interests used poll taxes, literacy tests, phantom polling places and outright violence to deny poor and Third World people the right to vote before the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The same interests are now using the courts to accomplish the same goals. And had it not been for the outrage expressed by people throughout the country the Reagan Administration would not have extended the Voting Rights Act.

The lawsuit against East Palo Alto is a text book example of disrespect for the will of the people. The powers that be uphold voting as a 'sacred' right, yet time and time again they place roadblocks to decisions that do not meet their needs. Other challenges will be made. Other courts will try and sidetrack the will of the people.

## WE ARE A CITY

On September 14, 1983, Judge John Cruikshank in his landmark pronouncement, "I find no evidence of voter fraud," upheld the June 7 incorporation election for the City of East Palo Alto.

Tom Adams, counsel for the City of East Palo Alto, during his closing arguments said that McCloskey, counsel for CCAIN, failed to show any evidence of fraud or coercion in the incorporation election. Adams asked, "Where was the fraud? There were no forgeries, no pattern of fraudulent behavior, no documents proving fraud, no third party witnesses. I guess I don't understand the definition of fraud that is being used here."

On September 23, 1983, by stipulated agreement, the opposing counsel divided the eight ballots invalidated by Judge Cruikshank giving five to the pro-incorporation side and three to the anti-incorporationists. This means the final tally gave a thirteen vote margin to pro-incorporationists. We have moved from a community vigilante to a city triumphant!

## THAT'S HOW DEDICATED PEOPLE ARE

They realize their great potentials,  
Without ever having to own any credentials.  
That's how dedicated people are!  
They sometimes forget their rest  
Just to sure that they're giving their best.  
That's how dedicated people are!  
They unselfishly render services to others.  
Without having to ask a dime from their Sisters or Brothers.  
That's how dedicated people are!  
They do what they must in the best interest of the principle,  
Without creating ill-feelings and/or jeopardizing the lives of the masses of people.  
That's how dedicated people are!  
That's how dedicated people are!

by poetess Kalamu Chache

Poetess Kalamu Chache has returned to the Nairobi (East Palo Alto) Community, and will be contributing her poetic works in the future editions of the East Palo Alto Progress. Reprinted by permission of the Authorress from her book, **A CHANGE OF INTEREST**, (1981).

### East Palo Alto Council of Tenants

meetings held  
1st and 3rd Thursdays



Municipal Building  
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### East Palo Alto Progress Community Meeting

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Our Community's Newspaper

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7:00 PM

2145 University Ave. Second Floor  
(City Council Building)

EVERYONE WELCOME!!

For more info call:  
323-2644 or 327-5846

### The East Palo Alto Progress

A non-profit monthly community newspaper serving East Palo Alto, California. Persons interested in contributing articles, photography, or poetry may do so by submitting them to The East Palo Alto Progress.

Editors: Elena Becks, Glenda Jones, Bob Lowe, Barbara Mouton, Carmelita Oakes, Carlos Romero

Contributors: Keith Archuleta, Ron Drake, Cynthia Ellwood, Catherine Jones, Elmo Malveaux

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means unity: **Umoja** — now is the time; can't wait no longer! Unity on the rise... We be an African people, strong and proud; working to unify our people and our homeland; daring to recreate and uphold our own humanistic value system; striving to cultivate self-reliance and self-determination: **Kujichagulia** — now is the time; power for our people! Unity on the rise... We be people of the earth; we be builders of Egypt, Ethiopia, Timbuctu; builders of religion, art, science, and civilization... We be Blues people; we be people stolen from our Motherland; betrayed, enslaved, imprisoned; but we be people, lost not our courage, faith, or hope; for our time shall soon come again... For we be builders, even in the face of destruction and despair, we be creators: **Kuumba** — now is the time; make life better for our children! Unity on the rise... We be people with the spirit; the spirit that inspired Nat Turner's vision, Sojourner's truth, Harriet Tubman's courage... the spirit that ignited the student sit-ins and the marches on Montgomery to Memphis... the spirit manifest in Martin's dream and Malcolm's message... the spirit that moves in Margaret's poetry, Amiri's prose, Gil's music... the spirit that today builds the Black United Front, CIBI, TransAfrica, EPACCI, Shule Ya Taifa... that spirit has grown; together have grown our spirits; **Imani** — now is the time; got to keep the faith! Unity on the rise... We be people on the move; quieter than the winter snows, we be moving; our voices barely heard 'neath the roar of budding flowers, falling leaves; but we be moving; We be people working and building together: **Ujima** — now is the time; got to build the Nation! Unity on the rise... We be the original people; we be uniting to restore our people to our original greatness; **Nia** — now is the time; the struggle continues! Unity on the rise... We be a collective people; we be spirits coming together like creation itself; one cell joins another, two become millions; forging unity through struggle, education and action; synthesizing the movements and the action of our people: Pan-Africanism, Nationalist, Socialist too... nurturing and building the entire family: **Ujamaa** — now is the time; individual strengths become collective power! Unity on the rise... We be a people of vision; planting the seeds of our unity; nurturing the flowers of our future; tending and cultivating the garden of a new world; til the fruits of our labor burst forth... and each and every spirit is freed... We take up the challenge, heed Unity's call... for our children, for ourselves, and for the humanity, glory, and suffering of our ancestors; **Umoja** — now is the time; Harambee (all pull together)! Unity on the rise!!!

—Kissa



# The Roots of Current Conflict

By Bob Lowe

The aspiration to form a city is nothing new in East Palo Alto. While an interest in incorporation goes back many decades, the first well-organized effort dates to 1958. Recapturing this struggle—the issues at stake and the forces that contended—will cast light on our embattled situation today.

A broad desire for self-determination united the people who wanted to form a city in the late 1950s. Over the previous ten years an enormous reservoir of potential wealth was lost through annexations. First Belle Haven, then Menlo Oaks and North Palo Alto joined Menlo Park. Only an official city of East Palo Alto could stop further incursions of this sort. Further, an official entity might have had some negotiating power with the state over the placement of the Bayshore Freeway. Not having any leverage, the course of the highway split up East Palo Alto and obliterated its

business district.

Although race was not an explicit issue in the controversy over incorporation, it did not lurk far beneath the surface. Support for cityhood came largely from blacks and from whites connected with civil rights organizations. Emory Curtis, president of the Menlo Park-East Palo Alto NAACP, summed up the perspective of incorporation advocates when he declared that cityhood would give the community "a larger voice in local government and instill a greater pride in the community." He specifically noted that control over police, zoning, and the condition of streets would follow from incorporation.

The strongest pockets of resistance to incorporation were the then solidly white areas—the entire west of Bayshore section, and University Village and Flood Park Estates on the east side. Many residents of the latter neighborhoods belonged to the Committee Against Incorporation which made it clear that it did not want to

pay taxes that would improve services in the older sections of East Palo Alto.

The Committee sent out 3,400 fact sheets entitled "It's Time to Wake Up." "Residents of the older sections," claimed the fact sheets, "live there because of the rural atmosphere . . . [and] are not alarmed because the road may be narrow, no sidewalks exist and drainage may not be the best because they know that improvements cost a lot of money."

So the leaflets suggested that a vote against incorporation would be a service to residents of the older sections—some of which were now predominantly Black—because improved drainage and other benefits would ruin the rural flavor of these neighborhoods. It is hardly possible that such silliness convinced anyone that it was in their interest to be denied better services, but it might have helped residents of the all-white areas to imagine that their interests were actually congruent with those of everyone else in East Palo Alto.

A letter to the editor of the *Palo Alto Times* dropped the pretense that defeating incorporation was good for the entire community. It clearly articulated the concerns of the newest, whitest neighborhoods by rhetorically asking, "Do all the people in Palo Alto Gardens, University Village, and Flood Park want to pay for streets and sidewalks for all the rest of East Palo Alto?"

Economic interests partly account for white enclaves' antagonism to incorporation on the west side of the highway as well as on the east. Most important to the outcome of the drive for cityhood, however, was the anti-incorporation stance of local corporations. The next installment of this series will recount the activities of the west side and the largest financial interests in the area. It will account for the defeat of cityhood, and it will then draw some lessons from the 1958 incorporation effort that are applicable to today's situation.

## World Renowned South African Poet Allowed to Stay in U.S.

Continued from page 1

and Naturalization Service, they indicated there would be no problem. The passport came seven months later, in November 1981. (The *New York Times* later wrote, ". . . for six months, an immigration office here could not find his file.") Baker said the INS told Brutus he has been out of status too long; by continuing to teach at Northwestern while awaiting his passport, he was in violation of a law that forbids employment by an alien with an expired visa.

The decision went against Brutus. He applied for political asylum, a status granted only if there is evidence a person's life is endangered by deportation. The political climate in southern Africa indicates that Dr. Brutus would be at extreme risk were he to return there. Reporting on the case in the *San Jose Mercury* in February 1983, Mark Zaretsky wrote, ". . . it would endanger his life to return either to South Africa, where he would immediately go to prison, or to Zimbabwe, where Brutus said he would stand a good chance of being assassinated by agents of B.O.S.S., the South African secret police.

"BOSS operated throughout southern Africa, according to a letter written by seven members of the Congressional Committee on Foreign Affairs . . . BOSS, the letter points out, is also believed to be responsible for the machine-gun slaying in Zimbabwe last July of Joe Gqabi, a member of the African National Congress and a close friend of Brutus. In addition, former South African agent Gordon Winter, in his book *Inside BOSS* states that the South African government considers Brutus one of its 20 most dangerous opponents living in exile."

The Dennis Brutus Defense Committee (DBDC) has published names of Senators and members of the House who support Brutus in this case. It includes: Anthony Beilenson, George E. Brown, Jr., Julian Dixon, Don Edwards, Norman Mineta, Alan Cranston, all of California, and Shirley Chisholm, Edward Kennedy, Charles Percy and Lowell Weicker, Jr., from other states.

Letters honoring Dr. Brutus's work and warning of the consequences of deportation have been received from every discipline. The House Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa wrote, "Few academics have contributed as much to the development of African Studies in the United States and our understanding of the

### Preparing Your Child for School . . .

Continued from page 1 (settings).

**Phonics:** Letters/sounds. Ear training. Accumulate pictures, letters B—boy, ball, band; C—cup, carrot, candy, etc., for single distinctive sounds. Use constantly in games, pasting pictures on cardboard. Have child put loose pictures in groups according to sound of letter which begins word that names the picture. Phonics is so important it should be emphasized daily. Keep a box of loose pictures which can be pasted on cardboard and then arranged vertically, circularly, and horizontally for variety. Once your children start reading, never allow them to call words separately; insist on their reading in the same way they talk—in a flowing motion. Good beginning habits are a must. Quiz for quick recall—orally and with flash cards.

Finally, buy games and work books that reinforce learning. Get a subscription to publications (e.g. *Ebony Jr.*). It does wonderful things for children to get their own mail. Assist them in obtaining a library card, and then help them select books within their capacity to read. Visit the school. When the teacher realizes your child is precious to you, she will give the respect and attention your child needs and deserves. When your children see that education is of great importance to you, they will take their tasks seriously. Go to school when there's a problem. Also, go to school when there is no problem. Develop your child's ego. You'll be glad you did.

South African system of apartheid. As a social critic concerned about social injustice, Mr. Brutus's literary contribution and anti-apartheid work are unparalleled . . . to deport Dennis Brutus, whether it be to Zimbabwe or South Africa, would be a grave mistake." Professor Jan Carrew cited political implications at the national level: "Brutus's deportation is politically motivated, a result of the Reagan administration's 'present coddling up' to South Africa . . . If the U.S. government grants asylum to Brutus, they will be setting a precedent, they will be confirming South Africa as tyrannical." Brutus himself hoped to put this country's often-stated advocacy for human rights to the test.

The defense made its case during the week of July 18 before Judge Irving Schwartz. Scholars and experts testified to the political atmosphere in southern Africa. The date for the government to present its case was set for September 6.

During early September, the State Department revised a former finding, and advised that Brutus could not be returned to England, thereby isolating

the southern African alternative. Attorney Baker felt this was influenced partly by public concern and legislators introducing private bills on Brutus's behalf. On September 6, the final decision was announced in Brutus's favor. At that time, the judge divulged "classified" evidence provided him by the government questioning communist backing of certain southern African organizations. The judge said Brutus was not a political threat to this country and that he would indeed be in grave danger if returned to southern Africa. Brutus's daughter, Justina Brutus-Baker, said she was very happy, although a favorable outcome is not guaranteed. The Immigration Service can appeal the decision to a higher court.

In the event of an appeal, DBDC asks that letters of support be sent to the President, the State Department, Department of Humanitarian Affairs, and to the presiding judge with copies to DBDC. Trial costs are high. To help, tax-deductible donations can be sent to DBDC, P.O. Box 59364, Chicago, Illinois 60659. For more information locally, 408-275-1290.

### Mouth Watering Recipes From "Big Daddy"

This month begins a regular series in *The East Palo Alto Progress*, featuring recipes from some of the best cooks this side of the Mississippi. We encourage all our readers to share your favorite recipes by sending them to the *East Palo Alto Progress*, P.O. Box 51203, East Palo Alto, CA 94303.

Our first recipes come from the cookbook of the late, great Dave "Big Daddy" McCullum. He and his wife, Donna, were known to have provided

both the East Palo Alto and the Stanford communities with friendship, love and great food over the years that "Big Daddy" was a cook at the Stanford faculty club.

By selling his delicious meals, he helped raise funds for the Stanford Black Student Union's East Africa Relief Fund and in the early 1970s for the Nairobi Day Schools. We begin this series in honor of the memory of "Big Daddy." Enjoy.

#### Chicken Giblet Stew

Chicken giblets, wings and necks and backs  
2 onions  
2 celery stalks, diced  
2 green peppers  
2 tablespoons butter  
salt and pepper to taste  
1 bay leaf  
1 can tomatoes or sauce  
2 tablespoons flour  
1 garlic clove

Boil chicken with salt, pepper, bay leaf, and garlic in water to cover. Sauté onion, celery and peppers in butter. Add flour and tomatoes. When chicken is tender, add tomato sauce. Simmer 15 to 20 minutes. Serve with rice, green peas and salad. Serves 4.

#### Bar-B-Queed Ribs

1 grated onion  
1 cup tomato catsup  
1 teaspoon celery salt  
1 teaspoon dry mustard  
2 tablespoons brown sugar  
4 lbs. Spareribs  
juice of 1 lemon  
Salt, red and black pepper to taste  
2 teaspoons hickory salt

Mix all ingredients, except Spareribs. Marinate ribs on both sides. Bar-b-que ribs about 1 hour, either on pit or in oven. Turn and baste ribs often with a spoon or brush. Serve with potato salad and cole slaw.



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# Black S. African Struggle for Freedom

Continued from page 1

recently used to describe South Africa's apartheid system, which blights the lives of seventy percent of its people, its Black men, women and children. This legally sanctioned, racist system suppresses and denies the most minimal rights of Black Africans. Blacks cannot vote, own land, or hold supervisory positions over whites.

### The Cruel Separation of Families

Since the best land is reserved for whites, the Black population has been herded to geographically separate "homelands" or "Bantustans." Without work in the arid "homelands," the men are forced to seek jobs in so-called "white" areas as migrant workers. Regarded only as a cheap supply of labor to exploit South Africa's wealth, they are moved about to meet the needs of mines, farms, and industries. At best, they return home for a few weeks a year, but often do not see their families for years at a time.

Meanwhile, the women are forced to eke out an existence on the patchy and barren reserves, 13.5 percent of the country's territory set aside for 70 percent of the population. The children suffer greatly under these conditions, with high rates of malnutrition and infant mortality.

### U.S. Support

Apartheid is a crime against humanity which has entailed immense suffering and has no parallel in modern history except for Nazism. Apartheid is imposed by a minority, racist regime through the use of repression and torture.

The apartheid regime, by exploiting the enormous human and natural resources of South Africa and Namibia (which it illegally occupies), and by the assistance given it by western powers such as Israel, West Germany, France, and especially the United States, has built a powerful military apparatus. In order to perpetuate its rule, it has crossed all bounds in repression of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia, and has also embarked in incessant acts of terrorism, subversion, and aggression against independent African states.

### African Resistance

Africans have fought to resist these

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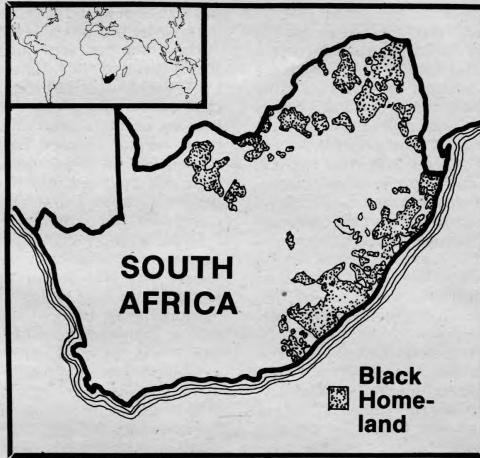
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injustices since colonization began in the 1800's. The African National Congress (ANC) was formed in 1913 to work peacefully to end the racist system. The ANC, during the first fifty years of its existence, was unwilling to resort to armed struggle. Instead, petitions, strikes, boycotts and non-violent demonstrations characterized the thrust of the ANC resistance campaign.

### African Women in the Anti-Apartheid Struggle

Although Black South African women fought against injustices in the early years of the century, they emerged in strength after the 1940's as catalysts for protest and challengers of the apartheid regime. Some of their accomplishments have become milestones in the modern history of the fight for freedom, as women, together with their men and children, have fought racist apartheid.

The anti-pass campaign epitomizes the courage and determination of Black South African women in their overall struggle to eradicate apartheid.

Every African over the age of 16 must carry a pass proving that he or she is legally entitled to be in a given area. Failure to present the pass to any policeman or the holding of a pass

that is not in order subjects an African to immediate arrest.

Women did not have to carry passes earlier, but as they began to move into urban areas seeking work or trying to keep their families together, the apartheid regime saw its racist structures threatened, and in 1955 announced that passes would be issued to women.

Demonstrations began and eventually spread to various parts of the country. They were met by police baton charges and arrests. Often, firing by the police led to wounding and, in some instances, death.

The women remained undaunted and continued their protests. But eventually Government coercion forced more and more women to accept the hated passes.

### Beginnings of Armed Struggle

In December 1959, "final and positive action" against the passes was announced by the newly formed Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC). The ANC also planned a major anti-pass campaign.

On March 21, 1960, thousands of Africans gathered in locations around the country. In Sharpeville, up to 20,000 came to the police station in a peaceful demonstration against the abhorrent pass laws.

Police opened fire; 67 Africans were killed and 186 wounded, including 8 children. More than 80 percent were shot in the back while fleeing.

The Sharpeville Massacre led to an even more repressive era: a state of

emergency was declared; ANC and PAC were both banned; numerous arrests were made under new restrictive legislation and women led hunger strikes to protest conditions in jail.

In the post-Sharpeville period, ANC and PAC began to develop an underground movement inside South Africa and operations in exile. Sabotage of government and military installations began.

Within South Africa, young African men and women also began what became known as the Black Consciousness Movement to instill in Blacks a greater awareness of their heritage. In a sweep to destroy the movement, the regime banned Black consciousness organizations in October 1977, among them the Black Women's Federation, which worked in both urban and rural areas to teach women to realize their potential and to increase their awareness and level of education.

During the June 1976 Soweto uprisings, Black girls and boys put their lives on the line. Their protest was against the introduction of the Afrikaans language as a medium of instruction, against the discriminatory and unequal "Bantu education," and more generally against the apartheid system, which their parents had been fighting for more than two decades. At least 600 children were killed by the South African police during the demonstrations. The name Soweto has become a symbolic rallying cry in the resistance of South African Blacks to the apartheid system.

Black people in southern Africa continue to reflect in action the statement of Winnie Mandela (wife of imprisoned ANC leader Nelson Mandela, a political prisoner of the South African government):

"We are not asking for majority rule; it is our right . . . we shall have it at any cost. We are aware that the road before us is uphill, but we shall fight to the bitter end for justice . . ."

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