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CABOOSE

VOICE OF THE TRANSPORT AND OMNIBUS WORKERS UNION

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L to R:

D Abels, M Soeker, Joe Sineker, J Braaf, C Lahoo

NACTU - 5th NATIONAL CONGRESS

NACTU held its 5th National Congress at Shaft 17 centre in Gauteng from 13 to 16th November 1997. Comrades M Soeker, Joe Sineker, J Braaf, C Lahoo and D Abels were the TOWU delegates.

Several constructive resolutions were passed at Congress, notably:

- Organizational issues
- Labour market issues
- Economic issues
- Social issues
- Transformation and affirmative action.

Discussion and debates ensured that everybody present partook actively because making resolutions and implementing them are two different things. Message of NACTU President, Comrade James T Madlalose: "We in NACTU need to be more committed and focused. A lot of work lies ahead and it is our responsibility as Congress to execute it with the best interests of our members in mind. NACTU will survive AMANDLA!"

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Ordinary workers, other than two shop stewards and two deputies were taken through a Basic Shop Steward Training course. There were OMC's, Shed Technicians, General Hands, Cleaners and TOWU admin. staff. "Capacity building is a TOWU goal and workers need to know and understand the fundamentals of their Union's structure and the workings of its various components," says Joe Sineker, who facilitated the workshop.

Some of the comments made by the workers:

"Very educational"

"Will be able to assist my fellow workers"

"Being a shop steward is not just a 'little job'"

"Enjoyed the entire workshop"



Back from L to R: T v Schalkwyk, A Le Breton, N Mohamed, I Brady, A Petersen

Front from L to R: Y Petersen, R Hendricks, L Clayton, M Abrahams, A Adams

TOWU wishes All Members, Friends and Families a merry Xmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year ~

ISSUED BY THE TOWU CABOOSE COMMITTEE



THE WORKERS' COLLEGE

John Braaf and Angie Peterson attended the Workers' College from 1st September to 31 October 1997. The Workers' College is a unique education institution in South Africa with the specific objective of promoting worker education. Lecturers are of a high standard drawn from UCT and UWC Academics, full-time Trade Unionists and from various NGO's like Ilrig, Tulec and CASE.

Modules or subjects covered were:

- Labour Law and Collective Bargaining
- South African Political Economy
- International Trade Unionism
- Organizational Management
- Trade Union Studies

They had invigorating and open debates with dignitaries such as Dullah Omar and Patricia de Lille during their lunch hour breaks.

They also did an excursion to Robben Island. Says John Braaf, "I learnt a lot about wages and percentages and I also attended computer classes on Saturdays and passed with 80%." "The Workers' College marks a new chapter in the history of the working class, therefore it is a must for shop stewards who need to enhance their skills and education," says Joe Sineker, the vice chairperson of the Workers' College.

ASSALAAMU-ALAIKUM

The TOWU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STAFF AND all SHOPSTEWARDS want to wish all our Muslim colleagues everything of the best over the Holy month of Ramadaan and a Happy EID MUBARAK

POETS CORNER

THOUGHTS

*The past is gone
the future is tomorrow
the present is now
therefore my joy*

*Time is precious
waste none
stay young at heart
life's too short to grow old*

*Embolden the mind
with music and poetry
the heavenly message is
Love and be loved*

J. REKENIS



PROFILE OF TOWU LEADERSHIP PATRICK HAUPT

Patrick (60) joined TOWU in 1970. He became a shop steward / EXCO member in 1987 and has since been very active in the Trade Union Movement. He was transferred from Klip to Arrowgate - Diep River and is now finally at Philippi Depot. Married to charming Henrietta, they have three children, beautiful Ingrid and Gail and a son Terence who has passed away. Patrick has a rather exotic hobby; cultivating prize orchids. He also loves watching contact sports such as boxing and wrestling. He is well liked by his colleagues and has a simple philosophy, "to help others".

Keep at it Pat!



SON OF TOWU

Meet our new Organizing Secretary, Gary Wilson. Gary left his "nice" job at Tollgate Engineering to take on the massive, difficult role of Secretary of TOWU. Gary says: "Taking up the position of Secretary was challenging and exciting. The support I received from the office bearers and administrator made my adjustment much easier. I would like to give all Union members the assurance that I will continue to endeavour to serve their interests and will continue to fight for worker upliftment. Comrades! Never stand back for anybody, be proud of your Union, and continue to use the opportunity to further your education for a better future."

The new challenges facing him, will not be easy, but Gary has got youth, tenacity and enthusiasm going for him therefore he is assured of success. Let us as TOWU all work together as a team and give Gary our support.

VIVA the working class leadership Viva!

WAGES - WAGES - WAGES

Yes, it's that time of the year again, when workers have to do battle with the bosses to get a decent increase in wages. Proposals have already been submitted. Our task is to now support our negotiation team by attending the depot meetings when they report back. This allays all fears of rumour and suspicion.

VIVA the working class Viva!

WOMAN POWER

For too long women have been treated as bystanders. This is definitely changing within TOWU.

TOWU is educating its female members to take up their own issues. They have just completed a course on Basic Shop Steward Training. "They participated quite well and were very enthusiastic," says facilitator Joe Sineker.



From L to R: A Le Breton, M Abrahams, A Peterson, R Hendricks, T V Schalkwyk

In 1998 all interested workers will be able to take up the challenge and also go through this vital training. Comrades, knowledge is too powerful to be left in the hands of the bosses! *AMANDLA!*

BURSARY FUNDS

Education is a very important subject. TOWU, realising how workers have to pay exorbitant fees to educate their children, is assisting by offering two bursary grants to the children of all TOWU members.

TOWU believes in equal education for all. TOWU believes in education for liberation. Closing date for bursary applications is 30 March 1998. Please address application letters to the Secretary. For any further information ask your shop steward or phone your Union Offices.

FROM THE BIBLE

The Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayers of the righteous.

PROVERBS 15:29

FROM THE QUR'AN

And that man shall achieve nothing except what he strives for.

CHAPTER 53:39

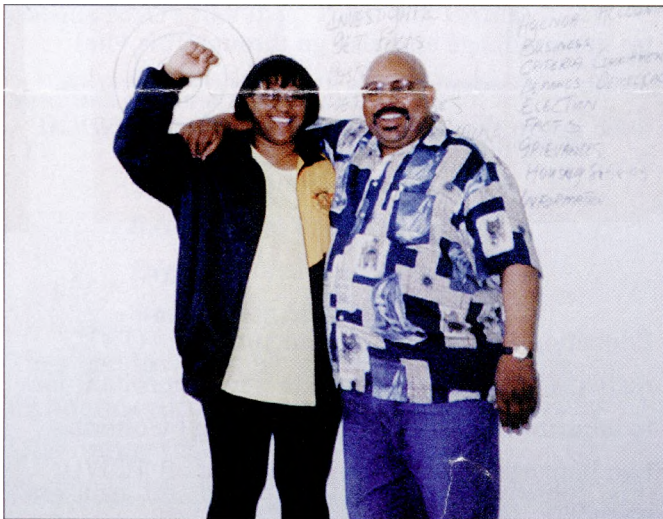
(RPIETB) ROAD PASSENGER INDUSTRY EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

Our secretary, Gary Wilson, is serving as vice chairperson on the RPIETB and has provided us with a summary of what this very important committee is about.

A National Training Board was established in 1996/7 with these objectives:

- 1) To ensure joint responsibility with employers and employees for the education and training needs of employees in the industry, with a view to improving the scope and efficiency of education and training.
- 1.1) To give effect to this primary objective, the objectives shall be:
 - a. To identify education and training needs
 - b. To establish education and training criteria and competency standards.
 - c. To encourage development.
 - d. To finance research in education and training.
 - e. To comply with the constitution thereby qualifying itself for accreditation by the Registrar in terms of the LRA.
 - f. To develop a system of testing and to monitor and evaluate all education and training.
 - g. To publicise vocational training opportunities available in the industry.
 - h. To implement training levies in terms of section 39 of the LRA on section 48 of the LRA of 1958.

The main reason for the Union participating in the Training Board is to ensure that its members get all the opportunities for furthering their careers.



CONGRATULATIONS ANGIE!

Angie Petersen became the first woman deputy shop steward at Philippi Depot. Her achievement was attained as a result of her hard work and training. Having spent 9 (nine) weeks at the Worker's College at UWC, Angie has slowly but surely gained knowledge and respect to become a good shop steward. Her colleagues elected her with that confidence. *Keep up the good work Angie!*

HIER KOM DIE MANNE



These three young men visit their Union offices during their lunch break.

L - R : E Roman, F W Riley, F Samsodien.

DIE MANNE are always welcome!

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