

CABOOSE



VOICE OF THE TRANSPORT AND OMNIBUS WORKERS UNION December 1996 Vol. 1 No. 7

50 YEARS OF GOLDEN SERVICE

TOWU was sad when the evergreen Mrs. Marie Hubinger retired at the end of March 1996, after serving the Union for neigh on fifty years. What a performance! TOWU wishes her well on her retirement. In her place is the lovely Tracy van Schalkwyk. Welcome to the club Tracy.



Mrs. Hubinger (centre) being feted by EXCO Members at her farewell.

RE: WAGES AND PENSION / PROVIDENT FUND

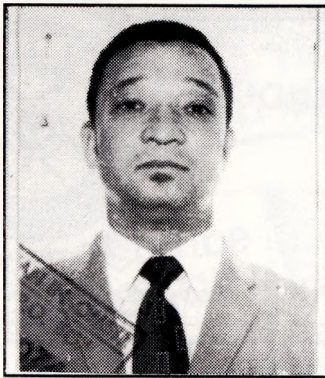
Each depot will be getting first hand report backs by the persons serving on these forums. Please do not listen to outside gossip as it only creates fear and confusion. Therefore make sure that you attend your depot meetings where you would be able to ask relevant questions, especially on the issues you are not quiet clear on.

BURSARY FUNDS

Education is a very important subject TOWU realising how workers have to pay exhorbitant 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 Wishes All Members, Friends and Families a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

ISSUED BY THE TOWU CABOOSE COMMITTEE



PROFILE OF TOWU VICE PRESIDENT MR. JOHN ADAMS

Mr. Adams is a member of TOWU for the past 28 years. From 1976 to 1987 he was a shop steward at the old Klipfontein depot until moving over to Arrowgate. In 1990 he again became a shop steward until 1992 when he was elected as the Vice president.

Mr. Adams is married and have three children. His wife Susan is a principal at BABS Educare. His son Peter is a lawyer and works as an International Financial Consultant in Melbourne, Australia. He has two daughters, Geraldine is a qualified nurse and Hildegard "the baby" is a 3rd year law student at U.W.C.

His hobby is gardening, and he takes pride of his many trophies he has won as a Brigade Drum Major. His keen wit and dry sense of humour makes him a very likeable person. Despite that he is a hard task master at the various forums and committees he serves on.

CABOOSE QUOTES

If you could kick the person responsible for most of your problems you wouldn't be able to sit down for six months.

Does not the history of the world show that there would have been no romance in life if there had been no risks

MAHATMA GANDHI

Often we have no time for our friends but all the time in the world for our enemies

LEON URIS

Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue

RODGER ANDERSON



Joe in Frankfurt - Behind him is the two office blocks belonging to I.G. Metall the biggest Trade Union in Germany.

THE GERMAN EXPERIENCE 14th September '96 to 01st October '96

My two week stay in Germany was fantastic but it was too short to give a complete overview. Frankfurt is a very beautiful city with massive skyscrapers, large ferry boats crammed with tourists cruising up and down the river Main and a five minute bus and train service we Captonians will need if we are to host the 2004 Olympics. We visited many famous landmarks. The second week we went to Hamburg in the north of Germany. It is a hustle-bustle Metropole with a huge container harbour. In 1974, 16000 people worked at the once vibrant dockyard. Today because of high technology only 5000 remain. In both cities we met workers and many prominent persons of all sectors with whom we exchanged views of interest. What amazed me was the modern Trade Union Colleges where we stayed, owned by the German Federation of Trade Unions (DGB). Grand buildings with luxury single rooms and a 4 star cuisine service. Large lecture rooms, smaller ones for group work, a swimming pool, snooker room, gym, sauna and several other features.

Education and Training is compulsory for German workers with a minimum of 10 days paid time off. Germans earn high salaries and work only 35 hours per week. The people were wonderful to us and they made our stay very eventful. The experience was great and it was a real eye opener.

CABOOSE QUIPS

A telephone pole never hits a car, except in self defence.

Small minds usually hide behind big mouths.

POETS CORNER

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

Believe in yourself
and go where angels fear to tread
many are just followers
you must take the lead

Truth
should be your guide
discard useless thoughts
and go against the tide

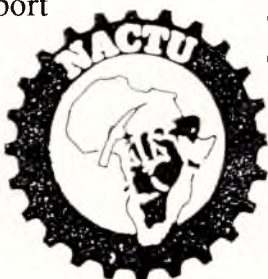
Apathy
you should abhor
freedom and justice
from your soul outpour

Focus
on your goal and no tears
be strong
and dispell all your fears

J. REKENIS

The Congress unanimously
adopted the following resolutions.
In support of the Olympic 2004 Bid

Violence / Crime
Nationalize Public Transport
Housing
Health
Education / Job Creation



**VIVA
TOWU**

THANKS TONY!

Our General Secretary, Tony Franks has resigned from TOWU and finished off at the end of September '96. Tony has secured a job in Gauteng and sends all his friends and colleagues the best of greetings and health.

NACTU REGIONAL CONGRESS

**Western Cape
14 SEPTEMBER 1996**



JOE SINEKER ADDRESSING NACTU CONGRESS



**Taking a break at the NACTU congress are:
President Mogamat Soeker, Vice President John Adams,
Treasurer Joe Sineker and EXCO member Dennis Ables.**

NACTU Western Cape region held its Congress in the Manpower Building, Cape Town on the 14th September 1996. The theme for the Congress was "Education for Total Liberation" Guest Speakers were:

Brian Williams : Provincial Director of Labour
Debbie de Vries : Worker's College Coordinator
Martin Jansen : Educator - TULEC

Joe Sineker was elected NACTU Regional Chairman
Messrs. Mogamat Soeker and John Adams serve on the EXCO

ASSALAAMU-ALAIKUM

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

**VIVA
THE
WORKING
CLASS
LEADERSHIP!**

Strikes cripple hospitals

BY ABDUL MILAZI and OWN CORRESPONDENT

Hospitals in KwaZulu, Transkei, Lebowa and Venda are in a crisis and at least 41 patients have died during pay strikes by health workers.

At least 21 patients have died since 12 000 health workers went on strike.

ANC strike stance displeases SACP

THE SA Communist Party yesterday expressed concern about the tendency of the ANC, including its leader, Nelson Mandela, to encourage strikes which are unproductive to reconstruction and development.

White miners strike at JCI mine

JACQUIE GOLDING

MEMBERS of the Mineworkers' Union (M) on strike at JCI's Randall gold mine on the V yesterday in a bid to secure a return to work.

Go slow strike at Pick 'n Pay

By Joe Meehan

WORKERS at 34 Pick 'n Pay outlets throughout the country are on a go-slow strike in an attempt to put pressure on management to conclude wage negotiations with their trade union.

Nestle depot workers strike

EAST LONDON - There had been a work stoppage at Nestle's Wiltonia depot yesterday, the regional distribution manager, Mr A. Hutzhausen, confirmed last night.

He said negotiations had taken place "in the past" and although discussions were currently in progress, they were not yet resolved.

Strikes had disrupted production at Nestle's factories in Ray and Bellville in the reports said yesterday.

The strikes were nationwide walk-outs by the Food and Allied Workers' Union, and at factories country-wide.

A union spokesman said the strike was a protest against the company's management.

Lorry drivers strike

SOUTH Africa's biggest container depot remained closed yesterday as a strike by Transnet lorry drivers entered its second day.

About 100 drivers blocked the entrance to the depot.

Portnet strikers gather at office

By Johannes Nel

THE strike by Portnet employees entered its second day when they gathered in a railway yard and held a demonstration.

The strikers gathered in front of the Portnet building in the city.

VW strikers return

STRIKING Volkswagen SA workers returned to work today after management and the National Union of Metalworkers of SA (Numsa) resolved a strike which started last week.

VWSA and Numsa yesterday jointly announced the strike was over and appealed to employees to return to work today.

NSB strike of 4 000 in day 8

More than 4 000 National Student Body (NSB) members have requested a 24-hour strike affecting all 18 universities nationally.

Spartan Group strike

ABOUT 1 000 workers at Spartan Group Five Civil in Bando entered their eighth day of strike yesterday.

The workers are demanding a R300 accommodation allowance, a worker said.

Company manager Mr R. Schultz was at a meeting at the time of going to press.

Empowering the people

BY GERALD HIRSHON

IN ANOTHER significant set of transactions, ANC-aligned black businessmen are moving deep into the life insurance and communications industries.

It is understood that Metropolitan Holdings (Metlife) is to exercise its option to acquire 20% of the new shares in share exchanges.

(NAP), which publishes The Sowetan, and New African Communications (NAC), owner of 20% of Mobile Telephone Networks. A chunk of Metlife's equity will also be placed with the National Council of Trade Unions.

NAP and NAC are controlled by Prosper Africa Group, which is chaired by Method chairman Dr Ntsho Motlana. Other directors are Franklin Sonn, Sam Moseunyane, Paul Gama and Enos Mabuza.

FRIDAY JUNE 3 1994

WHO ELSE WOULD STRIKE A MATCH AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

In 1994 South African business lost R46 million to strike actions. All we lost was a little office space! When others were striking, our company opened its doors to a major co-operative match with the labour union movement.

To many it may have seemed risky, considering the volatile period of transition our country was undergoing at the time. We saw it only as an opportunity to serve, meaningfully, a new South Africa, and to understand the needs of all of its people.

Combined with nearly a century of South African experience and a prudent style of investment, it's small wonder that today, as the fifth largest life assurer in the country, we enjoy the support of 7 million South Africans.

If you're looking for a life assurer with enough practical experience to help you negotiate relevant, realistic employee benefits, speak to us... before you burn a hole in anyone's pocket!

METROPOLITAN LIFE LTD.



EMPLOYEE BENEFITS