

Yesterday, Today, To

Workers' Day, May 1 is Celebrated All Over South Africa

There were meetings all over the country on May 1 this year. At the May Day meeting in Cape Town there was a special message for women workers. Lizzie Phike spoke at the meeting. She is an organiser for the Food and Allied Workers' Union, which is joined to COSATU. Lizzie really spoke out. She said that many women were prevented from joining in the struggle. Husbands stop their wives from leaving the house to attend meetings. Lizzie said: "The Freedom Charter tells us to share. We must share in both the wealth and the responsibilities. Men must also share the duties of looking after the house and the children." We need more women who speak out like Lizzie Phike!

Hospital Fees Go Up

The Health Workers' Organisation in Durban is calling on organisations to get together to do something about the hospital fees that have gone up. People will have to pay more than they did before. And poor people will suffer. One of the bad things is that anyone who goes to the hospital after hours, on weekends and holidays will have to pay R22.50 to be seen to. And hospital staff who used to get free health treatment, will have to pay fees in cash.

There are meetings happening around this issue. And there is also a petition. If you want to know more, write to: Health Workers Organisation P.O. Box 45277, Chatsglen 4012, Durban.

Tartrazine is Food for Thought

Tartrazine is a food colouring. It also adds flavour to food. It is used in many yellow- coloured foods. It is banned all over the world because it is bad for people's health. Things like cheese and onion chips, fanta, nikkaks and most chocolates and sweets have tartrazine in them. If some food has tartrazine in it, the company must say so on the packet. So look out for it!



Here's something different! Children have fun at the Five Freedoms Forum Open Day in Johannesburg on 31 May.

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Zimbabwe Has a New Way of Seeing Schoolgirl Pregnancies

Some people in Zimbabwe have been looking at the problem of schoolgirl pregnancies. They say that it is not fair that the girls who fall pregnant are expelled from school. What about the boys who have been responsible for the pregnancies? Why should girls lose their education while boys carry on as before. This was raised with the education authorities and now things have changed. Schoolboys responsible for pregnancies are now also expelled. And teachers responsible for schoolgirls pregnancies are sent to prison for six months, get fired, and are blacklisted. This means that they find it very hard to get a job as a teacher again.

But pupils expelled for pregnancies are now given a second chance. Both schoolgirls and schoolboys who have been expelled for this reason can apply to come back to another school. The schoolgirls can apply to another school a year after her baby is born. The education minister said, "We don't think you should be condemned for life, instead you should be given one more chance."

Well at least in Zimbabwe the government looks at both sides of the story. And this is more fair to the girls than before.



The SRC at the University of Durban Westville have just launched a women's group. They invited the Mpophomeni Women Dancers to perform their dances as part of the celebrations. Everybody thought they were wonderful. Our photo shows the dancers in action!

Watch Out for Skin Lightening Creams

People have been celebrating because they thought that skin lightening creams were going to be banned from July. But no more. We still have to fight for this. Because skin lighteners really spoil people's faces forever. They make the skin go lighter at first and then after a few months the skin goes even darker than before. You can see the dark patches and tiny lumps on many faces of those who have used the creams. Their skin will never look the same again.

So the battle against skin lightening creams must go on. The bosses who make money out of selling us these terrible creams went to the government and asked for more time. And they have been given it. We will only know now in on January 1991 whether the Department of Health is going to ban them. We need not wait until then to know whether we should use them or not. Skin lightening creams should be banned because they are bad.