

# WOMEN AND LOVE IN THE NEW CHINA

ONE night, two or three years ago, five Indian sisters in Natal committed mass suicide by hanging themselves. All over South Africa people were morbidly fascinated by this horrible tragedy; it compelled attention by its strangeness and by the unanswered question: why, why? Five sisters—had no single one of them any interest in life, no compelling dream of the future, no belief in the possibility of happiness?

Far away, in a place called Huian County in the province of Fukien close to the East China Sea, the answer to the riddle of the five sisters might have been found. For there, not so many years ago, such mass suicides of women were quite common. In groups of four or five, or even as many as ten together, women would hang themselves, or hurl themselves down from high cliffs into the sea.

Women without love, without hope, so tightly bound by custom, convention and law, that they could not break loose from the 'five ropes' that held them down. **The 'five ropes' were the gods, the government, the clan-head, the family-head, and the husband.**

In this region girls were given in marriage at the age of twelve or thirteen, in a union arranged by the match-maker. The bride had to fast for a week before her marriage, and custom demanded that she be kept awake for three days and three nights on end, and that the bridegroom be stern and arrogant. Wife-beating was the husband's right. A widow could never re-marry, and this applied also to young girls whose fiancés died before they were married.

Not all women in China were subject to such severe customs. But for the majority, feudal conditions prevailed. Child-brides, the buying and selling of wives, ill-treatment by husband and mother-in-law, these were common throughout all China.

## New Law

One year after liberation, in 1950, a new Marriage Law was promulgated. **"The arbitrary and compulsory feudal marriage system,"** it stated, **"which is based on the superiority of man over woman, and which ignores the children's interests, shall be abolished."** The new marriage system was based on **"free choice of partners, on monogamy, on equal rights for both sexes, and on the protection of the lawful interests of women and children."** Bigamy, concubinage, child betrothal, interference with the re-marriage of widows and the exaction of money or gifts in connection with marriage were prohibited.

Making a law is one thing. Carrying it out is another. It would be naive to think that from 1950 onwards the women of China had freed themselves from the grim past, and achieved equal rights with men. And in the same Huian County where in the past the women went in for mass-suicide, a 20-year-old widow who decided on the basis of the new law to marry a peasant, was beaten by the clan head, and chained and locked in a dark room. Local officials found this out, and intervened to release her and enable her to marry. But the fight to make the new marriage law a reality had begun.

The courts were crammed with a wave of divorce cases, and disputes between husbands and wives. Girl-brides sought release from

old men to whom they had been given, unhappy women from marriages that had known nothing of affection or mutual respect; wives sought the right to be protected against beating and physical assaults; young girls sought the right to marry the man of their own choosing, not the 'arranged match' of their family.

In two or three years, things settled. **SINCE 1954 THERE HAS NOT BEEN A SINGLE CASE OF A WOMAN IN HUIAN COUNTY COMMITTING SUICIDE.**

BY MRS. HILDA BERNSTEIN

It might be thought that the women of China had now achieved all they wished. This was, of course, not so. But a new family relationship was developing.

## Happier Families

One of the charges levelled against China by opponents of socialism is the hoary old one, that family life is being destroyed. It is true that the old-type family, a patriarchal dictatorship in which women held the most inferior place, has been shaken to its very roots. But in its place a new relationship is being established on which a much happier family life will be built.

Land reform started the process, when women were given a share of the land equally with men. Later, when the whole countryside was organised into co-operatives, women's work was recognised on the same basis as men's, but payment was made at harvest-time for the whole year's work, and by custom the money was given to the head of the family. The young wife still had nothing of her own, and had to ask for every penny she wanted for her own or family needs.

It was in 1958 that the real change in the status of women began. Two things contributed to the female revolution. The first was the 'big leap' that inspired the whole nation, and swept up millions in an enthusiastic desire to participate to the fullest extent in thrusting forward industrial development, and in speeding up the betterment of life for everyone. The second was the formation of the communes, which have done more to revolutionise the position of women in China than anything else.

How did this happen? In two ways. First, wages in communes are not paid annually to the head of the family as in the past, but monthly, and directly to the worker who has earned them. Secondly, through the establishment of the communes, it has been possible to build up rapidly an enormous network of community services that release women from a tremendous amount of sheer drudgery of the past. These services include communal restaurants and dining rooms, kindergartens and nursery schools, laundries and service stations, where sewing, mending, shoe repairs and similar tasks are carried out.

## My First Pay Packet —Liberation Day

One bright afternoon in May of this year I went to the Pei Hsin-Chiao People's Commune in the north-east corner of Peking. It covers a district of the city where 18,000 families—80,000 people—live. The woman director told me

her view of the establishment of this urban commune. She said: "We think it was due to the establishment of the commune that housewives have become entirely liberated. They were consumers before—now they have become producers; they were economically dependent before—now they earn their own income. Some of them, to mark the date of their liberation, put the whole of their first salary in the bank and say they will not spend it; then they can tell their relatives they are independent—because they have money in the bank."

"Some husbands and parents were not in favour of the wives working. But when the women received their wages, they felt their status in the family had changed. They had become equals. They began to take a greater interest in politics, and in study."

Here is the bald truth, uncomfortable for so many men to face, difficult for so many women to grasp: **women can never be truly free until they are economically independent.** The necessity for women to break away from their economic, their financial dependence on men is a very deep and fundamental one. When they have found their way to this economic freedom, they can then enter into a new relationship with men, as equal partners in their marriage and in life.

Many men in our society who declare "When I marry my wife won't go to work!" are expressing their opposition to the idea that their wives can be independent of them, subconsciously realising that it will spell the end of their superiority as men.

## Workshops

There are many small new workshops in the Pei Hsin-Chiao Commune staffed entirely by women, all of whom were housewives a couple of years ago. The rooms are in old buildings, opening on to courtyards, and although they are light and have enough air, they are by no means ideal. I was curious to know what had impelled these women to leave their homes and start these workshops, which have been built without financial support from the

government, and using machines and tools contributed by the women and their families.

"I became free for the first time in my life when I took my first pay-packet home," said one woman. Another: "When the big leap forward started, I too wanted to do something for my country." Others expressed the same ideas in different ways—the desire to contribute to the nation's effort, and to become persons in their own right.

To those women of the western world whose ideal in life is to possess a little home of their own and spend the rest of their lives cooking, cleaning and caring for their family, this may seem a strange, upside-down type of liberation. But the majority of women of China—like the greatest number of women throughout the world and in South Africa as well—do not have homes with modern conveniences; no gas or electric stoves, no washing machines, only back-breaking, grinding work of the hardest kind.

Chinese women had to grind grain each day by hand, haul water from wells, cook for large families on primitive charcoal or wood stoves. Such work is physical labour at its lowest, unrelieved drudgery, leaving the housewife no time for relaxation, for study, or to enjoy her children.

**To these women, the communal dining rooms and public baths and laundries are sheer heaven.**

## From Small Beginnings

The first attempts to establish these communal services suffered from lack of experience and equipment. The communal kitchen at Pei Hsin-Chiao was started by three housewives cooking in an open courtyard. When it rained one of them held an umbrella over the other two while they cooked. Now the kitchen-courtyard is roofed with tin and paper, but the uneven earth floor remains.

The canteen has plain wooden tables and a home-made serving

# UP MY ALLEY

**YESSIREE!** Roll up folks and welcome to Hank Verwoerd's own genuine Wild West Show. Right here we got the only real, live and kickiest Westerners in the ole Lone Rider Republic.

And just to show how well we like our Western Coloured community here's ole Buck Botha of the ole CAD Ranch to hand out free, gratis and for nothing, a whole passle of ten-gallon stetson hats all the way from Texas, our good neighbour.

Sigh-multaneously, folks, we got a whole stretch of territory lined up for these Westerners which will be their own stamping grounds called group areas. Yes, sir. And we got the Population Registration branding-irons all nicely warmed up and ready to sizzle.

**Jest give me a breather, folks, while I hitch up my ole gun-belt. This here sten-gun is a mite on the heavy side.**

Now to get back to business, ladies and gennulmen, as I was saying, this here Western show is in accordance with our traditions. None of them ornery intergrationist rebel-yellers are allowed into this show. Nope.

**Now step right this way folks and let me introduce you to our new style Western typist. Now tell the nice customer how well you use that there hammer and chisel,**

babe.

There, there, gal. Don't scratch. Heh-heh. She reckons ole man Hank is about as mean as a rattler on a granite wall.

Now right over here, folks, is a real and genuine job reservation. Complete with traditional Western handicrafts. Yes-siree. Our Westerners can carve the best curios and dig the deepest holes in the Republic. They can carry water, too. Two buckets at a time.

Now right here is my ole buddy Six-gun Vorster of the sheriff's office. Real patriotic feller he is. Makes a speech in Randfontein the other day and says our young folks gotta be pumped plumb full of that mean ole patriotism.

I guess you-al know what patriotism means. The only good darcy is one in a group area, and the cop that's the fastest on the draw keeps the Government in longer.

Weal, getting the show back on the road, let me remind you that our Westerners ain't allowed to carry no six-shooter, see? Nope. That's reserved for them paleface shooting clubs.

But like I said, folks, it don't matter whether a "Hottentot" is of negro stock or not, these folks are still our honest-to-goodness died-in-the-wool Westerners, Jus-laik.

ALEX LA GUMA.

## MAY 29 STUDENTS BLACKLISTED

PORT ELIZABETH.

**T**HE Nationalist Government has begun its reprisals against some of the students who took part in the May 29 Stay-At-Home.

The first black-list containing the names of 75 of the former students of St. John's College and Botha Sigcau High School was sent to all African Secondary and High Schools two weeks ago.

The Principal Teachers are warned that these students would not again be allowed to receive education in any school within the Republic.

A yet longer list involving hundreds of students from Lovedale and Healdtown is also going the rounds of the schools.

**One of the students told New Age that he regarded the list as a Roll of Honour. He appealed to those whose names were on the list to throw their weight fully into the struggle for national liberation.**

hatch. A professional baker and cook was preparing bread, while his assistants made a thick, nourishing soup, rice and vegetables. (This meal cost 15 cents—a little less than 6d.)

There are now 52 nurseries and kindergartens in this area, but when they started they had no premises, and used corridors of buildings or an open courtyard with a shady tree. At first the children each brought their own stool to sit on and toys to play with, and the kindergartens were really nothing more than places where one mother, completely inexperienced in nursery-school techniques and often illiterate herself, took joint responsibility for looking after a number of other children. The housewives who undertook this work sought assistance and advice, learned songs, and even began the steep path upward from illiteracy, so that in two years they and their kindergartens both developed greatly.

In this way, each neighbourhood in the towns and each commune in the countryside is building up its own communal services without waiting for the government to provide money, buildings and equipment, or even trained personnel. This would have come in time, but not soon enough for so many people.

## Room For Choice

Arrangements in the communal dining halls and in the kindergartens are flexible. Many people eat in the halls, some take their meals home; others buy some staple dishes at the community kitchen and prepare side-dishes themselves. Some mothers leave their children in nursery schools all day, others for the mornings only, a few stay the whole week.

At the end of the day, women have more time and energy for their children, for relaxation or for a film show, or for study. They have been able to lift their heads and see further than the limitations of the kitchen stove.

**I think women all over Asia and in all countries of the world where women hold a backward position must be watching the women of China today. What unlimited power for peace, for construction, for advancement, will be liberated for the whole world when women everywhere cast off the shackles of the past and make their powerful contribution of mind and energy to the welfare of the world.**







# Nhlapo Earns Bout With World Champion

## Convincing Win Over Percy Lewis

From Joe Gqabi  
JOHANNESBURG.

**AN** estimated multi-racial crowd of over 10,000 boxing fans braved a sudden cold biting wind to see Enoch "Schoolboy" Nhlapo (132) earn a convincing points win over Trinidad's Percy "Kid" Lewis (130) in a 10-round international bout at the Wembley Stadium last Saturday.

With this win Nhlapo has not only established that he has overcome his difficulty of fighting a southpaw, but that he is certainly

the best fighter, pound for pound, in this country today.

Coming in with the odds against him, Nhlapo was on the attack from the first round. He set about the back-peddalling Lewis with the cool, calculated determination of a maestro.

Nhlapo knew that a win over Lewis would strongly enhance his chances for a crack at Joe Brown's world lightweight title, and defeat would shatter his dreams.

### IN TROUBLE

It was clear from the fourth round that Nhlapo was going to dictate which way the fight should go. He had Lewis in trouble with a barrage of short lefts and rights to the head and twice dropped Lewis,

but for no count.

From the fifth round onwards, Nhlapo carried the fight to Lewis, who was fighting cleverly on the retreat. But Nhlapo did not have things his own way. Lewis gave him some anxious moments especially in the eighth round when he scored freely with his left to Nhlapo's head and brought a trickle of blood from Nhlapo's nose.

Nhlapo, however, retaliated with a heavy short right to the jaw that had Lewis groggy against the ropes. Lewis weathered the storm and fought back gamely. This was the best round of the evening.

The last two rounds saw Lewis trying to make a last grand stand, but every time he tried to make a fight of it he ran into a barrage of lefts and rights to head and body from Nhlapo.

Nhlapo missed many a k.o. chance by not following up when he had his man groggy.

It now depends on promoter John Dube to persuade Joe Brown to defend his title against Enoch "Schoolboy" Nhlapo.

Mr. John Dube was awarded the "Post's" sportsman of the year belt before the beginning of the big fight.

### OTHER RESULTS

Sexton "Wonderboy" Mabena beat Dick Goba, Natal featherweight champion, on points over eight rounds in their lightweight fight.

Jerry Moloi, Transvaal lightweight champion, beat G. G. Mabuza by a knock-out in the second round of a scheduled six rounder lightweight fight.

Veteran Joe Zwane beat Philemon Mapumela over four rounds in a featherweight fight.

John Mtinkulu, S.A. Flyweight champion, beat Klaasie Links on a t.k.o. in the sixth and last round of their bantamweight fight.

Paul Maluka beat Louis Joshua of Durban on points over four rounds in their featherweight fight.

Jake Marena beat Solomon Chesane on points over four rounds in their flyweight fight.

# Ngidi vs. Tshabalala Will Be Worth Seeing

From Joe Gqabi  
JOHANNESBURG.

**EXACTLY** two months and one day after regaining his South African middleweight title on a hotly disputed points decision from Joas "Kangaroo" Maoto last July, Joe "Axe-Killer" Ngidi, the South African dual champion (he holds both the middle and welter titles), defends his S.A. middle crown against his old rival Philemon "Hurricane" Tshabalala at the Orlando Stadium on Saturday, September 16.

It looks as if the Pietermaritzburg lad will keep true to his reported promise after the Maoto fight that he would defend his titles against all comers. And that we call true sportsmanship. Boxing fans want to see champions defend their titles instead of keeping them in a cooler.

As we all know, Ngidi and Tshabalala have measured up against one another in five outings in the past—Ngidi has had three wins, one draw and only one defeat at the hands of Tshabalala.

### AT STAKE

Both men know the weaknesses

### BIRTH

New Age expresses its congratulations to Kesval (Kay) and Kanaga Moonsamy on the arrival of a son on 25th August, 1961.

### FOR SALE TO COLOUREDS

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and tactics of the other, and both have something at stake.

Ngidi will be out not only to retain his title and establish his mastery over Tshabalala, but also to rehabilitate himself in the hearts of Reef boxing fans following his disputed win over Maoto.

It may equally be said of Tshabalala, that he will be determined to prove that if he can beat Ngidi in the welter, then he has the answer for victory over Ngidi in the middles. But Tshabalala will have to do a lot better than his recent showing against Jerry Koadibane if he hopes to wrest Ngidi's crown.

The supporting bouts will be:—Lightweights over 8 rounds: Sexton Mabena vs Henry "Young" Seabela; Levy Madi (S.A. Feather champ) vs Chris Monare (6 rounds); Enoch "Schoolboy" Nhlapo vs Goody Green (6 rounds); Welterweights: John Kubheka vs Harold Zwane (6 rounds); and Sefatsa vs Dan Tsepe (6 rounds in the featherweight division).

This will be a passing show promotion.

# DISAPPOINTING START TO SAM CHINA SERIES

From Joe Gqabi

JOHANNESBURG.

**A DISAPPOINTINGLY** small crowd coupled with colourless football marked the opening of the Same China Cup soccer competition at the Natalspruit Indian Sports Ground last Saturday.

Not even the participation of the amateur/professional Transvaal United (undefeated leaders in the S.A. Soccer League Cup competition) could draw the fans to this important tournament.

It was a disappointing beginning to the first Sam China tournament in which soccerites of all races have taken part.

It must, however, be pointed out that competitors in such tournaments must produce much better football if they want to get the sort of support that is expected for such tournaments from the Reef's soccer-conscious enthusiasts. Organisers and selectors of the competing sides

should consider this aspect of the matter more deeply.

The Sam China Cup tournament originated in Kimberly in 1903 when a Samuel Chinakanoo donated a trophy to stimulate interest in soccer among the local Indians. Later, other football associations and provinces joined in the competition which has since then assumed the form of a national event among the Indian community.

In recent years, with the growing demand for non-racialism in our sport, the South African Indian Football Association gave the lead to its affiliated bodies by demanding that the Sam China Cup competition be opened to other races. Last June, at its annual conference held in Durban, the S.A.I.F.A removed the tag Indian from its constitution. And so did its affiliates.

This year's Sam China Cup tournament is therefore the first ever to be played on a Multi-Racial basis. Last Saturday's results were: Southern Transvaal (Transvaal United) beat Border 4-1. Northern Transvaal drew 3 all with Southern Natal.

## SOCCER

# BLACKPOOL UPSET THE FORM BOOK

From M. P. Naicker

DURBAN.

**BLACKPOOL**, the underdogs of the professional Soccer League, upset the form book when they held Natal's leading team, Aces United, to a draw in the second round of the R2,000 League competition.

Although there was a strong wind blowing across the field the match was full of thrills and once again the hero of the youngsters, Samuel "Washada" Sibisa, was chaired from the ground at the end of the match.

Playing with the wind, Aces scored first when a Blackpool defender deflected the ball into the net. Aces' lead was short-lived, however, for within minutes Blackpool's centre, Gandhi Adams, scored after a fast move down the field by the whole Blackpool forward line nippily making short passes between themselves.

With five minutes to go before the end of the first half Sivilingum Dass, Aces inner left, brilliantly headed a second goal for his side.

First half score: Aces 2, Blackpool 1.

With the wind assisting them during the second half, Blackpool pressed hard for goals, but the Aces' defence line managed to break up many good moves.

Aces increased their lead about ten minutes after the beginning of the second half when Sonny Morgan, their captain, taking a fast pass from Sivilingum Dass beat both the Blackpool defenders and their goalkeeper.

Gandhi Adams managed to take advantage of a melee before the Aces' goal-mouth about ten minutes later to make the score 3-2.

In the dying minutes of the game Aces were unlucky to have a penalty awarded against them.

Blackpool's centre, Adams, made no mistake from the spot.

Final score: 3-3.

Next week popular Berea United meet Avalon Athletics. On form Berea should win easily.

### THE LOG

The league log as at August 27 was as follows:

Moroka Swallows, played 7 matches; 11 points.

Transvaal United, played 6 matches; 10 points.

Aces United, played 6 matches; 7 points.

Berea United, played 6 matches; 6 points.

Blackpool, played 6 matches; 2 points.

Avalon Athletics, played 7 matches; 2 points.

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*New Age Wishes  
All Its Jewish  
Readers A Happy  
New Year And  
Well Over The Fast*

# Fine Win For Cape Ramblers

From "Duleep"

CAPE TOWN.

**PROFESSIONAL** soccer, which only six months ago, was looked upon with scorn and doubt by all and sundry, has now become an established fact with the victorious progress of the Cape's only pro side, the Cape Ramblers.

After three games at home and two away in Durban, they have become firm favourites among both Whites and Non-Whites, drawing an average of 10,000 spectators per match. They crowned these efforts with a wonderful exhibition of power-packed soccer on Monday last, at the Hartleyvale Grounds, when they soundly thrashed the famous Berea of Durban to the tune of 4-1.

Before a capacity crowd of nearly 9,000, the Ramblers took an early lead, when the nippy winger Wally Boonzaaier slammed in a fine goal, beating Derek Desplace all ends up. Maintaining pressure, Ramblers thereafter missed many scoring opportunities with poor shooting, whilst the visiting Berea appeared slow and sluggish, apart from some great individual play by Zungu and Khanyile, the wingers. Much credit must go to Desplace for a meritorious performance in which he executed brilliant saves.

### SPORTING GESTURE

Just before half-time, Ramblers were awarded a doubtful penalty, which righthalf Belgeums justifiably slammed over the crossbar. Immediately after the change-over, Berea showed some thrust, with custodian "Bunny" Castle, Lomberg and Proctor having to work overtime to prevent a Berea score. Castle was brilliant, executing some miraculous saves. On the other hand the visiting forward line was rather erratic in their shots, with renowned Bernie Crowie having one of his "off" days.

Play in the second half deteriorated for a period of 25 minutes, but thereafter it was all Ramblers, who took complete command. Firstly Stuurman headed in from a beauty of a Jansen corner-kick, followed by a Boonzaaier goal later. Jansen clinched the match with a "daisy-cutter" to make the score 4-0. Nothing daunted, Berea maintained pressure, to be finally rewarded by a penalty from which M. M. Freddy scored, to make the final score 4-1.

**United Tobacco Co.**  
**R2,000 League Competition**  
**Second Round**

**BEREA vs**  
**AVALON ATHLETIC**

**CURRIES FOUNTAIN**  
**Sunday, Sept. 10th**  
**3 p.m.**



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