

# SWAPO Must Fight The Giants

By Laura Parks

Namibia's independence movement led by the South West African People's Organization is being forced to take on and fight the giants. That is the plain and simple truth that emerged from last week's United Nations Security Council vote. Led by the United States and Britain, and meekly followed by France, the troika of Western powers cast their damaging vetoes against the African-backed resolution to halt trade with South Africa, the illegal occupier and administrator of Namibia.

During the ten days prior to the Security Council vote black African representatives asked the Western powers to come up with a mutually acceptable solution for Namibian independence. At these meetings nothing of substance was accomplished. The meager Western proposals were in fact rejected as being totally worthless.

The Western powers seem to be more concerned with South African fears. These fears are virtually the same fears that haunted the British and the white settlers of Rhodesia during that nation's emergence as Zimbabwe after a prolonged and bitter guerrilla war. The primary fear in both instances was said to be the fear of Marxist guerrillas taking over the country.

This particular fear was soon followed by fears of economic loss and fears about the deprivation of white political rights. However, the recent history of Zimbabwe has shown that white property rights and political rights are protected, and the country is settling down to a normal existence.

Negotiating away these fears proved to be a stall-

ing tactic during which it was hoped that the white Rhodesians would somehow turn the tide of battle or that the Patriotic Front alliance would break up. Neither event occurred. In fact the alliance grew stronger with each new victory in the field.

It is suspected that a somewhat similar tactic is being pursued by the Western powers, in collusion with South Africa, in the hope of reaching a pro-Western, pro-South African settlement in Namibia.

Western powers strongly deny these suggestions as being unfounded. South Africa neither denies nor affirms anything, being content to let her friends take the international diplomatic heat.

But black Africa is not amused by these diplomatic games. They point out that the Namibia Council, recognized by the International Court of Justice and the United Nations as the legal administrator of Namibia, is being prevented by force of arms from exercising its legal rights as the administering body for the United Nations in the preparation and execution of an all-Namibia vote, with international observers in attendance. The powers know that Namibians will vote by 75-80% margins for independence. This fact has been known for several years.

Prior to the Reagan Presidency there were some important signals that the South Africans were prepared to reason with SWAPO and black Africa. They began the intensive mining of the Namibian diamond fields hoping to scoop up as much as they could before



ST. AUG'S PEN STAFF ELECTS 1981-82 OFFICERS — THE PEN, the Saint Augustine's College student newspaper, elected its officers for 1981-82, recently. L-R: Eric Williams, a senior Art major from Blount Creek, assistant sports editor; Ida Bulluck, a junior Art major from St. Albans, N.Y., assistant editor; Carlton Taylor, a junior Economics major from Plainfield, N. J., editorial editor; and (seated) Ms. Sammie Brown, a senior English major from Coco Beach, Fla. re-elected editor-in-chief. Other officers not pictured.

## NAACP To Mount Freedom Tag Day June 13

NEW YORK — In a major announcement from National Headquarters, NAACP Executive Director Benjamin L. Hooks declared Monday that Freedom Tag

Day, a major drive to raise one-half million dollars to save vital programs within the association — that have been largely responsible for many of the civil rights gains throughout

this century — will kick off June 13 in cities across the country.

leaving and they eased up on their raids into Angola.

But the Reagan election changed this. The South Africans took heart first and foremost from the new administration's decision to sell tanks and planes to Morocco, still fighting the independence movement of the Western Sahara, led by the Polisario Front. This within the first few weeks of the new Presidency.

From this time on, the South Africans renewed

and intensified their white nationalist attitudes, hardened their position on Namibia and gloried in their rediscovered semi-official role of white bastion on the African continent.

SWAPO, with wide support among the general population, is confident that it will outlast all the old and new power plays, tricks and deceptions to emerge victorious. SWAPO also knows it must fight the giants.

"The sudden rollback in some affirmative action gains over recent years, the detrimental impact of the Administration's budget cuts on minorities and the poor, the continuous battle in Congress over fair housing legislation and extending the Voting Rights Act — all of these present day problems," Hooks asserted, "have placed a greater demand on our resources. As a result we are now facing a serious financial deficit."

"We plan to carry out our message that 'Freedom Ain't Free' to

street corners, shopping malls, parks and other public areas and request financial contributions from all Americans who believe that decent housing, schools, and jobs can be acquired for every citizen."

The nationwide effort will be launched in cities throughout the country, with the major thrust falling under the jurisdiction of nearly 1800 NAACP branches, youth councils and college chapters from coast to coast. Hooks said, "We hope to raise sufficient funding to enable us to implement new programs to fight the conservative swing in Congress, the growing climate against student reassignments to achieve school desegregation and the increase in violence against blacks and other minorities."

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Specially designated solicitors will be stationed at specific locations to be announced by local NAACP branches in numerous communities. In many areas where a heavy church involvement is anticipated, the fundraising effort will also extend into the following day. In the event of inclement weather, some communities may postpone the event to the following weekend (June 20-21).

Former baseball star Hank Aaron, popular entertainers such as Brock Peters and Sammy Davis Jr., and most black mayors have already announced their support for the national campaign. Most black-oriented radio stations thus far contacted have enthusiastically supported the drive. The "tag day" tradition became popular during the civil rights movement of the

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60's, however, most were conducted as local campaigns.

"For too long, the NAACP has upheld the principles of equality and justice for all Americans in the face of seemingly insurmountable opposition. Considering recent events, we see nothing that will change that course. We expect the public to rally generously around this worthy cause," Hooks concluded.

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### How to get the most from your bank

#### TRAVELERS' CHECKS

By Barbara Pierce

When summer and warm weather come, people begin planning their vacations. For added security while traveling in this country or abroad, many people prefer travelers' checks to carrying large amounts of cash.

Security is the main reason people buy travelers' checks. If your checks are lost or stolen, you can call in your loss and, in most cases, get a quick refund for them probably somewhere very close to where you are.



Barbara Pierce

Travelers' checks can be purchased at your bank, and there is usually a small fee for them, such as \$1 for every \$100 you buy. You should decide how many travelers' checks you want by determining how long you will be gone and how much you intend to spend. You can obtain them in packages containing a variety of denominations, such as \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100. Some banks require that you buy a minimum total of \$50.

On each check, there are two lines for you to write your signature. The first line should be signed as soon as the checks are purchased, preferably before you leave the bank. This is for your protection, as an unsigned travelers' check is just like cash to a thief. The second signature must be written in the presence of the person who is to cash the check. This gives that person the opportunity to compare the two signatures and reduces the possibility of forgeries. No one will cash the checks unless both lines are signed.

It is very important that you do not sign the second signature until you are actually in the process of cashing the check in a shop, motel, restaurant, or wherever. And it is smart to make sure the clerk will accept your travelers' check before you sign, because the signed check may not be accepted by another merchant.

Some merchants ask that you show some form of identification, usually a driver's license, before they will cash your travelers' check. This is an added protection for you.

For extra security, keep the receipt for your travelers' checks in a place other than your wallet or wherever you carry your travelers' checks. The telephone number to call if your checks are lost or stolen is printed on the receipt. Your receipt also serves as proof of purchase and lists the identification numbers of your checks. These numbers can be used to track down the checks if anyone tries to use them fraudulently.

If you have some travelers' checks left over after your trip, you can cash them at your bank, simply by countersigning them at the teller window. Some people like to keep a few just for emergencies since travelers' checks do not have an expiration date and can be cashed almost anywhere.

Barbara Pierce, a banker for 16 years, is banking officer and branch manager of the Woodland Hills office of Wachovia Bank and Trust Company in Weaverville.

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