

# news

## Afrikaans 'not issue' in S. African riots

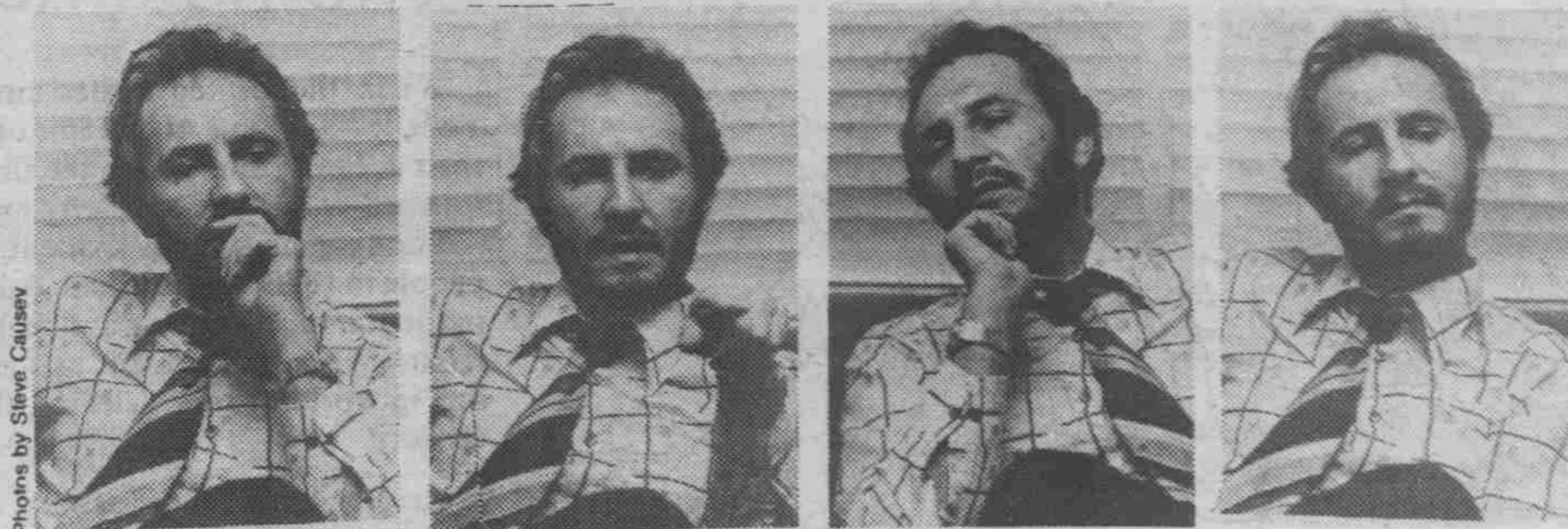
by Peter Hapke  
Staff Writer

On June 21, 1976, the worst race riots in South African history began in the dusty township of Soweto. Within two days the riots had spread to other black townships, and by the weekend more than 100 people were dead and over 1,000 were wounded.

The death toll was much higher than the infamous Sharpeville "massacre" and a week later the toll was raised to 140 dead and 1,112 injured after the rioting spread to the townships around Pretoria.

A keen observer of South African affairs is Dr. Eugene Potgieter, a visiting lecturer in accounting at UNC for the 1975-76 academic year. A Dutch-speaking African whose ancestors have lived in South Africa for 300 years, Dr. Potgieter is a CPA who has taught at the University of South Africa in Pretoria for the last eight years.

The press has reported that the South African riots were spurred by endeavors to teach the Afrikaans language in the schools and by the apartheid policy of African leaders. During an interview earlier this week, Dr. Potgieter discussed the riots.



"I don't think apartheid is an issue anymore," maintains Dr. Eugene Potgieter, a Dutch-speaking African who aired his views recently on the South Africa race riots.

**Q:** What caused the outbreak of violence in Soweto?

**A:** The press said the Afrikaans (the language of education) was the issue, but I don't think it was. The students complained about Afrikaans, mathematics and history. Also, the demonstrations started at a school where the main teaching language is English. Many people don't realize that all people in South Africa, whether white or black, must learn both Afrikaans and an African language. But, the demonstrations just spread from one excited group to another until you had a riot.

**Q:** Many government officials believe the riots were fomented by an organized group to embarrass Prime Minister Vorster on the eve of his talks with Kissinger. Do you believe it?

**A:** I believe these riots were started as small things with the primary objective to influence and break down the Vorster-Kissinger talks. We (blacks and whites) are so interdependent that one group can't live without the other. That's why it's only the small groups that think they can chase out the whites and seize power.

**Q:** Do you agree with Vorster's response to the Soweto riots: "The way to prevent more violence in the future is not to make concessions to blacks on the teaching of Afrikaans but to take even tougher law and order measures."

**A:** For the safety of the total population, I agree with him on the short term direction of law and order. But while I have law and order, I would proceed with negotiations with both parties as Vorster did two days after the riots. These tough measures were for the safety of blacks because almost all of the fighting and property

damage was in black areas.

**Q:** Dr. Erich Leistner, Deputy Director of the Africa Institute, believes the riots mark the beginning of an era in which whites no longer hold exclusive control over political power in South Africa. Do you agree with him?

**A:** Yes, we all know that South Africa will be a United States with nine or ten states that are completely autonomous. Where ethnic blacks will govern ethnic blacks and whites will govern whites. This plan has been in the constitution since 1932, but because we were a British colony up until May 31, 1961, we couldn't carry it out.

**Q:** What would happen if apartheid laws were repealed?

**A:** This would be an interesting experiment. For about four to six months you still have a peculiar situation, but then people will naturally segregate. I don't think apartheid is an issue any more—it will disappear as a formal document and appear as an informal behavior pattern.

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## WUNC-FM On The Air

by Libby Lewis  
Staff Writer

Travel down the musky, brown-lit steps below Swain Hall to a cellar teeming with activity.

Maybe Joe Vanderford is in the middle of taping a jazz program while Kathy Register is on the air announcing Vivaldi's Concerto No. 3 in F "L'Autunno" and Jamie Jacobson is working on an interview with a Chapel Hill septogenarian. Vanderford and Jacobson are UNC students; Register is a housewife.

These are the kind of people who make up WUNC. The university-licensed station has only seven paid professional staff members—the other 40 or so, like Jacobson and Vanderford, are people who contribute their energies to a cause they believe in. And WUNC is a cause to them.

The non-commercial station is a long-awaited break in radio's cultural drought in, and about this area—a combination of classical and jazz music, recordings of major performances, award-winning news and feature programs like "All Things Considered," and fine arts interviews in "Voices In the Wind," both aired from National Public Radio.

But the home front is WUNC's own specialty, with "North Carolina Voices," produced by the WUNC staff and volunteers.

"With 'North Carolina Voices,' we're capturing and passing on the oral tradition of our state," says Gary Shivers, programming director. This collection of "sound portraits" of people around the state sprung from a Bicentennial grant.

Now the idea has expanded to include interviews from all parts of the state; with craftsmen, townspeople—ordinary people



who have stories to tell as everybody has.

"We may be interviewing a judge on juvenile injustice, but suddenly he breaks into a story about the greatest fishing hole he discovered once—you don't let that go," says Barbara Bernhard, WUNC's News and Public Affairs Director. Bernhard typifies a set quality in WUNC workers; one that is open and friendly, in control of a loose (or so it appears) structure.

"It's amazing that everything gets done, but they're all such good people working here," says Vanderford.

That could be the station's success formula—a definite lack of professional tension at the studio.

Those willing to take on the responsibility of working with a progressive station such as WUNC usually have some qualification, though not professional.

"They needed me because I can pronounce all the classical composers' names correctly," jokes Register, a morning announcer.

"What we need especially are operators with third- and first-class licenses," explains Joan Watrous, development director for the station. "But we won't turn anybody away who wants to help."

Until she finds someone interested in working in graphic

arts, Watrous is combining the duties of that department with public relations work, fund-raising, and coordination of the station volunteers.

WUNC's existence and success as a non-commercial radio service can be linked to funding from the Department of HEW and the corporation of Public Broadcasting; grants from Chapel Hill businesses like Vickers Audio, The Intimate Bookshop, Soundhaus, Inc., and others; the nearly 850 "friends" of WUNC who offer tax-deductible contributions; and membership in National Public Radio.

Watrous plans to hold a fund-raising marathon soon to supplement the underwriting of local citizens and businesses. She also hopes to expand WUNC's monthly program guide (mailed to the station's "friends" and available at the station) with broadcasts concerning some of the performers, programs and concerts they air.

Local and state music festivals and area concerts will be covered. WUNC recorded the recent N.C. Folklife Festival and the Dave Brubeck concert; they plan to cover the Eastern Music Festival at Guilford soon.

## Age, experience vary in race for Lt. Governor

by Mark Lazenby  
Staff Writer

Frank Stepheson

*Editors Note: This is the first article in a three-part series examining the Lieutenant Governor's race.*

There are eight Democratic candidates who have filed for the office of lieutenant governor this year. Their ages, backgrounds and experience vary from young men running for the first time to older politicians who have been involved in state politics for years.

Howard Lee

The son of a Georgia sharecropper, 41-year-old Howard Lee is the only black candidate for the office of lieutenant governor. He achieved national prominence by becoming the first black mayor of a predominantly white Southern town, Chapel Hill, in 1969.

Lee considers education his top priority, and he would propose a 15-member advisory council on education for this state with representation from all levels of the educational system. This panel would offer advice and council to the Legislature as well as encouraging all levels of the state's educational system to work together constructively instead of competing, according to Paul Mebostat, field organizer of the

The removal of sales tax on food and non-prescription drugs, an additional income tax exclusion of \$3,000 for persons 65 or older and insuring that persons in low-income brackets are not taxed disproportionately, are tax reforms that Lee would like to see implemented, Mebostat said.

Frank Stepheson is a 36-year-old Admissions Director for Chowan College from Murfreesboro, and the lieutenant governor's office will be his first experience as an elected official if he wins.

A 1965 graduate of North Carolina State University, Stepheson prides himself in not being a professional politician. He considers himself an environmentally oriented candidate who would fight polluting industries, said Pam Aldridge, assistant to his press secretary.

Stepheson would use his influence as lieutenant governor to see that more state money was allocated for secondary education and technical schools, Aldridge said.

If elected, Stepheson would appoint a commission composed of a cross-section of medical people whose main purpose would be the study of the health needs of rural areas and the active recruitment of doctors for those areas, Aldridge said.

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### Your Turn

There are three issues of the summer *Tar Heel* yet to come. If you'd like to write a story for one of them, stop by the *Tar Heel* office any afternoon and see Robin Clark or Joni Peters. You will not be paid, but most stories are by-lined.