

# Race Today

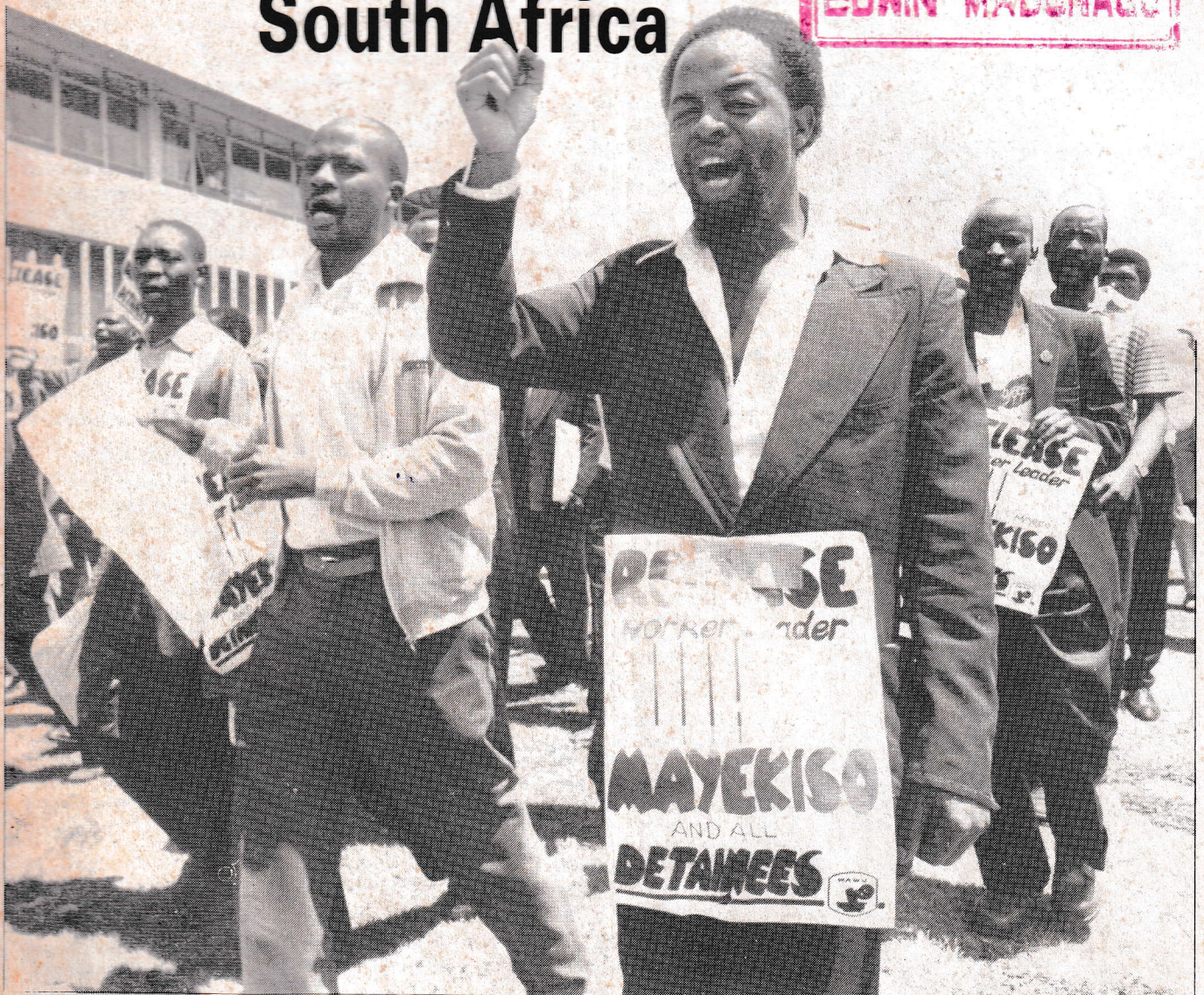
BRITAIN'S LEADING BLACK JOURNAL

JULY 1986 70p

## The Black Working Class in South Africa

2221

EDWIN MADUNAGU



The Struggle for a New Democracy in Haiti

**Tyra Henry — Who is to Blame?**

Darcus Howe on West Indian Fast Bowlers

CB5/3/843

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July 1986

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# Letters

## S.A. WOMEN WRITERS

Dear Race Today,  
I was interested to see that the latest edition of *Race Today* focused on writers from South Africa. However, I am concerned that the edition focused solely on the men — Mattera, Brutus, Nortje et al — when I and other South African women are writing in this country, or in exile.

May I respectfully suggest that you consider an edition which will focus on Black South African women writers to which we may contribute. I would like to include in that edition a tribute to the writer Bessie Head.

I am sure it isn't necessary for me to point out that whatever the difficulties facing our male counterparts, it is ten times worse for us. There is only a limited interest in our experience (not so much our writing) from the Commonwealth and Feminist publications. You will be aware that there is still no South African literary journal outside that country although most of our writers — the established ones all male — are in exile.

I look forward to hearing from you.

**Agnes Sam (Ms)**  
York YO1 5EL.

## CORRECTION

Dear Race Today,  
In my review of John Hearne's *A Sure Salvation* on pages 22-23 of *Race Today* January '86, it appears that a typesetter's error led to the dropping of two clauses from the sixth paragraph of my typescript, thereby obscuring my meaning significantly. You printed the second sentence of that paragraph as: "It is one of the few indications we are given that the rebellion is not initiated by the slaves themselves." This does not make sense in the context of my review. The correct rendition is two sentences: "It is one of the few indications we are given that the slaves might be more than a stupefied herd. However, it is significant that the rebellion is not initiated by the slaves themselves."

I would appreciate very

much your printing of this correction.

**Bob Stewart**

Willingham, New Jersey  
USA.

## MISCHIEVOUS WRITING

Dear Darcus,

I was recently in the library when I came across the book *Real Wicked Guy* by Roy Kerridge. Though I hadn't heard of the author before, to a student teacher such as myself, soon to begin teaching practice it seemed an interesting and useful book.

I noticed your name among the author's acknowledgements. Knowing of you and your organisation's excellent reputation for fighting racism, this was a recommendation enough. Having now read the book up to about page 45, I am amazed that you should have given your encouragement and co-operation to the right-wing lunatic who wrote it.

**Paul Lindsay-Addy**  
County Street  
London SE1

Dear Paul,

*Thanks for your letter in which you express amazement that I co-operated with and encouraged Roy Kerridge in the writing of his trash, Real Wicked Guy.*

*May I express my own amazement that you actually believe I did. Roy Kerridge is known for mischief interminable, and undoubtedly, by placing my name in his list of acknowledgements, he hoped to disinform his readers, maliciously so, that I offered my co-operation in the writing of his garbage.*

*I did not, and have made this fact known to his publishers.*

*Thanks again.*

Sincerely,

**Darcus Howe**

## EXPENSIVE INQUIRY

Dear Race Today,  
I am pained to read in the *Guardian* (19.12.85) back page, that the London Borough of Lambeth has agreed to pay £7,500 to Stephen Sedley, Q.C., plus a daily rate of £750 to investigate and report on the tragic death of Tyra Henry.

The following questions now spring to mind:

(i) Could not Lambeth B.C. find a competent Black Barrister or law lecturer to write this report more cheaply?

(ii) I understand that Tyra Henry lies in an unmarked grave (unverified fact).

(iii) Can a pompous Cambridge-educated left wing Barrister unravel the circumstances of Tyra Henry's death, and will frightened and distressed black people and distressed social workers confide in him?

(iv) No reports, however distinguished the authors can bring Tyra Henry back to life. Could not this money be better spent upgrading the support services available to the social workers in Lambeth?

(v) Finally, would this entire episode have been avoided if a few mature, experienced West Indian women (themselves mothers and seasoned of life), been available to help this hardpressed family through a period of stress, rather than a group of idealistic Polytechnic social science graduates "doing their thing"?

**Esmelda Cumberbatch**

## MALARIA WARNING

Dear Race Today,  
We wish to bring to your attention the increasing threat that malaria poses to all Asian and African immigrants who travel overseas to their homeland.

We wish to remind all Asians and Africans who live in Britain that they no longer have any immunity to malaria. All travellers to Asia and Africa need to take antimalarial tablets, and also protect themselves against mosquitoes, the carrier of malaria.

The exact type of antimalaria tablet must now be prescribed by a doctor.

Thank you very much for your assistance, we are sure that as a consequence, many people will be prevented from suffering or dying from malaria.

**Penny Phillips-Howard**

Malaria Reference Laboratory  
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine  
Keppel Street  
London WC1E 7HT.

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