JUNE 1
INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY
1986
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June 1 is International Children's Day and is being celebrated this year on Saturday May 31 at Bellville Teacher's Training College. The event is being organised by Molo Songololo and Upbeat magazines. As well as joining in celebrating with children all over the world their aim is to draw attention to the plight of children in South Africa, children who are starving or underfed, who are unprotected by the law, beaten by police and children who are part of a gutter education system.

The College has a number of small buildings as well as a main hall and there will be drawing, pottery and other events as well as the stalls, plays, dances and singing in the hall. CAP will be providing art classes and T-shirt printing and the combi will take children from CAP to Bellville and back. Children from other organisations are welcome to come along if they let Trish or Lionel know in advance as space is limited.
Derek's Departure

It is with great reluctance that we say goodbye to Derek Joubert who leaves CAP at the end of June. He, more than anyone, has been instrumental in shaping CAP so that it has become a symbol of respect in the community.

Derek and I were members of CAP as early as 1978 and even then he devoted himself to running the CAP mime group.

In 1979 he became the organiser and I had the privilege of working closely with him. At the time CAP was in dire financial straits, but due to his excellence as a fundraiser, his unflagging energy, love and perseverance, he managed to steer CAP through troubled waters.

He has been with CAP as organiser for eight commendable years and now feels he can hand over the reigns to an interim management committee in which he has placed his confidence.

We wish him well for the future and know that whatever his pursuits he will always give of his best.

Lionel Davis
creative writing

Members of the creative writing course which ran for ten sessions from March 8 have decided to continue meeting on the first Saturday of each month.

They have written a short play based on a character called Neverest Slovo which they created together and plan to produce a booklet of their collective poetry.

The group would also like to read their poetry to other CAP members.

MAYDAY

Members are probably aware that CAP closed on Mayday to express solidarity with the COSATU call for a paid public holiday on May 1. This was also to enable CAP workers and students to attend one (or more) of the rallies taking place.

The full-time students at CAP who have been assisting in the production of banners over the last few months, worked on two large three-colour banners with the General Workers Union for COSATU which were displayed at some of the rallies.
T-SHIRT PROJECT

A CAP T-shirt printing project will be operating shortly. Special funding has been obtained, premises have been rented and it remains only to build the tables, correct the lights and fix the plumbing.

Jan Cheifitz and Roger van Wyk (two members of LAG - Loosely Affiliated Group - a small group which has been instrumental in developing the project) will share a part-time job co-ordinating it.

As an off-shoot of the poster workshop, which was bursting its bounds and its capabilities, it will operate as a teaching workshop. The emphasis will be on enabling community groups and organisations to produce their own printed T-shirts at the cost of the materials involved.

It is unfortunate that this project has to be separated from the rest of CAP but there was simply no space in the building. The project is based in Salt River with no phone as yet but interested people can make contact through the Poster workshop.
Freedom of Enjoyment!

The pottery workshop is considering buying a Raku kiln which would open the door to endless new possibilities for students. "Raku" is Japanese for "freedom of enjoyment" and refers to a technique where low-firing glazes are used.

Pots are removed red-hot from the kiln and placed in a container filled with a combustible material like newspaper, sawdust or leaves, with each giving a different quality of black smoke to the pot. It is then placed in cold water.

It is difficult to describe the excitement of watching the transformation of your pot from the kiln, through the reduction fire in the container and then into the water, said one of the eight CAP potters who organised a Raku demonstration in May.

The Raku method allows the potter to be more directly involved in the firing process than with the normal procedure of firing in an electric kiln.

An attitude of naturalness, asymmetry and simplicity is typical of the shapes chosen for raku pots.
WORKSHOPS

Several positive ideas came out of a meeting held on Saturday May 3 to establish better communication between teachers, students and organisers at CAP. One idea was for workshops to work together towards joint evenings of exhibitions, music, theatre, dance.

The workshops were well-represented with teachers from the three children's art classes, two teachers from the pottery workshop, the two full-time art teachers and the creative writing facilitators. Also present were teachers from etching, music, drama, ceramic sculpture, photography and a few students.

It was generally felt that more interaction was needed between the workshops and between workshops and administration.

Specific problems put forward by workshops were noted and the need for admin to get feedback in a more structured way was stressed.

General problems included the building being left in a mess by people who did not bother to clean up after they had finished a workshop or a meeting and the need for more of a sense of community amongst the people who worked here.

It was agreed that monthly follow-up meetings with report-backs from workshops and time to discuss future plans would greatly benefit the smooth running of CAP and would create a stronger sense of community.

Please note: For the AGM on June 7 at 2pm we need written report-backs from each workshop. These should be brief outlines of what has happened in the workshop over the past 12 months with problems and suggestions for solutions.

We are hoping members will come to the AGM to express their ideas. Any major proposals that need to be added to the agenda should be given to Dipuo by Wednesday June 4.
Two CAP projects are planning to perform at the Grahamstown festival in June/July. The dance group will stage a programme of contemporary dance called "Exhibition" with six pieces choreographed by Gillian Mitchell, Sharon Friedman, Alfred Hinkel, Sonje Mayo and Marlene Blom.

"This is an opportunity to get together with dancers from all over the country and exchange ideas," said Sharon.

About 14 dancers will go to the festival where they will give two performances on July 1 and 2. The second project, the play Wathinta'Bafazi Wathinta'Imbokotho (You strike the women, you strike the rock) will give four performances from June 29 to July 2.

It is one of the first pieces of black South African theatre with an all-women cast and ran for a week at the UCT Arena theatre in May. It is about the lives of three women working as chicken-sellers in the townships and how they get drawn into the mounting conflict around them.

The play is directed by Phyllis Klotz who work-shopped the script with actresses Thobeka Maqhutyana, Nomvula Qosha and Poppy Tsira.
CAP MEMBERS: AGM

CAP is holding its Annual General Meeting on June 7, starting at 2pm sharp.

This is an opportunity for all members from the different workshops to get together and share their experiences of the past year. Important developments, which affect CAP and require your participation and support, have taken place since our General Meeting on November 9, 1985.

By attending the meeting you will remain informed and can share in planning and building for CAP's future.

We hope to see you there.

AGENDA FOR THE AGM

At 2pm members will be welcomed. Following this will be:

* A report and proposals from the management committee

* Proposals for the expansion and restructuring of CAP

* Time for discussion

* Tea

* Workshop reports

* Further discussion

The meeting should end at about 5pm.
CAP CLOSED

CAP will be closed for the mid-year holiday from June 13 - 30. It will remain closed from then until July 21 for internal restructuring and training programmes. In the light of CAP's expansion and internal changes it has become essential to dedicate a specific period to working out systems for better organisation in future. We apologise for the inconvenience in the meantime.

New mailing list

If you would like to get further copies of the CAP newsletter, please fill in the following form and send it to Community Arts Project, 106 Chapel St, Cape Town.

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