

Graduation Portraits



by
J. Harris

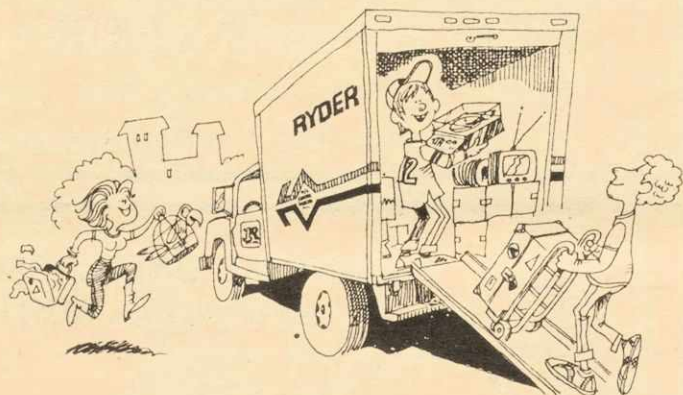
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ARTS

The police have the negatives



Paul Weinberg: Riot police in confrontation, downtown Johannesburg, May Day 1985. The South African police are notorious for their complete disregard for human rights. SADF currently costs \$500 million a year and number 48,000.

by ELLEN REYNOLDS

A collection of 38 photos and text depicting images of the struggle against apartheid in South Africa will be the subject of an exhibit at Eye Level Gallery from April 8-25.

The mobile exhibit, titled "Taking Sides in South Africa", is comprised of photographs taken within the last two years by South Africa's first non-racial photographers' co-op, Afrapix.

Before the state of emergency was declared in November 1985 and broadcast and photo coverage were banned, Afrapix contributed regularly to the progressive "Weekly Mail" newspaper. Now, as well as contributing to mainstream international press, they stress the importance of spreading positive and progressive images around South Africa itself. In an article by two Afrapix members called "Our Times", Paul Weinberg and Rob Nixon explain the co-op's philosophy. Their "social documentary photography" strengthens links within the alternative press and their photo workshops, library, resource centre and travelling exhibits struggle to equalize access to information and distribution of skills.

In contrast to the western media, which see only the end result, Afrapix is in a position to see and understand what is happening in South Africa and to redefine what is newsworthy. Being right in the middle of things, the co-op must not only struggle against the police and a government which sees a camera as an instrument of insurrection, but refuse to be dictated by the sensationalist whims of the press.

Afrapix does not want to be considered selfless heroes, risking their lives to record news, but as a collective movement for social change in South Africa.

The two copies of "Taking Sides in South Africa" were shipped out before the state of emergency was declared, but many of the negatives are now in

John Savage and a reading by poet George Elliot Clark. In co-operation with several other groups, Eye Level, OXFAM-Canada and Deveric have organized workshops on South Africa, a performance night on April 11 and a showing of the new film by Peter Davis, "Winnie and Nelson Mandela", on April 14. The per-



Paul Weinberg: The army presence in Soweto, July 1985. From "Taking Sides in South Africa", an exhibit of photographs by Afrapix.

the hands of the South African police. Also, two South African photographers, including Gill de Vlieg, whose work is in the exhibit, are currently in detention by South African police.

Afrapix photographers contributing to this exhibit are: Omar Badsha, Orde Eliason, Dave Hartman, Steve Hilton-Barber, Eric Miller, Cecil Sols, Gill de Vlieg and Paul Weinberg.

OXFAM-Canada, which has been supporting progressive projects in Southern Africa since the mid-70s, bought one copy of the exhibit to tour Canada.

The exhibit opens April 8 at 8 pm with an address by Mayor

formance night will feature Four the Moment, the four-woman a capella group, a performance by Terri and Toni Goree, and Dub Poetry reading by Clifton Joseph.

"A show in combination with event is important to draw more people, a more diverse group," says Melodie Calvert, a member of the board at Eye Level. "It won't just be photos hanging on the wall," says Calvert.

"Taking Sides in South Africa" and all the events will take place at the Eye Level Gallery, 2182 Gottingen Street (above Buckley's Music).