



U of A Curling

register your team now at SUB basement Games Area counter

Entry deadline Sept. 29

U of A Bowling

register your team now at SUB basement Games Area Counter

Starts Sept. 20th

STUDENT COUNSELLING SERVICES

Athabasca Hall
(southeast outside entrance)
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
432-5205

Assistance with:

- Career Planning & Vocational Concerns
- Academic Difficulties
- Study Methods
- Personal Problems
- Special Group Programs

An appointment is advised



In Room At The Top ON FRIDAY

\$1.00 cover

8 p.m. - Midnight

KARL ERIKSON



Trial of the Pretoria 12

Free South Africa

Sexwala, Tsiki, Motaung, Mhlangeni, Masinga, Ramokgadi, Gqabu, Nchabelang, Dlale, Ngubeni, Seatholo and Mohale.

Since May these eleven men and one woman are marched daily in and out of the Pretoria Supreme Court dock. They cry in unison: "Amandla" (power); the packed courtroom responds with clenched fists: "Ngawethu" (is ours).

These twelve defendants are referred to as the 'Pretoria 12,' and their trial is considered the most important trial since 1964 when the Rivonia Trials sentenced African National Congress (ANC) leaders Mandela, Sisulu, Mbeki, and Kathrada to life imprisonment in the notorious Robben Island jail. The lives of these four persons were spared because of international pressure applied on the South African regime. The international community is again being called upon to play a similar role in the case of the 'Pretoria 12.'

Under the Terrorism Act, the defendants face 79 separate charges and sentences ranging from a minimum of five years to the maximum penalty — death. Along with 47 others, they are accused of carrying out different activities relating to the violent overthrow of the apartheid regime between the years of 1962 and 1977. As Joan Brickhill, author of *Race Against Race* and well known critic of apartheid, states, "There is a very real danger that the state, which in the last year has faced its serious crisis yet, will hang the twelve as a deterrent to the hundreds of young people fleeing the country to seek military training."

The Pretoria 12 symbolize the diversity and strength of the ANC, an organization formed in 1912 to promote the creation of a non-racial South African society. Only since 1962, when the ANC was banned as a legal organization, have its members turned to armed struggle against what the U.N. describes as a "crime against humanity" — Apartheid. The breadth of the liberation struggle against this system of institutionalized violence is well-represented by these twelve persons: students, teachers, journalist and a clerk, ranging in age from 21 to 67. They include the ANC veterans who have already spent years of their lives on Robben Island; they include leaders of the recent Soweto student uprisings.

Their crime is the crime of fighting for the democratic and human rights of the oppressed Black people of South Africa. As Nelson Mandela stated during his trial in 1962: "The white man makes all the laws, he drags us before the courts and accuses us, and he sits in judgement over us."

BACKGROUND

This trial must be understood in its proper perspective. The Pretoria 12, because of their ANC affiliations, symbolize the hundreds of South African Blacks, "Coloureds," Asians and even Whites who are

political prisoners throughout the country. Arrests, torture and bannings have increased dramatically over the past few months and years.

The Soweto revolts of 1976 began as a peaceful protest organized by school children to protest the imposition of "Afrikaans" as the medium of instruction onto an already inferior educational system. The Vorster government responded not with dialogue but with teargas and bullets.

Over 1,000 persons (mostly children) were killed in the thousands more were injured, many maimed for life. Still more were arrested and detained for unjustifiable periods of time. A minimum of 5,000 persons were charged in the courts, and by the end of 1976, 1760 had been sentenced. Over 600 were persons under 18 years of age. Children have been ruthlessly tortured, subjected to physical assaults, electric shocks and

organizations that document and compile data on conditions in South African prisons. Klaus Schmidt, of the Institute at himself a former detainee, said "Torture is no longer used as a means of extracting information; it has become a way of life in South Africa." This information has been presented in a booklet entitled *Torture South Africa*.

TORTURE

Stephen Dlamini, president of the South African Congress Trade Unions (SACTU) describes in a sworn affidavit conditions he endured during 6½ months detention in Pretoria Central Prison:

"(I was) made to stand against the wall on my toes in gravel-filled shoes. Whenever they picked me up and knocked my head against the wall ... (An interrogator) came in, pulled off my glasses and



deprived of food and sleep.

Since June, 1976, eighteen persons detained by the Security Branch have died during interrogation and torture. An additional 117 persons detained by other police bodies died in custody during 1976 alone.

These are statistics of apartheid. The numbers must not numb the world into inaction. The Christian Institute of South Africa is one of the many

me with an open palm over my eyes. I could not see — I feel 10 per cent of my eyesight. They kept punching me. They tried to break my arm. 'We are going to throw you out of the window because you are a communist.' I was allowed to go to the toilet twice in four days for three nights. I drank water in those days and three nights.

What had Dlamini's crime been to justify this treatment?