

World and Nation

South African blacks boycott classes to protest apartheid

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Thousands of black students boycotted classes on the first day of the new school term Wednesday, in a protest against apartheid.

Police reported scattered, isolated, rioting but no deaths. In Soweto, the nation's largest black area, southwest of Johannesburg, students roamed the dusty streets as soldiers aboard armored personnel carriers took up positions in schoolyards.

No students attended classes at 174 of the 7,000 black schools in South Africa and attendance appeared to vary from 5 percent to 95 percent at others, said Job Schoeman, spokesman for the national Department of Education and Training.

He said it was impossible Wednesday afternoon to know how many of the 1.73 million black students in

South Africa joined the boycott, which also protested the deployment of police and army units in black areas torn by 13 months of riots against white rule.

Student strikes became a popular form of protest in early 1984. Anger over apartheid, the South African government's institutionalized racial segregation policy, escalated into rioting that has claimed the lives of more than 750 blacks since that summer.

Schoeman said boycotts appeared to have the greatest effect at schools near Pretoria, which is 25 miles north of Johannesburg, and near East London and Port Elizabeth, in eastern Cape Province some 500 miles south of Johannesburg.

"There has been a considerable improvement," Schoeman said, comparing Wednesday's boycotts with those called before the imposition of emergency rule in 36 regions July

21. He said about 200 black schools had no attendance at one point before the government's emergency declaration.

Thousands of students have been detained without charges under the emergency decree, and some complain they were tortured while being denied access to lawyers or family.

Schools were open in Cape Town, scene of day-and-night rioting in late August and during the first two weeks of September. The day before, many of the area's 360,000 mixed-race students, who are called "colored" by the South African government, boycotted classes.

The action Wednesday indicates students are able to organize boycotts despite the Aug. 28 ban of the Congress of South African Students, the main black student alliance that has been blamed for previous boycotts.

House passes bill

Surgeon General given power to combat AIDS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With a congressman evoking Rock Hudson's memory, the House on Wednesday overwhelmingly approved giving the U.S. surgeon general the power to shut down public bath houses and massage parlors in the war against AIDS.

"I personally met Rock Hudson on a movie set," said Rep. Robert Dornan, R-Calif., who introduced the bath house measure, which passed on a 417-8 vote. Hudson, the Hollywood movie idol who recently revealed he had AIDS, died Wednesday.

"The potential for hurting our society is reaching almost catastrophic proportions," Dornan said, claiming that Congress and medical authorities have not moved more swiftly against AIDS because of lobbying by homosexuals.

The bath house bill is an "opening shot" in what Dornan promised would be a series of GOP-led mea-

sures aimed at protecting the general population from AIDS.

Rep. William Dannemeyer, R-Calif., who has said publicly that "God's plan for man was Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve," is seeking support for a series of proposals, including banning children with AIDS from schools.

Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., chairman of a House health subcommittee, claimed the bath house amendment was unnecessary because Surgeon General C. Everett Koop already had the power to shut down the facilities.

The measure was aimed at "bashing gays," he said, adding some Republicans are trying to "demagogue the issue" of AIDS.

Rep. Ted Weiss, D-N.Y., said the provision was intended to somehow single out homosexuals as "in some way cavalier and disregarding" of AIDS. Closing bath houses should be the prerogative of city officials, he said.

Shirley Barth, a spokesman for the Public Health Service, said lawyers are trying to determine what the surgeon general's authority is. But she said bath houses have always been considered a local issue.

Bath houses have been targeted because they are considered by some to be nests of promiscuous homosexual sex, a major method of AIDS transmission.

The bath house measure was attached to a \$104.9 billion appropriation bill which will provide money for the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education in fiscal year 1986. That passed 322-107.

Included in the bill is \$189.7 million for research and other activities involving acquired immune deficiency syndrome. That represents \$70 million more than the amount requested by the Reagan administration, and an increase of \$90 million over 1985.

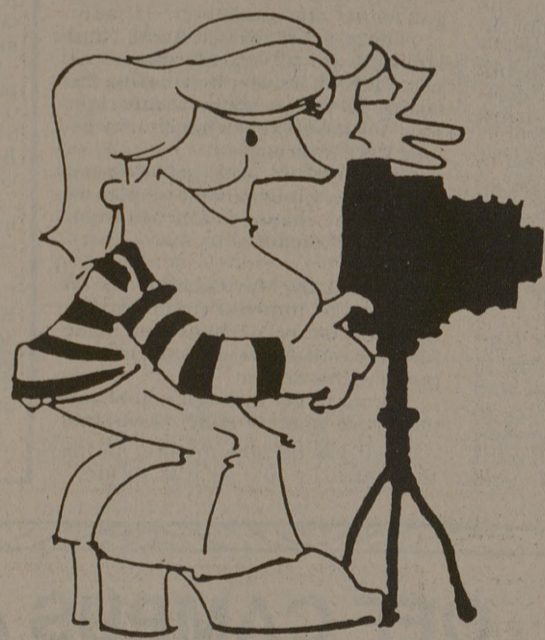
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