World and Nation

Blacks in South Africa now returning to school

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa -Black students ended two years of school boycotts Tuesday and streamed back to classes for the new academic year on the strength of a pact parents reached with the white-led government.

Attendance was heavy as schools reopened in urban centers including Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, where boycotts cut attendance for much of 1984

On some days in recent months, more than 200,000 black students boycotted classes out of 1.7 million enrolled in urban areas. The boycotts have been a central factor in 17 months of racial unrest that led to the deaths of more than 1,000 people, most of them blacks.

Outside a school in Johannes-

burg's huge black township of Soweto, police used tear gas to break up groups of chanting students, residents said. But there were no other

burg's huge black township of Soweto, per noted the accord could be threatened by such incidents.

Boycotts over black demands for reports of trouble, and the fragile accord appeared to have opened the door to normalizing the long-troubled black schools.

Police reported the stabbing deaths of four black men in a fight between rival gangs at a squatter camp outside Cape Town. Police headquarters in Pretoria also acknowledged riot patrols shot dead a 15-year-old girl and a 35-year-old man Monday in Kagiso, west of Johannesburg.

The girl was slain after police broke up a rally to debate whether to return to school, one of several such meetings banned by authorities. The Kagiso youths decided to go to school Tuesday, but a black newspa-

Boycotts over black demands for equal education with white children started in early 1984 as part of the protest against apartheid, the system of legal racial segregation under which 5 million whites deny the vote and other rights to 24 million blacks.

A breakthrough came in late December, when education officials negotiated with the National Parents' Crisis Committee, a group with widespread backing from activist youths.

Demands included the withdrawal of soldiers from riot duty in the townships, an end to the state of emergency and the release of detained leaders as well as educational

Study says elderly's disuse of mental skills causes loss

Associated Press

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — New results from a study of elderly people indicate that the partial loss of certain mental skills may be due more to disuse than disease and can be reversed with simple mental exer-

A study of 229 members of Puget Sound Group Health, a health maintenance organization in Seattle, showed that of those whose inductive reasoning and spatial orienta-tion skills had declined since 1970, about 40 percent were able to re-coup the losses after five one-hour training sessions.

The findings are important because "in studies of later adulthood the assumption has been made that when decline begins to occur that it is irreversible," said researcher Sherry Willis, a human development associate professor at Pennsylvania State University.

"I would say that much of what we call decline is presumably not irreversible; that what we call decline appears to be, for many people function of disuse," Willis said.

ing crossword puzzles or playing necessary for reading road maps or word games for inductive reasoning, following instructions for assemor woodworking or intricate needle-point for spatial orientation.

"I would say that much of what we call decline is presumably not irreversible." - Sherry Willis, associate professor at Pennsylvania

State University.

The study was conducted from 1983 to 1985 by Willis and K. Warner Schaie.

toral student at the University of the rest remained stable. Washington.

Inductive reasoning, the ability to See relationships or make inferences, sessions, 40 percent of the decliners

Some suggestions include work- two- or three-dimensional objects, is bling things such as furniture.

> Researchers have found that on the average these two cognitive skills show an earlier decline, beginning in the mid-60s, than other skills and therefore give researchers a larger sample population, Willis said.

> The 229 people studied, who ranged in age from 62 to 94, had been tested in 1970 on those skills as part of Schaie's larger longitudinal

Based on a comparison of results from standardized tests of the two cognitive skills from 1970 and prior Schaie began the Seattle Longito to the training, Willis found that tudinal study in 1956 while a docadout 60 percent had declined, and about 60 percent had declined, and

After the five one-hour training is used to comprehend what you had returned to 1970 levels and read, such as directions on a mediabout half "improved significantly

cine bottle. Spatial orientation, literally the ability to turn in your mind Mexicans seeking to fulfill federal orders

7:25-9:45

7:15-9:15

sified

MEXICO CITY - With an 8,900foot cloud of smog hanging over the city, government and private offi-cials held urgent meetings Tuesday on how to fulfill federal mandates to stagger working hours and reduce

The Ecology and Urban Development Department issued the orders in response to a month-long fices, pollution blight being blamed for headaches, dizziness, queasiness and hour. intestinal problems among the city's 18 million residents.

Daily temperature inversions have trapped factory emissions and the uncontrolled exhaust from 2.2 million vehicles in the mountain-ringed city. Sustained winds of 62 mph (100 kmh) would be needed to blow the smog away, according to scientists quoted by the government newspaper El Nacional.

Ecology Secretary Guillermo Car-

rillo Arena announced the anti-pollution program Monday after tour- emissions and the probable transfer ing the city with President Miguel de of 32 factories, include cement la Madrid. The central part of the plants, out of the city by 1987. metropolitan area, known as the Federal District, is a department of restricted, in the hope that residents

rogram calls for

hours in government and private of-fices, stores and schools, beginning averaged 8,900 feet in depth in rein February, to spread out the rush- cent days.

pected to keep 450,000 cars off the closed completely.

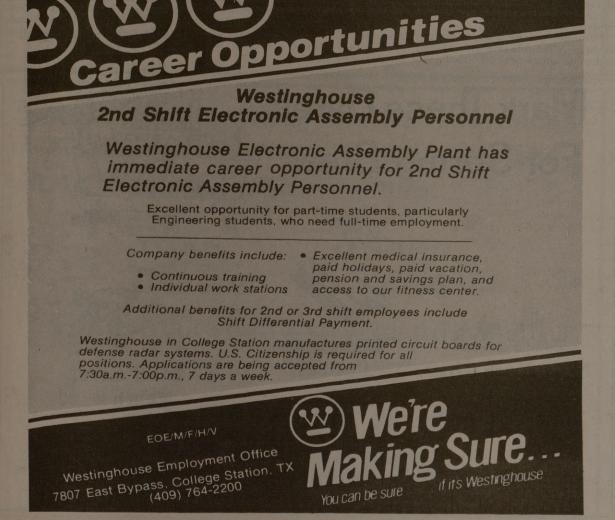
non-polluting fuels in its plants in with alcohol to combat the extra pollution.

will use mass transportation, the department said. El Nacional said auto • Rearrangement of working exhausts contribute most of the pol-

• Restriction of private vehicle use to six days a week, with every vehicle carrying a colored sticker to identify the day it may not be used. The move, to begin with sticker distribution in about 10 days, is expected to keep 450,000 cars off the closed completely. To avoid the dizziness, headaches

Health officials also urged that • A request that the state petro- drinking water, which normally leum monopoly Pemex switch to must be boiled before use, be boiled

• Strict monitoring of factory



BUSINESS

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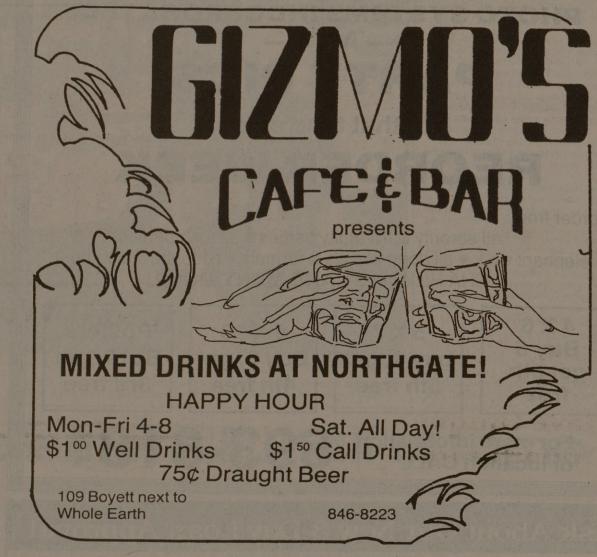
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