

'American trip made us better South Africans,' say trio back from U.S.

A.F.S. STUDENTS HIT AT CRITICS

Matie girl
guest of
Negroes

SUNDAY TIMES REPORT-
ER

CAPE TOWN, Saturday.
MELANIE HOPE is not
the only South African
student who stayed with a
Negro family while on an
American Field Service ex-
change programme.

Nineteen-year-old Ma-
rianne Garisch, a first-year
University of Stellenbosch
student, daughter of Dr. and
Mrs. C. F. A. Garisch, of
Ladysmith, stayed for two
nights and a day with a
Negro family just before
Melanie left America on her
return to South Africa.

Miss Garisch has refused
to disclose the name of the
Negro family, but she said
today that her visit had
been a happy one. However,
she spent most of her visit
with a White family in
Pennsylvania.

She tried to be a "good
ambassador" for South Africa
during the year she spent
in the United States.

"I am proud of my South
Africanism, and I feel I
lived it out positively," said
Miss Garisch. "I believe that
we really succeeded in win-
ning many friends for South
Africa. It would be a pity if
our good work were to be
destroyed by bad publicity."

Mrs. Garisch said that she
and her husband were proud
of their daughter and were
"fully satisfied" with her
experience, Sapa reports.

"We are grateful to the
American Field Service for
the wonderful opportunity
they gave our daughter to
go to America, and we can
only speak of the A.F.S.
with the highest praise."

*They defend
Melanie and
exchange visits*

SUNDAY TIMES Reporter

CAPE TOWN, Saturday.

THREE American Field Service students who arrived back in
South Africa with Melanie Hope this week hit at anti-
A.F.S. criticism sparked off by Melanie's two-week stay with
a Negro family in New Jersey.

Nineteen-year-old Tim Noakes, of Tokai, Cape Town, a former
Bishops pupil, who says he is a strong Nationalist supporter, told me
he could see nothing wrong with Melanie's staying with the Browns.
To describe it as American indoctrination was "ridiculous."

Jean Mitchell, of Rondebosch, Cape, the second member of her family to go on an
A.F.S. scholarship — said that
the episode had been exaggera-
ted out of all proportion.

"There was no question of
this being an intentional step
by the A.F.S.," she said. "The
local community has a list of
names of people offering accom-
modation and they just send
you along to them."

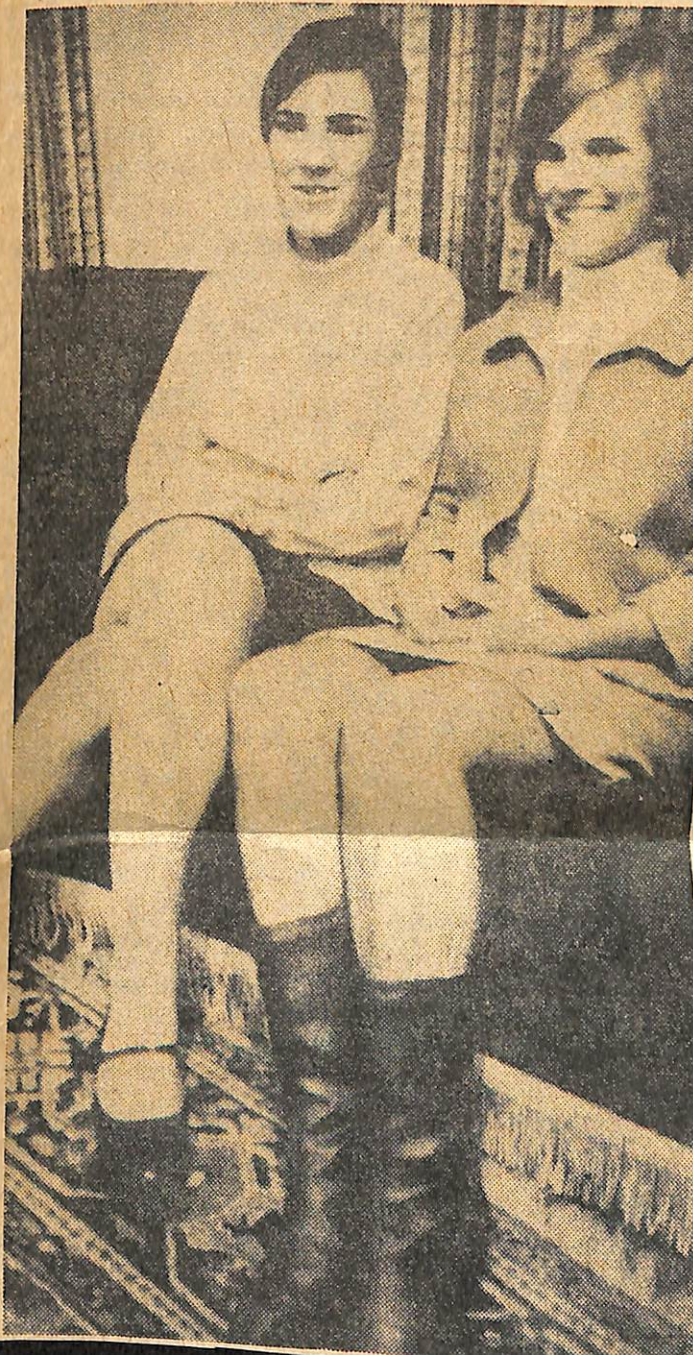
Sheila McKenzie, a 19-year-old
former pupil of Herschel School
in Claremont, said the A.F.S.
trip had given South Africans
a chance to help their country.

"Often you came across
people who thought South
Africans were cruel, terrible,
tyrannical types," she said.
"You could explain the posi-
tion and what we are trying
to do here. They were then
able to understand."

"Some young Americans didn't
even know where South Africa
was. For others, their Press is
so biased and prejudiced against
South Africa that just to hear
this country's name is like listen-
ing to a slur."



RIGHT: Jean (right) and Mary Mitchell,
two sisters who have been to America
under the A.F.S. scheme and returned
better South Africans, says their father.
ABOVE: Sheila McKenzie. She said: "We
helped many Americans to understand
South Africa's problems."



**Melanie uproar
a verkrampste
plot — Dawie**

By STANLEY UYS

CAPE TOWN, Saturday.

A SLASHING attack on the verkrampste for the

**Row over Wits.
S.R.C. move to
open pool
to non-Whites**

By CHRIS PRITCHARD

A ROW has broken out at the University of the Wit-
watersrand over a decision by the Students' Repre-
sentative Council in favour of opening the campus swim-
ming bath to non-White students.

The S.R.C. decision followed
non-White accusations, particu-
larly from Indian students, that
the student council set a double
standard by tolerating a segre-
gated swimming bath while it
was anti-apartheid in theory.

The decision was backed by 21
of the 22 S.R.C. members. Only
a conservative representative,
Mr. Dave Russell, voted against
it. The other conservative stu-
dent on the S.R.C., Mr. Brian
Musto, supported the demand for
an integrated swimming bath.

Mr. Musto told me yester-
day: "I don't see what harm
this kind of integration can
do. If the non-White students
want to swim with us they
should be allowed to do so.
After all, there are only about
200 non-Whites at the univer-
sity."

However, his decision has
come under fire from the uni-
versity Conservative Club, which
has launched a fierce campaign
against the move to integrate
the swimming bath.

Resolutions attacking the S.R.C.

go to America, and what we can only speak of the A.F.S. with the highest praise."

The family is Afrikaans-speaking.

Mrs. Garisch said: "Marianne wrote to us from the United States about her stay with a Negro family. They were refined people with a high standard of living — they are people of our own standing."

During Marianne's stay with the Negro family she spent "nearly a whole night" talking to them about South Africa.

Mrs. Garisch said she had allowed her daughter to go to the United States "not so much for the experience she would gain, but for what she could do for our country."

tion and what we are trying to do here. They were then able to understand us much better."

Among those who contributed to the Hope controversy with an onslaught on the American Field Service this week were the Rev. D. F. de Beer, Public Morals Secretary of the Nederlands Gereformeerde Kerk, who described Melanie's visit to the Negro family as "subversive."

He was joined in his attack by Dr. C. P. Mulder, M.P. (Randfontein), chief information officer of the Nationalist Party, Mr. Jan Visse, M.P. for Gezina, and Mr. Jaap Marais, M.P. (Innesdal).

No visas?

Dr. Mulder said the placing of a South African with a Negro family had been intentional. He hoped that this incident would "open the eyes of South African parents so that they can see what happens to their children if they take part in this exchange programme."

He also said it was time the

South Africa that just to hear this country's name is like listening to a dirty word.

"Being in contact with scores of students gave us a chance to explain things to them. What we had to say could only be for the good of our country. We were able to give them our ideas and to get behind their emotions on the subject."

"Although they may still not agree with us, it certainly helped them towards a better understanding of our problems."

"At no stage did they try to cram the American way of life or ideas down our throats. To talk of American 'indoctrination' is ridiculous. A good percentage of us were Government supporters."

"Being with A.F.S. strengthened my views more than anything else. After looking at the situation there and at their race problems, I felt a lot more secure in my faith in the South African Government."

Not planned

On the Melanie Hope issue, Tim said: "A list of names and addresses of the people we were to stay with was presented. The choice of which one you'd go to was made virtually two or three minutes before you left to join them. It was not intentional or planned."

Jean Mitchell said that Melanie Hope's stay with the Browns had not been arranged by the A.F.S.: "It was done by the local community," she said.

"I will never regret having gone with the A.F.S., despite the criticism against it here. There was no question of indoctrination. Going there made you think a lot more about life, your country and other people."

"It's silly to say they wanted to make Americans out of us. On the contrary, you became even more South African. You didn't realise how South African you were until you went away from home."

"The suggestion that steps should be taken against the A.F.S. can only do a lot of harm and destroy a chance of building up good relations with many young Americans."

Jean's elder sister, Mary, went on an A.F.S. scholarship two years ago. Their father, Dr. F. K. Mitchell, said that nothing would change his mind about the value of the A.F.S.

"Both girls have come back better South African citizens than they were before they left."

"Nonsense"

Sheila McKenzie also said it was "absolute nonsense" to say that Melanie Hope had been placed with a Negro family because she was a White South African.

"The local community had to find homes for us—quite a task when you consider that there were about 150 students altogether."

"With the A.F.S. I learnt more than I could have learnt anywhere else in six years. Being there helped me to get a broader view of the problems we have in our country."

"They didn't try to make up your mind for you or to 'Americanise' you. It was left to us to form our own opinions."

"Once you're there you stand up for your country and you are very proud of it. Nobody else speaks up for South Africa, so you do yourself."

"I'm confident that we helped many people understand South Africa's problems more clearly."

SLASHING attack on the verkrampes for their "exploitation" of the Melanie Hope affair is made today by Dawie, political columnist of The Burger.

He says: "The real target of the You-Know-Whos (Dawie's name for the Verkrampes) is not the American Field Service, but the whole outward policy, in which is included our Africa diplomacy, immigration, the ideal of national unity and general Afrikaner contact with others."

"Under all these headings delicate exploitable situations certainly will arise continually, similar to the Hope incident."

"Considerable balance and soberness will be required to handle them one by one. If every time a storm can be raised over them, the outward policy will not survive."

Dawie says the impression created in America by the Hope incident is that South Africans find all contact between Whites and non-Whites abhorrent, and that South Africans are so susceptible to "liberal infection" that they withdraw from all contact as if they have been shot. This is not true, he says.

Warning

"In any event, this incident has shown what the You-Know-Who mentality is capable of doing. It is a warning against what awaits us if this were to become the dominant mentality in South Africa."

Dawie says the You-Know-Whos have been agitating for years against the American Field Service as though it were a sly indoctrination plan of American liberals.

If you did not agree with them over the A.F.S., then you were a liberal yourself or worse, busy selling out your country to America. In those circles, your attitude to the A.F.S. became a kind of test of your Afrikanership.

Because things have been doing badly for the You-Know-Whos lately, he says, the Hope incident was like manna from heaven.

"This is what comes of playing boetie-boetie with the Americans! We told you so!"

Dawie goes on: "Now an unbelievable war dance is taking place over it, and if you do not want to take part in it they will grill you

alive over the flames of anti-liberalism."

"On something over which an eyebrow should have been lifted and a discreet inquiry made the appearance of a national and even international crisis is given, under headlines as big as those used at the time of Robert Kennedy's murder."

Dawie says that if the A.F.S. can survive this incident it can consider itself lucky.

No problem

Dawie relates how a retiring South African ambassador took a motor trip through Africa, with a young Afrikaner — "Call him Van der Merwe" — who had never been outside the country — as chauffeur.

At a reception attended by a large number of Black V.I.P.s, the Ambassador kept an anxious eye on Van der Merwe who was seated next to "a huge Black mammy."

But the two fell easily into conversation as if they had known each other for years — "No one could have done it better than Van der Merwe precisely because it came so naturally."

Dawie compliments Melanie Hope on acquitting herself equally well — she knew how to handle an unusual situation better than those who were creating an uproar back in South Africa.

"Let us hope that there are enough Van der Merwes in South Africa to keep this country and its public opinion on an even keel in the stormy and treacherous waters of internal and external relationships in which we are destined to sail indefinitely."

NAT. FUSS OVER MELANIE HOPE

SUNDAY TIMES Reporter

PRETORIA, Saturday.

NATIONALIST PARTY newspapers and politicians came out volubly this week over the Melanie Hope case — without waiting for the facts to be made known by the American Field Service.

Miss Hope, 19, of Pretoria, stayed with a Negro couple in New Jersey as part of the exchange-student scheme.

Nationalist M.P.s advocated a searching inquiry by the Government into the aims, objects and financial backing of the American Field Service. Mr. Jan Visse, M.P. for Gezina, even proposed that visas should be refused to Americans who come to South Africa as exchange students.

Others who openly supported the idea of Government intervention were Dr. C. P. Mulder, M.P. for Randfontein, Mr. Jaap Marais, M.P. for Innesdal and Mr. Sarel Reinecke, M.P. for Pretoria District.

In identically worded reports two Afrikaans newspapers in Johannesburg and Pretoria stated that the idea of official inquiry "also enjoys departmental support." The Department is presumably National Education, Arts and Science headed by Senator Jan de Klerk.

Statement

Later, Mrs. J. M. de Villiers, regional representative of the A.F.S. in Pretoria, made a statement.

Mrs. De Villiers said that it was self-evident that a South African exchange student should not be allowed to be placed with a non-White family. There was an agreement to this effect with A.F.S. headquarters in New York.

She explained how "this first and only flagrant mistake" came about.

"After completion of their year of living with an American family, students spend three weeks on bus tours of the United States. At the end of the tours about 3,000 students come together in and around New York to prepare for going home."

"It is up to the local authorities to place students in homes for this short time. The authorities get lists of names of students and their countries of origin, but unfortunately the fallible human factor was made a shocking mistake as South Africa and Africa were regarded as the same country."

ions attacking the S.R.C. decision have also been passed by the Wits. branch of the Jeugbond and by the Afrikaanse Studentebond branch at Wits.

An S.R.C. spokesman said yesterday that neither of those organisations operate on the campus. "They are not recognised student organisations at Wits," he said.

Mr. John Kane-Berman, president of the S.R.C., will send a letter to the University Council this week informing it of the S.R.C. decision and asking that the swimming bath be integrated.

He said yesterday that he would "rather not comment" at this stage on the swimming bath row. "It is a delicate question."

Student leaders told me yesterday that the swimming bath had been segregated for many years.

"No one seems sure whether it was a formal or informal decision but it has been common knowledge that the pool was for White students only," an S.R.C. member told me. "This state of affairs has upset our Indian students, particularly, and time and again they have said we have been hypocritical in tolerating the Whites-only bath."