



Some of the 17 members of the Springbok Stampede who are in Benoni at the moment are, from left to right, Brian Adams and Gabriele Maag, who are both from Cape Town, Don Rennie from Umtali, Rhodesia, and Meryl Christian from Durban.

Stampeding Springboks swing into Benoni

The Springbok Stampede, a group of young people whose arrival is liable to have a startling effect on any town, hit Benoni at the week-end.

The Springbok Stampede is basically a missionary folk-singing group, which believes that while Southern Africa has a unique and natural role in the development of the African continent, technical and financial aid alone do not answer the needs of Africa and that apathy and self-interest must be replaced by initiative and selflessness.

"We believe that character must be built, from top to bottom of the continent—then Africa, led by God, will spearhead a new road for East and West to follow," a brochure introducing Springbok Stampede explains.

Groups professing this sort of aim are not really unusual, but in other ways Springbok Stampede is unique.

The 17 members currently in Benoni are studying for their school-leaving examinations not only by correspondence but also largely without adult supervision and while travelling from place to place by mini-bus.

They have just returned from a trip to Rhodesia, will be in Benoni until Tuesday and will go from here to Welkom.

They will return to Benoni in time to give one of their shows at the Town Hall on October 8 and will write their final examinations at the Johannes-

burg Technical College towards the end of the year.

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Sandwiched in between all this will — it is hoped — be a trip to Mocambique towards the end of August.

The group's classroom at the moment is the pleasant one behind St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. They have not always been so lucky and have in the past studied in hotel dining-rooms, in the bus while on the move, parks and libraries.

Members agreed that this type of "lesson" helps develop the personality by encouraging initiative.

This week, finding some problems arising in the study of mathematics, the group asked one of their teachers, Mr Jan Horn, to come out from Johannesburg to lend them a hand.

Mr Horn, who holds a masters degree in physics from the University of Stellenbosch, told the City Times that he finds teaching in these conditions stimulating.

"In dealing with this type of pupil, the teacher is inspired to adopt new methods and strive to be more creative," Mr Horn commented.

The youngsters who are involved in Springbok Stampede's travelling school are proof that informality does not mean a lack of discipline.

They dress casually but neatly, with due regard to the weather and despite all their travelling and singing the school's pupils

have in the past achieved commendable results in examinations.

There is talent in the group, as the fact that its second long-playing record "Sound of the South", which was recently released, was written by themselves.

And they are bubbling with enthusiasm — "We are a platform for the younger generation and what it is offering the future," Brian Adams, a stampeding Springbok from Cape Town, who is the group's drummer, told the City Times.