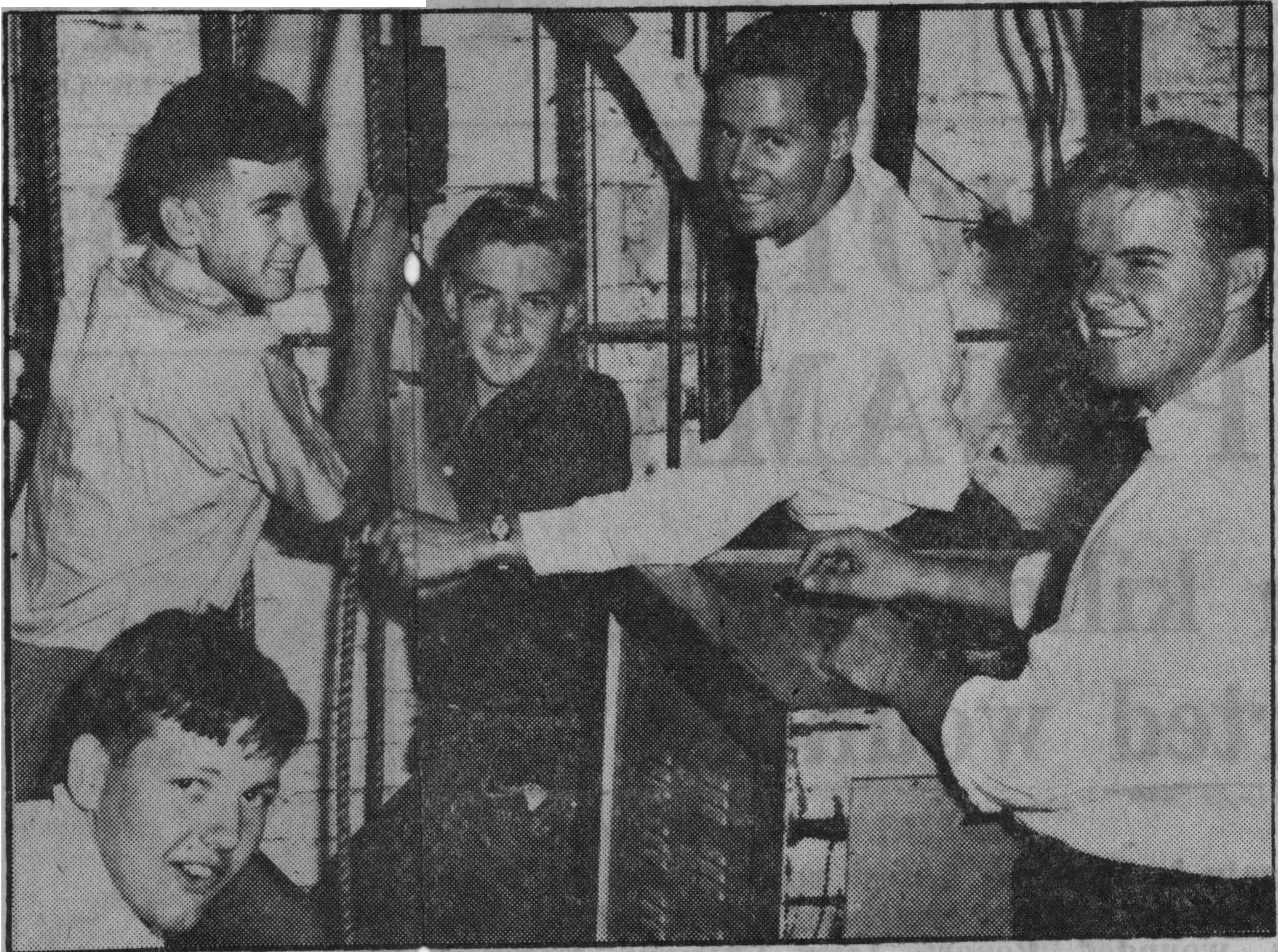


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EASTERN PROVINCE HERALD DE

YOUNG BACKSTAGE TEAM



Volunteers help produce play

Herald Reporter

NNINE White South African high school pupils and university students have given up part of their holidays to help bring to theatregoers a play in which all but one member of the cast are Africans.

They form the backstage team at a Port Elizabeth cinema where the Moral Re-Armament play, "The Dictator's Slippers," is now being staged. Their services are being rendered free of charge.

John Rogan, aged 22, a Witwatersrand University student, is leader of the group which includes Neels Claassen, 18, son of Mr Justice Claassen, Judge of the Transvaal High Court.

The others are Mike Silberbauer, 18, of Natal University, Al Morgan, 18, of Witwatersrand University, Rodney Morgan, 17, of Northview High School, Johannesburg, Murray, 16, and Gray Hofmeyr, 14, both of the Pretoria Boys' High School, Pieter Horn, 16, of the Hartswater Hoërskool, and Peter Knoetze, 14, of Vaal High School.

MESSAGE

Pieter Horn's brother, Jan, is one of four Stellenbosch University students now attending a Moral Re-Armament conference in London.

Said John Rogan: "The play has a message which we feel should be brought to the public. Although we don't actually appear on stage, our work here is our contribution to helping the African cast towards this end."

Neels Claassen added: "The production costs would have been much higher if professionals had worked backstage."

The group will return to their homes when the run of the play ends in Port Elizabeth.

Voluntary backstage workers in action at last night's production of "The Dictator's Slippers" in the wings of a City cinema, are (left to right) Rodney Morgan, who is in charge of sound, Pieter Horn and Peter Knoetze pulling stage-prop ropes, John Rogan the stage manager, and Neels Claassen, the chief carpenter, who is seen operating the lights' switchboard.