

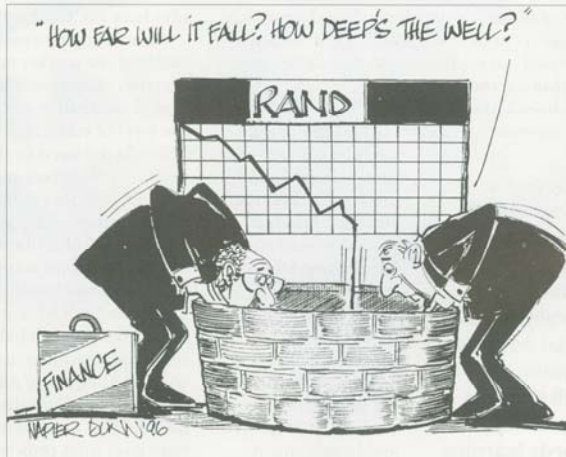
Mozambique-born Americo Valentim (Junior) studied art at Technikon Natal before embarking on a career in advertising. He now divides his time between the advertising industry and cartooning for *The Daily News*, *Sunday Tribune* and *The Saturday Paper*. One of his most popular cartoons is the "Grommit" strip.



Napier Dunn, *The Mercury's* cartoonist, is also multi-talented. After studying at the Royal College of Music, he played the French horn in a number of orchestras around the world, including the London Philharmonic and Sydney Symphony. He started sketching fellow musicians during his years in orchestras, and found that cartooning and caricaturing became an obsession. While in Hong Kong, where he lived for six years, he went into cartooning full-time. Before moving to Durban, he worked on newspapers in Japan, Australia and Alaska.



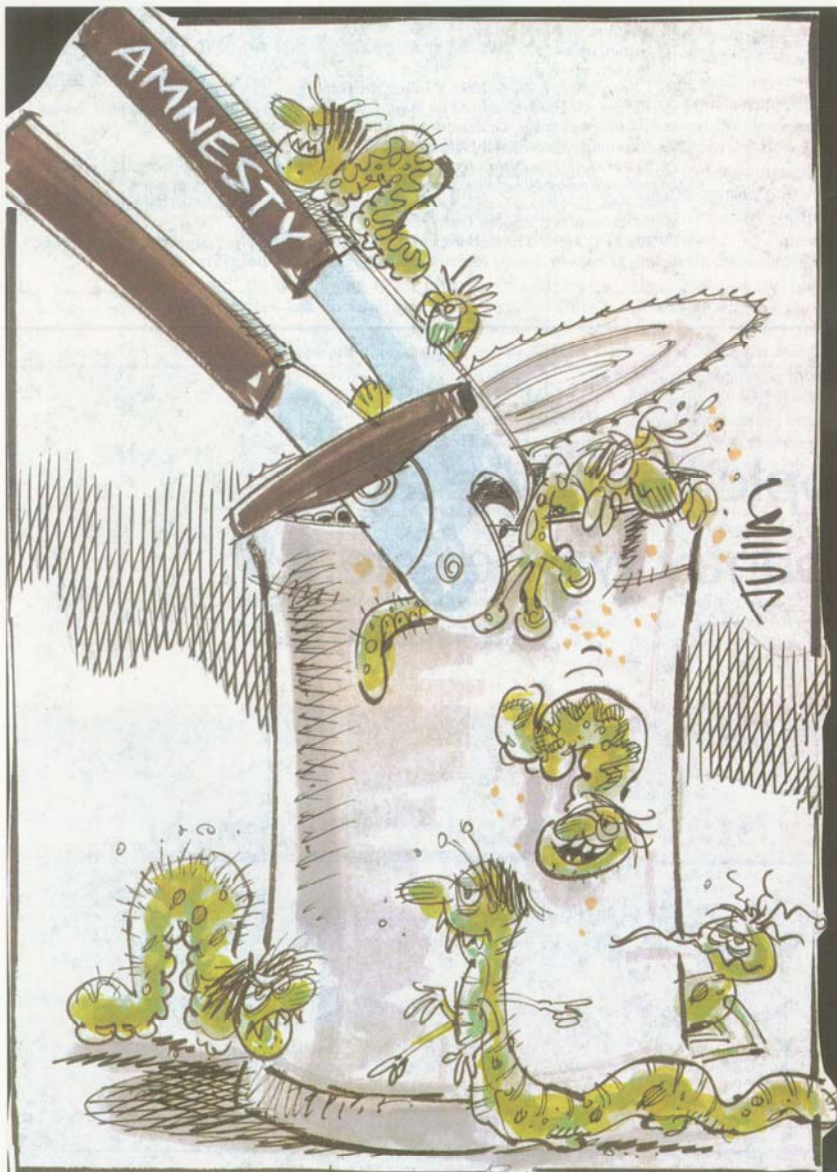
Durban-born Nanda Soobben has drawn about 400 cartoons on social, political, sports and religious life, and his work has been published in more than 200 newspapers around the world. His social realist water-colours have been exhibited as far afield as New York and Rio de Janeiro. He summed up his approach: "As a painter, I reflect life as I see it. As a cartoonist, I challenge the status quo — I don't reflect it". He has devised a socially-aware comic strip called "The Otherside" to spread his views.



Laugh

PEN SKETCHES

the beloved country



HIGH reader interest in newspaper cartooning was evident at a recent exhibition in Durban by three of South Africa's leading cartoonists, **Nanda Soobben, Junior Valentim and Napier Dunn.**

An unexpectedly heavy attendance during the opening extended throughout the three weeks of the "Laugh the Beloved Country" exhibition, held at the Durban Art Gallery. David Wightman, editor of *The Mercury*, paid tribute to the three highly talented cartoonists at the official opening, adding that local newspapers had been fortunate to find professionals of this calibre following the retirement of the internationally-acclaimed cartoonist, Jock Leyden.