

pe Town in the
74.

Line

old Coloured boy in Cape
an apartheid tragedy almost
a's history.

der a train at a suburban sta-
his white girlfriend was preg-
her, because the Mixed Mar-
ge across the colour line.

ie money he had—30 rand—to
or the baby. He asked her in a
baby after him if it was a boy.
money and used it to pay for
tion could be obtained because

commit suicide by cutting her
was unaware that her boyfriend
l of his death after he failed to
se her to a cinema.

rd, 17, said afterwards: "I did
l was Coloured. The first I knew
old me. It would not have made
If only he had known that. We
o another country and got mar-
life away from apartheid."

not being revealed, because his
for white existence. The

They have five children, and the family lived as whites in a white suburb. They could not send the children to school, because their birth certificates classified them as Coloured and they would have been refused admission to a white school. This would have begun events that would have led to their exposure, their expulsion from the white suburb, and the loss of their white friends.

Whenever there was a knock at the door during the mornings, she would hide the children at the back of the house, in case it was a school inspector. "We are so frightened," the mother said. "Everytime there is a knock on the door we think they have come to arrest us." (They are contravening the Immorality Act by cohabiting.)

The mother said there were frequent family rows as a result of the strain under which they lived. "The final and fatal row came on the morning my son died. In a moment of anger, I threatened to telephone Sonya's parents and tell them he was Coloured. My son walked out of the house and I never saw him alive again. I feel so guilty."

She also tried to take her life, unsuccessfully. The son, in dying, bequeathed another problem. Because he was Coloured, he could not be buried in a white cemetery—friends would have asked why he was buried in a Coloured cemetery and the family secret would have been revealed. So he was cremated and the ashes put in an urn.

"I have hidden my son's ashes in the house," the mother said, "so that our friends won't ask embarrassing questions."

Sonya said her parents had forbidden her to see her boyfriend's family again. "I don't know much about politics," she said, "but if only he had told me. If only these laws that caused all this had not existed."