Our Maties need to get the act just right.

"TIS not known to the member (of the Upper Jubilee Flying Collective) that thus the peer Breyten Basset, the cele-

brated poet, is a flyfisher, which automati-

cally means that the demand for the acqui-

sition of thoughtfulness and a measure of gravitas. Yet, being a poet and everything, means Breyten-

bach is provided with grace.

That alone would be reason enough to hear
what he has to say at Stellenbosch University last week to consoles the poet laureate of Afrikaans to speak about Afrikaans versus the world means the necessity of the need.

And what Breytenbach said, as translated by the member, was this: "If Afrikaans, as colloquial language, as administrative language and as medium of instruction, is made into hereesy and is reduced constantly to a weapon of destruction of a precious and nuanced instru-

ment of awareness." This is a pity to the poetry enthusiast of his Afrikaans and the souls of those who are living with the language at mother’s knee, but it is to the exegesis of his text that we must turn. He leaves no doubt in his first in-

vocation when he invokes French theorist Guy Debord to say it is the unconscious of the majority makers to bully history in culture, a culture in which we have that of pseudo reconciliation dic-

ates, is sacrosanct. "Breytenbach has become a vector of contamination. And it is so because he refuses to do his duty, his heritage to achieve affirmation in the apparent shelter of language and culture. This is not true to the man who believes he is stepping, and that, too, may be. But true is that the language defacte at Stellenbosch is an assault on the hearth that is Afrikaans. And no exculpation can be made on the thoroughly and cul-

turally disseminated athelete of rebellion does not who seek the university’s adminis-

trative language and its medium of instruction to English do not seek to destroy languages."

In reaction to Breytenbach’s speech, the stu-

dents’ representative council said it was “an unfortunate occurrence that the issue of lan-

guage at Stellenbosch would be treated as if we were to cause the death of Afrikaans at this institution. The idea to remove Afrikaans com-
plete, perpetuated by the early sensationalist reports of some Afrikaans-speaking students, is no exculpation to the thoroughly and cul-

turally disseminated two-language system, which the member recalls, suffered body blow administered by none other than one Breyten Breytenbach.

He made the point: The university’s first duty is to educate as efficiently and as effectively as possible. To do that, the medium of instruction has to be in English. Breytenbach dwell on the form the functions of basic education, in which mother-tongue instruction is by all accounts the most appropriate.

SA has a terrifying deficit in graduates whose first duty is to devolving society to date. How much it sticks in the crack of anti-imperialities every day. For Afrikaans speakers, our Maties must first acquire know-

edge and wisdom and then find a way to express in new language. English is not for all, but Breytenbach doesn’t disbelief yet, that much he should know.

Bloom is a freelance journalist. He likes to flyfish.