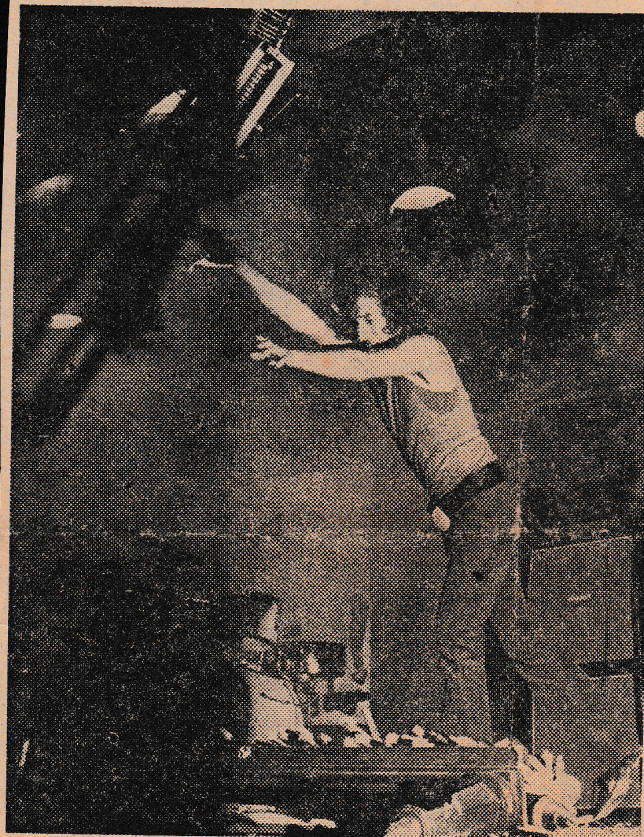


SUNDAY TIMES, FEBRUARY 21, 1971



Suck members Gil Gilroy (right) and Moose Forer attack their piano with axes.



Moose Forer throws part of the piano into the audience.

## SABC BAN THEIR RECORDS

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Suck becomes the second pop group in South Africa to be banned by the SABC. The first group was the Beatles who were banned after John Lennon made a remark about the Beatles being more popular than Jesus.

When I phoned the SABC this week I was told that no official would be able to speak to me about the matter, but an informed source told me that Suck have been banned because of their name and the reputation which they have acquired throughout South Africa for violence.

Group leader Gil Gilroy told me: "The SABC ban is ridiculous. What Suck does is art. We are protesting about violence in society. We should be allowed to perform as we wish to without censorship."

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piano with axes.



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# Violent Suck group smash equipment on Jo'burg stage

By DAVID BARRITT

**SUCK — POP MUSIC'S ANSWER TO A DEMOLITION SQUAD** — caused a sensation at the Johannesburg City Hall on Friday night when, as the culmination of their performance, they went berserk on stage. They destroyed all their equipment and threw the twisted remains into the cowering audience.

The people in the packed hall gaped as guitarists Moose Forer and Gil Gilroy grabbed axes and attacked their piano, reducing it in minutes to splinters.

A short while earlier groans of sympathy welled up from the packed throng when singer Andy Ioannides writhed in pain as Gilroy lashed him with a whip.

Throughout the 30-minute performance three members of Johannesburg's Vice Squad sat in the second row taking notes.

"We shall be making a detailed report to Brigadier Buys, head of C.I.D.," one told me after the show.

Suck, who are notorious for the violence in their act — which they claimed is "completely spontaneous" — went further on Friday than ever before.

Possibly the group were incensed by the behaviour of a small section of the audience. Early in the act a bottle thrown at bassist Moose Forer narrowly missed him. He had to be forcibly prevented from going into the audience in search of revenge.

## Cut off

The violence — which the group insist is "a protest against the violence in our society" — started when drummer Savvi Grande objected to something said by Gilroy.

He grabbed the microphone from the singer and attempted to shout obscenities at the crowd, but before he could do so impresario Ralph Simon disconnected the public address system.

Then Gilroy, in the middle of a song called "The Whip," suddenly produced a wicked, black-tipped whip and whipped the

singer, forcing him to his knees.

Next the piano was destroyed. Forer and Gilroy attacked the instrument with axes, showering the audience with splinters. When no more could be broken Forer hurled parts of it at SUNDAY TIMES photographer, Philip Silberman.

Forer lashed about the stage with the axe. By the time he, Gilroy and Ioannides walked off the stage only the drums were left. Grande hurled the drums around the stage, kicking them and hitting them against the floor until the were completely twisted.

Carried away, the audience started to scream in frenzied fashion: "Kill Savvi."

Ralph Simon rushed on stage and with the help of an official pulled Grande off the stage.

The stunned audience refused to go home. They crowded on stage, teenage girls scrambling among the wreckage for souvenirs.

Ralph Simon ruefully inspected the damage and told me: "I guess they got carried away but the audience loved it."

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