

'Our schools can never be normal again!

STUDENTS SET MARCH DEADLINE

AS thousands of students returned to school on January 28 after many months, they gave the government until March to meet their demands.

And, while students are back at school, there is still anger and frustration about conditions at school, lack of textbooks, police action at some schools and the refusal by the authorities to allow final exams to be written.

Schools unsettled

Many schools remained unsettled as pupils held meetings to discuss their demands, mainly for final exams to be written.

At most secondary schools in Guguletu, Nyanga, Langa, Zwelenthemba and Mbekweni, attendance was very low. One school reported only 70 pupils out of 700 attending.

At some schools, pupils walked out because there were no textbooks. In Bonteheuwel, pupils marched to the principals office to demand textbooks.

Police action continued at Rylands High and Groenvlei where teachers were forced to teach by police and soldiers. In Bellville, a number of students are believed to have been detained.

Students in the Western Cape and throughout the country have supported the call by the Soweto Parent's Crisis Committee's national education conference to suspend the boycott.

Democratic SRC's

The Western Cape Students Council (WECSO) said they had taken their decision in direct consultation with all students and bearing in mind the resolution of the Johannesburg conference.

"We need to stress, however, that our returning to class does not mean our schools will be 'normal' as they were before the boycott started. Our schools will be 'normal' as they were before the boycott started. Our schools can never be normal again.

"Too many of our people were killed, injured and detained in our struggle for decent education and our memories are filled with the sacrifices our students and parents went through.

"While back at school we will continue our struggle. We will form and participate in democratic SRCs, organise awareness programmes as part of our school day and we will intensify the campaign for the authorities to submit to our demands by March 1986 as decided by the SPCC conference."

WECSO said the decision had been further motivated by the need to consolidate the gains and victories achieved last year.

Wide support gained

"We have gained wide support for our demands. To our parents who supported us we are especially grateful. We want to emphasise that we will continue to organise ourselves in a democratic manner and will take all future decisions regarding the education struggle on this basis.

"We further need to stress that the boycott is merely suspended. It will be restarted if and when circumstances requires such a step. Should the authorities not listen to our demands by March then, as decided by the SPCC conference, we in consultation with parents, teachers and workers, will nationally decide what further action to take," said WECSO.

The WECSO statement was supported by the Athlone Student Action Committee (ASAC), the United Democratic Front and the Call of Islam.



PW tries to put on a show

..... But the people stick to their demands.

Vendors on strike

THE 209 newspaper-sellers on strike at the Allied Publishing firm have asked the community to support them.

The vendors went on strike on Friday January 17. They are demanding higher wages and better working conditions. On the Monday January 20, they were sacked by the Allied personnel manager, Miss G S McEwan. Allied is wholly owned by the Argus company.

Community leaders, priests and traders have agreed to put pressure on the Argus bosses to take back the vendors. Many people have also offered to help pay the vendors strike pay or to provide food parcels or soup kitchens.

Many workers have signed a petition in support of the vendors.

P W ignores people's demands

WITH his opening-of-parliament speech P W Botha again proved something that so many people have said often over the years:

He does not know how to solve the problems facing South Africa.

Botha's speech did not intend to do that. In fact, he was not even speaking to the people of South Africa. He was speaking to his friends in parliament, in America and in Britain.

For them, he used words like freedom and justice.

But WE the people have learnt not to listen to P W Botha's words.

We have learnt that his government's actions speak much louder than all their nice words.

When we are thrown out of our houses we know this is how this government deal with their problems.

When we feel the rubber bullets and sjamboks biting into our flesh, we know this is how this government deal with their problems.

When we feel the teargas burning our eyes and killing our little ones, we know this is how this government reacts to the crisis in our land.

When we see our loved ones being shot dead by police and army bullets, we know that his government has no solution.

When we think of the man who have been detained and are still detained, we cannot believe a single word P W Botha spoke.

Comment

These things will continue. Botha has warned that his forces will not hesitate to act. They have never hesitated, not before the state of emergency or under it.

The people have stated their demands quite clearly:

- Lift the state of emergency.
- Release all detainees and political prisoners.
- Unban the people's organisations.
- Allow exiles to return to the land of their birth.
- One person, one vote in a united South Africa.

Botha's speech did not address any of these demands. Now he wants to impose on us a "national statutory council" and "regional services council".

Like the tricameral parliament, these are undemocratic and will be rejected by the majority of the people.

But Botha will not listen to the people's demands.

And even if he listens, he will be unable to solve our problems.

Our problems will only be solved when the people of South Africa govern South Africa.

"This congress should lead the working class people of this country." Cyril Ramaphosa.

COSATU

Worker giant
now launched
in Cape Town

THESE words opened the launching of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) in November last year. And indeed, Cosatu, which represents half a million workers and 33 trade unions, is one of the most powerful worker organisations in South Africa's history.

Now the Western Cape region of COSATU has been launched. On 25 January, 1986, the 11 COSATU unions based in Cape Town came together to launch the regional structure and elect office bearers.

The unions together represent about 40 000 paid-up and 60 000 signed-up members in Cape Town. They are the Sweet Food and Allied Workers' Union (SFAWU); Food and Canning Workers'

Union (FCWU); Paper Wood and Allied Workers' Union (PWAU); Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union (CCAUSA); Retail and Allied Workers' Union (RAWU); South African Allied Workers' Union (SAAWU); Chemical and Industrial Workers' Union (CIWU); National Automobile and Allied Workers' Union (NAAWU); General Workers' Union (GWU); National Textile Workers' Union (NUTW); and the Cape Town Municipal Workers' Association (CTMWA).

The launching was also attended by three members of the

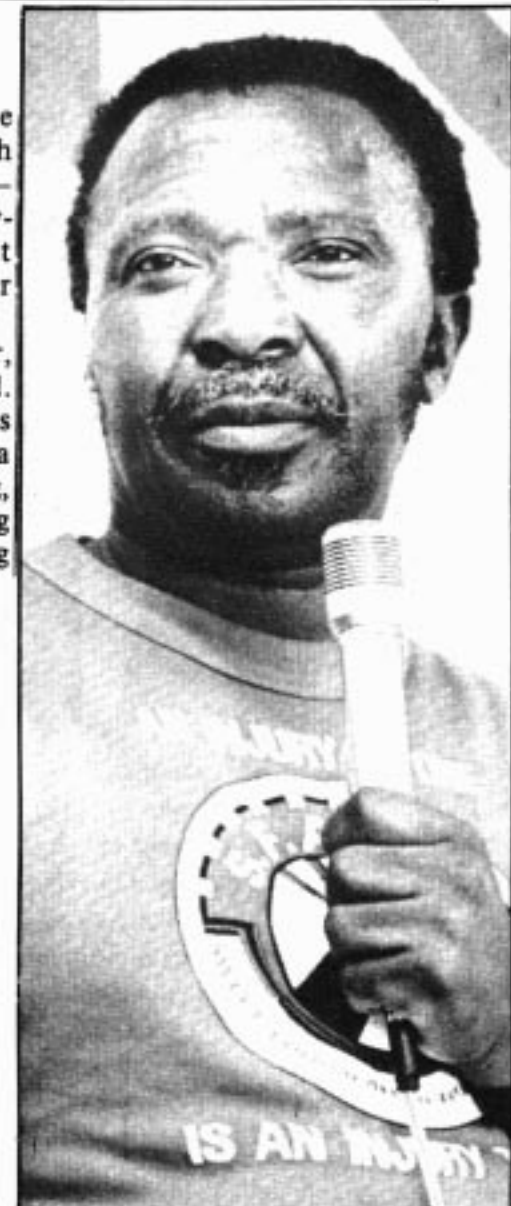
national COSATU executive - Elijah Barayi (President), Jay Naidoo (General secretary) and Makhulu Ledwaba (Vice-president). They presided over elections of the Cape Town COSATU executive. The new members of the Cape Town executive are: Mr Macwellington Mtiya (Chairperson) from SFAWU; Mr Noel Williams (Vice-chairperson) from SAAWU and Mr Nic Henwood (regional secretary) from GWU.

"COSATU's most immediate task is to build unions in every factory in Cape Town, and to unite them under

COSATU," Nic Henwood told us.

COSATU's first aim is to win the rights of workers in the factories. But it is concerned with other problems of workers - such as the pass laws, unemployment, and political oppression. It is willing to work with other organisations to end these evils.

In the words of a worker, "COSATU is a great step forward. We know that it will help us workers lead South Africa to a new life - free from suffering, exploitation and hardship. Long live the workers' struggle! Long live COSATU!"



ABOVE: MacWellington Mtiya - Regional chairperson of COSATU Western Cape.

LEFT: Elijah Barayi, National COSATU president, addresses the Western Cape launch.

COSATU teaches us to organise - Mtiya

MR McWELLINGTON Mtiya is the chairperson of the COSATU Western Cape. He grew up in a small town in the Ciskei. He came to Cape Town in 1966 as a contract worker for SA Breweries. He struggled with his fellow workers to solve their problems. In 1983 he helped organise the workers into the Sweet Food and Allied Workers' Union (SFAWU).

GRASSROOTS: How did you come to join the SFAWU?

MTIYA: First we had this other brewer's union. We joined this union, because we did not know any better. But we had many problems with this union.

GRASSROOTS: What sort of problems?

MTIYA: The only person we saw from the union was the secretary. He never discussed our problems with us. For example, we were earning very low wages. But he did not ask what wage we wanted. He just went to the management himself, and they decided what we must earn. Then he would tell us.

Sometimes, we would see him going off to have lunch with the bosses. We were very worried about this - because, he was supposed to be with us, the workers. But we did not know what to do.

GRASSROOTS: So how did you decide to join another union?

MTIYA: About two years ago, we were suddenly given a lot of work to do. We were working 12 hour shifts, double time. Much later, we heard that this was because the breweries' workers in Port Elizabeth were striking, and we were doing their work. But we did not know that at that time.

After we worked so hard, management put a notice on the wall. It said that the bosses had made a lot of profit from our work, and said "thank you" to the workers.

We were angry, because our hard work made the boss so rich, but we didn't get even a small share of that profit. The boss said we must go to the union with our problems, but we knew the union would not help.

Then I read about this other union, SFAWU. We went to FOSATU in Cape Town - because at that time there was no SFAWU in Cape Town. FOSATU helped us to organise. We worked hard organising the workers, until more than half the workers joined our union, SFAWU. And then management signed a Recognition Agreement with us.

GRASSROOTS: How does this recognition agreement help you?

MTIYA: This agreement means that the bosses have to consult the workers. They cannot buy new

machinery, or lay off workers, or employ new workers without first speaking to us. If they want to retrench us, they must first let us decide if we want to share our jobs, so that workers don't have to lose their jobs. And they must pay us a living wage.

GRASSROOTS: You think that SFAWU is better than the other union?

MTIYA: Much better. Now we the workers make all the decisions. The shop stewards and union organisers do not decide anything. They are the "messengers" of the workers - they take our decisions forward to management.

This has given the workers a new spirit. We know we have unity - and because we are united, we are protected from management. We are strong.

SFAWU also unites us with brewery workers all over South Africa. Now we know what happens in the other factories. If we strike, or other workers strike, we can support them. We won't do their work for management, like we did before.

One Industry, One Union

GRASSROOTS: COSATU has a slogan "One Industry, One Union". What does this mean for workers?

MTIYA: This means that all workers in one industry will be united. For example, our union, SFAWU will join with all other unions organising food workers, like Food and Canning Workers' Union, Retail and Allied Workers' Union, South African Allied Workers' Union and so on.

This will be very good for us. Now we will be united with all our brothers in the food industry, not just with other breweries' workers. We can help each other win our demands. And our unity will make us very strong.

GRASS: Is COSATU just for workers who are members of a union?

MTIYA: No COSATU is the home of all workers. Before, when we had meetings in the township, other workers would come and want to join us. But we had no place for them, because they were working in a different factory.

Now we can bring in all workers. Any worker can come to us, and we help him/her organise his/her fellow workers, and join a union.

COSATU's first job is to fight our problems at work. But COSATU can help us fight other problems. It can teach us how to organise and how to unite. This will make us strong, and will help us fight all the problems and oppression we workers suffer.



Noel Williams - Fighting for our jobs.

NOEL Williams is the Vice-chairperson of COSATU Western Cape. In 1959, when he was 10 years old, he remembers the police surrounding Windermere location in Cape Town. He sat on the roof of his home, and watched the police beat his neighbours to death with pick handles.

"I will never forget such cruelty" he told us. Since that time, he has dedicated himself to fighting the problems of all oppressed South Africans.

He went to live in Atlantis in 1975. He worked hard to fight the many problems of his fellow workers, and helped form many organisations there. In 1985, he became a shop steward official for SAAWU at the 3M factory.

GRASSROOTS: How did you start organising the workers at 3M?

NOEL: The workers at our factory were worried about retrenchment - there were hundreds of workers in Atlantis losing their jobs every day. We realised that we needed to organise to fight these problems - so we asked SAAWU to help us.

Nearly all the workers joined SAAWU. We made the bosses agree to let us work short time, instead of retrenching us. We also made them agree to make our attendance bonus part of our wage - so workers don't lose their wages if they come late.

These victories were very important, because they showed workers how collective action and unity can help us win demands.

GRASSROOTS: You are also a member of the Atlantis Residents' Association (ARA). What sort of work does this organisation do?

NOEL: The ARA helps with many problems of the workers. In Atlantis, many people are unem-



ployed. This means that they can't pay their rents, or water bills. We helped the residents fight these. For example, when council was cutting off the water, we made them agree to the "trickle system" which means that the residents get some water even if they can't pay their bills.

The unemployment also means that the children go hungry. The ARA and the Atlantis Women's Organisation organised soup kitchens to feed the kids - we are feeding about 1300 kids a day now.

GRASSROOTS: You were also helping with the Advice Office. What does this do?

NOEL: The advice office has mainly been helping fight evictions. But, with the absence of unions in Atlantis, the AO also took up the case of a worker who had been dismissed for wearing a UDF badge. The AO took his bosses to the Industrial Court - and he is now reinstated. Today, COSATU will be able to fight such cases.

GRASSROOTS: Does the ARA and the Advice Office work with the unions?

NOEL: Oh yes, the ARA has really helped mobilise workers.

Workers come to the ARA with many problems - especially retrenchment. The ARA has been able to tell them about unions.

We don't see community organisations as taking over the work of unions. But organisations like the ARA can help COSATU.

For example, the ARA helped the workers at Continental Stoneware to join SAAWU. This meant that they could fight retrenchment at the factory.

GRASSROOTS: How do you think COSATU can help the workers of Atlantis?

NOEL: Well, first we must get the workers unionised. The workers here are very scared of unions. Through COSATU, we can help all the workers join unions.

COASTU's first task is to address itself to the problems of workers in the factories. But we know that our problems don't stop there. We also have problems like high rent, food prices etc. And we must work to solve these with other organisations like ARA.

Also, at least 30 to 40 percent of the workers in Atlantis are unemployed. COSATU can help them by teaching them the causes of unemployment, and helping them to fight for the creation of jobs, and for better unemployment benefits.

I think COSATU will really help the strength and confidence of the workers. And, if we work together with other organisations, we will be able to fight for the rights of all workers - at work and in the community.

VENDORS CALL FOR SUPPORT

"MONEY, that's my main problem, money. We get far too little. That's why we went on strike."

So says Amos Maseti, 24, of Nyanga. He is one of the 209 newspaper-sellers who are on strike.

Amos, the father of a 16-month-old child, has been selling the Argus since June last year.

"I had nothing else to do. I couldn't find another job," he said.

Amos said he works from 11 a.m. to 7.30 from Mondays to Fridays and from 9 a.m. on a Saturday till up to 4 a.m. on a Sunday.

"We get paid R45 a week and R6,50 extra for working on Saturdays. We also get paid 4-1/2 cents for each newspaper we sell.

"We are not regarded as permanent workers, so we don't have pension or medical aid.

"In winter, when it rains, it is terrible. They sometimes give us old, smelly rainsuits which serve as no protection," Amos said.

Other news vendors supported Amos' views.

Like Cedrick Miller, 17, of Uitsig, who has been selling papers since 1983.

"I left school in Standard Three and tried to get work, but I couldn't. I took the job as a news vendor because I had to help my family.

"My father works as a gardener and sometimes he only works three days a week. So I also have a money problem," he said.

Cedrick said vendors were very easy prey for robbers. "And if we get robbed, we must pay in the money out of our own pockets.

"I was robbed of R80 and had to pay that in. The thief was caught but I have still not been refunded."

The vendors have lots of respect and confidence in their union, MWASA.

"The union keeps us together and lets us speak with one voice," said James Jordaan, 23, of Site C, Khayelitsha, who joined MWASA last year.

James feels confident that the vendors will win their strike and get paid more money.

"We will get more money because the union is helping us. I trust the union."



THEY NEED YOUR SUPPORT . . . Some of the news vendors who went on strike for more money.

Pregnant women still in detention

IF 28-year-old Marcia Batla is not released from detention in the next few weeks, then she will give birth in prison.

Batla, a former Cosas member, who lives in Heidelberg in the Transvaal, is 8 months pregnant. She was detained on July 25 and has been held under emergency regulations for more than six months.

Marcia Batla is one of about 350 people countrywide being held under emergency regulations. More than 200 people are being held in the Eastern Cape, about 120 in the Transvaal and the rest in the Western Cape.

Another pregnant woman, Diana Nojikili has been held under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act at Diepkloof Prison since August 20 last year. She is seven months pregnant.

Many people who were detained on the first day of the

emergency, are still in detention. Among those held on July 21 last year are Amos Masondo, an organiser for the General and Allied Workers' Union (Gawu), Patrick Lepunya of the UDF Tvl executive, Ismail Momoniati, secretary of the Transvaal Indian Congress (TIC), Paul Mashatile and Fazel Mamdoe, a worker for the community newspaper Speak.

According to a report released by the Detainees Parents' Support Committee (DPSC) at the end of November last year, 1759 were held under Security legislation. During the same period 1800 people were detained in Transkei.

In total there were 10600 detentions between January and November last year. This includes the figures for the Transkei.

In a statement, a DPSC spokesperson, Mr Max Coleman, said;



Release all detainees!

ZUBEIDA JAFFER, the general secretary of the Clothing Workers Union was released from detention recently. Zubeida, who is four months pregnant, was held for 42 days under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act. Her husband, banned community leader Johnny Issel, is still in detention.

"We have seen a year which has been quite unique in the history of repression in this country with huge numbers of detentions using both security and emergency regulations.

What has been encouraging, however, has been the formation of Detainees' Parents' Support, Committees throughout the country in the smallest areas in response to repression.

Heavy sentences for public violence

THOUSANDS of families all over the country have been affected by the turmoil of the past few months. Hundreds of people have had friends and family members killed, injured and detained.

BUT there are hundreds more families who are still being affected - those whose family members are facing charges of public violence. These are people accused of stone-throwing, erecting barricades, burning buses and similar actions.

Those charged with public violence - many of whom are still teenagers - face up to six years in jail. In the rural towns, youngsters are receiving four year sentences for throwing stones.

Public violence is a criminal charge, which means that these youngsters will serve their sentence with criminals

convicted of rape, robbery, murder and similar offences. They are not given the privileges of political prisoners.

Family members are concerned at the harshness of the sentences. They are especially worried that their children may be influenced by fellow prisoners while serving their term.

A worker at the Crisis Office of the Advice Office Forum said that they had received several phone calls from people facing public violence charges. "Most of them do not know the seriousness of the charge. They are very shocked when

they hear that the maximum sentence is six years," she said.

Lawyers assisting with these cases have an extremely heavy workload - at the height of the crisis last year, lawyers were assigned up to twenty cases of public violence a day. This workload makes it difficult for them to keep in contact with their clients.

There are also a number of people who made statements to the police when they were arrested or detained. They are now worried they might be called as state witness against their friends.

If anyone needs advice about public violence charges, contact Natalie at the Crisis Office. Phone 637-2494 /637-2898.

W. Cape consumer boycott suspended

AFTER an absence of many months, large numbers of shoppers streamed back to the big chain stores following the suspension of the consumer boycott last month.

The Consumer Action Committee, the United Democratic Front (UDF) and several other Western Cape organisations suspended the boycott on January 24.

Although the boy-

cott weakened considerably after a state of emergency was declared on October 26, a significant number of people remained loyal to the boycott call and stuck to buying black.

Nationally, the boycott has been one of the most successful campaigns in our history. In the Eastern Cape white-owned shops were forced to shut down almost daily. In Cradock, Graaff-

Reinette, Beaufort West, De Aar, Pretoria, parts of the Eastern Transvaal and many other places in the country, the boycott was very effective.

Suddenly the bosses have gone soft. The big bosses now say they support the demands of the people. They have pleaded with the Government to step in and save them from ruin.

In Cape Town, businesses were not severely

hit. But it is clear that they suffered losses. When the boycott was suspended, the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce "warmly welcomed" the suspension.

Through the consumer boycott, our people have shown that if they act together, they have enormous power and can win many victories.

The boycott forced the Government to give

to many of the people's demands. In East London last month, 4000 workers packed the East London City Hall where they were addressed by the leaders of the newly-formed Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu).

Municipal officials had refused permission for the use of the Hall since 1982 until last year's consumer boy-

cott, in which one of the demands was that all municipal facilities should be made available to community groups and unions.

In Beaufort West the Town Council has promised to set aside millions for the upgrading of the "Mandlenkosi" township.

In the Eastern Cape Townships, troops and police were forced to get out. The immense pressure of the boycott

resulted in 17 consumer boycott committee and UDF leaders to be released from detention. Soon after their release, they addressed an open-air mass rally of more than 50000 people at the Dan Qeque stadium in Kwazakhele.

In De Aar, a small rural town, the people were offered direct representation in the municipality on condition that they call off the consumer boycott.

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1986 - Putting the words into action!

POWER TO THE PEOPLE



Mr Botha keeps talking about "power-sharing". But few people are listening to him. Because, in struggles all over South Africa, students, workers, women are learning about People's Power - and that is the only kind of power we want! GRASSROOTS looks at some of ways we are building People's Power.

UDF - Building for the Future

FOR many many years now, the Apartheid system has controlled every aspect of our lives. In our homes, at work, in our schools - we have never been allowed to decide on those things that affect us directly, we are denied the right to determine our future.

But today, more and more people are becoming organised. Our people are demanding the right to take part in decision-making and to participate in shaping their future as well as the future of the entire community.

The United Democratic Front has called on people to push ahead with these demands and actively work towards building people's power. Here follows the UDF's message.

"All over our country our people are saying that apartheid must go. Our people in increasing numbers are willing to actively take part in the struggle to destroy apartheid.

For the UDF, an important task this year is to transform the strong will of our people to resist into strong organisations. Our structures must become organs for people's power. Strong organisations are very necessary to bring apartheid to its knees.

What this means is that we must build strong organisations wherever our people gather. In the schools, in the communities, in the factories. We must also make sure that every sector of our people are organised. Young and old; workers and students; youth and women must all be mobilised into strong organisations.

But we must remember that our organisations will only be strong if they are democratic, if ordinary people increasingly take part in all the decisions. Few people making all the decisions must end.

Let all of us apply our energies to make 1986 a year in which to build strong organisations. To build people's power.

FORWARD TO PEOPLE'S POWER.



Hear our leaders - PE

A year ago, Mkweliso Jack was just "another agitator" in the eyes of most PE's white residents.

New powerful members of the PE business community are waking up for him. Even the mayor wants to see him. This is because they have been forced to recognise the power of a true people's leader - a leader who the people can trust to voice their wishes and demands.

The people of PE showed their strength through a consumer boycott which brought white business in its knees. The business was forced the government to release Mkweliso and other leaders from detention.

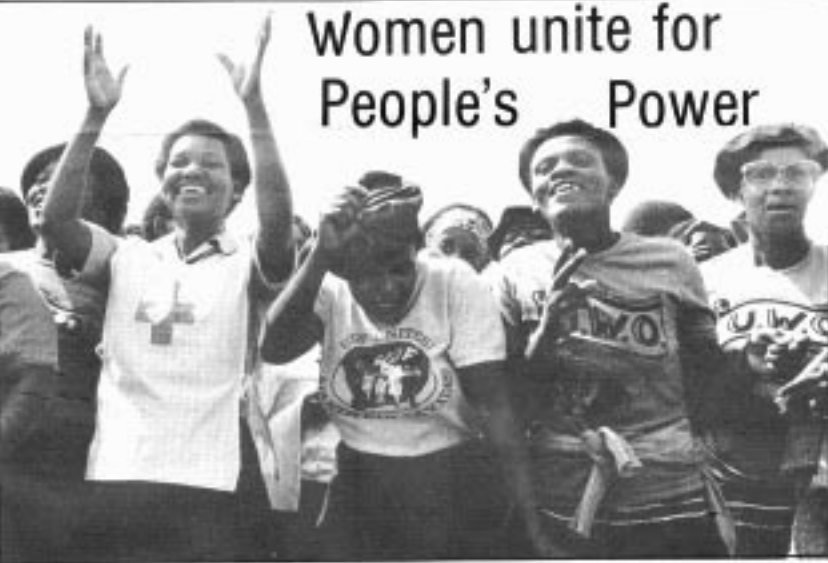
They breathed a sigh of relief when Mkweliso was released. But Mkweliso insisted on remaining to jail and other detainees were released as well.

The boycott was successful because of the unity and democracy of the people's organisation in PE. Through the boycott, the people forced the government to release detainees, to allow mass meetings to be held, and to withdraw the troops from the township. There is still a long struggle ahead. But the businessmen at least have learnt to respect people's power!



Students and teachers are showing their power. The boycotts have forced the government to take student demands seriously. Fear of student power led to most teachers being reinstated after losing their jobs.

Many of the student demands have not been met. But new student and teacher organisations have been formed and are growing. The banning of COSAS, detention and repression of students and teachers has only made them more determined to win.



The United Women's Organisation (UWO) has taken up this call. "Women are a strong voice in our communities. In the last few months, women have shown great courage and strength". A UWO member said. "But there are few women in organisations if we really want to build people's power, we must organise all women, women workers, students, housewives, teachers, nurses. We call on all women to join us."

Workers take control

"THE bosses have tried to starve us into giving up our fight. But they have failed."

This is the message of the workers who were dismissed from BIR-warmint in Natal last year for demanding a union and a living wage.

Now the workers have formed a co-op, to help them earn a living. They have already had one product - printing T-shirts for COSATU last year.

They are now planning to make bread, and grow vegetables. They also want to buy land and set up a community centre, and an industrial factory.

The co-op is run democratically. The workers share all the profits according to what they need, and all the workers together decide how the co-op will be run.

"There are no bosses or supervisors - we watch each other. And we all make plans together" a member of the co-op said.

"This co-op is showing us how we can beat problems like unemployment and dismissal" a student said.

"But it is also showing us how our factories can be in the future - when the workers control the factories and share equally in the profits. Co-ops like this are a real way of building workers' power - and of building a new South Africa.

Bellville - 'Crisis teaches us to organise!'

ON August 28, 1985, Monica Daniels and her friend, Susan van Wyk went for a walk to the shops. Suddenly they found themselves in a hail of police bullets. Monica woke up in hospital without a right arm - it had to be amputated because of the bullet wounds. Her friend, Susan, never woke up at all - she was killed instantly.

Monica and Susan are just some of the many victims of police brutality in Bellville. Hundreds of others were killed, injured, arrested or detained.

But the people of Bellville have not been broken by these hardships. They have come together, to find new ways of fighting against their problems. One of the most important organisations that was formed was the Bellville Crisis Centre.

"We formed the Crisis Centre in November last year to deal with the problems such as arrests and injuries. The organisations in the area were flooded with requests for assistance. We needed somewhere central to work from. So we got together to form the Centre," a Crisis

volunteer told GRASSROOTS.

"The Centre was formed with people from different organisations - the Bellville Youth, Bellville Housing Action Committee, Bellville Business and Professional Association, Interchurch Youth, National Union of Textile Workers (NUTW), Bellville Community Health Projects.

The Crisis Centre helped many people. "When my 12 year old son was arrested, I felt very depressed. He was charged with attempted murder and public violence, with R500 bail." A resident told us. "Then I heard about the crisis centre. I went there, and they helped me with bail money and lawyers. Now I go to all the meetings".

Many people in Bellville have children charged with public violence, arson, etc. The bail money has been as high as R2 500. The Crisis Centre has helped them with bail and lawyers. But they have also helped not injured.

"We did not want to send our children to hospital" a mother said. "Because the police were waiting there to arrest them. So the Crisis Centre helped to contact private doctors."

But the Crisis Centre has also helped to bring people together. "I went to the Crisis Centre when my daughter, Rosalyn was shot by the police. The Crisis Centre told me about meetings with other parents," said Mrs. A. (Names have been withheld to protect residents)

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1986 - Putting the words into action!

POWER TO THE PEOPLE



Mr Botha keeps talking about "power-sharing". But few people are listening to him. Because, in struggles all over South Africa, students, workers, women are learning about People's Power - and that is the only kind of power we want! GRASSROOTS looks at some of ways we are building People's Power.

UDF - Building for the Future

FOR many many years now, the Apartheid system has controlled every aspect of our lives. In our homes, at work, in our schools - we have never been allowed to decide on those things that affect us directly, we are denied the right to determine our future.

But today, more and more people are becoming organised. Our people are demanding the right to take part in decision-making and to participate in shaping their future as well as the future of the entire community.

The United Democratic Front has called on people to push ahead with these demands and actively work towards building people's power. Here follows the UDF's message.

"All over our country our people are saying that apartheid must go. Our people in increasing numbers are willing to actively take part in the struggle to destroy apartheid.

For the UDF, an important task this year is to

transform the strong will of our people to resist into strong organisations. Our structures must become organs for people's power. Strong organisations are very necessary to bring apartheid to its knees.

What this means is that we must build strong organisations wherever our people gather. In the schools, in the communities, in the factories. We must also make sure that every sector of our people are organised. Young and old; workers and students; youth and women must all be mobilised into strong organisations.

But we must remember that our organisations will only be strong if they are democratic, if ordinary people increasingly take part in all the decisions. Few people making all the decisions must end.

Let all of us apply our energies to make 1986 a year in which to build strong organisations. To build people's power.

FORWARD TO PEOPLE'S POWER.



Hear our leaders - PE

A year ago, Mkweliso Jack was just "another agitator" in the eyes of most PE's white residents.

New powerful members of the PE business community are waking up for him. Even the mayor wants to see him. This is because they have been forced to recognise the power of a true peoples leader - a leader who the people can trust to voice their wishes and demands.

The people of PE showed their strength through a consumer boycott which brought white business in its knees. The business was forced the government to release Mkweliso and other leaders from detention.

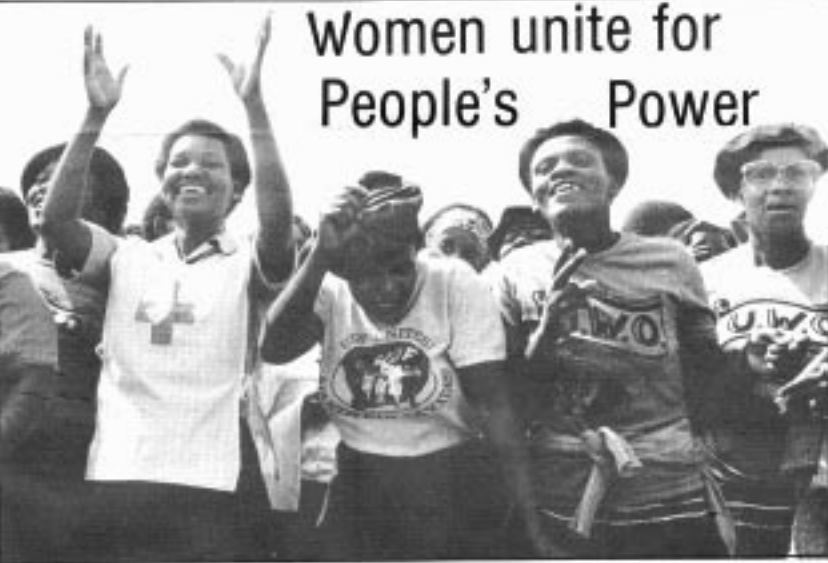
They breathed a sigh of relief when Mkweliso was released. But Mkweliso insisted on remaining to jail and other detainees were released as well.

The boycott was successful because of the unity and democracy of the people's organisation in PE. Through the boycott, the people forced the government to release detainees, to allow mass meetings to be held, and to withdraw the troops from the townships. There is still a long struggle ahead. But the businessmen at least have learnt to respect people's power!



Students and teachers are showing their power. The boycotts have forced the government to take student demands seriously. Fear of student power led to most teachers being reinstated after losing their jobs.

Many of the student demands have not been met. But new student and teacher organisations have been formed and are growing. The banning of COSAS, detention and repression of students and teachers has only made them more determined to win.



Women unite for People's Power

The United Women's Organisation (UWO) has taken up this call. "Women are a strong voice in our communities. In the last few months, women have shown great courage and strength". A UWO member said. "But there are few women in organisations if we really want to build people's power, we must organise all women, women workers, students, housewives, teachers, nurses. We call on all women to join us."

Bellville - 'Crisis teaches us to organise!'

ON August 28, 1985, Monica Daniels and her friend, Susan van Wyk went for a walk to the shops. Suddenly they found themselves in a hail of police bullets. Monica woke up in hospital without a right arm - it had to be amputated because of the bullet wounds. Her friend, Susan, never woke up at all - she was killed instantly.

Monica and Susan are just some of the many victims of police brutality in Bellville. Hundreds of others were killed, injured, arrested or detained.

But the people of Bellville have not been broken by these hardships. They have come together, to find new ways of fighting against their problems. One of the most important organisations that was formed was the Bellville Crisis Centre.

"We formed the Crisis Centre in November last year to deal with the problems such as arrests and injuries. The organisations in the areas were flooded with requests for assistance. We needed somewhere central to work from. So we got together to form the Centre," a Crisis

volunteer told GRASSROOTS.

"The Centre was formed with people from different organisations - the Bellville Youth, Bellville Housing Action Committee, Bellville Business and Professional Association, Interchurch Youth, National Union of Textile Workers (NUTW), Bellville Community Health Projects.

The Crisis Centre helped many people. "When my 12 year old son was arrested, I felt very depressed. He was charged with attempted murder and public violence, with R500 bail." A resident told us. "Then I heard about the crisis centre. I went there, and they helped me with bail money and lawyers. Now I go to all the meetings".

Many people in Bellville have children charged with public violence, arson, etc. The bail money has been as high as R2 500. The Crisis Centre has helped them with bail and lawyers. But they have also helped not injured.

"We did not want to send our children to hospital," a mother said. "Because the police were waiting there to arrest them. So the Crisis Centre helped to contact private doctors."

But the Crisis Centre has also helped to bring people together. "I went to the Crisis Centre when my daughter, Rosalyn was shot by the police. The Crisis Centre told me about meetings with other parents," said Mrs. A. (Names have been withheld to protect residents.)

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The Flame in The Fire



Molise is dead
They hanged him one apartheid mourning
before the sun rose
before justice could protest
even before the publicly announced time.

Molise is dead
Executed in the name of white justice
apparently he was a poet turned terrorist
apparently he turned his pen into a gun
apparently the swap was never made
seems like someone's not telling the truth

Molise is dead
the liberals say it is shocking
the intellectuals say his spirit lives on
the conservatives say it leaves them cold
the leftist say he is another victim of oppression
Ben's mother shed tears of pain, of anger
silently
saying more than all of them.

Molise has died
the spark became a flame
the flame has joined the fire
and the fire raging from angry hearts
into cordoned townships
seeking for freedom.

Robert van Niekerk
Lansdown

Our Cause is Just

Dear Grassroots

It is unknown to few people that the Nationalist regime have for a long time sought to govern this land tyrannously. We have hoped that they would have spared our country from utter ruin, and let the people speak. Our

hopes were futile. We are unable to look with tranquility on such murders, outrages, massacres and agony. We are therefore obliged to oppose the government and its violent and tyrannous actions. We call all loyal citizens of South Africa to

assist us. Let them take to heart the uttermost need of the country, the danger of perpetual slavery for themselves and their children, and of the injustices perpetrated in their name. Only when the government's bloodthirstiness shall have been overpowered, can our country win justice and a prosperous condition for the people.

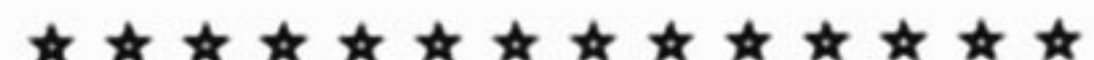
We should not cease to defend ourselves to the last man, knowing the justice of our cause reposes entirely on the mercy of God.

Yours in Faith,
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LETTERS

WRITE TO GRASSROOTS ABOUT... AND SHARE YOUR IDEAS WITH OUR READERS!

Grassroots
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South Africa

South Africa
how like a bitch you are
without a blush, unfeeling
look at yourself
vast country
rich in minerals,
blessed with a variety of beautiful people
why do you act so mindlessly?

You rammed apartheid on all of us
Apartheid is abhorred
You proclaim it dead
I cry it is a bluff
you throw me and my kind into terrible dungeons

You have become a surgeon lent to the butchery
you slice up the land
allocating portions in a manner guaranteed to result in conflict

your cynicism is beyond belief
you no longer shout that we are agitators and communists
the lie rests like truth on your own chest.

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IT'S QUITE A LOT OF WORK

AFTER the birth of a baby there is a lot of work to do for the whole family. Older children will enjoy having a little sister or brother around, especially if they can help look after baby. Newborn babies are quite tough. They can be picked up, stroked and cuddled!

The need for bodily warmth

Small babies easily become cold soon after birth. A room that feels hot to us may feel cold to a baby. The safest way to keep baby warm is against the body of mother or father. Being close gives both of them a chance to get "in touch" with each other right from the start.

Care of the umbilical cord.

Clean the cord with methylated spirits 3 times a day until it falls off. Keep the cord dry by fastening the pappy below the cord. Never use ointments or put dressings on it. Usually the cord falls off in a few days and the umbilicus heals in about a week.

Clean bottoms

A newborn baby is covered with vernix. It looks like white grease. Vernix is useful. It acts as a lubricant during birth and it protects baby from infection.

Don't wash it off. It will soon go by itself. You do not need to bath baby the first few days. Just wipe off the blood. More important is to change nappies often and to clean the bottom.

Peaceful sleep

Newborn babies breathe through their noses. They cannot breathe easily through their mouths until they are one month old. Put them to sleep on their tummies or on their side with the knees bent. Like this they breathe and sleep easily, and cry less. If they vomit, fluid doesn't go into their lungs.

The natural way of feeding

Let baby suck from the breasts as soon as possible after birth. The sucking helps the mother's womb to become small again and to stop bleeding. Early breastfeeding helps more milk come into the mother's breasts. The first yellow fluid

that comes out is called colostrum. It is the perfect food for the baby and has antibodies which help fight infection in the baby. Don't feed by the clock. Let baby feed when she is hungry. She may take only a little milk in the beginning, but even this is good for her. Most mothers know how to breastfeed. If you need to teach her, do it like this:

- * Sit on a low chair with a backrest.
- * Hold baby in a comfortable position.
- * Hold baby against your breast
- * When baby opens her mouth to search for the breast, put the whole nipple and much of the dark part (areola) into her mouth. Baby will start sucking only when the nipple touches the roof of her mouth. She cannot suck from the nipple only.

Stools (Bowel Action)

The first time babies dirty their nappy it is dark green/black. This is called meconium. During the next few days it becomes soft, yellow and sour smelling. Healthy breastfed baby's stools are sometimes watery. Some pass stools after every feed. Others only pass stools once in four days. Many babies cry and move about while they are passing a stool,

LOOKING AFTER A NEWBORN BABY * * * * *



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as if they have pain. All fathers should not worry about any of these things. Mothers and these things.



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IT MAKES CENTS

EMERGENCY DIARY

THE Christmas season that has just passed is one that not many people will be able to forget.

Many people spent Christmas in detention, others without their loved ones who were killed by police bullets.

The police cracked down on the mildest of protests. They banned candlelight vigils.

The state of emergency continues. And the first month of 1986 shows that things are far from normal in the Western Cape or the rest of South Africa.

Wednesday and Thursday, January 1 and 2: The State bans a memorial service to be held in Port Elizabeth for Molly Blackburn and Brian Bishop, who were killed in a motorcar accident.

The Cape Teachers Professional Association tries, and fails, in a court bid to get permission for everyone to write supplementary exams.

The "coloured" Labour Party holds their annual congress in normally whites-only Goodwood, complete with trompoppies, Christmas choirs, inflated egos and threats to all who oppose them.

Police report an incident of stoning in Athlone.

Friday, January 3: An uneasy peace returns to KTC when

State of emergency continues

"Fathers", believed to be supported by community councillors, agreed to stop attacking UDF, Cayco and UWO members, after four days of violence.

Police arrest 60 people at a "people's court" in Nyanga.

Saturday January 4: More than 1000 people attend a funeral service in Cape Town as a tribute for Brian Bishop.

The Labour Party's Carter Ebrahim warns everyone that he has authority over education and no-one should challenge him.

Sunday January 5: Two bodies are found in Guguletu as the "fathers" and the "comrades" make temporary peace.

Monday January 6: Exams are disrupted at the University of the Western Cape and again postponed to January 20.

A meeting called to discuss the education crisis is banned by Brigadier Christoffel Swart. The meeting was to discuss the national education conference held in Johannesburg where it was decided that pupils should return to school on January 28.

20 000 miners are dismissed by Gencor in Bophuthatswana.

Tuesday January 7: A group of United States congressmen visiting South Africa are refused permission to see Nelson Mandela.

The government lifts racial restrictions on students at universities.



NEWS vendors at a meeting to discuss their strike.

Wednesday January 8: Schools in the African townships are deserted as thousands of pupils heed the call of the national education conference for a return to school only on January 28.

Gencor Mines in Bophuthatswana sacks another 3 000 workers, bringing the total to 23 000.

A petition signed by 1 000 people calling for the release from detention of Zubeida Jaffer and Johnny Issel, is handed to the police.

Mr V J Ritchie, the principal of Harold Cressey High School for 34 years, is told he is being replaced.

Three Mitchells Plain teachers and two high school pupils are released from detention and served with restriction orders.

The African National Congress celebrates their 74th anniversary and calls for an escalation of a "people's war".

Students delay return to schools

Monday January 13: 14 scab teachers are forced to leave Rylands High School by more than 300 parents, teachers and pupils who protested against the dismissal and transfer of teachers.

Thousands of conscripts report to do their national service.

Hundreds of women and children flee from KTC as groups of "fathers", believed to be backed by the community council, attack the camp.

Tuesday January 14: About 300 teachers, members of the Western Cape Teachers' Union (WECTU) protest outside the Department of Education and Culture building in Roeland

Grassroots looks at Cape Town under the state of emergency

Street against the suspension of teachers. The department agrees that teachers be reinstated.

The 14 scab teachers return to Rylands High School and face protest from the community. Police question the teachers.

Clothing Workers' Union calls for Zubeida Jaffer's release.

Wednesday January 15: Pupils under the Department of Education and Culture return to school. At some schools pupils walk out and decide to return only on January 28, the date set down by the national education conference in Johannesburg. At other schools, pupils who did not write exams promote themselves to higher standards.

Many suspended teachers also return to school after their suspensions were lifted.

Thursday January 16: Police and soldiers surround Rylands High School and force pupils into classes.

More than 100 awaiting trial prisoners at Oudtshoorn go on hunger strike.

Monday January 20: 209 newsvendors are told by the Allied Publishing firm that they are fired after going on strike for higher wages.

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A Rylands High School pupil is detained under the emergency regulations.

Tuesday January 21: Police are called in to the Argus building and disperse striking news vendors after a meeting.

Wednesday January 22: Anonymous pamphlets attacking the United Democratic Front and community workers are distributed in Zwelenthemba township, Worcester.

Police and soldiers patrol Guguletu and Nyanga after attacks on City Tramways buses which went into the township after two months of dropping passengers outside.

Police announce that they are investigating fraud in Atlantis in connection with claims made by firms to the decentralisation board.

An inquest court hears that Steytleville youth leader Mzwandile Muggels had 23 wounds on his body when he died after being arrested by police.

Thursday January 23: A parcel bomb explodes on Cape Town station, injuring a railways worker.

The UDF and the Consumer Action Committee announce that the consumer boycott is being suspended.

Three UDF executive members are detained under the emergency regulations in Johannesburg after a trip to Sweden.

More than 1 000 Worcester residents sign a petition demanding the release from detention of 16 Worcester residents.

Friday January 24. Police enter Groenvlei High School and order teachers from class to class to teach.

Police conduct a house-to-house search in Langa.

195 workers, members of the South African Allied Workers Union, are arrested at a hostel in Langa. The workers had been on strike since August last year.

Sunday January 26: More than 2000 people attend a meeting in Guguletu to discuss the schools crisis. They decide that pupils should return to school and that no new pupils should be accepted until exams are written. They support the resolutions of the national education conference.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) launch their Western Cape region.

'Fathers' attack KTC

Monday January 27: Bishop Desmond Tutu returns home from America where he called on Western countries to support the African National Congress.

Tuesday January 28: Thousands of pupils throughout the country return to school in response to the call by the Soweto Parents' Crisis Committee (SPCC).

Clothing Workers Union secretary Zubeida Jaffer is released from detention after 42 days. She is not charged.

About 100 women protest outside the offices of the Western Cape Development Board in Langa. They demand lower rent and the withdrawal of troops from the township.

Micheal Mkuseli Matakata, 24, of Mbekweni, is jailed for seven years for undergoing military training with the African National Congress in Angola in 1983.

Suspended teachers reinstated

Wednesday January 29: R4 000 fire damage is caused to a hall at the University of the Western Cape.

Nineteen Worcester detainees, many held since the state of emergency was introduced to Cape Town in October, is released.

Brigadier Christoffel Swarts bans the display of all placards, banners, stickers, pamphlets, clothing of a "political nature".

The Western Cape Students Council (WECSCO) supports the return to classes as proposed by the national education conference.

Thursday January 30: The ban on stickers and T-shirts is lifted after it was condemned as being "absurd".

Schools remain unsettled as pupils meet to discuss final exams and the lack of textbooks.

Friday January 31: P W Botha opens parliament as Black Sash members picket throughout Cape Town and many people with Troops Out T-shirts mix with the crowd watching the official procession.

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