

Heinsmann Electric Company: (Elandsfontein, near Johannesburg) This company is owned by the Barlow Rand Group. In 1976 events related to recognition of the union (the Metal and Allied Workers' Union) and the rejection of by the workforce of liaison and works committees. (The events and the issues are covered in some detail in South African Labour Bulletin, 3,7 of 1977)

Trade Unionists: The banning orders imposed by the government on some trade unionists in 1976 were lifted recently. They are those on Loet Douwes-Dekker, the Tyackes (connected with the Urban Training Project before their bannings) and also those on Charles Simkins (economist at the University of Natal) and John Frankish (who had had connections with the labour movement in Cape Town).

In Cape Town an African trade union organiser from the Western Province General Workers' Union and his family were nearly killed in a petrol bomb attack. The bomb was thrown through the window of Howard Marawu's house in Gugulatu on the 17th October. The family managed to escape through the back door and windows.

During the same week as the fire bombing Dave Lewis of the same 10 000 strong WPGWU, received four death threats, some referring to the incident involving Howard Marawu. Dave Lewis also had the tyres of his motor car slashed.

committee also came up. Workers wanted a different constitution, but this was turned down by management.

MAWU is said to be contemplating legal action against the firm over victimisation, as 18 of the union's most active members were amongst those dismissed.

# BOYCOTT BITES

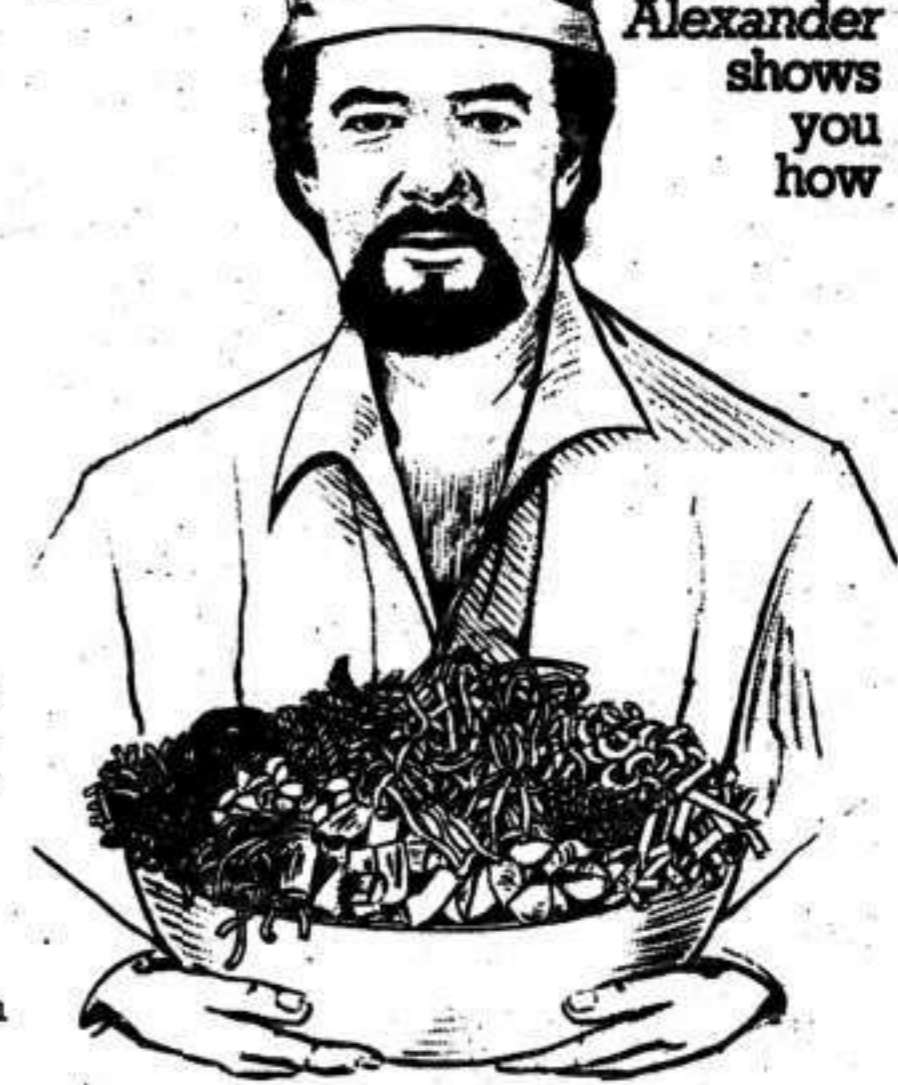
Despite recent negotiations between representatives of Fatti's and Monie, and striking workers, a settlement of the conflict has not as yet been reached. Accordingly, the consumer boycott of all F & M products continues, amidst growing signs that the company is being hard-hit by the boycott campaign.

F & M's after-tax profits dropped by almost half in the first six months of 1979 - from R363,000 in the period January-July 1978 to R186,000 in the corresponding period for this year (1979).

The company has denied that the drop in profits has been caused by the boycott campaign. However, their unusual promotional activities suggest that this is not so. Special offers on their products, the employment of extra salesmen, and expensive newspaper advertising all imply that the company is having serious difficulties in coping with the boycott of its products. An example of recent Fatti's and Monie advertising in a Johannesburg newspaper, no doubt prompted by the dramatic drop in their profits, is shown below:

# Lekka Pasta!

...Robin Alexander shows you how



"Come along and find out just how 'lekka' pasta is for summer and the holiday season. Yes, tra'am - Fatti's & Monie's pasta in salads and cool snacks is well and truly in these days. You'll be surprised and delighted when you taste and see these new ways with Fatti's & Monie's famous pasta!"

See you at the **FATTI'S and MONIE'S TASTE TREAT**  
**HYPERMARKET, NORWOOD, from 09h30 and BEDFORD CENTRE, BEDFORDVIEW from 11h15.**  
**SATURDAY 27 OCTOBER 1979.**



These events culminated in a baton charge by the South African Police on workers and trade unionists in which 24 workers were taken to the Natalspuit Hospital for treatment. In a trial after the events two trade unionists were found not guilty of inciting the strike, but the magistrate in one of the trials following the baton charge found that

There is also evidence to show that the complainant firm was not blameless in the march of events, and there must be more

than a suspicion that the events were in fact engineered by the firm. In order to reach a show-down with their workers,

On Friday, 19th October, the state reached an out of court settlement in the case brought against them by 19 African workers and a white trade unionist for compensation for the injuries received. The state has agreed to pay out a total of R21 359, including an amount of R6 000 to Ms Christine Molokele who has lost effective vision in one eye.

## GOOD NEWS VENDA CIVIL SERVANTS!!! SALARY INCREMENTS ON INDEPENDENCE DAY!

The Cabinet (of Venda) has decided to increase the salaries of officials of the Venda Public Service from the date of Independence (13 September 1979) with an average of 15%. This increment, on the one hand is to compensate officials for the great responsibility which they will have to carry after independence and on the other hand this is to make the young improve in education, which is regarded as one of the highest priorities in the development of Venda.

Examples of what salary increment embraces for certain ranks are as follows:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Secretaries (Head of Departments)                        | R17 400 to R19 200                                    |
| Deputy Secretary   | R16 800 to R18 600                                    |
| Chief Inspector of Education and Chief Education Planner | R16 800 to R18 000                                    |
| Circuit Inspector  | R15 000 x 600 — R16 800<br>to R15 600 x 600 — R17 400 |

Furthermore salary increments for Chiefs and Headmen have also been approved for the 13 September as follows:-

|             |         |
|-------------|---------|
| 3 Chiefs    | — R1800 |
| 22 Chiefs   | — R1200 |
| 379 Headmen | — R 600 |

# STRIKES in SOUTH AFRICA

IMPLICATIONS FOR WORKING CLASS STRATEGY.

THE QUESTION WHICH this paper attempts to answer is whether there is something essentially different between strikes in 'Third World' countries (ie South America, Africa, Middle East, Asia Minor and South East Asia) and those in the so-called 'rich' countries (ie North America and Western Europe). The importance of the question is that strategies of working class action depend on the answer provided. This paper will show how strike action by the working masses in South Africa (as a 'Third world' country) implied a certain understanding of the objective social conditions at different stages of South Africa's development.

This contribution is part of a longer paper on strikes in South Africa. The second part, dealing with the 1970s, will appear in the next issue of WIP. The paper attempts to explain and understand the difference between strike activity in so-called 'Third World' countries and the developed centres of capitalist power (Western Europe, North America, etc). In doing this, the argument is advanced that there are important features which distinguish the stronger parts of the capitalist world system (the major imperialist powers) from the weaker or peripheral capitalist societies (the 'Third World'). One of these features, it is suggested, is the nature of the state, which is far more repressive, and intervenes more directly, in the weaker links of the world capitalist system.

In a South African context, the paper also looks at a situation where a large part of the work-force is migrant, and retains links with family structures in the reserves/bantustans (or what the ruling classes call 'homelands'). The paper shows how the enforced retention of this migrant relationship allows the capitalist class to pay wages which only have to take account of the individual worker, and can ignore his families subsistence needs. In doing this, the paper explores the nature of the relationship between urban and rural production in South Africa, and the way in which this relationship has historically affected the working class.

-The Editors.