

NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

grassroots

THE PAPER ABOUT YOU

AUGUST 1980 10c

UNITY NEEDED

NEW

How they beat the ban

The ban on meetings, imposed by the government almost three months ago, has failed to curb community action.

This is the indication as community and civic organisations, committees and action groups in the Western Cape continue to function and bypass the ban by:

- Producing informative newsletters and pamphlets.
- Organising drama evenings, film shows and 'get togethers'.
- Holding street committee meetings.
- Holding effective house meetings and visits.

A number of publications in the form of newsletters and pamphlets have been produced by community and civic organisations during the past two months. The Lotus Civic Association recently published its first monthly newsletter. The newsletter deals with the latest developments in a number of issues affecting the community such as the valuations objections, the problematic electricity accounts and the fight against higher rents.

The well-produced newsletter says in an editorial: "We hope to publish it (the newsletter) regularly because there is a definite need."

"Firstly we find there is not enough time at our monthly meetings to discuss all the issues with which we are involved. Secondly, it is impossible for normal meetings to be held at present because of the Government ban on all meetings until the end of August."

The 'Hanover Times',



serving Hanover Park and the surrounding areas, published its first issue in July.

The colourful, eight-page newsletter, well illustrated with informative 'comic' type cartoons, announced on its front page the formation of a new civic body for Hanover Park.

It also deals with the plight of pensioners in the area, youth and the general grievances of local residents.

The Bridgetown, Silvertown and Kewtown parent/student action

committee also brought out a newsletter called the BSK News. It carries articles on the bus boycott, the plight of the meat workers and local teachers who have organised themselves into a group.

An information sheet was also published by the Teachers Action Committee and the Committee of 81 produced an illustrated pamphlet to explain the suspension of the school boycott.

A spokesman for the Lansdowne Interim

Committee, which organised house meetings, said: "The ban did alter the mood of the people but it is effectively countered by house meetings."

"People are now getting a proper chance to air their views," she said.

The ban, imposed on June 14, and renewed on June 31 for a further two months, prohibits any gathering or meeting of a political nature.

It does not apply to any gathering of 10 persons or less.

RENTS: WHY MOST WON'T BENEFIT



AFTER years of hard struggle for lower rents by people in all parts of our country the government has at last admitted that the way our peoples' rents are worked out is bad.

The government has now worked out a new way to work out our rents.

Is the new way the rents are going to be worked out better? Do they benefit all our people or are they good for some people? What are the new rents going to be?

These are questions that are worrying tenants all over the country.

The exact rent structure is not available but Grassroots looks at the proposals as they appeared in a local newspaper.

• FOR PEOPLE EARNING LESS THAN R150 PER MONTH

Rents for people earning less than R150 per month will be 5 per

cent of what they earn. Since the minimum rent payable is R2,50, people in this group will pay rents between R2,50 and R7,50. For example, if your monthly pay is R120, then

the rent you have to pay will be R6,00

This is BASIC rental and people will still have to pay for Lights, water and administration charges, rates, etc.

• PEOPLE EARNING BETWEEN R151 AND R540 PER MONTH

The way the rent of people in this group is worked out is not very clear. What the article did say is that people earning between R151 and R540 will have to pay a maximum of R2,00 in EXTRA rent for every R10,00 by which their salary is more than R150. For example, if a person earns R160 per month, then his rent will be R9,50 (R7,50 plus

R2,00); if a person earns R350 per month, then his rent will be R37,50 (RR7,50 plus R30,00). This too is BASIC rental and does not include charges for lights, water etc.

The fact that some houses are over 30 years old and badly maintained, poorly built, is not taken into account.

It can happen that two people living in the same kind of house may now pay completely different rents - one could be asked to pay three times what the other pays depending on what he/she earns.

Clearly from the report one can say that the new rents will not be good for all the people. It can divide people in the communities.

What is also very clear is that all the communities have to come together to fight for new rents that ALL people can afford.

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AN INDEPTH LOOK INTO WHAT MAKES

SELFLESS COMMUNITY SUPPORT SHOWS UNITY

THE WESTERN Province General Workers Union believes that the hardline attitude of the bosses during the meat strike helped unite the workers and the community.

A statement by the Union to GRASS-ROOTS says:

You will have learnt of the decision of the meat workers to call off the 12 week long strike. Although the workers have been forced to retreat for now, they have given a very clear message to the bosses.

The meat workers — like the rest of the op-

pressed community of South Africa — have, by their courage and determination shown the bosses that they are no longer willing to accept the old system and that they are willing to fight for their basic rights.

The workers have

been forced to retreat temporarily. Many mistakes were made and many lessons will be learnt. But, most important, the people of Cape Town have shown the bosses and the state that the workers struggle and the struggle of all the oppressed people

are one and that henceforth they will fight together shoulder to shoulder. The bosses may have forced the workers to retreat now, but their 'victory' will be at great loss to themselves and the state because by their actions they have helped unite

the workers and the community. You, the people of Cape Town have shown the unity by the selfless support that you have given to the meat workers. On the basis of this unity the struggle will continue and go forward.



BEFORE discussing the meat boycott we should look at the different sorts of boycotts. People can use a boycott to protest against something which they can't change directly. This is a symbolic boycott. Or people can use a boycott to influence a situation directly and win certain demands. This is a pressure boycott.

There are two kinds of pressure boycott. In a direct boycott, like the bus boycott, people are boycotting for something which affects them directly — the lowering of bus fares. In a support boycott, like the meat boycott, people are boycotting to support the demands of one section of the community. In this case the community is showing its solidarity with the striking meat workers.

The meat boycott is a pressure boycott, not a symbolic boycott. It is meant to force the meat bosses to meet the strikers' demands, by stopping them from selling their red meat.

This was because the butchers had seemed to be taking the lead in the boycott. The community went on trying to keep the boycott going, but at this stage they couldn't persuade all the butchers to stop selling red meat. This made it very difficult for the butchers who supported the boycott to carry on without losing all their business.

DIFFICULT

It seems that if the community had been leading the boycott right from the start, they could have made it very difficult for any of the butchers to start selling red meat before the end of the boycott.

It was also a hard struggle for the community to keep up the meat boycott. There was a ban on meetings soon after the boycott started. This made it more difficult to spread awareness of the meat strike in the community and to keep people informed about the effects of the boycott.

Also, unlike the successful

boycott last year of Fattis and Monis products, this time people were being asked to boycott not only one brand, but all brands of red meat. And red meat is a very important staple food for people who cannot afford many other sorts of protein.

SACRIFICE

So this boycott needed a big sacrifice and commitment from the community.

An important part of any boycott is to make sure that individuals do not spoil things by not pulling their weight with the rest of the boycotters. The best way to do this is to keep people informed all the time and to make them understand why it is important to keep on with the boycott. In this case it seems to have been hard for the community and the strikers to watch very closely over individual consumers and butchers who did not stick to the boycott.

When the meat boycott was suspended in the middle of July,

State helps bosses to crush strike

there was a lot of confusion in the community about what was happening in the meat strike and the boycott. Especially since by this time all butchers had gone back to selling red meat. Also, some people were asking why they should make such big sacrifices when they could not see any results and when they could see no chance of the meat bosses giving in to the pressure in the future.

SUSPENDED

So it was not realistic to call for the boycott to be suspended instead of going on with it or stopping it completely, because it is hard to start the boycott again properly.

Also, for the first time since the beginning of the meat strike, the way the boycott was going seemed to be out of step with the way the strike was going. The community was being asked to suspend the boycott for two weeks to give the meat bosses a chance to negotiate, at a time when the bosses showed no sign

of being prepared to negotiate. At this stage it was clear that the bosses were taking their orders from the State, and ignoring the strikers and the community.

OBSTACLE

The main obstacle to the success of the boycott was not in the community. In spite of all the problems, community support has been very strong, especially in the first months of the strike.

If the strike had been a conflict just between workers and their bosses with the community behind the workers, the boycott would certainly have had an important effect. But the State was also involved. The State stopped the bosses from giving in to the pressure caused directly by the strike (the loss of production) or to the pressure caused by the boycott (the loss of money from selling red meat). This meant that the force which the strikers and the community supporting them had to face was much stronger than usual in a strike.

SPORT PART OF EDUCATION STRUGGLE

THE schools' boycott in Cape Town and in other parts of the country have had some interesting side-effects.

In Cape Town schools' sport has come to a standstill.

Gone were the days when high schools like Trafalgar, Harold Cressy, Belgravia, Bellville South and all the other Cape schools

clashed on the sportsfields. They forgot about their rivalry on the sportsfields as they declared their solidarity and joined the boycott.

Certain teachers also forgot about their duties as referees and they formed the Teachers' Action Committee.

But former students still remembered with fondness their midweek games, soccer,

rugby, netball, etc. against other schools.

Even the gulls at Turfhall Park missed the enthusiastic students, who in the past had left some food behind for them to eat. They now had the freedom of the park, but less food.

Grassroots spoke to some scholars to discover their opinion about the importance of sport in their

struggle.

Most of them endorsed the principle that you can't play normal sport in abnormal society.

They also felt that their struggle for better educational facilities was also a struggle for better sporting facilities. This meant the improvement of existing facilities . . . and that future schools should have

equal sporting facilities.

These young people, who seem to have matured overnight, justifiably pointed out that white schools, with their better educational and sporting facilities, were well-equipped to produce better educated matriculants and sportsmen.

So the boycott also had to pave the way for sports-

men to become the equals of their white counterparts.

They, therefore, felt that the temporary disappearance of schools' sport should also be seen as part of their struggle for equal education.

People who thought that school sport would be resumed, now that the Committee of 81 has called off the boycott, will have to wait until next year to see the scholars on the sports fields again, because it would be impossible to play all the various winter sport matches before the end of the year.

One should also realise that SACOS president Hassan Howa was right when he said "The teachers have a lot of leeway to make up, therefore, it is understandable that we will have no schools' sport this year."

So we will have to wait until next summer before we can see places like Athlone Stadium filled with excited students, who will be urging their athletes on.

Spring follow-up to awareness programme

A SPRING SCHOOL similar to the successful Winter School held during the June school holidays is being planned in Mitchell's Plain for September.

The Winter School was held in the local Anglican Church Hall in Mitchell's Plain. It was initiated by Inter-Youth, an association of various youth clubs in the area.

It was felt that the awareness programmes held at schools had heightened the socio-political interest of some students and had introduced others to unfamiliar concepts and ideologies which could only be dealt with in a very superficial manner due to the conditions existing at schools.

The time was ripe for

a more in-depth study of the economic and political dynamics of South Africa.

PLANNING

A great deal of planning went into the preparation of the talks relating to the topics, specifically bearing in mind:

- The knowledge of the participants — i.e.

what they knew.

- Their understanding and perception of words, concepts.
- Their mental skills and academic abilities.
- Their expectations.

The purpose of the Winter School was to:

- Be informative.
- Provide opportunities for discussion.
- Allow delegates to re-

reflect on past events in our history.

- Lay the groundwork and provide the basic skills required for constructive participation in various areas of involvement such as schools and civic associations.

A talk on GRASS-ROOTS featured in the programme.

BOYCOTTS TICK

On these pages we publish an assessment of the meat and bus boycott by a community worker who was closely associated with both.



A 'pirate taxi' loads passengers during the bus boycott.

Understanding the bus boycott

IN MAY, the City Tramways announced that they would increase bus fares by between 40 and 100 percent. The people worst hit by the increases were the people who had been forced to move to areas far from their workplaces. Before the fares were increased, representatives from 41 community organisations met and decided to boycott the buses until the fares were reduced.

When the boycott started on June 2nd the schools boycott was already six weeks old. This meant that communities were deeply involved since there had already been mass meetings in almost every community. Quite clearly, the Tramways could not have chosen a worse time to increase the fares.

SUCCESS

The boycott started with almost 100 percent success in most areas. Every community was a hive of activity with people walking and hitching, with lifts being organised and meetings being held. In areas where some people were still using buses, there were many reported incidents of stoning.

The City Tramways were taken by surprise. At first they released figures of the success of the boycott but soon put an end to releasing any information. They introduced "a service on demand." In some areas this meant no bus service at all. They refused to discuss the matter at all, hoping that people would believe that the boycott did not affect them. A Tramways spokesman said that the company would not suffer because all losses would be passed on to

bus users. The City Tramways were forced to act desperately by attempting to use their employees to convince people that the boycott was over — not even this method worked!

TRAINS

During the boycott, people were using trains. The Railways promised to improve their train services by providing more trains. Instead, people found that the overcrowding worsened, and that there were numerous delays resulting in people arriving late for work. To many bus boycotters, this was seen to be an attempt by the Railways to force people to use the buses.

After the first week of the bus boycott, pamphlets were dropped all over the Cape Flats by helicopter. These pamphlets urged people to stop boycotting buses. This was later found to be the work of the Department of Information. The State also immediately imposed a ban on all meetings.

STAYAWAY

After the stayaway of June 16 and 17, people in some areas slowly started using buses again. This was largely due to confusion since all meetings had been banned and the same spirit could not be maintained. Also, people were afraid because hundreds of people were in detention and the riot police were everywhere.

In Langa, Nyanga and Guguletu, the boycott continued to be 100 percent. Here the fight with the Tramways was much older since a decent bus service to these townships had

never ever existed.

The people had remained true to the call that they would not return to the buses until the fares were reduced.

To assist people who normally had to use the buses, taxis operated to the nearest stations on the Suburban railway lines, namely Mowbray, Claremont and Bellville. The State stepped in and indiscriminately victimised people who were offering lifts. Drivers were handcuffed when arrested and their cars were impounded.

IMPOUNDED

The Attorney-General issued an instruction that all cars impounded would be held until the end of the trial. In certain cases, it appears, that these vehicles will be confiscated. We saw at that time, that pirate taxis operating around the night-clubs in Cape Town were given spot-fines of R25 while "pirate" taxi drivers assisting bus boycotters were arrested and given fines of up to R200 00.

The police and heavily armed officials of the Road Transportation Board were used to intimidate the drivers. This was the repressive state machine at work to break the boycott.

The bus boycotters were strong — not even all this intimidation could drive people back to the buses. When all "pirate taxis" were prevented from operating, the people walked to and from the townships. The spirit of the people must be saluted. It is this determination and sacrifice that is necessary to bring about change.

Post victory points way

THE victory of newspaper workers at Post, Transvaal, has been described as being of major significance to other professional associations planning to become trade unions.

In at least two other professions, the teaching and social service professions, discussions have been taking place to turn their associations into fully-fledged trade unions.

The Writers Associations of South Africa (Wasa), formerly a body for black journalists, photographers and writers, decided at its last congress to become a trade union and open its membership to all workers in the newspaper industry.

It was Wasa's editorial chapel at Post, Transvaal, which spearheaded the pay victory of workers there after an eight-day strike which led to Post not being brought out for a few days.

The Transvaal region of Wasa gave Grassroots a full report on the eight day strike at Post.

The significance of the Post strike is that management were forced to negotiate with the elected representatives of the workers. The strike started on July 29 and ended on August 5 with the Post management conceding to all the demands made by the workers.

Ironically, the strike came a week after staff at Post had been given

increases. It was largely the cause of the strike.

Because of the haphazard pay structure at Post, journalists had no idea of their pay scales and whether increases were given on merit or because of favouritism.

When the increases were given a number of people were left out. A meeting was arranged and when management heard of this a further pay increase was announced. But instead of diffusing the situation, these increments aggravated it.

There was an obvious disparity in salaries because the increases were not given on merit or length of service. At a meeting it was decided that all workers would provide details about salaries and years of service. . . . The information was analysed and a memorandum was drafted which was presented to the management.

Management responded by saying it was prepared to enter into a pay agreement with the workers and even set down a day. The workers were not satisfied.

They accepted management's offer to enter into pay agreements, but they wanted an immediate redress of the pay disparity.

They were told by the management the increases could not be afforded and it would mean increasing the price of the newspaper and a retrenchment of

staff.

The workers rejected this and refused to produce for the next day.

It was, however, produced by the editor and three black executives.

The next day the editor and his workers met. He would see the Argus management the next day. Instead of a settlement he had an argument with the manager and the executive. They were warned that the paper would close if the matter was not settled immediately. They were also promised a hearing if they went back.

This was rejected by the workers. That afternoon the management made an offer with a condition that it would be disclosed once the workers were back at their desks. The strike continued because nobody believed the bosses.

A warning was issued that if the pay demands at Post were not settled other newspaper workers at other papers would join and the community would be called in to boycott the paper.

An acceptable offer was made to the journalists, but not to the other workers. The next day after the workers decided to continue the strike an offer was made to the other workers. The strike ended when all the demands of all the workers had been met. It was a victory.

NEW TEACHERS' BODY EXPLAINS ITS POLICY

ENLIGHTENING: Educative. Exciting. This is how those who attended the central workshop organised by the Teachers Action Committee described it.

Those who found the workshop (discussion group) stimulating already are thinking of it as the early milestone in the young life of the TAC.

The subject? Education — yesterday, today and tomorrow. An appropriate subject to start with, the TAC thought, because that's where it all began four months ago — with education. What education was and is and what people who were concerned believed it ought to be.

The TAC was born of the need for alternatives — alternatives to the status quo — in the classroom, in the meeting place, in the community; the need for a new approach in teaching, for a programme of change in attitudes and activities.

The TAC is therefore a response — a response to those needs.

Teachers had come

A MEMBER of the Teachers Action Committee discusses the formation of that organisation in this article.

from all over the Western Cape to attend mass meetings (in their individual capacities) to verbalise that response, to voice their concern. They had come to identify themselves with the pupil cause, the school crisis, and to align themselves with the teacher reaction to that cause, that crisis.

The TAC was born of the need for a forum where the alternatives could be identified and debated and, when teachers were united and pointed in a new direction, created.

The TAC humbly believes it can and must contribute in some modest but meaningful way to the achievement of those changes and fully realises that while there is much to be done at school and in the community in the short term, much of what it hopes to make a contribution to will not be realised overnight.

We have been asked: Are you a boycott organisation? The answer is simply no. The TAC was established (after three mass meetings in Athlone) during the pupils' boycott, yes. The TAC identified with the reasons for the pupils' boycott and their demands, yes. But its establishment was coincidental, inevitable.

The mass meetings recognised the need for a TAC.

So it is clear that the TAC's fundamental aims are simple and clear-cut and relevant, but there is much to be done, a long road ahead.

And the beginning of that road is the workshop and the classroom where teachers will first have to recognise how enslaved we have become to the system so vehemently exposed and rejected by the pupils and where they'll first have to free themselves and their pupils of the shackles of that system.

(To page 14)

Children are writing history

We want to hear the children's voices

"Children are the leaders of tomorrow."
 "They are part and parcel of the struggle."
 "They are an integral part of the community

— the struggles of the adults are also the struggles of the children."
 "Children must feel that they are impor-

tant".
 These are some of the reasons why it is important for the children's voices to be heard.

In Heideveld and Hanover Park Ann Tomlinson works with groups of children. She encourages them to be creative by organizing activities for the children and encouraging them to express their ideas and experiences. Ann organized a day's activities for the children in her block. See Picture. Ann enjoys working with children because she finds them eager to learn.

Last year the children in Crossroads wrote about "The History of Crossroads." One child wrote "We came to Crossroads in 1975. When we came it was all bushes. Our fathers chopped down the bushes and we built our houses here." Another child wrote: "People came to live at Crossroads because they did not have rights to live in Cape Town." Some of the material which the children wrote was published in the magazine Staffrider, and

other material was published in Molo Songololo.

A lot of children in many areas of the Cape have sent their ideas to Molo Songololo — a new magazine for children in the Cape which aims to communicate children's ideas and experiences.

In Kwa-Zulu a child of 12, Mboma Dladla, told his story which was published in a book titled "The story of Mboma."

THE VALUE OF CHILDREN'S WRITING

It is very important for children to write about their experiences and to communicate these ideas to others. They develop themselves and start to understand what is happening around them. They learn from an early age that they are important people in the world and must stand up for their rights. Everybody learns from

what the children say.

THE IMPORTANCE OF READING

Reading is a good way of stimulating children. They are exposed to new ideas and learn about what is happening in the rest of the world. It is important to select books carefully. It is often best to ask the children's librarian what books to choose. A librarian in Hout Bay, Fuad Arnold, recommends the Sunbird series because they are non-racial. Another series of books which are good are the Dr Seuss series.

SOME IDEAS FOR ENCOURAGING CHILDREN

Encourage children to talk about their experiences and what is important to them. Then ask the children to either write about their experiences or draw a picture.

A teacher in Ocean

View, Beverley Jansen, shows her children pictures, encourages the children to talk about the pictures and then asks the children to write about them.

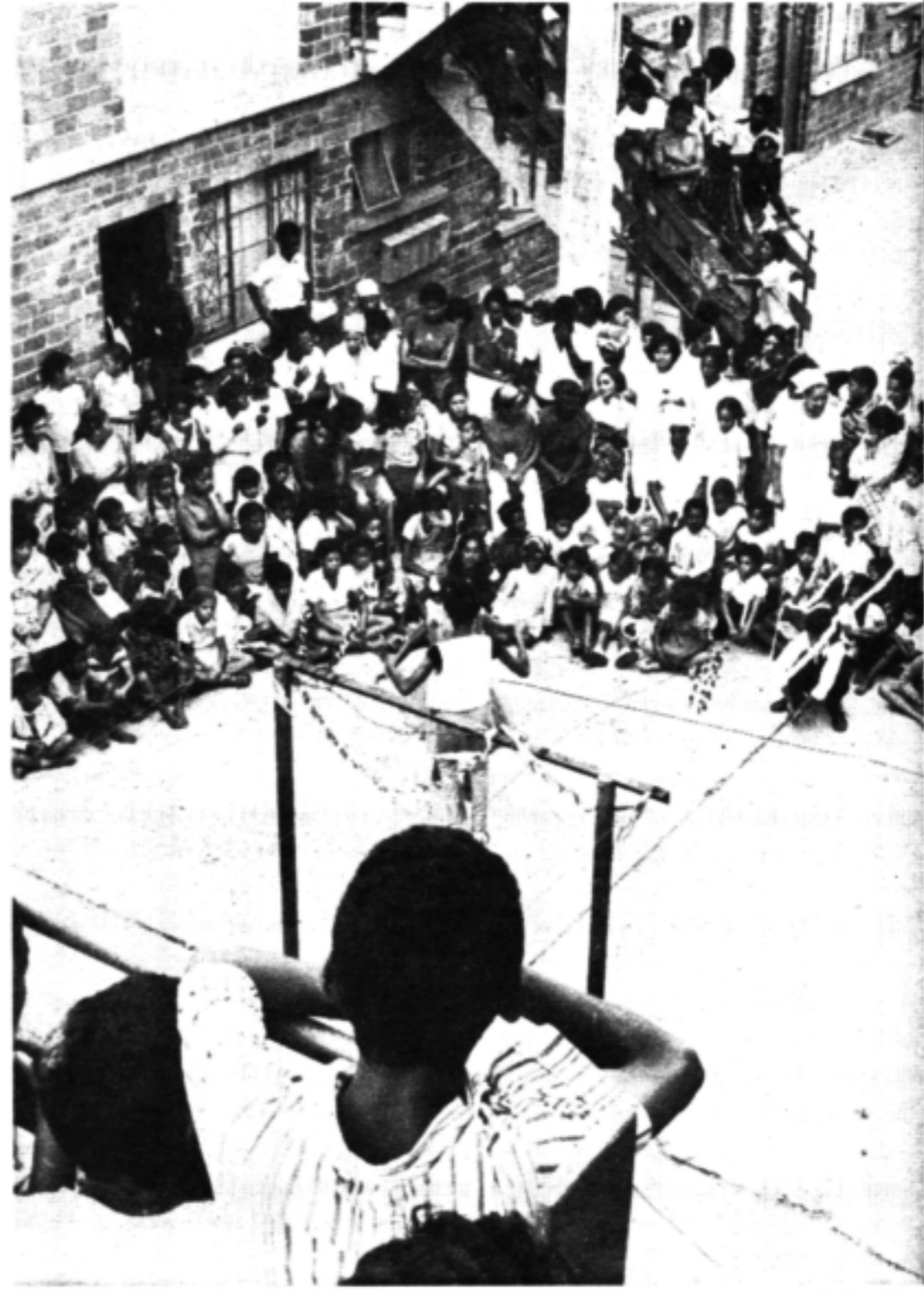
Finally, the most important thing is to give the children plenty of encouragement.

WE WANT TO HEAR THE CHILDREN'S VOICES!

Teachers! Parents! Encourage your children to write and draw. Children! Write about your ideas and experiences. Draw pictures which tell about your lives.

Molo Songololo would like to publish what the children of the Cape are saying. Please send your writings and drawings to: Molo Songololo, 330 South West House, Shortmarket Street, Cape Town 8001.

* The book "The story of Mboma" is available at Molo Songololo.



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BRAND NEW

BARTLEITE
BATTERIES

LOW MAINTENANCE
 BATTERY

ONE YEAR
 MANUFACTURERS GUARANTEE

Last goodbyes at Bloemhof flats

RESIDENTS of Bloemhof Flats — one regarded as part of the heart of District Six — are preparing to say their last goodbyes to the bustling area.

And, in a final bitter

twist, they have been told that at least part of the complex is to be converted into homes for White policemen.

Some residents have already received their removal notices while

the others await the knock on the door that will signal the boot for them, too.

Said one of the flat-dwellers: "Whenever we see the agents of the Department of Com-

munity Development in the area our hearts are in our throats as we wait to hear about our fate.

"We still had some hope when the area was under the City Council.

"They asked us to indicate which area we would prefer to move to. Most said to Bridgetown, Athlone or Silvertown.

"But now that the Government has taken

over the removal, our freedom of choice has been limited to Valhalla Park, Lentegeur (Mitchell's Plain) and Atlantis — but none of these areas suits us at all."

"Commented another: "I have my pensioner mother and father staying with us.

"Bloemhof is close to the City and I can safely leave them at home while I'm at work during the day.

"But what's going to happen when we have to move to the bundu of Lentegeur or Atlantis?"

"And the stories we hear about Valhalla Park's thuggery makes the prospect of living there just terrifying.

"Who is going to compensate us for the extra travelling costs involved in getting to work?"

Those who have already received their removal notices, have been told that they have three months to accept the homes allocated to them or find places to stay on their own — but out of Bloemhof they must.

The flatland does not boast a civic organisation.

"What's the use," said one resident fatalistically. "Historic St Mark's Church has a committee. But it hasn't been able to achieve anything. The famous church must go."

Mbekweni residents thought they had no choice

MBEKWENI residents last month agreed to vote in the coming community council elections because they were told they had to in terms of the law.

"All other communities have community councillors" is what the commissioner for the Cape, Mr T Bezuidenhout, told residents at a mass meeting last month.

The commissioner's visit to the area came after residents won their fight against the way in which the last elections were held. The elections were found invalid by the Supreme Court when 11 residents challenged the way in which the elections had been held on behalf of the whole community.

They did not challenge the community councils but the electing of councillors. They were advised that they could not chal-

lenge the actual councils because they were lawful.

At the meeting with the Commissioner, one man got up and challenged the councils. "We do not need these councils, we are hungry and need bread in our stomachs," he said.

The commissioners became angry and said that the people must not ask political questions. They must just talk about the councils. The meeting ended quickly.

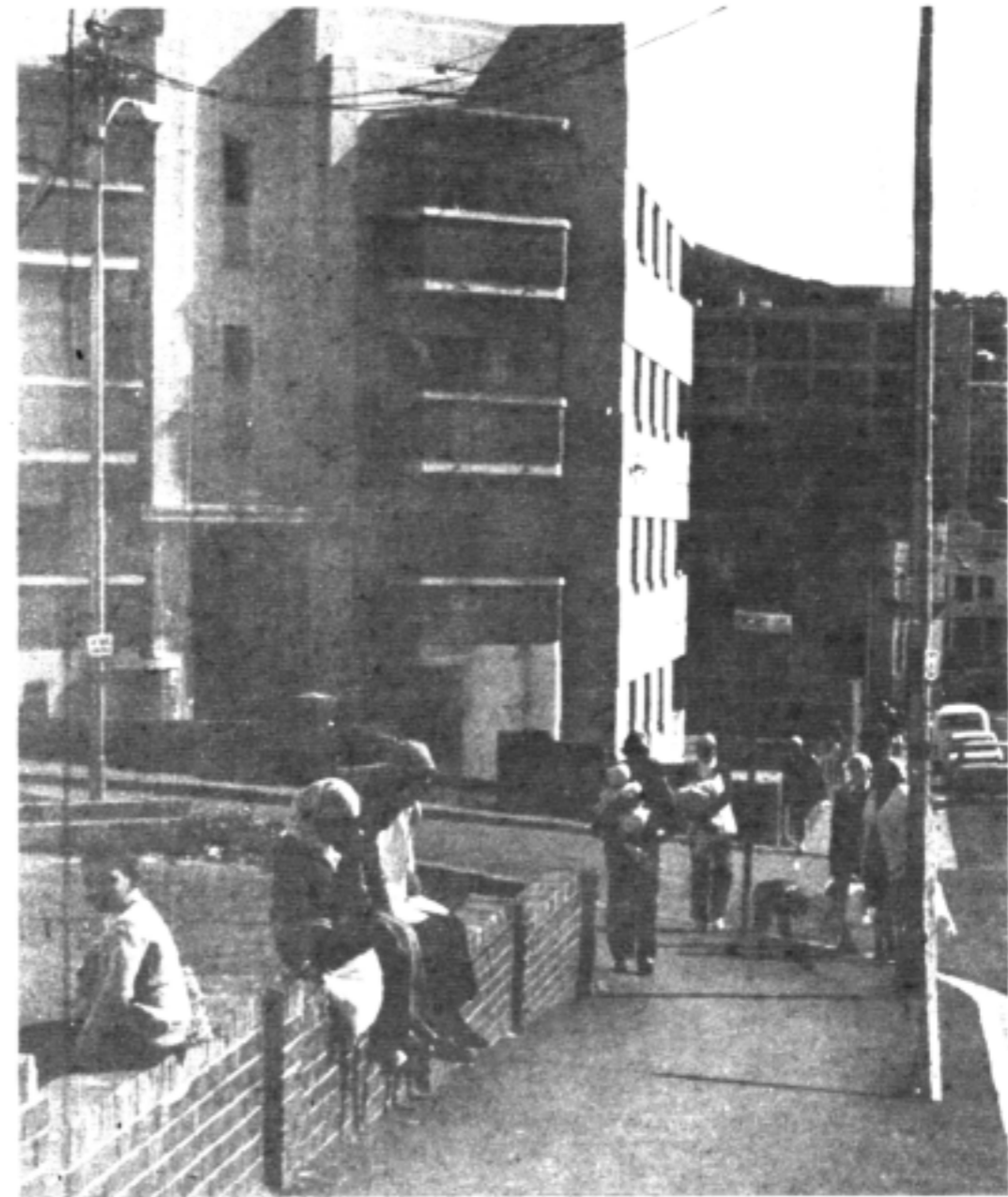
The following week, residents met on their own to decide whether to vote or not. At this meeting attended by more than 300 people, residents said that they would vote because they had been convinced by the commissioner that they had no alternative. Those people who led the fight in court were asked to stand for the

elections but they were not too happy to do so.

They thought that the people would reject the council after winning the case but this was not so. All the people felt was that they had no representation and perhaps through the council their living conditions would improve.

Today the residents are preparing to vote for councils which have been rejected by most other communities. Some of them fear that the people are going to be disappointed when they realise that this body has no powers.

"Community councils are set up by the government and cannot be the same as organisations set up by the people," they say. "But the people must still learn that they must fight for their own organisations.



• EVERYONE MUST MOVE FROM BLOEMHOF FLATS IN DISTRICT SIX

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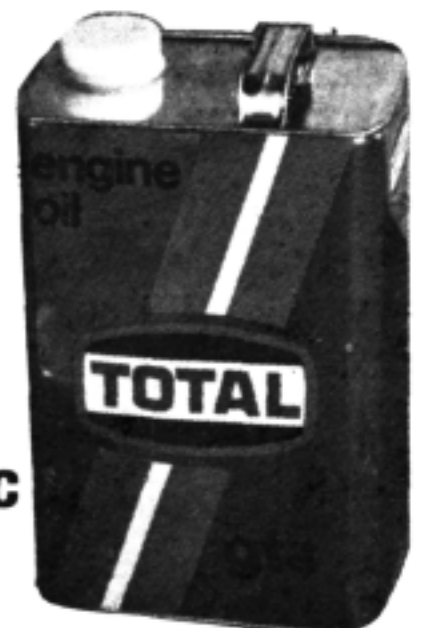
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grassroots comment

We cannot be silenced

COMMUNITY action and protest cannot be stopped. This is the message from civic and other organisations in the Western Cape since the ban was imposed on all meetings of a political nature more than two months ago.

Organisations are to be commended for not allowing the ban to become effective and to be used as an excuse to slide into apathy.

Brilliant but simple methods have been used to by-pass the ban and prevent what it set out to do — keep people ill-informed and without any guidance and apart.

The most significant development has been the emergence of the 'township press' in the form of newsletters, pamphlets and brilliantly conceived 'comic' type illustrations.

Some of them are unsophisticated and obviously roneed in a back room somewhere, others are high-quality printed products. But they all serve the basic purpose of communication, inform and GET THE MESSAGE ACROSS.

The ban does not prevent gatherings of less than 10 people and in many areas successful house meetings and street meetings have been held. In fact, these meetings have allowed members of organisations to air their views properly and create a new spirit of involvement.

Other 'non-political' events, such as film shows, have been organised in other areas to keep members of organisations and communities together. The ban has made it clear that no mere proclamation in a gazette can still our legitimate protests against injustices.

Community protest stifled

THE TOTAL disregard shown by the government for the non-violent protest of the oppressed against their many grievances has once more become very noticeable over the last few months.

At a time when no meaningful channels are provided for the voiceless of our country to express their grievances popular protest is crushed.

The manner in which the government has intervened over the last few months proves that it cannot be termed a government for the people. The interests the government so readily defended were definitely not those of the people.

MEAT WORKERS

The sad case of the meat workers clearly illustrates this point. What started off as a reasonable demand by the workers for the recognition of their own elected committee developed on the one hand into an open confrontation between the workers and the government and on the other hand between the government and the community which came out in support of the demand of the workers.

With detentions and bannings of meetings and pamphlets the government rushed to the assistance of the bosses. With the government confronting the workers with all its might how could workers ever find redress for such reasonable demands?

Stifling of such protest in no way solves the many problems facing the voiceless of our country. Despite the fact that all avenues for the majority of the people to make their grievances known are blocked, such arrangements cannot last forever.

The interests so viciously defended by the government are in no way those shared by the majority. On the other hand it is not difficult to see on whose side the government is on.



• We did issue anonymous pamphlets and I will do it again . . . I will sow confusion in their ranks. — Pik Botha, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Information.

LETTERS

Off the deep end over Atlantis 'Colouredstan'

Sir,
The government has just published its plans for the Western Cape and this has been accepted by Parliament. It is called "A Spatial Development strategy for the Western Cape" and it lays down what will happen in the Cape for the next 20

or so years. It says two important things.

It says that when all land in the "Coloured Group Areas" in Cape Town has been used up (and this will be quite soon) then no more houses will be built for so-called Coloureds in Cape Town. It also says

that when all industrial land is used up, no more industry will be allowed in Cape Town. That means no more jobs.

It says that Mitchells Plain must never have any jobs near it — to quote "It is absolutely essential that no job opportunities except

service functions to meet the areas own needs, be created at Mitchells Plain . . ." (P 10). This means the people of Mitchells Plain will always have to travel long distances to work.

What will happen to the people and jobs that can no longer fit into

Cape Town? They will all be forced to go to Atlantis! Atlantis is 50km away and right next door to Koeberg Power Station.

What this means is that when you want a house the only place you will be allowed to have one is Atlantis. It does not mean that you will necessarily have a job in Atlantis. (Factory owners will only move to Atlantis if the govern-

ment gives them lots of money, and most factory owners want to stay in Cape Town. So there will never be enough jobs for all the people they put in Atlantis.

They say that at the least 20 per cent of workers in Atlantis will have to travel to Cape Town every day to work — at present this takes 2 hours each way and can cost R50 a month or more in transport costs.

There are two possible reasons why the government is doing this. Firstly, they are creating a 'Colouredstan', to stop the 'Coloured' population of Cape Town becoming too large.

Secondly, they feel they can control the workers better and pay them lower wages if they are isolated in the countryside.

Whatever the reasons, the effects will be disastrous. It is important that everyone understands what is happening and that strong protest be made before it is too late.

UNION COUNTERS CLAIMS

Sir,
Regarding articles that were printed in your May/June issue of "Grassroots" and involving my organisation — the Garment Workers' Union of the Western Province — I have the following comments to make.

Any worker who says that he does not know he has a union; has not any idea of his union's benefits and activities; and says that the Union does not keep in touch with its members, is probably not interested in the Union anyway as we print a weekly newsletter, "CLOTHES LINE", and circulate it amongst all members and you will find therein the substantiation for all of the following.

1. The Union constantly asks for comments and criticism from members (Clothesline Vol.1 No.23 — 23 November 1979)
2. The Union informed its members of the wage negotiations long before any strike action (Clothesline Vol.2 No.17 — 9 May 1980).

It was negotiation and not strikes which secured their wage increase.

3. The Union asked for 10 per cent NOT 7 per cent and always negotiates across the board for all workers in the Industry and all workers received the 10 percent on basic wages. For those earning in excess the Union asked that they be treated likewise.

The Union also informed its members of the increase in detail (Clothesline Vol 2 No.20 — 30 May 1980). In this regard the employers did not offer more than the Union requested and nothing prevents the employer from paying more, which indeed many of them do.

Grassroots tops

Sir,
I've read an issue of the monthly newspaper GRASSROOTS and I find it very interesting. It points out true facts. It's also cheap to buy. It suits every poor man's pocket. (I'm glad that

4. The Union supports all workers all the time and is constantly protecting their interests. (Clothesline Vol.2 Nos. 6, 8, 16, 22, 23, 25 We are the only trade Union in the Republic employing two full-time qualified social workers.
5. The stayaway was not condemned nor supported by the Union — it was not our job to do either. We merely reacted to pleas from members for guidance. (Clothesline Vol 2 No. 22 — 13 June 1980)

In addition:—
(a)The Mr X who calls himself a shopsteward does not seem to be one for he is incorrect as far as monthly meetings are concerned, the attendance fee, and

Grassroots takes all business people who fail to pay our people a proper wage to task).

I'm interested in civic matters. I'm also a bus fares fighter in Elsies River area.

J.Endale
Matroosfontein

- saying that he was not aware of the negotiations — where has he been all this time?
(b)Garment Workers receive more benefits for their small subscription than any other similar organisation, including a weekly newspaper brimfull of information.
(c)Your anonymous correspondent says workers are forced to join the Union and they know nothing and get little in return. Perhaps they should show interest and at least read their newspaper — after all THEY are the Union.
(d)I suggest that your anonymous correspondents emerge from their anonymity and get on with the job of working through normal Union channels if they desire improvements. When people are afraid of using their names their motives and sincerity must be questioned.

C.E. PETERSEN,
Assistant Secretary
Garment Workers' Union of the Western Province.

IN AUGUST two years ago Modderdam Road Squatters Camp was demolished. The destruction of the community occurred after a

long series of petitions, deputations and court cases failed to save it. This article by a community worker is about how the organisation of

the people in Modderdam was weakened in this crucial time by the actions of certain "self-help" organisations who came into the

area when the government threatened to bulldoze the shacks and evict the people.

Self help — the real issues

THERE HAS recently been a new growth of community organisations in Cape Town. These new organisations are young and inexperienced. They are very open to advice and assistance, especially from established groups who say they are experts on community issues and who often state that they want to "help the people to help themselves". There are many advantages of having the advice and resources of these groups on hand but, as you will see, there are many dangers too.

MODDERDAM

The people living in the squatter camp on Modderdam Road had become strongly organised during the unrest and protests in 1976. At this stage there were fewer than 3 000 people in the area and they were all represented on a committee. The strength of organisation, together with the tense political situation at the time, prevented BAAB inspectors from entering the area. Under these conditions there was a massive influx of new settlers who took advantage of the inability of the authorities to police the area and moved in.

The old committee was no longer truly representative and so a new committee was formed to organise all the 7 000 people in the area. This committee first mobilised over the issues of crime prevention and the formation of a school. Regular mass meetings were held at which the committee discussed these and other issues with the people.

The first crisis which the new committee faced was the removal of the water supply. Water had been obtained from building sites over the railway line in Belhar, but in mid-December these sites closed for the holidays and water was no longer available close by. The committee held a number of large mass meetings and finally a delegation went to the Public Works Department to demand a water supply.

The second crisis arose when the mayor of Bellville called on the government to remove this "illegal squatter camp", a task which would be simplified by the new anti-squatting law. The response of the committee was to demand that the area be declared an Emergency Camp like Crossroads. This would give the people some right to remain there. It would also force the authorities to provide water and rubbish removals. More mass meetings were held to explain this demand to the people and to gauge their reactions to it. The committee stressed the need for deeper organisation to strengthen the unity of the people.

But the struggle of the people of Modderdam awakened the concern of many other people and organisations in Cape Town who all descended on Modderdam Road. They brought with them journalists, public figures and politicians.

Contact was made with the committee who were overwhelmed by this sudden and unexpected support (which came to include money, food, clothes, a soup kitchen and a crèche).

The intervention of the "self-help" groups had several effects on the state of organisation of the community. Firstly, the committee now saw the solution to the problems of the area in the promises and plans which these groups put forward.



• Modderdam Squatters Camp before the bulldozers moved in two years ago.

Before, the need for strong organisation had been obvious.

Now the meetings were mere report back sessions at which the committee informed the people what had already been decided.

Second, the invasion weakened the people's spirit of self-reliance and their unity. They too began to believe that the activities set up by the "self-help" groups and their supporters who had been attracted by the crisis would secure for them the right to stay in the area.

SHACKS MARKED

In this climate, the authorities first sent inspectors round the camp to mark the shacks of 'coloured' and African families with different signs. Then the Public Works Department began to demolish unoccupied shacks. (Up until this time, the people had prevented inspectors from entering the area), but now they were persuaded that capable people were looking after their interests. Then the first of a series of seven day eviction notices were served. The "self-help" groups immediately laid on lawyers who began to challenge the legality of the notices and question the ownership of the land. After several delays the authorities showed every intention of beginning to bulldoze shacks.

The lawyers obtained an urgent court order to halt the demolitions after finding a loophole in the law. This was hailed as a great victory. The people saw that they were not evicted and began to place still more confidence in the power of the law and the efforts of the "self-help" groups to win justice for them. The need for organisation now became completely hidden beneath the wide range of highly publicised support activities for the people of Modderdam.

Three months later, parliament changed the anti-squatting law to reverse the earlier "victory" in the courts. The "self-help" groups and the lawyers were taken by surprise. They could do no more with the law, so they began to organise a retreat from Modderdam. A fund was established to be on hand for emergencies. "Coloured" squatters were offered land at Skietbaan by the authorities while the illegal Africans were all to be given rail warrants back to

their "places of origin". The "self-help" groups encouraged 'coloured' families to accept this offer and thus helped bring about a division which would have been unthinkable at the beginning of the year.

GROWING DISUNITY

In face of growing disunity and disillusionment more people began to move out before the end came. When the bulldozers finally arrived they found a disintegrating community. Long before, all decisions about how the people should organise their resistance to the attack of the state had been taken out of their hands. Petitions, delegations and appeals failed, publicity failed, the law failed. The people had been misled. Modderdam was destroyed.

This is not to say that in a time of crisis no use should be made of the law, the press and wealthy liberals. These can be weapons in the struggle. But the basic weapon of the people is ORGANISATION, and the way in which all these groups acted in Modderdam Road served to undermine organisation. They helped to turn what was, perhaps inevitably, a defeat (but from which lessons

could be learned) into a crushing defeat.

"SELF-HELP"

The case of Modderdam Road shows how the actions of the "self-help" groups and their followers helped to weaken and distort the link between the elected leaders and the rest of the community. We have seen how this happened because these groups came in at a time of crisis when the committee had difficult decisions to make and was especially open to promises of help. The people were encouraged to put all their faith in petitions, press campaigns and the law courts as the way of solving their problems. This approach also weakened organisation.

A strong link between the people and the elected leaders is needed to make sure that the leaders truly represent the wishes of the people. A community committee must not simply inform the people, it must listen to them as well. In Modderdam Road we can see that the "self-help" groups worked with the committee rather than with the community. They helped to weaken democracy and hence organisation as well.

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WHY A CIVIC?

How communities can act together to tackle their common problems

MORE THAN 2 million people live on the Cape Flats. Most of them earn less than R150 per month and qualify for sub-economic housing. The housing provided by the City Council, the Divisional Council and the Western Cape Administration Board are inadequate, badly constructed and poorly maintained.

Also, facilities such as street lighting, schools, crèches, shops, playgrounds and sports fields are lacking. Day in and day out, people struggle with problems which come from poor living conditions. When Mrs Adams in Kewtown has a problem with her rent, she goes to the rent office to try to sort it out. Nothing is done about her problem.

But in the last few months, people have learnt to tackle their problems in

a different way. The meetings held to discuss the schools, rent and bus boycotts have taught communities to come together and in this way to solve their problems.

At mass meetings, people speak angrily against the conditions under which they and their children were forced to live. Parent-student committees were formed at the meetings and it is these bodies which are now forming the basis for residents associations. The people are realising that they cannot solve their problems if they act on their own. They must come together and act as one community with the same problems.

Grassroots spoke to members of civic and residents associations to find

out how powers coming together to solve the problems facing them.

What did they learn?

- As many people as possible must take part in all activities and decision-making.
- Large areas, for example Lotus River and Hanover Park, were broken up into a number of zones and small working groups in each zone. As new people as possible were then joining these groups.
- A working committee co-ordinates the activities of all the zone committees.
- House meetings are held where members from about ten families meet at

one house to discuss problems in the area.

Newsletters are issued regularly to inform the people of what is happening in the area.

On these pages Grassroots describes the activities of four associations. These associations have been chosen because they represent organizations in different forms and stages.

The Lotus River Ratepayers and Tenants Association was formed when the old Lotus River Ratepayers Association was taken over and refired. Of the four organizations to be discussed, theirs is the oldest.

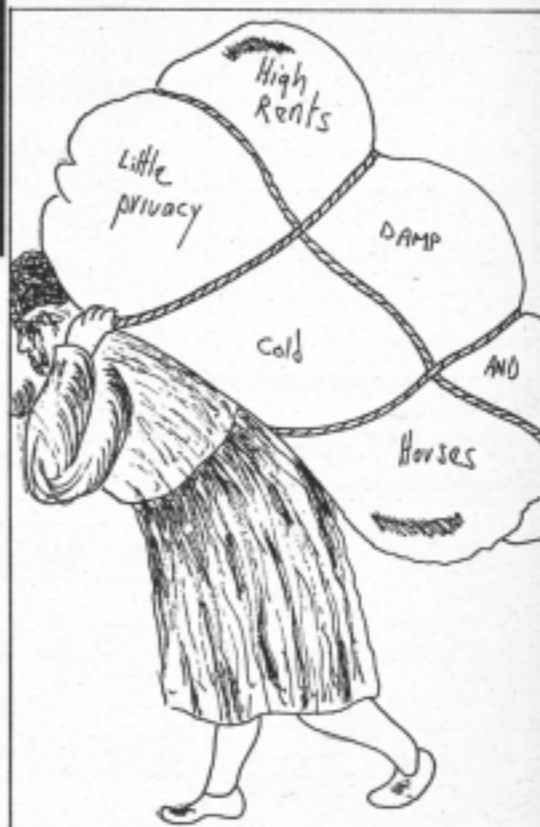
In Valhalla Park, residents face serious problems and are now trying to

work to overcome them. In Hanover Park, like in other areas, a youth group has sprung up which is part of the residents association.

Like Valhalla Park, residents in Bokmakierie, Bridgetown, Silvertown and Kewtown are coming together to begin to form an association.

There are many problems to be solved but before this can be done, the people must organise themselves in community associations and this is what committees in all the areas must do now.

Join your nearest residents association!!! Unity is strength! Saamstaan is krag!



READY TO DO BATTLE IN VALHALLA PARK

"THERE are no outside drains, no gutters - the water seeps up the walls until even the ceilings are black with mould. Our children are always sick because the houses are so damp and cold. They think that because we come from shanty houses we are used to this sort of life - that is why they put us in such houses. My shanty was much more comfortable than this."

Valhalla Park was built nearly four years ago by the City Council to re-house people who had been living in shanties all over Cape Town. People who had been living in Sunny Estate, Athlone, Belgravia, Rylands' Bush and Crossroads were resettled in Valhalla Park.

More than a thousand sub-economic houses were built. The houses were built in two stages. First, 775 houses were built and then another three hundred "very low cost" houses were built.

A Valhalla Park resident explained to GRASSROOTS that because the houses were built so cheaply, the quality was very poor. The houses were built of cheap ash bricks and have concrete floors. There are no gutters, down-pipes or outside drains so the water stands for days and gets under the floor and into the walls.

Many of the houses have only one door which makes them very dangerous if a fire were to break out. The doors are made of thin board and can be easily broken into. In many houses, the door frames are loose and the doors could fall over.

Because of the way the houses are designed, there is very little privacy. Some of the rooms do not have doors and the toilet and the kitchen are not separate from the rest of the house. Although the houses are not old, many of the walls have cracks in them. These cracks allow the cold

to come through and also become a breeding place for insects. The electricity boxes are placed outside on the street. They are easily built (plastic) and can easily be broken. This means that people's electricity supply is always being cut off and it is also dangerous for children.

"The council should never have let anybody live in houses like this in the first place. The construction and design of the houses is very important because people relate to both matters and it became linked to the living standard of the people," explained the resident.

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THE YOUNG MOBILE UNIT

"WE CALL ourselves the mobile unit of the Civic Association," a member of the Hanover Park Civic Youth Wing to cater for the social needs of young people and to strengthen the Civic Association - in fact it was started soon after the Civic Association was launched, about two months ago.

It has nearly 100 members. "We use ourselves as working under the Civic Association, so some of our activities

are civic related such as raising money or any other activity that needs a lot of manpower, like the distribution of newsletters and notices, which we help to draw up," said a member.

The Youth Wing also alternates with the Civic Association in providing entertainment for the youngsters every month. A number of groups have been formed to arrange weekly social programmes. These groups include music,

art, film and fund-raising activities. They work these of the group present a programme.

"In activities everyone participates - it is not something that a few people present to everyone else," a member.

To the most young people in their activities, they have divided Hanover Park into 7 zones. The target is to be active members in each zone.

Success after setback in Lotus & Grassy Park

IN LOTUS River and Grassy Park last year, residents were faced with the problem of rising rates. Civic associations in the area arranged meetings and although the people were interested in doing something they were not getting involved in existing organizations.

At the annual meeting in October of one of these organizations, the Lotus River Ratepayers Association, which was virtually dead, it was decided to try to revive the organization so that the problems facing the people could be tackled.

A vote of no confidence was passed in members who belonged to management committees and a new executive committee was formed.

The constitution was changed to include tenants and the new association was named the Lotus River Ratepayers and Tenants Association.

Today, nearly eight months later, this association has 1 000 members who have joined to fight against high rates, rents, high electricity accounts and problems in sanitation.

How did this association become so strong? And how does this association work?

There are nine members belonging to the executive committee. When the first problems of electricity accounts and sanitation were discussed, one member of the committee was put in charge of organizing people to try to solve the problems.

The member had to get other people to help him or her work out a way in which to tackle the problem.

To tackle a problem, it was always necessary to find out all the facts about it first. Surveys were carried out from door to door to find out what problems the people were having with their electricity accounts.

To Page 16

The Data Bank at Divisional Council offices in Cape Town was also visited. This is where facts can be found about all areas which fall under Divisional Council. Some officials at Divisional Council are also willing to explain to anybody who is interested how rates and rents are calculated.

BBSK unity drive

"WE NEED one residents' association to represent people in Bokmakierie, Bridgetown, Silvertown and Kewtown so that we can work together as one big community and not as separate ones. One large organisation will be very much stronger than small ones."

This is what the action committee working in the area believes. Formed from the parent/student body in the area, the committee is trying to set up a residents' association through which the people can work.

There are many problems facing the people in these areas. Many have been living there for more than 20 years. They have been paying rents to Council for years and years and still they get nothing from Council.

"Council can still increase our rents, although we have already paid the houses off over and over again," say the people.

"Our houses are small and overcrowded. Many of us have married children and their families staying with us," they say. "There are no houses for them."

"And now, Council wants us to pay for all repairs to their houses. A fee for maintenance has been included in our rents - we have already

To Page 16

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ADVICE BUREAU

'BLACKS' PAY 3 TIMES AS MUCH TAX

Dear Grassroots
 After a long time of struggle I consider this opportunity to be the best. I married legally in November 1966. We now have four school-going kids and one who does not attend school, whose ages range from 5 years to 14 years.

I have worked for an engineering firm (steel and metal) as a driver from January 1964. Over the 14 years I got tax rebates twice. Can you please advise me on this. Secondly there is no tax reduction given to me for the number of kids. Pay slip enclosed.

Am I entitled to medical services and a paid sick leave in this company?

Would you please be kind enough and let me know about enrolment if there is any.

J.M. N'kitseng
 Sebekeng

You are governed by the Black Taxation Act, 1969. In terms of this Act your employer has to register as a Taxpayer and not you. Your employer is therefore compelled to deduct tax from your wage and pay this over to the Receiver of tax. The amount deduct-

ed is calculated from Deduction Tables.

The more you earn the more tax you will pay.

The rate of tax that you pay is calculated on a flat tax. As you are married with 4 children you will pay the same amount of tax as a single person. You do not receive any rebates.

If a person is not classified 'Black' by the Government, then that person must register as a taxpayer. He will have to complete a tax form every year and will then be entitled to special rebates or abatements.

A 'non-black' person earning R5 000 per year who is married with 4 children will pay approximately R63 tax for the year. A 'black' person will, however, pay approximately R207 tax for the year. This is a rather unfair situation.

You are definitely entitled to paid sick leave in your company. It seems that 40c a month is deducted from your wages. This is the contribution that workers and employers must pay to the National Industrial Council for the Iron, Steel, Engineering and Metallur-

gical Industry Sick Pay Fund.

For this amount you are entitled to up to 30 weeks of paid sick leave per year. You will always need a doctor's certificate to be able to claim sick pay. The first two days of sick leave are unpaid. The rest of the first week up to the fourth week will be paid out at the rate of R12 per week. The fifth to the eighteenth week is paid out at R13 per week while the nineteenth week to the 30th week is paid at R14 per week.

If sick pay fund does not cover you, then you would be entitled under the Factories Act to two weeks paid sick leave per year. You would be paid what you normally earn each day including the first two days. If you are sick for longer than two days you could have to give the employers a doctor's certificate in addition.

Since most workers are sick for a short time only, the sick pay fund may leave the worker worse off, than under the Factories Act. But the worker has no choice about this.

The medical benefit fund in your industry is

the Engineering and Allied Industries Employees Medical Aid Fund. This entitles members to R350 free

medical service per year. For this you and your employer would pay 20c a week each. If you are interested in joining

this ask your employer or contact the Secretary, National Industrial Council for the Iron, Steel and Engineering

and Metallurgical Industry. (Transvaal Regional Council), P.O. Box 3998 Johannesburg 2000

TB: Ways to protect yourself

Dear Grassroots

My brother-in-law who lives with us has Tuberculosis. How can we protect ourselves from this disease? We don't want to put him out. He has no place to go.

M. Mabaso
 Langa

You are kind to give your brother shelter. We know that the problem of Tuberculosis can only be solved when we have won the struggle for proper housing, better education, wages and work opportunities.

We will then be able to live in a healthy way and our bodies will be able to resist the Tuberculosis germ.

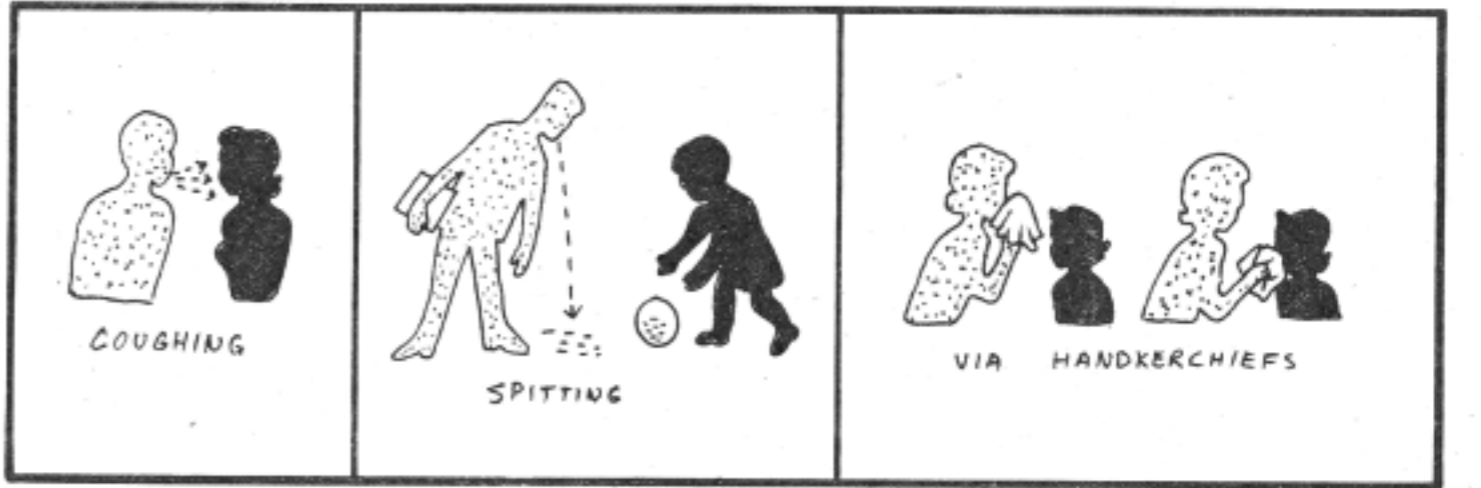
Tuberculosis can be spread from one person

to another, but with modern treatment the danger of infection is less.

This is how you can protect the people living in your house:

- Make sure that your brother-in-law takes his pills and/or injections daily. People on regular treatment are no longer infectious.
- Every one who lives in your house must go to the nearest clinic for a medical check and Tuberculosis tests. Children can be vaccinated against the disease.
- Stop the spread of Tuberculosis germs. Nobody should spit. Use tissues if necessary. Don't use each others' handkerchiefs.
- Build up every one's health by eating well. Make sure that young children drink milk.

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More children than parents

THE CHILD Welfare Society is concerned with the care of children — the emphasis is on the social, physical, emotional and educational needs and development of the child.

Thus the society offers a number of services related to child care — one of these is adoption.

What is meant by adoption. It means that the rights and responsibilities of the natural parents are legally transferred to others (the adoptive parents).

MEMBER

Through adoption children can become full members of families into which they were not born.

At present there is a great shortage of couples who are willing to adopt.

There are many reasons for this. One of these is lack of know-

ledge, there are many wrong ideas about adoption.

One of the commonest wrong ideas is that only people who are educated and very rich can adopt.

This is not true. Adoption is for any couple who can provide for a child's well-being.

CHILDLESS

Another wrong idea is that adoption is only for childless couples. This is not so. Being childless (or infertile) has nothing to do with the ability to be good parents.

How they feel about rearing a child that was not born to them is more important.

Parents who want to adopt a child often has doubts and fears as to the reasons for natural parents (usually the mother) placing their babies for adoption.

WICKED

Some people regard their action as wicked and uncaring.

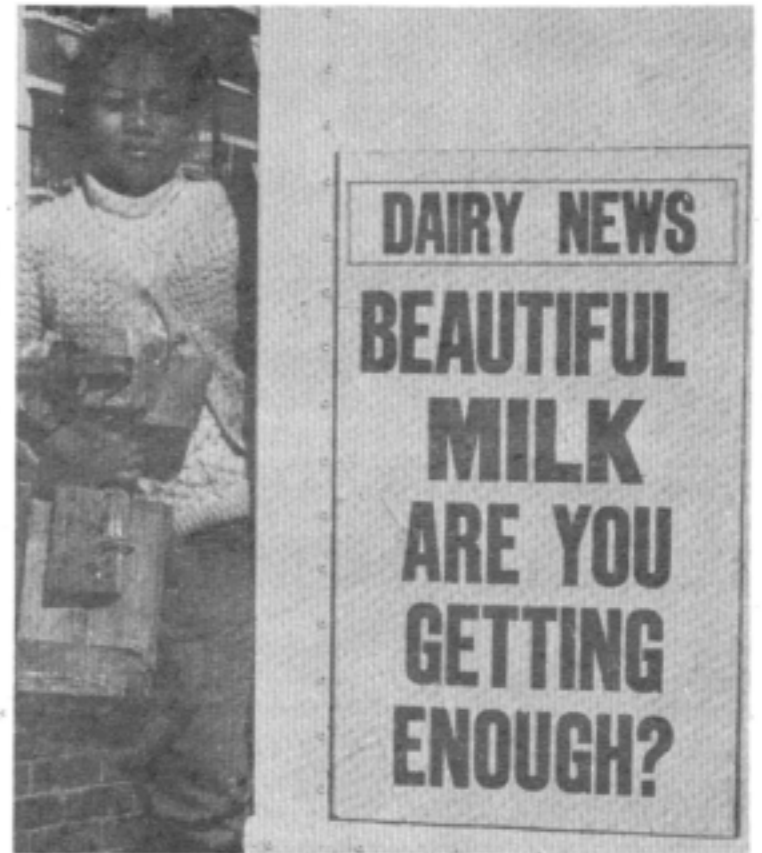
This is not so.

The mother only makes the painful decision after having looked at all the possibilities such as abortion and suicide.

Despite a change in society's attitude, many single mothers still feel it would be in the child's best interests to have two parents.

Agencies are faced with the problem of not having enough parents who are able or willing to adopt.

The Child Welfare society believes that adoptive parenthood IS parenthood and while it is wrong to place a child where he shouldn't be or does not belong it is equally wrong to deprive a child of a home he could have had.



• Milk is an important food when it comes to building resistance against disease like tuberculosis (see story on facing page). The little girl pictured here next to the milk advert looks healthy enough to have a strong resistance against disease. But many of our children are not so fortunate...

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Do your child a favour — see that his birth is registered

THE PARENT is responsible for registration of birth of a child This should be done before the child is one year old. If this not done, it will create problems for you, and the child in its later life.

WHERE TO REGISTER A BIRTH;

• At the Birth's Office of your local magistrate's court in the district where the child is born.

• At the Regional Office of the Department of Interior — Customs House on the Fore-

shore in the case of Cape Town.

• The birth should be registered in the magisterial district where the child is born. For example, if the child is born at Groote Schuur, its birth should be registered at Customs House in Cape Town and not in Bellville or Wynberg, even if you live in one of these areas.

REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTERING A BIRTH:

• Only the parents of a child may register its

birth. Should a child be abandoned, it is best for you to consult with the Birth's Registration office or a Welfare Society.

• Married couples must produce a marriage certificate and some form of identification — Identity Card, Book of Life, Birth Certificate or any other form of identification.

• In the case of an unmarried mother, identification is also required. Should she not have any such documents, she should be

able to furnish her correct name and surname, the date and place of her birth and an address at which she can be found.

If these steps are followed, the registering officer may not refuse to register the birth.

• Registration before the child is a year old is free.

REGISTERING A CHILD IN THE FATHER'S NAME, WHERE COUPLES ARE NOT MARRIED:

• Unmarried couples may register the child in the name of the father, provided he signs consent. This procedure is better, especially where unmarried couples intend to get married at a later stage.

The father should also produce some form of identification.

Even if couples do not plan to get married but feel the child should have the father's surname, this is possible with the father's consent.

STILLBORN BABIES:

• Stillborn babies should also be registered, as this prevents problems with the burial.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE BIRTH IS REGISTERED:

Once the birth of your child is registered, the registering officer should immediately give you a certificate which proves that you have registered the child. This is NOT a birth certificate.

In due course, the registering officer will send the notification of the birth to the Depart-

ment of Interior in Pretoria, and you should receive a birth certificate from them within about three months, provided you gave an address at which you can be found.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOUR CHILD'S BIRTH IS NOT REGISTERED BEFORE HE IS A YEAR OLD:

This means that a late registration of the birth is necessary. It is a troublesome process and is best avoided by early registration.

THE PROCESS FOR LATE REGISTRATION:

• Apply to the Department of Interior, Private Bag X114, Pretoria, 0001, for a birth certificate. This is necessary to check whether the birth is registered or not, as hospitals and maternity homes sometimes register births. If the birth is not registered, Pretoria will send you the proper forms to complete.

• If you have difficulty in completing the forms or do not quite understand what is required, you should get help from your local births office or at Customs House in Cape Town.

• Although the forms which you receive will make it clear what you need to send, you are likely to need one of the following: a baptismal certificate, a declaration by the midwife who delivered the child, a declaration by the hospital or nursing home where the child was born, or any other documentary proof or sworn declaration about the birth of the child.

Lunch is a right

Dear Grassroots,

At our work we only get half an hour lunch break. It is useless to go to the shop because it is so crowded and one spends your whole break just standing in the shop. Other factories get a full hour. Why is our lunch break only half an hour?

Mr Daniels Stellenbosch

The law says that you must get a full hour lunch after you have worked for five hours.

If the employer wishes to reduce the lunch hour, he can only do so with the permission of the workers and after writing to the Department of Labour of such an agreement between himself and the workers.

There may be various reasons why the employer wishes to reduce the lunch hour. Workers must remember that one's body needs rest and that the hour break is for the protection of the health of the worker.

Workers must be paid extra time if their lunch hour is reduced because the lunch break is one's own time.

If you stop work earlier by having only half an hour lunch break then this would not be the case.

If you do not belong to a union, then a group of you should organise a meeting for all the workers to discuss this problem.

There you should elect a committee to go to the boss to see whether they can put the matter right.

Remember, you will only get results if most workers support the committee.

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3rd Party insurance — all you need to know

A CHILD is involved in a "hit-and-run" motor accident and is paralysed for life. The mother gets a hospital account for several hundred rands and can't pay. She is worried about the future of her child and also the hospital bill. Can she claim and against whom?

A wife loses her husband in a motor car accident. He is killed instantly. He leaves three young children. She cannot work because she has to care for the children. She has no income. Can she claim, and against whom?

COVERED
All motor vehicles on the road must be covered by "third party insurance". This type of insurance protects people who are injured in a motor accident, or the dependents of those killed in motor accidents, provided it can be shown that the driver of the motor vehicle was negligent or at fault.

The injured person(s) can claim against the insurance company which issued the third party insurance.

PAIN
Hospital and medical expenses, loss of earnings, compensation for pain and suffering and disability can also be

claimed. The dependants of someone killed in an accident can, on the other hand, claim for loss of earnings.

To succeed with a claim against the insurance company, it must be shown that the driver of the vehicle was to be blamed for the accident.

NEGLIGENT
The driver of the vehicle must be shown to have been negligent. If it is proven that the driver was entirely to blame, the fund will have to pay out a large sum. The sum could be sufficient to secure the child's future. The fund will settle the hospital bills directly.

In the case in which the husband was killed, his widow can claim for loss of support for herself and her children.

DEAD
If the dead man is found to have been partly to blame for the accident, the claim will be awarded in relation to the extent of his blameworthiness.

An important point to note is that a claim against the insurance company or the Fund must be made within two years of an accident. If it is not, payment will be refused and nothing can be done about that.

It is best to seek

legal help if you have a claim. If you can't afford a lawyer, you can always get legal aid from your local Legal Aid Officer.

INJURY

It often happens that the person who suffers injury as well as the driver of the vehicle are both to blame. In this case the insurance company works on a percentage basis.

Blame is divided between the person making a claim and the driver involved.

The claimant may be awarded 60 percent of his original claim if found to be 40 percent blameworthy.

What happens if it is a "hit-and-run" accident and neither car nor driver can be traced? Or when the car involved in the accident is not covered by third party insurance?

CLAIMS

Third party insurance companies have formed a fund known as the Motor Vehicle Insurance Fund to meet claims in such cases.

We return now to the case mentioned in the beginning, in which a child is paralysed for life in an accident.

Here the parent, or guardian, can claim against the MVIF on behalf of the child.



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Management Committees: what they are all about

Management committees, community councils, advisory and consultative bodies have been rejected by the people in our communities since this legislation was passed in 1961 (Urban Bantu Councils Act later amended to the Community Councils Act of 1977) and in 1962 when the government provided for the creation of local governing bodies in "Coloured" and "Indian" areas.

Recently, thousands of people at community meetings took a strong stand against what was referred to as the "puppet bodies" of the government.

What are management committees, why was it started and what are the reasons for the strong stand against it.

Until 1924 in the case of "Indians" in Natal and 1956, "Coloureds" in the Cape, were allowed to vote and have a say in how their communities should be run through municipalities. "Africans" never had this right. When these limited rights were removed, the present government passed laws to create local bodies where "Indians" and "Coloureds" would be able to exercise some influence in their communities.

The government had a three phase plan:

- Firstly, consultative committees would be started in the communities. These committees would then advise local government departments about the needs and problems of the people.
- In the second phase, management committees would be formed and the members would have certain responsibilities. However, they would be supervised and under the control of the local authorities such as, City Council or Divisional Council. Some members are chosen by the government while others are elected. Management committee members are responsible for housing, community facilities such as, recreation, street lights, health and other services in the townships.
- In the final stage, local authorities would be formed. This means that these bodies would be independent and would manage their own finances in the same way as the municipality of Cape Town has control over a

certain area.

By January 1977, there was not one management committee which was fully elected by the people. In most cases members were chosen by the government while some were elected. Many people felt that through management committees they would be able to change the conditions in the townships. Others who had joined these committees resigned over the years because they rejected "self-rule" for a particular "racial group", or they have come to realize that they could not serve the community in this way.

Management committees and community councils have been rejected by the people because it is believed that these bodies have been created by the government to suit the aims of Apartheid.

They claim that Apartheid is a means of separating people into different groups where each "racial group" will manage its own affairs. Management committees and community councils are criticized as an extension of the government's Apartheid policy.

These bodies have been formed by the government to negotiate on behalf of the people. Over the years these bodies have made countless representations to the authorities to change conditions in the townships, but nothing has been done. It is clear that they do not have the power to change things and that they do not represent the real interests of the people. These bodies are not organizations of the people and cannot therefore act on behalf of the people.

Many people in the townships claim that

they only hear about management committees when it is time for elections. Many promises are made to get votes and thereafter they are not heard of or seen again.

It is as a result of this that there has not only been an outcry against management committees and community councils, but alternative bodies have been formed by the people representing their interests. Civic associations have fulfilled this function. These organizations are considered to be alternative organizations to those created by the government.

But if a civic association does not represent the interests of the people, if it fails to organize the communities for self-reliance effectively and does not build strong people's organizations and leaders, then it cannot fulfil this alternative function.

Birth of TAC

(From page 3)

We appreciate that cannot happen overnight but we all need to start somewhere, sometime.

We believe that with the help of people who know and people who care we will be able to assist the teacher to play a new role.

The subject will be the same - nothing dramatic there. What will be dramatic will be the adoption of new methods and a new approach in the school-

and the South African situation.

How have we begun? The TAC has elected a central co-ordinating committee of twelve persons.

ACTIVITIES

That committee has divided the Western Cape into eighteen (geographical) regions so as to facilitate the holding of (smaller) room, which are relevant to today's world

meetings and the organisation of workshops; to conveniently place the TAC and its activities within easy reach of the place where the teacher works or lives; to help create opportunities for liaison with local bodies and with which teachers can identify and work.

Each region elects its own "executive committee" to perform routine administrative duties, co-ordinate activities and to maintain liaison with the TAC central co-ordinating committee.

It has been advocated, too, that there be a further sub-division of the regional committees - into school action groups (or sub-committees).

All regional groups are encouraged to exchange ideas (for workshops for instance) and programmes of activities. These ideas and programmes are forwarded to the central co-ordinating committee which in turn, disseminates the information.

COMPILED

The central co-ordinating committee has already compiled and issued two newsletters. The distribution of newsletters will be a regular feature and will occur at least once per term.

An introduction to the TAC approach to the classroom situation was published in July under the title of "A new approach" Distributed with this booklet were other publications we believe teachers will find useful and thought-provoking.

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'No normal sport while we have abnormal education'

THE Transvaal Cricket Board, which suffered a severe setback a few years ago when several of its leading players moved to the rival Transvaal Cricket Council, has been helped by the recent school's boycott to get some of their players back.

One of the players who wants to return to the TCB is reported to have said that he had supported his son during the boycott.

He further said he could not play normal sport while "our children have to put up with abnormal educational facilities."

Mr A B Asvat, president of the TCB, yesterday confirmed that the players wanted to return to his body. He also expressed his delight at their decision.

ABNORMAL

He said: "Most of the players who moved to the TCC had strong non-racial ties and their return was inevitable. Our viewpoint, that you can't play normal sport in an abnormal society, has been vindicated by decision."

Mr Asvat also said most of the players want to play normal sport because they wanted to play with players like Graeme Pollock. He

Cricket triumph for TCB

added that the novelty of playing with these players had worn off, hence their decision to return to his body.

He named some of the players who wished to leave the TCC as: Tiffy Barnes, Moosa Magera, Aboo Manack, Morris Garda, Ismail Kara, Peter Garda and Faizal Salie.

Morris Garda, who plays for Cohinoor, was one of the players who excelled in the TCC and was the Transvaal B opener in the Castle Bowl competition.

The other Kohinoor players are Aboo Manack, Kara and Salie.

STRENGTHEN

Mr Asvat agreed that these players would strengthen the TCB, which ended last in the Howa Bowl last year.

He said: "We lost more than twenty clubs

to the TCC. But I am overjoyed at the prospect that ten of them wish to return to us. In fact, their return is a mere formality. They will make us a force to reckon with."

Mr Hassan Howa, president of the South African Cricket Board to which the TCB is affiliated, said he was pleased that the players were returning to where they belong.

He also stressed that the players were not forced to return, but had realised that they were wrong to move to the TCC.

Dr Ali Bacher, chairman of the TCC, could not be reached for comment as he was away on holiday.

But he was reported to have said he would be disappointed if the clubs moved back to the TCB.

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Urban Foundation: Diffusing Frustrations

Following the article on the Urban Foundation in the last edition of GRASSROOTS, we take a look at how the Foundation tries to ease the frustrations of the people by providing services which is the duty of the local authorities to provide.

The Urban Foundation is an organisation formed by businessmen after the uprisings of 1976. They put money into a fund to be used for projects in communities.

These men say that they came together to help improve conditions

in communities.

But to know whether this is true, we must look at what it does in our communities. We must also ask how these men get the money they give to Urban Foundation.

People all over the country live in poor conditions. These same

people work for the men who belong to Urban Foundation. Their bosses pay them low wages which makes it impossible for them to improve their living conditions.

Once our people have paid their rent and bought food, they have no money left for other

essentials.

Also, local authorities such as the Bantu administration, the divisional council and city council do not put aside enough money to improve the townships where our people live.

The businessmen become richer and richer because they pay the people who work for them low wages. They then put the money that they save on wages into the Urban Foundation. This money in fact belongs to the people.

PROJECTS

But the Urban Foundation gives this money to projects in communities which the government should see to.

Let us look at Robin Hood creche in Elsie River. This creche is one of the most beautiful creches ever built in any of our areas. It has been

built from Urban Foundation money.

But the people are grateful because they think they are 'lucky' to have such a creche. They do not understand that it is their right to have such a creche.

They do not understand that such a creche should be built by the government because the government collects taxes which are supposed to be used for the people's needs.

In Facticeon the people rejected a plan by Shawco to use an Urban Foundation loan of R40 000 to develop a sportsground in 14th avenue. Kenfacts, the area's newsletter, exposed the plan and explained that the loan had to be repaid at 10 per cent interest. This would have meant that each club would have to

pay R100 a year to repay the loan.

"Why should the Urban Foundation give money for a sportsfield which the council should see to?" asked the residents.

"We must ask the council to provide facilities," they said.

If the men who donate to the Urban Foundation paid people higher wages then the people will be able to live better and not suffer so much.

Instead of helping communities, the Urban Foundation is helping the government. It is giving communities what the government should be giving them - houses, creches and community centres.

In the next issue of Grassroots, we will look at what the Urban Foundation has done in Crossroads.

SALT RIVER ON THE MOVE

DURING the recent unrest in Cape Town, it became clear that Salt River needed a community organisation.

The existing ratepayers association failed to call any public meetings or to take up issues affecting the community.

There was no way to judge Salt River's reaction to the school, bus and meat boycotts.

Attempts were made to form a parent-student committee - these were unsuccessful.

A few individuals

from the community then met and convened a mass-meeting for the residents of Salt River.

The purpose was to rally support for the meat and bus boycotts, to assess the school boycott, and to attempt to form an effective community organisation.

About 1 500 people attended the meeting at the Salt River Institute on Sunday, May 18. Many had to return home because the hall was overcrowded.

The community str-

ongly supported the boycotts, called for equal education for all, and condemned arbitrary detentions.

A unanimous decision was taken to convene another meeting. At this meeting a community organisation, the Salt River Civic Association, was formed. An executive committee was elected by the 300 people present.

Although the policy has not been ratified by the general body of members, its aim, said

executive committee members, is to equal citizenship and democratic rights for all South Africans.

Development of the organisation was curtailed by a ban on public meetings.

The community is trying to keep the organisation alive by arranging free films, and social gatherings where people can get to know one another and civic matters can be discussed informally.

A newsletter is being drawn up.

BBSK on rights

(From page 9)

paid for repairs Council has not even done."

The BBSK Action Committee feels that all residents have a right to better living conditions and improved facilities. The committee asks: "Are we going to allow Council to do with us what they like?"

"We must form an association so that we can organise ourselves and fight issues together.

According to the committee, the aims of the residents association should be:

- to build unity by breaking

down the barriers which separate us as fellow workers;

- to stand together on all issues affecting us not only in the places where we live, but also in the places where we work.
- to ensure greater security and protection for the interests of all residents.
- to strive for better living conditions, increased facilities and the development of the area in the interests of all residents.
- to work towards greater control by the residents

over the running of the area.

- to work in co-operation with other bodies with similar aims.

Members of the committee have split into groups and are working in each of the four areas. They visit people at their homes and discuss with them the problems of the areas. Their main task is to find out how many people are keen to assist them in the launching of the RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

The action committee feels that much more can be achieved if the parents of the area PARTICIPATE IN THE FORMATION OF THE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

The residents association will fight to improve housing, educational and sporting facilities in the area and strive to fulfil all the aims set out.

The Action Committee meets once a week to hear report-backs from the four groups. When a certain group has problems the other members of the group either advise and/or offers assistance.

Decisions concerning the whole area are taken together. Activities in the four areas are co-ordinated in this way. e.g. Bokmakierie wants their RENT OFFICE to be returned to this area. Therefore joint action will have to be taken to ensure that the demands of the tenants of Bokmakierie will be heard.

HOUSE MEETINGS form a fundamental part of the activities in the area. The various problems of the tenants are discussed and various solutions are formulated. Already, doors and window-frames have been fixed but many houses are in a state of disrepair. The B.B.S.K. residents are not going to allow these concessions to blind them to the inhuman treatment of the Council over the past 40 odd years.

Valhalla's rents fight

(From page 9)

A small group of people in Valhalla Park who realised that the only way to fight these problems was for people in the area to tackle them together, have come together to form a residents' committee. They are holding house meetings where people discuss their problems and are trying to include as many people as possible.

"We have got to speak to as many people as possible," a committee member told GRASSROOTS, "But it is difficult because we are still a very small group and it is dangerous to go out at night here. So we can only go to visit people at week-ends."

She said one of the issues the committee had taken up was that of rents.

"The rents are much too high. The people can't afford to pay the rents the City Council are demanding. The high rents mean that people can't afford to pay for basic foodstuffs. It is common to hear from the people we visit that once they have paid their rent, there is very little money left over for food," she said.

Another reason why they feel the rents are too high is that the Council has provided so few facilities for the community.

Divided in Zones

(From page 9)

While the surveys were carried out, people were invited to come to the general meeting of the association and to become members. Every month more and more people joined and started helping to fight their problems together.

At general meetings, everything was discussed so that all residents could understand and be part of solving their problems.

Besides general meetings, house meetings where about ten families meet are held where problems and solutions to those problems are discussed.

Because the area is very large, it is divided into 16 zones. In each of these areas, there is a contact group which sees to it that as many people as possible come together when a problem must be solved.

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