

HOUSES FOR ALL

- 1500 reject house sales
- 10% rent increases
- Solidarity with KTC
- The PC will not give us houses

THE GOVERNMENT has made a mess out of housing and now expects the people to pay for it.

This was said by speakers at a protest meeting at the Hanover Park Community Centre of May 15. The meeting was organised by the Cape Areas Housing Action Committee (Cahac).

We want houses, comfort and security. It is the duty of the Government to take responsibility for housing, was the demand of the more than 1500 people at the meeting.

Busloads of people from all over the Western Cape arrived at the community centre despite the cold and rain. People packed the hall and many sat on the floor or stood along the sides.

The people at the meeting were silent as Mr Genoti spoke of the inhuman conditions under which the KTC people have to live.

"The rain falls on our heads and our babies", he said. "We dig holes in the ground and sleep in them at night."

The first speaker was Mr Trevor Manuel, Cahac's secretary. He spoke about the housing crisis which he referred to as 'die gemors'.

He said lots of money was spent after the Group Areas Act was passed and people's good homes in District Six, Constantia and



"Cahac is ons die Council mense se organisasie," said a resident at the Cahac mass meeting.

Goodwood were broken down.

"Every time they moved people into other areas, the Government had to spend money on new houses", he said.

"The money comes from our taxes. We must suffer, not those who make the laws", he said.

He said people had to pay high rents, pay for maintenance and those earning less than R150 would even have to pay for ceilings and electricity.

The people cannot afford this, he said. "They want to draw blood from a stone, so that apartheid can work", he said.

He said the Government now wanted to sell houses at a profit.

"They want us to clear up their mess", he said.

Mr Joseph Marks, of Steenberg said more than 300 000 people were looking for houses.

"But yet the Government spends R200 million on defence to pro-

tect apartheid", he said. He urged people to join Cahac so that they can stand united and be strong.

Mr May Prins, the Cahac vice-chairman said the task to build strong organisation lay ahead.

The people resolved to reject the PC proposals and the Koornhof bills and expressed support for the people of KTC. The people demanded that the Government take responsibility for housing.

STATE MAKES MILLIONS ON UIF

THE Unemployment Insurance Fund said last year that it had made R224 million profit from the money workers had paid in.

But while they are making a profit, hundreds of unemployed workers are not paid their money.

Workers pay in money to UIF every month while they are working. Now the Government is sitting with all this money.

Advice offices have found that people all over suffer because of the delay.

Advice

Many workers are not paid for months. Others are only paid part of what they should get. And others get tired of going to Labour Offices week after week for nothing.

"We spend a lot of money going to town. Then we waste the whole day for nothing" a worker said.

Some of the cases the Advice offices have handled are:

• Mr Assure from Heideveld has been unemployed since January. After going to town for many weeks he gave up.

In April he came to the Heideveld Advice

office. Now he has signed up again. He has not received any payment yet.

• Mr Ngumbela from Guguletu applied for UIF in October last year. He came to the General Workers Aid Service after four months. By then he had only received R39,16. The Aid Service worked out that he should get R576,00.

• Mrs Arendse from Lotus River left work six years ago. She was too sick to work. She applied for UIF immediately.

Last year she applied again. Now she has turned 60 and has applied for Old Age Pension.

The Advice Offices want to know what is happening to all the money.

The Labour Department says that the computer is causing all the problems. The Advice Offices say that this is no excuse.

Why can't the government employ some of the thousands of unemployed to sort out the problem?

Houtbay harbour on the march

HOUT BAY'S people had never stood together like this before.

Many had got up early and told their friends about the march to the rent office. Some had decided to go in to work at the harbour later than usual. Others woke up while the march was on and immediately joined in. One person said: "I don't care if I haven't had breakfast yet. I must fight with my people."

They were responding to the call by the Hout Bay Action Committee, an affiliate of the Cape Areas Housing Action Committee (CAHAC).

The 200 residents, mostly women who work in the harbour fishing industry, went to the rent office to hand over a memorandum outlining their problems with electricity.

This action was decided upon at a mass meeting of the Hout Bay Action Committee.

A few minutes after they started the march through the township, the women, dressed in their work overalls, had to defy police who wanted to stop the march.

Security police kept a close watch while uniformed police guarded the entrance to the rent office, where the residents gave their memorandum to Councillor, Mr Leonard Pothier to take to the Divisional Council.

They complained of high electricity bills, burnt-out main boxes, the electricity due date, faulty wiring and broken meter boxes.

Police confiscated their banners and placards.



200 residents marching to the rent office - "I must fight with my people."

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50 years ago: Mr. Issy Diamond addresses a May Day meeting at Johannesburg City Hall (1933).

100 YEARS OF WORKER'S SOLIDARITY

FOR nearly 100 years, May Day has been celebrated as a day of solidarity and unity of the workers all over the world.

May Day started in 1886, when 350 000 American workers left the factories to march through the streets. They were demanding an 8 hour working day. In 1889, May Day was declared International Labour Day.

The First May Day demonstration in South Africa was in 1905. But it was only after 1931 that May Day was celebrated every year by black and white workers.

In 1950, the SACP, ANC, NIC, and TIC worked together to call a national strike on May Day. The people were not only protesting against exploitation, but also against the laws of the Nationalist Government. More than half the workers did not go to work.

After 1950, May Day was not celebrated in South Africa until 1982. Now workers are coming together again to show their solidarity, and to learn about workers struggles all over the world.

On this page, we look at May Day in 1950 and May Day meetings held this year.

The day the workers said "no" ...

IT was 1st May 1950. All over South Africa the factories stood silent and still. It was a Monday, but thousands of people were not at work.

The bosses were desperate. They had begged the workers to come. On the Sunday before, the bosses had gone to the workers and said "come and sleep at work on Sunday night. We will give you food".

But the workers would not listen. For years, they had worked for the bosses. The bosses were rich, but the workers had hardly enough food to keep themselves and their families alive. And, after they had spent their lives working, they were sent to starve in the homelands. The bosses could not buy them with food.

We are fighting for May Day, the worker's day. But is one day enough? No, we shall carry on fighting until the whole year belongs to us.

On Monday, the police came out to try to force the workers into the factories. But, thousands stayed at home.

The bosses had money. They owned factories and machines. The police had guns. But all their money and guns could not make the machines work. Without the workers they had nothing.

But, the workers had each other. They had built the wealth of this land with their empty hands. They could not vote for their own leaders.

They could not choose where to live and work.

In the evening of that day, the police attacked the workers. In Jo-burg, 18 workers were killed. But they could not kill their spirit. The spirit of worker solidarity lives on - in South Africa, in workers struggles all over the world.

Every single right of workers today has been won through worker-solidarity. Since 1886, when May day was started, step by step, workers have stood together to force the bosses to listen to their demands. The demand for unions, for higher wages for better working conditions.

The 1950 stay away was the biggest demonstration in South Africa. This was the last time that May day was celebrated. Since 1960, the government was hard at work - banning and imprisoning the people's leaders and breaking their organisations.

But now the workers are building their organisations again - in the communities and in the factories. May day is once again being celebrated.

The workers are coming together again. They are learning the strength that comes from unity. Let us build that unity and fight for the time when every day is workers' day.

IN January this year 3 million people were unemployed in South Africa. We see many people go out in the morning to find work but return without success in the evening. In the industries people are either working short time, or have been laid off.

When we work we all pay in money to the Unemployment Insurance Fund. So if we are unemployed we want to draw from this fund. We need the money we have paid in. But when we want to do this we are faced with lots of difficulties, which means that our benefits are delayed.

What is the employers duty as regards UIF?

Employers have to register workers as contributors to the fund. They have to pay in the workers money and

Bosses don't care about our UIF

make sure that they get their blue card when they lose their jobs. The employer has to state the reason for the worker becoming unemployed on the card.

But often employers do not do this.

A worker from Teak Ltd approached the Bonteheuwel Advice Office. Six months after losing his job, he had not yet received his blue card.

He is in three months arrears with his rent. This is because of his employer's slowness and the delay in getting unemployment benefits.

The bosses are careless in their attitude towards workers UIF. It is an offence if the boss does not give a dismissed worker his card but the Department of Manpower does not seem to do anything in making sure that bosses stick to the law.

African workers in the homelands also have difficulties in getting UIF benefits. When

Transkei became independent in 1976 and Ciskei in 1981, African migrant workers could not get UIF benefits. The bosses did not bother to change their records and continued to deduct money from the workers' wages and pay it into the fund. The migrant workers could get nothing from the money they had paid.

On the 1st May this

who attended the May Day meeting held by NUTW (National Union of Textile Workers). The meeting was addressed by the general secretary of FOSATU and by the Vice President of NUTW (Errington Tyomba). Mr Tyomba told how he had started organising

in his factory. There was also a slide show on the history of May Day, and a play by the Hanover Park Youth.

Educational meetings like this were held by General Worker's Union and by Food and Canning Workers Union.

year Transkei and Ciskei at last put their own UIF into operation. This means that Transkeian and Ciskeian workers in SA will pay money into the homelands UIF. If they are out of work they can draw their money in the homelands. But the bosses have to make sure that they pay the workers' money into the correct fund.

Although this is a step forward for migrant workers it can also be seen as another way to control black workers. It will mean that as soon as these workers are unemployed, they will be forced to go back to the homelands. see p.13 for more information on UIF

FOSATU wins victory over registration

THE Federation of South African Trade Unions (Fosatu) has won a long battle against the Government's racial policies.

In the Natal Supreme Court last month, a judge ruled that the Registrar and the Minister of Manpower had wrongly given registration certificates to member unions of Fosatu which restricted membership.

The certificates stated that only workers from certain race groups could become members of the unions.

But because Fosatu believes in non-racialism it rejected the racial registration certificates given to the Metal and Allied Workers Union, The Chemical Workers Industrial Union, The National Union of Textile Workers and the Transport and General Workers Union in 1981.

In their judgment delivered on April 15, three judges ordered the

Registrar to lift the limits placed on the four unions.

The judgement means that when the Registrar now examines the membership of a Union applying for registration, he can only look at industry, job category and area.

In Fosatu's view, it will now be impossible for the Registrar to racially register unions.

The Minister of Manpower and the Registrar will have to pay all the costs of the case.

Fosatu is taking a similar matter to the Transvaal Supreme Court which deals with the racial certificates given to the Paper, Wood and Allied Workers Union and the Sweet Food and Allied Workers Union.

The Central Committee of Fosatu said the Sate should pay heed to the Natal decision and drop the Transvaal case.

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"We have had enough of suffering. We will unite"

MARCH FOR LIGHTS



Angry Factreton residents on the march to City Council.

TWO weeks without electricity came to an end on Tuesday, May 3, when about 80 of the affected Factreton tenants marched to their local rent office.

As they walked they chanted: "Ons wil ligte hé, ons wil ligte hé."

"Electricity is a right not a privilege," "Mrs Johnson, lewe jy sonder lig?" "Ons gaan ons appliances hou!" the placards read.

They demanded to see the Housing Manageress, Mrs Johnson, to discuss their problems and demands.

Tenants in four streets in Factreton had been without electricity for two weeks.

At a meeting of the Kensington Factreton Ratepayers and Tenants Association, they spoke about their problems.

Mrs Collins, who is pregnant, had been put off work. She was told that any hard work would be dangerous. But because there was no electricity, she was forced to wash clothing by hand. This could easily have led to a miscarriage.

Her son was rushed to the doctor. He had food poisoning, caused by eating rancid bacon. It had gone off because she was unable to use her fridge.

Another tenant, Mrs Booysens, had to take her two-week old baby to the doctor. The child had a chest problem. The candles and gas in her home had worsened the problem. A fire had also almost ruined her home when a candle fell over.

People told of other problems: a whole month's supply of meat had gone bad, food had to be cooked on 'galley's', people fell when going outside to the toilets because there were no lights.

Many tenants went to the Council to complain. They soon realised this was useless. Nothing was done. They decided to come together to fight for electricity.

They had had enough. They felt it was the Council's responsibility to provide electricity as they paid for it every month in their rent.

On Monday May 2, the tenants came together and decided to meet the next morning. Their demands were clear:

- The electricity had to be switched on immediately.
- The Council has to provide adequate houses for people.

If these demands were not met, they would take further action.

And so they marched. When they got to the Rent Office, they demanded to see Mrs Johnson, the housing Manageress. After a while a very flustered and embarrassed Mrs Johnson appeared. She agreed to speak to a delegation.

And Council gave in. At 4.30 that same afternoon, the electricity went on. For the first time in two weeks the people could use their stoves, use their fridges, they had lights.

It was clear that by working together in the Association, by standing together and speaking with one voice, the people's demands can be met.

Houses for people not profit

AN ALL-OUT attempt is being made by the government to get 500 000 tenants to buy their houses.

Already they print a rosy picture of how many discounts people will get if they buy their houses, but this is far from the true story.

The true story is that we can hardly afford to buy food and clothes, let alone pay for repairs to houses.

The true story is also that nobody should make profits on a basic human need like housing.

Profit

And the government themselves have admitted this. Their National Housing Code says no-one should be allowed to make profits on housing schemes.

But in spite of this code, which is considered to be housing law in South Africa, the government is talking of making and controlling profits with this new scheme.

The Cape Areas Housing Action Committee (Cahac) has said the sale of houses is illegal.

Cahac said: "The Government is making this new deal seem so rosy. In fact, the Minister of Community Development, Mr Pen Kotze, comes across like a hawk who, wanting to sell all his apples, hides all the bruised ones under a

single layer of good ones. The Minister goes further than the hawk. He has no good apples, so he has found artificial apples to hide his rotten deal.

"The essence of the new deal lies in the words of Pen Kotze: 'We must get the co-operation of employers and the savings of the people. This money we must use to build new houses.'

"The Minister knows full well that tenants have largely paid for the houses they occupy and he is therefore saying that tenants must use their savings for future housing.

"We raise a few questions to show up some of the rotten apples:

"They talk of houses that would cost R2000 and less. How on earth can houses be sold at R2000 if the replace-

ment costs are taken into account?

"The Minister talks of present tenants getting first option to buy their homes. Who would get second option? And what would happen to the present tenant if the second option is exercised?

"Cahac believes that housing is the responsibility of the central government and that this responsibility cannot be wished away or made to disappear by misleading the people."

"The government's housing plan is like a sick joke in view of the feelings of tenants about their ability to own homes and the fact that more than three million workers are presently unemployed, with more to follow.

"The Government wants to dump all responsibility for their financial problems into

the laps of the workers.

"Firstly, they hope to relieve themselves of the burden of maintenance.

"Secondly, they hope to treble their income from housing by placing the full rentals into their own coffers (At the moment they receive about a third of what people pay).

"Thirdly, they hope to improve the consumer market by forcing tenants to buy materials for maintenance. Such an attempt in the present economic conditions is absolute madness.

"The Government also threatens tenants that they will suffer major rent increases if they do not accept the State's decision and makes reference to the need of this move to ensure 'stability'.

"It is clear that the State needs such 'sta-

bility' to force their constitutional proposals down our throats.

"However, to suggest that such stability can be obtained either by denying State responsibility for the provision of housing or by holding a gun to the heads of tenants, is in itself a major contradiction.

"We know that a few tenants would wish to make use of this opportunity, but the vast majority cannot. Cahac cannot and will not deny tenants this right, but we see a major difference between the demand coming from the people and one being forced down on them.

"We wish to warn the Government at this point of the chaos that the sale of houses will bring throughout the country.

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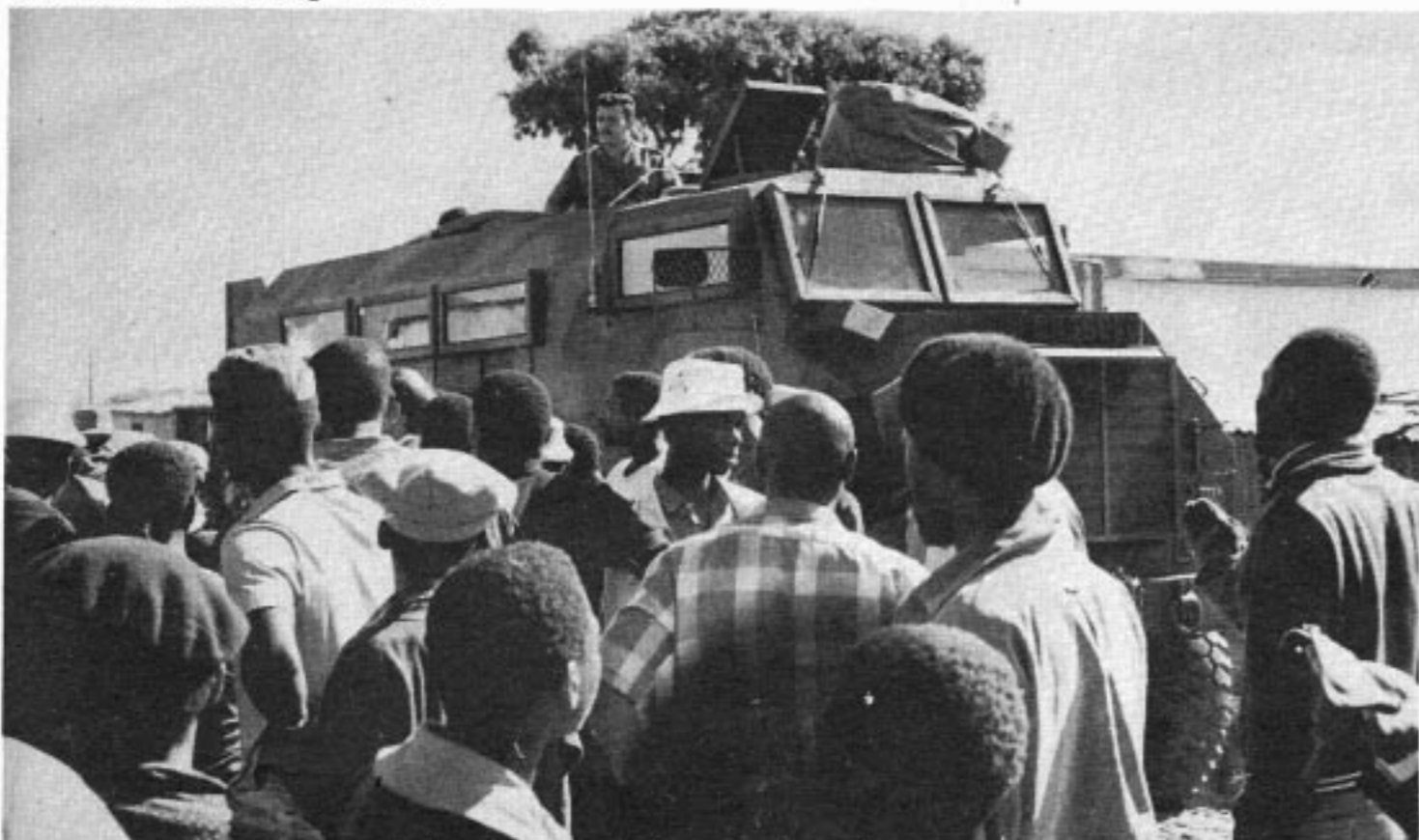
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angry residents surround a armoured personnel carrier (Ratel)

"It is like a war here. Nightly spot-lights watch us. They spray teargas and take our children's medicine."

"IT is like a war here. The police and dogs are here all the time. At night, they light up the camp with spot lights. If we try to build shelters, they tear them down."

"But the actions of the police are just making us more angry. How can they drive us away when we have nowhere else to go?:"

This is how Mr Ntholo described the scene at KTC. Last week, the struggle became more intense as residents began to actively resist the police.

Mr Ntholo told us what happened: "Last Thursday, they were taking our building materials and loading them onto trucks. Then someone said 'We have had enough now.'

"We started taking

things off the trucks. As the police were putting it on, we were taking it back.

"At last the police gave up. But they were back next day, with 30 vans, ratels, guns, dogs and teargas machines.

"They sprayed the whole camp with teargas. Everyone was getting sick from it, especially the small children. We are all choking and sneezing."

Many people went to the Guguletu Day Hospital for treatment. The police moved into the Hospital to drive the people out.

"Then we got really angry. Some people threw stones at the police. So the police fired rubber bullets at the people."

Things were quiet over the weekend. Then,

on Monday 9 May, the police were back.

"We knew they were coming," another resident told us "so we buried our plastics and wood.

"But they just took everything that they could find. They took blankets, our food, they threw paraffin on the fires. They even took the children's medicine."

"Now we sleep in just our clothes, even through all the rain and the cold. Some of us dig holes to sleep in at night, so we can try to keep warm."

But the resistance of the people has not been broken. "Our spirit is still good. There has been more unity amongst us since last week. They will not make us move."

OUR FIGHT FOR HOUSES

EVERYDAY, we hear that the Government is talking about reform. They are using big words to try to win the people to their side.

But for the men, women and children at KTC, Disa River and all the thousands of other squatters, life just gets harder every day.

The people are fighting for the right to live in South Africa with a

proper roof over their heads.

The PC and Koornhof bills will not give them that right. They will only bring more raids, more evictions and more hardship.

On this page, GRASSROOTS looks at the latest events at KTC, and at the struggles of the Disa River squatters.

Hout Bay squatters march

LAST Thursday, 20 Disa River residents marched to Divisional Council.

The day before, their shacks had been demolished without warning by Divisional Council officials. The people were angry, and were demanding a meeting with the Director of Housing

A man from the area described the demolishing. "When we got home from work, our houses were broken. All our possessions were thrown to the ground, and broken. The 'afbreekers' just stood there laughing.

"They took all our zinc and wood. Where will we get material to build new shacks? And where can we go?"

The Director of Housing at Divisional Council could not answer their questions. He told them that they were "illegal" squatters, with no right to be there.

When one resident



Disa River residents discuss their problems.

complained that his watch had been stolen by the Div. Co. officials the Director said "We can't help you. You must go to the police."

The people were angry about the meeting. "We are prepared to pay rent, but they don't give us houses. Must we sleep in the open with our child-

ren?" They returned to the camp and rebuilt their shacks.

They realised the need for unity and organisation. They held meetings, with the other squatters, and made contact with the Hout Bay Action Committee, an affiliate of CAHAC.

Now they have received a notice from Div. Co. telling them to get off the property.

But the people are determined to stay. Mrs Anthony, who has lived there for 35 years, said "My children were born and have grown here. Until they give us proper houses, we will not move!"

Health campaign: Kewtown to screen residents

TWO years ago, the Kewtown Residents Association had a survey in the area. This showed that one of the main complaints the people had was that many drains were blocked and that this was a danger to peoples' health. Council was approached but nothing

was done. The Association is presently running a health campaign in Kewtown. They have found that besides the problems of high electricity costs and poor housing maintenance, the problem of blocked drains is still a pressing problem.

The drains have been blocked for as long as people can remember. Big pools of dirty stagnant water stand around. Because there are no playgrounds, children play in this dirty water.

People say that children pour this water into bottles and throw it

over each other. One little girl even sucked at the stagnant water through an old straw.

The dirt which the streetsweepers collect is dumped at the sides of the road. So the piles blow about and collect in the drains. It is clear that these conditions are perfect for the

growth of all kinds of diseases.

But this is not the only health problem that the Kewtown health campaign team is faced with. Another problem is the sicknesses caused by poor housing.

The houses have damp walls, the ceilings leak and often the window frames are broken. These problems are not the fault of the people who live in the houses.

It is the Council's responsibility to fix these things, as the people all pay for maintenance in their rent.

One resident said: "The conditions under which we are forced to live are disgraceful. There is no other word for it."

The Kewtown Residents Association are having surveys and will hold house meetings as part of their health campaign. They will also have a Health Screening session. During this people will be screened for health problems free of charge.

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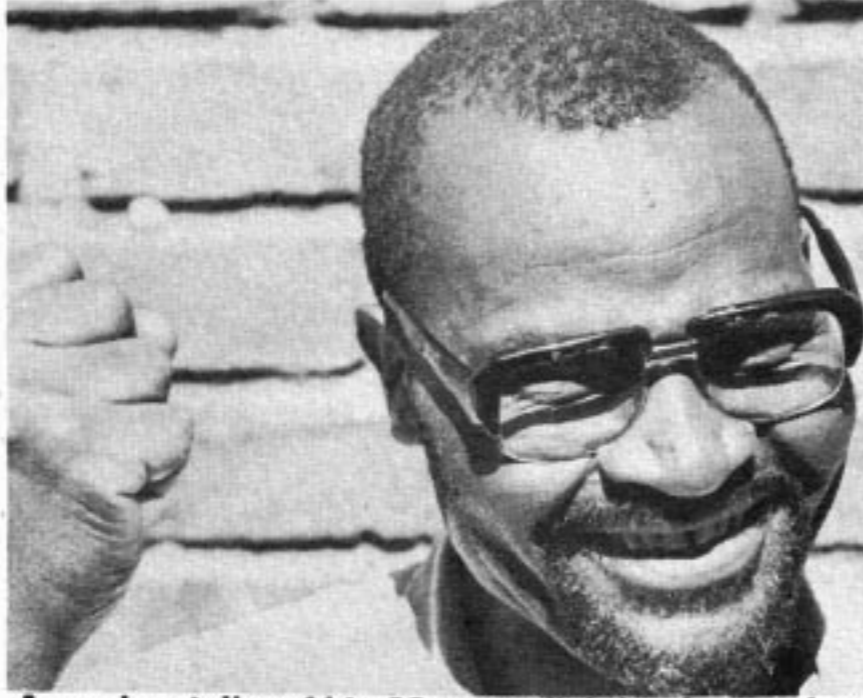
Organising at work

IN 1950 I joined the Dairy Workers Union. The organisers—promised us about many things, good working conditions and more money.

We had to pay a ten cent subscription. But to tell the truth we never got anything from that union. After that those organisers disappeared. I left the dairy work.

Again in 1960 I joined another trade union. This time I was working in a hospital. But as soon as I joined the trade union it was banned by the government, before I could learn anything in that trade union.

By 1980 I heard about the General Workers' Union. Before I joined that union I first organised my fellow workers, telling them about our problems inside hospital, which we can fight through the union. After that we



A worker talks of his 30 years fighting for workers rights. Have you a story to tell?

started to join the union. That was not the end. I began to organise the coloured workers because I knew we cannot succeed in our struggle if we leave

them out, because they are the majority inside the hospital. With the help of one of the coloured ladies we managed to organise coloured workers. Then I

called the union organiser.

But still we had to go a long road before we were recognised by the management. They demanded our names from the General Workers' Union. We gave our names to the union to forward to the management.

It was not very long, we were called, the workers from the group of four hospitals, Victoria Hospital, Princess Alice Hospital, Lady Michaelis, Eaton Convalescent Home. They all fall under one office.

When we were called by the superintendent he told us that they have received a letter from the General Workers' Union which says we want a committee. We all said yes we do want a committee. He told us we can form our committee with about eight members. In that eight members we

must elect two members from each hospital to meet with the management.

But they were not prepared to meet the union officials. They were only prepared to meet us and talk across the table with our problems. And our membership of a trade union is not rejected. We can belong to any trade union of our own choice.

Committee

We elected our committee members and two representatives. In our first meeting with management we put down our problem. We had big discussion about these problems. We did win some of these problems, things like bad treatment from the housekeeper, treating people like small children, and our holidays and sick leave

and public holiday. We are getting them all now, nine to ten days off per month, whereas we were only getting four full days off and two half days.

There are some problems which we are still fighting. Now we are struggling with the workers themselves. Since they see some of the things are put right they don't want to support the union with subscriptions. That is the big problem to the committee members. They have to keep on talking to the workers.

Some of the workers will tell straight in your face, "You do not need to worry because it is not your money." But if you are really a leader you have to face these things and take them very easy.

As small firms close the job-queue grows

"WHEN I see these women coming into my office, I want to cry. I just shake my head. I don't say anything. They know and I know. There are no jobs."

This was told to us by a receptionist at a small textile firm in Cape Town. There is a constant stream of women looking for jobs at the factory.

Some of the women come in from Paarl to ask for work. But last week, this factory laid off 30 women, so there are no jobs there.

The factory is small and simple. It makes the textiles, sews the garments as well as prints the patterns onto them. It employs only women because the boss can pay women less than men.

When times are hard, it is the small factories which go out of business. Another small knitting firm in Woodstock closed down two months ago because they could not find a buyer for the jerseys. So more women had to join the job queue.

Gairo Peters said: "I am the lucky one. My husband still has a job. But we need my money too. I can't keep the family alive on the money from just one job."

The great GWU break-in mystery

ON the 9th March 1983, 3 white men broke into the General Workers Union offices in Athlone. Although there was a lot of money in the office, they only stole some of

the Union's papers, and did not touch the money. Afterwards, the caretaker saw them leaving in a Kombi, and he took down the registration number.

Two days later, somebody saw a Kombi with the same number-plates standing in a "police only" parking place outside Caledon Square.

The police admit that the Kombi belongs to them. But they say that it never left Caledon Square on the day of the break-in. They say that the thieves "must have used fake number-plates".

To us, it looks like one of those great mysteries which will never be solved!

IS THERE HOPE FOR CONTRACT WORKERS

IN March 1981, a contract worker (Mr Rikhoto) took the government to court. He won the case, and won the right to live and work in the city with his family (section 10 rights).

The papers called this a great victory for contract workers. Since then, 3 other contract workers (T.Booi 1981, Mr Komani, 1982 and Mr Mdandweni Mthiya, 1983) have also won their rights in court. What do these victories mean for contract workers and for African people generally?

THE government has always used the pass laws to control people and keep them out of the cities. People who live in the homelands can only get a pass to come to the cities if there is work for them. Otherwise, they are forced to starve in the reserves.



'There is no place for the black man in the white economy other than in certain forms of labour.....' Dr. H.F. Verwoerd.

The pass laws also say that workers who have worked for the same boss for more than 10 years without a break will have certain rights, called Section 10 rights. These workers are allowed to live in the cities without asking for permission. They are also allowed to bring their families to live

with them. In 1968, the government tried to stop more people getting Section 10 rights. They made a rule that workers from the homelands can only work in the cities for 1 year - then they have to go back. Then the government said that this rule meant that workers broke their

service every year. So they refused to give Section 10 rights to anybody.

When Mr Rikhoto went to court last year, the judge decided that the government was wrong. They said that workers did not break their service if they went home for a holiday, and that they can

still get Section 10 rights if they worked for more than 10 years.

This was an important victory. But we cannot rely on victories won in court.

The government has had to give Section 10 rights to the 4 workers who went to court. But it still refuses to give rights to millions of other workers. All these people cannot take the government to court.

Also, if the Koornhof Bills become law, people will not even be able to win Section 10 rights in court. There will be no more Section 10 rights. Contract workers will only be able to stay in the cities while their contract lasts.

Some may be lucky enough now to win their case in court. But African people will only win the right to stay in the city with their families when pass laws are completely scrapped. Let us unite and organise to bring that day closer!

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Comment

Solve the housing crisis now

THE Government must take responsibility for the housing crisis facing our people today.

Over the years, they insisted on putting the Group Areas Act into practice. This was done so that Apartheid could thrive, even though it was at great cost.

Our communities were split up and we were put into 'little boxes' all over the Cape Flats.

All the thousands and thousands of rands wasted senselessly in this way could have been used to provide us with houses, security and comfort.

Because of this, the Government could never provide us with proper housing.

Why were our homes in District Six demolished when more homes could have been built for those of our people who needed it?

Instead of builders coming to put up more houses, the bulldozers came and flattened them.

By selling the houses they will shift the responsibility of maintenance on to us and also make a profit out of the deal.

Houses should be for people not for profit.

Sale of Houses

The Government has never even tried to solve the housing crisis it has created.

Instead, it announces it intends selling 500 000 houses to the people. Is this their answer to the housing crisis?

Are we expected to buy their broken houses which we have paid for over and over again?

The action of the police against the people of KTC must be strongly condemned. When the KTC squatters ask for houses, they are shot at with rubber bullets.

Is this the Government's answer to the housing crisis?

Housing Crisis

And the crisis is, in fact, very serious. Thousands of families are on the housing waiting-list; our homes are overcrowded and falling apart. Rent, water and electricity accounts are rapidly rising.

We are living in bad economic times. More than three million workers are unemployed. The bosses are tightening their purse strings even more, and workers are faced with low wages. How are our people going to pay their rents? Let alone buy houses that they cannot afford?

The Government has spent millions of rands on the Group Areas Act and other apartheid laws. It has created the housing crisis. It must solve it.

Our demands have always been that the Central Government should take responsibility for housing and rents should be determined by what people can afford.

Are we all going democrazy?

Excuse me, Mr chairman, I think we must consult more broadly on this matter. Can't we... blah... blah...



Don't be fooled!

Dear GRASSROOTS

THE Article on the P.C. proposals, which appeared in the March edition, is a useful summary of the way in which the President's Council will function. However, it has serious mistakes. The whole article sees things in terms of race and this leads the author to the conclusion that with the passing of the P.C. proposals, "power will still remain in the hands of the whites". What about people like the Sebes, Mantanzimas, Leons, Tebahalis, black security police, etc., etc? Are these people not part and parcel of the rulers of this country? Are they not our enemies?

The article on the P.C. plays into the hands of the enemy as it strengthens the view that Apartheid is only a question of colour and white domination. This view leads to the con-

clusion that the struggle in this country is a struggle of Africans, Coloureds and Indians against whites.

We must start moving away from this way of looking at South Africa. We must start showing who and what the real enemy is if we want to progress and move towards creating a truly democratic, free South Africa.

The Government is a capitalist government and therefore we cannot and must not separate the Government from this exploitative economic system. The Government represents the capitalist class in charge of this system. The capitalist class are the ones with the ultimate power in this country.

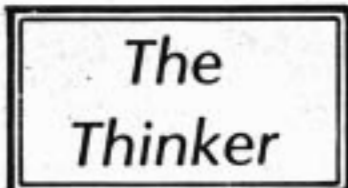
This class, through the Government and through controlling the mines, factories, farms and big shops, determines the way we live.

At our AGM, Grassroots decided to encourage more critical debate on our pages. Members agreed that we should allow views independent of organisations to be expressed. This is our first contribution...

DEMOCRACY is running wild within our organisations. It is sweeping like a wind through all our sub-committees, leaving us all exhausted.

When we are about to make a decision, it rears its head and reminds us that to be democratic, we have to ensure that more people participate in making that decision. We cannot decide and act upon that decision without further consultation. All members of our organisation must be party to the discussion.

When CAHAC's publication subcommittee prepares its newsletter, "CAHAC Speaks", an affiliate suggests that



copies of all stories be made and circulated to affiliates for approval. For democracy's sake, the officials agree that perhaps stories should be brought to the general body before publication.

Unfortunately they say, this time around this would not be possible. But democracy demands that more care be taken next time...

And all are in agreement. CAHAC will have to set aside 2 hours at a general meeting to study the detail of every

story in CAHAC Speaks. Perhaps it will have to be 3 hours, or maybe even 4. But what does it matter? The struggle is still long. We have all the time in the world. Don't we?

Note: The writer is not suggesting that this problem applies to only one organisation. It is a general phenomenon taking root within most of our organisations.

WHAT do we understand by democratic participation? This is the question we need to answer.

Grassroots invites you to contribute to this debate. Please keep your comments short and to the point.

'We are hurt by this action'

Dear GRASSROOTS

AS a member of the Kensington, Facticeon Ratepayers and Tenant's Association, I would like to share our shock and disgust with all Grassroots readers.

Last month, an active and long standing elderly member of our association, Mrs Daniels, was beaten by the police.

Mrs Daniels had looked after an orphan for a few months. He had moved out to live with some friends of his. He and his friends broke into a Supermarket, and a police-

man was killed.

The police came to Mrs Daniels, and tried to force information from her and her family.

They hadn't seen him for a long time, and did not know where he was.

The police took her and her family to the police station, where they were brutally assaulted.

Our association and residents in the area are very hurt by this action. We feel that it was handled in the wrong way.

KFRTA member



Reply to FM of Woodstock

TRUE. The article only sets out to explain the central government proposals. No more and no less. It is part of a series on the PC and hopes to deal with questions such as, why the PC and what it will mean.

Yes, the Sebes, the Matanzimas, the Hendrickses, are the enemies of the people. It is also true that the struggle is not simply a fight between black

Whose fooling who?

and white. As pointed out, our struggle is for a non-racial, undivided and democratic South Africa. And not one where the oppressed will become the oppressors.

The writer seems to imply that Grassroots sees the struggle purely in terms of white and black. I write for Grassroots from time-to-time, and want to ask FM of Woodstock a question.

Is it not so that Grassroots makes the point consistently that rents are high because of low wages and the refusal of the government to subsidise housing? Did Grassroots for instance not make the point that the bread price increased because farmers were demanding higher profits? And, that the government did not want to increase the subsidy? I think the

Grassroots article went further. It also made the point that the government spends large sums of money on defence, but cannot subsidise basic foods.

Does this strengthen the view that the struggle is one of whites against blacks? Does it not make the link between how the bosses and the state work hand-in-hand to oppress and exploit our people?

an oppressed people.

FM of Woodstock says that the enemy is a "class not a colour". Agreed the enemy is a class, as he quite rightly points out in his letter. But, we must never forget how "colour" is used for the super-exploitation of Black people.

No, we must not find simple answers to complex questions. The statement that "the enemy is not colour but class", is such a simplistic statement.

Some people see only colour, and others see only class. Sure, a true understanding of life in our country means an understanding of both "colour" and class. Emphasising the one at the expense of the other, fails to grasp the real nature of our struggle.

The PC is designed to maintain this very system of exploitation and oppression that we are talking about.

Writer of PC article

'The Nats want to stay on top'

Dear GRASSROOTS

LAST week, Mr Pik Botha was invited by the head of the Political Science Dept. at UCT to give a "lecture" on "foreign affairs". Mr Botha attacked the United Nations, SWAPO, the Cubans and Zimbabwe. He said that if SWAPO took part in free elections, 20 000 Cubans would move in to Namibia.

After Pik Botha had spoken, Piet Koornhof had his turn, a few days

later.

In his "lecture", he said that nothing can stop reform in South Africa.

He said that the constitutional proposals would mean:

- a) equality regardless of race and colour
 - b) full participation in the decision making processes
 - c) full human rights
 - d) full citizenship rights
- But a pamphlet

given to voters at Soutpansberg and Waterberg said, that schools would remain racially separated, that group areas would remain, that whites would have the most representation on parliament, that only the nationalist would elect the state president.

Dr Koornhof was unable to answer when asked why Africans were excluded from the constitutional proposals.

It was quite clear that Dr Koornhof didn't only come to lecture. He wanted to make sure that people would vote for him in the next elections, and to accept

the constitutional proposals. At UCT, he took a liberal view, but at Soutpansberg and Waterberg, that Nationalist Party took a conservative stand.

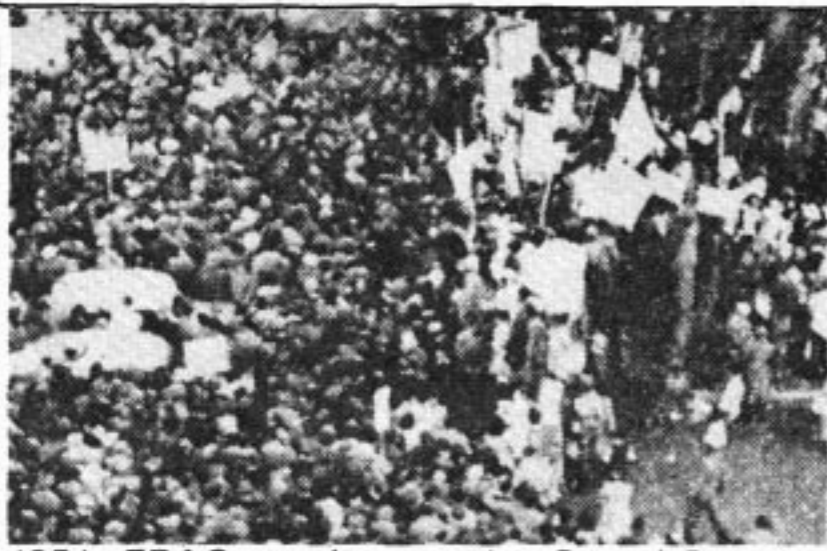
It is not the reform that the Nats want, but power. They want to

make sure that they stay on top.

Dr Koornhof tried to stop his lecture being published, but the SRC put out a pamphlet. Now the editor of VARSITY (a student magazine) will have to appear in the University Court.

I hope that my letter has conveyed disgust at both these actions.

Disgusted Azaso student



1951: FRAC meeting on the Grand Parade. 1981: 'Change the electricity due date' 1982: 3 000 protest against rent increases.

WHY do we take up campaigns? Campaigns show us that we can win demands by organised struggle. It is only through active struggle by the people themselves, that we can improve our conditions in the townships and the factories.

Through participating in campaigns, we show that the power of the government and the local authorities can be challenged. And, when we work together, when we organise together and achieve our aims, we learn that we cannot sit back. "The struggle is yours, its mine, its ours", said Cissie Gool at a mass meeting thirty years ago. It is through active struggle that our strength and determination grows.

Campaigns are a means of educating our people and bringing them into our struggle. The better organised a campaign, the more careful the preparatory work, the deeper will be the lessons that we learn.

Through campaigns, hesitant and timid leadership is exposed. The true leaders of the people come forward as they fight in the field.

LOWER busfares, a living wage, votes for all, an end to unjust laws. These have been some of the demands of our people.

Over the years our people have taken up many campaigns. They have organised themselves. They have acted against injustice and exploitation. They have protested, demonstrated, boycotted, marched, issued pamphlets and newsletters.

All over the Cape Flats, organisations are talking about the need to fight the President's Council and the Koornhof Bills. They are talking about a campaign, about organised action against the Government's "new deal".

On this page, Grassroots looks at the ways in which mass campaigns have helped to strengthen and build our organisations.

Campaigns assert the right of a people to decide on their future. Demands based on the needs of a people, are put forward. The important one of these is, the demand to govern ourselves.

We drive home a simple truth - to achieve a decent life, power must belong to the people.

Campaigns are one of the most important ways in which we build our own strength for the kind of future that we choose for ourselves.

In the heat of campaigns such as, the boycotts of 1980, the rents struggles of 1981, we learnt the skills to fight. The mistakes of today become the strengths

and lessons of tomorrow. But more important, as our awareness grows, our dedication to fight it grows too. For this reason we say, campaigns build unity in action. It shows us how the system works against us and how to fight it.

When we campaign, we weaken the system. When we campaign, we harass and hamper its uncontrolled power. We put the system on the defensive, while we are on the attack. We weaken the system.

We see doubts in the minds of some of those who have sided with the rulers and exploiters. And, more and more people begin to refuse to support the system.

TAKING THE STRUGGLE FORWARD



1952: Thousands attend opening of Defiance campaign. During the campaign, people refused to obey laws of apartheid. Hundreds were fined and arrested.

We demand rents we can afford

IT was January, 1982. tenants were up in arms about the rent increase. 42 civics, churches and trade unions united under the banner of the Cape Areas Housing Action Committee (CAHAC) to fight against the rent increases.

For four months tenants waged a bitter battle with the council and the government for "rents we can afford". In Elsies River, a group of mothers burnt their rent papers. 40 000 people signed petitions to show their protest. And, in every township 50 000 pamphlets reading 'down with high rents' were distributed. Lentegeur Civic was the scene of a mass rally attended by 3 000 people. The people demanded:

- rents that we can afford
- a stop to rent increases
- bigger state subsidies for housing
- and that the central government takes full responsibility

for housing. The people wanted to meet the Minister to put their demands to him. But, the Minister refused. And, when he refused to meet with the people, a day of action was called. Church services were held, newsletters were issued and the people took to the streets to make their voices heard.

Lessons

They were harassed and intimidated by the police, but they pressed ahead because they knew that their struggle was a just one. The Minister agreed to meet with the people and their leaders.

But, we did not win the rents campaign. The people's rents did not come down. Grassroots spoke to CAHAC, this is what they said:

"We have learnt many lessons. Our struggle is a long and hard one. There will be times that our demands will be met. But, there will be times when we

will have to retreat while we are still strong to fight another day."

"Although our demands were not met; no campaign is ever lost. We have reached a higher stage in our struggle. We have learnt how to build strong organisations. We have learnt the skills of organising and have raised our awareness.

We have learnt that we cannot rely on management committees and community councils. We must be strong. Organised mass campaigns are an important weapon in our struggle."

There will be rents campaigns in the future, just as in the past. There will be rent increases for as long as our people are exploited by the bosses and do not have a democratic say in our country.

We have showed the government that the people are not only angry. They are prepared to make sacrifices for a better life."

"WE want our rights, we demand the vote for all". This was the slogan of the Franchise Action Council (FRAC) which was launched in 1951 at the Drill Hall in Cape Town.

The FRAC campaign was a response to the government's plans to take the vote away from the "Coloured" people. At that time, very few "Coloureds", mainly men, had the vote. FRAC called for the vote for all "Coloured" people and the vote for all South Africans.

FRAC was an alliance between trade unions, community organisations and political organisations. Soon after its launching, FRAC factory committees were set up all over Cape Town. In Athlone, Wynberg, Elsies River and many other areas, area committees were started. FRAC grew quickly and spread throughout the Western Cape to places such as Worcester, Paarl and Somerset West.

The struggle for the vote for all South Africans was attracting the support of thousands of people. The first stage of the campaign was to speak to people and to convince them of the importance of the vote for all South Africans.

This led to the first mass rally which was held on the Grand Parade on 8th March 1951. The meeting was held on a Thursday afternoon, there were 3 000 people.

By the end of the meeting there were 15 000 workers who poured in from factories all over the Western Cape. The people pledged to fight on. They marched down Adderley Street in a torchlight protest past Parliament. As they marched, they shouted: "We want the vote; down with Malan".

In April of that year, FRAC called a conference to plan for the 144 delegates from 59 organisations attended the conference. Many factory committees and area committees were represented. Other organisations present were the African National Congress, the Indian Congress, Worcester United Action Committee, Women's Food Committee, the Food and Canning Workers Union.

Each organisation was allowed to send three delegates. There were also those who were not prepared to take a strong stand against the government such as, the Coloured People's National Union.

"We want the vote - down with Malan"

The conference called for a protest strike by the workers of Cape Town for May 7. A vote had to be taken. FRAC organisers worked hard to win the vote. They addressed 147 factory meetings and many area committees. At these meetings the people were called upon to vote in support of the strike. Thousands of people were drawn into the strike decision in this way. The majority of the organisations voted for the strike.

The police, the bosses and the daily newspapers opposed the strike. They tried to intimidate workers into not staying at home. But, the people won. The strike on May 7 was a great success. 60% of school children boycotted classes. 95% of shops owned by "Coloured" people were closed and thousands of workers stayed at home.

For the first time in many years on May 7 1951, the people of Cape Town stood united and showed their strength.

By this time, FRAC had grown and consisted of 125 organisations. At a conference held after the strike, FRAC called for united action on a national scale. And, in 1952, FRAC joined in the Defiance Campaign, one of the major mass campaigns in the history of our people.



we are the young workers



we are the unemployed

Winds of unemployment is sweeping through every city and every town. Last month 4,627 "Coloureds" were unemployed. There are no figures for Africans. The drought will force 50 000 farm workers off the land. A third of our population are young people. They have been hit the hardest by unemployment this year. Where will they get jobs?



we are the dramatists



we are the fun-runners

They stand on street corners, nothing to do. They are members of youth groups all over the Cape Flats. Join the youth and feel the difference.



we are the youth united

WE ARE THE FUTURE

Forward we shall march

1980 was the turning point for many of our young people. The schools boycotts and community support for the demands of students and workers led to great awareness among our people. The call for democratic people's organisations was sounded.

Students saw the need for SRC's. Residents saw the need for civic bodies. Workers saw the need for trade unions and young people saw the need to be organised and united.

Many of the ad hoc committees which were formed during this time became inactive after the boycotts. It was out of these committees that youth organisations emerged.

Many youth organisations were started over the past three years. Today, there are

over twenty youth organisations all over the Western Cape. Some are stronger than others. There are still many areas where there are no youth organisations.

Youth groups were started to cater for the different needs and interests of young people. Fun-runs, drama, music, table tennis, tutoring are some of the activities of the youth groups.

But, the youth movements tried to do more than this. They wanted to draw young people into their organisations. They wanted them to have a democratic say in the organisations. They wanted to raise their awareness of life in our society.

Youth organisations must be the place where our young people can develop their creative

skills. Where they can learn to communicate with other young people, and develop organising and leadership abilities.

A youth member said "being part of the community, youth groups could identify with issues affecting their communities. They could act as support groups during campaigns or other community struggles."

Today, our youth organisations stand on the brink of yet another

step forward. This step is to unify all the youth movements in the different areas into one organisation.

A youth member said "We are reaching a new stage in the organisation of youth. From Mitchell's Plain to Hanover Park, from Lavender Hill to Kensington, young people are responding to this challenge."

We must develop tomorrow's leaders

GRASSROOTS spoke to Carol, a member of the Tafelberg Youth movement about the need for youth unity. This is what she said:

"We, as young people all experience the same problem. As young workers, we bear the burden of unemployment. The lack of facilities in the areas where we live, leads to many young people standing on street corners. We can often not develop our full capacities.

"It is important for us to solve this through unity and collective action.

"We must join our youth organisations. It is important for our youth organisations to stand together in one organisation. Only if our youth organisations stand united in one organisation, can we tackle our problems together."

Carol said that for a long time there had been very little joint

activity between young people from different areas.

"Through our unity we will be able to work as one and strengthen all our organisations.

"By being in one organisation, young people will begin to see further than their area. This is necessary because we are so used to seeing only our own problems and nothing beyond that.

"The unity we will have in one umbrella youth organisation, will make it possible for young people to support the struggles of workers, women, students and civics.

"It is also possible for us in one organisation to share ideas and resources to develop our potential as the adults and leaders of tomorrow."



We are the young ones the learners, readers, the writers the copiers, the the reciters...

We are the young and small But we are the writing on your wall!



No jobs - what can youth do?

YOUNG people face many problems. V often they feel alone against talk to anybody about their problems. Is Thirry Donay tells us about his life and what he feeling right now...

YOU think I've been out of work long? Two months isn't long mate! Take me, for five months or I've been looking for job. I've been frustrated. It seems as if body cases. Sometimes work I was

still at school. Being a student is no sweat, you know. Its not those boring lessons that drive me crazy.

I should've finished my standard eight at least. I mean, I'm only sixteen you know. But I just couldn't take all those dates and formulas and nouns and verbs. . . . Brain-washed education to make us the fools.

My brother Benny might get me a job where he works at Ras. He's two years older than me. But, he says that I'll earn peanuts. Something like R10 a weeks. He only gets

R15 a week. Benny and I get on okay. And then there's nowhere to go to, you see. I've got no money to go to bioscope. Besides, there is nothing nice showing, just like SATV. I would like to join a drama group but there is nothing like that here.

But now and again we almost kill each other. We share a room with my brothers, Peter and Bobby. They are still at high school. Sometimes I feel like being alone, and that's when the trouble starts man.

My parents are beginning to hassle me now. They want me to get a job soon. Things are expensive you know. Buses are up again. And, only Papa and Benny works.

I hate the thought of going to the army. But that seems the only way out for me. Benny says I shouldn't. He said I would be fighting against my own people. Benny says he'll never speak to me again if I go to the army.

I really don't know what to do. I really don't know

WHERE ARE WE GOING!

Do you agree with this? Think about it, talk about it. Come to the congress and share your ideas.

- AIMS and objects of the Cape Youth Congress (CAYCO) are:
 - to unite all youth in the Cape.
 - to respond to the demands and aspirations of the young people whether they be cultural, economic or political.
 - to find ways and means of linking up with the youth in other areas, regions or provinces with similar aims and objectives as CAYCO;
 - to build good relations between youth and parents;
 - to create a spirit of trust, responsibility, understanding and love among its members.

YOUTH UNITY GIVES BIRTH TO CAYCO

ONE word is on the lips of young people throughout the Western Cape - CAYCO.

With great excitement youth members and others are talking about the Cape Youth Congress (CAYCO).

This new force on the youth front will be born soon. CAYCO's inaugural congress will

be held on the weekend of May 27, 28 and 29. Already about 20 youth organisations will be united by Cayco, and many others are expected to follow.

"This is the most exciting thing to happen on the youth front," said one youth member. "The formation of Cayco is long overdue." Everywhere young

people are talking about the inter-youth activities that Cayco will organise.

"At last we will be able to come together with youth from many other areas in a much more structured and regular way," one member said.

The idea of forming the inter-youth structure, Cayco, was discussed by most youth members in the different areas. Because everyone is aware of what Cayco is planning, everyone is excited about it.

What's to be done

What should Cayco do? The Steering Committee welcomes the ideas of youth groups.

ONE of the main tasks of Cayco will be to build strong youth organisations all over the Western Cape.

This was decided on at a meeting of representatives of youth movements where a draft programme of action was drawn up. A final document will be accepted at the inaugural congress.

- Five main tasks were outlined. These are:
 - strengthening local youth organisations,
 - developing our youth leadership,
 - strengthening the relationship between branches,
 - popularising CAYCO,
 - taking part in broader campaigns affecting the community.

To work on these tasks, it was suggested to form different committees. The committees will be the organising, education and training, sport and cultural, and publications committees.

Cayco could also take up issues like unemployment, lack of venues, sporting and recreational facilities, and poor library services.

Conference

Lots of work is going into the inaugural congress. A special inaugural committee has been set up with representatives from all the youth movements. They are planning the programme for the congress. Speakers, live music, films, drama, singing - these are but some of the suggestions from enthusiastic youth members.

An elderly person who belongs to the civic in her area said: "I'm glad the youth has seen the importance of coming together. We realise that we cannot work in isolation. That is why we have an umbrella body for the civic. It will be important for us all to work together in our civics, youth and student organisations."

"There is work to be done, songs to be sung and a victory to be won". — COME TO THE LAUNCHING OF CAYCO ON 27MAY '83 AT ATHLONE.



we are the young workers



we are the unemployed

Winds of unemployment is sweeping through every city and every town. Last month 4,627 "Coloureds" were unemployed. There are no figures for Africans. The drought will force 50 000 farm workers off the land. A third of our population are young people. They have been hit the hardest by unemployment this year. Where will they get jobs?



we are the dramatists



we are the fun-runners

They stand on street corners, nothing to do. They are members of youth groups all over the Cape Flats. Join the youth and feel the difference.



we are the youth united

WE ARE THE FUTURE

Forward we shall march

1980 was the turning point for many of our young people. The schools boycotts and community support for the demands of students and workers led to great awareness among our people. The call for democratic people's organisations was sounded.

Students saw the need for SRC's. Residents saw the need for civic bodies. Workers saw the need for trade unions and young people saw the need to be organised and united.

Many of the ad hoc committees which were formed during this time became inactive after the boycotts. It was out of these committees that youth organisations emerged.

Many youth organisations were started over the past three years. Today, there are

over twenty youth organisations all over the Western Cape. Some are stronger than others. There are still many areas where there are no youth organisations.

Youth groups were started to cater for the different needs and interests of young people. Fun-runs, drama, music, table tennis, tutoring are some of the activities of the youth groups.

But, the youth movements tried to do more than this. They wanted to draw young people into their organisations. They wanted them to have a democratic say in the organisations. They wanted to raise their awareness of life in our society.

Youth organisations must be the place where our young people can develop their creative

skills. Where they can learn to communicate with other young people, and develop organising and leadership abilities.

A youth member said: "being part of the community, youth groups could identify with issues affecting their communities. They could act as support groups during campaigns or other community struggles."

Today, our youth organisations stand on the brink of yet another

step forward. This step is to unify all the youth movements in the different areas into one organisation.

A youth member said: "We are reaching a new stage in the organisation of youth. From Mitchell's Plain to Hanover Park, from Lavender Hill to Kensington, young people are responding to this challenge."

We must develop tomorrow's leaders

GRASSROOTS spoke to Carol, a member of the Tafelberg Youth movement about the need for youth unity. This is what she said:

"We, as young people all experience the same problem. As young workers, we bear the burden of unemployment. The lack of facilities in the areas where we live, leads to many young people standing on street corners. We can often not develop our full capacities.

"It is important for us to solve this through unity and collective action.

"We must join our youth organisations. It is important for our youth organisations to stand together in one organisation. Only if our youth organisations stand united in one organisation, can we tackle our problems together."

Carol said that for a long time there had been very little joint

activity between young people from different areas.

"Through our unity we will be able to work as one and strengthen all our organisations.

"By being in one organisation, young people will begin to see further than their area. This is necessary because we are so used to seeing only our own problems and nothing beyond that.

"The unity we will have in one umbrella youth organisation, will make it possible for young people to support the struggles of workers, women, students and civics.

"It is also possible for us in one organisation to share ideas and resources to develop our potential as the adults and leaders of tomorrow."



We are the young ones the learners, readers, the writers the copiers, the the reciters...

We are the young and small But we are the writing on your wall!



No jobs - what can youth do?

YOUNG people face many problems. V often they feel alone against talk to anybody about their problems. Is Thirry Donay tells us about his life and what he feeling right now...

YOU think I've been out of work long? Two months isn't long mate! Take me, for five months or I've been looking for job. I've been frustrated. It seems as if body cases. Sometimes wish I was

still at school. Being a student is so sweet, you know. Its not those boring lessons that drive me crazy.

I should've finished my standard eight at least. I mean, I'm only sixteen you know. But I just couldn't take all those dates and formulas and nouns and verbs. . . . Brain-washed education to make us the fools.

My brother Benny might get me a job where he works at Ras. He's two years older than me. But, he says that I'll earn peanuts. Something like R10 a weeks. He only gets

R15 a week.

Benny and I get on okay. And then there's nowhere to go to, you see. I've got no money to go to bioscope. Besides, there is nothing nice showing, just like SATV. I would like to join a drama group but there is nothing like that here.

But now and again we almost kill each other. We share a room with my brothers, Peter and Bobby. They are still at high school. Sometimes I feel like being alone, and that's when the trouble starts man.

My parents are beginning to hassle me now. They want me to get a job soon. Things are expensive you know. Buses are up again. And, only Papa and Benny works.

I hate the thought of going to the army. But that seems the only way out for me. Benny says I shouldn't. He said I would be fighting against my own people. Benny says he'll never speak to me again if I go to the army.

I really don't know what to do. I really don't know

WHERE ARE WE GOING!

Do you agree with this? Think about it, talk about it. Come to the congress and share your ideas.

- AIMS and objects of the Cape Youth Congress (CAYCO) are:
 - to unite all youth in the Cape.
 - to respond to the demands and aspirations of the young people whether they be cultural, economic or political.
 - to find ways and means of linking up with the youth in other areas, regions or provinces with similar aims and objectives as CAYCO;
 - to build good relations between youth and parents;
 - to create a spirit of trust, responsibility, understanding and love among its members.

YOUTH UNITY GIVES BIRTH TO CAYCO

ONE word is on the lips of young people throughout the Western Cape - CAYCO.

With great excitement youth members and others are talking about the Cape Youth Congress (CAYCO).

This new force on the youth front will be born soon. CAYCO's inaugural congress will

be held on the weekend of May 27, 28 and 29.

Already about 20 youth organisations will be united by Cayco, and many others are expected to follow.

"This is the most exciting thing to happen on the youth front," said one youth member. "The formation of Cayco is long overdue."

Everywhere young

people are talking about the inter-youth activities that Cayco will organise.

"At last we will be able to come together with youth from many other areas in a much more structured and regular way," one member said.

The idea of forming the inter-youth structure, Cayco, was discussed by most youth members in the different areas. Because everyone is aware of what Cayco is planning, everyone is excited about it.

What's to be done

What should Cayco do? The Steering Committee welcomes the ideas of youth groups.

ONE of the main tasks of Cayco will be to build strong youth organisations all over the Western Cape.

This was decided on at a meeting of representatives of youth movements where a draft programme of action was drawn up. A final document will be accepted at the inaugural congress.

- Five main tasks were outlined. These are:
 - strengthening local youth organisations,
 - developing our youth leadership,
 - strengthening the relationship between branches,
 - popularising CAYCO,
 - taking part in broader campaigns affecting the community.

To work on these tasks, it was suggested to form different committees. The committees will be the organising, education and training, sport and cultural, and publications committees.

Cayco could also take up issues like unemployment, lack of venues, sporting and recreational facilities, and poor library services.

Conference

Lots of work is going into the inaugural congress. A special inaugural committee has been set up with representatives from all the youth movements. They are planning the programme for the congress. Speakers, live music, films, drama, singing - these are but some of the suggestions from enthusiastic youth members.

An elderly person who belongs to the civic in her area said: "I'm glad the youth has seen the importance of coming together. We realise that we cannot work in isolation. That is why we have an umbrella body for the civic. It will be important for us all to work together in our civics, youth and student organisations."

'The problems of the farm workers are filling our books,' said a volunteer working in the Worcester Advice Office. 'There is no organization for farm workers. They come to us with their problems. Their problems are many.'

Grassroots visited the Advice Office and heard about some of their cases:

- one contract worker was killed doing dangerous work on a wine farm. The boss did not tell the other workers or the family of the death. He only called the police to collect the body. Then he sacked the workers who witnessed the accident.

- On the same farm 6 contract workers escaped because of ill treatment. The Advice Office is fighting to get Workmens' Compensation for the family.
- one contract worker was beaten by two foremen. Then he was thrown out of a bakkie. The boss refuses to

Advice for farmworkers



- return the worker's travel document;
- a mechanic used racially insulting words to a worker. The foreman said he could do nothing;
- a worker living in the W.Cape since 1944 was told he had to leave. 'They even took his reference book.'

The Advice Office was started at the beginning of 1983 by UWO, the Worcester Housing Action Committee, and the Worcester Branch of the West Cape Civic Association.

An Advice Office Committee has been set up from these organi-

zations. Its members are responsible for running the office. There have been two major problems: money to pay rent and telephone, buy stationery, pay the office workers.

The other is that many problems cannot be solved in Worcester. The Advice Office

works closely with other Advice Offices who have more experience and experts to deal with certain problems.

The Advice Office is in 33A le Sueur Street, Worcester, telephone 23103. It is open from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

"The Group is killing us"

THE GROUP AREAS ACT forced some of the last remaining Claremont families to move out of their homes last week.

Many were in tears as they took a last look at the homes in which they had lived for most of their lives.

Others merely shrugged and said: "We have to go. What can we do?"

Most of the families, from First Avenue and St. John's Terrace are moving to two bedroomed maisonettes in Manenberg.

Removals

Claremont was declared a white group areas in 1965. Since then hundreds of coloured families have had to move out into dismal houses and flats on the Cape Flats - far from their places of work, far from shops and far from schools.

The people who went last week say they cannot take their children out of school in the middle of the year.

Most children go to school at either Rosmead or Livingstone - an easy walk from First Avenue, but a long bus ride from Manenberg.

One old man - Claremont's oldest resident - has lost the family who have looked after him for many years.

"Uncle Tom" lives in an old car in the backyard of a local family. For years they have provided him with water, a little food and some security so he is not completely alone.

Now the family has gone to Manenberg and "Uncle Tom" is not eligible for a house.

A young man, whose family has also had to move, said he did not know what would become of Uncle Tom. The old man refused to go into an old age home, he said. He was born in Claremont and wanted to die there.

Since the Group Areas Act came into force, more than 12 000 coloured families in Cape Town have had to move out of their homes.

There are less than 40 coloured families left in Claremont today. Soon, they too, will be living far away in places where they have not chosen to go.

Marching for maintenance

LAST month, about 100 members of three civic organisations - BBSK residents Association, Manenberg Civic Association, and Parkwood Working Committee, met with Cape Town City Council.

The three civic organisations, all affiliates of CAHAC, met with council to

- get council to state its policy on maintenance
- to complain about the council's handling of the maintenance issue
- reject the sale of houses policy

The delegation handed in a memorandum which described the problems with the sale of houses. It stated that tenants would now have to bear the cost of buying and maintaining their houses.

- The memorandum also demanded control by the people of all aspects of their lives
- that the state give decent housing to all
- that the state maintains the houses properly

The council gave their usual reply "No funds, but we will try our best". This the delegation rejected.

Technical problems?

THE Technical Assistance Project (TAP) helps community organisations and trade unions with technical problems and information.

Last year, TAP helped some communities with the struggle against higher rates. When the City Council wanted to raise the rates, TAP helped the community to find out how rates on land and land valuation worked.

This year, Kewtown Residents Association approached TAP for help on the drainage problem in Kewtown. TAP wrote a booklet explaining some of the technical, legal, financial, health and social problems of drainage.

If any organisation needs technical assistance, they can contact TAP through the GRASSROOTS

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PEP
VALUE FOR MONEY

Children also have rights

Organising for child care

'WHERE THERE ARE WOMEN, THERE ARE CHILDREN'

THIS is what the UWO women said at the AGM. When we are organizing women, we must also be thinking of the children.

The 1st June is celebrated all over the world as International Day for the Protection of Children. This day is set aside to mobilize for the struggle to:

- defend children from the threat of war;
- preserve the health of children;
- carry out children's upbringing and education on a democratic basis.

This day was first celebrated in 1950 in 51 countries.

UWO will celebrate

International Children's Day on Saturday 4th June. It's branches are planning afternoon programmes for children in their areas. These programmes will include

UWO camps for children

THE Gugulegu Branch of UWO is planning a weekend camp for children. The camp is open to all who are interested - it is not only for children of members. It will start on May 13.

There are very few facilities for children in the townships. The camp will give our

puppet shows, films, songs and games.

Find out from your local branch or from the UWO office (ph 69-1055) about activities in your area.

children a chance to enjoy themselves, and also to learn something.

On the first day, we will also have speeches and a slide show for the parents.

We hope that the camp will teach new mothers about our organisation.

In this way, we can build the UWO, and gain new members.

THIS was drawn up by the United Nations (UN) in 1959. The UN is an international organization with 180 member countries.

South Africa is excepted because most countries do not agree with apartheid.

Some countries have drawn up their own declaration. They have done this because children live under different conditions in each country.

UWO has Child Care as its organizing theme. From doing this work, we would like to draw up our own Declaration which will fit our children's needs.

What do you think about this declaration? Are there other important rights?

Declaration of childrens rights

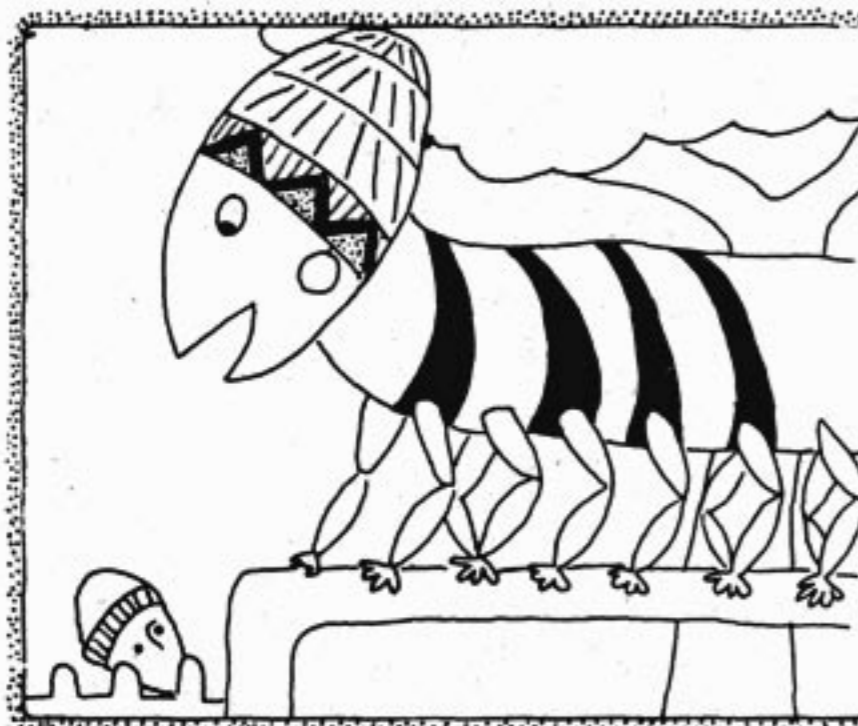
Declaration of the rights of the child

1. All children, no matter what their race, colour, sex, language or religion is, are entitled to these rights.
2. Children have a right to special protection, and a right to opportunities and facilities so they can develop in a normal and healthy way in freedom and dignity.
3. Children have a right to have a name and nationality from birth.
4. Children have a right to be given enough to eat, to have a decent place to live as well as to play, and to receive good medical care when they get sick.
5. If children are handicapped in any way, they have a right to special treatment and education.
6. Children have a right to grow up with love, affection and security. Babies should not be separated from their mothers. Children should be brought up by their parents wherever possible. Children without parents should be looked after by the State.
7. Children have the right to be educated for free.
8. They have the right to be among the first to be protected in times of disaster.
9. They have a right to be protected from all forms of neglect, cruelty and exploitation.
10. Children should not be made to work before a certain age. They should never be made to do work which is dangerous to their health or which harms their education or physical or moral development.
11. Children should be protected from anything that causes racial, religious or other forms of discrimination. They should be brought up in a spirit of understanding, friendship among peoples, peace and universal brotherhood.
12. Children should be brought up to understand that their energy and talents should be devoted to the service of their fellow men.

A game for the children

Grassroots and Molo Songololo share offices. We got this game from Molo and we'll have more in the next issues of Grassroots.

How many differences can you spot between these 2 pictures of Molo + his friend?



turn the page upside down to check your answers

- Answers.
- 1. Molo has only one eye.
 - 2. Molo's hat has a different pattern.
 - 3. Molo has fewer legs.
 - 4. Molo's earring is not the same.
 - 5. Molo has no teeth.
 - 6. Molo's one stripe is missing.
 - 7. Molo's friends hat has no tassle.
 - 8. Molo's friends match is missing.
 - 9. There is no branch on the tree.
 - 10. The gate has no wire.

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Town Centre
Mitchells Plain

&

Athlone City Centre
Athlone
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Advice

MEASLES: A KILLER DISEASE?



Children who live in overcrowded houses will catch measles. Children who do not eat enough will die from it.

What to do if your child gets measles

MANY children die in South Africa each year from measles. Last year, 306 children died. Of these, 259 were African, 46 coloured and one was white.

This year, there have been 1184 cases, and 139 deaths from measles. Many of these were in Port Elizabeth, where there has been a measles epidemic.

These are just some of the children. There are many cases which are not recorded. Why are so many children dying? And why are most of the children who die black?

If children do not eat enough, or if they have TB, measles can kill them because they cannot fight the germ. They are too weak to fight any infection.

In areas where people

are over-crowded, the disease can spread very quickly.

So it is the children of poor families who are most likely to get measles, and to die from it.

HOW DO CHILDREN GET MEASLES?

Children get measles from a germ and pass it on to each other. When a child with measles coughs, small drops of water with the measles germ in them go into the air. When another child breathes in these drops, he may get measles one or two weeks later.

HOW DO WE KNOW OUR CHILDREN HAVE MEASLES?

Measles starts with a fever, runny nose, a cough, a sore throat and red sore eyes.

The rash starts behind the ears, then spreads to the neck, face and to the rest of the body.

The rash is also inside the body, so the child might get diarrhoea and painful ears.

* If the child gets worse, call a doctor for help because children may develop pneumonia, meningitis or bad pains in the ear and stomach.

* Clean the eyes with cooled boiled water.

* The old belief that children cannot be bathed is not true. The child will feel better after being washed.

HOW CAN WE PREVENT OUR CHILDREN FROM CATCHING MEASLES?

1. Have your children vaccinated against

Losing a job and coping with rent How can we Pay?

IT has been a hard year for Mrs Bester. Her husband had a job with a construction company in Mitchells Plain. Then one day the boss called him in and told him that the government was going to stop building houses — so there would be no more work for him next week.

Her husband had been earning R344 a month so the rent on the house in Mitchells Plain was high — R65 a month. And now there was no more money coming in.

Mrs Bester had to do something. She had four small children to feed and a sick granny to look after. She thought: if our rent is worked out on our income, then surely now that our income is nothing they will bring the rent down.

So Mrs Bester went to the Housing Office. "My husband has lost his job," she said. "You must bring down our rent!"

The man in the Housing Office looked cross.

measles when they are 7 and 14 months old.

2. Try to give your child as nourishing food as possible.

3. Try to keep children who do have measles away from other children.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A CHILD GETS MEASLES?

Most children with measles lose weight. Their sore mouths stop them from eating. The diarrhoea stops them from absorbing all their food. Measles harms the guts and the lungs.

WHAT CAN ORGANISATIONS DO ABOUT THIS DISEASE?

* We can all stand together and continue the struggle for healthy living conditions.

* We can fight for higher wages and for control of the clinics and health facilities.

* In the meantime we can organise for better child care and educate ourselves about illness and health.

"You've got no chance!" he said. "You will have to wait until the Council does its next income survey in 1984. Then if your husband still has no job we will change your rent. Until then you must pay the same."

"By then we will all have starved!" shouted Mrs Bester.

"Well," said the Council man, looking a bit ashamed, "if your husband had just lost his job because it was time to retire or because he'd been disabled at work, then we could bring your rent down now".

"That doesn't help me, does it!" said Mrs Bester.

What could she do now? They would probably have to give up their house and move in with granny. An she walked slowly home she decided there was one thing she could do. She would join the local civic association and help to fight for good, cheap housing for everyone.

Support the Bolani Co-op

An example of clothes made by the Bolani Co-op. Shirts - R11.95 Dresses (small, medium, large) - R14-50 in cotton or polyester.



THESE clothes were made by women of the Bolani village in the Transkei.

The women are working in a clothing co-operative, started by the Caguba Development Project. At the

moment there are 11 members of the co-op. Only 3 have husbands, who are working on the mines.

For these women, like thousands of others in the homelands, finding enough money to

live on is a daily struggle. Working in a co-op like this is one of the few ways they have of earning money.

Through the co-op, the women can come together to share their skills, and to share the

cost of buying material.

The women need to find people to buy their work. Organisations or shops who are willing to sell the clothes, and people who want to buy them, can write to

Caguba Development Project.

A Blondel P.O.Box 11 Port St Johns Transkei.

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Will be at Arcadia Motors from 3p.m. — 3.30p.m.
All Welcome

Advice

How to claim UIF

WHAT IS UIF PAY?
IT is pay for workers who are unemployed. It is supposed to help you while you are looking for a new job. You can't get UIF pay if you have retired or if you go on holiday. You can only get UIF pay if you have paid into the Unemployment Insurance Fund.

HOW DO YOU GET YOUR UIF PAY?

You must take your blue card to the office of the Department of Manpower and register with them.

It is very important to register as soon as you are unemployed. Otherwise you will have to wait longer to get your UIF pay. **YOU MUST TAKE YOUR BLUE CARD WITH YOU TO REGISTER.** Even if you don't yet have your blue card you must still register. You will have to go back and sign the register again while you are unemployed. It is very important to do this **AS OFTEN AS THE OFFICIAL AT THE OFFICE TELLS YOU TO.**

If you miss a time you will have to start your wait for UIF all over again.

WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR BLUE CARD?

When you start work for the first time the boss must fill in a blue card for you. He must keep it until you leave the job.

If you had a card and lost it then your boss must fill in a new one.

When you leave the job the boss **MUST** give you your card. If he doesn't give it to you, you must ask for it.

Where to register

TO Register: Department of Manpower, Thomas Boydell Building, (opposite Caledon Square Police Station), Cape Town Central. Phone: 45-7110.

To sign and collect U.I.F. pay:

Cape Town: Department of Manpower, Thomas Boydell Building. Women on Monday afternoons, men on Thursday mornings.

Southfield: Civic Centre Library, corner of Casino and Victoria Rd., on Tuesday mornings.

Elsies River: Civic Centre, Halt Rd. opposite SHAWCO on Wednesday morning.

Atlantis: Civic centre library on Friday mornings.

AT the end of last year, 3 million people were unemployed. This number is growing bigger every day, as more workers are laid off.

Everyday we hear that the country is in recession. This means that business is bad and bosses may lose some of their profits. But it also means that thousands of workers lose their jobs.

Unemployed workers can get a small amount of money from the government, through the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF).

It is important that workers know their rights about UIF. Many people do not claim their money because they do not know how to claim. Grassroots explains these rights. For more information you can go to the advice office in your area (see list).

This is very important because you can't get UIF without it.

It is a common problem that the bosses do not provide the card as soon as a worker leaves the job.

Blue card

WHAT MUST BE ON THE BLUE CARD?

- Your name (check that the spelling is right);
- Your identity number;
- Your address;
- The date when you started working in each job and when you left;
- How much you were earning when you left the job;
- The reason why you left the job.

CHECK THAT THE BOSS HAS FILLED IN ALL THESE THINGS PROPERLY.

The reasons the boss can fill in are:

- 1) The worker has resigned;
- 2) The worker is redundant (this means the boss is employing fewer workers and some workers were dismissed);
- 3) Any other reason.

If you resigned, you will not get UIF pay for the first six weeks. After that you will get UIF pay. The same applies if the boss fills in number 3 (any other reason).

It is very important to see that the boss fills in the right reason.

WHEN CAN YOU GET UIF PAY?

1. If you have been dismissed, or have resigned from your job.
2. If you are getting less than 1/3 of your usual salary because are sick or pregnant.
3. If you are a widow or someone who paid into the UIF, or if you were dependent on a contributor to the fund who has died.

HOW MUCH MONEY DO YOU GET?

You get just less than half (45 per cent) of your weekly wages when you become unemployed. For example if your wages were R30 a week you will get R13,58 a week UIF pay. If your wages were R40 you will get R18 a week. This money is paid in cash.

HOW LONG MUST YOU WORK BEFORE YOU GET UIF PAY?

You must work for at least 13 weeks in the year before you lose your job.

HOW LONG CAN YOU GET UIF PAY?

one year if you paid UIF contributions for long enough. This means you could get 26 weeks UIF pay if you had paid contributions for three years or more.

You can get one week UIF pay for every six weeks you have paid UIF contributions in all the time you have been working.

You can get UIF pay for up to 26 weeks in

CAN A MARRIED WOMAN GET UIF PAY?

Yes. If a married woman loses her job she can get UIF pay. It doesn't matter if her husband has got a job or not.

DEDUCTIONS FOR UIF.

Every week your employer takes a certain amount of your wages for UIF. The amount deducted from wages begins at 10 cents a week for the lowest paid workers.

The maximum amount deducted is 65 cents for those earning R130 a week.

If you are a Transkeian contract worker and deductions are still being made from your wages for UIF then you can claim a refund of your contributions.

EXTENDED BENEFITS FROM UIF.

Under certain conditions it is possible to get UIF for longer than 26 weeks.

For this you have paid into UIF for a long time. You must have worked for at least three months in the last year.

You have to visit five different employers and get signatures from them saying that they do not have a job for you.

CAN MIGRANT WORKERS GET UIF?

Yes. The law has just changed to allow this.

From the 15th May 1983 Transkei and Ciskei workers can pay into the fund and draw benefits.

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP

THE following is a list of worker, legal aid and civic advice offices which can help you with your problems. In future issues of Grassroots we will list new offices and any changes in old ones.

These offices are already open:—

1. Bonteheuvel Civic Association Advice Office
Room 13, Town Centre, Bonteheuvel
P.O. Box 20, Bonteheuvel, 7743
Saturdays 9 am - 12 pm
2. General Workers Union Aid Service
Benbow Building, Beverley Street, Athlone.
Open weekdays for emergencies only.
Phone: 67-0870
Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm
3. Heideveld Advice Office
Town Centre, cnr Heideveld and Ascension Rds
Saturdays 9 am - 12 pm
4. LOGRA Advice Office
Madressa Building, 1st Ave off Buck Road, Lotus River.
Saturdays 10 am - 1 pm
5. Ravensmead Worker Advice Bureau
St. Francis Anglican Church, Christian St. Ravensmead.
Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm
6. Steenberg Advice Centre
Retreat Public Library, Concert Boulevard
P.O. Box 12, Retreat, 7965
Saturdays 9 am - 12 pm
7. Worcester Advice Office
33A Le Seuer Street
Worcester, 6850
Mondays to Fridays 9 am - 5 pm
Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm
Phone (0231) 23103 - Ask for Miriam Moleleke
8. U.C.T. Legal Aid Office
2nd Floor, Room A226, P.D. Han Building
U.C.T.
Phone 66-8926
Tuesday & Thursdays 1 pm - 2 pm
9. Heideveld Legal Aid Office
Shawco Offices, Heideveld Road, Heideveld
Phone 67-8033
Mondays 7.30 - 9 pm
10. Manenberg Legal Aid Office
Shawco Offices, Kasouga Road, Manenberg
Phone 638-5131
Mondays 7.30 - 9 p.m.
11. Retreat Legal Aid Office
Mary Atlee Community Centre, Retreat Road
Phone 72-6969
Wednesdays 7.30 - 9 pm
12. Kensington Legal Aid Office
Shawco Offices, 12th Ave., Kensington
Phone 51-4871 or 51-6147
Thursdays 7.30 - 9 pm
13. Elsie's River Legal Aid Office
Shawco Offices, Halt Road, Elsie's River
Phone 98-0011
Thursdays 7.30 - 9 pm
14. Crossroads Legal Aid Office
SACCLA Clinic, Crossroads
Saturdays 9.30 - 12 pm
15. Guguletu Legal Aid Office
St. Cyprians's Church
Langa
Alternate Saturdays 9.30 - 12 am

The following offices will open soon:

- Hanover Park Civic Association Advice Office**
Room 4, Shopping Centre, Hanover Park
P.O. Box 31, Hanover Park, 7782
Wednesdays 7 - 9 pm
Saturdays 9 am - 12 pm
- Woodstock, Walmer Estate and Salt River**

The following organisations can give help and information to groups setting up advice offices:

1. Technical Assistance Group (TAG)
20 Alfred Street
Observatory
Phone 47-9852 or 69-8531 ext 217
2. SAKHE - Resources for Co-operative Development
Rooms 1 and 2, Town Centre, Hanover Park
Phone 638-6084

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Jakes talks about their 'constipation proposals'

"THAT was darem a lekker fight on TV last night," said Jakes.

"What you talking about," said his friend, quite puzzled, "There wasn't any boxing on TV last night."

"No man, not boxing. I am speaking about P W Botha's meeting Jussis man, the hall was packed and, yes, there were some potential boxers and wrestlers present. Some of the okes were hitting each other in such a way that I thought the world title was at stake.

It started looking like one of our gang fights here in Lavender Park or in Hanover Hill, only those ouens were wearing suits and ties. And when the fighting started, some of the people, their eyes as wide as saucers, quickly left the packed Pretoria hall."

"What was it all about Jakes?" said Attie who normally did not take much interest in such things. "I mean I always thought those boere stuck together like toffie apples."

"No you see", said Jakes, "It is like this. They are all verkrampt. Only some are more verkrampt than others. And those who are very verkrampt want those who are only verkrampt to be more verkrampt."

"P W Botha called the troublemakers,



who are from the Conservative Party and the Herstigte Nasionale Party, 'white barbarians'. You see Attie they are against Mr Botha's constipational . . . er . . . constitutional proposals. They are very angry and say it is wrong for Mr Botha even to try and trick the Coloureds and the Indians. He must leave them alone completely."

"So if 20 of us vote, Attie, with 11 saying yes and 9 saying no, the Labour Party will enter Parliament saying it has the majority support of the coloured people."

"But coming back to the fighting", said the talkative Jakes. "There were also HNP supporters at the meeting and they have hit out at the Nationalist Party."

Jakes continued: "The new proposals allow Coloured and Indian 'leaders', chosen for us by P W Botha to sit in parliament. But this is all they can do . . . SIT in parliament and wait for their big fat cheques every month."

"And do we know we are only going to get one vote. Those with property are going to have two or three votes."

"But that's not democracy," protested Attie. "that's demo-crazy."

"And now P W wants to have a referendum, to see how white voters feel about the new proposals," said Jakes.

"And Allan Hendrickse wants to do the same with the coloureds. He said the Labour Party will enter Parliament if more than fifty percent of people who vote say yes to the LP going into Parliament."

"HNP leaders have hit out at the NP and have made some fantastic offers to voters."

"Mr Jaap Marais, leader of the party, said that if the HNP came into power, young couples would be given big benefits. But this was on condition that they have four children within 10 years of marriage."

"That's interesting," said Attie, a smile coming to his face. "The party will certainly become more popular now!"

Universities protest against new 'Quota Bill'

STUDENTS and lecturers are angry about the new "Quota Bill" which the government wants to make law. This bill says that only a certain number of black students will be allowed to study at white or 'open' universities such as UCT.

Up till now all black students had to apply for a permit to study at a white university. He or she had to have good reasons for wanting to do so. This is because the government expects each 'ethnic' group to use its own ethnic university.

People have always protested against the permit system. The new bill says that there will be no more permits as far as the universities are concerned. The government is trying to show us that it is changing. But the people are not fooled.

A student said: "Although there will be no

"The new quota system is just as racist as the old system."

more permits, the new quota system is just as racist as the old system. No matter how many black students apply to study at an 'open' university, only a small number will be accepted. The main difference is that now the universities will have to apply the racist laws."

The Quota Bill says that in each faculty or department there will be a fixed number of black students. The government will decide whether this number will increase or decrease.

For example, if the big bosses need more engineers for their factories, the government will allow more blacks into the Engineering

Faculty. On the other hand, the government does not like too many students studying politics, so fewer black students will be allowed into this department.

Universities were not always separate. Before 1959 students were selected according to their high school results. Of course they had to have money to pay the fees. In 1959 the government put a stop to this. They introduced the separate Universities Education Bill. It said that all white universities would be closed to "non white" students.

Each group would have its own university. This became law in

1959. According to this law any 'non white' students found studying at a white university would be punished. They could get 6 months in jail or would have to pay a fine of £100 (almost R200). All black students wanting to study at a white university would have to apply for special permission from the government.

But why has this new Quota Bill been introduced at this time?

As the years have gone by, the number of black students at universities have been steadily increasing. This means that soon there will be more black students than white students.

The government has a big problem. It needs votes from whites who want to keep apartheid. It therefore does not want too many blacks at white universities. The government can see that there will soon be

a majority of black students.

On the other hand the government also has to think about the big bosses. There is a great shortage of skilled labour in the country. There are not enough whites anymore to do these jobs. If the bosses do not have enough skilled labour this will affect production. They will not be able to make as much profit. This is the problem the bosses are facing. They want the government therefore to train more blacks to do the skilled jobs.

The government wants to try and solve the problem by building more ethnic colleges. This will please the big bosses. It will allow only a few black students at the white universities. This will please the white voters who want to keep apartheid. The people, however, are not fooled.

SILVERTOWN YOUTH Youth week project 13th - 17th June

THE Silvertown Youth Movement started in 1981. We have a number of members from the area.

In the past we have had activities such as mountaineering outings and camps. In the sporting field we have soccer, volleyball, netball, swimming, rugby and we have organised a sports day. The youth club also has a serious side, where the concentration is on art, drama, music etc.

Starting from the 13 - 17 June, we will be holding a Youth Week Project. This project will run during the day and as well as the evening to cater for the working youth. The programme will run as follows:-

- MONDAY 13 11.30 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.
Chairmans introduction to Youth Week.
Contact drama.
- TUESDAY 14 10.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.
Games eg. table tennis, darts, kerrim, etc.
Coffee Bar with local talent for the afternoon and evening 2 p.m. - 10 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY 15 10.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.
Drama, Art, Music, Silkscreening workshop.
- THURSDAY 16 10.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.
Sports Day
8.00 p.m. - 10.00 p.m.
Mime, Music, and variety
- FRIDAY 17 10.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.
Improvised Drama using factory offcuts to structure costumes and scenery for a play.

The club meets every Friday 8.00 p.m. at the Silvertown Community Centre, Linaria Crescent.
LOOK OUT FOR POSTERS IN THE AREA.

Support us

THE Crawford Youth Movement is having a fund-raising effort at the Galaxy on Wednesday 8 June. Tickets will be sold at R4.00 as the organization is urgently in need of money to carry out projects and programmes.

We hope that all other organizations will come along and support us as this will not only be a chance for enjoying ourselves but also one more chance for making further contact and getting to know each other.

For further details the Secretary can be contacted at 61-1150.

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BOB MARLEY - FREEDOM SONGS

ITS Gumba time, its Reggae time.

People sing and sway to the rhythm of Marley's "Tis a Reggae music".

Its two years after Bob Marley's death, and his music continues to inspire our people. On this page, Grassroots pays tribute to Marley and his music.

MARLEY sings "We I ever had is songs of forward in this genera- freedom, won't you tion triumphantly, All help to sing these songs

KIPPIE, WE SALUTE YOU!

"I am poor now, but I am not crying. I'm going to win. Kippie Moketsi is not dead yet!"

Kippie said these words less than a year ago. On the 27th April, 1983 he died in Baragwanath hospital. He was 58 years old.

Dollar Brand cried when he heard the news. And people in South Africa and all over the world cried with him.

Kippie has been called the "father of South African Jazz". Born in 1925 in the slums of Johannesburg, he lived in the harsh world of South African townships.

His music plays the spirit of those townships, and of the people's struggle. With people like Dollar Brand, Hugh Masekele, and Todd Matshikize, he created a music that is truly South African.

Of Dollar Brand, he said "Dollar knew nothing about music when I met him. He was just a 'skollie'. He followed me everywhere. Now he is a big man in music."

The record companies made lots



of money from Kippie's music. But when Kippie died he had nothing. No money, no house, no work.

But he had the courage which had created his music, and the courage to say "Kippie Moketsi is not dead yet".

And in the music of Dollar and Masekele and other South African jazz musicians, in the hearts of all who love and listen to his music, Kippie Moketsi lives on.

of freedom".

This is one of the most powerful messages that Marley has brought to millions of people all over the world. His music lives on. His songs tell of ordinary people and their lives. Of hardships, suffering and poverty in the world today.

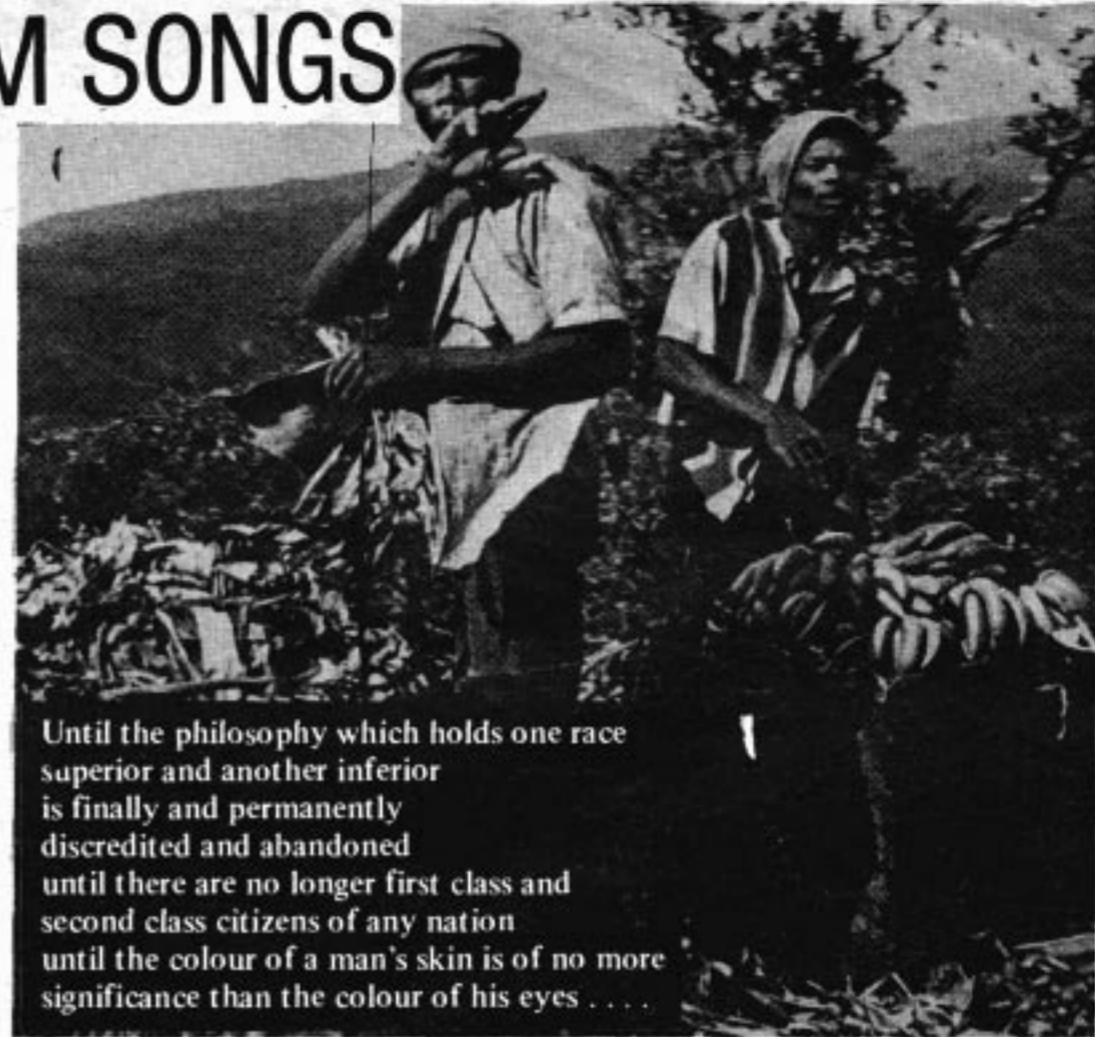
"Check out the real situation, write and sing about the things which happen to people in their daily lives."

Marley did not just sing about what he saw. He also tried to help us understand why things are the way they are. The song, "Johnny was" tells how a woman "held her head and cried because her son has been shot down in the streets and died, from a stray bullet . . . just because of the system."

At should not surprise us in South Africa to hear about these experiences. The truth is that life in Jamaica where Marley lived, is very much like our own. A "system" causing great suffering to the people.

The Jamaican soil is rich in bauxite which is used to make tin. Rich American companies make millions of dollars out of tin mining. This money is taken back to America while the Jamaican people remain poor.

When the Peoples



Until the philosophy which holds one race superior and another inferior is finally and permanently discredited and abandoned until there are no longer first class and second class citizens of any nation until the colour of a man's skin is of no more significance than the colour of his eyes . . .

National Party (PNP) came to power in 1972, they forced the mine bosses to pay tax money. In this way the new government could lower food prices, improve education and health care.

This angered the mine bosses. They used their party, the Jamaican Labour Party and with the help of the American Central Intelligence Agency, to destroy the PNP.

There were shootings on the streets of Kingston, many innocent people were killed.

Marley organised a 'peace concert'. He was wounded in an attack

on his life. He sang this song: "Ambush in the night - four guns aiming at me . . . see them fighting for power."

But Bob Marley also knew that the problems in Jamaica and in the world ran deeper than the violence on the streets. So, Marley's songs tried to help people have a new understanding about their lives. He sang, "emancipate yourself from mental slavery, none but ourselves can free our minds".

And, what did Bob Marley think of South Africa? "Me no play in South Africa till South Africa free, because them (the government)

try to neutralise everything", he told New Musical Express in 1979. "Anything the people want, them must get it".

So, it is not surprising that so many people still listen to Marley's music. Two years gone, and a whole new generation of singers are urging people who struggle to:

"Come in from the cold why do you look so sad and forsaken, don't you know that when one door is closed another is opened in this life, in this life in this sweet life we're coming in from the cold."

GANDHI "should be looked at critically"

AT present, Gandhi is being shown at bioscopes all over Cape Town.

There has been a lot of talk and discussion about the film. Three weeks ago the director was meant to come to South Africa to attend a premiere of the film in Johannesburg. But the preview was to be open only to Whites.

There were protests from people in South Africa and from the Anti-Apartheid Movement in Britain and at the United Nations. As a result, the director, Richard Attenborough, was forced to cancel his visit to SA.

Masses

Gandhi is about the life and work of Mahatma Gandhi and the struggle of the Indian people for freedom from British oppression. Gandhi stressed the need for unity. He believed that if religious and class differences were not set aside, the people's struggle for freedom would fail.

Gandhi also warned the leader of the Congress Party - the party leading the struggle for freedom - that speeches by lawyers would not bring victory. Only if the masses were reached and mobilised, would freedom be certain.

In the freedom struggle, Gandhi used the strategy of passive resistance and non-cooperation.

This was a method of struggle he developed

in SA, when he was working as a lawyer in Natal. He used it to fight the government's move to force Indian South Africans to carry passes.

The government responded to the Indians' campaign of non-violence with violence: people were brutally beaten and thousands were jailed.

In the end, however, the battle was won, and the Government was forced to drop the pass laws. It was this battle that gave rise to the formation of the Natal Indian Congress, and the proud tradition of the Indian people in the struggle in this country.

When he returned to India, Gandhi used this same strategy of passive resistance against the British colonial administration.

The British army and police fought back with violence, and

thousands of people were killed. Gandhi was jailed a number of times, but in the end, the British were forced to leave.

Although Gandhi is a beautifully made film that people should see, it must be looked at critically.

It is a film about the life of a people's leader. Because it focuses on the individual, it does not show the role of other people in the struggle, and more important, people themselves.

The end of the film deals with the violence between Hindus and Moslems after independence, specifically in the city of Calcutta, where thousands died in religious riots. But the film does not give the background to the fighting, or go into the reasons for the hatred between Moslems and Hindus.

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Sanroc supporters overseas show their opposition to Apartheid sport.

SANROC A SYMBOL OF NON RACIAL SPORT

The fight for sports equality

THE South African Non-racial Olympic Committee (Sanroc) was formed in 1963 and soon became the very symbol of the struggle for non-racial sport in South Africa.

Sanroc believed strongly in isolating South Africa from international sport. It believed that in this way the Government would be forced to change its Apartheid laws in order for its sportspersons to play International sport.

But what was Sanroc's fight all about? This is perhaps best explained by looking at what happened to Sew-sunker "Papwa" Sewgolum, an Indian Golfer, who entered an exclusively all-white championship.

"Papwa" made history when he won the Natal Open Golf Championship, beating a field of 113 Whites.



"Papwa"

that he was not a member of the White Professional Golfers Association.

"Papwa's" case drew world attention to sports apartheid and to what it meant for black South Africans.

Sanroc fought tirelessly for total equality in sport. But many of its members were harassed and hounded.

Sanroc's President Dennis Brutus was

banned and arrested several times for breaking his banning order. Many of the organisation's members were forced to leave the country.

Because of this, Sanroc had to disband in 1965, after a short two year existence.

1967 saw the rebirth of Sanroc in exile. Here its campaign to isolate South Africa became more successful.

In 1968 South Africa was suspended from the Olympic games and was finally expelled in 1970. This was mainly due to the effective campaign waged by Sanroc overseas.

In 1972 a new non-racial sporting body, the South African Council on Sport (Sacos) was formed.

We demand sports fields — Belhar

THERE are absolutely no sports facilities to cater for the more than 40 000 people who live in Belhar and its extensions.

This is a very bad situation, especially if one considers that the Divisional Council started building in the area 12 years ago.

The Belhar Civic Association (Belca), which was formed in November 1981 decided to do something about the lack of sports facilities and approached Divco.

Divco then presented a plan showing eight sites on which sports-fields would be built and asked Belca to approve it.

Three sites were in

old Belhar and five in the extensions.

The Belhar Civic Association then called a mass meeting on November 13 which was attended by 300 residents. The people agreed to accept Divco's plan but demanded that Divco give immediate attention to site 3. This complex will be built on the land covered by the sand dunes behind the Flats in Belhar. The complex is expected to cost about R1,6 m and is expected to cater for many different sports.

The chairperson of the sports board was a speaker at the meeting and is aware of the decision of the people.

But on April 26 the sports board again met

with Divco and agreed that only part of Site one and part of site three be developed. Divco told the sports board that the Department of Community Development had only set aside R191 378 for the development of sports facilities in Belhar this year.

Belca is very angry at what the sports board has done. Belca feels the sport board has ignored the community's wish by going against the decision taken at the mass meeting. Belca said it had gone out of its way to build unity and feels the sports board has betrayed the community.

The Civic Association has rejected the

decision by the sports board and have written to Divco to put the decision of the community into operation.

Belca feels that the residents of Belhar are not demanding something they do not pay for. It pointed out that each of the 1 500 rate-payers in the area paid between R200 and R600 for recreational facilities each year while one percent of the rental of each of the 2 700 tenants went towards recreational facilities.

"The children and sportspersons in Belhar cannot go without these facilities any longer," said Belca.

"The people of Belhar have demanded what is rightfully theirs."

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The Group

But when he had to get his prize, he had to receive it in the rain while the other golfers were in the Clubhouse.

Because of the Group Areas Act, he was not allowed to receive his prize in the clubhouse.

The SABC refused to announce the result, saying they did not broadcast multi-racial sport.

In March that year "Papwa" came second in the South African open. But he was not selected for the South African Canada Cup Team on the grounds

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