

'We can't pay higher busfares'

THE government intends building even cheaper houses for low wage-earners in future.

The houses they plan will no longer have bare essentials like fences, washing lines, floor covering, ceilings, paint on inside walls or electricity.

This will mostly affect all those earning less than R150 a month.

At the moment houses built by the government are inadequate and people in all areas have emphasised their demand for adequate houses and for comfort and security.

The idea to build the cheap houses was told to local authorities by the Department of Community Development.

They said that the National Housing Commission, the government body that controls the money for the building of homes, has a shortage of money.

Community organisations are asking: "Where is the money we spent on rents and rates all these years? The government spends millions of rands on defence and sport. Why can't they spend more money on a basic right like housing?"

People say they are already suffering under the present housing conditions.

"The new houses will just mean many more problems for people already struggling to survive," a Bonteheuwel man said.

Get involved -says CAHAC

CALLS for people to become more involved in their civic organisations were made at the first annual general meeting of the Cape Areas Housing Action Committee this month. Cahac, officially launched a year ago, presently represents 21 civic bodies.

In addressing the close to 200 delegates and observers present, Cahac chairperson, Mr Wilfred Rhodes, said it was very important that as many people as possible be involved in making decisions.

To build strong democratic organisations meant more than a show of hands at meetings, he said.

"It calls for greater involvement by all affected people," he said.

The task was not for those with confidence to make decisions on

HOUSING CUTBACK

Government plans to lower housing standards

"The government has already been made aware of the problems we have with the present houses in the townships. As the houses get old, they fall to pieces and the authorities refuse to maintain them.

"How can they still build cheaper houses that will fall to pieces quicker and need much more maintenance, if they can't even maintain our houses now?"

"And if they expect the people to maintain the houses themselves, they must really want to see our people suffer even more. Where will people who can't even afford to buy food, still find money to maintain these houses?"

their own. Rather their job was to reach out and involve others in day-to-day work, he said.

"It is this collective involvement in decision-making and action which will be the real measure of how successfully we are organising," he said.

In his report as secretary, Mr Trevor Manuel, stressed the need to commit more people to the organisation.

"Truly people's organisations must provide a home for everybody in the commu-

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Motor workers have taken up the fight for a minimum wage with great determination and militancy.

10 000 workers on strike

MORE than 10 000 Port Elizabeth motor workers walked off their jobs during the second week of July after management refused to raise their wages.

The workers, all members of the National Automobile and Allied Workers Union (NAAWU), demanded an increase from R2 an hour to R3,50 an hour.

They went on strike when an Industrial Council meeting between the three motor employers, Ford, Volkswagen and Gen-

eral Motors and their union had reached deadlock.

Workers have since changed their demand for R3,50 an hour to R2,50 an hour with increases up to R3,50 over the next 18 months.

However, the bosses have refused to budge from their offer of R2,15. At an Industrial Council meeting this week, they refused to negotiate until the workers returned to work.

At a packed workers meeting of about 3 500 later that day, workers

roared their disapproval when the shop steward reported back the attitude of the bosses at the Industrial Council meeting.

The Chairman of the branch committee of Ford, Mr Douglas Slingers, said the fight was for a decent living wage for all workers.

He said the workers had shown they were prepared to meet the asking for R2,50 instead of R3,50.

But the bosses were still taking a hardline. He said the workers would "Test" the

OVER 100 people representing 23 residents and trade union organisations have met to respond to the latest busfare increases asked by City Tramways.

If the increases are granted, bus passengers will have to pay between 5 and 10 cents more for a ride. Last year the bus company made an after tax profit of over R3 million.

People present were quite angry. A spokesperson for Lavender Hill said "busfares are already very high. Our people are at the moment finding it quite hard to make ends meet. Does City Tramways want to see us starve?"

A spokesperson for one of the trade unions said:

"We did not choose to live in areas like Mitchells Plain and Guguletu. We used to live near our places of work. But then the government passed the Group Areas Act, and they began moving us left, right and centre."

Another speaker added: "Since the government moved us against our wishes, they are responsible for the big transport costs and should bear the brunt."

Unite

The people present called for positive action, with a representative of Mitchells Plain saying: "Only the people can fight the busfare increases. It is very important that all the people be united behind their organisation."

A BBSK spokesperson added: "Already wages are too low and we cannot afford the high rents and the price of basic foodstuffs. Any increase in busfares will mean less money for food."

After much discussion it was decided that all organisations present should lodge objections at the offices of the National Transport Commission.

Objections

The meeting felt it important to ask trade unions who were not present and the church organisations to support this decision and support the campaign against busfare increases.

The demands of the people were spelt out by a resident of Valhalla Park:

"The people must control the transport system. It must not be provided by private bus companies to make a profit. People should be charged a fare they can afford."

On Friday July 23, 1982 over 20 resident, trade union and church organisations including CAHAC, CTMWU, FCWU, GWU, lodged objections at the offices of the National Transport Commission.

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GIVING UP JOBS FOR

UNITY

TRIDENT Marine Engineering workers with Section 10 1 (a) and (b) rights, entitling them to stay permanently in Cape Town, have made an impressive stand of solidarity with their fellow contract workers.

When the Trident bosses announced they were going to retrench (lay off) workers earlier this month, 13 workers with Section 10 rights volunteered to be the first to go so that the contract workers would not have to return to barren homelands where jobs are almost impossible to find.

The workers are all members of the General Workers' Union.

Protect

The GWU and the workers' committee had already negotiated a retrenchment method with the Trident Marine bosses, to protect workers from bearing the full brunt of the economic recession.

During a recession, when factories produce less, bosses usually sack workers. What is important here is that the union forced the bosses to consult the workers first.

Security

The union has pointed out that the recession is no fault of the workers and they should be entitled to greater job security.

The workers' committee at Trident were consulted by the bosses about the retrenchment. Through negotiation they managed to cut it down by about half.

They also decided that the Section 10 workers would volunteer to be laid off. Even though it is difficult for them to get jobs, it is far more difficult for contract workers.

'Poverty in the homelands will only be made worse if migrant workers are sent back.

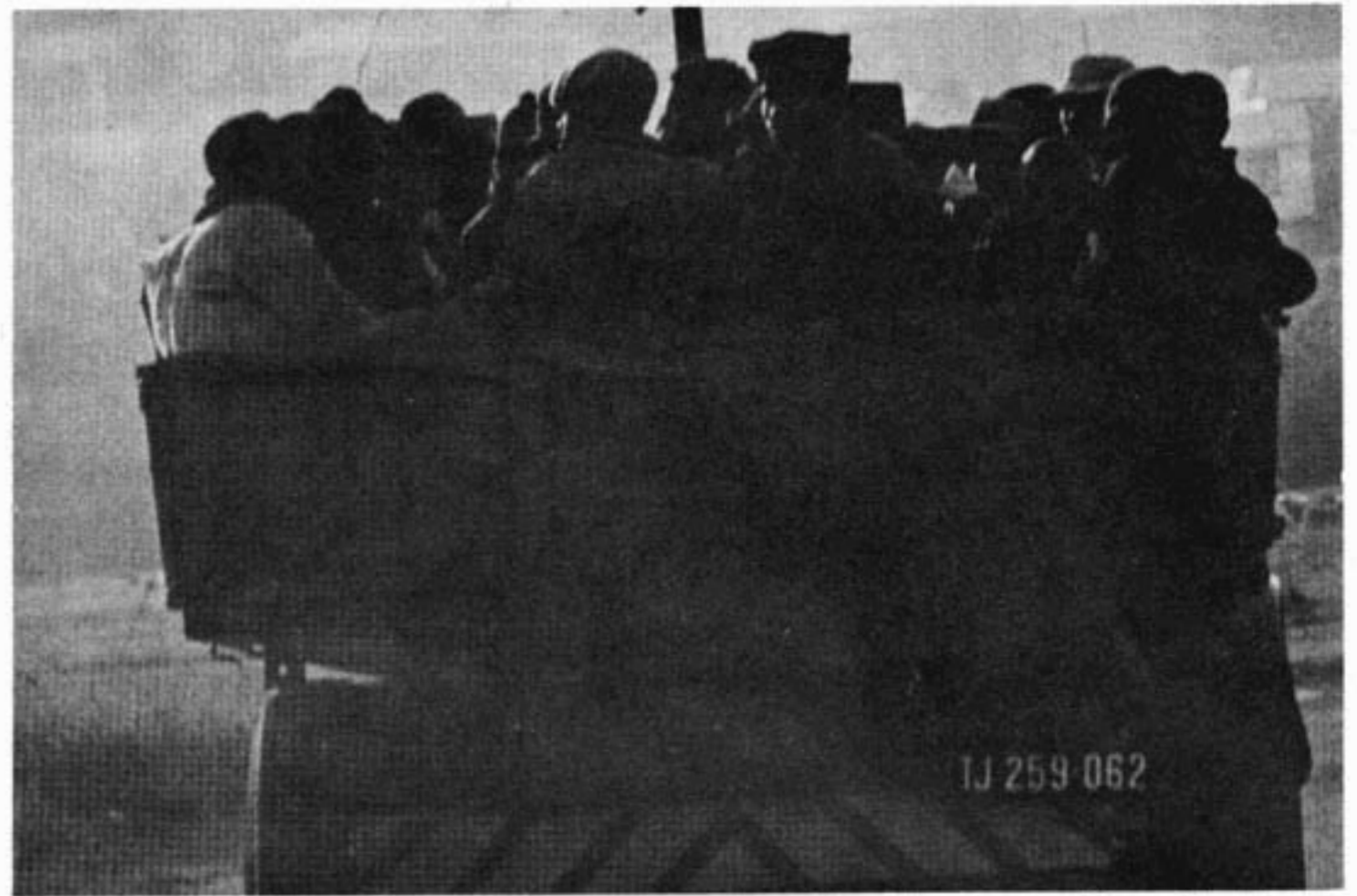
We are proud of the workers stand.

A GWU spokesperson said both the union and the workers were concerned about the effects of retrenchments on workers, particularly contract workers. Rural poverty in the homelands will only be made worse if migrant workers

are sent back.

The union said it was proud of the stand taken by the Trident workers.

"It is an example of the unity between Section 10 workers and migrants in our union," said the spokesperson.



IJ 259 062

The fight for urban rights

AFRICANS suffer under many apartheid laws. Of the worse are those which force them to stay in the homelands, where there is no work. In Cape Town there are thousands of workers who have contracts to work here. Some have worked and lived in Cape Town all their lives.

If they can prove they have work and

accommodation in Cape Town, they are granted section 10 rights.

Mr Stanford Booie, a Fattis & Monis worker was granted section 10 rights by the Supreme Court on the basis that he had worked for one employer for 10 years.

It was thought to be an important decision, since thousands of other contract workers in the Peninsula have worked for one employer for more than 10 years. At present, they do not have rights to remain permanently in the Cape.

They, like Mr Booie, should get section 10 rights.

But, the Western Cape Administration Board has refused to endorse the passbooks of hundreds of workers who applied on that basis.

The Administration Board say they are waiting for an appeal by the East Rand Administration Board against a court decision which involves a Mr Tom Rokhoto from previously won a court case to receive permanent residence rights.

The people say the Board in Cape Town is using that case as an excuse only. "Why must the courts decide if I can live with my husband, or change my job, or move from Cape

Town to any other place", asked one woman.

The influx control laws of the government does not allow Africans to do those things.

It divides Africans in the cities into 3 classes:

- those who can work and live in Cape Town
- those who can only work in Cape Town, but have to go back to the Ciskei
- those who are not allowed to work or live in Cape Town.

Fourteen years ago, the Department of Bantu Administration drew up a set of regulations affecting African contract workers. They had to renew their contract every year, the regulations said.

Thus the Administration Board argued that workers had not worked "continuously" for 10 years for one employer, since they restarted on their jobs every year.

Last year a Mrs Komani challenged this regulation in court. She won the right to live with her husband, who had rights to live permanently in Cape Town.

While the government is preparing new laws to tighten up influx control, it is important that they be challenged by the people.

Victory for rail workers

CONSTANT pressure by the General Workers Union (GWU) has ended in victory for the workers on the railways.

The railways management - the South African Transport Services (SATS) - has finally stopped deducting subscriptions for the Black Staff Association (BSA) from 546 railway workers. These workers, in the Port Elizabeth docks resigned from BSA more than four months ago.

The workers are all members of the General Workers' Union, yet SATS have been deducting subscriptions from the workers' wages for the BSA since October last year.

The GWU said they were pleased to see that railway workers in PE were no longer forced to belong to an organisation they had clearly rejected. The union is concerned that the workers' major grievances are still unanswered.

SATS has so far refused to recognise the GWU workers' committees in the PE and East London docks, saying they will not deal with "outside unions."

More than 800 railway workers belong to the GWU in the PE harbour, and about 250 in East London. The union says they represent the majority in both ports.

Workers in PE have complained of continual harassment by the Railways police, saying they have been assaulted, intimidated and even offered money if they resign from the GWU. Last month 848 workers wrote a letter to the Port Manager complaining of the way they had

been treated by the Railways police.

The workers said they expected questions about their union from the manager of SATS and not from the police.

The GWU says the major grievances of the workers are:

- managements' refusal to recognise a channel of communication between them and the representative chosen by the workers
- the continual harassment of union members in the docks.

SATS has also backed down on a previous decision not to allow GWU organisers to collect subscriptions from the stevedores in the harbours.

This has come after Railways harassment of union organisers, who were collecting stevedore subscriptions in some of the ports where they have members.

For over two years stevedores subscriptions have been collected in Cape Town and more recently in other ports. About a month ago, SATS told the stevedore bosses the GWU was no longer allowed to use the premises in Cape Town to collect subs.

The stevedores asked their bosses to approach SATS for a guarantee that the union would be able to collect subs in all four ports where they have members. SATS gave a guarantee that subs could be collected in Cape Town. The stevedores said they would not be satisfied until the guarantee applied to all four ports.

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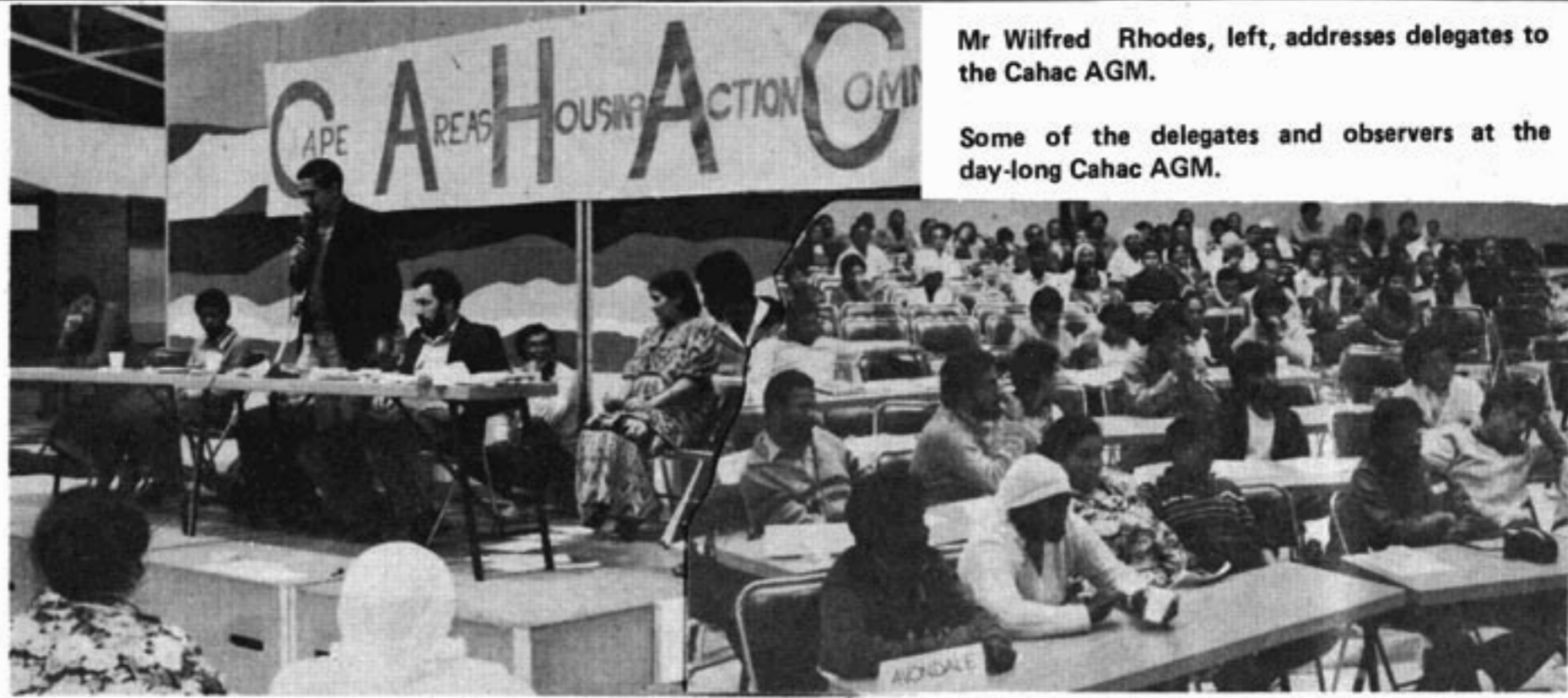
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Build our organisations

Sunday, 11 July was a historic day for the umbrella civic body, Cahac. The first annual general meeting of the organisation, representing 21 civic bodies, was held in Lentegeur, Mitchells Plain. Newly formed committees in Parkwood Estate and Hout Bay applied for membership. With time, it is expected that other committees presently working in areas will seek membership. Cahac can only grow and should grow - this was the message at the day-long AGM.

By joining your local civic organisation, you are joining Cahac because this organisation is our parent body.



Mr Wilfred Rhodes, left, addresses delegates to the Cahac AGM.

Some of the delegates and observers at the day-long Cahac AGM.

UMBRELLA BODY FOR PLAIN

MITCHELLS PLAIN has at last got a people-based umbrella body which will co-ordinate the struggles of all those who live in the huge Group Area township.

The body is the Mitchells Plain Co-ordinating Committee (MPCC) and has a loose Federal structure.

Each of the Plain's seven mass-based residents' bodies in the seven areas - Eastridge, Lentegeur, Portlands, Rocklands, Tafelsig,

Westridge and Woodlands - elected from their ranks two members on the MPCC. One of the two area representatives is "permanent" - which means he serves a full term of office of about a year.

Westridge and Woodlands Association (COMPRA) was not accepted by the people because it was undemocratic and many of its officials were eager to work with the enemies of the people.

It also refused to take up issues affecting the people.

On such issue was the Electricity Due Date. Council demanded that electricity accounts be paid a few days before most people received their salaries. Late payment led to a 10 percent fine. Because of the inconvenience of the payment date most people had to pay the fine, giving the council lots of extra money.

What now?

Because such an effective organising group had been established, it was decided to continue until a mass-based representative body could be established.

Soon EPC was officially representing Mitchells Plain on organisations like the Cape Areas Housing Action Committee (CAHAC).

Democratic peoples organisations were started in Woodlands, Westridge and the new areas, Eastridge and Tafelsig.

They joined EPC and the stage was set for the EPC to convert into the MPCC.

But there were a number of issues to be settled first. What should the name be? Should the umbrella body have unitary or federal structure?

A unitary structure would mean a strong centralised body with binding decision making powers and who would have branches under it in the various areas.

A Federal structure would be a grouping of autonomous mass-based bodies who carried full responsibilities in their own areas. These people's organisations would come together on a regional basis to

discuss and co-ordinate matters affecting Mitchells Plain as a whole.

EPC organised a week-end long workshop to tackle the structure question.

At the end of the meeting opinion was heavily in favour of the Federal structure but no decision was taken as it was felt that the matter should first be discussed by the areas.

All the area committees came out in favour of the federal structure. On June 18 a joint meeting of area representatives formally adopted the Federal structure for the new body.

The next week the name Mitchells Plain Co-ordinating Committee was adopted.

On July 8 the first election was held.

from page 1

CAHAC AGM

nity around matters which are important to people."

"We are not trying to build a fancy Cahac structure somewhere in the air - organisation must be built in the community," he said.

Mr Rhodes said the goal of organisations must not only be to fight high rents and bus-fares. "We must see these problems as being

only the smoke. Our work must be to put out the fire which causes the smoke. We must wipe out from this society all the causes of our hardship."

At the end of the all-day meeting held at the Lentegeur Civic Centre in Mitchells Plain, nine people were elected to serve on the steering committee.

Elected

The other is rotating - the areas are able to change this representative from month to month, or even from meeting to meeting, to enable as many people as possible to gain experience at MPCC level.

The local residents' groups keep their autonomy and will seek direct affiliation to CAHAC and to GRASS-ROOTS.

The 14 member (the number will grow as new areas are opened up) Co-ordinating Committee elects six working officials. These are secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer, Grassroots sales co-ordinator, Publications Committee convenor and Workshop Committee convenor.

The first elections for these posts were held on July 6, 1982.

An earlier structure set up for Mitchells Plain, the Combined Mitchells Plain Resi-

Campaign

The Rocklands Residents Association, who had withdrawn from Compra, the Portlands Residents Association which was never an affiliate, and a number of concerned individuals decided to tackle the problem of the due date.

They formed themselves into the Electricity Petition Committee (EPC).

EPC waged a tireless and determined campaign


from page 1

Motor strike

Macusa is opposed to Naawu's participation in the Industrial Council system.

The system has been criticised by a number of independent unions.

There is a difference however in the PE motor industrial council - the union participating ensures full involvement of workers on the factory floor in decision-making.



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FAST!

OPPOSITE Modderdam Station in Belhar is a massive dump heap, much larger and higher than the station itself.

This is the rubbish pit where the factories from the surrounding areas (Elsies and Parow) dump their unwanted dirt ranging from scraps of paper and material to scraps of food.

For the past few months, bare-footed and hungry people, especially children have been collecting the waste food from the pit. Local residents feel that it is because of the high rents in the new sections of Belhar that people are driven to seek food on the dump heap. In addition the pit gives off an unbearable sour stench and attracts rats.

When the Civic approached Divco about the dump heap in March they simply replied that they would refer the matter to the Engineering Department.

People in the area say that the factory bosses are now also creating dump heaps where we live. Belhar demands that they seek an alternative place to dump their rubbish, and that the present pit be cleared.

Belhar says no to dump heaps



'We demand better service'

SINCE its establishment, the Belhar Civic Association has been tackling the poor bus service in the area.

more than 35 000 the present bus service is irregular, inadequate and badly organised.

busses in the area run every 1½ hours.

Furthermore bus routes both into and out of the area are cut

halfway so that a double fee has to be paid for short trips.

The transport problem is aggravated by the

stations being far from where people live. Also thick bush surrounds the three stations serving Belhar and this makes people reluctant

to use trains.

Tramways were officially approached by the Civic to improve the bus service. Several promises were made — none of which were kept.

Survey

These included starting direct services, building a temporary terminus and starting work on a permanent terminus at Unibell Station.

Proposed bus services and fare scales were sent to the Civic for endorsement, asking that they not be made public.

"With these promises they hoped to satisfy us," said a spokesperson for the Civic.

Months passed and the poor bus service was not improved although Tramways itself gave February 1982 as its deadline for an improved service.

After a survey was done to establish the exact transport needs of the community, the Civic realised the

urgency of an improved bus service.

Letters were sent to Tramways demanding an explanation for the unfulfilled promises. The excuses started coming.

"At first they told us that a service cannot be introduced if only a few people use the service.

Unsuitable

"Next they said that plans for new routes had to be passed by the authorities. They told us that roads in sections of Belhar were poorly constructed and unsuitable for the use of busses.

"The standing excuse is that they are waiting on a subsidy from the Road Transportation Board. The issue is now being taken up at house meetings.

"The Civic endorses the fact that transport is a basic necessity and demand that it be controlled by the state and not by a profit-seeking monopoly company."

Campaign to re-open day hospital

THE Bonteheuwel Civic Association have started a campaign to have the Day Hospital re-opened in the area.

The Day Hospital was closed down in 1976. Only a room for dressing wounds remained open — and this was closed last year.

The BCA has held a number of house meetings on the issue and the people's response has been very positive.

The need for a day hospital was acutely felt during the pink eye epidemic.

People had either to travel outside the area for treatment or pay the high fees charged by private doctors.

The BCA also consulted with the Rocklands Residents Association who have been campaigning some time for a day hospital for Mitchells Plain.

The BCA will follow the Rocklands example and hold a survey in Bonteheuwel on the question of the Day Hospital.

Another area in which the BCA has been active is making

contacts with other civic organisations.

On Saturday June 26 the BCA and the Avonwood and Avon Estate Civic Association held a meeting.

People were broken up in discussion groups to talk about:

Draw in

- The functioning of the two bodies.
- Their relationship with Cape Areas Housing Action Committee (CAHAC).
- How to draw in more members and to

maintain membership.

• Common problems affecting all areas.

People could easily respond to points because they were all affected.

People realised that the structure of a community organisation could do much to ensure a democratic, mass-based organisation.

Some members were not very clear what CAHAC was, and after being informed about CAHAC's role, realised how important CAHAC was as an umbrella body.

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NYANGA BUSH

Fighting for our rights

A YEAR ago on July 14, 3000 Nyanga bush people moved into the site next to Crossroads. This was the beginning of a long and bitter struggle for the right to live in Cape Town.

The struggle has still not been

won. During the struggle, the people were split into different camps. This raised serious questions

for people's organisations. On this page, Grassroots looks at some of these issues.

A people divided

MANY people have found the Nyanga Bush struggle confusing to follow. At first, most organisations could at least in principle, support the people's struggle. The people in the bush were then a united group.

However, in August last year, the Nyanga Bush Committee turned down support from the people's organisations. A split amongst the squatters themselves made things more difficult.

In November, some

people, who had no other place to stay, chose to return to the bush. This was against the wishes of the Nyanga Bush Committee, and those people who wanted to carry on living with people in the townships. This meant that there were now two groups: one in the bush and one in the townships.

This division was unfortunate, as both groups had the same demands. Their only difference was the

action they chose to win their demands, and in the groups they went to for support.

The Nyanga Bush Committee looked for help from the churches, community workers and welfare organisations.

The people in the bush looked for support from other communities and people's organisations. Many organisations gave their support. Others did not want to support one side or the other.



THIS year, the Nyanga bush people continued their resistance. During February the group living in the bush were raided and deported but returned within a week.

Those living in the townships got tired of waiting for an official response to their situation. They sent a representative group to St. George's Cathedral to fast until they got an answer to their demands.

As a result of this resistance the government was forced to respond with something other than direct repression. Their strategy

Deadline to go - or stay

was to take down the names of the squatters and then screen each case. Hopes were raised that people would eventually win their rights, but many of the names which were taken by the officials were not accepted.

At the start of the Nyanga bush struggle there had been 3000 people in the bush. However, the official

number of people who received temporary permits until September 20 is 737. What happened to the other 2 300? And what will happen after September 20 when the permits expire?

There is little reason to be hopeful about the

future. The temporary permits have raised people's hopes. But at the same time, Dr Koornhof is preparing new and harder laws for blacks.

Meanwhile the people wait in the bush. Their demands remain the same - 'Places to stay.'

Reasons for supporting

IT is not easy to support a struggle if the people are divided. But the Nyanga Bush struggle is an important issue. It is a symbol of the struggle of many blacks for rights in the Western Cape.

Last year, many organisations saw that the issue was important. But they were involved in work in their own area, and could not take the issue up.

However, as we know, the government tries to divide African

workers into 'legal' and 'illegal' workers.

The Nyanga Bush issue is a chance for organisations to educate their members about this. It is a chance to build the unity of our people to resist the government's plan to 'divide and rule'.

Organisations can also support community meetings showing solidarity to the struggle. There have been many meetings this year. At one of them, the Nyanga

Bush Action Committee was elected. This committee is working for the unity of the Nyanga Bush people, and is seeking community support for their struggle.

The Nyanga bush struggle is far from over. With more repressive laws from the government, one can expect many more struggles such as Nyanga bush. Let us find creative ways to support the people in their struggle.



Those who have received temporary permits, are waiting for the Minister's reply. Their demands remain the same - Section 10 rights and a place to stay.

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COMMENTS

National Women's Day

ON August 9 1956, more than 20 000 women from the cities, towns and villages all over South Africa stood in silence for 30 minutes outside the Union Buildings in Pretoria. Their protest was against the pass laws. But that was not all. They demanded equal pay for equal work, £1 a day and better housing and living conditions.

Today, very little if nothing has changed. Women still suffer the same hardships that they faced then. Their demands for equality of all women in a genuine South African democracy still stands.

This year we will be commemorating the 26th anniversary of National Woman's Day. In different centres around the country, programmes are being planned to pay tribute to those who organised and participated in the mass protests against the pass system.

As we prepare for National Woman's Day this year, there are important lessons that we can learn from the past. The spirit of Women's Day is one of unity among all women, an identification with all oppressed people in our country.

It has taken us almost twenty years to regroup and to organise ourselves after the government's action against all people's organisations. Once again, women are making their voices heard. In our community organisations they have thrown their weight behind the struggles for better housing and living conditions.

In the trade unions more and more women are standing with our men for their rightful share of bosses profits. And, in our women's organisations, they are learning the skills of organising and building awareness of their position as women in the struggle.

But, the seeds have only been planted. In our women's groups many more questions have been posed than answers. The most crucial questions is how do we organise and draw in women in a more active way. Our experience in organising women is still young.

Because of this, there are often different opinions, but we must not allow these to become divisions. We must not forget that it is in the communities, in the on the farms and in our homes, through active organising that we will be able to test our ideas.

The way forward to a strong mass based democratic women's organisation is a long one.

The message of National Women's Day goes still further. It is a reminder to all of the power of united action. It is also a reminder that we must not allow ourselves to be divided. There are many conditions which foster divisions among us.

The government's harsh laws such as the Group Areas Act, Pass Laws, Job Reservation and many other laws are designed to sow disunity among us.

We must unite to fight all these divisions, also within our own organisations. The call is for women to come together on Women's Day.

It is for these reasons that the message for Aug. 9 is a very special one. Let us take the struggle forward in the spirit of unity that National Women's Day was born almost 26 years ago.

Unjust fare increases

TRANSPORT is an essential service. It is used in most cases by people to go to work or to do their shopping. It therefore should not be run by private companies for profit.

For most of our people, transport has always been a big problem. The reason for this is not hard to find. In most countries of the world, the poorest people live near their places of work. In South Africa, the Group Areas and other acts have moved people against their will to townships far from their places of work. As a result bus fares have always been high and the people have always strongly resisted any further increases.

And now City Tramways have asked for another increase, even though their last annual report shows a profit of over R3 million. Do they really deserve an increase? Can the people afford an increase? How must the people and their organisations respond?

So far a number of organisations have rightly decided to oppose the bus fares application when it comes before the National Transport Board. In this and in whatever other further action planned by organisations, it will be very important for as many people as possible to take part and show the bus company that the fare increases are unjust.

Organisations must prepare themselves in such a way to ensure such participation occurs.



LETTERS

NO TO THIRD CLASS CITIZENSHIP

DEAR Grassroots - On May 28 this year, I travelled on a train from Cape Town to Salt River.

On my way to the toilet at Salt River station, I was stopped by a barrier guard who told me to produce my ticket. I was on the platform and was about five metres from the barrier gates.

I showed him my ticket and tried to move towards the toilet but he stood in front of me.

He told me I was not allowed to use the toilet and I needed a first class ticket before I could do so.

I explained to him that as a South African citizen, I was entitled to use the toilet but he challenged me to a fight

if I used the so-called white toilet.

I ignored him and went into the toilet while he stood at the door, waiting for me to come out. It is naturally second-nature for him to wait for his wife while she uses the toilet at home.

The so-called toilets of the railways are very filthy. There are not even health inspectors who are looking into the matter.

When I came out of the toilet, he stood in front of me again and directed me to a third class exit. That's what they think of you; "a third class citizen must associate with third class facilities".

I brought the matter to the attention of the station manager by

handing in a written report. He explained to me that he had no authority over the barrier guards.

I then walked through the gates and was again stopped by the barrier guard. He addressed me as a third class citizen and saw himself as a first class citizen.

Barriers

At that moment the inspector (a Mr van Zyl) came along and informed me that the barrier guards were entitled to ask any person for a ticket on the platform.

Mr van Zyl then requested the police to lock me up. His reason for this was that I would not listen to his instructions.

It was actually my duty to lay a charge against them but I knew this would not be accepted.

The apartheid signs are down on all the platforms, but there is another form of apartheid, because they know as well as you and I that only Black people make use of the third class section while Whites don't.

So they might as well put back the apartheid signs. The South African Government never does anything to try to do away with apartheid, but they just introduce it in other forms.

The time has come for us to be treated as South African citizens

and not as third-class citizens.

Change

Things have to change as far as the Government is concerned before it can be taken to the people. There should be higher wages, better pensions for old people and equal education.

From a member of The Bonteheuwel Civic GP Ismael 15 Teak Road Bonteheuwel.

P.S. I work myself half to death selling Grassroots so please publish my letter. I will also be glad, in the name of CAHAC, if the letter is placed in other newspapers by Grassroots.

High rents but poor maintenance

DEAR Grassroots,

I am a member of the Lavender Hill Youth Group which was formed recently.

About two weeks ago I spoke to a woman who stays in the same court as I do and she told me about the big problems she had with her house when it rained recently.

The woman, Mrs Brown, of Aspeling Court told me about her life in Lavender Hill with all its hardships and suffering.

This was her story: "We have been living

here in Lavender Hill for the past eight years and our rent has gone up many times and now we pay R40 per month.

"For the last eight years we have lived in agony, because whenever the wind blows we watch how the roof lifts from its original position. After we complained, the Council came to repair the cracks with polyfiller.

"The walls began to crack from the floor to the roof.

"In one room we can see what goes on in

the flat below us and the people have already started to complain about the water running down the walls, but how can we help if our house is flooded and the council refuses to give us better housing.

"It is no longer a pleasure to go to the toilet because the cistern is broken and every time you have finished you have to throw a bucket of water into the pan.

"The door frames are all loose and the handles of the windows just seem to break off

whenever you want to open the window.

"There is a hole in our roof and I stuffed a rag in to keep the birds from falling on the bed or the children.

"We are afraid to ask the Council to do any repairs for they charge a fortune for maintenance, and already we have been paying for maintenance all these years. It is included in our rent, but what do they repair?

"This place is not fit for anyone to stay in and even animals would

not stay here. All my children are small and I cannot keep up with the hospital and doctors' bills.

The question about all this is:

Is the Council going to wait for something tragic to happen to our family before giving us a proper place to stay or even repair the house though the house seems to be irreparable and can only be demolished and then rebuilt!"

From Achmat Ismail (with the help of Mrs Brown)

DIVCO DIVIDES OUR PEOPLE

40% live in Divco areas

A FEW years ago, the Divisional Council said 'no' when the residents of Elsies River and Grassy Park asked for R200 for creches in their areas.

At the same time, they spent R1000 on a reception for a visiting Chilean cabinet minister. They obviously felt closer to their foreign friends who are representatives of one of the most repressive governments in the world. And, the people's demands fell on deaf ears.

Interest

It is in these ways that Divco shows that it does not want to act in the interests of the people. And that is a lot of people. Over 40 percent of working people in Cape Town live in Divisional Council areas. This makes Divco the third largest housing authority in the country.

As an administrative body, residents believe "it is a useless body".

There are many cases where Divco has refused to speak to the democratically elected

Useless

An Atlantis resident said: "Divco does exactly the same work as other local authorities. Why do we have to pay for yet another body doing the same work?"

"Why should't Belhar be administered by Bellville, or Elsies River by the City Council or Ocean View by Fish Hoek? But no, the government wants to keep the Divisional Council. They know that having many different local authorities divides the people's strength".

Residents Associations in Divco areas have accused it of being

a very conservative body.

In fact, they say that Divco is more conservative than the City Council. It has always supported the government's policies fully.

There are many cases where Divco has refused to speak to the democratically elected representatives of the people, and sent them to Management Committees which the people reject.

"We need to organise ourselves into strong civic bodies to fight Divco and its allies", a resident told GRASSROOTS.

Fight

Further, one of the government's policies is that each local authority, like Divco, the City Council and Baarb, should support itself financially. But Divco has taken this one step further. Each separate

area under its control should support itself financially.

This has meant residents in Divco areas have been harder hit by increases in rents and rates than residents in other areas.

Poorer areas have had to pay much higher rates than rich ones.

Poor

Even though rates are so much higher in poorer areas, facilities are still much worse, because of the principle of each area paying for itself.

At the beginning of the year, when rents everywhere went up, residents in Divco areas were amongst those hardest hit.

In structure, it is like the City Council, with four standing committees dealing with works, health, housing and finance. Five or six councillors sit on each committee and they take all the decisions.

Needs

These councillors are elected by white rate-payers, but even these are not very interested in the Divco: the percentage poll is usually about 20 percent.

Other residents are supposed to be represented by the management committees, but they have shown time and time again that they are not interested in the needs and grievances of the people.

MANY things divide working people when they try to organise to fight for their rights.

When they organise in their communities, they are faced with many different local authorities for the different areas. Even when residents have the same complaint in all the areas, they have to go to many different authorities about the matter. This makes it difficult to unite.

On this page Grassroots takes a look at the Divisional Council, the biggest housing authority in the Cape Town.



Because of Divco's policy that each area must pay its own way, there is little money for facilities in poor areas. As a result, there are no play parks, creches, old age homes and poor roads in most areas. Only 15 clinics serve the needs of the 381 930 residents in Divco areas.



High electricity bills is another burden Divco residents have to carry.

No dummy bodies

"DIRECT representation, not dummy bodies."

This was one of the slogans used by the residents of Lotus River and Grassy Park when they held a placard demonstration at the monthly meeting of the Divisional Council towards the end of last year.

Residents have often fought to make the Divisional Council and other local authorities, listen to the organisations of the people and not their own puppets. In late 1980, the residents of Macassar held a mass meeting to voice their rejection of the management committee and set up their own organisation.

Through bitter experience, they had learned that the management committees will



Council workers

not and cannot act in the interests of the people. The members of the Divco itself are elected by white rate-payers, and the management committees have been set up to make other residents believe they have a say in the matters that affect them.

The Divco likes the management committees because they give it an excuse not to talk to the residents own organisations.

This is why the management committees in Divco areas are particularly strong.

Conditions in all areas will only improve

when residents join together to fight for their rights.

In Divco areas, the strong management committees make it even more important to organise strong residents associations. Only when civics are very strong will it be possible to force the Divco to listen to them.

Workers hardship

Most of Divco's workers are employed on a casual basis, which means Divco does not have to provide them with the fringe benefits that permanent employees are entitled to, such as a pension. On the day of retirement, "casuals" only have their week's wages to rely on for their old age.

Workers complain of bad treatment by supervisors, who have the right to punish the workers under their control.

Workers can be suspended for two or three days by the supervisor, which means the worker does not get paid for those days.

Supervisors can also

fire workers as they please, and are often insulting and rude.

Many Divco workers have to work under dangerous and unhealthy conditions.

Sewage and refuse removal workers are not regularly examined by a doctor, although they are constantly in contact with filth and dirt.

Fire fighters are only issued with the barest minimum of protective clothing, while their supervisors are given a clothing allowance.

THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF SUPER FISHERIES

KLIPFONTEIN ROAD
ATHLONE PHONE: 67-3910

* * * *

WISHES ALL ITS MOSLEM CUSTOMERS AND FRIENDS A HAPPY EID MUBARAK

WOMEN IN FOCUS

AUGUST 9 is remembered as National Women's Day by all who struggled against the Pass Laws and other unjust laws in South Africa. It was on this day that 20 000 women from all over South Africa joined hands in a congress march to Pretoria to protest against the law that women also must carry passes. This law forces African women to carry passes wherever they go.

The women marched through Pretoria to the Union Buildings. They had come to see Strijdom, the Prime Minister.

But he refused to see the women. So, they left thousands of signed petitions at his door, and held a silent protest for 30 minutes.

After the silence, the women sang their famous song: "Strijdom you have tampered with the women. You have struck a rock."

26 years have passed since that march. The women are still suffering hardship. They still carry passes. As August 9th draws near, women are reminding themselves of their part in tackling the problems of the present.



THE women of the Cape, the ordinary housewives, have never been recognised for their role in the community. In this story Jean Naidoo, a housewife and mother, tells us about some of the women of the past. Many of them according to Jean have "stood in the shadows of the public eye", and are unknown to many of us.

She said: "I have chosen a few women to write about, but in the past twenty-seven years, I have met so many women and pay tribute to all of the women of the Cape Town community, especially my fellow workers, the housewives."

Knowledge

They have a vast knowledge and experience starting in the home and extending into the community. They are the nurses, cooks, financial experts, psychologists, teachers and the peace-makers. There is no school except life itself which teaches them.

I want to tell you about some of the housewives who contributed to be political movements in Cape Town. Some of them have had little or no schooling and belonged to no political organisations. All they knew was what is right and wrong.

Others are the wives and daughters of men who have been hanged, detained and house arrested. One such woman is Lulu Peake who returned to South Africa recently to bury the ashes of George Peake, in the grave of her only son Karl. Lulu and her daughters live in exile in London.

Tribute to Cape Women

I sat with her and went to the graveside to bury George's ashes. He was the president of the Coloured People's Congress in the 1960's and the "Mayor of Robben Island", as we called him.

Lulu told me about all the women in London that we knew, Rose Desai, Lily Stein, Martha Brutus, Bettie September and Blanche La Guma were a few of the women of the 1960's who were forced to leave. They miss home, but there is no hope of returning

until change comes to South Africa.

I remember Blanche La Guma well. She was a community midwife in Cape Town and a founder member of the Women's Federation. I remember her delivering two babies in 1964 and 1965 as we talked about protests, the arrests and the suffering of many people.

Then there was also Evelyn Ouzan who passed away in 1981. She was the wife of Ahmed Osman. Only as we called him. He was hanged, jailed and forced out of his teaching job. In 1981, just before her death, she was still advising us on many community matters.

Tragedy

But there are many Evelyns in the community who have suffered with dignity and have touched the lives of many. The greatest tragedy is that we may lose all this history if we who lived through the past do not tell the stories to our children.

Before you go, I want to tell you about another ordinary housewife who is one of the unknown pillars of the community. Her name is Fatima Rapoo who came to Cape Town 45 years ago from Heidelberg where she was born.

Her house in Fortsum Road in the Dry Docks was a place where everybody could come together. Those who were on trial or needed assistance in Cape Town could always head for Fatima's home for a lunch and much needed support.

Fatima always tells the story of

how she was beaten by the police in 1938. She was pregnant and attended a meeting on the parade called by Cissy Gool and Sam Kahn.

She and others managed to save themselves by fighting the police

Represent

off. Fatima also remembers the Labour Leaders, her personal friends - Jimmy and Ivy Fertin, who went to Russia in the 1930's to represent the workers of South Africa.

One of Fatima's most interesting stories is how she encouraged a young artist, Ronald Harrison, to paint the "Black Christ".

It is a painting of Albert Luthuli on the cross and Verwoerd and Vorster as the centurions (soldiers). She proudly displayed the painting on the wall of her front room where hundreds viewed it everyday.

When it seemed that the Security Police were going to take it away, she and her son quietly smuggled it to Britain where it hangs in gallery today.

These are some of the women that I knew. The stories and personal memories will take many

editions of Grassroots. We must not lose it, let us write our own history now before it is all lost.

Protest of 1950's

GRASSROOTS spoke to a Guguletu mother who did not want to be named.

This is what she said. "The 1950's, yes, there was protest in Cape Town. We protested and then the police came and took our placards away. So we had to go home."

There was another time in the 1950's, when we all lived in the postboxes near NY6 and NY 143. The

rest of the land was just hills. The police went from door-to-door looking for pass books, they really behaved badly.

They used to come to our houses and throw out our first and youngest because they said we were making trouble - "kaffir-beer".

The women had enough and called a meeting. We used to take paraffin tins and walk up the hills hanging it with planks. Everyone would come out. What's going on? A meeting! And so, the community would come to listen and talk and decide.

We went to Mr Gouws, the superintendent of the location to complain. He sent us to the Commissioner in Athlone. We marched to Athlone. It was a very hot day. But the Commissioner would not speak to all of us, only to five women.

This type of bad behaviour of the police all stopped.

'We don't want passes'

"IF YOU CAN'T GO TO PRETORIA, GO TO YOUR NEAREST NATIVE COMMISSIONER".

This was the call to the women who

couldn't march on August 9, 1955.

Not all women fighting the Pass Laws went to Pretoria.

All over the country that day, the United voice of the women was heard.

The FSAW said to its members: "If you can't go to Pretoria, go to your nearest Native Commissioner".

In the Western Cape, nearly two hundred women gathered at the office of the Native Affairs in Salt River. At their head was Mrs Ngweni of Retouf.

That was before the Group Areas Act removed all Africans to the locations. The deputation took 800 signed protest petitions to the Native Commissioner.

Even more petitions went to Pretoria with the delegates from the Western Cape.

The women carried placards saying: "We don't want passes. We have seen the hardship these passes have brought to our men."

Hence, too, the women stood in silent protest against the laws that they knew would

bring much suffering.

As one woman who talked to us put it:

"If the people who made the laws had to live under them and put their children under them, then they would know what it is to suffer. That is why the women sang a song that goes:

"Let us start with Mariette
Let her be the first to carry a pass".

"Mariette was Strijdom's daughter. I'm sure he would not want his daughter to carry a pass."

WHO WAS BEHIND THE MARCH?

The force behind the Pretoria Demonstration was the FSAW. The Federation of South African Women was a non-racial organisation made up of many organisations that affiliated to it.

It was launched at a National Conference on 17 April 1954, where the Women's Charter was adopted.

The Women's Charter reached out to all women irrespective of race or colour and called for solidarity in the struggle against apartheid, racism, sexism and capitalist exploitation.

UWO calls women to work together

AS WIVES and mothers we have to make small wages stretch a long way.

There are almost no free child care facilities for working mothers. Women who go to work are constantly worrying about their children.

The worst paid, unskilled work is done by women, in factories, on farms and as domestics. When jobs are scarce, women are the first to be laid off.

In factories women are forced to have family planning. When women fall pregnant, they may lose their jobs because maternity leave is not always granted.

Many women do two jobs. When they come home after an 8 hour working day, they have to start another job. They must start the work of cooking and looking after the family.

Some women who cannot get jobs are sometimes forced into running shabens or becoming prostitutes.

The Pass Laws hit women very hard. Women in the Bantustans are not allowed to come into the cities to look for work or to live with their husbands who work there.

Women are often

made to feel inferior to men. Because women have been taught to believe that a "woman's place is in the home". This prevents women from becoming actively involved in the community to overcome these problems.

In the Western Cape, the United Women's Organisation is bringing women together and helping them overcome these problems. Through the UWO women can come together to tackle the problems that are special to women as members of the community.

The UWO was launched in April 1981 at a Conference of 500 women who saw the need for women to organize in the community.

The women want mothers to stand by their children in the hardships they have to face at school in their frustration with their education, in the community where there is nothing but the streets to grow up in and later, as job seekers hunting for jobs that will not earn a living wage.

Women come together in the UWO to tackle their problems. They believe that united action will help the women overcome the problems facing them.



Meeting of Federation of South African Women, Johannesburg 1954

Lowest wages for garment workers

CLOSE to 40 000 women in the Western Cape are employed in the clothing industry. They are the wives and daughters of the families living on the Cape Flats.

Grassroots spoke to garment workers who complained bitterly about their low wages and poor working conditions, in spite of recent wage increases. In fact, they are the lowest paid workers in the manufacturing industry in the country.

The average weekly wage of the workers is R18. According to a study by the University of Port Elizabeth, this is half the wages needed by a family to survive.

Many garment workers still remember the days in the 1970's when close to 10 000 workers in

the country were laid off because of the slump in the industry.

Today, the industry is running at 90% employment. But this is not expected to last long as poor economic conditions will once again force many to lose their jobs around next year.

This is the plight of all workers, but especially women workers. When jobs are scarce, they are the first to be laid off. But as conditions improve, they are employed in the worst paid unskilled jobs in the factories, on the farms and as domestics.

Grassroots interviewed Mary Petersen, a machine at a clothing factory in Cape Town. This is what she said.

Worker speaks of hardship on factory floor

MARY gets up at 5 every morning. Prepares breakfast, gets her baby ready to take him to her sister, and then rushes off to the taxi rank.

She finally arrives at the station, but as usual, the train is late and the platform is crowded. She arrives at work and clocks in 30 minutes late. And so, loses her attendance bonus.

"This is the way I start my day," Mary told Grassroots.

"But I'm not the only one. All the girls I know go through the same thing every morning."

GRASSROOTS asked Mary about her work in the factory, which makes ladies underwear.

"I started here as a cleaner four years ago at R13 per week. Usually, I would have had to work for three years before being allowed

to work a machine. But, because I was a good worker and taught myself, I earned a machinist's wage of R34 after only two years. I now earn R40,50 per week."

We asked Mary how she felt about the recent wage increases for garment workers.

"Yes, I'm now getting R2,80 more per week, but this will not make much difference. We certainly think we deserve more. We work hard for our money, putting out all those thousands of garments every day. When we lived in District Six I could easily walk to work, but now I have to get up so early and travel far. I have to pay out so much money for transport and other things that I only have enough to live on."

Mary said that the girls spoke about this at work, "we really should ask for more than R3. Some of the girls say we must ask the

Union to get us higher wages, but some girls also say that going to the Union is just like going to the boss. They will just say they can't."

Mary is one of 51 000 members of the Garment Workers Union. She also told Grassroots that the union helps them with some benefits such as, a sick fund. She sees this as a good thing; the workers have many health problems caused by the chemicals and the dust in the factories. "The union doctor cannot do anything about my backache and chest problems. A pill will not help. Many girls suffer from these illnesses", she said.

Mary also told us about how hard they work in the factories.

"I work in the finishing department. There are five girls on our production line. We all work at the same speed to reach our

target of 400 garments per hour. If one slows down we don't reach our target and lose our production bonuses. The production bonus is important to the girls as we get an extra R3 or R4 in our pay packets.

She said that the scheme puts a lot of pressure on them and often causes trouble among the girls.

"We work hard for this bonus because it is so easy to lose our production and attendance bonuses. Not only do you lose it if you come late, but also if you go to the toilet more than twice a day. In our factory we only have three toilets for 70 girls."

This is Mary's story, but it is a story of thousands of women who work in the clothing factories. Grassroots spoke to a few women, but found that others were too scared to talk about their work, for fear of losing their jobs.



You are invited

THIS year the UWO is arranging a commemoration of National Women's Day on Sunday, August 8th. The programme will also focus on the problems of women in the present. The UWO has invited all progressive organisations, trade unions and churches, educational and welfare societies and all progressive women and women who have been to come together on National Women's Day. The commemoration will take place at the Bontebruwal Civic Hall, Bontebruwal Street, Bontebruwal. All are welcome. This day is especially important for women. It is the day for those women who can say: "We know what it is to keep family life going in overcrowded one-room flats. We know the bitterness of children taken to leprosy sanatoriums while still at school, of boys and girls growing up without education wage."

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All over the country that day, the United voice of the women was heard.

The FSAW said to its members: "If you can't go to Pretoria, go to your nearest Native Commissioner".

In the Western Cape, nearly two hundred women gathered at the office of the Native Affairs in Salt River. At their head was Mrs Ngweni of Retouval.

That was before the Group Areas Act removed all Africans to the locations. The deputation took 800 signed protest petitions to the Native Commissioner.

Even more petitions went to Pretoria with the delegates from the Western Cape.

The women carried placards saying: "We don't want passes. We have seen the hardship these passes have brought to our men."

Hence, too, the women stood in silent protest against the laws that they knew would

bring much suffering.

As one woman who talked to us put it:

"If the people who made the laws had to live under them and put their children under them, then they would know what it is to suffer. That is why the women sang a song that goes:

"Let us start with Mariette
Let her be the first to carry a pass".

"Mariette was Strijdom's daughter. I'm sure he would not want his daughter to carry a pass."

WHO WAS BEHIND THE MARCH?

The force behind the Pretoria Demonstration was the FSAW. The Federation of South African Women was a non-racial organisation made up of many organisations that affiliated to it.

It was launched at a National Conference on 17 April 1954, where the Women's Charter was adopted.

The Women's Charter reached out to all women irrespective of race or colour and called for solidarity in the struggle against apartheid, racism, sexism and capitalist exploitation.

UWO calls women to work together

AS WIVES and mothers we have to make small wages stretch a long way.

There are almost no free child care facilities for working mothers. Women who go to work are constantly worrying about their children.

The worst paid, unskilled work is done by women, in factories, on farms and as domestics. When jobs are scarce, women are the first to be laid off.

In factories women are forced to have family planning. When women fall pregnant, they may lose their jobs because maternity leave is not always granted.

Many women do two jobs. When they come home after an 8 hour working day, they have to start another job. They must start the work of cooking and looking after the family.

Some women who cannot get jobs are sometimes forced into running sheneens or becoming prostitutes.

The Pass Laws hit women very hard. Women in the Bantustans are not allowed to come into the cities to look for work or to live with their husbands who work there.

Women are often

made to feel inferior to men. Because women have been taught to believe that a "woman's place is in the home". This prevents women from becoming actively involved in the community to overcome these problems.

In the Western Cape, the United Women's Organisation is bringing women together and helping them overcome these problems. Through the UWO women can come together to tackle the problems that are special to women as members of the community.

The UWO was launched in April 1981 at a Conference of 500 women who saw the need for women to organize in the community.

The women want mothers to stand by their children in the hardships they have to face at school in their frustration with their education, in the community where there is nothing but the streets to grow up in and later, as job seekers hunting for jobs that will not earn a living wage.

Women come together in the UWO to tackle their problems. They believe that united action will help the women overcome the problems facing them.



Meeting of Federation of South African Women, Johannesburg 1954

Lowest wages for garment workers

CLOSE to 40 000 women in the Western Cape are employed in the clothing industry. They are the wives and daughters of the families living on the Cape Flats.

Grassroots spoke to garment workers who complained bitterly about their low wages and poor working conditions, in spite of recent wage increases. In fact, they are the lowest paid workers in the manufacturing industry in the country.

The average weekly wage of the workers is R18. According to a study by the University of Port Elizabeth, this is half the wages needed by a family to survive.

Many garment workers still remember the days in the 1970's when close to 10 000 workers in

the country were laid off because of the slump in the industry.

Today, the industry is running at 90% employment. But this is not expected to last long as poor economic conditions will once again force many to lose their jobs around next year.

This is the plight of all workers, but especially women workers. When jobs are scarce, they are the first to be laid off. But as conditions improve, they are employed in the worst paid unskilled jobs in the factories, on the farms and as domestics.

Grassroots interviewed Mary Petersen, a machine at a clothing factory in Cape Town. This is what she said.

Worker speaks of hardship on factory floor

MARY gets up at 5 every morning. Prepares breakfast, gets her baby ready to take him to her sister, and then rushes off to the taxi rank.

She finally arrives at the station, but as usual, the train is late and the platform is crowded. She arrives at work and clocks in 30 minutes late. And so, loses her attendance bonus.

"This is the way I start my day," Mary told Grassroots.

"But I'm not the only one. All the girls I know go through the same thing every morning."

GRASSROOTS asked Mary about her work in the factory, which makes ladies underwear.

"I started here as a cleaner four years ago at R13 per week. Usually, I would have had to work for three years before being allowed

to work a machine. But, because I was a good worker and taught myself, I earned a machinist's wage of R34 after only two years. I now earn R40,50 per week."

We asked Mary how she felt about the recent wage increases for garment workers.

"Yes, I'm now getting R2,80 more per week, but this will not make much difference. We certainly think we deserve more. We work hard for our money, putting out all those thousands of garments every day. When we lived in District Six I could easily walk to work, but now I have to get up so early and travel far. I have to pay out so much money for transport and other things that I only have enough to live on."

Mary said that the girls spoke about this at work, "we really should ask for more than R3. Some of the girls say we must ask the

Union to get us higher wages, but some girls also say that going to the Union is just like going to the boss. They will just say they can't."

Mary is one of 51 000 members of the Garment Workers Union. She also told Grassroots that the union helps them with some benefits such as, a sick fund. She sees this as a good thing; the workers have many health problems caused by the chemicals and the dust in the factories. "The union doctor cannot do anything about my backache and chest problems. A pill will not help. Many girls suffer from these illnesses", she said.

Mary also told us about how hard they work in the factories.

"I work in the finishing department. There are five girls on our production line. We all work at the same speed to reach our

target of 400 garments per hour. If one slows down we don't reach our target and lose our production bonuses. The production bonus is important to the girls as we get an extra R3 or R4 in our pay packets.

She said that the scheme puts a lot of pressure on them and often causes trouble among the girls.

"We work hard for this bonus because it is so easy to lose our production and attendance bonuses. Not only do you lose it if you come late, but also if you go to the toilet more than twice a day. In our factory we only have three toilets for 70 girls."

This is Mary's story, but it is a story of thousands of women who work in the clothing factories. Grassroots spoke to a few women, but found that others were too scared to talk about their work, for fear of losing their jobs.



You are invited

THIS year the UWO is arranging a commemoration of National Women's Day on Sunday, August 8th.

The programme will also focus on the problems of women in the present.

The UWO has invited all progressive organisations, trade unions and churches, educational and welfare societies, and all progressive women and women who have been to come together on National Women's Day.

The commemoration will take place at the Bontebruwal Civic Hall, Bontebruwal Street.

Bontebruwal! All are welcome. This day is especially important for women. It is a day for those women who keep family life going in overcrowded one-room flats.

"We know the bitterness of children taken to leishen unmarried mothers whilst still at school, of boys and girls growing up without education wage."

The fight for repairs continues

BBSK Residents Association, are continuing work on the maintenance issue.

In keeping with BBSK's strategy of forcing Council to do all repairs by flooding the rent office with complaints, many streets have taken complaint sheets back to the rent office for the second time around.

After complaint sheets had been lodged for the first time about seven months ago, follow-up work revealed that Council had responded to a small percentage of complaints.

Most of the repairs done by Council in response to the complaint sheets were of the minor sort.

Major repairs such as leaking roofs, rusted window frames, rotten doors and faulty elect-

rical wiring are still being neglected.

At the end of last year, Council announced that it would use R500 000 gained from the sale of Bloemhof Flats in District Six for the maintenance of houses.

However, there is no evidence that this money is being used to repair houses at all.

In a letter to BBSK, Council claimed that this money would only be used to repair houses into which new tenants would be moving.

Before the new tenants moved into the house, Council would accept responsibility for doing whatever repairs were needed.

However, after the tenant had signed the new lease he would then be responsible for all maintenance himself.

BBSK rejects the new lease provision on maintenance and Council's claims that they have no funds for maintenance.

At successful street meetings held before and after complaints were lodged at the rent office, tenants not only expressed their anger at Council's slow response, but also their determination to go back to the rent office again and again until their demands were attended to.

After going back to the rent office for the second time, Council has speeded up its response.

In Orchid Crescent, Silvertown, for instance, Council came to do most of the repairs last month.

DESPITE the fear of an outbreak of cholera in the area the Kewtown drains are still in a sorry state.

Two years ago there was a public outcry in Kewtown against the state of the drains outside the flats.

According to one doctor's report the dirty, stagnant water could lead to an outbreak of cholera.

The Council responded by sending workers to clear the drains. The water was pumped out and swept away.

However, nothing was done about the state of the drains.

It is obvious that these drains are old and neglected and in a sad state of disrepair.

Through a survey conducted by the Kewtown Residents Association recently the following facts have been brought to light by the residents who say:

- Many drains have been blocked for as long as they can re-

Health problems caused by blocked drains

- The dirty stagnant water has an unhealthy smell.

- Many children play in or near the water - this causes sores and various skin problems and other illnesses.

- The council sweeps the water away but does nothing about fixing the broken drains.

The blocked drains and filthy water that goes with it is but one of the problems that contribute to the unhealthy conditions under which people have to live in Kewtown.

- Among other things the rusted window frames, poor lighting on the stairs, the old and

rusty baths are all problems with which the people are faced.

Many house meetings have been conducted since the survey was done and the following points were raised:

- It is the Council's responsibility to fix the drains.

- A delegation would be elected to see the chief medical health officer of the Council.

- An education programme on health should be launched in the area.

- Ever since the houses have been built, some forty years ago the rent has included a fee for maintenance.

It is common know-

ledge that very little maintenance repairs have been done, that the drains, electricity and the baths are in a bad state of disrepair.

- For many tenants in Kewtown the average income is R250 a month. Many are either pensioners or widows who receive grants.

Tenants therefore cannot keep pace with the staggering rise in the cost of living let alone burden themselves with added expenses.

The KRA maintains that this programme can only bear fruit with the full participation of all the residents concerned and the assistance of other progressive organisations.

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LOCKED OUT Children Protest



ON MONDAY 28 members of the Bonteheuwel childrens club marched into the City Council's office and called for an explanation: "Why was the community Centre Hall locked on the afternoon we booked it." This was the second time in a month that the council had made the mistake.

From the start of the children's project, the members had this problem.

The day before the official opening of the children's group they were informed that the hall was not available. The opening was held outside as it was too late to inform the children.

The next time the children were locked

out they went to the council and asked for an explanation.

The council admitted to making a mistake and assured the group that this would not happen again.

Two weeks later the hall was locked again. On Monday morning many members of the group marched into the Council's office. The housing director was called.

Once again Council admitted their mistake and promised that it would not happen again.

Although the children were not satisfied with the explanation they left with the satisfaction that council had apologised publically.

Bellville South in concert



MORE than 100 excited residents attended a concert organised by the Bellville South Housing Action Committee on July 2 (Saturday).

They reacted positively to the highlight of the evening, the play called "Remake the World".

The basic conditions in the area were reflected in the play. One of the aspects focussed on was the inconvenience caused by the lack of bathrooms.

Four children fought each other because they only had one candle and all had to finish their homework.

"Ja, dis waar," said one mother in the audience. "My kinders stry ook so oor kerse as hulle huiswerk moet doen."

Said another: "Nou verstaan ek wat die komitee probeer doen in die area en nou sal ek ook saamwerk."

The chairman of BSHAC said in a speech that it was important to be organised.

He called on the residents of "Tupperware and Sement Dam" to become actively invol-

ved in organising around their problems.

Jy, Mnr en Mev. is die een wat hier sit en sukkel vir 21 jaarlank. So gaan ons nog 'n 100 jaar wag voordat ons iets doen daaromtrent. Nee, ek is nie bereid om so voor te gaan nie. Elkeen wat so voel moet saamstaan en saamwerk."

The committee is very active in the area. A baby competition will be held on July 31 in the St. John's Anglican Church Hall.

Woodlands fights sand

"IT is very unhealthy for our children to play in the sand because they pick up all kinds of germs and sicknesses."

This is what a Woodlands mother said about the sand and mud problem in the area.

She added that the sand indirectly placed an additional financial burden on the residents.

"We must wash the children's clothing over and over again," she said.

"This means we have to spend more money on washing powder, water and electricity."

Petition

In the past month the Woodlands Action Committee (WAC) have held five house meetings to discuss the sand/mud issue. Residents agreed that the problem affected all people in the area and that a petition and memorandum should be drawn up.

WAC will be having more house meetings to discuss the problems. They ask residents to give their homes for the meetings (when the committee comes around).



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ADVICE

OLD AGE PENSIONS

PEOPLE who are old enough and have no other income can get old age pensions. If you get money from another source such as your work pension or your savings then a "means test" will be used to work out how much your pension will be.

For "Coloureds"

• If you have no earnings you can apply for a pension of R71 (a small increase will be paid out from October).

• If you are single and have an income of up to R58 a month you can still apply for a pension.

• If you are married and together earn up to

Who can get old age pensions

R116 you can still apply.

• If you earn more than this you can not get an old age pension.

For "Africans"

Wages	Pension /a year:
Up to: R126	R480
R132	R474
R138	R468
and so on up to R348	R258

more than R348 nil

HOW OLD MUST YOU BE?

A man of 65 and a

woman of 60 can apply for a pension but you will be asked about the amount of money you get each month. Men over 70 and women over 65 can apply no matter how much they are earning.

IS THERE ANY EXTRA MONEY?

If you are living at home and someone has to look after you, you can get an extra R7,50 a month. This money is called attendance allowance.

The doctor at the Day Hospital or District Surgeon's office must fill in a form for you to get this money.

A friend or member of the family may do this for you.

If you are over 85 you may get the allowance without a doctor's certificate. BUT YOU MUST ASK FOR IT. It is not given automatically.

If you are a man older than 65 or a woman older than 60 and you are applying for a pension for the first time, you will get extra money for each year that you have delayed in applying for the pension.

For example, if you have waited a year you will get an extra R2,50 a month; if you have waited two years it will be R3,50 a month and so on up to five years which will give you an extra R6,50 a month.

This extra allowance is not given to "Africans".

Where to collect the money

"Coloureds"

WHEN you apply tell the clerk where your nearest post office is. If you are never able to collect your pension yourself, a friend- or a family member may fill in a special power of attorney form. These forms are at the post office.

They must be signed by you and the person who will collect the money. The Department of Internal Affairs has to say that this is all right.

If you are sick for a short time, someone else can draw your pen-

sion.

The post office has a casual illness form which you and your friend must sign.

"Africans"

YOU have to collect your pension every second month at the nearest civic hall, or at the place that the social worker tells you.

If you cannot collect the pension yourself, your friend or member of the family will have to fill in a form at Standard House in Observatory.

Finger prints are taken. Sometimes the

IN this issue of GRASSROOTS we give advice to old people on how to get their old age pensions. These are the pensions people claim from the government and not from their bosses.

People often have difficulty with these pensions. You need lots of documents if you apply for a pension and you need to go to the right place at the right time. Pensioners also have certain benefits which we will explain.

Old age pension is one of the areas where the government's apartheid policy is applied. The government uses this policy to divide us. By doing this the government can give better bene-

fits to some and none at all to others.

For example the maximum old age pension for "Whites" is R122 a month, for "Coloureds" it is R71 a month. For "Africans" with section 10 A or B rights the maximum is R40 x 1 month. For those who do not have the right to live permanently in the towns the South African government will give nothing.

Instead these people must try to claim a pension in Ciskei or Transkei. Old people in these places may have great difficulty claiming a pension.



Make use of benefits

ALL people getting an old age pension may get:

- Free attention and medicines at all provincial and day hospitals.
- Free hearing aids, spectacles and false teeth. If you apply for a wheel chair, they will ask if you can give some money towards the cost.

- Free legal aid.
- A "pension day card" from City Tramways for bus travel. This costs R1,20 and gives you 10 return rides from home to where you collect your pension.

It can be bought three days before pension day - on the 12th

of the month at Tramways ticket offices.

- A "Forty off card" will give you 40 per cent off the normal fare for inter-city travel in

the off-season.

It will cost you R10 to get the card and you also need two photos of yourself. Enquire about this at your local station.

How long will it take?

YOU have to wait for at least three months as all the forms have to go to Pretoria. It sometimes takes longer.

When you go to collect your pension for the first time, you must get money for each month from the date you first applied.

If you applied in January and you are only told in April that your money has come, you must get money for January, February, March and April.

Further information

WHEN you apply for a pension, it is a good idea not to hand in your own papers. You may need them for something else, or they may get lost. You should try to get a copy of the paper. Any police station, magistrate's office or commissioner of oaths can put a stamp on the paper and sign that it is a true copy

of your original paper.

There are a lot of different things to know before applying for a pension. This article may not have talked about everything. It is best to contact the office where you have to apply to make sure you qualify for a pension.

ADVICE

Caring for your child's teeth

THIS month the dentist answers questions most commonly asked by parents.

HOW MANY TEETH SHOULD A CHILD HAVE?

The first set consists of 20 'milk teeth'.

The first of these appear when the child is between 5 to 8 months old. If they appear earlier or later than this, there is no cause to worry.

The next teeth come out between 8 to 10 months and others about the time of the

first birthday.

All 20 teeth are usually out by the time the child is 3 years old.

The permanent set has 32 teeth.

The most important of these are the first four molars or large back teeth.

These appear at the back of the upper jaw and the back of the lower jaw.

They are the main chewing teeth and cannot be replaced. The last of the permanent teeth are called wisdom teeth and appear at any time after the age of 16

years.

ARE CHILDREN ALWAYS ILL WHEN THEY ARE TEETHING?

No. Some children may be irritable while teething, but if any illness seems to be associated with the child's teething, consult your doctor.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO KEEP MILK TEETH AND TO HAVE THEM FILLED?

Milk teeth should be given the best of care because:

- They are necessary for proper chewing and digestion of food.
- They help in the development of the growing child's face.
- They help the child to speak properly.

WHEN SHOULD A CHILD FIRST VISIT THE DENTIST?

A child should never be scared of the dentist. Your attitude should be that the dentist is one of the people who help us stay healthy and who should be seen regularly.

That is why a child

should not go to the dentist for the first time when he has a toothache.

Take the child when he is 2 to 3 years old and introduce the dentist as a friend.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING THE CHILD'S FIRST VISIT?

The dentist will examine the child's mouth and teeth, using a special mirror to check for any problems. He will clean the teeth, apply fluoride and advise on proper brush-

ing.

WHAT IS A GUM-BOIL?

It is an abscess caused by an infection of the nerve inside a tooth. As pus collects, it spreads to the end of the root and pushes out the gum to resemble a boil.

In such a case the dentist or doctor must be seen immediately.

USEFUL HINTS FOR PARENTS

- The young child will need your help and encouragement to brush properly. Try

check list to encourage brushing at bed time. Children could make and colour their own check lists.

Let your child colour in one block every night *after* showing you that her teeth are clean. Check whether the plaque (white coating) is brushed away from the teeth and gums.

- Cut down on sweet things to eat and drink; especially between meals. Rather give fruit nuts or popcorn.
- Don't put sugar in babies' bottles or drinks.



Beating high blood

DEAR Grassroots - I read a letter on high blood in your paper. I am a health worker who was involved with a group of people in Mitchell's Plain. It may help if I tell your readers how the group tried to cope with the problems of high blood.

A few people who knew that they had high blood, formed a group. They decided to meet regularly for the following reasons:

- To try to understand what causes high blood.
- To talk to one another and share the problems they have with high blood.
- To attempt to find out ways of coping with these problems.

Every second week the group met in the house of one of the members. At each gathering there was a health worker who answered questions about high blood and help the group to understand the disease and its treatment.

After a few meetings the group decided to learn how to take one another's blood pressures.

They then had a cake sale and with the money they bought a blood-pressure machine.

Now the group is less dependent on clinics and hospitals. Finding out about their own blood pressure also helped them to remember to take their pills.

As last month's reader said, smoking and overweight can cause high blood.

Some of our group also had problems at work that caused high blood.

People in the group

who had problems with too much smoking and overweight helped to support one another, encouraging if there was weight loss or less smoking since the last meeting.

Coping with problems in a group seemed

so much easier than trying to do it as an individual. This was the lesson that everybody learned from the high blood group.

I hope this letter will help some of the Grassroots readers.

Health Worker,

Advice wants to meet you

AT our last AGM it was decided that the advice panel should go out to meet community organisations.

This would help organisations to get to know the panel and the services they can offer.

In turn it would also help the panel to find

out exactly what advice is needed.

We ask that community organisations discuss this suggestion and send us a list of the dates, times and places that they meet.

We can then draw up a roster to visit organisations.

Dealing with problems at school

THE teacher told me the other day that my boy Peter is going to fail at the end of the year, because he is so backward in his reading and spelling. He has already failed once. I know he will be very upset if he has to spend another year in the same class.

Especially as his sister would then be in the same class. The thing I can't understand is that he seems clever in other ways.

He gets good marks for oral work and maths and at home, he's always asking questions or working out things for himself.

I can send him to the shops any time and he always brings me the right change. Not like his one older bro-

ther who always gets it mixed up.

If he really can't do the work, I can see it wouldn't do any good to put him up. But if he has to stay back again, the other kids will start calling him names.

That happened to my eldest boy and it got so bad he wouldn't go to school any more.

THERE are many reasons why children don't manage at school. It is difficult to be sure why Peter isn't managing.

Is he happy at school?

Does he like and get on with his teacher? Has he got friends in his class? Maybe he had a bad experience with a previous teacher in

reading and spelling.

Even though he is managing with some subjects, it is possible that he may have a learning problem with these two subjects. Special teaching can help children overcome these kinds of problems.

But first talk to Peter's teacher and school principal to find out whether he is happy at school. If you find that there is no problem at school then there are places that can help to find out what the problem might be.

There are unfortunately not many places which offer this kind of help.

You should ask Peter's principal to arrange for him to be

seen at the Athlone School Clinic.

Don't be put off by excuses about long waiting lists or the attitude that 'the school knows best'.

It is Peter's right to have help to sort out whether he does have a problem. It is also his right to get the help he needs.


You may yourself contact the UCT Child Guidance Clinic or the Institute for Child Guidance at the University of the Western Cape.

Raise this issue in your community organisation so that parents with similar problems can get together. Groups of parents can often achieve more than one alone.

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DEAR MR PRESIDENT

(Who ever you are)



IN the last issue of Grassroots, we looked at the changes that the President's Council wants at a local level. Here we will briefly explain what changes the PC plans at a government level.

Over the years, the most important body in this country has been parliament. It is here that the laws are made and decisions taken

which affect our daily lives. Only Whites have been allowed to vote and to stand for this parliament.

The government is now considering giving this right to Coloureds and Indians so that we can be drawn closer to Whites. They want to do this because they are worried about the unity between Coloureds, Indians and Africans.

While they want to give us more say in parliament, they are at the same time considering creating another body above parliament. This will be an executive headed by a president.

- Parliament will elect the State President who will hold office for seven years.
- He will appoint a Prime Minister and together, they will appoint an Executive Cabinet.
- The President and his Cabinet will be in charge of day to day government.

Voting

- Whites, Coloureds and Indians will have the right to vote for parliament. Those people who own property will have two votes and those with companies, three.
- The four provincial councils will be scrapped and replaced by eight regional bodies. Each of these bodies will be elected by Coloureds, Whites and Indians, who would be on separate voters rolls. It is still unclear how this will be determined.

THE President's Council recommends that an executive president be elected who will stand above parliament for seven years. What will these seven years hold in store for us? What will the powers of this one man be? Manenberg resident, Mr Peter Johnson, has some idea and decided to write this letter.

Sir,

Apartheid is alive and will live on. The PC wants to put you in charge of our country for seven years to make sure that this happens.

The different colour faces in parliament will mean very little. Power will be firmly in your hand. You will have the right to dismiss the prime minister, parliament and the executive, if they make you unhappy. Why then does the PC talk of power-sharing?

How will power be shared if you have all the right over it? It will not matter to you if Coloureds, Indians or even Africans are included in parliament, because you know you will have the final say.

In this way, the government will be able to fool some of our people. But all of us will not fall for this.

We do not want Apartheid, Mr President. South Africa belongs to all who live in it. We should all have an equal say in the running of our country.

It is through our

sweat that this country has been built. Our reward? Low wages, bad housing and poor education.

Instead of improving our life, the government is passing more terrible laws which will help you to keep us down. Some of these laws, Mr President, will make it possible for you to put me into jail if I fight against low wages and poor housing, if I fight for a country where we all have the right to live decently.

Break

You will use these laws to try and break our organisations, where we have the power. By standing together we have learnt that we have strength. You do not and will not like this and will have seven years in which to put a stop to it. Is this what power-sharing will mean?

Mr President, think again.

We will not accept this.

Yours sincerely,
Mr Peter Johnson.

PC will break our unity



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FLORAL WREATHS

Culture builds civic youth links

THE YOUTH and educational committees of the Manenberg Civic Association organised a cultural youth week from June 14 to 18.

The aim of the programme was to be an alternative programme for the June holidays. It also improved the working relationship between the youth and the MEM.

The programme included films, drama and music by the Nyanga Art Centre and a workshop organised by Grassroots.

The highlight was the remembrance of June 16 1976. A speaker delivered a paper on the implications of the President's Council's proposals. A youth member spoke on the significance of June 16.

The membership increased daily.

The planning group felt that more people had been made aware of the civic because of the programme.

A member of the group said: 'By strengthening the youth and educational movements, we have also strengthened

the civic.

'We will not make the same mistakes in future. The programme was a good learning experience for the organisation. A special programme for primary schoolchildren will be planned,' he said.

The youth has meetings on Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. at the Druivelei Community Centre. The children's workshop is on Saturdays at 12.00.

MEM invited high school pupils to tuition classes on Saturdays at 9 a.m. at Manenberg Roman Catholic Church.

800 AT BLAC HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Not enough facilities in area

WHO could have thought that a holiday programme for primary school children could have exposed so many of the problems we experience in our townships?

Early during June the Bishop Lavis Action Committee (BLAC) decided to organize a holiday programme for primary school children. Owing to the lack of recreational facilities in the township, the programme was considered an absolute necessity by the committee.

The programme took place between June 21 and 24 and included free film shows, essay competitions, a sports day and a visit from Molo Songololo (or "Molo Tökölössie", as one child said!)

Facilities

The first day of the programme provided the organisers with a big surprise (or was it a shock?). Children turned out in the hundreds for the programme — eight hundred to be more exact.

If one asks oneself why so many children turned up for the programme, one is confronted with the problems which daily face township children.

One such problem is caused by the fact that most township mothers are forced to go out to work to help make ends meet — and thus leaving their young children to their own devices for the better part of the day.

What complicates this problem even further is the fact that absolutely no recreational facilities (such as play parks) exist in the area, thus leaving thousands of children to play on the streets.

To many of these children BLAC'S holiday programme offered a welcome escape from having to spend their holidays playing in old cars and polluted streets.

One such child, in a letter of thanks to BLAC said: "Hier naby ons is nie speelparke nie. Nou moet ek net by die huis bly. Maar vir al die mense van BLAC — baie dankie vir die lekker pret wat ons het" — Anneline Schuller (6 jr).

Hunger

Another reason why so many children could possibly have turned up for the programme, is that the BLAC served free soup on two days of the programme. HUNGER IS A POWERFUL FORCE. And let us not forget that Bishop Lavis has more than its fair share of underprivileged people!

The essay competition ("Ons dorp") organized by the children went off very well. Many children showed

remarkable insight into our everyday social problems.

"Die mense het nie elektrisiteit nie dan moet hulle nog hoërente betaal," said Trevor Maneveldt (9), in his essay.

On the day Molo Songololo presented it's programme, more than 400 children turned up. According to a spokesperson, Molo had never before worked with so many children and did not have the apparatus to do so.

From the programme, two problems emerged. One was the fact that the children attending the programme virtually showed a total disregard for authority. In many cases they simply just refused to listen to the requests of the organizers. Here one is

tempted to ask what the present social system has done to our township children.

The other distressing problem which presented itself at the programme was the inability of the organizers to cater for the needs of all the children who attended the programme.

Though Blac realizes that it would be virtually impossible to cater effectively for such great numbers, something will definitely have to be done to improve the situation.



Elsies children learn and teach

CHILDREN in Avon Estate, Elsie's River, are generally weak in maths and English.

About three months ago the Avon Estate Tenants Association decided to tackle this problem by forming a children's group.

The local youth movement assisted in arranging teaching for the youngsters in the problem subjects.

It was also decided to organise a cultural week for the children during the first week of the June holidays.

The programme included drama, art, a coffee bar, film show, games and an outing.

The theme of the week was: 'If you don't know, learn; and if you do know, teach.'

Nearly 200 children attended. In the week a parents' evening was held.

The Tenants Association chairman told the 50 parents who attended that they should not regard the children's group as a "dumping ground". The children were busy doing something constructive and needed their parents' support.

One of the highlights of the week was a play on "Pinkeyes" which the children put together themselves.

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Millions of rands for footballers...

WHILE the rest of the world's soccer lovers lived through the excitement of seeing the World Cup on TV, South Africans had to be content with only hearing the results of matches.

The South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) was barred from screening the matches because of the apartheid policy of the government.

Bait

So, to save face and in an attempt to get back into world sport, a team of "international" soccer players, mostly British, were lured to play in South Africa.

With their identities being withheld to the last minute and with thousands of rands offered as bait by the South African Breweries, the squad was flown into Johannesburg earlier this month.

But the thousands of rands did not succeed in getting the world's

top soccer players to come to South Africa.

England's captain, Kerin Keegan said he stayed away in spite of being offered R500 000 because he disagreed with the South African government's policy.

Two top Argentinian players, Ossie Ardiles and Mario Kempes, who would have been the main attractions of the tour, had to pull out because of pressure from their home teams, which had not been consulted about the South African tour.

With these players gone, it was proven once again that only players without any soccer future will be prepared to risk their careers by playing in South Africa.

Not fooled

Another setback came for the organisers when the people did not turn up in masses for the first match in Cape Town

against a Western Province 11.

"It proved that the

people can see through the tour and will not support weak attempts to get international

credibility for racial sport," a Manenberg soccer player said.

...but nothing for us



WHILE the South African Breweries (SAB) are paying hundreds of thousands of rands to the group of "international" soccer players, only the barest minimum is spent on playing facilities for our children.

This scene of Kew Town children kicking around an old ball on a concrete courtyard, is one that can be found in any township.

There is nowhere else for the children to play.

For these poor facilities, we have to pay a lot. We may even have to pay more if the City Council gets its way to increase the tariffs.

Education Charter for students

STUDENTS decided to formulate an Education Charter stating their demands for a democratic education. This took place at the annual national congress of the Azanian Students Organisation, attended by over 200 students, at Hammanskraal in July.

The charter will be drawn up in consultation with all democratic peoples organisations co-ordinated by a steering committee. A national education charter conference will be convened later.

Students agreed that there were many problems facing women on black campuses. A committee was elected to look at these problems.

Joe Phaahla, who was re-elected as President, highlighted the theme for the year, Education Towards a Democratic Society, in his opening address. Other speakers included Paul David of the Natal Indian Congress.

Student delegates and observers came from the universities of Durban-Westville, Fort Hare, Cape Town, Witwatersrand, Natal Medical School, Western Cape, Turfloop, Zululand and Medunsa.

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