

LETTERS



More about Men

From Margot Beard, Albany:

There is one aspect of Black Sash membership policy which rather irritates me. I just do not like the rather idiotic compromise with regard to male membership. The separate type

of membership open to men seems to give the unfortunate impression that we cannot make up our minds about the issue of male membership.

On the one hand we let men join, on the other hand we give them second-class membership. (The fact that this is what some male organisations have traditionally done to women is no justification!)

What actually does Honorary Membership imply? What can and what can't such members do? Do they

pay membership fees? What is their purpose?

Perhaps we should re-think our whole attitude. Either we acknowledge the historic reasons that led the Black Sash to be a women's group and we agree that these conditions still operate sufficiently strongly to warrant female exclusivity or we consider that times have changed and we thus open the organisation to men on a full and equal basis.

What do other readers think? □

NEWS-STRIP

Sash-in-shorts from all our Regions. Please let us hear your news.



Lawaaikamp children celebrate International children's day on 1 June - a day after the expiry of the government ultimatum ordering the community to move or face removal to Sandkraal. The deadline passed without incident. Black Sash members were there to share in the party with face painting and games.



Anne Schuster

NEWS-STRIP

Jean Sinclair Bursary

To celebrate Jean Sinclair's 80th birthday, the Transvaal Region has established a bursary in her name at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Apart from being the prime mover behind the establishment of the Black Sash in 1955, Jean was National President for 14 years, guiding the organisation through some of its most difficult years, and is now our Honorary Life President. The idea of instituting a bursary in her name was Netty Davidoff's, who turned 80 on the same day as Jean! Anyone wishing to contribute to the Jean Sinclair Bursary should do so through the Bursary Department, University of the Witwatersrand, P.O. Wits, 2050.

The first Jean Sinclair Bursary was awarded this year to Veronica Morake, a first year Social Work student. □



Above: Jean Sinclair acknowledges a standing ovation at the National Conference's public meeting.

Right: Two illustrations by Tony Grogan from 'The Law Courts and You.'

The Law Courts and You

The Cape Western Region's Court Monitoring group has produced a booklet entitled *The Law Courts and You*. Muriel Crewe, Court Monitoring convenor, describes the background to the booklet:

In the course of our monitoring of the courts since late 1985, two particularly serious problems became clear to us. Firstly, we frequently heard frustrated defence lawyers saying about their clients: 'If only they would not make incriminating statements!' Secondly, through visits to the rural townships, we became increasingly aware of the large number of people who faced arrest and court proceedings without any access to legal assistance. (Professor McQuoid-Mason of Natal University estimates that 150 000 South Africans are jailed annually without legal representation. They are rarely even aware that they are entitled to it).

The pocket-size booklet, *The Law Courts and You*, which we have produced with the professional assistance of the Department of Criminology at the University of Cape Town, tries to respond to these needs. It gives simple advice on the making (or not making) of statements, and on what to do if these are made under duress. It also tries to explain court procedure - which is bewildering to anyone - particularly country folk - caught up in a terrifying and intimidating situation without the support available in urban areas. We have tried to make clear what the accused can do on his/her own behalf and we have listed a number of offices and organisations from



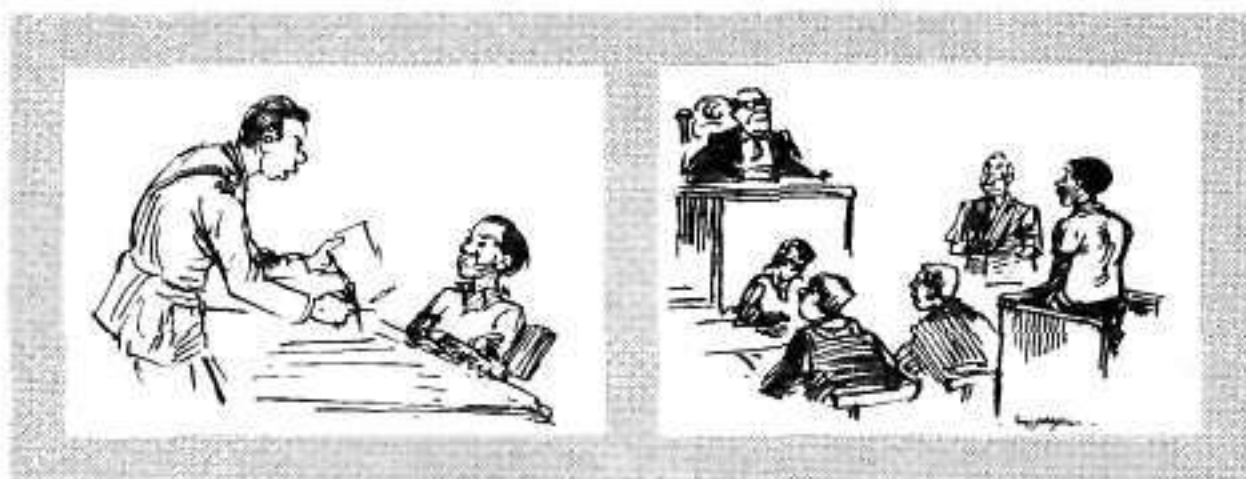
Sash Executive elected at conference

which help may be sought.

An additional aid to understanding procedure is the series of drawings done for us by Tony Grogan of the Cape Times, which illustrate the key options available to the accused.

We earnestly hope this will go some way towards filling a desperate need although we realise how much courage may be needed to follow the advice given. The booklet is available only in English at the moment, but Xhosa and Afrikaans translations are in preparation. Copies are available on request from the Black Sash, 5 Long Street, Mowbray 7700.

Muriel Crewe □



NEWS-STRIP



Left to Right: A President and three Vice Presidents: From left to right Rosemary van Wyk Smith, Jenny de Tolly, Mary Burton (President), Di Bishop.

Greenflies: Municipal Police in the Eastern Cape

From the time it first became known that township youths were being recruited, briefly trained, armed and returned to communities as fully-fledged 'municipal police', voices were raised in warning and in condemnation of the scheme. How right they were!

Devastating evidence of abuses of

power are contained in the Black Sash publication *Greenflies, Municipal Police in the Eastern Cape*. The information comes mainly from the statements of those who have suffered at their hands, collected by Black Sash workers and by lawyers who have represented the victims in legal actions against municipal policemen - known also as 'community guards.' The fact that these officers are not actually policemen, as that term is defined, has made this booklet possible - in that the prohibitions on the publication of material which reflects on the security

forces do not apply.

Besides the numerous case histories, the booklet provides an explanation of the rationale behind the establishment of an ancillary force of this particular type. It shows that the legislative groundwork was in place well before conditions reached the stage where such a force was deemed to be required in the latter half of 1985. For copies, inquire at Black Sash offices. The booklet is being reprinted as SASH goes to press.

Candy Malherbe.

Obituary: Bobbie Cluver



Bobbie Cluver joined the Black Sash in the very early days in Johannesburg. She served on the Regional Committee continuously until she left Johannesburg to live in Natal. She became well known far beyond the Johannesburg Region because with her ability, she was invariably a delegate to National Conferences.

Her unshakable belief in the moral principles in which the Black Sash was rooted, together with her intelligence and level-headedness made her an invaluable member.

We mourn her deeply and send our sympathy to her family.

Dora Hill.

Margaret



Margaret Nash, who has been a national Vice-President of the Black Sash for the past two years, declined to stand for re-election at this year's National Conference because, as she put it: 'It is important to make space for newer members to take up leadership positions.' Margaret's major contribution has been her consistent challenge to the Black Sash to respond to the many pressing issues - political,

social and economic - that confront a human rights organisation in South Africa. With a keen talent for spotting important future dates and developments, Margaret always seeks to ensure that the Black Sash is geared to meet them.

The fact that we are conducting a Human Rights campaign, in this 40th anniversary year of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, is due to her foresight. □

Bobbie Cluver was a foundation member of the Black Sash and the Liberal Party and was a tireless worker in both. But I remember her for her delightful sense of humour.

At an early National Conference of the Black Sash she was able to avert a serious split in the organisation by jumping up in the middle of the heated debate and saying: 'This must be the largest collection of the most intelligent and most impossibly difficult women in South Africa.'

There was a burst of laughter, and in no time a compromise was reached and peace restored.

Bobbie will be very much missed.

Noel Robb.

NEW-STRIP

Sash and Nusas Protesters Charged

Eight Black Sash and six Nusas members are due to appear in the Durban Regional Court on 6 June on charges of attending and promoting an illegal gathering.

The charges arose out of a stand, on 26 February, protesting the banning and restrictions on 17 organisations, including the UDF and COSATU. Protestors had stood, with posters, on each block of Berea Road, from Toll-gate bridge to the Natal Technikon, facing the morning rush-hour traffic. Their arrest - minutes before the hour long protest was due to end - amounted to 'intimidation tactics' according to Lynn Hotz, a Natal Coastal Region chairperson.

The protesters were standing at legal distances from each other at places where protest stands had been held in the past without incident. Lynn said. Some people had already returned to their cars after the protest when they were informed by police that they were under arrest, ordered out of their cars and instructed to stand with their posters so that photographs could be taken of them. Back-up supporters were also instructed to stand with posters and photographed. Commenting on the day's events, Lynn said: 'It is clear to us that in the current political climate, we must be much more thoroughly prepared for protest activities.'

A historic photograph:

Two of Cape Western Region's longest-standing Advice Office workers: Roma Gottlieb (right) who has done voluntarily work in the Advice Office for 30 years; and David Viti (centre) who has been an indispensable full-time pillar in the Advice Office for 25 years, where he continues to fill (amongst others) the role of interpreter, case-worker, diplomat, and negotiator. The greatest resource he brings to the advice office is 'the depth of his understanding of human kind,' according to one of his colleagues. 'He is an interpreter in every sense of the word.'

Viva the Advice Office!

Noel Robb says 'Happy Birthday' to the Cape Western Region's Advice office that she helped launch 30 years ago.

Thirty years ago, a small group of Black Sash women persuaded the Cape Western Region to rent a small shop near Athlone. This was known as the 'Bail Fund Office,' and started in order to prevent black mothers spending the night, or several nights, in the police cells awaiting trial for pass law offences. Breast-fed babies were left unfed or small toddlers arrested with their mothers. The Bail Fund Office was the forerunner of the Athlone Advice Office, later called the Black Sash Advice Office, which by 1960, was helping men, women and children - giving advice, arranging defence for those charged under the pass laws, making representation on their behalf to the relevant authorities.

Gradually our work broadened to include any problems or injustices suffered by black South Africans: unfair labour practices, Unemployment Insurance, Workmen's Compensation and above all, housing. The acute housing problem arose from the fact that for about 20 years, no houses were built for black families in the Western Cape.

In 1975, when Crossroads appeared like a mushroom in a field, the Advice Office became deeply involved with squatters, helping in the fight to avoid demolition and deportation, providing defence when people were arrested under the Illegal Squatting Act, Trespass Act and Influx Control legislation. When the legal bills became too large for our members to bear, a panel of about 20 attorneys was formed to provide 'pro deo' defence for those charged under the pass laws. At all times we made representations to the relevant authorities - the Minister of Black Affairs, provincial, divisional and municipal authorities, the Administration Board officials, firms and individual employers.



NEWS-STRIP

The apparent repeal of the pass laws in July 1986 has greatly changed our work. Wives are no longer endorsed out when they visit their husbands working in 'white' areas - but they are arrested for trespass. Squatters are no longer arrested and 'deported' - but they are forced to move to Khayelitsha from Noordhoek, Hout Bay, Strand and other areas. Their 'new home' is miles from their work opportunities. Retrenchments and unemployment problems form a much greater part of our work now and are made worse by the uncaring attitude of some employers.

Throughout its 30 years, volunteers have staffed the advice office - two of them since 1958 - and in times of crisis we have never been short of workers. Our wonderful interpreters have developed into experienced case-workers without whom we could have done very little. It is through the Advice Office that people have come to know and trust the Black Sash. Their shouts of 'Viva Black Sash!' at public meetings make all our work worthwhile. □



women's power

The Natal Midlands Region is having T-shirts printed with the 'women's power' symbol (pictured here). The printing will be done by the SARMCOL workers' co-operative, established by SARMCOL workers who lost their jobs as a result of their 1985 strike. The T-shirts will be available in S, M, L and XL, and can be ordered from Mary Kleinenberg, P O Box 732, Pietermaritzburg, 3201. □



Paul Weinberg

More Group Pickets

After our first successful group picket in August last year, the Natal Midlands Region has continued to hold group stands every month, with permission from the chief magistrate. However, we are now required to submit the slogans, as well as the names and addresses of the 12 picketers, to the magistrate two weeks before the stand.

We have protested against the detention of those involved in local peace negotiations, the muzzling of the press, the banning of progressive organisations and the police force's apparent support of Inkatha in the township violence.

A notable feature of our public protests this year has been increased right-wing aggression, particularly from young men who apparently find any criticism of the police of the SADF threatening and unacceptable.

Mary Kleinenberg

101 Ways to End Apartheid

Never again need you be at a loss for words when someone says: 'I don't like apartheid but there is nothing I can do about it'. The Five Freedoms Forum has set itself the task of providing all the responses you require - 101 of them to be exact. Their latest campaign, '101 Ways to end Apartheid', aims to produce a booklet listing simple, practical and achievable ways in which people can contribute, collectively or individually, to the creation of a non-racial society in South Africa. The organisers hope to foster a sense that individual attempts,

however small, are valuable and relevant. The ongoing campaign will consist of essay competitions for school-children, radio talk shows and 'phone-ins', community projects, pavement art, information/education forums and non-racial sporting events. The campaign was scheduled to peak on Tuesday 31 May when the launch of the '101 Ways' booklet was due to take place.

Correction

In our calendar (SASH March 1988) we mistakenly noted that the PAC was established in 1955. The year was 1959.

NEWS-STRIP

Black Sash at Arts Festival

The Albany branch of the Black Sash will be co-ordinating a compelling series of films on the fringe of the Standard Bank National Arts Festival in July in Grahamstown.

The series is entitled 'Statements on Injustice' and the films are produced by Kevin Harris, who has also directed several of them. The screenings will begin on Friday 1 July and run until Tuesday 5 July. The films that will be screened are:

The Cry of Reason, a documentary focusing on the life and work of Dr Beyers Naude.

Struggle from Within, about the events leading up to the constitutional referendum in 1984 and the implementation of the Tricameral constitution. The film features the growth of resistance to the constitution, and covers the formation of the United Democratic Front.

No Middle Road to Freedom, its title taken from the words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu: 'There are only two roads to freedom in South Africa, and there is no middle road. There are only two options - we either talk or fight.'

This We Can Do for Peace and Justice, is a statement by the South African Council of Churches in response to injustice.

If God Be For Us, is a condemnation of apartheid.

Witness to Apartheid documents the responses of South Africans to the security police, primarily during the State of Emergency.

Sue Ross. □

More Harassment

The Black Sash has a tricky problem on its hands: as a result of police action in the Eastern Cape, it could end up breaking the law.

The problem arose on 14 October last year, when police seized the Albany branch's financial records, saying they were investigating possible contraventions of the Fund raising Act. The result is that the Black Sash cannot complete its audited accounts for the 1986/7 financial year, or submit its tax returns.

Grahamstown office worker, Janet Small, was one of two members in the office when the police arrived.

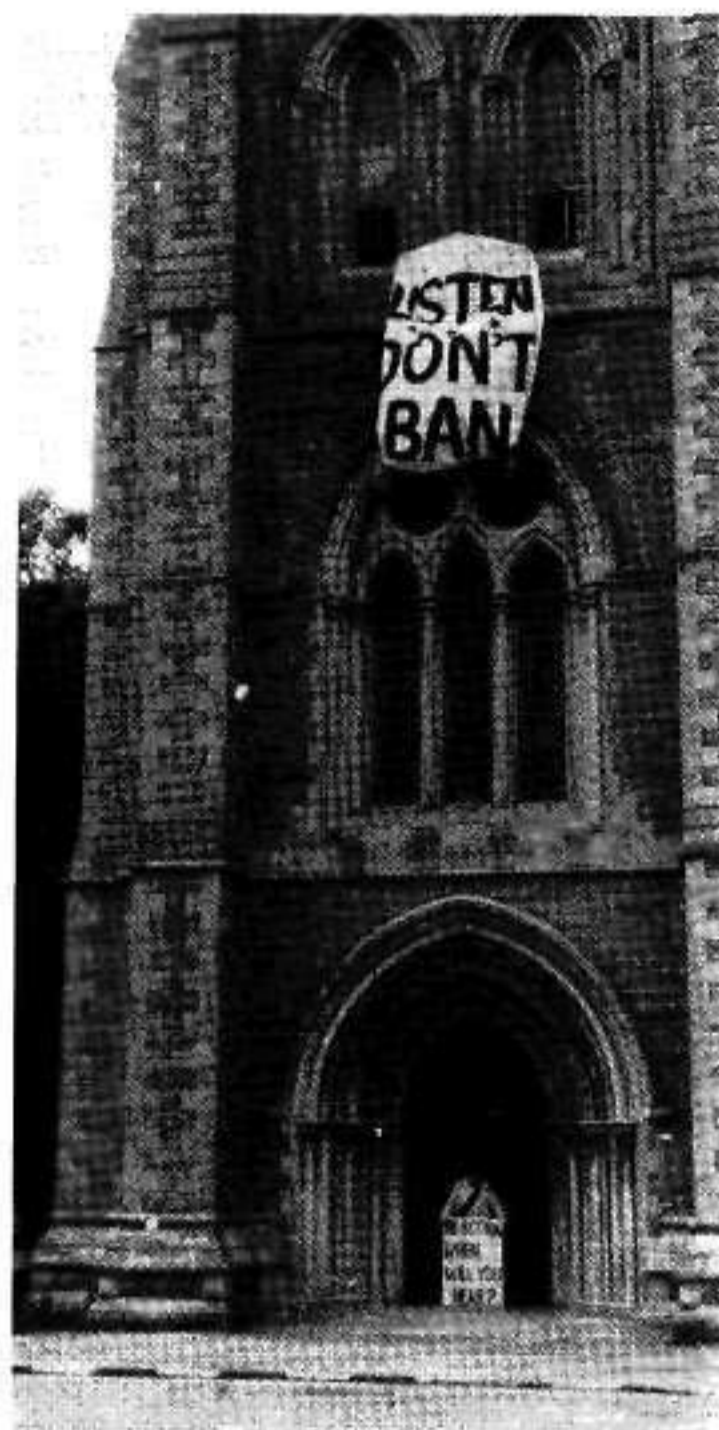
'Three members of the Commercial Branch of the Port Elizabeth CID came to our office in High Street about mid-morning with a search warrant to look at our financial records,' she said.

'They started searching although we told them exactly where to find the financial statements. They apparently thought we were hiding some and spent over two hours going through our files. They took away about three quarters of the branch's financial records, including insurance policies, correspondence, ledgers and bank books.'

As they left, they issued a receipt and warned us to get used to such visits as they would 'become a thing of the future.'

'They assured us they would only keep the papers for a few days, but we still haven't got them back in spite of lawyer's letters and phone calls.'

Jean Fairbairn □



'LISTEN! - DON'

The Black Sash's Albany Region hung the banner (above left) from the Grahamstown Cathedral in protest against the restrictions on 17 organisations on February 24.

Janet Small detained

As we went to press we heard that Janet Small, the Albany Region's Fieldworker had been detained while working in the Black Sash office.

We demand her release.

Janine Scholz, who was a member of the Black Sash

in Albany until her departure for England in mid-1984, died tragically in London earlier this year.

We remember her as one deeply committed to the ideals of a just and open society and as one who thought seriously about the implications of living in South Africa. She combined serious commitment with warmth, generosity and

Janine Scholz

humour. There are many here who remember her practical

help and tender loving care when her support was sought.

She died with her baby daughter on 5 January. Ten days later, on 15 January, she was cremated in London and we in Grahamstown gathered together to share memories of her. We shall continue to remember her.

NEWS-STRIP

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More than 25 000 toy Casspirs were sold during the past year.



BAN' PROTESTS

The Johannesburg Region draped this banner (above right) outside their offices in Khotso House, making the same point.



organisation: it's beginnings, the ongoing work and some of the fun. Anne-Marie Hendrikz, Cape Western Region's rural worker, delighted, angered and amused the audience as she acted out a one-woman portrayal of our various detractors, while other members, wearing hats and gloves, enacted scenes from the advice office, stands and court monitoring.

Other organisations produced plays of a more serious tone depicting the suffering and struggles of daily community life.

Saturday 16 April was a day of trade, with a great variety of stalls, ranging from beautifully stitched garments made by the South African Domestic Workers Union (SADWU) to delicious fried fritters sold by our Gardens branch.

The fair culminated in a 'Gumba' or dance for all-comers with live band music.

As our first experience of working with FEDSAW, it was a valuable exercise and a welcome relief from the stresses with which we usually associate our work.

Philippa Taylor □



The Fed saw banner (above) that festooned the stage.

Anne-Marie Hendrikz (below) enacting her tongue-in-cheek rendition of the Black Sash's detractors.

Fedsaw's women's fair.

Responding to a FEDSAW invitation to the Black Sash to participate in a women's fair, the Cape Western Region has been involved in the First Cape Women's Festival, held on 15 and 16 April.

Friday, 15 April was an evening of dance, poetry (old favourites and new discoveries) and drama. The Black Sash had workshopped and produced a play that attempted to describe the or-