

Who faked it?

IN the early hours of a cold morning last month, thousands of mysterious pamphlets were distributed throughout many townships.

The pamphlets were fake copies of a Cape Areas Housing Action Committee newsletter.

No one has claimed responsibility for the fake and the government has denied having had anything to do with it.

The fake quotes CAHAC chairperson, Mr Wilfred Rhodes as saying that we can afford high rents if we have smaller families,

work harder for our bosses and spend our money wisely.

In fact, in the original newsletter Mr Wilfred Rhodes says that we need to be strong and well organised. He mentioned different occasions when the people stood together and were victorious.

Among other occasions he mentioned the fight by the Electricity Petition Committee for the changing of the electricity due dates and fight against the increases in busfares last year when, in both, we were successful. Mr

Rhodes appealed to the people to organise themselves.

Throughout the forged copy the policy of CAHAC is described as being one of consultation.

"We must see our local management committees. They are our legitimate elected bodies. They represent our community in the true sense of the word. By supporting them we give them more power to negotiate with the City Council and the Government," the forged copy goes on to say.

The caption on the original newsletter was changed to read: "Support your local management Committee. You voted them in".

The original newsletter shows a picture of the people at the recent rally in the Westridge Civic Centre. The caption refers to the spirit of unity of the people. About 3 000 people attended the rally.

There were also other changes made to the illustrations on page one of the newsletter. The newsletter now calls for consultation.

FARES SHOCK

SHOCKING details of huge profits by the company that controls nearly all bus services in

Cape Town have been uncovered in an investigation by people opposed to the latest bus fare increases.

The investigation into City Tramways has shown that:

- The company is making very large profits and these profits are getting bigger every year. Over the whole period from 1974 to 1980 the average profit was 35% per year.
- Over the last three

Transport costs have gone up once again.

Both the private companies, which run the buses, and the state departments controlling trains, have ignored the people's hardships.

Despite the increases, conditions remain the same.

that it needs to buy new buses.

The investigation into the company has revealed the following details:

Most the profits of City Tramways go to Tollgate Holdings, a bigger company that owns City Tramways. Tollgate set up finance companies that lent the money to other people at high interest rates. Tollgate says that these companies have nothing to do with their bus companies. But the finance companies were very profitable because they got a lot of their money from Tollgate (that is from City Tramways and the other bus companies at low interest rates).



years, from 1978 to 1980 the average profit has been 69% - profits made at the expense of people who have to use buses every day to get around.

Angered by these revelations, people are asking what City Tramways does with all this money and why it regularly applies for fare increases on the grounds



In 1980 Tollgate sold their finance companies and some properties because they decided to concentrate on buses.

They received R30-million for this. In addition they got back R27-million that they had lent to the finance companies.

Suddenly Tollgate had R57-million at its disposal. But they didn't use it to buy new buses they said they needed. Instead they paid out R48-million to their

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UWO holds congress

ON April 3 and 4, the United Women's Organisation (UWO) held its second Annual Conference at the Lutheran Youth Centre in Athlone.

More than 200 elected delegates and observers from the 18 organised Branches of the UWO as well as invited visitors, attended the Conference.

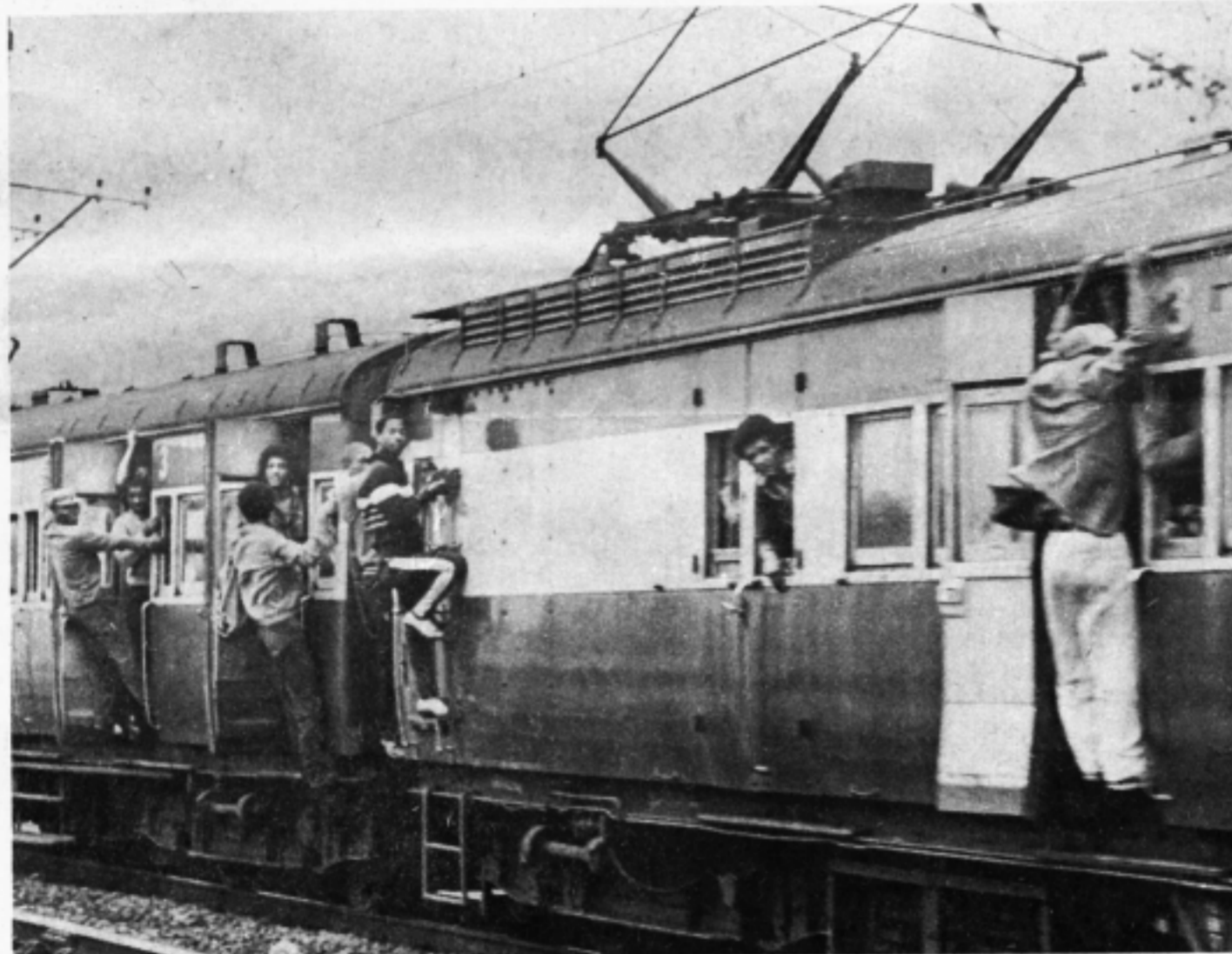
The three guest speakers - Mrs Dora Tamana, Mrs Gloria Mnikina and Mrs Amy Thornton - praised the UWO for the hard work of the past year. Mrs Mnikina urged the UWO to "call women everywhere - in the streets, down the drains, in their homes and at their work - because women bear the greatest burden and carry the greatest responsibility."

Amy Thornton urged: "Out of Conference must come not just the spirit from our songs but the real decisions of how we are to carry on."

And this is exactly what happened at this Conference. The UWO members and their visitors talked of their problems in building Branches, the practical difficulties of organising women, raising funds and getting to meetings.

Out of this frank discussion, came resolutions to

- plan the work better and to have organising workshops to help the planning
- ensure that all members work and participate fully in the organisation
- build the Branches in the areas through practical work



Despite increases in train fares, conditions remain the same.

'We need to be strong' - CAHAC

DELEGATES to the CAHAC meeting last month agreed that stronger organizations were needed to put a stop to rent increases.

They resolved to go back to their areas and take up some of the many problems which residents experience, and in so doing, build their organizations.

While Cahac will not presently campaign for decreased rents, it does not believe that the struggle for 'rents we

can afford' is over.

"Far from it," said community representatives.

"The struggle must continue," they said.

Questions

"The form it takes must be decided by strong organizations; organizations strengthened by taking up the problems which the people experience."

In assessing the success of the four-month-

long campaign, Cahac delegates raised many important questions which every organization must carefully consider.

• Was there sufficient activity in the community while the deputation met with the minister?

• Did the campaign lose its spark because people expected immediate relief?

• Was the activities in all areas watched closely enough?

• Are our organisations any stronger now?

• Did we not show that many different organisations can work together?

• Did we not learn

more about ourselves, our organisations and the government?

• Have our people not learnt to support each other, whether they are affected or not?

Grassroots unbanned

THE ban on the December issue of GRASSROOTS has been lifted.

GRASSROOTS volume 2, number 9 was banned for distribution in January. After representations were made to the Publications control board, the ban was lifted.

The GRASSROOTS calendar is banned for distribution but not possession.

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