

# grassroots

THE PAPER ABOUT YOU VOL. 8. No. 1 February 1987 FREE!

THIS is the first edition of Grassroots' for 1987. It is also the first since strict controls were imposed on the media in December last year.

Our paper appears in the midst of the second state of emergency and it becomes increasingly difficult to reflect on the happenings in our communities.

But despite the limitations placed upon us, we will strive in 1987 to serve you, the reader and ensure that the truth is heard.

# WE CAN'T PAY!

THE decision to put up rents in all City Council areas except Mitchells Plain and Scotcheskloof comes as an added blow to the residents of the Cape Flats already hard hit by recent increases in the price of basic food-stuffs like sugar and milk.

The council announced at the end of January that rents would be increased by 6-and-a-half percent. In a circular sent to residents the council said it was compelled to increase rents "to compensate for increases in all its costs such as salaries, materials, equipment etc." It also claimed it needed money to maintain the houses.

### Angered

Residents however have been angered by the increases. Mrs Kulsum Hendricks of Hanover Park told Grassroots that her rent will increase by R5 from March 1. She will now pay 32,21 per month. She said she is without a husband and has five children aged 8 to 17. Her only income is a government grant of R284,50.

She said she had to take her eldest son, Sedick, who is in standard eight, out of school so that he could go work.

She said that the council never did any repairs to the homes and did not understand why they were increasing the rent.

For most people rent will go up between R5 and R8,50.

The thousands of unemployed in Cape Town will not be treated differ-



Mrs Kulsum Hendricks of Hanover Park with her five children. Top: Mrs Hendricks holds up the notice for the rent increases.

rently and are also expected to cough up the extra amount. Pensioners, too, will not get any concessions.

What makes the problem even worse is that many people, especially those who are jobless, have run up massive water, electricity and rental

arrears.

Some people are apparently in arrears of up to R300.

The latest increase means residents will fall even further behind, with not much hope of them ever settling their accounts.

Many fear that this will

lead to them being evicted.

After a recent focus on unemployment, the Advice Office Forum called for the scrapping of all rent, electricity and water arrears and that the unemployed not pay rent.

The situation in Manenberg has become

Rents go up as people starve

## Nobody wants the Man. Com.!

### 2.75% poll for Athlone Management Committee

ATHLONE residents have shown once again that they reject Management Committee structures as puppet bodies, which do not have their interests at heart.

In a recent election for a vacancy on the Athlone and District Management Committee, only 2,75% of the residents turned up at the polls.

The successful candidate, Mr LJ Sinnet, is chairman of the Heideveld branch of the Labour Party.

Mr Sinnet's house was stoned twice during the school boycotts in 1985, after his son allegedly forced students back to the classrooms.

The management committees have come under heavy criticism from the community for the role that they will be playing in the Regional Services Councils which will be formed in July this year.

These Councils are part of the tri-cameral government, and will be responsible for the 'Own Affairs' of the communities.

They will be responsible for the housing, electricity, rents, water supplies and rates of their respective areas.

This will mean that residents will have to pay more for services which are a responsibility of the

local government.

Mr Sinnet said in an interview before the election that he was very excited by the role that he would play in the RSC's.

The UDF has strongly condemned the Athlone and District Management Committee, which they called a "puppet body".

"The pitifully low poll in the by-election is a victory for our affiliates campaigning against these puppet bodies a UDF statement read.

"It is irresponsible and illogical that the government is going to give these outright rejects increased powers under the new Regional Services Councils.

"The Government is trying to force dummy councils down our throats instead of addressing the real issues affecting the people."

Mr Chris Heunis announced in parliament on Feb 2 that the government is going ahead with the formation of 6 new Management Committees in so-called coloured areas in the peninsula.

The areas are: Woodstock, Retreat, Walmer Estate, Scotcheskloof, Mitchells Plain and Salt River.

## The Party goes on . . . but most of us are not invited!

THE forthcoming white elections have been compared to ordering a last round of drinks on a sinking ship.

As South Africa drifts rapidly into civil war, and international isolation, Botha's government merrily trots on with this ridiculous pretence of 'democracy'.

Only the Nationalist party, with their long history of hiding from the truth, would be able to speak of "democracy" in a country where the press has been effectively silenced, where thou-

sands are in detention and police killings happen daily.

But they are not fooling anybody. Our call for a government based on the will of all the people grows every day. More and more white South Africans are being forced to realise that this is the only road to peace.

and even individuals in the heart of the nationalist party have called for a more representative government and for the unbanning of the ANC (although Botha did make them say they were

sorry for doing such a thing!)

For millions of South Africans, the election is just another circus, while the parties fight desperately to wrestle power from each other, our people continue to suffer the ever growing burden of being oppressed in South Africa. The white parliament has never done anything for the millions without jobs, without food, without homes. And we know that it never will.

The call for a democratic government cho-

sen by all the people is not new. We have been fighting for it for nearly 100 years. But now, it seems that we are closer than ever before to victory.

The longer the nationalist government holds on, the more blood will be shed. We know there will be more pain, more loss and more suffering.

But we know also there can be no peace until the people govern. And we will go on struggling until that day is won.

## Choose Your Leaders!

WHILE the whites are busy choosing our 'leaders' for us GRASSROOTS would like to give our readers a chance to say who they would like to lead our country. We are calling on all our readers to write down their 5 top chosen leaders, and send it to us at: GRASSROOTS Publications, P.O. Box 1161, Cape Town 8000. Or bring it to our offices in the Cine 400 complex, College Rd., Rylands.

Let us make our voices heard! Choose the real leaders now!

The people I would like to lead our country are:

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....
5. ....

Age: .....  
Area of residence: .....





Funeral of Nkosinathi Hlazo in March last year from which the charges arose.

## TWO CONVICTED ON ANC CHARGES

TWO young men of Bhongolethu in Oudtshoorn were convicted earlier this month of furthering the aims of the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party (SACP) and sentenced to an effective 12 months imprisonment each.

Zola Makitikiti and Leonard Mgozi were found guilty in the George Regional Court of displaying an object which indicated an association either with the ANC or the SACP.

Each accused received a three year sentence of which two years were suspended.

The court indicated that it understood the kinds of problems they testified about — the poor living conditions, the conditions in the township of Bhongolethu, their frustration and the absence of avenues for solving their problems.

Seven others — David Mbulelo Grootboom, Kenneth Grootboom, Moses Dikgacwi, April Mpondo, Zolile Elliot Jingqi, Milton Mbalo and a 16-year-old youth — were all acquitted.

### Videos as evidence

The major evidence against both Makitikiti and Mgozi was a video film taken at the funeral of Nkosinathi Hlazo in Bhongolethu township in March last year.

The video showed a few thousand people attending the funeral and marching behind a huge red flag, allegedly that of the SACP, a huge black, green and yellow flag, alleged to be the flag of the ANC and a number of other flags of local organisations.

At one stage the video focussed on accused number one, Zola Makitikiti and recorded him shouting "Phantsi capitalism phantsi!"

The video had also shown him to wear an army uniform on the back of which were inscribed the letters SACP and below that a hammer and sickle as well as a five-pointed star followed by the words 'long live'.

### Capitalism

When questioned about his actions, Zola Makitikiti told the court that he had borrowed the uniform. As to the slogans he shouted, he explained that the phantsi capitalism meant down capitalism. He was against

capitalism because it reduced him to poverty.

"Look at the area I am forced to live in. Look at the streets. I don't have decent toilets. Look at the buckets. I have no electricity in my house. How must we live under these conditions?"

And when I tell my boss I need more money he replies that he can get other workers in my place. And yet he makes all the profits. That is what capitalism means to me."

Questioned about

the ANC, he said that from what he had heard, the ANC stands for peace and freedom for all people.

Leonard Mgozi was similarly subjected to cross-examination. The video showed him carrying a banner which said "Botha beware. Tambo is coming. Bullets wont stop us."

Questioned as to why he had shown signs threatening to kill the police, he said that that was his feeling at the time because the police had killed his cousin whose funeral he was at.

## UDF LEADER REMEMBERED

THE killing of United Democratic Front leader William Mandlenkosi Kratshi outside the front door of his home on January 22 1985, deeply shocked the community of a small Beaufort West township.

Mandlenkosi, 25, was shot by police who claimed that the dead man had resisted arrest and attacked the police with a fork.

The entire township went into mourning and named the township Mandlenkosi, in memory of this highly loved and respected young man.

On 22 January this year, exactly two years after his death, students at the Junior Secondary School commemorated his death by suspending normal classes and having discussions on the life of Mandlenkosi, his involve-

ment in the struggle for freedom and what he had stood for.

Members of the youth organisation in Beaufort West told Grassroots that they plan to build a tombstone for Mandlenkosi. It is mainly because of financial reasons that it has not been completed.

## Former trialist tells of community support

A few days after the end of one of the biggest and most important trials in the Southern Cape, Kenneth Grootboom, one of the men acquitted of furthering the aims of the ANC and SACP spoke to Grassroots about the trial and the tremendous support they had received from the people of the small rural towns.

Mr Grootboom said that during the week of the trial family, friends and members of organisations from Oudtshoorn, George, Mossel Bay, Knysna and even areas outside the Southern Cape had converged in large numbers on the George Regional Court.

A busload of people and cars from Oudtshoorn had travelled the more than 60km journey

over the pass to George each day.

### Full courtroom

Mr Grootboom said: "I heard one of the policemen in the court remarking that the court had never been so full."

"People were very interested in the case. It seemed our case to them was very important."

We felt happy to get so much support. We never really worried about the outcome of the case because of the way the people has stood by us so strongly."

He said that Oudtshoorn organisations were well represented. These included the Bhongolethu Civic and youth organisations and the Bridgton Youth Organisation. Representatives from Neusa (National educa-

tion union of South Africa) were also present. Civic and youth organisations from George, Mossel Bay, Knysna and even from as far afield as Port Alfred and Cradock were represented.

"The women from the Black Sash also gave us valuable assistance. They provided food for us during the week of the trial."

Asked about their reaction when they were acquitted, Mr Grootboom said that while they were happy, they still had to worry about their two comrades who had been convicted.

He said the two did not feel bad "because we stayed and supported them."

"We must continue our support to them... visit them... pray for them," he concluded.

## Lawaaikamp residents reject council

A meeting called by the George municipality earlier this month ended in chaos when a few hundred residents of Lawaaikamp and Sandkraal townships rejected a proposal by the authorities that the residents elect a community council.

Soon after the start of the meeting, a representative of the municipality announced that the meeting had been called to elect a community council, a government created structure.

Members of the George Civic Association objected strongly, stating that there was a democratically-elected organisation representing the residents of Lawaaikamp. They received strong support from the audience.

The meeting took place

at a time when tensions again began to flare over the Government's plans to forcibly remove the people of Lawaaikamp to the new township of Sandkraal, about 5km away.

A part of the Lawaaikamp community had already settled in Sandkraal. The remaining people have vowed that they will resist being moved.

Residents have charged that the Government has broken its promise made in 1983 to provide 770 brick houses. The houses in Sandkraal were made of planks, there was a poor drainage system, the houses were too small, and the area was extremely muddy.

In short, many residents ask how they can move from one squatter

camp to another.

Even those residents who moved to Sandkraal have expressed bitterness and anger about conditions in the new township.

A major confrontation between residents and the authorities are looming with the recent announcement by the George Town Clerk, Mr Carel du Plessis that the municipality was committed to moving another 233 families who still live at Lawaaikamp.

Meanwhile the Chairman of the George Civic Association, Mr Kenneth Siboto is still being held in terms of emergency regulations.

He was detained in June along with about 200 residents of Lawaaikamp.

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Qur'an 2:278



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# SCHOOLS IN A MESS

BLACK schools are in a mess. Pupils throughout the country have obeyed the call to go back to school, but the Department of Education and Training (DET) has not catered for the extra students at black schools this year.

All schools have a shortage of teachers and are bursting at the seams, but the DET does not plan building any new schools.

Some schools have up to 60 pupils in a classroom, with three

pupils sharing one desk.

Teachers cannot start formal classes yet because the DET has not yet given them the new syllabus.

All schools in the township have not yet been given any stationary or equipment.

The Democratic Teachers' Union (DETU), which represents most teachers in the township, said they were pleased by the response to a call by community organisations for pupils to return

"Some students attend school in the morning and others have to go in the afternoons. This is unfair on the teachers because it means more to schools.

They condemned the attitude of the DET, and said that they were uncaring of the situation at the schools.

"Schools are bursting at the seams and pupils have to be taught on a rota system," a spokesman for DETU said.

A teacher at Langa High, said the school has place for only 120 Std 6 pupils, but has more than 600 pupils this year. They have not yet received their syllabus.

Most schools need major repairs. In Sizamile High School in Guguletu, some classrooms have no doors and a few window frames have been ripped out.

THE DET is unwilling to spend money on

black schools. They expect the communities to shovel out funds to repair them.

A spokesman for the DET, Mr Job Schoeman, said that he could not comment on individual schools, but said that the DET did not have unlimited funds for repairs.

He said the DET could not use money from their building projects to fix schools.

"Schools belong to the community. People are welcome to come

forward with suggestions on how to repair them".

Thousands of students have enrolled at coloured schools this year - in defiance of government regulations.

The Department of Education and Culture does not allow black students at coloured schools, but many principles at coloured schools feel that this is "racist".

There is a lot of confusion over "security matters", especially which organisations are

banned. Many principals are not aware that SRC's are not banned, and have outlawed them at black schools.

"SRC's aren't banned, but the DET has laid down guidelines for the kind of issues they can discuss," a principal said.

"SRC's are only allowed to discuss apolitical issues, but we welcome the input from Parent, Teacher and Student committees, which aren't restricted."

## Teachers victimised

IN November 1985, large numbers of teachers refused to administer end of year examinations. They clearly demonstrated their support for the education struggle.

Carter Ebrahim's axe was quick to fall, and teachers were singled out for 'punishment'. Today that victimisation still continues.

During the latter half of 1985 Cape Town was in flames. Students boycotted classes from soon after the declaration of the State of Emergency in July, to the end of the year.

The Department ignored the student boycott and ruled that the end of year examinations be based on full syllabuses, whether they had been completed or not.

The Western Cape Teachers Union (WECTU) called on teachers to refuse to admin-

ister exams. Many heeded the call.

The State's reaction was swift. Teachers were dismissed. Many faced misconduct charges and were suspended. Teachers were transferred to other schools against their will.

There was lots of community support for the teachers. WECTU fought for its teachers in court, and WECTU teachers marched to the Dept. Offices in Roeland Street on more than one occasion. The suspensions were eventually withdrawn, but teachers still faced so-called misconduct charges

Today, more than a year later:

- Certain teachers, facing so-called misconduct charges have been refused study leave and housing subsidies.

- Unqualified teachers are given posts at some schools rather than potentially 'dangerous' progressive teachers.

## Rylands 11 ask for support

ELEVEN Rylands High School teachers have been struggling to find work since they were dismissed at the end of 1985.

Some of them are still out of work more than a year after they lost their jobs at the height of the 1985 student uprising when many teachers supported the student struggle by refusing to administer the final examinations.

"We were out of work for the first few months of last year and applied for work under the 'coloured' education department. We got work in June.

"At the end of last year we went on holiday as usual thinking we would just go back to the same schools this year. However, when we came back from holiday we received letters stating that our services were no longer required. We first had to re-apply to the indian authorities before the coloured authorities would be prepared to take us back," one of the teachers said.

"We are now all looking for jobs, some of us have gone on many interviews in the private sector without success. Some of us are running small stalls to feed our families. We have also been assisted greatly by the community," he said.

### LIFE LINE CARES

DEPRESSED? ANXIOUS? LONELY?  
If you are facing a personal problem phone 46-1111 or call in at 56 Roeland Street, Cape Town.  
10 am - 7 pm weekdays.

## Muslims rally against Ahmadias

ABOUT 1 800 muslims met in the Athlone Civic Centre on Tuesday night to demonstrate their opposition to the Ahmadias and to further payment of any money demanded by them.

The meeting convened by Call of Islam was addressed by Mr Hassan Khan, Farida Abdullah, Ebrahim Rasool and Maulana Farid Esack.

Ebrahim Rasool explained that large sums of money had been spent in the legal battle against the Ahmadias, with the latter making unending financial demands.

"It was at this point that all the progressive organisations in the muslim community said so far and no further."

The community collectively decided to act on the matter. We decided that they are not muslims and should not be allowed in our mosques," Rasool said.

He referred to the Ahmadias as the "wit-doeke in our midst". "They are here to subvert our struggle at a time when our country is



Mr Hassan Khan addresses a packed Athlone Civic Centre on Tuesday 10 February

on the verge of absolute nazism. They are here to divert us."

Maulana Farid spoke of the tragedy of thousands of rands and an incredible amount of energy going to the Ahmadias case when "thousands of our people are languishing in prison without it even being permissible to publish

their names. At a time like this a community committed to the establishment of justice is saddened with a court case like this."

He dealt at length with the Ahmadias rejection of the finality of prophethood and the issue of the second coming of the Prophet Esa.

Referring to the courts,

Maulana Farid said that these are the very same courts that banished people like Nelson Mandela and Achmad Cassem to Robben Island, that found no one responsible for the death of Imam Haroon, despite countless wounds on his body.

Maulana Farid concluded: "Historically, the

Ahmadias stand condemned as apostates because of the clear stand that they took for oppression against God and against the oppressed in undivided India. When the Muslims declared Jihad (holy war) against the British, they supplied horses, soldiers and informers to them."

## UDF president detained

THE president of the United Democratic Front in the Western Cape, Zoli Malindi, was detained near his home in Guguletu last month.

Malindi, a diabetic, had been on his way home to fetch his

medicine and have supper. As a diabetic, he is on a special diet.

Mrs Letty Malindi said her husband had been on the run since last June and only came home sometimes.

She recently stopped

working in the hope that she would be able to spend more time with her husband.

They have been married for 35 years, much of which had been taken up by detentions

and banning orders.

Mrs Malindi, 65, has herself experienced detention. In 1960, she lost a baby while she and her husband were both in detention under the emergency regulations.

Since then, her husband has been in and out of detention.

He was detained in 1961 under the 12-day law. In 1963, he served two terms under the 90-day law with another 90 days in detention in 1965.

On his release he was banned. The banning order was lifted in 1977 but he remains a listed person and cannot be quoted.

He was elected Western Cape president of the UDF early in 1985. In August 1985 he was detained in Pretoria under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act. This was at the time of the Pollsmoor March to demand the release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners.

Malindi was detained under the 1985 emergency

## ANC trial postponed

THE tiny town of Hermanus was sealed off by roadblocks two weeks ago when hundreds of people gathered near the regional court for the trial of 15 Cape Town men charged with treason, terrorism and furthering the aims of the African National Congress.

At 8.30am the court was packed and many more people waited to be allowed inside.

A man warned the crowd that they were not going to be allowed into the court which was already filled with relatives and friends.

The sound of crowds singing freedom songs inside the courtroom could be heard clearly from the street.

A few minutes later, a large prison truck arrived with the 15 accused. Their singing could be heard clearly, and the truck swayed from side to side as they stamped their feet.

As the truck swung into the grounds of the court, the 15 stuck their fists out of the tiny windows on the side. They were obviously in high spirits.

When the 15 entered the courtroom there was near hysteria as relatives reached out to touch them. Most of them looked fit and healthy, despite having been in detention since April last year.

Court orderlies and reaction unit policemen stood quietly as the 15 and spectators stood to attention and sang.

The court proceedings were over in less than five minutes and the hearing was postponed.

The trial will continue on April 21 in Cape Town



# Blanket of silence hides the truth.

THE December 12 press regulations which greatly shocked many people locally and internationally has thrown a virtual blanket of silence over the situation in our country.

No longer do newspapers in this country carry stories on security force actions, rent and consumer boycotts, meetings and funerals which have had restrictions placed upon them, alternative structures like street committees and people's courts. The detention, circumstances of arrest and treatment of detainees cannot be reported in terms of the December regulations. Newspapers cannot also report on the release of a person held in terms of the emergency regulations.

The above-mentioned matters can only be reported in a newspaper or other publication if it is "announced or released or authorised for publication by a member of the cabinet or of a Minister, Council, a Deputy Minister or a spokesman of the Government." It can also be published if it appears from debates, documents or proceedings of Parliament or the Presidents Council.

Furthermore, the taking of photographs of "arrest or security action" is not permitted unless prior consent is obtained from the Commissioner of Police.

These regulations impose the most harsh and strict controls on the press in the history of this country. But they are not the only regulations. There exist many other press laws governing the media, which have been in existence for many years.

These regulations together with other emergency regulations have been described as giving the police and SADF the license to kill under cover of darkness. It also aims at giving the impression to whites in the country and the international community that the Government had things very much under control.

We know this is not true. If it was true that the situation was normalising in this country, why then will thousands in detention.

The truth is that the spirit of resistance in hundreds of townships throughout the land cannot be quelled. This spirit of resistance runs deep. It is something which an amount of intimidation or force on the part of the Government can stop. Bullets, teargas, detentions, police and army raids, vicious laws will not quench the thirst of our people for freedom from oppression and exploitation.

A news blackout is no solution. It only serves to create a false sense of security amongst a small minority in this country who prefer to believe that all is well.

Grassroots believes that now, more than ever all South Africans, both black and white, should unite under the banner of progressive organisations and strive towards a free and democratic South Africa where the people, all the people, shall govern.

## GREGORY STARTS PRISON TERM

ON Sunday February 1, Gregory Harold Arthur, 21, sat down to Sunday lunch with his family. It was the last home-cooked meal he would have for 18 months.

On Monday at 1.45 p.m., he stood at the gate of Pollsmoor Prison, saying goodbye to his mother whom he would next see through the thick glass screen in the prison.

Gregory was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment for public violence.

On September 3 1985, Gregory was arrested in Concert Boulevard in Strensberg, after student demonstrations. He was a 5th, 9 pupil at Strensberg High.

He was one of a group of students arrested for throwing stones at a policeman.

He was held at Pollsmoor for two weeks, before he was released on R200 bail.

After his court appearance, Gregory was sentenced to four years in prison. His family appealed against the sentence, and it was reduced to three years, of which 18 months were suspended.

His family was still not satisfied with the sentence, and the case went to the highest court in the land, the Appeal Court in Bloemfontein.

On January 26, the Appeal Court turned down his appeal, and Gregory was told to report at Pollsmoor on February 1, to begin his 18 month sentence.

"Gregory cried bitterly when his attorney told him that they had lost the appeal," his mother, Mrs Margaret Arthur said.

Gregory's attorney, Mr Theobald Abertus, said that all legal opt-

ions to see him from prison had been exhausted.

A group of teachers and pupils campaigned to see him from prison. They were supported by the Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Reverend Desmond Tutu.

25 000 people signed a petition calling for leave to appeal against his sentence. The Chief Justice, Mr P J Bhebe, turned it down.

A few days before Gregory's sentence began, he received a giant card from the pupils and staff of Strensberg High, which read: "Be strong - stand firm Gregory we are united behind you - our brother and friend."

Gregory is an ardent football player. He belongs to a local club, the Manchester Rovers.

His fellow team-mates held an honorary match for him the day before he went to prison.

Gregory was very concerned about going to prison. He was worried that he might have to share a cell with common-law prisoners.

"The only thing that I plan to do while I'm in prison is write music," he said.

## Youth released after serving 14 months

"AFTER being in prison for almost a year and a half, I am now ready to face the world. My experience here's weakened me, it has made me much stronger."

These are the words of Phillip Golith, a 20-year-old Oudshoorn student who was released from prison last week after successfully winning an appeal against his four-year

# GROWING UP IN A TIME OF STRUGGLE



THE plight of thousands of young children in detention under emergency regulations has been a source of deep concern among millions of South Africans. In many cases, the situation has evoked bitterness and anger, especially among parents. But the suffering of our children in our country goes beyond the noise of detentions only. Children, from little babies to youth in their late teens, often become victims of various forms of trauma. Very young children suffer psychologically when a parent is detained or harassed. Others are deeply affected by the violence in the townships which has been brought about by years of apartheid rule. Many youth, both male and female have to endure terms of imprisonment for actions which are politically motivated. As Grassroots goes to print, nine Wynberg pupils face the prospect of going to jail for periods of one to three years for public violence. Their appeal was heard on February 18. On these pages we focus on the plight of children and youth who in some way or other have been drawn into the people's resistance against apartheid.

## Campaign to free children grows

THE campaign to free children in detention is growing. Initiated by the Black Sash, the campaign has already drawn the support of a wide range of organisations, from the United Democratic Front and the Detainees Parents Support Committee to churches and organisations dealing with children's education.

**Will Parliament free our children?**  
On walks all over the townships, the question is written: "Will parliament free our children?" This was the same question asked by Black Sash members who protested at the opening of parliament.

And while parliament opened with all its pomp and ceremony, a 20-hour vigil for detained children took place at St. George's Cathedral, virtually on the doorsteps of parliament.

The vigil started the evening before the opening of parliament and ended at 2 p.m. the next day. While MP's and soldiers paraded through the streets of Cape Town, a group of concerned people varying in numbers from 100 to 500 at different times - prayed for the release of children in detention.

**Doosak**  
The vigil started with a service addressed by Dr Alan Doosak, Mrs Leah Tutu and the Black Sash's Mary Burton.

Calling for the release of children in detention, Dr Doosak said he was "deeply concerned that literally generations of children in the townships

have not been able to grow up as normal children".

Throughout the night, people prayed for detained children, listened to speakers on the effects of detention and sang hymns and freedom songs.

The lunchtime service to end the vigil was led by the Anglican Dean of Cape Town, the Rev Edward King. Messages were delivered by Dr Doosak, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Catholic Archbishop Stephen Neidoo and Mrs Patricia Owar.

A message of support was received from the Jewish community in Cape Town endorsed by the Jewish Board of Deputies.

Dr Doosak said it appeared that the campaign started in November last year to secure the release of children from detention before Christmas had failed.

"It is tragic that those in power did not hear the call. It makes us even more anxious and afraid, not only for what may be happening to our children now, but for the future as well."

"The only thing more tragic is the desire of this government to cover up these events, for the TV and radio to pretend our country is normal so that can have their white-only election and forget what is really happening," Dr Doosak said.

Archbishop Tutu said the government last year "abominably admitted that there were 256 children under 16 in detention".



Mrs Bulelwa Cindy Tinto and her baby Yolande soon after the detention of her husband, UDF vice-president Christmas Tinto.

## Sneak visit to wife and baby ends in detention

A sneak visit to his wife and three-week-old baby ended in detention for Christmas Fihla Tinto, the Western Cape vice-president of the United Democratic Front.

Tinto, who had been in hiding from the police since June last year, was detained at his home at 6.30 a.m. on Tuesday January 27. He had arrived at home only about 20 minutes earlier.

Mrs Bulelwa Cindy Tinto said her husband had not slept at home since the state of emer-

gency declared in June last year. He often went home for breakfast and to see his newborn baby, Yolanda.

"A number of plain-clothes policemen in four cars came to detain him. One of them smiled and said they had caught a big fish," Mrs Tinto said.

She said the detention had taken her by surprise because her husband had been avoiding the police for a long time.

"The detention is affecting everyone in the family. Everyone

had been supporting him throughout the time he was in hiding," she said.

Tinto has a long history of detention and harassment. He was detained under the last emergency and restricted on his release.

The couple were married in 1982 and have two other children, twins Zokile and Zokiso, who are almost three years old.

Tinto's first wife, Pholiso, died in 1979. They have three children.

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# G UP IN A STRUGGLE

THE plight of thousands of young children in detention under emergency regulations has been a source of deep concern among millions of South Africans.

In many cases, the situation has evoked bitterness and anger, especially among parents.

But the suffering of our children in our country goes beyond the issue of detention only.

Children, from little babies to youth in their late teens, often become victims of various forms of trauma.

Very young children suffer psychologically when a parent is detained or harassed.

Others are deeply affected by the violence in the

townships which has been brought about by years of apartheid rule.

Many youth, both male and female have to endure terms of imprisonment for actions which are politically motivated.

As Grassroots goes to print, nine Wynberg pupils face the prospect of going to jail for periods of one to three years for public violence. Their appeal was heard on February 16.

On these pages we focus on the plight of children and youth who in some way or other have been drawn into the peoples' resistance against apartheid.

## Campaign to free children grows

THE campaign to free children in detention is growing.

Initiated by the Black Sash, the campaign has already drawn the support of a wide range of organisations, from the United Democratic Front and the Detainees Parents Support Committee to churches and organisations dealing with children's education.

### Will Parliament free our children?

On walls all over the townships, the question is written: "Will parliament free our children?"

This was the same question asked by Black Sash members who protested at the opening of parliament.

And while parliament opened with all its pomp and ceremony, a 20-hour vigil for detained children took place at St. George's Cathedral, virtually on the doorsteps of parliament.

The vigil started the evening before the opening of parliament and ended at 2 p.m. the next day.

While MP's and soldiers paraded through the streets of Cape Town, a group of concerned people varying in numbers from 100 to 500 at different times - prayed for the release of children in detention.

### Boesak

The vigil started with a service addressed by Dr Allan Boesak, Mrs Leah Tutu and the Black Sash's Mary Burton.

Calling for the release of children in detention, Dr Boesak said he was "deeply concerned that literally generations of children in the townships

have not been able to grow up as normal children".

Throughout the night, people prayed for detained children, listened to speakers on the effects of detention and sang hymns and freedom songs.

The lunchtime service to end the vigil was led by the Anglican Dean of Cape Town, the Rev Edward King. Messages were delivered by Dr Boesak, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Catholic Archbishop Stephen Naidoo and Mrs Farieda Omar.

A message of support was received from the Jewish community in Cape Town endorsed by the Jewish Board of Deputies.

Dr Boesak said it appeared that the campaign started in November last year to secure the release of children from detention before Christmas had failed.

"It is tragic that those in power did not hear the call. It makes us even more anxious and afraid, not only for what may be happening to our children now, but for the future as well.

"The only thing more tragic is the desire of this government to cover up these events, for the TV and radio to pretend our country is normal so they can have their whites-only election and forget what is really happening," Dr Boesak said.

Archbishop Tutu said the government last year "shamelessly admitted that there were 256 children under 16 in detention".



Mrs Bulelwa Cindy Tinto and her baby Yolande soon after the detention of her husband, UDF vice-president Christmas Tinto.

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Tinto's first wife, Pauline, died in 1979. They have three children.

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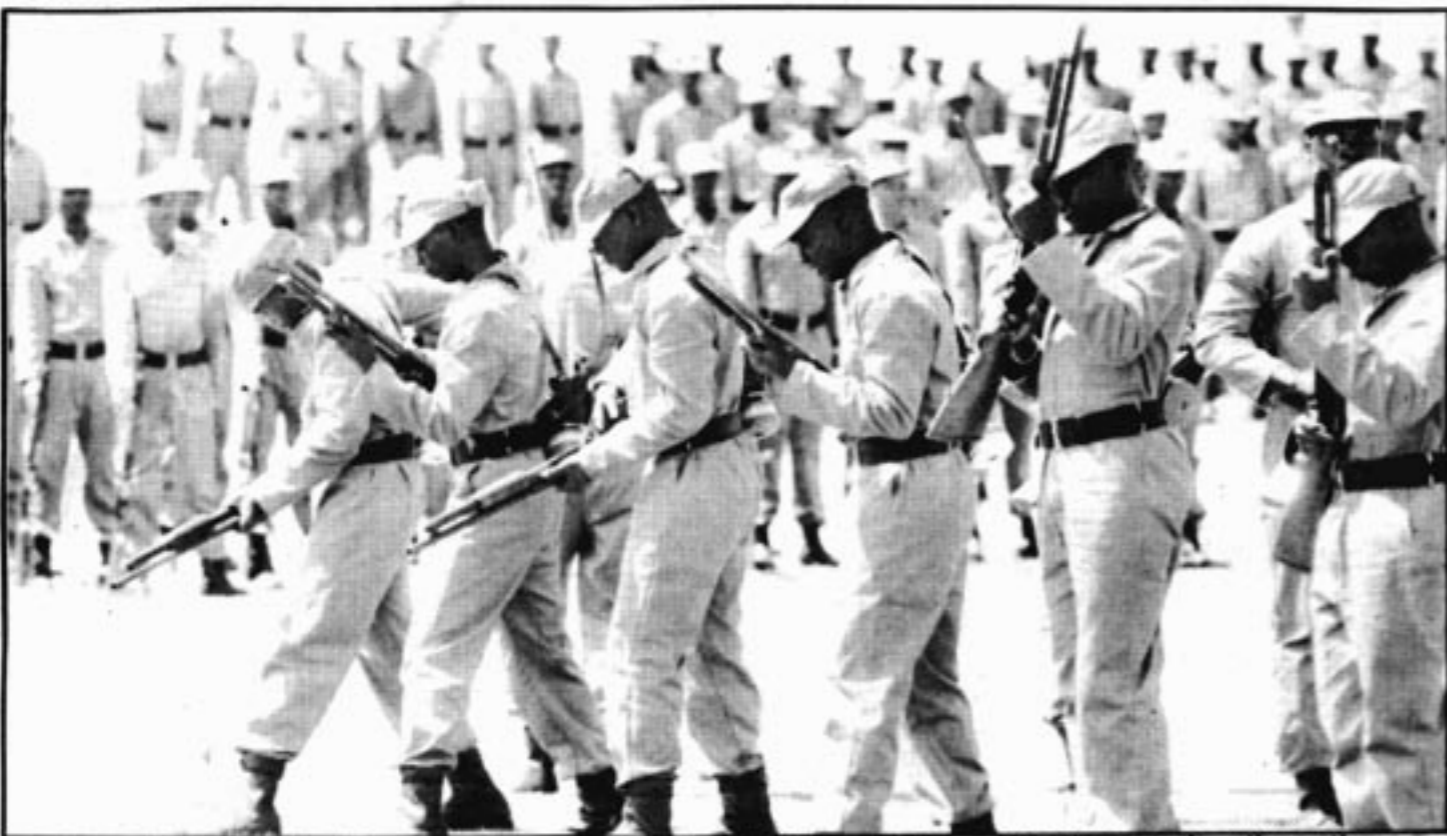
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In the last few months, there have been incidents of kitskonstables, shooting each other, themselves and being attacked by the community. Now a KTC woman has told her kitskonstabel husband... "Resign or I leave."

## Wife tells kitskonstabel... Take off that Uniform!

A KTC woman discovered her husband had become a special policeman (kitskonstabel) when he did not come home for two weeks after he went to look for work.

Now Mrs Jane Nokuzola Mabilokazi, 36, has given her husband Wilmot, 37, the choice: "Either you resign from

the kitskonstabels or stay out of my life."

Mrs Mabilokazi said her husband went to look for work at the beginning of January.

"He just stayed away and after a while I started to look for him.

"I went to the BAAB offices but they said they don't know him. They suggested I

should go to the Nyanga police station to find out if he had signed up to become a kitskonstabel.

"Nyanga police refused to check their list for my husband's name so I went to Woodstock and then to Cape Town police where I eventually got a number for the kits-

konstabel training camp.

"I phoned two camps on Friday January 16 but both did not know of my husband.

"That same day my husband had arrived at his mother's place in Guguletu after a short training period.

"His parents sent a message to me to come to their place and I was shocked when I saw Wilmot in full kitskonstabel uniform.

She said her husband had been unemployed for more than two years after he lost his job as a labourer at a furniture shop.

Mrs Mabilokazi works as a domestic worker.

They have three children: Livingstone (11), Pumla (10) and Thembi (5).

## Bus companies agree to township demands

THE Transport Co-ordinating Committee, a body elected by organisations in the Townships has forced the bus companies to bring down fares to the Transkei and Ciskei.

Bus fares to the Transkei and Ciskei went up by R10 in December last year, angering residents who felt that the increase were unfair.

A trip to the Ciskei cost R40 and to the Transkei R60 after the increase.

Bus companies said that an increase in costs forced them to put up their prices.

The transport Co-ordinating Committee, consisting of several township youth, student

and worker organisations, met with the owners of the companies last year.

They threatened to take action against the companies if the fares were not brought down to the old prices.

They gave the companies till February 6 to decide what they were going to do.

On Friday, February 6, the companies announced that the fares were going to be decreased to the old price.

A spokesman for the Transkei Blue Line company, said they felt it was "safer" if they gave in to the community demands.

The other grievances which will be discussed

with the companies are:

No overcrowding on the buses.

No extra payment for luggage.

Insurance for passengers who are injured in bus accidents.

PEOPLE in New Crossroads have not been paying rent for two years now. They started boycotting rents in January 1985. The boycott started after a mass meeting was held in December 1984 to discuss the latest rent increase. The people unanimously rejected annual rent increases.

In January 1985 hundreds of New Crossroads women took part in protest marches and demonstrations to the Administration Board offices.

The people demanded:

Rents that people can afford;

Rents should be calculated according to the size of the houses

Pensioners and widows should either be catered for or exempted from paying rent;

Water meters should be taken out and no water payments should be demanded.

Any issue concerning housing should be discussed with the community and not the puppets appointed by

the Board. Delegations to the Administration Board were referred to the community councillors. The people were not prepared to meet with the councillors and are still awaiting a response from the Board.

New Crossroads residents seem determined not to pay rent. "We will not pay

# OK STRIKERS STAND FIRM

THE eight-week-old strike by thousands of Ccauwsa members at more than 100 stores of OK Bazaars country-wide, could drag on for a long time still.

The strikers, all members of Ccauwsa (Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers Union of South Africa) have been gaining the support of an increasing number of organisations.

Organisations that have already pledged supports includes the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) of which Ccauwsa is an affiliate and the council of Unions of South Africa (CUSA).

The United Democratic Front (UDF), Release Mandela Campaign and a host of other civic and youth organisations have thrown their weight fully behind the striking workers.

### The demands

The workers demands include:

- A R160 a month wage increase, backdated to last April.
- A minimum wage of R450 a month.
- The woman workers on maternity leave also receive the same increases as other workers.
- Workers in the bantustans get the same benefits as their urban colleagues.

The abolition of the anniversary increase system, whereby workers received annual increments on the month of the year they joined the company.

OK management has offered an increase of R85

Early in the strike talks broke down when OK refused to accede to the workers demands.

### Wages

The workers, through the union Ccauwsa have persistently claimed that OK pays starvation wages

A spokesperson for OK said that with a R85 increase every full-time employee would earn "well above the R300 a month mark".

The union counted that the figures were aimed at misleading the public.

A spokesperson said a few weeks ago "OK is hiding behind the emergency regulations as newspapers are not reporting half of what is happening to our members and the various forms of persecution and intimidation they face every day during the strike.

Between 9 and 10 000 workers are on strike.

Community organisations have threatened to take various kinds of action against OK Bazaars. These cannot be specified.

The strike is especially strong in Transvaal, the Eastern Cape and Natal. Just over 100 workers are on strike in the Cape. They are mainly from the warehouses.

## Residents rename streets

NEW CROSSROADS' residents have decided to rename the streets after a 2 year rent boycott.

A resident of New Crossroads told GRASSROOTS: "We decided to rename the streets because most of them were named after people we don't even know.

"For example, there was a Koornhof St. There was also a street named after Nxobong-

wane, who is the leader of the Witdoeke.

"Koornhof does not live here. We do not know why he must be honoured. And we were not consulted when the streets were named."

A woman said, "I think its good to rename the streets in honour of our comrades. Now we have J. Modise St., Solomon Mahlangu St. and Joe Slovo St."

## New Crossroads rents protest continues

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the Board. Delegations to the Administration Board were referred to the community councillors. The people were not prepared to meet with the councillors and are still awaiting a response from the Board.

New Crossroads residents seem determined not to pay rent. "We will not pay

rents until all our demands are met," one resident said.

Delegations to the Administration Board were referred to the community councillors. The people were not prepared to meet with the councillors and are still awaiting a response from the Board.

New Crossroads residents seem determined not to pay rent.

"We will not pay

### Kitskonstabels

Asked whether the presence of kitskonstabels were not scaring them, one resident said:

"Yes, they are a threat, but from the experience we've had with the witdoeke, we have learnt that the people always win.



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THREE railway workers who lost their jobs in August last year after being accused of stealing a bag of rice are back at work.

The men, with a combined service of 73 years, returned to work last month after the Cape Town Supreme Court overruled their suspension.

Tsatsmana Ngolisi, Kekana Ntilini and Joseph Tsholoba work as sweepers for the South African Transport Services at Table Bay Harbour. They are members of the South African Railways and Harbours Workers Union. (SARHWU).

The court found that the men's suspension had been unfair and ordered that they be reinstated immediately with the salaries backdated to August last year.

The workers received a total of R3 900,37 in back pay. Ngolisi received R1 577,72; Ntilini R1 243,53 and Tsholoba R1 079,12.

Isholoba, who has worked at SATS for 29 years, said he was happy to get his job back.

"I did not expect it and was surprised because most times people don't get their jobs back when they are suspended. Before SARHWU came, the other workers were saying that outside unions cannot fight against SATS because SATS is too powerful. They

have been wrong," he said.

Kekana, who has 22 years service, said he was glad that they had approached SARHWU to help.

"Not only did we get reinstated, we also got backpay," he said.

SARHWU branch secretary Denis Makati said the court decision was a victory for the union. He called on all workers to join SARHWU and leave the staff associations which "have done nothing for the workers".

In a previous Grassroots the workers explained how they were suspended.

Ngolisi said he and Ntilini were sweeping outside the stores on August 20 when they saw a bag of rice outside its proper place.

"We tried to find a foreman to put it into the storeroom which was locked.

"As we could not find the foreman we decided to take the rice to the messroom where Tsholoba worked. We were stopped by the superintendent who said we were stealing the rice.

"We tried to explain but he would not listen and called the police. We spent the night in jail and appeared in court the next day.

The men were then told by SATS that they were suspended pending the outcome of the court case.

# They said we couldn't do it . . .

## 'Sarhwu makes us powerful'



Mr Tsholoba and Mr Kekana delighted with their backpay and reinstatement, after 5 months suspension.

## 'Foremen treat us like dogs'

"THESE foremen make our lives a misery. They treat us like dogs, call us rude names. (SARHWU) has recently taken up several cases of workers who have been unfairly dismissed or badly treated by foremen.

"The foremen think they can do what they want" a SARWU organiser told us. "They do not abide by the regulations. If they are in a bad mood, or if they don't like a worker, they will find some reason to dismiss him. Or they will demote him, or force him to work overtime. We have also received many complaints of workers being assaulted by the foremen.

"These are just some examples of cases we have taken up recently:

- A worker was given leave by the foreman, but the foreman didn't register the leave with management. The worker came back from his leave late, because he was sick. When he came back, the foreman tore up his doctor's certificate and dismissed him

- A foreman dismissed a worker for refusing to work overtime.

"The union has taken up all these cases, and the workers have been reinstated. But there are hundreds of cases which we never hear about."

"The Staff Association never challenges the foremen," a worker told GRASSROOTS.

"That is why I am pleased now we have SARHWU. The only way we can make these foremen treat us properly is if the workers unite.

## 'Sarhwu is OUR union'

GRASSROOTS: Why did you join SARHWU?

CUBE & MPAWUSI: The workers at SATS have many problems. The supervisors treat us very badly, the working conditions are very dangerous, and our wages are very low.

We have this organisation called the Staff Association, but this does nothing for us. Then we heard about this union SARHWU that was fighting for the rights of workers, and we decided we must join.

GR: COULD YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT THE STAFF ASSOCIATION?

C & M: The Staff Association is supposed to help the workers. But it does nothing. It is not controlled by the workers, but by the bosses.

Mr Cube was a Shop Steward for the Staff Association, because he wanted to fight for the workers. But the Staff Association is too scared to fight. The Chairperson and Secretary are elected by the bosses, and they just do what they want without consulting the shop stewards.

We have to pay money to the Staff



Mr Gordon Cube (left) and Mr Mzinkhulu Mpwusi (right) talk about Sarhwu

MZINKHULU Mpwusi is the national vice-president of SARHWU. He started working in SATS in 1983. His family is in Beaufort West, but he works in Cape Town, and lives in the SATS hostel.

As a labourer, he earns R302 per month.

Association, but we never see what they do with this money.

The Staff Association tries to divide the workers. They separate Coloured and African workers. But we are all workers with the same problems and we need to stand together.

CORDON Cube is the Chairperson of the Cape Town Region of SARHWU. He joined SATS in 1956, as a driver. He lives in Khayelitsha, and spends 4 hours each day getting to and from work. After 30 years with SATS, he is only

GR: IS SARHWU CONTROLLED BY THE WORKERS?

C & M: Yes, SARHWU is a workers' union. The workers make all the decisions - what our demands are, how we must fight for our demands. Then the work-

earning R527 per month. He has 8 children, and finds that his wage is not nearly enough to feed them all. GRASSROOTS spoke to Mzinkhulu Mpwusi and Gordon Cube about SARHWU (South African Railways and Harbours Union.)

ers elect the Shop Stewards, and the other officials to take their demands to general meetings. In this way, we work together with all SATS workers.

The workers also decide on the activities of the union, how the money is used and so on.

## Dairy workers show their support

IN A BIG show of support, about 250 workers at the Dairymaid ice-cream factory in Epping came out of strike last month to try to save the jobs of 155 ice-cream vendors who face retrenchment.

The workers were on strike for a week. They demanded that the Dairymaid bosses suspend the retrenchments until March 31 and speak to the Food and Allied Workers Union (FAWU) about saving the jobs.

FAWU represents most of the workers at Dairymaid. They said the bosses did not have to sack the 155 workers. They could save money in other ways.

The bosses want to close four Dairymaid depots which they claim were "unprofitable". They said the 155 workers would have to leave by January 31.

When the other workers heard this, they came out on strike on January 16. Their strike was supported by about 550 workers at the Dairybelle factory who also came out on a short strike.

They were also promised support by work-

ers at other factories organised by FAWU. These included about ten factories of the Imperial Cold Storage and Tiger Group Company, both part of the Barlow Rand Group. These workers said they would refuse to supply Dairymaid with products.

The United Democratic Front and other organisations also pledged support to the strikers.

The strike ended when the bosses agreed to suspend the retrenchments and speak to the union first. The bosses had earlier refused to speak to FAWU, in spite of an agreement signed in November last year.

FAWU has now put a number of proposals to the bosses on how they can save money without putting off the workers.

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Action in the charity shield match between Everton and Liverpool last year. The match ended in a 1-1 draw. Now these two great clubs, together with Arsenal are favourites to win the league.

# ENGLISH LEAGUE HEADING FOR AN EXCITING FINISH

WITH 27 matches played, the English First Division programme has passed its halfway mark, and it is now possible to make some predictions as to the outcome of the championship.

The front runners are Arsenal, Everton and Liverpool, with Nottingham Forest and Tottenham Hotspur having an outside chance of taking the title.

Arsenal have been a revelation this season, finally shaking off their long-time label as a "boring" side. Youngsters like Tony Adams, Perry Groves and Martin Hayes have overshadowed established stars like Charlie Nicholas and Graham Rix, as Arsenal raced to the top of the league table.

Everton initially struggled, having sold England world cup hero

Gary Lineker to Barcelona of Spain, but they have recaptured the consistency which has made them an annual contender for league and cup honours.

Liverpool, who under player-manager Kenny Dalglish won the league and FA Cup last year, also face an immeasurable loss at the end of the season: Ian Rush, one of the best strikers in Europe, leaves to join Italian giants Juventus.

Rush is giving British fans something to remember him by though, and has already scored over 25 goals this season, helping Liverpool to challenge for the lead of the First Division.

Big spenders Tottenham Hotspur, have brought together some of the best talents in Britain for their title challenge. While Hoddle, Allen, Claesen and

company have thrilled the fans this season, don't be surprised if like star studded Manchester United last season, their consistency fades.

Nottingham Forest managed by the wily Brian Clough (incidentally a long time friend of the Anti-Apartheid Movement and other progressive causes in England) are enjoying one of their best seasons of recent years.

Forest's success is based on their younger players, with Des Walker, Franz Carr, Neil Webb and Clough's son Nigel representing some of the brightest prospects in English football.

Their skill and enthusiasm has taken Forest to within striking distance of the league leaders, but inexperience and injury problems have slowed Forest's progress, making it unlikely that they will win the league.

The League Cup final, scheduled for March should be a fascinating contest. It is likely to involve Liverpool and either Arsenal or Spurs. And there is no telling which way a cup-final encounter between these great sides could go.

The disappointment of the season is probably Manchester United (unless you're a Chelsea fan), who despite having some of the most talented (and expensive) footballers in Britain on their books, are struggling to avoid the relegation zone.

Our prediction is that the league champions will be from Liverpool, the city whose two clubs are Liverpool and Everton.

The FA Cup will be awarded in May, and the competition is still wide open, particularly since top clubs like Liverpool and Manchester United have been knocked out.

## West Indian batsmen fail in world series

WHILE South Africa's cricket establishment try to convince themselves that they are involved in a genuine international contest against the Australian rebels, the attention of the world community of cricket fans is elsewhere. Australia has recently been the scene of a major international series of one-day matches, with Australia, England, the West Indies and Pakistan contesting for the honour of being world one-day champions. This followed England's 2-1 test defeat of Australia.

The poor performances of Allan Border's official Australians led many South African newspapermen to suggest that Kim Hughes' rebel outfit were in fact the real Australian team. This is wishful thinking.

The official Australian's poor performances reflected an overall weakness in Australian cricket at present (and something of an English revival).

Border's men's revival in the one-day series, and the performance of stars like Dean Jones (who hit three centuries) and Steve Waugh, make it clear that very few of the rebels would have made the team.

The fact that Clive Rice's Springboks were only able to win one out of four five-day matches against the very poor rebel line-up highlights the weakness of South African cricket at present.

Years of isolation and the impossibility of non-racial cricket under apartheid have left their mark on cricket in South Africa.

The world series in

Australia held a few surprises. A year ago one might have expected the issue to be simply who would finish second behind the West Indies, whose fearsome pace attack of Marshall, Holding, Garner and Walsh is unequalled.

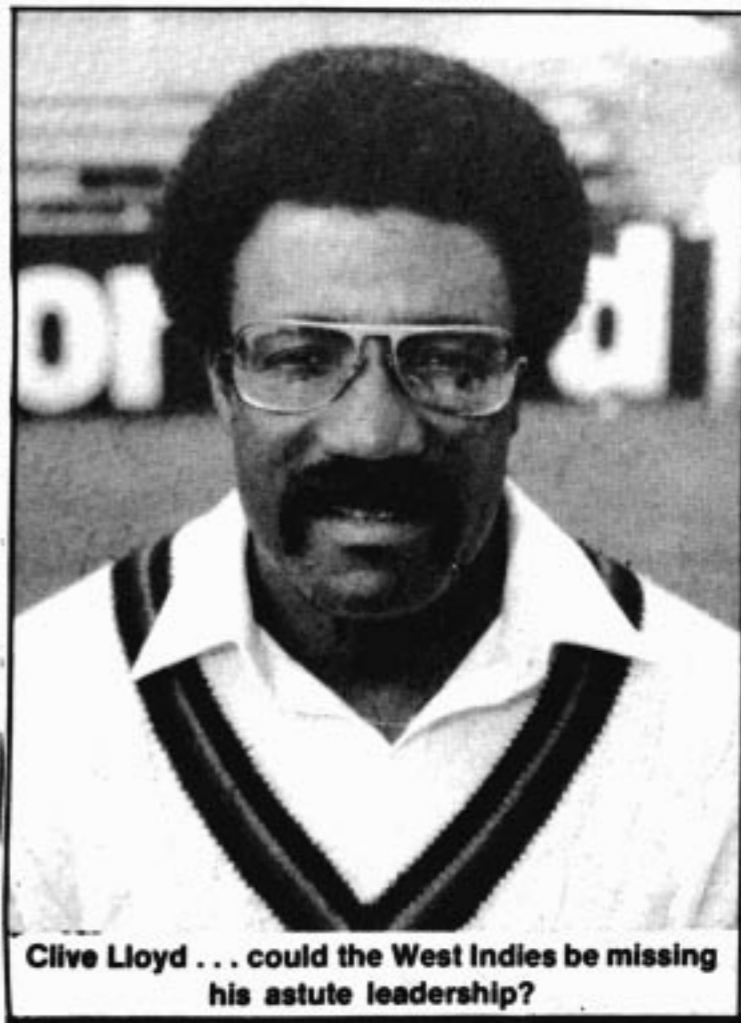
However, in the World Series the West Indies batting let them down on a number of occasions, with the passing of Haynes, Richards and Richardson often signalling dramatic collapse.

The result was a more evenly contested world series than ever. Despite some brilliant performances from Imran Kahn and Javed Miandad, Pakistan too fell by the wayside, leaving England and Australia to fight it out.

The English batsmen, particularly Broad, Athey and Gower have regained their confidence, while their bowlers have grown from strength to strength.

In all-rounder Ian Botham, England also have the greatest individual cricketer of the 80's. With the Australian's regaining their form, it promises a thrilling contest.

India and Pakistan provide the other major international with an evenly matched test series. Both teams are led by match winning all-rounders, Kapil Dev and Imran Kahn, and boast strong batting resources; the legendary Sunil Gavaskar (who has scored more test centuries than any batsman ever), Dilip Vengsarkar and the younger Mohamed Azarrudin for India; and Miandad supported by younger players like Shoaib Mohammed for Pakistan.



Clive Lloyd... could the West Indies be missing his astute leadership?

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