

# SPEAK

THE VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY



VOLUME ONE NUMBER 2

Price 10c

NOVEMBER 1982.

**SPEAK**  
needs your  
support and  
participation

## West Rand up in arms over rent increase

RESIDENTS in five West Rand Townships are up in arms about a West Rand Administration Board decision to raise their rents

Rents in the Dobsonville, Mohlakeng and Bekkersdal areas have been increased by up to R14. In Munsiesville, residents have to pay R21 more.

Kagiso residents who have been paying R15 per month, had their rents raised to R25 in November. Residents now face a further increase on the 1st January when rents will go up to R36. This is a total increase of over 100%.

Residents at mass meetings organised by

### Shack families stand firm

2000 families in Orlando East have defied an order by the Soweto Council to demolish their shacks. They are continuing to occupy their makeshift homes despite threats of legal action.

The residents decided to ignore the November 10th deadline to demolish their shacks, at an emergency meeting called by the Orlando East Civic Association.

"We are prepared to die rather than demolish our homes because we have nowhere else to go," said a resident at the emotion packed meeting. "The council should build new houses for us first. It is their duty to provide houses."

One speaker said the council had offered them loans but they were beyond their incomes.

The shack dwellers may now be taken to court for illegally building shacks. If they are convicted, the council may demolish and remove the shacks and recover the costs from the 'owners'.

The Civic Association plans to hold a mass meeting to discuss future action.

the Kagiso Residents' Organisation (KRO) and the Mohlakeng Civic Association (MOCA) have decided not to pay the increases.

"You should not allow these people to dig holes in your pockets. They should first clean these streets, tar them, electrify the township and make sure we earn enough," said a speaker at one of the meetings.

The Mohlakeng meeting was attended by over 3000 residents. Hundreds of people who couldn't get into the packed hall stood outside.

During the protest meeting, all shops in the area were closed.

Residents demanded to know why the 'local mayor', Mr. Alfred Thekwane was not at the meeting to explain the increases.

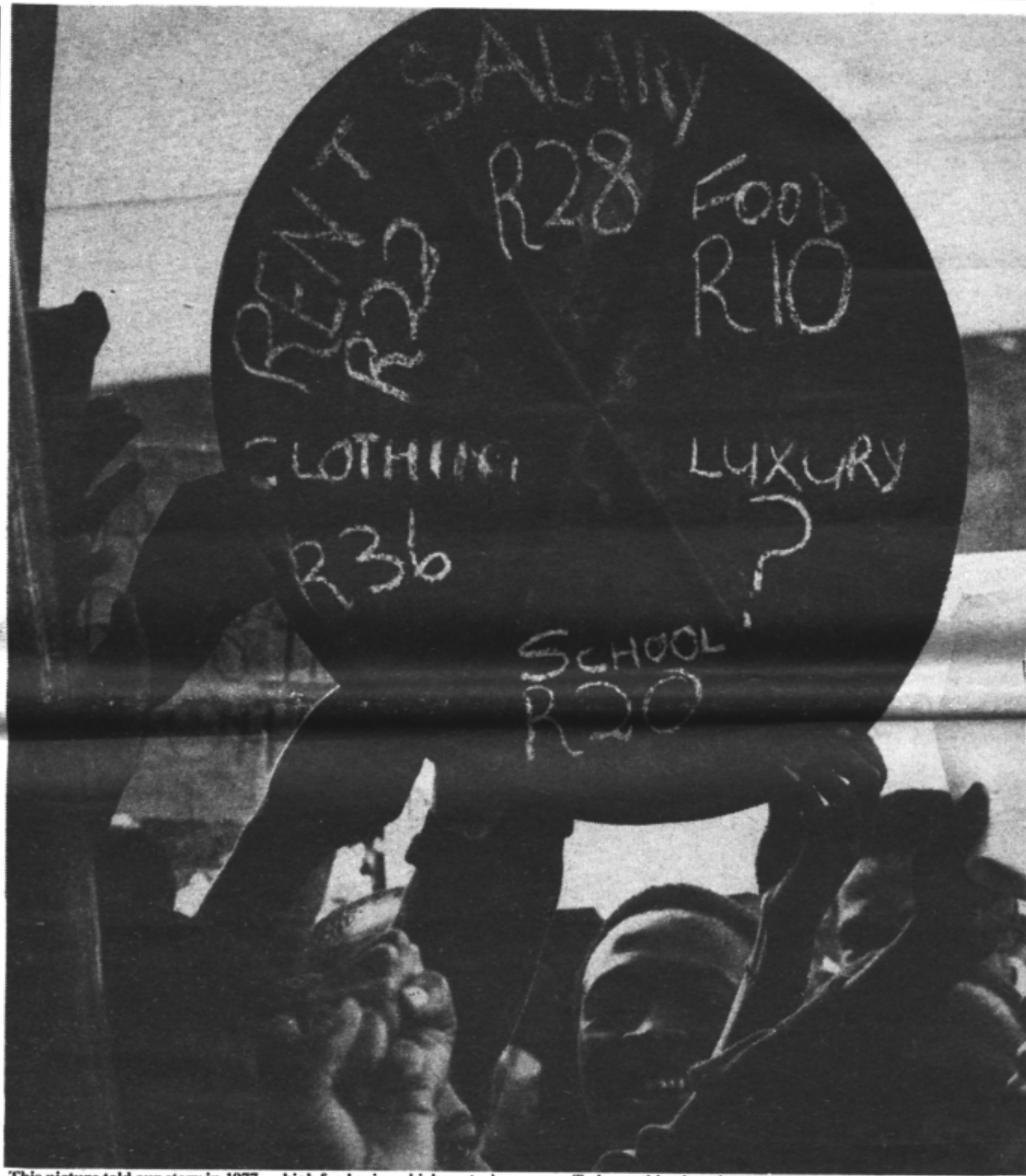
Mr. Thekwane had been invited to the meeting by MOCA. He refused to come, he said, because he was afraid for the safety of his life.

In Kagiso, residents mandated the executive committee of KRO to invite the Community Council to meet them to discuss the issue.

The Community Council did not attend the meeting and refused KRO the use of the local hall.

Residents decided not to pay the increases until the Community Council gave satisfactory reasons for the increases.

A petition protesting against the increases is being drawn up. The petition is to be handed to the West Rand Administration Board.



This picture told our story in 1977 — high food prices, high rents, low wages. Today nothing has changed

## JSE tenants resist eviction

TENANTS of Arenal House, Johannesburg, have almost won their struggle for alternative accommodation.

The Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) has agreed to approach the Minister of Community Development to discuss alternative accommodation for the

tenants. This was said by representatives of the Tenants Action Committee after a meeting with the JSE.

The tenants live on property wanted by the JSE for a parking lot.

The JSE began breaking down the building while families still lived

there.

The tenants vowed to continue staying in the building. They said that if they were evicted, they would camp outside the JSE building.

"We have lived in this building for nine years and have nowhere else to go," a tenant said.

"There is such a

shortage of houses. We have looked hard for other places."

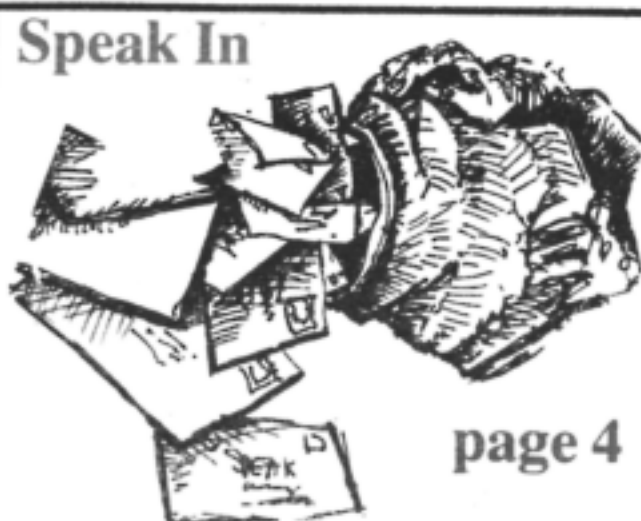
Tenants demanded that the JSE guarantee them alternative accommodation.

Many people and organisations came to the support of the tenants.

Including the Transvaal Anti-SAIC Committee, Actstop and the Federation of Residents' Association.

The JSE was forced to stop the demolition of the building, and has now agreed in principle to look for other homes for the tenants.

Inside



page 4

C.R.A.C.

fights  
rents

centrespread



No  
to  
Sri Lankan  
cricketers

page 5



# Management Comms prove ineffective

MANAGEMENT and Consultative committees in the "Indian" areas of the Transvaal are in disarray. The Consultative Committee of Potgietersrus and Warmbad have resigned, while in Laudium the Management Committee has prorogued itself until the housing crisis in the area is resolved.

The decision to remove "Indian" traders from the Potgietersrus own centre, prompted the entire Consultative Committee to resign. Mr A.B. Ismail, chairperson of the committee, expressed surprise at the move. "Especially since we enjoy a good relationship with supporters of the Nationalist Party", he said.

The chairperson of the Warmbad Consultative Committee, Mr Mohammed Cassim said: "We resigned because discussions with officials of various Government departments had not achieved anything".

These developments follow increasing pressure from communities for the scrapping of the Management Committee system and the resignation of its members.

The Transvaal Anti-SAIC committee (TASC) welcomed the resignation of consultative committee members.

Meanwhile in a leaflet distributed in Laudium, TASC slammed Mr Abramjee for not resigning from the Management Committee and the South African Indian Council (SAIC).

Commenting on the Government's decision to postpone Management Committee elections, a TASC statement

said it made no difference. "It is clear Government bodies are ineffective. They cannot solve our problems and they cannot be used to struggle for our demands. Our people will refuse to vote in any Management Committee election", it said.

HIGH electricity bills, rent increases, the inadequate bus services and other problems affecting the people of Diepkloof were discussed at a meeting called by the Diepkloof branch of the Soweto Civic Association.

The meeting held in mid-October was attended by about 200 Diepkloof residents.

The high electricity bills were condemned by Tom Manthata of the Soweto Civic Association. "How can one house receive a staggering bill of R900, and another larger house only pay R25 per month

# Civic brings residents together

for electricity," he asked.

People who were being forced to pay absurd amounts for electricity were requested to bring their bills to the Civic Association. The Civic promised to take up the issue with the authorities.

A delegation from the Civic who had met with Putco officials about the inadequate bus service reported back to the meeting.

They had been re-

quested by the Civic to ask Putco to build shelters at bus stops and to make bus time schedules readily available. They had also complained about the high bus fares and warned that another increase would make buses too expensive for many people.

"Putco promised to come back to us and they have not. In addition we have seen in the press that fares are going to be increased."

The meeting man-

dated the delegation to approach Putco for a second time.

The work of the Diepkloof Civic Association was encouraged by a speaker from the General and Allied Workers Unions. Most residents are also workers, he said. "Although our trade union is primarily concerned with issues in the factories, we feel that we need to take into account the problems workers face as residents."

The meeting was informed of the recent establishment of the Anti-Community Council Committee. It was founded initially to oppose the Community Council elections, said Mr I. Mogase, chairperson of the Diepkloof Civic Association. Although the elections have been postponed, he urged people to support the committee and actively oppose any future Community Council election.



A tenant of Arenel House gathers her belongings after the JSE began breaking the building down. The JSE has since stayed its plans to demolish the building.

# Arac questions AMC over bills

ACTONVILLE residents are convinced the area's Management Committee cannot solve their problems. This emerged following a closed meeting between the Actonville Rents Action Committee (ARAC) and the Actonville Management Committee.

The meeting was requested by ARAC well over two months ago to discuss residents' high electricity bills.

Town Council members present at the meeting revealed that certain extensions in Actonville had their meters read for a six-week period instead of the normal four weeks. Residents were charged for the full six weeks.

The council refused to refund residents for the overcharge.

The council also admitted that where water meters were inaccessible, estimations were made.

"These estimations were well above the normal monthly use, and the estimated consumption could fill a swimming pool", said Mr Vicky Padotan, chairperson of ARAC.

The ARAC delegation said it was clear that Management Committee and Town Council members were unaware of the hardships suffered by the people.

"All the questions posed to the Management Committee were answered by council employees", said an ARAC spokesperson. He condemned the Management Committee for refusing an open meeting and said it was a "clear example of the undemocratic way in which they operate".

- ARAC demanded:
- The council refund residents for the period they were overcharged.
  - All meters be rechecked and regularly read.
  - Residents be consulted on any increases.
  - Residents be notified five days in advance of any electricity cut.

# United action pays off at CNA

MEMBERS of the Commercial, Catering and Allied Worker's Union (Ccawusa) recently went on their fourth major strike this year — this time at the warehouses and stores of the Central News Agency (CNA).

About 20 stores were affected by the strike which was sparked off by wage demands and demands to recognise the union. More than 600 workers downed their tools since October 25.

The strike came in the wake of strikes at three other major chainstores — Woolworths, Greatmans and OK Bazaars — and at a time when Ccawusa is showing a dramatic growth.

Its membership is now estimated at 20 000. Ccawusa has been recruiting at CNA for a few months, and decided to arrange a meeting with CNA and a delegation of two union offi-

cial and three CNA workers.

The company initially agreed, but then wrote back in October to say only the officials could attend. The CNA workers then subsequently met and decided to go on strike.

In a surprise move, CNA agreed to give all workers a full month's pay despite the strike — an indication of how seriously it was taking the workers' demands.

CNA agreed to recognise the union, but has asked to be given until November 15 to look at the workers' minimum wage demand of R2.50 an hour.

It has not yet given Ccawusa a specific figure, but its members feel that recent increases have been unsatisfactory. The strike has been a victory for the workers up to now.

Firstly, striking workers will not be penalised if they return to work, and secondly, they have won recognition for their union.

**POONEE'S FUNERAL PARLOUR & DIRECTORS**  
 (Incorporating Poonee's Burial Aid)  
 EST. 1934

564 STEYTLER ST.  
 NEWCLARE  
 JOHANNESBURG  
 Night Phone 852-1546  
 852-1616  
 852-3181

P.O. BOX 36  
 24 CONCORD PLACE  
 LENASIA 1820  
 Day Phone 852-1615  
 852-4217  
 852-1016/7  
 27-2316

Our Motto: Service & Civility  
 Cooling Chambers Free Of Charge

**MEDICARE PHARMACY & MEDICINE DEPOT**

SHOP NO. 4 - 79 GEMSBOK STREET, LENASIA. PHONE 852-5111

**ACTONVILLE PHARMACY & MEDICINE DEPOT**

for all your  
 MEDICAL  
 COSMETICS &  
 PHOTOGRAPHIC  
 REQUIREMENTS

401 Mayet Drive Telephone: 54-0012  
 Actonville Ext. 2 (After Hours) 54-4663  
 Benoni

# Youth dies after white hospital denies help

A 20 year old youth from Roshnee, Shiraz Dada-bhay, was involved in a motor accident on Sunday 31 October.

He was seriously injured and rushed to the nearest hospital — a "white" hospital in Vereeniging.

Shiraz was refused admittance and got no medical treatment from the staff at the hospital. Suffering and in pain, he had to be rushed to a hospital for black patients in Sebokeng. Nearly 10 kilometres away.

The journey proved too long, and Shiraz was certified "dead on arrival".

"Shiraz would probably have lived, if he had been treated at the 'white's only' hospital," a member of the Roshnee Students' Movement said.

"It is only a probability, but it could have saved so much of pain and heartbreak."

"How many more lives will the Apartheid policy forsake?" she asked.



## Unionist gets support for taking stand

AT a recent meeting, workers of the JMCEU voted against the expulsion of their colleague, Mr. Terry Jeevanantham. Mr. Jeevanantham has been at the centre of a storm surrounding the election of the Executive Committee of the Johannesburg Combined Employees Union.

Mr Jeevanantham was expelled from his union because he criticised some of the members of the Executive. He was likely to lose his job because the union has a closed shop agreement with this employer, the Johannesburg City Council.

The closed shop agreement means that all workers must join the union when starting a job with the council. And they can not resign from the union unless

they resign from the council.

The incident began during the Executive Committee election campaign. Mr Jeevanantham was standing for re-election, and in his campaign letter he called for changes in the union.

He promised genuine representation, more contact between members and the union, and better participation of members in the affairs of the union. He called for the money in the Union Loan Scheme to be spent for the benefit of all members and suggested that a Bursary Fund be started to benefit the children of union members.

Mr Jeevanantham's letter was well received by the workers. But the chairperson of the Executive Committee, Mr Huntley, reacted very differently. He accused Mr Jeevanantham of being an "immature young upstart" with obnoxious tendencies and denied points made in Mr Jeevanantham's letters.

Mr Jeevanantham took legal action against Mr Huntley who was forced to apologise.

At the union's Annual General Meeting, the election was fiercely contested, and new people were elected to the Executive.

However, the vice-president of the old Exe-

cutive Mr Brian Isaacs, took the ballot boxes home and recounted the votes alone. This was contrary to the voting procedure adopted by the AGM and the union's constitution.

Mr Isaacs alleged that the votes had been incorrectly counted and hastily attempted to arrange for a re-election for one position. An urgent interdict to the Supreme Court prevented this illegal action.

However Mr Huntley, and the old Executive did not let the matter rest. They began engineering the expulsion of Mr Jeevanantham from the union and thus



Terry Jeevanantham

the loss of his job.

A general union meeting was called where the expulsion bid of Mr Jeevanantham was to take place.

Supporters of Mr Jeevanantham criticised the fact that the meeting was

called on a week day in central Johannesburg. They said it was a deliberate obstacle. Union members would experience problems in getting off work to attend the meeting.

The week before the meeting, residents of Lenasia came out in support of Mr Jeevanantham, and called on the union to stop its expulsion bid.

Mr Jeevanantham is a senior librarian in Lenasia, and has worked for the City Council for nine years.

The meeting however ended in failure for Mr Huntley and the old executive.

Members voted against Mr Jeevanantham's expulsion by 119 votes to 40.

"This is a victory for democracy," Mr Jeevanantham said. He said he stood for what he believed in, and the correctness of what he believed in was shown by the outcome of the meeting.

"This despite their intensive efforts to swing the vote," he said.

It has been learned that Mr Huntley is now considering giving shop stewards a vote.

"Stop stewards have never had a vote," a past secretary of the union said.

Supporters of Mr Jeevanantham said they viewed this move with suspicion.

## "Provide for the homeless" — FRA calls



Virgil Bonhomme  
DHAC

Speakers from the various affiliates of the FRA stressed the need for people to unite and to participate in their organisations.

The guest speaker, Mr Virgil Bonhomme of the Durban Housing Action Committee, said he brought a message of unity from over 70 organisations in Durban.

He blamed apartheid for the housing problem, and said "it was designed to make us sub-human".

"Basic essentials are increasing while wages remain the same. This is a deliberate manoeuvre to break the resistance of people. They want a situation where when they give you a piece — you will die for that piece," he said.

The meeting received statements of support from Dr Essop Jassat, chairperson of the Transvaal Anti-SAIC Committee, and Mr Anthony Morgan of the Coordinating Residents' Action Committee.

Other resolutions condemning the Sri Lanka cricket tour of South Africa, and the bread price increases were unanimously adopted.

MORE than 300 people called on the Government to "scrap its housing policies" and to "take steps to meet the desperate needs of the homeless", at a meeting in Lenasia last month.

The meeting was called by the Federation of Residents' Associations (FRA) to protest against the Government's housing policies and to express support for the residents of Thomsville.

Dr R.A.M. Saloojee, chairperson of the FRA slammed "corrupt practices" in the allocation of homes, and accused the department of Community Development for sanctioning this.

He spoke of the misery caused to people through "absentee landlords, backyard tenancy and rent racketeering".

Dr Saloojee called on people to join Residents' Associations and to "organise for that which is right".

Mr S. Pillay of the Thomsville Residents' Association spoke about life in a Thomsville slum. He said "life in two-rooms is unbelievable. You sleep with your wife on the floor, in a crowded house with no facilities".

He urged people to resist such a life by uniting.



Thomsville residents hold a torch vigil to highlight housing plight

## Thomsville residents get houses

ABOUT 30 Thomsville families have been allocated homes over the past few weeks, following the Thomsville Residents' Association's (TRA) campaign for rehousing.

On 30 August, 200 torch-bearing residents lined a street in Thomsville to demonstrate their opposition to the evictions that had taken place two weeks earlier, and to highlight their demand for decent homes.

People carried placards calling on the Lenasia Management Committee to resign. "Housing is a human right" and "We support the TRA", were slogans on other placards.

The TRA conducted a survey after the demonstration and submitted a memorandum to the Department of Community Development.

The memorandum demanded:

- Every family be rehoused.
  - That both income and family size be taken into account in the allocation of homes and calculation of rentals.
  - That the TRA be recognised as the representatives of the Thomsville people.
- The Department refused to recognise the TRA by claiming it did not have the mandate of Thomsville residents.

A petition signed by 90% of residents man-

dating the TRA to represent them, was then submitted to the Department.

The Department still refused to deal with the TRA and insists that they channel their demands through the Lenasia Management Committee.

A TRA spokesperson said, "Our memo states very clearly our rejection of the LMC. The Management Committee represents nobody

but itself."

He said there had been many allegations of

irregularities in the allocation of homes. "We

have tangible evidence which implicates certain people in bribery and corruption."

Some 20 families still remain in the "two-room" area. Unofficial sources said these families would be rehoused too.

## Police surprise city tenants

ON the 26th of October, tenants in a block of flats in Wanderers Street, Johannesburg, were surprised by policemen who stormed the building.

Tenants said the police abused them, threatened violence, and forced some of them out of bed.

About thirty people, including visitors who had come to see friends, were arrested and taken to the Hillbrow Police Station. They were charged with trespass-

ing and asked to pay admission of guilt fines. Some paid the fines and were released. Others were jailed and appeared in the Hillbrow Magistrates Court the next day. Charges against all the tenants were withdrawn.

Tenants were angry and were considering taking action against the police.

As they are considered to be living illegally in the central Johannesburg area, tenants live in daily fear of

being evicted.

Reports of police harassment have also been received from other parts of Johannesburg, including Hillbrow and Mayfair.

Tenants allege that the police are working with landlords in an attempt to intimidate them into leaving the premises.

"We are also forced to pay unscrupulous landlords large deposits and exorbitant rentals", a tenant said.



Tenants meet to discuss the police raid



# SPEAK

THE VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY



Share your ideas, comments and suggestions.

Write to us at:  
Speak  
P.O. Box 1677  
Excom  
Johannesburg  
2023

THE response to the first issue of SPEAK has been enthusiastic. Many people feel that it is necessary to have a community newspaper like SPEAK to talk about our problems and how we attempt to overcome them.

The hardships we face seem to have become greater over the last few months. The price of basic foodstuff like bread has gone up. Wages are not increasing and so many of us are losing our jobs.

Of particular importance now, is the big rent increases affecting many different areas. In many instances there have been no explanations for the increases.

We cannot afford such increases. Our communities are already far overburdened.

But as the burden increases, so will our struggles.

To achieve good health, comfort and security, we need to reject the suffering we experience and make demands for a better life.

These demands will be achieved only through our unity and involvement in democratic organisations of our own.

SPEAK aims to help in developing that unity of our people. This can only be done if SPEAK has the support and participation of the people.

## Congratulations

CONGRATULATIONS! At last we have a newspaper that we can call our own.

I was extremely happy when I saw the first issue of "Speak". Such a newspaper, reflecting our everyday problems in the townships, is long overdue.

Now we can read about the real issues affecting us — at school, at work and in the wider community. It is important for us to know how people in different townships are taking up these problems.

We have been fighting our individual battles for far too long. It is important for us to join hands and tackle these problems together.

A community-based newspaper such as

"Speak" will make this so much easier. To the people who took the initiative of launching it, I wish to say — keep up the good work.

M. Khan  
Newclare

I HAVE read the first copy of your newspaper and I was very happy about it.

It did not take me a minute to know that I have a definite interest in your paper.

I like your working structure and am keen to join in.

I belong to a group of not more than 10 people who are involved in community development.

Your paper being a community paper, I feel

entitled to write to you and establish some communication and also have a deep feeling that one has to be involved in a newspaper like "Speak" as a community worker.

Richard  
Tshiawelo

THE first issue of "Speak" looked extremely exciting. It covered topics which are often ignored in other newspapers.

I wish to make certain suggestions however which could help to jack-up "Speak" even more. Articles on the same topic (labour, for example) should be used on the same page if possible.

The first issue had articles laid out haphazardly all over the show. This made reading very clumsy. Articles on labour, housing problems and student topics were all lumped together.

I also feel that there should be an Advice Page similar to the one "Grassroots" has. It can be used to give medical tips, explain labour legislation, etc.

Another suggestion is that "Speak" has a regular column — what commercial newspapers call an editorial — to give guidance or ideas to the community.

The idea of an "editorial" might sound arrogant, but I feel "Speak" should make its stand clear about certain vital issues affecting the

community. A children's page would also fit in well. Children have been neglected for far too long as part of the community. I hope "Speak" things seriously about these suggestions.

Sharon  
Bosmont

WE at Grassroots in Cape Town welcome Speak.

Speak is part of the growing people's press in our country. This year community newsletters were started in other parts of the country. Gone are the days when we were silent and alone

We hope Speak will grow from strength to strength. That it will bring people together and help build people's organisations.  
GRASSROOTS



Our first issue of Speak was distributed and sold by community organisations, in shops and at stations. If you would like to help us get Speak to the community, contact us.

### Our paper must reach the people

## Video winner

THE lucky person to win a video machine in our raffle competition, is V.D. Mattura of Azaadville. She correctly answered that a commu-

nity newspaper represents the people. Speak would like to thank everyone for their generous support.



## DYERSONS AUTOMATIC CAR WASH

ELAND STREET • INDUSTRIAL SITES  
LENASIA • TELEPHONE 852-2821

**SPECIAL OFFER!**

**CAR WASH R2,00**

OFFER EXPIRES 25TH NOVEMBER, 1982

# SUBSCRIBE

SPEAK, P.O. BOX 1677, EXCOM, JOHANNESBURG, 2023

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Code: \_\_\_\_\_

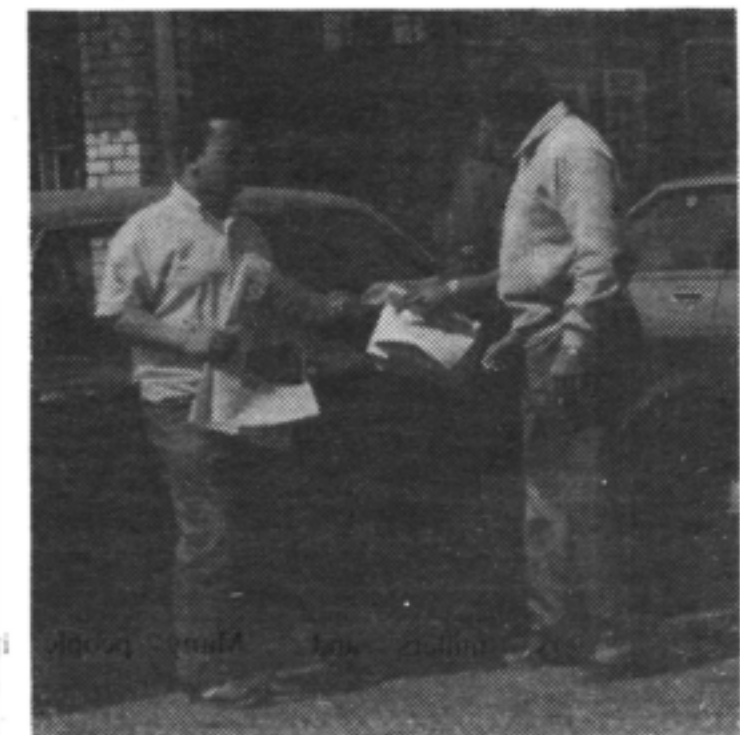
Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ (Home)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Work)

### YEARLY RATES BY DONATION

	SOUTH AFRICA	AFRICA & OVERSEAS
Individual	R 5.00	R10.00
Institution	R10.00	R20.00

ARAC sells Speak at their fund raising cake sale







A protest in 1980 against the renaming of the Lenasia Stadium to the Varachia Stadium

## Community hits out at "ban-busting" Sri Lankans

PROTEST against the rebel-tour of South Africa by the Arosa Sri Lankan cricket team is mounting.

At a press conference called by the Transvaal Cricket Board (TCB), Mr Ahmed Mangera, president of the TCB labelled the Sri Lankans as "international mercenaries". He said their only reason for coming to South Africa was the huge amount of money they were to receive. Allegedly up to R100 000 each. He criticised wealthy businessmen who were sponsoring the tour.

Many organisations are supporting the campaign to oppose the tour. These include the Transvaal Anti-Saic Committee, Federation of Residents' Association, Tracos, Western Residents' Action Committee, Azapo, Cosas, Azaso, Black Students Society, Benoni Students Movement, and the Wits SRC.

Thousands of stickers and leaflets are being

distributed all over the Transvaal.

A joint leaflet issued by the Transvaal Cricket Board and the Transvaal Anti-Saic Committee, points to Apartheid as the reason why the world refuses to play sport with South Africa.

"Apartheid is responsible for the sporting backwardness of the oppressed masses," it reads.

The leaflet warns parents of "unscrupulous" school principals who are taking school children to meet the Sri Lankans. Principals have been called upon to deny the Sri Lankans access to schools.

Explaining why black cricketers are not happy with the white cricket bodies, Sacu and the Transvaal Cricket Council (TCC), the leaflet says:

"Sacu is only interested in promoting professional top class cricket. As a result, amateur and community cricket is neglected. Only a handful of pri-

vileged black cricketers benefit. Sacu is using black cricketers to get back into international cricket."

The TCB said it believed all South Africans should have the opportunity to participate in sports.

"The control and administration of sports must be democratic."

The Sri Lanka government and people have also strongly condemned the tour, calling the cricketers "the disgraced fourteen" and "lepers". The Sri Lanka Cricket Board has banned the cricketers for 25 years from all competitive cricket.

In London, the President of the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee, Mr Samba Ramsamy, has urged the Sri Lankan government to confiscate the money received by the cricketers.

The Transvaal Cricket Board has called on all non-racial sportspersons to boycott the "ban-busting tour".



Hitting out against overseas tours

## Attack on Sacos slammed

A STATEMENT by up to 10 organisations, condemned the "malicious attack" on the South African Council on Sport by the South African National Olympic Committee (Sanoc) in the Sunday Times last month.

"We find it insulting that such cheap methods are resorted to to sell racist, unrepresentative organisations to the public," the statement read.

The statement said the advertisement is part of a campaign against

non-racial sportspersons, students and workers.

"One questions who the real authors of the advertisement are."

"It is Sanoc's intention to discredit Sacos and the adherents of true non-racialism; to present themselves as the champions of sportspersons in order to gain admission to international sport."

The statement asks if the advertisement "is perhaps not a precursor to state action" against non-racial sportsperson.

## Widespread support for bread petition

"THE Government has once again demonstrated that it is more concerned with the interests of white farmers and food companies than with the genuine needs of the majority of our people," said a statement issued by the Federation of South African Women, after the bread price increase in October.

The Women's Federation said that many people were suffering from malnutrition and starvation. "Workers are also losing their jobs and cannot afford these increases."

Supported by community, student and trade union organisations, the Women's Federation issued petitions to be signed by members of the public opposed to the increase. The organisations formed an ad hoc bread committee.

The petition condemns the increase and calls "upon all people to resist rising prices". It demands that the government subsidise bread and scrap the present increase.

Presently the ad hoc bread committee is collecting petitions which they are planning to send to the Minister of Finance. They have so far received 15 000 signatures.

"We appealed to people to sign the petition as a warning to the government that we are no longer prepared to ac-

cept high prices and continual increases. One day it is bread, the next rent and the day after bus fares," said a spokesperson from the committee.

"Although we know the government won't do anything, we can't just keep quiet and accept it. If everybody stood up, then something could happen," said Sarah Mololili from the Women's Federation.

Petition forms were distributed in many areas of the Witwatersrand. In Benoni, over 1 000 petitions were signed at the annual Soccer Tournament of the Benoni Student Movement. From one of the stands flew a banner calling for "bread prices we can afford".

The petition campaign is nationwide. In Durban, the ad hoc bread committee has collected over 90 000 signatures. Their campaign against the high bread price included many mass meetings, and culminated in a mini-conference and a mass rally.

9 000 signatures were collected in one day in Eldorado Park and Lenasia. At the University of the Witwatersrand, student collected 1 000 signatures.

In Cape Town, the United Women's Organisation called a mass meeting, and in Paarl workers marched to the Sasko Flour Mill in protest against the price hike.

"The campaign is rounding up at the moment," said a spokesperson for the ad hoc committee. "We appeal to people who have petition forms to return them as soon as possible to the Federation of SA Women."

## Bread hike is an expensive bite

THE bread price increase has hit the poorer people hardest.

The 6c increase of brown bread from 29c to 35c a loaf and the 11c increase of white bread from 42c to 53c is a far cry from the 9c paid for a loaf of bread ten years ago.

Bread price rises are decided by the Wheat Board and are sent to the Minister of Agriculture for approval.

All farmers have to sell their wheat to the Wheat Board which sets how much they will be paid, as well as the trading price of bread.

The members of the Wheat Board are farmers and government officials. The majority of people who eat bread are not represented on the board and have no say over prices.

The Wheat Board says that the reason for the recent bread increase is that it is costing farmers, millers and

bakers more to produce bread.

The government contributes towards paying some of the costs involved in producing bread. This is called the bread subsidy.

However this year, the government has refused to increase the bread subsidy and so consumers have to pay the increases.

Presently the government only subsidizes 5 per cent of the cost of white bread and 20 per cent of brown bread. Before the price hike they were subsidizing white bread by 12 per cent and brown bread by 34 per cent.

The bread subsidy ensures that farmers can still make handsome profits. It is important for the government that the white farmers are satisfied since they need their votes at election time.

Many people have

complained about the bread subsidy. They say it is unfair; bread is a staple diet and should be fully subsidized.

They point to the high defence budget and to the fact that since General Sales Tax has gone up, the government will be receiving an extra R350 million.

"Why can't this money be used to increase the bread subsidy", they ask.

A recent look at the government budget has pointed out that the government spends as much as eight times more on defence than on bread and housing together.

Shop keepers say that people are buying less bread, especially white bread. More people are going to Pick 'n Pay and Checkers where bread is being sold at lower prices. However most people do not live or work near these large stores.

Poor people are most affected by the bread price hike. Rich people, says the Department of Statistics, spend 2 per cent of their income on food. Poor people spend 36 per cent of their income.

It is not only bread prices that have gone up. People are having to pay extra for other food, rent and transport. At the same time, wages are not increasing and many people are losing their jobs.

"We all work and so there is no cooking at home, the only food is bread — bread for breakfast, bread for lunch and maybe we cook some pap in the evenings when we come home," said Sarah Mohololi from the Federation of SA Women.

"Everything has gone up. Sometimes we just drink black tea", said Edith Mohohlo, also of the Women's Federation.

One solution that has been suggested is to bake bread yourself. However it is not much cheaper and most people work all day and don't have time to bake bread. Hostel dwellers do not have the facilities. It is only an option for some housewives who are already overburdened with housework and

child care.

If people cannot afford to buy bread they are forced to eat less. More people especially children will die of starvation and malnutrition, between three and four children die of malnutrition every hour in South Africa, according to a Natal Paediatrician.

### IMMO'S SUPERMARKET

First Shop to service

ext 9 and 10  
Lenasia

SWEETS  
FRUIT  
VEGETABLES  
CIGARETTES

BREAD  
MILK



# From Corrie to Eldos — we unite against high rents

## Residents set to defy rent increase on January 1st

IN September, the Johannesburg City Council decided to increase rents in the 'coloured' areas of Johannesburg by up to 60%. This decision was met with massive opposition.

The city council, without even informing the Coloured Management Committee, decided to increase rents for flats and houses, and also to increase 'service charges' — that is, charges for rubbish removal, water supplies, sewerage, etc.

The council claimed that it has to put up the rents because the Department of Community Development had increased the interest on loans it made to the council for building the houses.

Why, residents demanded to know, should they be made to pay if one Government agency decided to charge another agency more?

The protests that followed showed how effective united community action can be.

"The high rents would deprive our families of the basic necessities of life," a East Rand community leader said.

"We will be depriving them of food and education. The increases are inhuman. Many workers have already been retrenched," he said.

In early September residents from Riverlea Extension 7 held a mass meeting. Over 500 residents packed the church hall and resolved not to pay the increases. Signatures were collected for a petition condemning the increases.

In Eldorado Park, up to 1000 people called on the council not to implement the increases. Many house meetings followed, and the Eldorado Park Action Committee was formed.

Mass meetings in Coronationville, called by the Westbury Western Residents' Action Committee, unanimously rejected the increases. A call was made for the breaking down of artificial barriers between English and Afrikaans speaking people as part of the move for unity. A Coronationville Ad-hoc Committee was formed to steer the struggle in that area.

Over 600 residents of Gekubisdal voted not to pay the "abnormal increase". The women's League of Gekubisdal decided to seek legal action against the increases as one form of action.

Facing such opposition, the City Council postponed all rent increases until January. It also gave an undertaking that it would make all houses available for purchase by tenants in December. But it refused to back down on the 'service charge' hikes.

The community had achieved a temporary victory.

Many more mass meetings followed, and residents rejected the increase in service charges.

"What service charges," one resident asked, "Must I pay R30 more for just two plastic bags?"

Residents at a meeting in Riverlea, decided to march in groups to the rent office and pay their old rents.

On the 19th of September, community organisations from all the affected areas met to discuss the formation of a united front against the council.

They resolved to continue building their organisations and to aim for greater unity. The formation of the co-ordinating Residents' Action Committee (CRAC) followed two days later, to co-ordinate the rents struggle.

CRAC drew up a memorandum and marched on the City Council offices to present it.

The memorandum stated the communities' opposition to the increases and demanded that:

- rent increases be scrapped unconditionally
- the people be allowed to scrutinise the calculation of rents
- rents paid to date be viewed as part payment on the purchase price of houses
- all houses be sold at cost price
- the sliding scale system be reviewed
- CRAC be recognised as the legitimate representatives of the people.

The following day up to 200 placard-bearing women demonstrated in the city centre where the City Council was having a meeting.

The council certainly did not foresee that its action would unleash such opposition and protest, which united the community and halted the council in its tracks.

"People are no longer prepared to passively accept their lot," a spokesperson for CRAC said.

"A community that is united and organized can be successful. We have laid a basis for this. We must now build on it."

"The struggle is not over. The increases have been postponed until January; we are preparing for the 'big fight'," he said.



by tenants in December. But it refused to back down on the 'service charge' hikes.

The community had achieved a temporary victory.

Many more mass meetings followed, and residents rejected the increase in service charges.

"What service charges," one resident asked, "Must I pay R30 more for just two plastic bags?"

Residents at a meeting in Riverlea, decided to march in groups to the rent office and pay their old rents.

On the 19th of September, community organisations from all the affected areas met to discuss the formation of a united front against the council.

They resolved to continue building their organisations and to aim for greater unity. The formation of the co-ordinating Residents' Action Committee (CRAC) followed two days later, to co-ordinate the rents struggle.

CRAC drew up a memorandum and marched on the City Council offices to present it.

The memorandum stated the communities' opposition to the increases and demanded that:

- rent increases be scrapped unconditionally
- the people be allowed to scrutinise the calculation of rents
- rents paid to date be viewed as part payment on the purchase price of houses
- all houses be sold at cost price
- the sliding scale system be reviewed
- CRAC be recognised as the legitimate representatives of the people.

The following day up to 200 placard-bearing women demonstrated in the city centre where the City Council was having a meeting.

The council certainly did not foresee that its action would unleash such opposition and protest, which united the community and halted the council in its tracks.

"People are no longer prepared to passively accept their lot," a spokesperson for CRAC said.

"A community that is united and organized can be successful. We have laid a basis for this. We must now build on it."

"The struggle is not over. The increases have been postponed until January; we are preparing for the 'big fight'," he said.



Riverlea residents voice anger over rent increases

## Crac takes people's demands to Council

A significant event in the rent campaign was the direct confrontation between the Co-ordinating Residents Action Committee (CRAC) and the Johannesburg City Council on 28/9/82. CRAC delegates marched on the City Council offices to hand in a memorandum. This is a CRAC account of what happened.

We came from Eldorado Park, Westbury, Westville, Newclare and Riverlea Ext. 2. Men and women, old and young. From the bus stop we moved down to the Housing Department. The press was already waiting. We took out our placards — "Down with high rents", "Rents we can afford". Then we walked to Mr Wilsach's office. Mr Wilsach is the Director of Housing.

When the first few people reached the second floor, we marched straight into the office of Mr Wilsach's secretary. She was on her way out and we stopped her. "We want to speak to Mr Mathys Wilsach, is he in his office?"

"Mr Wilsach is busy with a meeting now, he can't see you," she said.

"Busy or not, we want to see him," we replied. "Our case is important".

"You can speak to Mr Cunningham-Scott," she replied. Cunningham-Scott is the deputy director of housing.

We saw that the secretary was trying to keep us away from Wilsach's office, so some of us started moving past her.

"Just hold on... just hold on," she said. She realised we were determined and her arrogance was disappearing.

"We're just going in," we said. She looked pale. "He's also got people to see, you know," she said in desperation.

By this time, some of us were already past her. More and more people had reached the second floor. We filled the entire passage leading to Wilsach's office. The secretary rushed to Cunningham-Scott's office to call for help.

Those of us who were in front walked into the office where we saw Wilsach busy with a few people. We ensured that the door was unlocked and went out to report to the rest of the people. At this stage Mr Scott burst through an inter-connecting door. He was red in the face, and when he saw all the people he was visibly shaken.

"We are the Co-ordinating Residents Action Committee..." we started.

"You can't just walk in here without making an appointment," he interrupted, trying hard to keep himself under control. "Nobody in the world does anything without making an appointment. It is common manners. That's all it is."

"We are not here to debate about appointments," we said. "We want to see Mr Wilsach."

We then realised that while we had been talking to Scott, Wilsach's secretary had slipped past us and had locked the office. We realised that unless we were going to break down the door, we would not be able to see Wilsach.

Scott continued, "I'll see you... and who's the other one?" Picking out two members from the delegation.

"We came together to see Mr Wilsach", said one of the delegates.

Scott began shouting, "I am not seeing all of you. I can tell you that now. Otherwise I'm going to get John Vorster Square to come and check you out of here! I want to speak to the chairman, that's all."

"Everyone here is the Chairperson," we said. "Our memorandum is our spokesperson."

Realising that we would not give in to his demand to see only one person, he said, "Okay, one from each committee can come in."

"Mr Scott! We all want to see Mr Wilsach," we replied.

"Mr Wilsach is not speaking to anybody. If you don't like that I'll get John Vorster Square for you!" He was shouting again. "You can't just come in here and demand."

"We are not yet demanding, we are still at the stage where we want to speak. Just imagine how it's going to look; we come here to speak to Wilsach and instead you threaten us with John Vorster Square."

"It looks wrong in the first place for you to come here like a lot of people threatening us," Scott said.

"You are threatening us," we shouted.

Scott eventually realised that we were not going to leave until we had handed over our memorandum, nor were we prepared to let him see only a few of us. Our power rested in the fact that there were so many of us.

So he said, "Okay, let us go up to the third floor. That is where we have the boardroom. I will speak to you, and if I can't help you, I make an appointment for you to see Mr Wilsach."

Since we had intended to see Wilsach himself, we were hesitant to accept Scott's proposal. In fact, we realised he was deliberately trying to get us away from Wilsach's door. However, Wilsach was now safely locked up in his office, so we decided to speak to Scott.

When we reached the boardroom, Scott said, "I have very little time. We have to be in Eldorado Park by 11 o'clock. People have not been paying electricity and it will be cut off unless we go out there and make a plan."

All of a sudden, the council was so concerned about cutting off people's electricity, that the deputy director himself had to go to Eldorado Park to intervene.

"Mr Scott," we said, "We are not here to negotiate with you. We have drawn up this memorandum with the people. It states our grievances and our demands; all we want from you is a written acknowledgement."

He began reading through the memorandum. "You say here: It is the duty of the state to provide adequate housing for all. Well that is exactly what the housing code says."

He was trying to give the impression that the Government has the people's interest at heart. We knew this was another tactic. In any case, Pee Kotze's statement that they are not going to build houses for us anymore, made the topic and started explaining the service charges. A delegate reprimanded Scott for rudely interrupting.

Kriel then returns with writing material. We gave Scott our copy of the memorandum which he had to sign. Scott was shaking so much that he couldn't even write. He handed the pen and the memorandum to Kriel and told him to write. "I acknowledge receipt of this memorandum from the Co-ordinating Residents Action Committee," Scott signed it.

We left the building. We had shown the City Council that we were determined to fight the rent increases. Their obstacles, "delaying tactics" and harshness had no intimidated us, because we were united.

CRAC delegates present people's demand to Council officials.

check you out of here! I want to speak to the chairman, that's all."

"Everyone here is the Chairperson," we said. "Our memorandum is our spokesperson."

Realising that we would not give in to his demand to see only one person, he said, "Okay, one from each committee can come in."

"Mr Scott! We all want to see Mr Wilsach," we replied.

"Mr Wilsach is not speaking to anybody. If you don't like that I'll get John Vorster Square for you!" He was shouting again. "You can't just come in here and demand."

"We are not yet demanding, we are still at the stage where we want to speak. Just imagine how it's going to look; we come here to speak to Wilsach and instead you threaten us with John Vorster Square."

"It looks wrong in the first place for you to come here like a lot of people threatening us," Scott said.

"You are threatening us," we shouted.

Scott eventually realised that we were not going to leave until we had handed over our memorandum, nor were we prepared to let him see only a few of us. Our power rested in the fact that there were so many of us.

So he said, "Okay, let us go up to the third floor. That is where we have the boardroom. I will speak to you, and if I can't help you, I make an appointment for you to see Mr Wilsach."

Since we had intended to see Wilsach himself, we were hesitant to accept Scott's proposal. In fact, we realised he was deliberately trying to get us away from Wilsach's door. However, Wilsach was now safely locked up in his office, so we decided to speak to Scott.

When we reached the boardroom, Scott said, "I have very little time. We have to be in Eldorado Park by 11 o'clock. People have not been paying electricity and it will be cut off unless we go out there and make a plan."

All of a sudden, the council was so concerned about cutting off people's electricity, that the deputy director himself had to go to Eldorado Park to intervene.

"Mr Scott," we said, "We are not here to negotiate with you. We have drawn up this memorandum with the people. It states our grievances and our demands; all we want from you is a written acknowledgement."

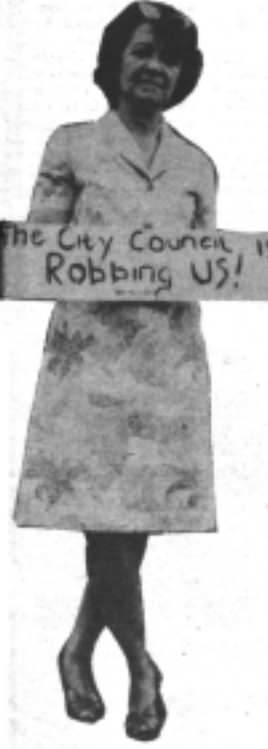
He began reading through the memorandum. "You say here: It is the duty of the state to provide adequate housing for all. Well that is exactly what the housing code says."

He was trying to give the impression that the Government has the people's interest at heart. We knew this was another tactic. In any case, Pee Kotze's statement that they are not going to build houses for us anymore, made the topic and started explaining the service charges. A delegate reprimanded Scott for rudely interrupting.

Kriel then returns with writing material. We gave Scott our copy of the memorandum which he had to sign. Scott was shaking so much that he couldn't even write. He handed the pen and the memorandum to Kriel and told him to write. "I acknowledge receipt of this memorandum from the Co-ordinating Residents Action Committee," Scott signed it.

We left the building. We had shown the City Council that we were determined to fight the rent increases. Their obstacles, "delaying tactics" and harshness had no intimidated us, because we were united.

CRAC delegates present people's demand to Council officials.



CRAC delegates present people's demand to Council officials.

# From Corrie to Eldos — we unite against high rents

## Residents set to defy rent increase on January 1st

IN September, the Johannesburg City Council decided to increase rents in the 'coloured' areas of Johannesburg by up to 60%. This decision was met with massive opposition.

The city council, without even informing the Coloured Management Committee, decided to increase rents for flats and houses, and also to increase 'service charges' — that is, charges for rubbish removal, water supplies, sewerage, etc.

The council claimed that it has to put up the rents because the Department of Community Development had increased the interest on loans it made to the council for building the houses.

Why, residents demanded to know, should they be made to pay if one Government agency decided to charge another agency more?

The protests that followed showed how effective united community action can be.

"The high rents would deprive our families of the basic necessities of life," a East Rand community leader said.

"We will be depriving them of food and education. The increases are inhuman. Many workers have already been retrenched," he said.

In early September residents from Riverlea Extension 2 held a mass meeting. Over 500 residents packed the church hall and resolved not to pay the increases. Signatures were collected for a petition condemning the increases.

In Eldorado Park, up to 1000 people called on the council not to implement the increases. Many house meetings followed, and the Eldorado Park Action Committee was formed.

Mass meetings in Coronationville, called by the Westbury Western Residents' Action Committee, unanimously rejected the increases. A call was made for the breaking down of artificial barriers between English and Afrikaans speaking people as part of the move for unity. A Coronationville Ad-hoc Committee was formed to steer the struggle in that area.

Over 600 residents of Gelukstad voted not to pay the "abnormal increase". The women's League of Gelukstad decided to seek legal action against the increases as one form of action.

Facing such opposition, the City Council postponed all rent increases until January. It also gave an undertaking that it would make all houses available for purchase by tenants in December. But it refused to back down on the 'service charge' hikes.

The community had achieved a temporary victory.

Many more mass meetings followed, and residents rejected the increase in service charges.

"What service charges," one resident asked, "Must I pay R30 more for just two plastic bags?"

Residents at a meeting in Riverlea, decided to march in groups to the rent office and pay their old rents.

On the 19th of September, community organisations from all the affected areas met to discuss the formation of a united front against the council.

They resolved to continue building their organisations and to aim for greater unity. The formation of the co-ordinating Residents' Action Committee (CRAC) followed two days later, to co-ordinate the rents struggle.

CRAC drew up a memorandum and marched on the City Council offices to present it.

The memorandum stated the communities' opposition to the increases and demanded that:

- rent increases be scrapped unconditionally
- the people be allowed to scrutinise the calculation of rents
- rents paid to date be viewed as part payment on the purchase price of houses
- all houses be sold at cost price
- the sliding scale system be reviewed
- CRAC be recognised as the legitimate representatives of the people.

The following day up to 200 placard-bearing women demonstrated in the city centre where the City Council was having a meeting.

The council certainly did not foresee that its action would unleash such opposition and protest, which united the community and halted the council in its tracks.

"People are no longer prepared to passively accept their lot," a spokesperson for CRAC said.

"A community that is united and organized can be successful. We have laid a basis for this. We must now build on it."

"The struggle is not over. The increases have been postponed until January; we are preparing for the 'big fight'," he said.



by tenants in December. But it refused to back down on the 'service charge' hikes.

The community had achieved a temporary victory.

Many more mass meetings followed, and residents rejected the increase in service charges.

"What service charges," one resident asked, "Must I pay R30 more for just two plastic bags?"

Residents at a meeting in Riverlea, decided to march in groups to the rent office and pay their old rents.

On the 19th of September, community organisations from all the affected areas met to discuss the formation of a united front against the council.

They resolved to continue building their organisations and to aim for greater unity. The formation of the co-ordinating Residents' Action Committee (CRAC) followed two days later, to co-ordinate the rents struggle.

CRAC drew up a memorandum and marched on the City Council offices to present it.

The memorandum stated the communities' opposition to the increases and demanded that:

- rent increases be scrapped unconditionally
- the people be allowed to scrutinise the calculation of rents
- rents paid to date be viewed as part payment on the purchase price of houses
- all houses be sold at cost price
- the sliding scale system be reviewed
- CRAC be recognised as the legitimate representatives of the people.

The following day up to 200 placard-bearing women demonstrated in the city centre where the City Council was having a meeting.

The council certainly did not foresee that its action would unleash such opposition and protest, which united the community and halted the council in its tracks.

"People are no longer prepared to passively accept their lot," a spokesperson for CRAC said.

"A community that is united and organized can be successful. We have laid a basis for this. We must now build on it."

"The struggle is not over. The increases have been postponed until January; we are preparing for the 'big fight'," he said.



Riverlea residents voice anger over rent increases

## Crac takes people's demands to Council

A significant event in the rent campaign was the direct confrontation between the Co-ordinating Residents Action Committee (CRAC) and the Johannesburg City Council on 28/9/82. CRAC delegates marched on the City Council offices to hand in a memorandum. This is a CRAC account of what happened.

We came from Eldorado Park, Western Westbury, Newclare and Riverlea Ext. 2. Men and women, old and young. From the bus stop we moved down to the Housing Department. The press was already waiting. We took out our placards — "Down with high rents", "Rents we can afford". Then we walked to Mr Wilsnack's office. Mr Wilsnack is the Director of Housing.

When the first few people reached the second floor, we marched straight into the office of Mr Wilsnack's secretary. She was on her way out and we stopped her. "We want to speak to Mr Mathys Wilsnack, is he in his office?"

"Mr Wilsnack is busy with a meeting now, he can't see you," she said.

"Busy or not, we want to see him," we replied. "Our case is important".

"You can speak to Mr Cunningham-Scott," she replied. Cunningham-Scott is the deputy director of housing.

We saw that the secretary was trying to keep us away from Wilsnack's office, so some of us started moving past her.

"Just hold on... just hold on," she said. She realised we were determined and her arrogance was disappearing.

"We're just going in," we said. She looked pale. "He's also got people to see, you know," she said in desperation.

By this time, some of us were already past her. More and more people had reached the second floor. We filled the entire passage leading to Wilsnack's office. The secretary rushed to Cunningham-Scott's office to call for help.

Those of us who were in front walked into the office where we saw Wilsnack busy with a few people. We ensured that the door was unlocked and went out to report to the rest of the people. At this stage Mr Scott burst through an inter-connecting door. He was red in the face, and when he saw all the

people he was visibly shaken.

"We are the Co-ordinating Residents Action Committee..." we started.

"You can't just walk in here without making an appointment," he interrupted, trying hard to keep himself under control. "Nobody in the world does anything without making an appointment. It is common manners. That's all it is."

"We are not here to debate about appointments," we said. "We want to see Mr Wilsnack."

We then realised that while we had been talking to Scott, Wilsnack's secretary had slipped past us and had locked the office. We realised that unless we were going to break down the door, we would not be able to see Wilsnack.

Scott continued, "I'll see you... and who's the other one?" Picking out two members from the delegation.

"We came together to see Mr Wilsnack," said one of the delegates.

Scott began shouting, "I am not seeing all of you. I can tell you that now. Otherwise I'm going to get John Vorster Square to come and check you out of here! I want to speak to the chairman, that's all."

"Everyone here is the Chairperson," we said. "Our memorandum is our spokesperson."

Realising that we would not give in to his demand to see only one person, he said, "Okay, one from each committee can come in."

"Mr Scott! We all want to see Mr Wilsnack," we replied.

"Mr Wilsnack is not speaking to anybody. If you don't like that I'll get John Vorster Square for you!" He was shouting again. "You can't just come in here and demand."

"We are not yet demanding, we are still at the stage where we want to speak. Just imagine how it's going to look; we come here to speak to Wilsnack and instead you threaten us with John Vorster Square."

"It looks wrong in the first place for you to come here like a lot of people threatening us," Scott said.

"You are threatening us," we shouted.

Scott eventually realised that we were not going to leave until we had handed over our memorandum, nor were we prepared to let him see only a few of us. Our power rested in the fact that there were so many of us.

So he said, "Okay, let us go up to the third floor. That is where we have the boardroom. I will speak to you, and if I can't help you, I make an appointment for you to see Mr Wilsnack."

Since we had intended to see Wilsnack himself, we were hesitant to accept Scott's proposal. In fact, we realised he was deliberately trying to get us away from Wilsnack's door. However, Wilsnack was now safely locked up in his office, so we decided to speak to Scott.

When we reached the boardroom, Scott said, "I have very little time. We have to be in Eldorado Park by 11 o'clock. People have not been paying electricity and it will be cut off unless we go out there and make a plan."

All of a sudden, the council was so concerned about cutting off people's electricity, that the deputy director himself had to go to Eldorado Park to intervene.

"Mr Scott," we said, "We are not here to negotiate with you. We have drawn up this memorandum with the people. It states our grievances and our demands; all we want from you is a written acknowledgement."

He began reading through the memorandum. "You say here: It is the duty of the state to provide adequate housing for all. Well that is exactly what the housing code says."

He was trying to give the impression that the Government has the people's interest at heart. We knew this was another tactic. In any case, Pee Kotze's statement that they are not going to build houses for us anymore, made the

housing code a liar.

"Look," we said "we are not here to negotiate with you. This is the way you have been treating us all along. You want to read through that in a few minutes give us some hurried answers, and expect us to be satisfied. Now we want you to read through that memorandum carefully. We was a reply within seven days".

"Don't you want to discuss anything here? There's a lot of time to discuss it," he said.

Suddenly there was a lot of time. A few minutes ago he had said he had to rush off to Eldorado Park.

He tried to change the topic. "The Colours Management Committee... he started."

"We are not interested in having a long discussion" with you. Give us our acknowledgement in black and white."

He looked very nervous and went Kriel to pen an official for pen an paper.

"Why couldn't we see Mr Wilsnack?" we asked Scott.

"Mr Wilsnack is a very busy man. He is at locating sports fields."

"What?" we shouted.

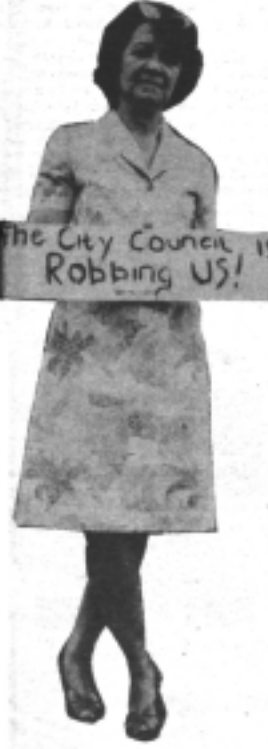
"He is sitting in his office allocating sports fields rather than discussing a matter that is so important to us like rents? Our children are going to starve because of the high rents and he allocates sports fields!"

Again he changed the topic and started explaining the service charges. A delegate reprimanded Scott for rudely interrupting.

Kriel then returned with writing material. We gave Scott our copy of the memorandum which he had to sign. Scott was shaking so much that he couldn't even write. He handed the pen and the memorandum to Kriel and told him to write. "I acknowledge receipt of this memorandum from the Co-ordinating Residents Action Committee" Scott signed it.

We left the building. We had shown the City Council that we were determined to fight the rent increases. Their obstacles, "delaying tactics" and harshness had no intimidated us, because we were united.

CRAC delegates present people's demand to Council officials.





# The CRAC rent campaign

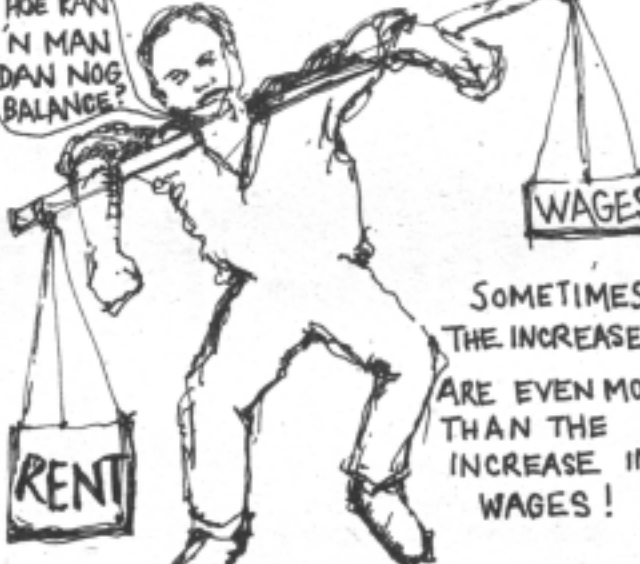
**EVERY YEAR**  
THE COUNCIL  
INCREASES OUR  
RENTS. THIS YEAR  
THEY SAID THE  
NEW RENT  
INCREASES MUST  
BE PAID FROM  
THE 1ST OCTOBER...

PLU 50  
PLR 60



THE INCREASES  
ARE HIGH,  
AND  
WHEN WAGES  
GO UP, THE  
RENTS GO UP.


HOE KAN  
'N MAN  
DAN NOG  
BALANCE?




SOMETIMES  
THE INCREASES  
ARE EVEN MORE  
THAN THE  
INCREASE IN  
WAGES!

AT MASS MEETINGS WE  
ALL COMPLAIN ABOUT...

MASS MEETING



**THE SLIDING  
SCALE...**



**PENALTY  
RENTALS**

DIE COUNCIL  
SPEEL NIE FAIR NIE!

FINE FOR  
LIVING IN  
COUNCIL  
HOUSE  
R650



DECENT  
HOUSES

DOWN  
WITH  
RENTS




PEOPLE EVERYWHERE  
ORGANISED COMMITTEES  
TO PROTEST AGAINST  
THE HIGH RENTS...

THE COUNCIL REVIEWED  
THE RENTS...




MMM...  
DIT IS  
'N BIETJIE  
HOOG...

So....



A.K. WE'LL SCRAP  
THE RENT INCREASES  
(I MEAN POSTPONE  
IT TILL JANUARY)  
BUT: SERVICE  
CHARGES WILL STILL  
BE INCREASED!!

CHARGES?  
FOR WHAT  
SERVICE??

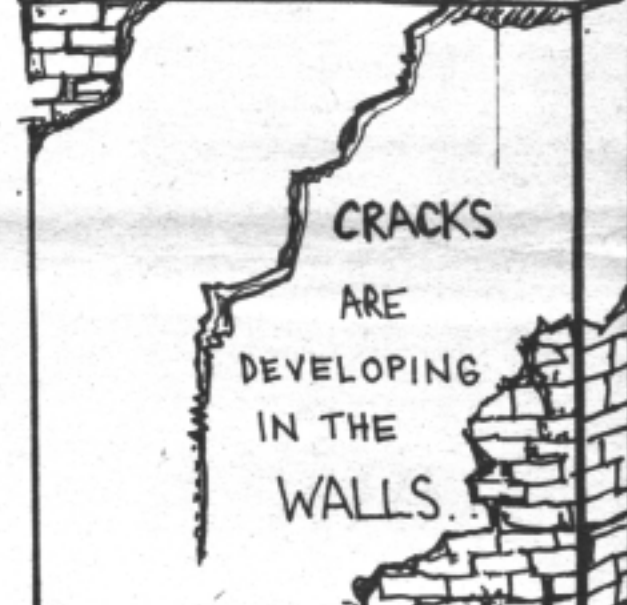


THE ROOFS OF HOUSES IN  
ELDO'S ARE STILL LEAKING -  
SINCE THE HAILSTORM IN 1981

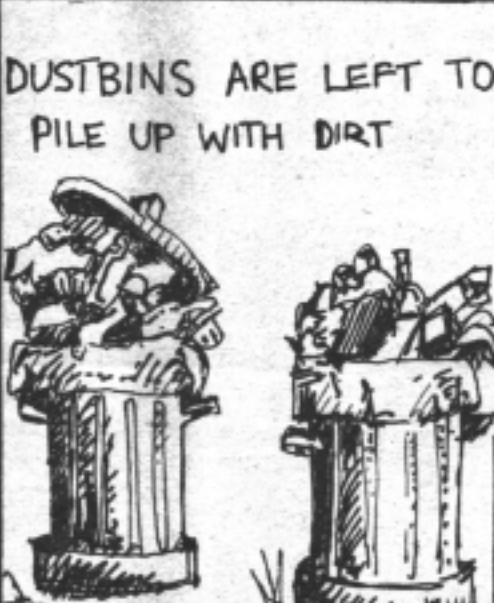


WE HAVE TO REPAIR OUR  
HOUSES OURSELVES.

CRACKS  
ARE  
DEVELOPING  
IN THE  
WALLS.



DUSTBINS ARE LEFT TO  
PILE UP WITH DIRT



& OPEN GROUND  
AROUND US IS  
SELDOM CLEANED

COME JANUARY,  
THEN THE NEW  
RENT WILL....



OOPS!

CO-ORDINATING RESIDENTS ACTION COMMITTEE





ELORADO  
ACTION COMMITTEE  
EXT 2 A.C.  
EXT 4 A.C.  
EXT 6 A.C.  
EXT 7 A.C.

RIVERLEA  
EXT  
ACTION  
COMMITTEE

W.R.A.C.  
NEW RAC  
GORAC

**king cobbler**


SHOE REPAIRS TO THE NATION

SAME DAY SHOE REPAIRS

**NANSONS**

820 SINGH STREET • ACTONVILLE • BENONI 54-6421

"STICK-A-SOLE SPECIALIST" / HAVE YOUR SHOES REPAIRED NOW !!!



CONTACT "VEE"  
TELEPHONE: 54-6421

SHOE SHOE BABY AS  
SEEN ON THE SCREEN

**DAB**

**SUPER-  
MARKET**

5 Beril  
Street  
Ext 5  
LENASIA  
1820

**Ford** **Kaloo Ford**

2990 GEMSBOK AVENUE • LENASIA

**A-1**

**NEW &  
USED CARS**

Parts **Ford** Service

TELEPHONE **852-6018/9**  
**852-4824**

FINANCING &  
INSURANCE BY **Ford  
Credit**





## Swimmers need more facilities

THE Non-Racial Southern Transvaal Amateur Swimming Association (STASA) staged an exciting swimming gala at the Coronationville pool in October.

Spencer Mota (Orlando) almost lost his domination of the men's section to Cameron Chalense (Bosmont) and Jabu Sishaba (Orlando).

Marlin Starkey confirmed his position at the top of the boys 13/14 year group by winning all his races. It is in the boys' 11/12 years group though, that STASA is pinning its hopes for the future. Swimmers are pushing each other to incredible times for this age group.

In the girls' section, Plucky 10 year old Julie Cassim (Atlantis) swam a good second to N. Hlatswayo (Orlando) in the 11/12 year 100 metre freestyle.

The crowd seemed most thrilled by the relays and the novice

events.

The gala was highly competitive. Indications are that STASA will be a force to reckon with at the forthcoming National Tournament.

STASA has come a long way since its formation a season ago. A merger between the Soweto based Amateur Swimming Association of Western Transvaal and the Transvaal Amateur Swimming Union, gave birth to STASA.

STASA's main problem is securing adequate facilities. This problem which confronts all non-racial sports men and women, places the success of the National Tournament in jeopardy. Another problem STASA faces, is the lack of sponsorship for the tournament.

STASA members appealed to the community to help make the provincial and national galas a success.

# Different comic makes our history come alive

A Journey into the Past...

## VUSI GOES BACK



From the giant City of Johannesburg, Vusi goes back to visit his family in a remote area of the Transkei. His grandfather tells him about the history of his people, and Vusi learns that the way we live today is the result of what has happened in the past.

A COMIC BOOK ABOUT THE HISTORY OF SOUTH AFRICA  
Reganix Comix/E.D.A.

"VUSI GOES BACK" is a comic book with a difference. It is a book which tells the history of South Africa.

The book does not relate boring historical details about the lives of rich and famous people. Instead it is a history of ordinary people in South Africa — A history of workers.

Vusi is a young worker from Soweto, who goes to visit his family in the Transkei. In the rural areas people are fighting a desperate battle for survival. They are landless and hungry. Vusi finds his people suffering.

Vusi wants to know why his people suffer. His grandfather provides answers by recalling the history of his people. From the days when they had sufficient food to eat and the land

was owned collectively. They produced their own food and made all the things they required. No one worked for a wage.

Vusi learns why people now live in townships and hostels. He learns why his people now work for wages.

"Vusi goes back" is only 20 pages long, and is recommended for anybody who wants to understand the past and the present.

### SPECIAL OFFER TO "SPEAK" READERS

Speak readers can get "Vusi goes back" for 60 cents. The book costs R1.00 in the shops. Send a 60c postal order to:

SPEAK  
P.O. BOX 1677  
EXCOM  
JOHANNESBURG  
2000

## Fordsburg packs hall for youth concert



Young performers win hearts of audience at fund raising concert

A RECENT variety concert organised by the Fordsburg Tutorial Committee (FTC) drew a massive crowd.

The evening's programme included dancing, music, gymnastics and many short plays.

"Hello, Dolly!" performed by primary school children won the hearts of the crowd. The children sang to the accompaniment of a xylophone and little triangles they played.

The lively audience enjoyed the skits performed by these young people. Many came across as 'naturals'.

An outstanding performance by two twelve year olds called: "The

truth is ..." depicted the truth about working relations between employers and workers. It showed how the worker has to jump to the whims and fancies of the employer.

A spokesperson for the FTC said the concert was a success. "We organised it to raise funds for the tuition classes." He explained that the serious shortage of teachers made such a project necessary, and appealed to parents to encourage their children's attendance.

The tutorial classes are held daily from 6 pm to 8 pm, at the Shree Sharda Mandir School in Tillian Road, Fordsburg.

## Bill's Farm

DAVY ROAD — NEWCLARE

FRESH  
Vegetables & Fruit  
Always in Stock

## National



NV-300 VHS

Only R1195,00

Excl. G.S.T.

TAKE IT ON YOUR CREDIT CARD OVER 24 MONTHS!!

- FULL REMOTE CONTROL
- SOFT-TOUCH CONTROL
- PICTURE SHARPNESS CONTROL

Obtainable at— Swiss Wholesalers

818 SINGH STREET, ACTONVILLE BENONI Tel. 54-5323

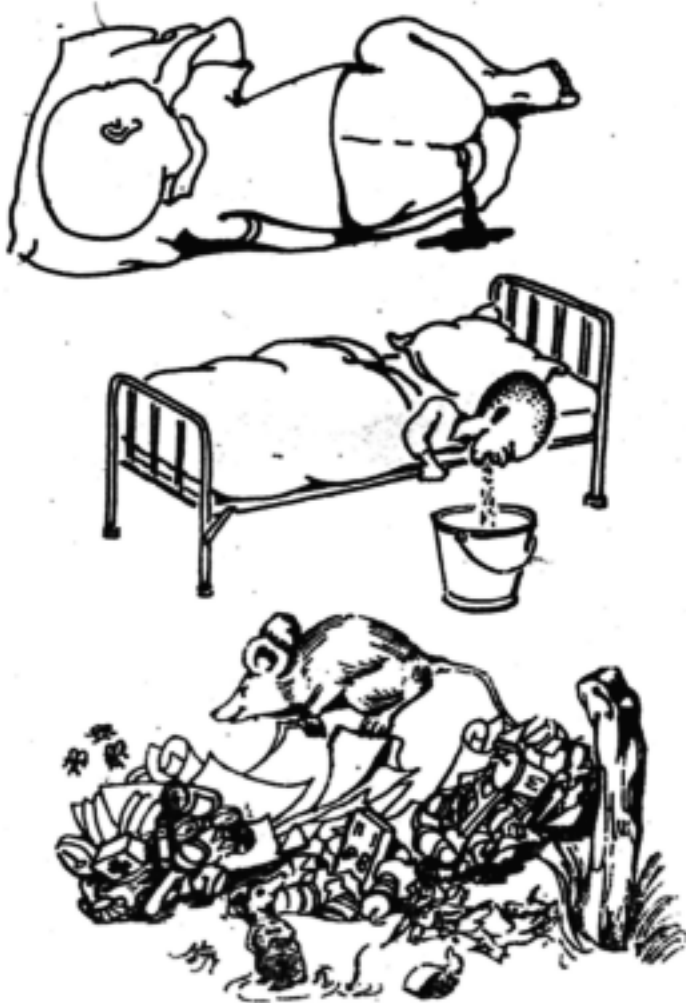
Sewing Machines from R79-00 each ZIG-ZAG R179-00

Excl. G.S.T.



# Prevent gastro-enteritis

## WHAT IS GASTRO-ENTERITIS



- Gastro-enteritis is a serious sickness of small children. They have diarrhoea (runny tummy) and they vomit. Sometimes the children do not vomit. Babies can die from gastro-enteritis.
- People get gastro-enteritis in places where there are flies, rats and lots of dirt.
- Many people in South Africa are forced to live in such places. They are overcrowded, they do not have proper houses and toilets and they do not have enough water to keep things clean.

## HOW GASTRO-ENTERITIS SPREADS

- Gastro-enteritis can spread by flies. Flies can leave gastro-enteritis on cups, feeding bottles and spoons.
- Another person eats the food and also gets the sickness.



- People who have gastro-enteritis go to the toilet but do not wash their hands when they have finished.
- When they prepare food, the gastro-enteritis passes from their dirty hands to the food.

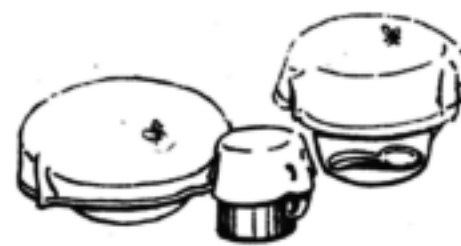
## HOW TO PREVENT GASTRO-ENTERITIS



- Always wash your hands after you go to the toilet.
- Keep flies away from food by covering it up.



- Breast feed your baby if possible. Babies who are breast fed do not get gastro-enteritis easily. Keep all baby things bottles and spoons very clean.



- Keep all the rubbish in a dustbin.



## WHAT TO DO

Take the child to the nearest clinic or hospital if he is vomiting a lot or having a lot of diarrhoea.

- Do not feed the child any cooked food nor milk for one day. The most important thing to do is to make the children drink lots of water and salt.



- If the child only has mild diarrhoea, this can be treated at home.

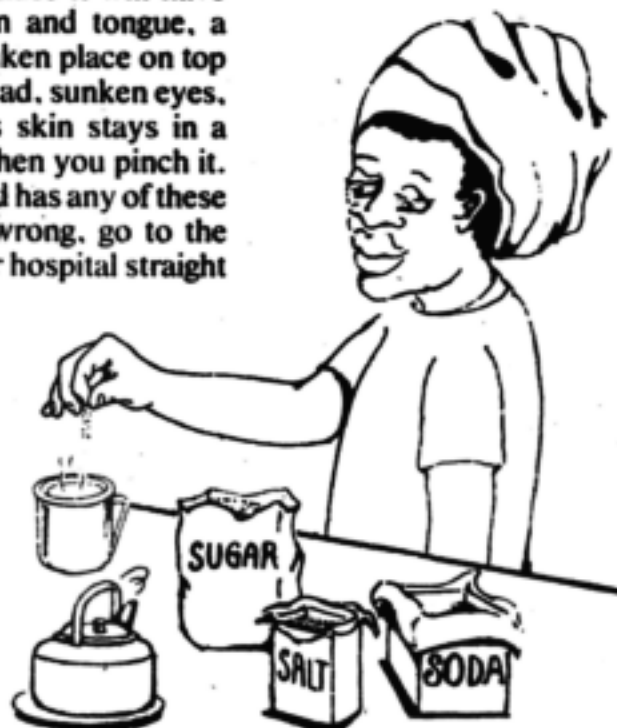
## DAY 1

Make medicine by adding 1 pinch of salt, 1 pinch of cooking soda (bicarb) and a teaspoon of sugar to a cup of boiled water which has been cooled down. You must boil the water for 15 minutes, otherwise the child can get more sick.

Children die from gastro-enteritis because all the water comes out of their bodies with the vomiting and diarrhoea. Their bodies dry out. To stop the drying out you must give the child this medicine during the whole day and night for 3 days.

As one cup is finished, make another cup. Even if the child is not thirsty, force the child to drink it.

You can see if the child's body is drying out because it will have dry skin and tongue, a soft sunken place on top of its head, sunken eyes, or if its skin stays in a lump when you pinch it. If a child has any of these things wrong, go to the clinic or hospital straight away.



## DAY 2

On the second day carry on giving the child this medicine during the whole day and night. The child can also drink milk or soup but must not eat anything. If the child does not get better on this day, he or she must get to a clinic.



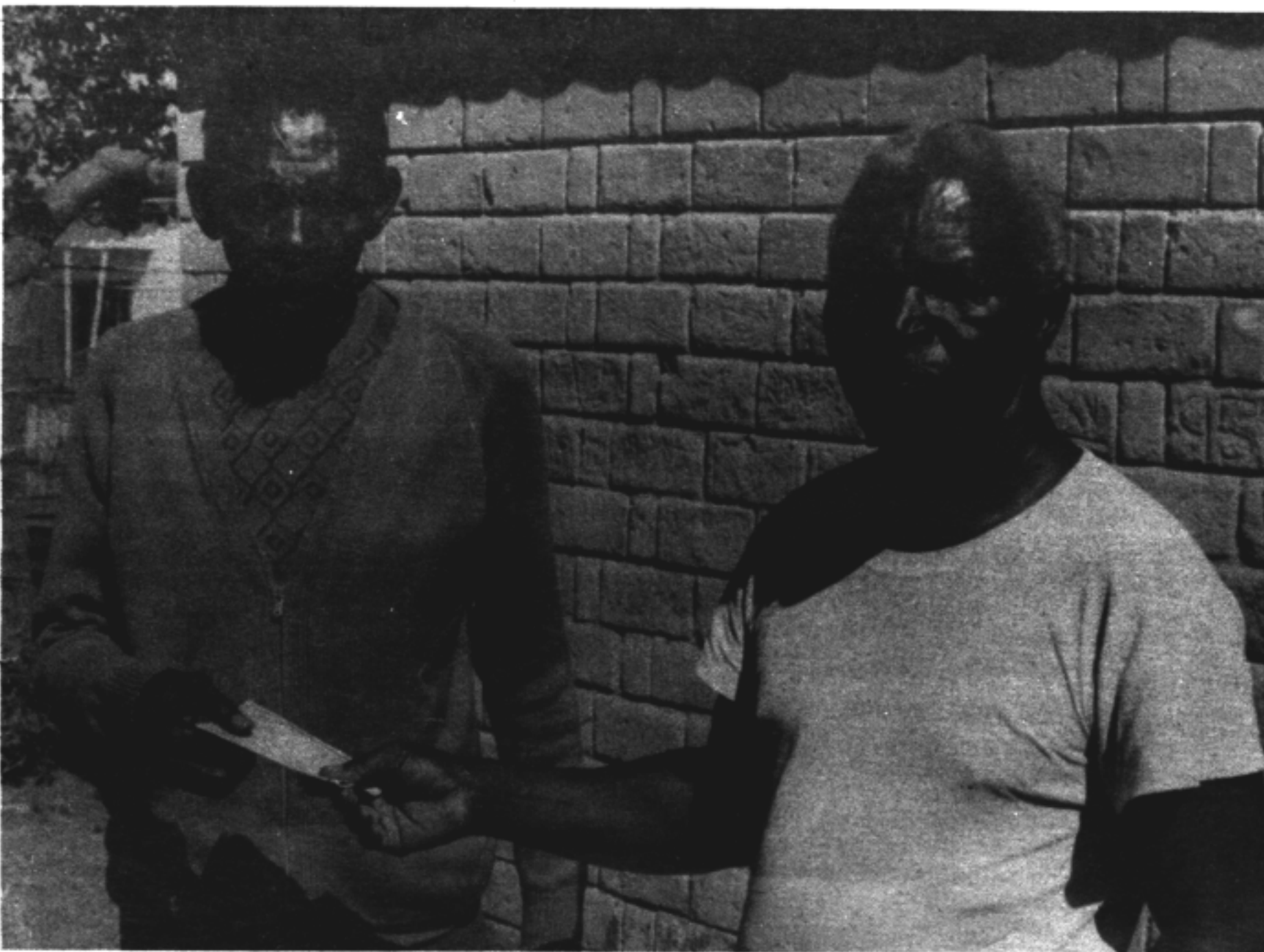
## DAY 3



Carry on giving the medicine. The child can also drink milk or soup and can eat some porridge.







To get money when you have no job, you must have a blue card. This card tells you how much you are owed by the U.I.F.

## What is UIF? How does it work Who collects unemployment money

### Without a job there is no money to live

In South Africa, there are nearly 2.5 million people who do not have work.

Many people can only get work from the owners of factories, mines, farms and the government.

People are unemployed when the bosses and the government cannot give people jobs. More people are unemployed when the bosses employ less workers and use machines to do the work people do.

When business is bad, the bosses cut down on the number of workers they employ, so that they can still make profits.

Once workers lose their jobs and cannot find other work, they cannot get money to live.

### How then can people who do not have jobs get some money?

• When a worker has a job, every week some money is paid from the worker's wages to a fund. When the wor-

ker does not have a job, that money is paid back. The fund is called the Unemployment Insurance Fund or UIF.

• There is a law which says the worker must be paid this money. This law is the Unemployment Insurance Act.

• Under this law, workers can get money:-  
— If they lose their jobs and cannot find work  
— If they get sick and cannot work  
— If they are pregnant  
— If a worker dies, then the worker's family can get some money.

• Not all workers can get money under this law.

— Domestic workers cannot get money  
— Farm workers cannot get money  
— Most people who work for the government cannot get money

— Part time workers or people who do a little work at home cannot get money

— Workers who come from other countries cannot get money

— Contract workers cannot get money

If a worker is not supposed to get money under the law, then that worker must not pay to the fund.

**In this article we will only look at those workers who lose their jobs and cannot find other work.**

• To get money, these workers must have paid to the fund for at least 13 weeks before they lost their jobs.

• When the workers have to leave their jobs, they must ask their bosses for their blue cards.

• The blue card is kept by the boss. In it the boss writes how much pay a worker gets. The boss also writes when the worker started job and when the worker left.

• The worker must then take the blue card to the Pass Office in the city, or to the Labour Bureau in the Bantustan.

• If workers do not have blue cards, they must not wait. They must ask the boss to

get a blue card.

• The workers will only get 45% of their wages. A little less than half.

• The workers will get this money only for about 6 months after they lose their jobs.

• If a worker lost a job because the boss was not happy with the work, then that worker will not get money for 6 weeks after losing the job. After 6 weeks the worker get money.

• If the worker thinks that the boss is wrong or unfair, then the worker can go to the union or a organisation that can help the worker to complain.

• These organisations can explain more about the rights of workers and what workers have to do to get some money. They can also help with other problems workers have at work.

• These are the names and addresses of some of the organisations.

The Industrial Aid So-

ciety, 15 York House, Corner Rissik and Kerk Streets, Johannesburg. Telephone: 836-4422

The Legal Aid Bureau, 209 Arop House, 71 Von Brandis Street, Johannesburg. Telephone: 29-4872

The Legal Aid Bureau, 209 Arop House, 71 Von Brandis Street, Johannesburg. Telephone: 29-4872

## Workers face short time or no jobs

IN recent months there has been a dramatic rise in unemployment. Some labour leaders have put the figure at 2.4 m.

Almost daily we read of workers being laid off or put on short time. This means that many workers now only work 25 or 30 hours per week instead of between 40 and 45 hours. Those workers affected by the shortening of working hours receive smaller pay-packets as a result, and are experiencing a fall in their living standards.

Other workers no longer work overtime and therefore cannot supplement their wages with this extra income. The latest blow affecting workers however, has been the decision by the Department of Manpower not to allow certain categories of workers to renew their contracts. Migrant workers who are laid off or lose their jobs will therefore not be permitted to remain in the urban areas to seek other employment. They will have to remain in the homelands, where employment is very hard to find.

There are many reasons for the increase in unemployment. South Africa is at present going through an economic recession. Bosses are trying to maintain profits by reducing the number of workers in their employment. Some of these workers are being replaced by machines that

perform these jobs more cheaply and much quicker. Some bosses also fear the growth of trade unions. They say that members of the new trade unions are demanding unreasonable wage increases. But many trade unionists deny that this is the case.

"In many cases the wage increases have not kept pace with the increase in the cost of living," said one trade union organiser.

But workers and their organisations are not prepared to accept these worsening conditions without fighting back. Many trade unions have successfully negotiated retrenchment deals with employers.

At the Defy plant near Durban, the South African Allied Workers Union (SAAWU) has managed to get the bosses to agree to granting workers unpaid leave on a rotating basis.

In Cape Town the General Workers' Union was able to persuade workers at Marine Trident, a shipping company, to give up their jobs so that migrant workers could stay on instead. Those who gave up their jobs have Section 10 rights and are allowed to remain in Cape Town to seek alternative employment.

At many other factories workers have struck in support of fellow workers who have been laid off.

## WE CAN SHARE OUR ADVICE

Tell us what problems to write about



at work  
with the law  
with your health  
in your community

### Do you want to know more about

**U.I.F?** LEARN AND TEACH SELLS A BOOK ON THE U.I.F.

The book costs 70 cents. If you want the book write to: Learn and Teach  
P.O. Box 11074  
Johannesburg

Send a postal order for 70 cents.

Don't forget to give your name and address.





# All welcome at festival

THE Lenasia Youth League (LYL) has adopted "Expression, Participation and Unity" as its theme for a major youth festival to be held between the 9th and 15th of December.

The festival will include such items as a marathon, roller-skating, art and film festivals, and a musical and variety concert.

Mr Nazeer Carim, president of the LYL explained the theme.



With the experiences within our communities being vast and untold, and the talents of our people bypassing unrecognized, the Youth League sees expression as important in the context of the festival. Expression through art, films, drama, music and sport.

"However, in order for all this to become real and successful, the participation of everyone is essential. The festival is not restricted to the people of Lenasia only. People from other areas are encouraged to contribute to the success of this festival. People can contribute to any of the items. As artists whose works can be exhibited at the arts festival, as entrants to any of the competitions or as performers on the variety and music concert. The participation of people is essential not only to the success of the festival but to its theme as well".

"This show of expression and active participation will be a show of great unity. A unity that will boast of the skills and potential of all those involved. We urge people of all areas to actively contribute to the success of this festival".

People who have any enquiries about the festival are asked to contact

## LENASIA YOUTH LEAGUE YOUTH FESTIVAL 82 9TH-15TH DECEMBER Expression, Participation & Unity

	DEC THUR 9	Rollerskating competition at Apsara car park (speed, obstacle and figure skating)
Film & Arts Festival begins — Jiswa Centre (to continue throughout the programme)	FR I 10	
	SAT 11	Swimming at Lenasia Pool (water polo)
Marathon — Lenasia Stadium	SUN 12	
	MON 13	Film & Arts Festival Day
Variety concert at Patidar Theatre	TUES 14	
	WED 15	Musical concert at Civic Centre

Nazeer at 852-3568 or at 4307 Nasturtium Avenue, Lenasia.

The programme is as follows. Please note that the programme and ve-

nues are subject to alteration

### Putco plans increase

PUTCO is planning to increase bus fares by 13.5% on its routes in the Johannesburg area. However a number of organisations have appealed to the National Transport Board not to allow the increase.

They say that the increase is unnecessary. The company was making millions of rands profit. It was pointed out to the Board by a lawyer for the objectors that the number of buses had increased by 68% and that shareholders were getting three times more money than three years ago.

"Putco is already making excessive profits out of an essential social service," said the Commuters' Watchdog Association. The Commu-



ters' Watchdog Association consists of members of community organisations who are opposing the increase.

They include Mr I Mogase of Diepkloof Civic Association, Dr Nthatho Motlana of the Committee of Ten and Miss Kathleen Mulligan.

By the time of printing the Board has not yet decided whether to allow the increase.

### Solidarity at OK

WORKERS downed tools at the OK Bazaars' Rosebank store after police arrived to arrest a cashier. The cashier allegedly refused to sign a form detailing that the money in her till was 'short'.

The workers milled around the police, and one of them who allegedly swore at the police was also arrested.

The workers went on strike until the police agreed to release the two workers without charging them.

### Mawu slams lay-offs

SHOP stewards of the Metal and Allied Workers Union (Mawu) want to have joint negotiations with their employees on a procedure to protect workers threatened by retrenchments. At a shop stewards meeting they bitterly attacked employers for laying off thousands of workers while continuing to make large profits.

Retrenched metal workers have been "condemned to starvation" said Mawu. They said the drought — which prevented migrant workers' families growing food — and the West Rand Administration Board's refusal to allow contract workers to take new jobs had made it more difficult for retrenched worker's families to survive.



### Non-racial amateur soccer enjoys support

Morgan Naidoo signs bread petition at tournament

THE Benoni Student Movement's (BSM) annual soccer tournament is one of the big events in Transvaal's non-racial soccer calendar.

This year's 5th Annual Soccer Tournament, held at the Actonville stadium in October, was a huge success.

Despite cloudy weather, more than 5 000 people attended to enjoy the high standard of soccer. Twelve Transvaal soccer board teams participated in the two-day tournament.

Celtic United won the tournament after a spirited final match against Bluebells United. They beat Bluebells by 3 goals to 1, and walked away with a cash prize of R1000. Celtic donated R100 to the BSM. Bluebells United received R500, and each player from both teams received a medal.

The loser's final played between Pretoria Eagles and Sheffield, ended dramatically in a draw. This even after penalties were allowed. The final score was one goal each.

Jayson Pillay of Pretoria Eagles snatched the "Best Goalkeeper" award, while Azhar Nanabhai of Azaadville United received the prize for "Best Player".

The tournament was the scene of more than just sporting activity.

Banners and posters protesting against inadequate housing, high rents, detentions and the unjust dismissal of Wilson Rowntree workers, decorated the Actonville stadium.

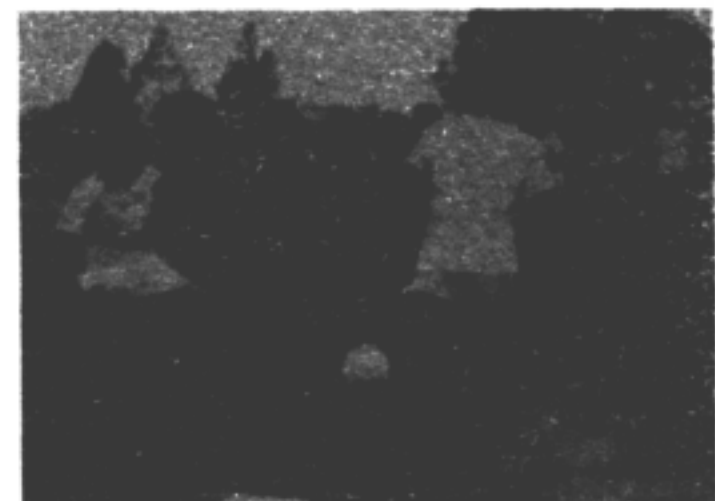
Over 1000 people signed a petition protesting against the bread price increase.

Morgan Naidoo, in a brief address reaffirmed the fact that "politics and sport cannot be separated". He also said that he was impressed by the tournament and congratulated the BSM for the work they were doing in the Actonville community.

Rama Reddy, presi-



Winners trophy presented by Bashir Omar



Exciting action at one of the matches



Mohamed Sibda being introduced to players before the final game

dent of the SA Soccer Federation who had earlier kicked off the losers' final, expressed his pleasure at the interest displayed in the Transvaal in non-racial amateur soccer.

The highlight of the tournament was undoubtedly the moment before the final match. When the stadium reverberated with the sound of the national anthem: Nkosi Sikelel'i Afrika. The national an-

them was led by BSM members and the finalists.

Bashir Omar, chairperson of BSM, thanked everyone who had contributed to the tournament's success. He thanked in particular the Actonville community for the generous support they had given BSM over the years.

Proceeds from the tournament will go towards a bursary fund for scholars and students.