



Council won't divide us

The Council's new Rent Scheme will mean more expenses for many residents throughout the Peninsula..



The Council is using the new rents to try to divide the people



by giving some people increases and some decreases, so that some are gaining at the expense of others.



This has made it very difficult for communities to organise against new rents... BUT their divisive tactics WILL NOT SUCCEED!



THOUSANDS of tenants living in City Council houses are, after many delays, faced with the governments new rent proposals. These are to be implemented on January 1, 1981. Tenants in the Cape areas' housing schemes

will be forced to pay for all maintenance to their houses when the City Council introduces the new lease agreement. In terms of this lease, maintenance costs will no longer be covered by rents but will have to

be carried out by the tenants themselves. This comes at a time when there was hope of decreased rents for sub-economic tenants in terms of the governments new rent proposals which come into effect on January 1,

1981. While some tenants are relieved to be noted of decreases promised for the New Year, they now have another burden to bear. It is the council that will once again save the money. A Bokmakierie

resident said: 'The council has reduced my rent by 22 cents but when I must put a new roof on this house, which belongs to them, it is not going to cost me 22 cents.' Some tenants have reported increased rents

while others have had decreases. There appears to be no set pattern and residents' associations are experiencing difficulty in taking up the issue as communities. Individuals, rather than entire communities have been affected.

'The City Council has again tried to split our community to prevent us from taking up future issues. They will not succeed,' was the view of a member of one such association. The government has cleverly worked out the rentals so that for some - the minority - rents will decrease. The majority, however, will have their rents raised. Of the 37 000 tenants living in City Council houses and flats, only 11 000 will have their rents decreased. These are generally the lower income groups - which are those who earn less than R150 a month - and those living in the older housing schemes, such as Bokmakierie, Silverton, Bridgetown, and Kewtown. The rest, who are the vast majority, will be faced with rent increases, mostly of only R1 to R2 a month but up to R12 for some. These new rentals meant two things. Firstly, that for many people paying higher rents will cover the losses of the government and council caused by those paying less rent. And secondly, that this is yet another attempt to divide the community as some will benefit while others will not.

GRASSROOTS ORGANISER BANNED

JOHNNY Issel, the permanent organizer of Grassroots, has been given a three-year banning order. This means that he can no longer work for Grassroots or any other publication. He is also forbidden to leave the magisterial district of Wynberg, enter an African area, enter any factory or educational institution. This is the third time Mr Issel - who is also the chairman of the Rocklands' Ratepayers' Association - has been banned. More than a thousand people have been restricted in this way since the first banning orders

were served in 1950. Other recent victims were Mr Jamalludien Hamdulay and Mr Hennie Ferus. Members of Grassroots commented in a statement that these bannings and other restrictive measures would never stem the tide of legitimate protest of the oppressed people in this country. "We condemn the banning which will not only impede the movement of Mr Issel but that of his family as well," said the people of Grassroots. Banning community leaders will not halt the peoples' march to freedom.

Thousands sign Mitchell's Plain electricity petition

THERE is a general eagerness among residents of Mitchell's Plain to sign the electricity petition, according to the Electricity Petition Committee. The Committee, which is regulating the electricity due date campaign, reports in its latest newsletter that 4574 people have signed the petition. The Committee consists of residents from all areas of Mitchell's Plain, including three residents associations. Members of the committee have been going door to door in the different areas of Mitchell's Plain collect-

ing signatures. Many complaints regarding the payment of the electricity account have been expressed by the residents. The petition is calling on City Council to change the due date of the electricity account to the 7th of the month. The majority of the residents cannot pay the account when it becomes due. The account falls due during the third week every month. Residents then have to pay 10% penalty. Many residents are paying their electricity account in arrears every

month. Residents say this amounts to an extra R2 every month on electricity. Some people claim they have been paying the penalty since they moved in. They want to know whether City Council deliberately puts the due date at a time when the majority cannot pay their accounts. Most of the residents are monthly paid and can only pay their account after the due date. Now that the rate for electricity has been increased, the extra money will also be more. The residents want to know what

City Council does with all this extra money? After many requests to have the due date changed, City Council replied that residents of Mitchell's Plain cannot expect "preferential treatment". The people are saying that they do not want any special treatment, but that City Council is there to serve the people. The awkward due date is costing the people a lot of money. The workings of City Council must be convenient for the people. If not, then City Council must change its methods.

others will not.

grassroots
Victory for Fattis workers - Page 2

grassroots
Cape Herald strikers comment - Page 3

grassroots
Gains for Lotus River - Page 4

grassroots
Students speak on boycott - page 5

grassroots
All about search warrants - Page 11

grassroots
Your child and accidents - Page 12

grassroots
Plight of the vendors - Page 15

STRIKE ACTION BROUGHT VICTORIES

THE strike action of the Fattis & Monis workers in Bellville last year, the events it gave rise to and the victories won introduced a new era in the struggle of the oppressed masses of our country.

It showed the workers from whom they can expect support for their struggle.

It showed working people prepared to stand up in support of the brothers and sisters of their class

who were injured. The pain of this injury they felt as their own.

It showed the rest of the suffering masses and other groups rushing to the support of the detained 88 striking workers. It clearly showed who would be prepared to defend the interest of the bosses during times of crises. The harassment of the strikers and the early morning raids at their living

quarters did not go unnoticed.

The determination shown by the striking workers won sympathy not only over the whole of the country but from many countries outside. The correct line adopted by their Union, the Food and Canning Workers Union, and the assistance given to the strikers during their entire fight clearly showed that Unions are meant for workers and should stand behind their members in times of need.

Bosses sign pay pact

AT the beginning of November this year, exactly 12 months after the back-to-work settlement, the FCWU concluded a significant agreement with Fattis & Monis.

Fattis & Monis agreed to recognize the FCWU as spokesman of all African and Coloured workers, not only at Bellville, but also at Isando in Johannesburg. This includes recognition of the unregistered



African Union.

Facilities for the Union at the factory, the election of a Union Committee with regular meetings between the

Union Committee and management are provided for.

Minimum wages will be R45 per week for men and R40 for

women. As Fattis & Monis previously had 11 different grades of work, for which different wages were paid, there will now be only

five grades.

This agreement, which would apply for one year, was made possible through the determined action of

the Union and its members in ensuring that the vast majority of the workers at the two factories became members of the Union.

Advance in workers cause

AFTER the settlement the FCWU issued the following statement: "The agreement reached is a victory of major importance for the workers and our Union. It is also a victory for workers everywhere, and for the organisations throughout the country and outside the country, who were prepared to support the workers' cause. We must emphasize it was a victory at a tremendous price. The workers had to undergo great hardships. Children died. The cost of supporting workers exceeds R30 000. Fattis & Monis too had its price to pay. But it was a price Fattis & Monis chose to pay through their refusal to negotiate with the Union, and through their refusal to recognize the workers had chosen to belong to the Union."

Fattis & Monis undertook to re-employ all striking workers. To treat the time they were on strike as suspended service. They would be replaced in the positions they occupied before the strike. It also agreed to apply for the renewal of the contracts of the African workers.

No worker would be dismissed unless for being drunk or theft. Before dismissal a written warning must be given to the worker and a copy sent to the Union. If the worker does not heed the warning notice must be given 48 hours before dismissal to the Union to allow representation on behalf of the worker.

ALL STRIKERS TAKEN BACK

DURING the early stage of the strike it became clear that the strength of the striking workers could not match that of the employers of Fattis & Monis.

Very soon strike-breakers were employed to fill the jobs of the strikers, with the usual announcement following that the factory was back to normal. African workers, who formed

the majority of the strikers, were threatened with removal from Cape Town.

In Bellville, a hall was hired where the strikers would meet every day for seven long months.

Early in the morning they would gather to sing, to listen to talks of encouragement, to discuss what to do next.

At the end of the week they would go home with the R15 strike pay paid by their Union.

When the call was made to the masses to strengthen the position of the striking workers it did not go unanswered.

What started off as just another incident involving a few workers who were victimised soon came to be dis-

cussed on platforms right across the country, echoing in different parts of the world.

University and school students became involved. Church ministers and other religious leaders urged their members to support the boycott. Shopkeepers identified with the struggling workers. Many trade unions supported the FCWU and its affected members.

Housewives were looking more closely at what brands they were buying.

"We don't buy Fattis & Monis" became the slogan on cars, on trains, on doors, on everybody's lips.

During all this time the majority of the striking workers stood firm. This after the police have questioned many of them at their

daily meeting. Afterwards the police conducted a pre-dawn raid at the factory hostels in Nyanga where most of them were staying.

The re-employment of some of the strikers at a bakery owned by Fattis & Monis could not break the determination of the majority.

The boycott increased. In May Fattis & Monis admitted that the boycott was having "an effect in certain areas."

Without the boycott a settlement seemed unlikely. The stand of the organisations supporting the boycott was that it could only be called off if the settlement was acceptable to the workers.

At the beginning of November 1979 Fattis & Monis agreed to take back all the striking workers.

BATTLE ON MANY FRONTS

THE Food and Canning Workers Union (FCWU) formed in 1941 to organise all workers in the food industry, started organising Fattis and

Monis workers for the first time in 1953.

An agreement reached shortly afterwards improving wages and conditions of work

was later extended to include the Fattis and Monis workers in Johannesburg.

In later years the organisation disintegrated, as it happened at so many different industries.

Twenty-five years later in March 1978 the FCWU started again organising the Fattis and Monis workers at Bellville.

When the Union came it found the starting wages for women were R17 and R19 for men. A male worker with 32 years service was getting R31 a week.

The workers instructed the Union to write to the employers about their complaints. No reply was received.

At a meeting requested with the employers the Union was informed that Fattis

and Monis would recognise different Unions for its three sections of workers. Not one Union as the FCWU requested.

Although Fattis and Monis undertook to reply to the complaints of the workers it never did. Further letters from the Union were ignored.

In March 1979 the workers submitted a petition to the employers asking for higher wages.

On 12 April 1979, after having received no reply from the factory, the workers instructed the Union to apply to the Minister of Labour for the appointment of a Conciliation Board.

Although only coloured workers could officially be represented many African workers supported the application.

Seven days after this the manager at Fattis and Monis called the workers from the milling section and told them to choose between the liaison committee and the Union. "Difficult times" would lie ahead for those who chose the Union, he told them.

The workers refused to choose after he insisted they do so in his presence.

On April 23 five active Union members were dismissed without being given reasons.

This sparked off the events which would stretch over seven long months of struggle. A battle started to demand the reinstatement of these five workers who were later joined by 83 fellow workers.

A battle which was fought on so many fronts.



Turning point

THE Fattis & Monis dispute, the supportive action which followed, not only formed a landmark in the Trade Union movement, but shows a turning point in the struggle of the mass of the suffering people in South Africa.

Community supportive action, as we have not seen for many years, has taught the oppressed a new form of struggle. Unity in action, the basis of the Fattis & Monis episode, is the requirement for an unfree people to achieve their goal.

PARKFAIR NATIONAL DISTRIBUTORS

COLLEGE ROAD · GREENHAVEN · PHONE: 679111 2 3

★

SUGAR · TOBACCO · SWEETS · CIGARETTES
WHOLESALEERS

★

MEMBER OF PARKFAIR GROUP OF COMPANIES

DRIVE WITH TOTAL CONFIDENCE

FILL UP AT

HAVEN MOTORS

★

COLLEGE ROAD · GREENHAVEN
PHONE: 686120 / 673696 / 678730

★

**We are proud to be
the printers of
GRASSROOTS**

**Let us assist you
in your
print requirements!**

Specialists in

- Wedding Cards & Invitations
- Sports Brochures
- Magazines & Publications
- Rubber Stamps
- Colour Catalogues
- Photo-Typesetting

ESQUIRE PRESS (PTY) LTD.
where quality is the key-word

Hein Road, Athlone Industria
Phone 67-1260/1

Drama flourishes in Guguletu



THE Sizamile amateur drama group is an example of true artists aimed at exposing the contradictions existing in society.

The play "The Judgement", locally written by one of the group members, reminds a person immediately of the play, "The Trial of Dedan Kimathi", by a Kenyan author and playwright, Ngugi Wa'thiongo, with the central figure a freedom fighter captured by the oppressive forces.

The play opens with a prison scene in which Mzimba, a freedom fighter detained by the security police is being interrogated by his captors, but he is adamant, he would not compromise with his oppressors, even if it meant death to him.

His interrogators, disillusioned with the slow progress they are making with Mzimba leave him alone to reflect upon his life as, what they term, a terrorist. But it only strengthens Mzimba's belief that these people

"all the way from overseas" be radically forced to give back the Africans' land to restore their traditions and customs, "fully confident of the victory of their battle."

The next scene finds us in the court where Mzimba is charged with terrorist activities and for being in possession of arms. He is asked to plead, but because of his stubborn silence the trial is postponed to the next day.

The judge orders Mzimba to be silent and to be taken away, but not before Mzimba leaves his final message to the audience: "So go! Organise your homes, organise in the mountains, know that your only kindred blood is he who is in the struggle. Denounce those who weaken our struggle by creating ethnic divisions. Uproot from you those who are selling out to imperialism. Azanian masses shall be free!"

Mzimba is led out to serve his sentence.

The play itself is

superb and forceful with total disregard for trivialities and unnecessary beautification and limits itself only to the matters at hand. The sincere acting of the main character grabs a person in such a way that it demands a respect for and belief in the cause that he is fighting for. The decor was simple and nothing extravagant that might have spoilt the sincerity of the group whose belief it is that their work should rather be educative than praiseworthy.

The play, performed at the Guguletu Recreational Centre to a packed house is not the first attempt of the group, but rather is one of the many successes they had from a whole string of locally written plays. Unfortunately, the group is badly in need of funds to obtain the necessary equipment for them to expand their horizons to places other than Guguletu.

Repeated action against unionists

IT is no surprise these days to find out that another trade union organiser or worker has been detained in East London. This city has become the scene of a major struggle between the workers and their leaders on the one hand and the South African and Ciskeian authorities on the other hand.

The biggest confrontation occurred a few weeks ago. Late one Friday night two Combi loads of union organisers and workers from the South African Allied Workers Union, the Food and Canning Workers Union and the Western Province General Workers Union were stopped by South African and Ciskeian security police. Fifteen people were detained by the Ciskeians and the Combi's were confiscated.

cated.

There was an outcry of protest from the workers of East London and other trade unions inside and outside South Africa. Sebe had obviously gone too far.

The workers of East London have been in the forefront of worker's struggles in South Africa over the past few months. They have flocked to trade unions that have allowed them to democratically express their grievances. SAAWU's organisation in the factories of East London has increased tenfold, the Food and Canning Workers Union have established a solid base there, and the stevedores in the East London docks are all organised members of the Western Province General Workers Union.

This has worried the South African

authorities. They have harassed and detained members of all three of these unions.

But Sebe also has his own reasons for the detentions. The Ciskeian authorities have been faced with increasing opposition from the students and other sections of the black community. Schools have been closed down as a result of the continuing boycott. Opposition politicians have been hounded out of the Ciskei.

On top of this there is the increasing militancy and organisation of the workers in East London, most of whom live in the Ciskei.

All of this has been giving Sebe a political headache.

Why? Because Sebe has been trying to dress up Ciskei's acceptance of Bantustan 'independ-

ence' in popular colours.

Even though he has already committed himself to accepting 'independence', he has also organised a referendum on the issue. He has been therefore very touchy about any independent organisation of the African community in the Ciskei, particularly organisation amongst workers.

By detaining workers and trade union organisers Sebe was hoping to kill two birds with one stone. Break worker organisation in East London, and do the South African authorities and bosses a favour.

Eliminate any other popular leaders and so protect himself from opposition to Ciskeian 'independence'.

But when the workers of East London discovered that their leaders had been detained they became extremely angry.

Factory committees demanded that their bosses do something to get the detainees released. Else the workers would take action themselves.

A mass meeting of all workers in East London was called for the following Wednesday night.

The situation was rapidly getting out of control.

The detentions were not helping the bosses control their workers. They were not breaking the organisation of the East London workers. Only increasing the workers anger.

The bosses started to put pressure on Sebe and the South African authorities to release the detained men.

On Wednesday afternoon, just before the mass meeting, the Ciskeian police released the organisers and workers detained the previous Friday.

The mass meeting, attended by between 1200 and 1500 turned into a victory celebration.

But the workers in East London have not forgotten that there are still a number of people from SAAWU and the Food and Canning Workers Union being held in prison by the Ciskeian and South African authorities.

What is SAAWU?

SAAWU is a federation of trade unions which was formed in March 1979 at the annual conference of the Black Allied Workers Union.

It organizes workers from all industries and is based on non-racial principles.

"We believe the country has a non-

racial future and we must therefore be nonracial," said the union's general secretary, Mr Samuel Kikine.

abonu
UNISEX
HAIRSTYLISTS

WE ARE PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH
'GRASSROOTS'

BARCLAY CENTRE 2nd FLOOR
c/o FINDON & KLIPFONTEIN RDS. ATHLONE
(above Barclays Bank)

PH 67-8493

THE HANOVER PARK CIVIC is trying to find out the problems of the community

Every weekend volunteers go to the residents with questionnaires

Some of the questions asked are:

What problems are experienced?

How can they be solved?

AND WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE CIVIC?

The problems most commonly reported are:

lack of facilities:

hospitals

Sporting grounds

schools

over crowding

The Civic must know the needs of the community... so that it can serve it in the best way possible.

THESE ARE OUR PROBLEMS!!

BIG GAINS FOR LOTUS RIVER

LOTUS River residents were recently surprised to receive computerised monthly electricity accounts and to find the Divisional Council installing lights outside the tenant flats.

These were two important demands they had made to the Council in a memorandum submitted by the Lotus River Ratepayers and Tenants Association. In it they criticised the number of "irregularities" in the electricity accounts. Now, several months later, it seemed that the Council was beginning to make a few improvements.

Residents felt that the computerised accounts were an improvement on the old accounts which were hand-written by clerks from the local rent office. These clerks had to write out thousands of accounts each month and, because they were only human, many mistakes were made. A single figure written down wrongly often led to an unusually high account.

If the residents were lucky enough to discover the mistakes, they had the further problem of having to take off from work to get the mistake corrected at the office. It was often not worth the trouble and residents ended up paying for the Council's mistakes.

The lack of outside lighting in the tenant areas had also been a sore point with the residents for a long time. Areas between the blocks of flats were pitch dark at night and this encouraged the growth of crime in the vicinity. Without lights on the outside staircases it was difficult for people to see and this was a great danger. Many residents, especially the elderly, have tripped and fallen down the steep steps. Some have been badly injured.

Another very important gain made by the Association was the opening of the rent office on Saturdays for the payment of rent accounts. Previously the office was only open during the week and this was awkward for most, especially where both parents in a family worked during the day. This also led to great risks since they could either lose the money or be

robbed of it.

Residents are convinced that the Council have made these changes because of pressure from the community. When the Council replied to the memorandum in April they would not admit to the Associations accusations of maladministration. Instead they gave excuses for every single irregularity found

in the electricity accounts. However, it is certain that officials of the Council were greatly shocked when the list of grievances were handed to them by 50 residents, some with children, who marched on the Divisional Council office in town in March this year.

Although the above concessions made by the Council represent a few gains for the hard-pressed

Lotus River residents, there is still much dissatisfaction.

The recent electricity accounts received were in most cases very high. Many residents had to pay monthly bills of R30 to R40, and this in sub-economic tenant flats!

Also, residents are still convinced that the Council is still employing unqualified metre readers

to take their readings. Many report that the Council labourers who sweep the roads, read the metres.

Residents in the area remain determined to continue the fight to force the Council to bring about more changes. They have seen what changes collective action brings about. They also realise that as long as you

do nothing, you will gain nothing.

More and more residents are attending the house meetings to discuss common problems. The Association is planning several mass meetings in the area to be held after a series of house meetings to discuss the recent high electricity accounts and the increase in rents that the authorities have proposed for January next year.

A new name and a rotating chairman

THE Lotus River Ratepayers and Tenants Association, at their annual general meeting (AGM) held in October, changed their name to the Grassy Park-Lotus River Residents Association.

It was felt that this change had become necessary because a great percentage of the mem-

bership lived in Grassy Park. Members of the new executive live in Lotus River and Grassy Park.

Another important change made at the AGM was the adoption of the idea of rotating chairperson.

The Association now no longer has one chairperson for the year but

the position will instead be rotated among the 11 executive members. Each executive member will thus get a chance to chair the meeting.

The advantage of this system is that all executive will gain some experience in chairing meetings and also the responsibility for the association will not rest on the

shoulders of one person but will now be shared.

The changes to the constitution included expanding the executive committee to eleven members (it was previously nine) and changing the position of secretary to a secretariate of three persons to cope with the vast amount of work.

Eviction threat in Schotsche Kloof

AFTER refusing to pay an increased rental, Ismail Achmat is facing eviction from his dwelling in Schotsche Kloof.

For more than a year Mr Achmat ignored a R21 rental increase, claiming it was unreasonable. "If there are no amenities and poor maintenance, then there are no grounds to increase my rent" he said. His rent was increased from R93 to R114 per month.

The three bedroomed house in which the Achmat family stays is

rented by Ismail's father, a pensioner. "Council is now harassing a pensioner for this vast amount, and what is more they based the rent on the income of the entire family." According to Council regulations the rent is determined on the income of the breadwinner only.

The first eviction notice came in September. Mr Achmat agreed to pay the increased rent plus R50 arrears per month. Mr Bloom, the housing director,

then withdrew the notice "Even this I pay under protest," said Mr Achmat. He signs his rent slip "under protest" before he pays.

Then came a second eviction notice. But a visit to Mr Bloom's office soon settled the matter.

Now there is a third eviction notice. This notice states that Mr Achmat failed to pay before the 7th day of November 1980. Mr Achmat's receipt, however reflects that payment was made on

November 3, 1980. A visit to Mr Bloom's office was fruitless. "He was not there," said Mr Achmat. He is determined to resist this notice.

Mr Achmat receives the full backing of the Schotsche Kloof Civic Association. "We back Mr Achmat completely" said Nassegh Jaffer, secretary of the Association. "His struggle is against the unjust practices of the City Council.

Grassroots gets top award

THE people responsible for starting Grassroots have won the 1980 Henry Nxumalo Award for Outstanding Contribution to Journalism in South Africa.

Henry Nxumalo has been an inspiration to Black journalists in this country for more than 30 years.

In the fifties while working for Drum he exposed the infamous Bethal farm labour scandal. Blacks were forced to work under such inhuman conditions that they died like flies. Their bodies were used as fertilizer for the potato crops of the area.

His exposures sparked off mass community boycotts of potatoes.

The people rallied round the slogan "If you

buy potatoes you will be eating Black workers."

As his next major assignment Nxumalo got himself arrested (for a pass offence) so that he could write about prison conditions. He did so with such vigour after his release that the government reacted by passing the Prisons Act which virtually makes it an offence to publish anything that goes on behind prison walls.

Not long after this Nxumalo was murdered. No-one was ever arrested in connection with his death.

The award is made by the Media Workers Association of S.A. who paid tribute to the role Grassroots is playing in the field of Alternative Journalism.

Q. What do you think of the boycott. Did it achieve anything? (We asked an 18-year old student).

A. I think the boycott has taught us that without unity and determination no struggle can be won. As yet (our demands have not yet been met) but this is an indication that much is to be gained in the future through unity.

Q. Why did the boycott

BLACK SCHOOLS BOYCOTT: Parents and students speak out

GRASSROOTS has interviewed a number of students and parents on the schools crisis in the townships. Here are some of their views.

carry on for so long?

A. This only shows how determined the student of today is.

The students had to

make it clear to the authorities that they do not boycott schools out of fun; the student of today is not interested

in the changing of the name of the educational system, from Bantu Education & Training but in the total eradication of the evil system of education.

Secondly, we the students in the West-

ern Cape have to be the last to return to school (if ever) because the first school to boycott is in the W. Cape.

Whether the other schools in the other areas join us or not we shall go on with the

boycott until the system compromises.

Q. What are pupils doing with their time?

A. Ever since the Minister of Justice banned meetings in June this year, it has been diffi-

cult for us to carry on with the Awareness Programmes. Most of the students looked for jobs during the boycott but the majority are roaming the streets. We hope that something will be done in the near future.

Q. Will they go back to school in the new year?

A. Time will tell. Our demands are the most important.

Q. Why will you go back? Why won't you?

A. I won't ever go back to school. I'll only do that if our demands are met. They (the authorities) have not moved an inch this far. Who told them we are interested in compulsory education?

This government does not represent the people and thus the only language they would understand is non-collaboration.

WILL PUPILS GO BACK TO SCHOOL?

WILL PUPILS in the affected areas go back to school next year? This is the question that every concerned parent asks.

The school boycott has now been going on since February this year. But not even recent developments are able to provide a clear cut solution to this problem.

At a meeting which was held at Lansdowne last Sunday by representatives from the affected areas - Port Elizabeth, Cape Town, Bloemfontein, Kimberley and Alice - no decision was reached as the meeting ended up in disharmony. Some people were pushing for the defusing of the school boycott while others rejected this idea.

Those who wanted to end the boycott argued that they had made their point. The others claimed that the government had done

nothing to solve their grievances.

In Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, the Department of Education and Training had arranged for the election of new school committees. The current school committees have been partially blamed for the school boycotts.

But these elections failed to take place at Fezeka, I D Mkize, Sizamile and Langa High Schools last Sunday because of poor attendance and in some cases pupils arrived at the schools where elections should have taken place and explained to their parents that such an action would be detrimental to the community and to the pupils themselves.

Two weeks ago the Guguletu Residents Association decided to hold elections for new school committees at the Guguletu Civic Hall on December 14 so that everybody could par-

ticipate and for the community to elect three school committees to be in charge of Langa, Guguletu and Nyanga respectively.

This is where the government plan clashes with the community's because the government's, as was the case last Sunday, would like to stick to the old system of having individual school committees for each school.

The Minister of Education and Training, Dr Freddie Hertzberg, has further announced that only those children whose age is 17 and under will be allowed to register for school next year. This is seen by the community as a stumbling block in negotiations for pupils to return to school next year.

This is so because among this year's standard 9 and 10 pupils there were those who were 21.

The government

has said these can register with the Adult Education Centre at Langa. But this is not what the community wants and it is also against the will of the pupils themselves.

Some of the pupils interviewed this week about the school boycott also argue that the government has done nothing to meet their grievances and therefore are unwilling to return to school next year.

One pupil said: "Are they (the authorities) trying to get us back to the same situation, the very situation which has led us to boycott school? None of our grievances have been resolved and therefore I can't see myself going back to school under these conditions"

Another pupil said: "I would find it very uncomfortable to return to school knowing that my colleagues are still in detention

and others serving jail sentences. I don't think I could be able to live with my conscience."

Although most parents expressed willingness to support the idea of sending their children back to school, they wanted to see positive action on the part of the government in solving their children's grievances.

"Look it is no use trying to force my child to return to school when I myself realise the validity of the pupils' grievances," said one parent. "The Government should first take positive action in solving the children's grievances before it can expect us to lend support," she said.

Townships are tense

PUPILS in the schools under the Department of Education and Training in the Western Cape are either looking for jobs, working, in detention or planning activities for next year.

Some lower primary schools (Sub A - Standard 2) are empty and some half empty because of acts of alleged intimidation.

The high and higher primary schools were closed about two months ago.

The situation at the townships is tense as was evident after the defeat of Gerrie Cotzee by Mike Weaver, which led to stone throwing and shootings which left three people dead, two 14 year olds.

VIEWS ON BOYCOTT

The children are right, their form of education is unacceptable but I think that they should change their strategy from time to time. The government forces won't stop at anything to enforce their policy and the students themselves should not stop at anything in ensuring that their demands are met. The students must rule out force. They must not meet force with force but rather force with reasoning.

Council makes empty promises

THE 1980 City Council budget promised the people of Schotsche Kloof the amenities they hunger for - yet another empty promise it now seems.

The budget made provision for a community centre, housing office, nursery school and sportsgrounds. These were to be constructed over the 1980 and 1981 financial year.

According to the Schotsche Kloof Civic Association a semi-dilapidated building serves as a community hall and nursery simultaneously. "Even City Council declared this building unfit for human use," said an executive member of the Association.

The City Engineer indicated that a new centre would cost R360 157 (estimate). Money was available and sketch plans on the table. The Schotsche Kloof Civic Association appointed an architect consultant to assist with the actual plans in May 1980. In August these plans were completed - But still no

A housing office is non-existent in the area. Tenants pay rent through the bedroom window of the caretaker's house. This service is available once a week and in the morning only.

Despite the many vacant sites, sportsgrounds are still a pipe-dream. With an additional R28 500 in the kitty the City Engineer suggested the construction of play-


grounds and two much needed tennis courts. Even this failed to materialise.

Now the 40 member strong tennis club is driven to a virtual standstill. No other courts are any longer available; the pre-school children continue to school in a half dilapidated building; and the kids continue to play in the streets - that is till a car knocks them over.

The new 1981 budget is on the table. Said one of the areas two ward councillors at a recent public meeting:

"Monies allocated in one budget, and not utilised, are not re-allocated in the next budget." This means that R388 657 is lost to the community. This matter is currently the prime issue between City Council and the local Civic Association.

LET ...




TIFFANY'S
JEWELLERS
OF DISTINCTION

OF ATHLONE
BE YOUR JEWELLER

ph.674718

ATHLONE CITY CENTRE
KLIPFONTEIN RD.
ATHLONE

LOOKING FOR WORK?
LET US HELP YOU - call at



CAMINPLOY

STAFF SERVICES

You need to bring with you

YOUR IDENTITY CARD, BOOK OF LIFE OR REFERENCE BOOK

A TESTIMONIAL or REFERENCE from your previous employer

30c TO COVER COST OF CONTACTS

SCHOOL LEAVERS WELCOME

16 ASTLEY ST
MOWBRAY, CAPE
PH. 661264

ATHLONE PHARMACY

YOUR FAMILY CHEMIST IN ATHLONE

Dispensing and photographic chemists.

Stockists of Revlon, Yardley, Lutsine and all types of cosmetics.

Athlone City Centre,
Athlone 7764

RE-OPENING SOON!!



ROSMEAD
SUPERMARKET

ROSMEAD AVE., CLAREMONT PH: 61-9020

**BIGGER, BETTER, BRIGHTER
LARGER VARIETY**

TAKE-AWAYS, BAKERY, FRESH FISH, BUTCHER
ONE STOP SHOPPING - LONGER HOURS
LATE NIGHT SHOPPING EVERY NIGHT

comment PEOPLE ON THE MARCH

THIS YEAR, THE START OF A NEW DECADE, HAS SEEN A DETERMINED MARCH BY THE MASS OF OUR PEOPLE AGAINST SUFFERING AND EXPLOITATION. IN TOWNSHIPS AND FACTORIES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY THEY ACCEPTED THE CHALLENGE TO UNITE AND FIGHT AGAINST THE EVILS OF THIS SOCIETY. MANY OUTSTANDING VICTORIES WERE ACHIEVED DESPITE THE INTERVENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT WITH ALL ITS MACHINERY.

THE DETERMINATION OF THE WORKERS OF FORD IN PORT ELIZABETH, STRENGTHENED BY THE SOLIDARITY OF THE COMMUNITY, ANNOUNCED THE BEGINNING OF THIS NEW YEAR. THE WORKERS STRUGGLES IN JOHANNESBURG, IN PARTICULAR THE MUNICIPAL WORKERS, THE EAST LONDON WORKERS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ALLIED WORKERS' UNION AND THE RENT FIGHTS IN DURBAN UNDER THE BANNER OF THE DURBAN HOUSING ACTION COMMITTEE, SHOWED THAT THIS FLAME WAS BURNING IN ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

MEAT STRIKE

THE STRIKE BY WORKERS OF THE ENTIRE MEAT INDUSTRY IN CAPE TOWN AND THE FIRM COMMUNITY SUPPORT IT RECEIVED PLACED THE WESTERN CAPE IN THE CENTRE OF EVENTS.

THIS YEAR HAS SEEN THE RE-GROUPING OF THE MASS OF THE WESTERN CAPE WITH BATTLES FOUGHT ON SO MANY FRONTS. HANOVER PARK, GRABOUW, GUGULETU, ELSIES RIVER, MBEKWENI, REX TRUEFORM, KAROO MEAT, CROSSROADS, CMGM, LOTUS RIVER, MACASSAR AND MANY OTHER PLACES.

THE MATURE STAND TAKEN BY OUR STUDENTS AGAINST 'GUTTER EDUCATION' TO WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED FOR THEIR ENTIRE SCHOOL LIFE SHOWED THAT NO EVIL SYSTEM CAN ENSLAVE FOREVER.

THE BATTLE FOR DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATION FOUGHT BY THE MEAT WORKERS DISPLAYED A UNITY BETWEEN WORKERS AND COMMUNITY WHICH TAUGHT MANY LESSONS.

THE BUS BOYCOTT MOUNTED BY THE OPPRESSED WITH GREAT SACRIFICES, BROUGHT MANY GAINS AND AT THE SAME TIME POINTED OUT THE NEED FOR STRONG DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATIONS IF SUCH BATTLES ARE TO BE WON.

THIS WAS THE YEAR 1980. WITH THIS EXPERIENCE WE SHOULD BE ARMED FOR THE NEW YEAR.



LETTERS

LETTERS FOR PUBLICATION IN GRASSROOTS ARE WELCOME, WRITE TO US AT BOX 181, ATHLONE 7760

From pillar to post for a passport

Dear Sir

In September this year I was nominated by the company I am working for to be one of its candidates in a training course to be held in a neighbouring state. I had only three weeks to arrange my travel documents.

Firstly, I went to the local Department of Co-operation and Development and I was told that if I want the South African travelling docu-

ments I should apply for citizenship to one of those homelands which are not independent yet. They told me that since my father was born in the Transkei and in section C of my reference book I had links with Transkei, I was a citizen of that country although I hadn't applied for citizenship and I will never apply for it.

The next thing for me to do was to apply for the Ciskeian citizenship. The local branch of the Ciskei govern-

ment told me that there was a clause from Transkei to the effect that, no Transkei citizen would be transferred to another state. (For fear of losing its citizens.)

Department of Co-operation and Development and reported the matter, and I was told to go to the Transkei Consulate and ask them to transfer me from Transkei to Ciskei. At the Transkei Consulate I was told that they could not do that as I am not their

citizen. I am carrying a reference book which was issued by the South African government. They said I am not their subject.

From there I went back to the Department of Co-operation and Development and they told me that there is nothing they could do because to get a South African passport or travel document I must be a citizen of a homeland which is not independent yet. By virtue of my being Xhosa-speaking and my father

being born in the Transkei I was just assumed to be a Transkeian citizen. There is also a clause from the Transkei government that there is no transfer of Transkei citizens to other states.

I had to withdraw from the course.

This clearly shows that:

1. Dr Koornhoof meant it when he said that no African will be a South African citizen. If you are an African you don't need to apply for citizenship but the language you speak or the place of birth determines your citizenship rights.

2. We are not impressed by the modification of our lives in the urban areas, what we need is our citizenship rights. We do not want to be called independent "states".

3. The tribal governments within South Africa are causing a lot of confusion in that one is sent from one local office to the other before he is actually served. Their petty laws seem to be overlapping and counteracting each other and the ultimate aim is to frustrate and castrate the black people.

Although the intention of the white government is to frustrate the blacks, they will never succeed but instead they are widening the gap between whites and blacks through inhuman sadistic treatment they give us.

Workers and committees

Dear Grassroots,

We would like to add some information to your cartoon on Liaison Committees.

COMMITTEES

IN many of the recent labour disputes the question of different kinds of factory committees has come up. Let us look at the important difficulties between three kinds of factory committees.

1. LIAISON COMMITTEE: This type of committee is usually registered under the Bantu Labour Relations Regulation Act. It is only for African workers. It consists of some worker

representatives who are elected by African Workers. The other members are appointed by the bosses. The chairman is usually the factory manager and the secretary is usually appointed by the bosses. This means that a Liaison Committee as a whole is not a democratically elected committee representing the workers.

2. WORKS COMMITTEE: This type of committee is also registered under the Bantu Labour Relations Regulation Act. It is also only for African workers. All the members of a works committee, including the chairman, are elected by the African workers in the factory. This means that a Works Committee is a

democratically elected committee, but representing only African workers. At least this is better than a liaison committee, which represents no workers.

Both Liaison Committees and Works Committees are set up in terms of a law which puts them under the control of the Department of Manpower Utilisation. This is another reason why it is difficult for workers to control these committees.

3. WORKER COMMITTEE: This is just any kind of committee of workers which is not controlled by the Department of Manpower Utilisation (or laid down in terms of any law). If the bosses set up a worker committee they will pro-

bably make sure that they control the committee in some way. If the workers set up a worker committee they must make sure that they all control the committee. They can do this by insisting on a non-racial, democratically elected worker committee.

Many recent worker struggles have been caused by bosses refusing to recognise democratically elected non-racial worker committees. They have tried to insist on Liaison Committees, or even Works Committees, instead. The bosses are very afraid of committees which are completely controlled by the workers.

Western Province
General Workers Union

Mandisi
Guguletuio

BBSK appose council's move

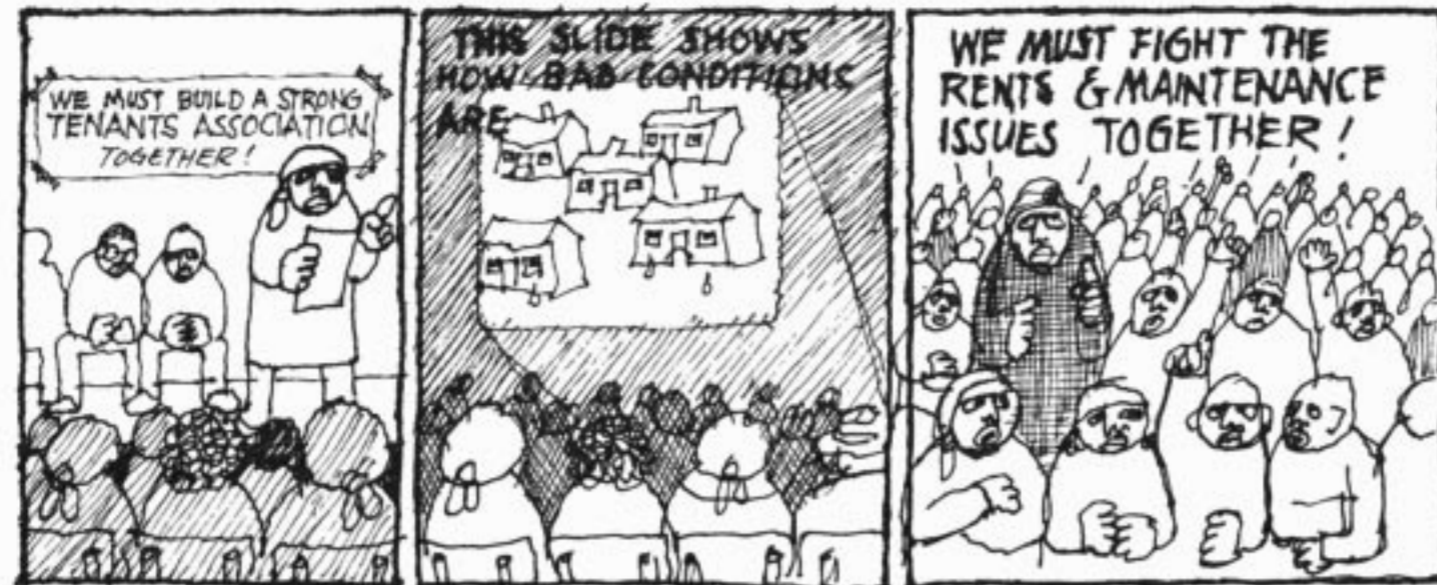
AT packed mass meetings held in Silvertown on November 20 and Bokmakierie, Silvertown and Kewtown unanimously decided to oppose jointly the proposed rent increases and Council's plans to get tenants to pay for maintenance to houses.

The need for building a strong Tenants Association, through which residents could fight, was also fully supported.

The meetings were organised by the Bokmakierie, Bridgetown, Silvertown and Kewtown (BBSK) Tenants Association Steering Committee.

"With the cost of living, the price of food, clothes and transport going up daily and wages remaining low, working people cannot afford to pay increased rents and maintenance without a rapid deterioration in their standard of living." This point came up over and over again.

"Council wastes millions of rands on such white elephants as the Good Hope Centre and



the Cape Town Civic Centre which do not benefit us and now expect us to foot the maintenance and rent bills. This is very unfair.

Other issues were brought up were:

- Council had sent out circulars inviting people to see a show house in Lark Court, Bridgetown, which Council had restored. Tenants wanting their houses improved in this way would have to pay double the rent they are currently paying. This was rejected as an insult and a decision to ignore

these circulars was taken.

- Dissatisfaction was expressed at high transfer fees. Widows had to pay to have houses registered in their names. It was felt that this issue should be taken up with Council as soon as the Tenants' Association was formed.

- Residents of Bokmakierie in particular were unhappy about the long distance they had to walk to the rent office in Kewtown, the only rent office serving the whole area. (As mostly pensioners and

young children went to pay the rents, and were often robbed on the way, it was felt that arrangements should be made which would suit these tenants).

- The sale of houses to tenants was discussed. Some people felt that they should be allowed to buy their houses. Others felt that they had already paid for the houses and that the majority of people would not be able to afford to buy them. Many people at the meeting felt that the

Tenants' Association should be formed as soon as possible so that these issues could be taken up.

Matters will not end here - nor did they begin here.

A lot of preparation went into the mass meetings.

For two months prior to the meetings the BBSK Steering Committee, consisting of committees in each area, had been doing house visits and organising street meetings to find out what problems residents were having and what their feelings were towards setting up

a Tenants Association.

A week before the meeting adverts were distributed. The four area committees planned how they would cover every street. In most cases adverts were not just put into letterboxes, but given to people personally.

Posters were also pasted up at central points such as bus shelters to ensure that everyone would be informed.

The mass meetings started with a short introduction, in which the history of the BBSK Tenants Association Steering Committee was given.

On the rents issue, an excerpt was read from a newspaper article which told of the opposition to the new rent structures taking place in all four provinces.

It was also felt that the Circular on the new rents structure was deliberately confusing so that people could be kept in the dark as to what exactly is going on.

After the proposed aims and objectives of the Association were read, lively discussion followed, during which clipboards were sent around on which people who wished to work along with the Association put their names and addresses. Copies of the BBSK News, a newsletter produced by the Action Committee, was also circulated.

The meeting drew to a close with a call for people present to assist in the formation of the Association by informing people who had not been present of the issues discussed so that they too could become involved.

Finally, one last contribution from the floor: "Council treats us as individuals, and wants us to act as individuals. It is important that we do not respond alone and that when we are faced with problems we decide what to do as Tenants Association, and act together as a Tenants Association."

RECENT proposals by the National Housing Commission gave the impression to our people that they were getting a new deal, that their rents will be reduced.

This proved to be wrong and there is an ongoing struggle against local authorities all over the country to get rents reduced.

In this issue, Grassroots focuses on the struggles of the people of Durban - a focus on the Durban Housing Action Committee (DHAC). DHAC was formed in April this year to co-ordinate the struggle for better houses.

It came after widespread action by the various communities against rent increases and the sale of sub-economic houses.

Residents in areas such as Phoenix, Chatsworth and Newlands East had struggled independently to solve their problems through community action ranging from mass protest meetings to meetings with the city council.

Through this action it became clear that there was a need for united mass action throughout all areas. There was a common problem - increased rents, which required a common struggle. DHAC was born to co-ordinate that struggle.

After months of united mass action co-ordinated by DHAC, the Durban City Council was finally forced to delay the rent increases for four months.

A victory for the people!

Withhold rents

It was the decision of the people to withhold their rents until October 15 that had proved to be too much for the Council.

The planned rent strike came at the end of months of organised protest against the proposed up-to-15 percent increases.

It was clear that the people could not afford the increases. They were already finding it difficult to pay for food, rent, clothes, transport, water, fuel and lights.

In its news sheet, DHAC explain that the people could not afford these increases because the cost of living had been increased by Group Areas removals, high transport costs and unusable land set aside for the people.

The first step taken by DHAC was to present a memorandum of the people's demands to the Council.

• The memorandum urged the council not to make any increases in rentals and to charge rentals which are realistic "not only in economic terms but also on the ability of tenants to pay these rentals."

DHAC's demand was simply do not implement the increases and reconsider the

Durban rents issue: new non-racial grouping likely

rental structure with a view to reducing the present rentals paid.

Two alternatives suggested by DHAC were:

- The council should obtain a state subsidy to cover any deficit.
- The additional costs should be borne by the general rate fund.

This means that every year, the council works out how much money it will need to run the housing schemes. Council gets this money from the rents. What it doesn't get from rents, it takes from the rate fund.

But this year, the council decided to increase the rents instead, to get an additional R1,473 million.

But they are prepared to take R2 million from the rate fund for white swimming pools and R1,5 million for white transport.

After two meetings with the city council where the demands listed in the memorandum were discussed, DHAC was told the council would meet with the Minister of Community Development and report back to DHAC. They didn't.

The problem was to force the council to recognise DHAC and the demands they were making on behalf of thousands of residents.

• On April 21, more than 100 women marched to the City Hall and demanded to see the mayor. They came from as far afield as Chatsworth, Merebank, Cato Manor, Sydenham Heights, Wentworth, Newlands East and Phoenix. When they eventually met the mayor, they condemned City Council's actions in the rent hikes and pointed out very clearly the hardships faced by the people in the different areas.

Still the council continued to evade DHAC. Besides the march of the women, people had protested against the increases by holding mass meetings through their civic and residents bodies.

At meetings in Phoenix and Newlands East, people chanted "Down with the rent, down with the City Council and down with the Local Affairs Committees (LACS)" and waved banners showing their disapproval of the rent increases.

At this time, people all over South Africa were preparing to fight rent increases - in Soweto, New Brighton, Mitchells Plain and elsewhere.

With opposition rapidly growing, the

government came up with proposals for a new rent structure.

From this it appeared that those earning less than R150 will benefit from the new structure. But the government had still not decided to spend more money on black housing.

And DHAC through its affiliates decided to continue the fight for rents that the people can afford.

Residents associations knew that the council would get the money they were not taking from the sub-economic tenants (who had rent decreases) from the economic tenants (who had increases).

"We believe that the answer is for the government to spend more money on black housing and not continue to create hardships for our people in this way," is the view of the Phoenix Working Committee.

It was clear that the rent battle was not over. The new proposals meant little.

"The struggle to bring our rents down continues!" became the slogan in all affected areas.

By September tenants started receiving notices of their new rents. Most tenants had increases and the decreases were minimal because the council had included their up to 15% increases.

Consultation

DHAC immediately met with the council and demanded that the increases be stopped, and that there be a complete re-structuring of rental formulae in consultation with communities affected by the problem, to arrive at rentals which the tenants can afford.

In a memorandum presented to the council, DHAC said that high rentals are due to high cost of land, poor choice of land where large tracts are unusable and high



construction costs.

They requested an urgent meeting with the Health and Housing Committee which eventually agreed to recommend to council to accept a delay on the 15% increases for four months and to establish a sub-committee to investigate aspects of housing schemes.

Council agreed to this - an important victory. But not half the battle has been won. The increases are to be implemented again in February.

Confrontation

DHAC needs to prepare now for the looming confrontation.

The rent issue proved that DHAC and its affiliates have widespread grass roots support, yet the City Council has until very recently ignored this fact.

They chose to deal with the Local Affairs Committees regarded by the communities as sell-outs. Yet when the people started withholding their rent, the council rapidly retreated.

Mass united action co-ordinated by DHAC achieved this.

This achievement was possible because DHAC grew from mass action through which its affiliates had built up stray grass roots support.

Informal

It remains an informal structure in that it still does not even have a constitution. Decisions on urgent matters are taken by an executive consisting of the officials and one representative from each area.

In an address to students at the University of Westville, Mr Virgil Bonhomme of DHAC described the body as being 'the beginning of a new non-racial formation which could lead to a massive new grassroots contact with similar bodies in other areas.'



TRANSPORT problems have been a major concern of the people. Besides higher bus and train fares, the service is inefficient, there is overcrowding which has resulted in injuries and even deaths. Many hours are spent travelling and the lack of transport services in certain areas have added to the burden

of the people struggling to survive.

On this page Grassroots takes a look at transport problems facing workers and local communities. It tells the story of great hardships and what people have attempted to do about it.

OUR daily lives centre around travelling long and tiring hours, morning and evening, waiting in long queues, squeezed into trains and buses with fearless people, all rushing to and from work.

Buses and other forms of transport are a vital link in the lives of all people. Without it there will be no workers at the job. In fact, our city can come to a standstill if buses and trains do not run for one day. No matter what form of transport is used, it is the life-blood of a city.

Below, people lived near their places of work. Today, we live in large townships far from our places of work, shopping areas and other services such as hospitals. As a result of the Group Areas Act, thousands of people have been moved to separate areas for so-called Coloureds, Indians and Africans.

All this means high travelling fares, an extra expense, for most people who are harassed by the rising prices of essentials such as food, rent and travelling. Wage in-

South Africa - where the poor travel the furthest

IN the townships the people often talk about their homes, their friends, the days when all walked to work together and the neighbourliness which existed when they lived in places such as District Six and the Goodwood Aikens. "This was the days when we lived together as people. We had no problems, but life was easier," said an elderly Bishop Lavis resident.

Today, they all live in large housing schemes far from their places of work, shopping areas and other essential services. Friends and family are scattered all over Cape Town, there is no money to visit them, as this is a luxury. High travelling costs and poor transport services have become one of the major problems facing the people.

Since 1960, millions of people have been moved to these housing schemes on the outskirts of the city. Many more will still have to go. All this is due to the Group Areas Act which is part of the government's plan of Apartheid. This law provides for separate areas for the different "racial groups", and has

Are busfares cheap?

THE metro-high lettering on the side of a City Tramway double-decker bus shouts: "This bus uses 20 times less petrol than your car." In smaller letters the advert adds: "This bus moves 140 passengers/km per litre. Car moves seven passengers/km per litre."

If this claim is true, passengers may well ask, what possible reason - aside from pure greed - could there be for the recent increases, ranging from 30 to 100 percent, in bus fares?

City Tramways uses buses, which they say are cheap, to transport Black passengers while taxi drivers use cars (or kombis) which they (Tramways) claim are as much as 20 times as expensive to run.

Yet lets look at the relative costs to the passenger. A taxi trip from Concord Boulevard in Sesebeng to Retreat Station costs 20 cents. The same trip by bus costs nearly double, 38 cents. More than the cost of a return train journey from Retreat to Cape Town!

While buses are cheaper they cannot be seen as alternative transport relief for the thousands of Blacks who have to get to work each day so their families can eat. Already the trains are critically over-crowded.

Recently within the space of a little more than an hour two people died horribly directly as a result of this over-crowding on the Mitchell's Plain-Cape Town line.

crosses do not take account of these rising costs.

While working people are struggling to make ends meet, the bus companies and the bosses for whom they work are getting richer, and the people are getting poorer.

The bus companies make large profits. When their expenses increase, they increase busfares, so that the companies continue to make big profits and the working people have to bear the burden. The bosses also benefit indirectly from the transport system.

They do not increase wages when the fares increase. In this way, they continue to make their profits and the people have to pay out of their own small pay packets.

The state also subsidises public transport, so that the buses do not have to add travelling costs to the wages they give. In this way, the state works hand-in-hand with the bus companies and the bosses serve their interests and not that of working people.

had the effect of preventing people from being united.

This is great bitterness about this law. A Mitchell's Plain resident said: "We did not ask to come here, we were forced to come. Now, we struggle to make a living". Mitchell's Plain is 27 km. from Cape Town. This means long travelling hours and high bus and train fares. 80% of the Mitchell's Plain residents can afford R250 per month. High rents and travelling costs have made it impossible to meet their expenses. The result has been evictions and this means squatting for many people. The transport problems of the Mitchell's Plain people are no different to any other township on the Cape Flats.

An angry resident said that the people feel that they are worse off and getting poorer by the day. "We could walk to work before, but now we have to spend all this money and time to get where we have to be. The 'Group' has done this to us".

Bosses save on truck transport

IT IS not uncommon to see workers being transported on trucks to and from work. These workers include Council workers, construction workers, railway workers, factory workers, prisoners and farm workers. They include women and men.

Workers are transported on open over-crowded trucks during all different weather conditions.

Although workers are covered by Workman's Compensation Act if they are injured while being transported to and from work, this way of transport still remains dangerous and inhumane. The law only covers workers if the transport is for free and controlled by the employer.

Transporting workers on trucks is not very expensive for bosses and this allows them to reduce costs and make bigger profits.

A LOOK AT TRANSPORT



How transport affects our lives

TRANSPORT problems have a negative effect upon the lives of the people in the townships. Because of high travelling fares, lack of bus routes, great distances to stations and too few taxis, the people have become prisoners in the area where they live.

These problems have resulted in great frustrations as people can often not get to hospitals or shopping areas. But, life is not all work. We also have to play sometimes. Most people need to rest after a long day's work.

The transport problems mentioned as well as the lack of bus shelters, no lights at bus-

stops and no regular bus or train services in the evenings and over week-ends has forced people to stay home. All this leads to great frustrations and friction and affects community life. In some areas such as Strandfontein, there has been no bus service for now there is one to the Mitchell's Plain Town Centre. This service operates on shopping days only. An angry resident asked: "Do we only have transport to go to work and to buy things? We also have a need to go out sometimes and cannot stay cooped up in our small boxes".

A township like a prison

TO the people of Ocean View, jammed on the side of a deserted mountain, public transport is of vital importance. In Ocean View there is no work, no shopping facilities, no cinema, and no police station.

Every morning hundreds of people have to disappear over the hills 'up the line' to their places of work and every evening they make the same journey back bringing very little with them.

When the people lived in Simonstown, Fish Hoek, Claremont and Kalbar before these areas were declared white, the people were closer

to their places of work, such as the dockyard and harbour. Today, they have to travel 10 km. daily to the dockyard. Those working in Cape Town have to travel 78.2 km, and 16 km. for those working in Pinetown.

The Simonstown Passenger Transport Company, a subsidiary of the Tramways Bus Company provides a bus connection from Simonstown and Fish Hoek, the two nearest stations. This service is one of the chief grievances of the Ocean View community.

Because Ocean View is so isolated, people have to leave home at 4 o'clock in the morning and return home before 9 p.m. as there are no buses in the township after this time. This means that the majority of the people at prisoners in the township after 9 p.m. The bus company which is only interested in making profits, co-opts trains the buses around the rush hours but during the day there is only one bus every hour.

A bus journey from Ocean View to Fish Hoek costs 42c which is a great expense. Another problem is that the buses do not co-ordinate with the departure of the trains, with the result that people are often late for work. There is a taxi service but this does not meet the needs of the people because there are too few taxis.

The Dockyard is the main place of employment. To avoid the costs and inconvenience of travelling 'up the line', many people go and work there. Ocean View therefore provides the dockyard with a makeshift labour force.

Shopping is also a problem as every article costs more in the township. The people therefore are forced to travel to Fish Hoek and other places to buy groceries. This is an extra expense.

So we see that the transport problem in Ocean View affects almost every facet of the people's lives, but Ocean View is typical of many other working class areas where inadequate and costly bus service is only one of the many problems facing them in their day-to-day lives.



"Leave home early, get home late"

GRASSROOTS has spoken to workers at stations and bus stops travelling to and from work. Here they tell us about the travelling problems that they face each day of their working lives.

Mr X is a worker on a construction site. He said that it takes him two hours in the morning and another two hours in the evening to get home. "I am very tired at night after a long day's work. I get up 4 o'clock to be at my work in time. When we come late, the bus does not understand, and they take this off our wages". He said that sometimes he feels very angry about this as "it is not always our fault that we come late. Sometimes the buses and trains are late or too full and then we must wait very long." The time spent travelling to work is in fact unpaid wages.

Mr Y lives in Langa, she works as a domestic in Claremont. She told Grassroots that she earns R6 per day when she cleans, but almost R2 of her earnings is spent on transport. Since the bus boycott started she walked. She feels that she cannot afford the increased fares and will continue to walk in the future. "These high prices make a big hole in my pocket, so I only earn R4 for the day. Everything is so expensive, we poor people cannot afford to live any more".

A few working mothers said that they are so tired at night, working and travelling long hours that they often do not have the time or energy to see to all their household chores and their children. "What can we do, we must work", said one of the women.

Another major concern which was voiced was the few third class coaches on the trains. The people prefer to stand third class because it is cheap. This means a lot of overcrowding. One traveller said that the overcrowding on the stations, the trains and at the major bus stops such as Salt River and Morningside causes a lot of frustration. He said there are a lot of arguments and friction between tired workers rushing to get home.

COMMUNITY ACTION - AZIKWELWA

THIS year workers in many communities throughout the country have faced increased bus fares. Rather than paying the extra fares to the bus companies people have chosen to boycott the buses. Alternative ways to travelling by bus have been found, even if this meant walking to work because there are no trains and few taxis.

This is not the first year that people have answered the increased fares in this way. "Azikwela" - we won't ride, the slogan of bus boycotters was first heard in 1940 when the people of Alexandria township, near Johannesburg, decided to walk rather than pay increased bus fares. This action led to the fares being dropped.

1980 has seen three large bus boycotts. During a period of mass community protest against wages and education the people of Cape Town refused to use the buses following increases of between 30% and 100% on City Tramway buses. People could not afford the higher bus fares on their low wages.

People organized themselves to find other ways of travelling. Although some areas of Cape Town were provided with railway lines, the S A R did not put more trains on the lines to transport the large numbers of people

Higher busfares lead to strikes

WORKERS have solved some of their transport problems by organizing at their work place. The bus fare increases earlier this year led to the lowering of tools at a number of factories mainly in the textile industry. The workers were due for a 7% increase in December to cover the rising cost of living. At Rex Truofers, 3 000 workers went on strike. Other factories affected included Reunis, Tej, Gergene and Val-Hias.

The workers demanded a 10% increase in wages instead of 7% and they wanted this to come into effect immediately instead of in December.

They were successful in getting their increases. Some people felt that the bosses acted so quickly in order to diffuse the situation, but the workers believed that they scored a

major victory. Taxi owners were spoken to and were asked to lower their fares. People who had cars were asked to assist and offer lifts to those walking. Those walking moved together in large groups often singing songs.

In areas where the organization was strong the boycotters' determination strengthened. At the same time the officials and police tried their utmost to disorganize and break the boycott. Taxi owners, people giving lifts and people walking were harassed by the police. Cars were impounded and drivers fined large sums of money for taking passengers. The state imposed a ban on meetings and detained many community leaders.

The areas where boycotts are most effective are those where organizations are involved in community action before boycotts are planned. With the ban on all meetings people discovered that they had no experience in organizing under such conditions. Alternative ways of organizing must be worked at.

People in the communities feel that it is essential that all groups involved in mobilizing people have an in-depth evaluation of the successes and weaknesses of their action. This evaluation should form the groundwork for future strategies and actions.

Higher busfares lead to strikes

WORKERS have solved some of their transport problems by organizing at their work place. The bus fare increases earlier this year led to the lowering of tools at a number of factories mainly in the textile industry. The workers were due for a 7% increase in December to cover the rising cost of living. At Rex Truofers, 3 000 workers went on strike. Other factories affected included Reunis, Tej, Gergene and Val-Hias.

The workers demanded a 10% increase in wages instead of 7% and they wanted this to come into effect immediately instead of in December.

They were successful in getting their increases. Some people felt that the bosses acted so quickly in order to diffuse the situation, but the workers believed that they scored a

Nyanga cut off with no buses

THERE are many areas which do not have a bus-service. This causes great hardship to the people who have to walk long distances often in bad weather and late at night when it is dangerous.

Nyanga is such an area. In 1976 during the riots the bus-route closed. The voice of the people, the Nyanga residents association made many efforts to have the route reopened. They demanded this from City Tramways after conducting a survey to show that there is a great need and their right to a good transport service. The people felt that the stations are too far, and that there are too few taxis and high fares.

City Tramways are prepared to start a bus-route from Claremont/Landdowne to Crossroads and then to Nyanga. But because of the

government's Apartheid laws, "Coloureds" travelling on the bus would have to have a permit. Bantu Affairs Administration Board also refused because the law provides for only one entrance and one exit into the township to allow the authorities to close off the township when there are disturbances. This angered the people as they felt that it is an important need in their area. The residents association together with women from the area organized themselves and went to City Tramways. Tramways promised to review the matter, but nothing has happened.

During the present bus boycott, the cry from not only Nyanga but all over was that we have had enough of speaking to City Tramways and pleading for our rights, we will boycott tramways. Azikwela - We won't ride.

WORKERS & COMMUNITIES UNITE

OVER the years, the people have come together and taken action to change the transport problems facing them. They realized that the transport problems facing workers cannot be separated from the problems in the general community. We have seen that the workers have waged the struggle against increased busfares at their places of work and in their communities.

Transport is as important as a roof over one's head and as food is one's stomach. The people cannot fight the bus companies, the bosses and the state which subsidize travelling costs as individuals or in small groups. It is only through united action and sacrifice waged through organizations representing the people and their interests that the demands can be won. Workers in their trade unions have demanded wage increases which would offset their travelling fares.

In the communities, through the residence associations and other people's organizations, the people have called for lower fares, regular bus and train services, bus shelters and transport in certain areas where they do not exist.

The people have acted and won many major victories. They acted because they believed that they have a right to a good, cheap and efficient transport service.

AT THE GRASSROOTS WORKSHOP

GRASSROOTS WORKSHOP

The Grassroots newsletter workshop was attended by forty delegates from community organisations and trade unions from as far as Worcester.

The workshop was due to start on Friday evening, October 31, but some delegates lost their way and arrived late - including the person who was bringing half the weekend's food supply - so it only really got going on the Saturday morning.

The workshop was held at a holiday camp in Strandfontein and most delegates slept over. We were divided into eight groups with five people in each group. All the weekend's activities - the writing of articles, drawing of cartoons and printing of the newsletter - were done in groups.

The workshop programme consisted of:

1. A discussion on Grassroots.
2. A discussion on the housing problem.
3. A discussion on group writing and writing methods, after which each group wrote an article.
4. A session on cartoon drawing - how cartoons can be used in newsletters and a lesson on how to draw cartoons.
5. The articles written and cartoons drawn by delegates were discussed and criticised.
6. A printing session. Grestaker lent us a vimeo and a scanning machine and we printed a newsletter called the Cape Flats Connection.
7. An assessment of the workshop.

CATERING

Delegates were divided into groups of about six each and each group would take responsibility for preparing meals & cleaning up afterwards.

Meals for each day were prepared beforehand and, for example, if it was group 3's turn to make breakfast, they would get out all the ingredients, set the table, make the food, and then the group which was responsible for cleaning up would clear the table, wash up and put the dishes away afterwards. This was in keeping with the theme of the workshop, which was that everyone should be involved in everything that went on.



GROUP WRITING

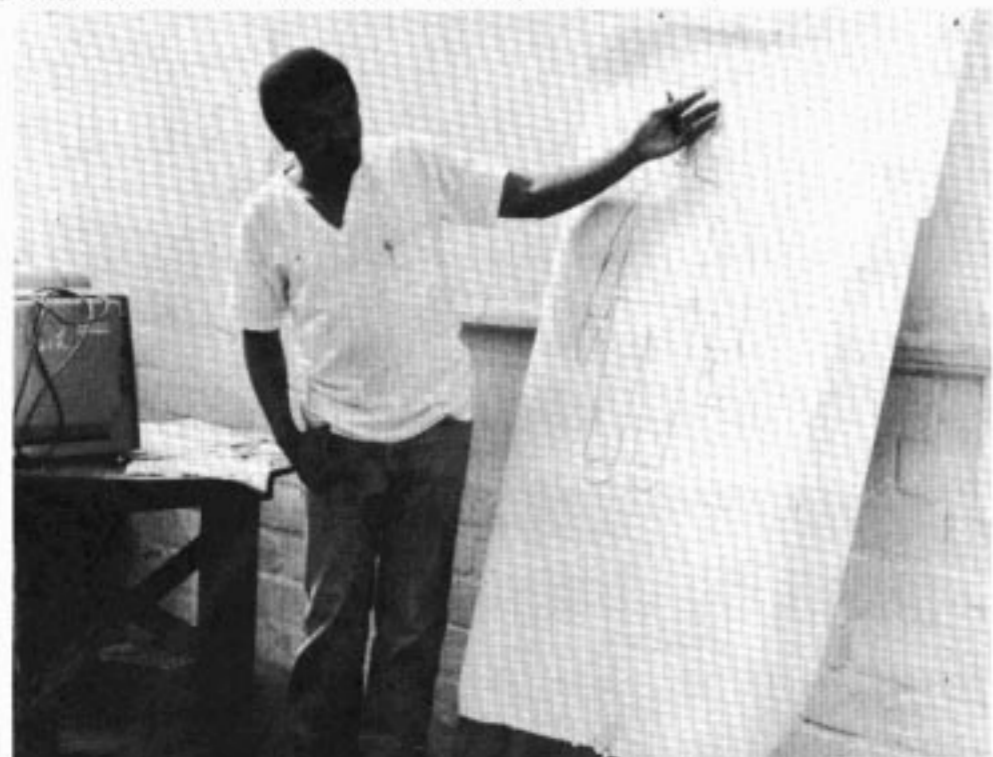
Housing was chosen as the theme for the writing and cartoon drawing sessions. We had a discussion on different aspects of housing, with the aid of a few photographs. After the discussion, we broke into small groups and each group chose one aspect of the housing discussion, such as squatting or electricity, to write their stories on.

Delegates who had been involved in producing community newsletters before, explained why they found writing in groups to be more useful than individuals writing on their own.

They pointed out that more people were involved when the newsletter was written by a group and as a result, many people's ideas were included in the newsletter, instead of just one person's. Also the issue had to be discussed by the group before the content of the newsletter could be agreed on and in this way, people learnt more about the issue.

Some hints for going about group writing were given to the delegates at the workshop. These were:

1. Choose an issue on which to write eg rents, maintenance, the due date of electricity bills.
2. Discuss the issue in the group & take notes, discussing all the possible ways of going about it.
3. Write an outline of the newsletter using subheadings.
4. Decide if any research needs to be done on the subject eg rent structures in your area, and if so who will do it.
5. Decide how the article be written: either one person can do the actual writing while all the members of the group offer suggestions or one or two people can go home and write the article, based on the notes that were taken during the discussion.
6. Discuss the article that has been written, criticize it, and simplify it if necessary.



CARTOON SESSION

Another way of doing a newsletter is by drawing it cartoon form. Either the whole or part of the newsletter can be done in the form of cartoons.

At the workshop, we were taught how to draw cartoons and the advantages & disadvantages of cartoons were discussed.

The advantages of cartoons are:

1. They are easy and attractive to read.
2. Cartoons can overcome language barriers - pictures instead of words are used to put a message across.
3. Cartoons are more easily understandable to under-educated people than words.
4. You can get a message across in two ways - through the picture & the words.

The disadvantages are:

1. You can't use cartoons when the issue you want to explain is a complicated one. If you try to simplify the issue so as to put into cartoon form, it is likely to be confusing.
2. Cartoons are difficult to reproduce.
3. They take up a lot of space.

Other points to consider are:

1. The pictures should be of objects that are easy for people in the community to recognise eg bus stop, civic centre.
2. Aim the dialogue at the reader.
3. Finish the cartoon with a statement or a slogan.
4. Use humour if possible.



PRINTING SESSION

After the articles and cartoons done by the groups were discussed, we started the printing session. Professor Gavin Stewart from the Journalism Department at Rhodes University outlined to us the cheapest & most effective way of printing newsletters. He then showed us how to use the vimeo and scanning machines that Grestaker had made available for the workshop.

Each group was then given a chance to learn to use the machines. We printed the articles and cartoons and put them together in a newsletter called the Cape Flats Connection. About 50 copies were made so everyone could take one home.



ASSESSMENT

The last session of the workshop was taken up with criticising the workshop. First we discussed it in small groups and then wrote out criticisms on long sheets of newspaper. Then we all came together again, pinned up the newspaper on the wall and each group explained their criticisms to the others.

Some criticisms were that the programme was too cramped and not all aspects of the programme were covered.

Most delegates felt that they had gained a lot from the workshop. They had learnt many new skills. They had learnt the importance of working in groups and had made new contacts in other areas.

ADVICE BUREAU

The police have wide powers to search persons and premises and seize anything which they suspect is connected to any offence.

SEARCH WARRANTS
In certain cases search warrants are required and in other cases search warrants are not required.

SEARCH WARRANTS NOT REQUIRED
A search warrant is not required in the following cases:-

1. If a person consents to the search.
2. If the police believe that a search warrant would be issued but the delay in obtaining a search warrant would hamper their search.
3. If the person concerned is arrested.

CONSENT
A person can allow a policeman to search him or his premises without a search warrant. Such a person has the right to refuse and in that case the police have to obtain a search warrant.

DELAY IN OBTAINING A SEARCH WARRANT
If the police have reason-

able grounds to believe that a search Warrant would be issued but the delay in obtaining the warrant would defeat the object of the search, then the police can proceed to search with or without the persons consent. This power vested in the police can be misused by them and all unlawful searches can then be justified under this particular power given to the police. It thus gives the police the right to decide whether to apply for a search warrant or not. It defeats the very object of getting a search warrant.

ARREST
If a person is arrested, the police have the right to search this person and premises without a search warrant. Such person is obliged by law to submit himself for a search and also allow his premises to be searched.

OBTAINING SEARCH WARRANTS
In all other cases not covered by the above instances, a search warrant is required. A search warrant is issued by a Magistrate or Justice of the Peace which includes

senior police officers. The policeman applies to such official on a sworn statement which states that he has grounds to believe that the article or articles to be seized is in the possession of a person or upon certain premises.

If the Magistrate or Justice of the Peace is satisfied he then issues a search warrant. The search warrant mentions the person or the premises to be searched and the article or articles to be seized. The policeman is then authorised to carry out the search and remove the article or

articles in question.

USE OF FORCE
The police who have been authorised to carry out a search may use force to overcome any resistance to the search or entry of the premises.

INTERNAL SECURITY
Where the internal security or the maintenance of law and order is threatened, the police can, with or without a warrant, enter any premises to search such premises or persons found in it. It

can take any article, carry out investigation and take steps to preserve law and order. These are once more very wide powers which are given to the police.

LAWS
There are certain laws which give the police the power to enter and search premises without a warrant.

The Urban Areas Consolidation Act gives a policeman the right to enter and search any premises at any time of the day or night if it is suspected that a "black" is unlawfully residing or

employed at such premises.

The abuse of Dependence Producing Act (Drug or Daga Act) similarly authorises a policeman to enter and search any premises and question any person found in it without a warrant.

EXECUTION
A Search Warrant must be executed by day unless the warrant states that it can be executed at night.

COPY OF WARRANT
A person who is effected by a search warrant is entitled to demand a copy of such warrant.

WITNESS
When a policeman wants to interview a witness, he is entitled to enter the premises where such person is without a warrant but if it is a private house, such policeman must obtain the consent of the owner.

DECENT AND ORDERLY MANNER
A search of a person or premises by a policeman must be done in a decent and orderly manner and a female shall only be

searched by a female police official or a female appointed to do so.

WHAT MUST YOU DO?
If you are confronted with a similar situation what must you do?

You must first ask the policeman for a search warrant. If he produces the search warrant you must allow him to conduct the search and ask him for a copy.

If he has no search warrant, you must ask him why he wants to conduct the search and why he cannot obtain a search warrant.

If he replies that it is urgent and he cannot wait for a search warrant, you must ask him on what grounds does he believe that the article is in your possession or on your premises.

If his belief is reasonable you cannot refuse the search. If, however, his belief is unreasonable you may refuse to allow him to carry out the search.

The only problem is what is reasonable and what is not reasonable. What might be unreasonable to you might be reasonable to a Court of Law.

Legal Aid: What you need to know

MOST of us earn too little money to be able to have a lawyer to help us sort out the many legal problems we face in our day to day lives. It is for this reason that Grassroots takes a look at what legal aid schemes exist and how they operate.

*** WHERE ARE LEGAL AID OFFICES:**

1. Cape Town - Parliament Towers 2nd Floor 103-107 Plain St.

2. Athlone Amelia House Room 114 Belgravia Rd. Athlone

3. At the following magistrates courts - Bellville, Goodwood, Simonstown & Kuilsriver.

*** WHAT SORT OF LEGAL PROBLEMS WILL LEGAL AID HELP ME WITH**

Criminal Cases: The Legal Aid Officer will

look at the person's criminal record and work record to decide whether the person deserves assistance.

Civil Cases: Legal aid is available in cases of divorce, in cases of dispute with firms (Hire-Purchase disputes) etc.

*** WHEN WILL LEGAL AID NOT HELP**

1. Traffic offence (parking, speeding) or

any offence to do with the use of a motor car.

2. To prove who is the father of a child.
3. When wanting to sue for damages on the grounds of suing for your name (defamation of character), seduction and the persuasion of a partner to leave or stay away from the person he/she is married to.

APPLYING FOR LEGAL AID:

1. Any person may app-

roach a Legal Aid Officer at most legal aid offices. The applicant can simply appear without appointment. (Goodwood is the only place where you have to have an appointment).

2. You will be required to fill in a form giving details of name, address, income and the type of assistance required.

If the person who wants legal aid is in prison then a close relative or somebody who knows the circumstances of the case can apply on his behalf. 3. The Legal Aid Officer will study the form you have completed to check whether you qualify.

***WHEN DO YOU QUALIFY FOR LEGAL AID:**

1. The legal aid officer will decide if you are worthy of receiving legal aid. You must not be unemployed "without good reason," or live a dishonest life.
2. If the money you earn qualifies you in terms of the means test.

*** WHAT IS THE MEANS TEST:**

This is a test laid down by the Legal Aid Board to decide if you qualify for legal aid on the grounds of your income.

Anybody earning R170 per month and less can apply for legal aid. An allowance of R30 for every dependant child is also made so that if I earn R200 p.m. and I have one child I will still qualify.

When pregnancy means loss of your job

IF a worker falls pregnant she often loses her job. There is nothing to stop employers from dismissing workers because they are pregnant. However, if an employer decides not to fire a worker who falls pregnant, by law he has to give her 12 weeks' maternity leave. This leave does not have to be paid. But no worker may work for the 4 weeks before, or the 8 weeks after, the birth of her baby. Very few bosses pay workers full pay while they are on maternity leave. Some bosses pay workers a small part of their salary, but most pay nothing at all.

The Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) pays maternity benefits to workers who are eligible for UIF. If a worker loses her job, or is paid less than one-third of her salary, due to being pregnant, she can apply for UIF maternity benefits. A worker can get up to 26 weeks' maternity benefits in a year - 18 weeks before the birth of the baby and 8 weeks afterwards. The weekly maternity benefits are

45% of the worker's weekly wage. As soon as the worker stops work she should go to the offices of the Dept. of Manpower Utilisation or the Bantu Commissioner's office, and apply for maternity benefits.

In addition, African workers who are on maternity leave are entitled to maternity payments under the Factories Act. They get a minimum of R2,50 per week for the 12 weeks they are on maternity leave. The boss should help the worker to apply for these payments. A pregnant worker who is dismissed cannot apply for these payments.

Workers who have trouble applying for these benefits, should ask for advice and help. Sometimes the UIF officials confuse workers about what benefits they are entitled to. The following organisations should be able to help: The Black Sash, Mowbray

Any trade union. Or else you could write to Grassroots if you have a problem.

THE PILL: YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW ALL THE FACTS

Dear GRASSROOTS - Thank you for your article on contraception and family planning.

I have been attending a family planning clinic where I am given the contraceptive pill every month.

When I try to ask questions, there never seems to be enough time for explanation.

Can you perhaps tell me more about the pill?
Mrs de Bruyn, Scottsdene

Dear Mrs de Bruyn - You always have the right to know about any part of health care you may ask about.

This is also true of family planning, where you should be able to choose a method that suits you and your partner best.

This choice can only be made if you know how each method works, and what the bad effects are.

When taken properly, the birth control pill is one of the best methods of avoiding pregnancy.

BUT, there are certain women who should not take the pill.

Any woman who has any of the following problems should NOT take the pill:

1. Deep, steady pain in one leg or hip.
2. Anyone who has had a stroke or who gets regular bad headaches!
3. Women with liver dis-

ease. 4. Women with cancer of the breast or womb. (The pill does not CAUSE cancer, but it may make it WORSE.) This is why birth control pills should be given by health workers who know about their use.

Also whoever is taking the pill should know what the side-effects are so that you can go to your nearest clinic sooner if one of the above problems occurs while you are on the pill.

Besides these problems, when using birth control pills, women should take certain steps: 1. Examine your breasts carefully every month for lumps. 2. Have your blood pres-

sure measured at your nearest clinic every six months.

3. Watch for problems such as leg pain and headaches.

If you do not want to fall pregnant, it is important to take the pills as directed - one every day.

See that you collect a new packet of pills from your health worker before you finish the packet you are using.


Remember - if you have any questions or you are not happy with the method of birth control you are using, speak to your health worker at the hospital or clinic.

It is your right to know more about whatever pills or other methods you are using.

ADVICE BUREAU

IT ONLY TAKES

Children are playful and keen to explore the world. They seldom see danger. That is why children are so often the victims of accidents. About 250 South African children drown each year. Parents often think that older children can look after themselves, but many of the children that were drowned are older than 5 years. It is hard to believe, but most accidents happen in the home. A local children's hospital reports that it sees 400 children each year who have taken poison. Half of these children swallowed other people's pills.

The same hospital has a special ward for seriously burnt children. Every year at least 500 children are admitted to this ward. Most of the children are burnt by hot liquids. GRASSROOTS spoke to parents whose children were involved in one of these most common accidents. Readers may want to cut out and keep the information on prevention of accidents and first aid 

A CHILD CAN DROWN IN A LITTLE BIT OF WATER..

 <p>The accident happened 6 months ago, but the Jacobs family of Vrygrond can still not get over it. Their youngest, Jannie was 11 months old and he had just started walking. He was so cute....</p>	 <p>One day his mother was doing housework when she suddenly realised that Jannie was very quiet..</p>	 <p>This is how she found him. He couldn't get out of the bucket and had drowned in a little bit of water.</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>FIRST AID </p>  <p>Tip the child upside down to drain water from his mouth and lungs</p>	<p>ACT FAST! If the child has stopped breathing do mouth to mouth breathing as follows:</p>  <p>Lie the child flat on his back Lift and support his jawbone.</p>	<p>Take a deep breath. Place your mouth over his nose and mouth. Breathe out gently and blow air into his lungs.</p> 
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

 <p>Sit back and watch the child's chest for breathing</p>	<p>Continue doing this every 5 seconds until the child starts breathing or someone takes over from you.</p> 	<p>If the child is so big that you can not cover his nose and mouth with your mouth then pinch his nostrils shut while you blow air through his mouth.</p> 
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

HOW TO PREVENT YOUR CHILD FROM DROWNING

- * Always supervise children near water - even if they are not swimming.
- * To save a person from drowning, throw him anything that floats. Hand him a long stick or form a human chain to reach him.

* Best of all - teach your children to swim.



Mr. Daniel Fletcher, superintendent of the Bishop Lavis swimming bath, offers swimming classes to community members.

"I'm shocked at the large number of drownings and decided to start classes voluntarily" he said

Contact the swimming club at your nearest pool and ask them to arrange swimming classes.

ADVICE BUREAU

A SECOND...

POISONING - HOW SAFE ARE OUR CHILDREN?

Lindy was a 12 months old baby. She was the youngest of six children. Her mother who lives in Bonteheuwel told this story.

One day I filled the stove and left the bottle with paraffin on the floor



I thought I would put it away later.

When I found Lindy, she had already swallowed a few gulps of paraffin.....



We rushed her to the hospital but the harm was done - the next day she died of pneumonia.

FIRST AID 

1. If a child has taken poison, wash her mouth out with clean water.
 2. Make sure the child does NOT vomit after taking paraffin, petrol or any poison that burns e.g. acids
 3. In cases of any other type of poison, give the child salt water to make her vomit if she is awake
 4. Take the poison or container with to the doctor.
 5. Take the child to a hospital as soon as possible because the effects of poisoning may only show later.
- For advice in cases of emergency ring the 24 hour POISON LINE ☎ 695227

HOW TO PREVENT POISONING

- * Don't put paraffin in cooldrink bottles
- * Store medicines where children cannot reach it
- * Flush unused medicines down the toilet or return it to the hospital
- * Keep household cleaners, bleaches, cosmetics and insect killers out of children's reach.

A CUP OF COFFEE CAN BURN A CHILD BADLY...

Mrs. Daniels will never forget the day that she made herself a nice cup of tea after finishing her washing Sharon, her little daughter who had just started to walk, was playing next to the table.



She got up to answer a knock at the door when suddenly she heard a scream behind her.

Sharon's neck and face were badly burnt. She spent many weeks in the hospital but she will have scars for the rest of her life

FIRST AID 

- 1 Run cold water over the burn or hold it in a bucket of cold water for 10 minutes. This will stop the pain and prevent the burn from going deeper.
- 2 Cover the burn with a clean cloth. Don't apply any ointment or home remedy.
- 3 Do not open the blisters - this may cause infection
- 4 Take the child to the hospital because
 - the child may be shocked
 - the wound may become septic
 - skintransplants may be necessary



HOW TO PREVENT BURNS

- * Avoid hanging table cloths
- * Keep children out of the way when handling hot liquids
- * Make sure pot handles are turned inwards
- * Put cold water before hot in a bath or shower.

The Cape Herald strike has ended but its effects on the newspaper industry will still be felt for a very long time.

Its successes and failures are being debated in many places and will most likely shape many future industrial actions in the newspaper industry.

No one denies there were failures and mistakes. But at the same time no one can detract from the major victories won by the strikers.

NO TALKS

The Herald strike came very soon after the Argus Company conceded to all the demands of the Post Transvaal strikers.

Regretting having capitulated to all the Post workers' demands and setting what they believed were 'unhealthy precedents', the newspaper bosses were determined to take a tough stand against any further strike action in the industry.

So, unlike at the Post where the bosses negotiated with the strikers, at the Herald they refused to unless the strikers returned to work. This was rejected.

PAY SCALES

But after two weeks, the bosses gave in and negotiated with the strikers. Finally, they offered more money and higher salary scales than originally asked for.

This was no sudden change of heart or show of goodwill on the part of the bosses. They were forced to do so. It was a major victory the united action of the strikers had won. . . . and it wasn't the first.

UNITED STAND

The fact that editorial and non-editorial staff, including clerical workers and a messenger, had stood united and gone on strike was itself a victory.

For the first time, non-editorial staff at the Herald won pay scales, a departure from previous newspaper practise in the Western Cape where only editorial staff had salary scales.

The Argus management, by following the channels of communication and negotiation laid down by the strikers, had in effect given

Comments on this page represent the views of the Herald strikers.

NEWSPAPER WORKERS GET ORGANISED

recognition to the democratically-elected representatives of the strikers.

The former procedure of first discussing grievances with departmental heads like the Editor and Advertising Manager, was thrown overboard by the strikers - and the Argus management accepted it.

In fact, the strikers' Action Committee is presently negotiating directly with management for better working conditions.

The Herald strike led to the formerly

white Southern African Society of Journalists (SASJ) being given significantly higher increases at its pay talks held during the strike.

The SASJ had never in the past been able to win any substantial increases for its members. In 1979 they were forced to go on arbitration after the bosses laughed off their demand for 22 percent increases. On arbitration, they won only 11 percent.

Even SASJ officials admitted that for the

first time in the 30 years the bosses were on the retreat because of the strikes.

The strike gave Mwasa (the Media Workers Association of S.A.) a much-needed breakthrough with other workers in the industry. It eased the way for Mwasa to organise the workers.

Today, newspaper workers throughout the country are joining Mwasa.

Before the strike, the task of organising was very difficult with workers being two-minded about joining.

Mwasa itself was recognised as a new force in the newspaper industry. The bosses are now prepared to give it full recognition with de facto recognition already having been given.

LIBERALISM

The sham liberalism of the English press was exposed during the strike. The Argus blacked out most of the news on the strike with the Editor himself screening and rewriting all copy.

The newspapers were very irritated by criticisms that they, who very piously criticised other firms in their editorials, for taking punitive action against strikers, were now doing the very same.

DISMISSALS

And how did the Argus Company react? They refused at first to speak to strikers, withheld the pay of staff, later deducted from the pay of those on strike, made veiled threats of dismissal, used those who didn't

go on strike to try and break the unity and locked out workers in Johannesburg and Durban.

Recently, they dismissed 68 strikers in Johannesburg and 3 in Durban, suspended those who went on strike in support and, at the Cape Times, locked out the journalists.

In the process, the community became aware that there were no real differences between newspapers and other businesses when it comes to treatment of workers

WHY IS POST STRIKE STILL ON?

Why are Post workers still on strike when those on the Cape Herald, whom they came out to support, are now back at work?

This is one of many questions being asked about Post's continuing strike for 'pay for the period of the strike'.

After the Herald strikers won big pay increases, strike pay became one of the main remaining demands.

Some were not prepared to hold out while others were.

Those who were not argued they had achieved what they set out to get and felt the Argus Company would not give in to this demand.

With unity of the strikers difficult to maintain, the issue was conceded in favour of another remaining demand which, it seemed, the Argus would compromise on.

Post, however, were much more united and determined. It was not their first experience with 'strike pay'.

Some were bitter that they had accepted the strike period during the first strike in July-August as leave. They had no intention of doing so again.

It also seemed that before they went on strike, they had discussed the issue and many were not keen to come out in support of the Herald strikers until it was agreed they would fight for strike pay.

Workers who stage support strikes should

not add new demands!

Post strikers argue that any strike generates two of its own additional demands - no victimisation of any strikers and pay for the period of the strike.

They deny adding their own demands.

But others argue that the strike initiative should always remain in the hands of those who first went out on strike. Support strikers should always be guided by their decisions.

Post should have been

guided by the Herald and when the latter returned, Post should have followed.

Because this important principle was not adhered to, Post and Mwasa now found themselves in their present dilemma.

They also argue it was short-sighted to have set-down preconditions for going out on strike.

Unions should pay strike pay and not bosses?

The strikers at the Herald and Post say that the newspaper bosses were to blame for the

Herald strike.

They treated the staff's demands with contempt. They were given a week to respond to a memorandum sent to them outlining pay demands. But after six days they said they could not meet the staff. So the Herald staff went on strike.

They argue there were several precedents where strikers were paid.

They doubted that there was a universal principle that unions gave strike pay but if

such a principle existed, it could not be applied to this country because the situation here was abnormal.

The Argus Company had exploited workers for decades and it was their responsibility when workers turned to strike action as the only way to get redress.

Here are some other questions posed about Post's action:

- Is demanding pay for the strike period not an unreasonable demand

which won't be met, and would this not cause a long drawn out strike in which unity would be threatened?

- Would confrontation with newspaper bosses on such an issue not frighten off members from an organisation which was just embarking on a unionisation programme?

- Was this issue not hampering the priority of organising other workers

in the industry?

- Are Post workers not over-estimating their position and strength and should they not ask themselves if 'strike pay' was a worthy issue on which to place their jobs at risk?

- If any further action is taken against Post, won't it place Mwasa members in other centres in a serious moral dilemma of having to come out in support again?

Some important lessons

THE experience of striking had taught Cape Herald workers some important lessons, probably the most important being the urgent need to organise all workers in the newspaper industry.

The Herald strike came after some serious doubts were expressed at Mwasa's annual congress in Langa in October about professional journalists organising non-professional staff and other workers.

They argued that the interests between professionals and workers differed greatly and that the journalists, being articulate, would see to it that their interests dominated.

With very few examples in other parts of the world of professionals organising non-

professionals, the Post strike in July-August was one of our first.

And then came the Herald strike - and as far as they are concerned, it worked. But there are pitfalls to watch for.

The strike had taught everyone at the Herald the importance of carefully discussing all aspects of all decisions and resolutions, and even debating all alternatives available.

At the beginning, some went along with decisions without really agreeing. This was soon stopped.

All were prompted to contribute to discussions and meetings were held at 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with short breaks in between.

Some observers felt that all people were not aware of the consequences of the strike. This

was why some withdrew so early.

This may have been true, so when the second strike came (in solidarity with the dismissed strikers at Post) all the consequences were very carefully weighed.

And when the bosses reacted by suspending the strikers, they were prepared for it.

The importance of

following the democratic processes in all decision-making also played a vital role. All decisions were taken by strikers themselves and voting took place only when consensus could not be reached.

PROLONGING

The Herald also learnt that to prolong a strike after winning the major pay victory, posed

certain problems.

To go for total victory was unrealistic. At the Herald the continuing of the strike led to unity breaking down.

After winning pay scales and salary increases, at least five withdrew.

ACTION

Early in the strike it was decided to go on a community campaign to exert pressure on the

Argus Company to give in to the strikers.

This campaign was later suspended after the Argus decided to start speaking to the strikers.

Later when there was a deadlock on some issues, it was difficult to restart the community campaign.

Many believe it was a tactical error to have suspended the campaign.

SAAWU gains recognition

SAAWU recently won a great victory at the Chloride factory in East London. They had been organizing at the factory for about three months and wanted recognition from the management.

Management agreed

to let the workers decide whether they wanted SAAWU to represent them. So a referendum was held on November 6 and all the workers at the factory voted on whether or not they wanted SAAWU.

A SAAWU official, Mr Xolani Kotani monitored the referendum and Mr Samuel Kikine, the general secretary, was present at the counting of the votes. The result was a great victory for the union.

96 percent of the workers voted for SAAWU and Chloride agreed to recognize the union as the workers' representative.

"It was through struggle that this victory was won," said M Kikine.

PLIGHT OF THE VENDORS

OVER the years much has been said but very little done about the plight of the newspaper vendors.

The average newspaper vendor according to this survey is under 15 years old, and as a minor, should be protected by the Children's Act 33/60.

Because of the loopholes in the Act, children are not protected widely in our country, not only as newspaper vendors, but also as domestic workers and on farms where these children are a source of cheap labour supply for the bosses.

Thousands of newspapers are sold daily by the vendors on the

streets of Cape Town.

The newspaper companies, mainly Allied Publishing Limited and Nasionale Koerante Beperk (Die Burger) are the main employers of the vendors who were interviewed in this survey. These bosses make large profits from child labour.

A newspaper vendor earns between 1 and 2 cents per newspaper that he sells. They are also supposed to get a weekly bonus, but this bonus varies and the survey shows that there is no fixed bonus system.

To make sure that the vendors get their commission they often take it from their daily

earnings but very often they do not get their bonuses.

These are children who are often forced to sell newspapers because their parents earn too little money. The study shows that the parents are wage earners struggling to make ends meet.

In the case of the father, the average wage is between R27,00 and R29,00 per week, while the mothers usually earn two or three days per week earning between R2,50 and R3,00 per day.

It is clear that many of these children sell newspapers to help the family financially.

Of the newspaper vendors interviewed,

Newspaper vendors with their yellow protective jackets are a common sight on the streets of Cape Town. In bad weather conditions, early in the mornings and late at night, especially Saturday nights we hear them shouting "Argie!" "Argie!" haunting those trying to forget the hardships of the people.

On this page Grassroots looks at the plight of the newspaper vendors. The information comes from a survey conducted by a student in 1979 and early January 1980. Eighty newspaper vendors operating in the Cape Peninsula were interviewed.

the majority were living below the average income needed for a family to survive.

Further, many of the vendors interviewed left school at an early age, approximately 67,5% left their schooling.

About 15% have

never attended school while those who are attending school are selling newspapers to help their parents keep them at school.

95% of the vendors have to fend for themselves. They buy food during their long day at

work from their daily earnings.

Vendors are transported in large trucks early in the mornings and are taken home late at night by their supervisors.

A small percentage often sleep in the vans of the supervisors and do not go home at night. Others sleep on the streets at night.

The newspaper bosses are supposed to provide the vendors with orange vests or yellow coats to protect them against car accidents and bad weather. Many of the vendors who were interviewed do not receive this protective clothing or the supervisors do not

make sure that they wear it.

These are some of the major findings of this study which shows clearly that the newspaper vendors are children who are forced to work because of the financial hardships of their families.

They are exploited by the street sale supervisors and the bosses who make large profits by employing child labour.

The State, by failing to protect these children from such exploitation is aiding the bosses in making large profits.

Dissatisfaction over working conditions

THE study shows that the newspaper vendors are very dissatisfied with their working conditions and low wages. Because of the many problems that they face, they have attempted to organize themselves.

The newspaper companies employ street-sale supervisors who recruit the newspaper vendors to sell the papers on the streets.

The vendors are not happy with the way in which the supervisors treat them.

They claim that the

supervisors do not want to accept returns if they cannot sell all the papers. This means that the vendors have to pay for what they do not sell.

They also claim that sometimes they are robbed and the supervisors do not want to believe them. Here again they have to pay in the money.

All these problems have resulted in strikes by the newspaper vendors. Most of these strikes are not reported. During the course of the survey the research-

er came across two groups of vendors who had gone on strike.

The first group went on strike for higher wages. They wanted 5 cents instead of 1 cent per sale of the paper because they did not receive their bonuses.

The second group went on strike because of the bonus system. When their supervisor went on leave the new supervisor did not fetch them on bonus day and recruited new vendors to sell the papers.

The second week, the same thing happen-

ed. The vendors refused to return to work the following week until they were paid their bonus, but because they stayed at home and were not organised the matter was not reported.

This type of action shows clearly that the newspaper vendors will stand together for better working conditions and higher wages, but because they are scattered all over the city and not part of a union, the bosses and supervisors have the strong hand over them.

Children exposed to the hardships of life

THE employment of children as newspaper vendors has a negative effect upon the development of the child.

At an early age they are exposed to the hardships of life, getting up early in the mornings and being out on the streets until late at night.

In the course of their day-to-day work, they are exposed to many things which may set them on the wrong path for the rest of their lives.

When they have free time during the day, they often gamble and spend their day's earnings.

Because many vendors work on empty stomachs, they are forced to beg.

Some even become involved in gang activities, such as those belonging to "The Times Killers".

It has also been reported that dagga smoking is common to keep awake during the early hours of the

morning.

Ex-vendors who were interviewed said that they were involved in criminal cases.

Because many are on the verge of starvation they tend to steal and some have been involved in house-breaking and theft charges.

It is clear that children as young as these newspaper vendors, working under such poor conditions, earning low wages are also exposed to all the harsh realities of life which

could leave its mark and create many problems when they grow older.

They are the products of our society. What chance do these children have in life?

"Our young people in the bloom of life like the early morning sun are the wealth of a nation. It is in them that we place our hopes and dreams for the future." Anon



IN this survey, the only survivor of the accident which took place in 1977 when 14 vendors of "Die Burger" died in a flaming truck, was interviewed. To protect him, his name has been changed.

Peter Jacobs was a 16 year old youth at the time of the accident. The group of newspaper vendors consisted of 15

boys, the others all younger than Peter.

He comes from Uitenhage. As a result of financial problems, he was reared by his grandmother. Peter left school in Std. 4 as his grandmother could not keep him in line. At this time he was a member of a gang and because of his gang activities he was found

guilty of housebreaking and theft and received six cuts.

According to Peter, newspaper vendors have to work to help their families, but the low pay, the poor working conditions and the social effects of the job on the boys does not make it worth the effort.

TRAGEDY CAN'T BE FORGOTTEN

HOW can we forget the tragedy of 1977 when fourteen newspaper vendors died in a flaming truck in the early hours of the morning?

There was a great outcry in the community against the plight of the newspaper vendors, three years later, nothing has changed.

No compensation was ever paid to the families of the children.

The matter was taken up in parliament calling for an investigation into the working conditions of the vendors, the length of the working day, schooling and the law.

The Minister of Labour, at that time S.P. Botha said that the government had no intention of investigating the working conditions of the vendors.

He also said that newspapers were sold

from shops and were not subject to wage determinations of the Commercial Distribution Trade.

This basically means that the vendors can be paid whatever the bosses want to pay them.

In February 1978 the Department of Internal Affairs conducted a community investigation and found that no new legislation was needed to stop the

employment of child labour. The committee came to this conclusion because they claimed that only a small number of children are employed in this way.

They also felt that the Children's Act of 1965 makes provision for the protection of children.

But the employment of children is not covered in this Act which means that the law has "legalised" the

employment of children in the newspaper industry.

This law should be revised as there are thousands of children being employed in other industries.

There are three other laws which could serve to protect the newspaper vendors, but here again, these laws have loopholes and therefore makes their plight even worse.

* The Road Traffic

Ordinance - This regulation does not protect workers who are transported in public vehicles in the course of their work.

* The Workman's Compensation Act - This Act does not provide for the protection of part-time employees.

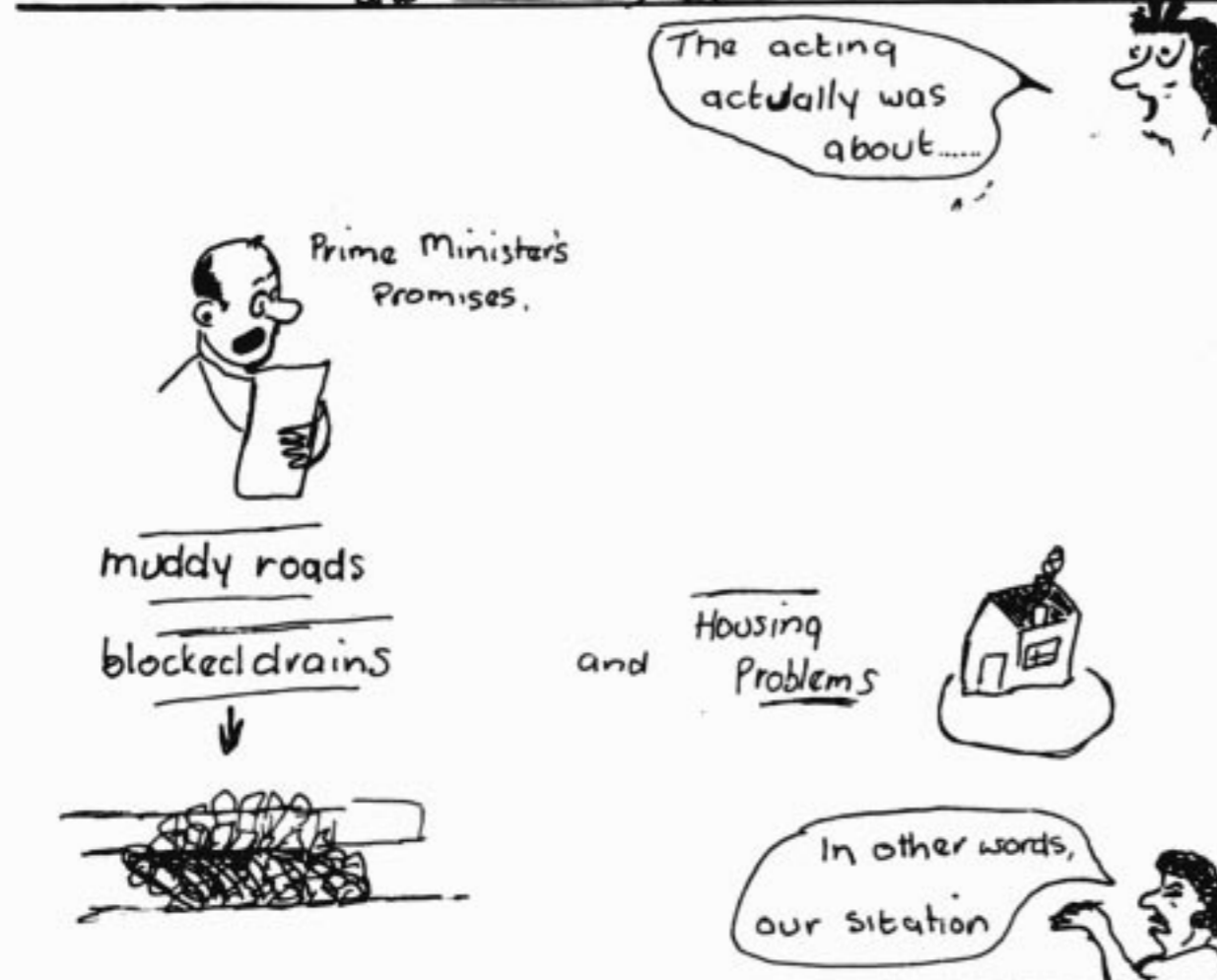
For this reason the newspaper vendors are not covered by this Act and are not compensated if acci-

dents occur at work.

* Factories Act - do not affect children of 15 years and under.

The study shows that the average newspaper vendor is between 10 and 14 years old.

One wonders if the employment of children under 15 years as newspaper vendors is not a deliberate attempt to evade this Act.



"Yes, I really enjoyed myself at the community hall seeing a play about our township, a real eye-opener. Our whole community - everybody should have been there! It was like the people being on stage. Mother's problems, father's work problems and the students problems were all seen in that play. We must make plays about ourselves in South Africa so we can see what's wrong and react to the situation. Also when we see our community's problems on stage and see it's being practised, we think more about them and we learn how these problems affect our whole society."

DWA continues fight

FOR two months now there has been a fight by the domestic workers of Sea Point/Greenpoint against the Cape Provincial Council. The workers are fighting the Council because it has proposed a law that police and council officials have access to the workers' rooms at all times.

In terms of the legislation:

- Duplicate keys are to be made available to police at all times
- Householders are to keep a register of all the workers' personal documentary details, including reference and identity numbers.
- Workers will be in their own rooms from 12.00 p.m. to 8 a.m. and be nowhere else

This was drawn up after the Sea Point Ratepayers and Tenants Association had complained to the Cape Provincial Council of

widespread loitering which resulted in a high crime rate in the area.

Workers felt this law to be unjust and see it as another measure to keep them as 'prisoned workers'. 'Why do they want to check up on us "at all times?"

It is not us alone who make the noise and loiter in the area. Yet our employers, who are the Ratepayers and Tenants Association, blame us."

The workers see the law as an attempt to restrict them to their one-roomed dwellings after working hours with little or no social activity.

Already, they have to produce passes in order to be employed and to move in the privileged white areas. They are away from their families. Now in terms of this legislation even their children and husbands who are legally in the city cannot visit them, or stay over

on weekends.

Keys are being demanded from workers by employers. Police are checking up.

This cannot be done as the law has not been passed. At present it is part of the Fouche Commission of 1979 which is awaiting Government approval.

It is expected to be passed in January 1981.

The implementation of this law will encroach extensively on the lives of workers.

Being aware of this, the domestic workers have been organising themselves through their workers' body, the Domestic Workers' Association.

Numerous meetings and informal talks are being held with workers to keep themselves keyed up on this new and drastic attempt by the Ratepayers of Sea Point and Green Point, the Cape Provincial Administration and the State to restrict them

Many thousands of

pamphlets have been distributed among fellow-workers to keep them informed.

This is important because there are many over-eager employers who are already implementing the law. Workers have been harassed by employers and police.

The general feeling among the workers is that attempts are being made to break down their organised and united stand against this restriction. Yet they are holding on and the fight continues.

Grassroots Community Newsletter is published by Grassroots Publications of 328/9 South West House, Shortmarket Street, Cape Town 8001.

This Newsletter is printed by Esquire Press (Pty) Ltd of Hein Road, Athlone Industria 7764.

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION
R5.00 PER YEAR. PLEASE SEND YOUR CHEQUE OR POSTAL ORDER TO:-

GRASSROOTS PUBLICATIONS
P.O. BOX 181 ATHLONE 7760

PLEASE PRINT

Name

Address

Postal Code