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THOUSANDS SIGN FOR FREEDOM

THOUSANDS have already signed the UDF's signature forms. Dr. Allan Boesak was the first to sign.

Since then posters and pamphlets have started appearing in the streets and communities of Cape Town, and already thousands of signatures have been collected. More important, volunteers for the UDF have been going into the homes of workers and residents, talking and listening to what the people have to say.

A few weeks ago, more than 200 UDF volunteers got together to 'blitz' Langa and Heideveld. People from all regions in Cape Town gathered together in their bright yellow and red UDF skippers. For an hour, they listened to people talking of the problems and struggles that the Langa and Heideveld people experience in their day-to-day lives. Then they went out, to the homes, shops, pavements, to do the hard work of listening and talking.

At the end of the morning, over 3 700 people had signed their opposition to 'Botha's new deal' and their support for the UDF.

The following week, another 782 signatures were collected in the barracks and homes of the Langa people.

EVERYWHERE, organisations and volunteers are getting together to plan the signature campaign. In the Northern Suburbs, reps from many areas met to elect co-ordinators and decide on a plan of action. Athlone is calling all organisations to a Regional Conference to launch the campaign in their region. In the Southern Suburbs, more than 50 volunteers spent a morning working in the flats and compounds of the Hout Bay Harbour, and in the squatter camp at Disa River.

In Mitchells Plain, Lavender Hill, Steenberg, Guguletu and Walmer Estate too, volunteers have begun to collect signatures.

There is excitement and expectation in the air, as people make their mark against apartheid.

10 000
SIGNATURES
IN CAPETOWN
SO FAR



All over the country, people make their mark against apartheid.

"Ndibeka usiba lwam Kwelipepa ngebhongo neqhayiya" La ibingamazwi omntu wokuqala uku sayina ifom ye UDF. Kwilinge layo lobhaliso magama lowo ibingu Dr Alan Boesak.

Ukusukela oko amapepa okuxhonywa (posters) nezibhivilana zamapepa siqalile ukubonakala Kuyo yonke indawo kweli lase Kapa. Se zingama-waka imisayino eqokelelweyo. Okubalulekileyo amavolontiya eUDF. Angena ezindlini zabasebenzi nezabahlali bacacisela abantu ngolu bhaliso.

Ngaphezu Kwama 200 amavolontiya eUDF. Ebedibene eHeideveld naKwa Langa beyokwenza uhlaselo kwezi ndawo.

Abantu bebephume kuzo zonke inqila ze UDF. Benxibe izikipa zabo. Kangange yure bebonisana ukuba bazakuthetha najanina nabantu. Emva koko baqalisa umsebenzi onzima wokuthetha uphula-phula nasebantwini ucacisa ngolubhaliso.

Emva Kwemini babe sebengaphezu Kwama 3700 amagama abantu ababhalisileyo bebona-

kalisa eyabo incaso kulemithetho yeyantlukwano baxhasa iUDF. Kwiveki elandelayo malunga nama 782 amagama aqokelelwe Kwa Langa emaholweni nase zones.

Kulo lonke imibutho iyadibana ibonisana ngolu bhaliso luqhube-kayo. Kwi Northern Suburbs abameli abavela kwinqingqi badibene bonyula intloko zalomsebenzi bagqiba nangananyathelo abazakuwa thabatha.

IFlaka imema yonke imibutho ize kwikomfayayo yenqila. Kwi

Southern Suburbs ngaphezu Kwama 50 amavolontiya achithe int-sasa ezi flatini nase-masokeni phaya e Hout Bay nase matyotyombeni e Disa River.

Ulutsha abahlali omama nabafundi badibene besebenza Kunye. Olu bhaliso magama luye luqina ngokuqina Kwaye lufumana inxaso kakhulu abantu bayayit-hakazelela kakhulu.

Kukho uvuyo nenjabulo kweli nyathelo. Abantu babonisa ukungahambisani ne (Apate-yiti) ucalu-calulo.



A NEW MWASA

THE Media Workers Association of South Africa has adopted a new constitution. This was done at the recent congress held in East London.

MWASA started out as a union for journalists. Later on it began to organise workers in the media, printing, packaging industries also. The new constitution had to be adopted to change MWASA into an industrial trade union.

In the past MWASA was only open to Blacks. This has also been changed. MWASA now has a non-racial constitution. This means that it is open to all workers who accept MWASA's policy.

There were big differences at the East London congress. The main problem was that of workers' control. All six regions previously said they supported worker control of MWASA. But at East London some regions were not prepared to accept real worker control. These regions were Southern Transvaal and

Northern Transvaal. The delegates from these regions were mostly journalists with no real base among the workers. Only Western Cape had democratically elected worker representatives.

Another problem was that of non-racialism. Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Border and most Natal MWASA members supported a non-racial constitution. Only Northern Transvaal and Southern Transvaal opposed this.

UDF

A third problem was affiliation to the UDF. The Northern Transvaal and Southern Transvaal rejected affiliation to the UDF.

At some point the Northern Transvaal, Southern Transvaal and some Natal delegates walked out of the congress. Western Cape MWASA members saw the walk out in this way: "Those northern regions who walked out were saying, in effect, that the hundreds of workers who have been organised could join the

union, become the majority and completely rewrite the constitution but dare not change policy; policy formed a decade ago in the absence of the workers.

"Their position now and their attitude at congress raises serious questions about their intentions when they fought for WASA to be changed to MWASA in 1980."

"Were they genuinely interested in advancing the workers' cause or were they merely looking for a power-base?"

Do they see MWASA as an organ which can further the struggle of the media, printing, packaging and allied workers in particular and the struggle in general, or is the union perceived as a powerful tool in their hands? Judging by their actions we are forced to presume it is the latter."

The East London congress decided that MWASA will join the UDF. A new executive was elected with M.J. Fuzile as president. A special congress will be held in Port Elizabeth in March.

SOPHIA works in Sea Point. She is one of the 10 000 women who clean houses, look after children and see to the interest of Sea Point's residents.

Most of these women have "sleep-in" jobs. Sophia is one of them. This means that she is cut off from the community where she comes from. There is no entertainment for her in Sea Point. She has no social life.

To make this worse, there is the dreaded "Key Law". Sophia's family and friends cannot visit her at night.

But Sophia has decided to make a plan. She has joined up with other domestic workers, under the Domestic Workers' Association (DWA). Together they have found a place to use for entertainment, for educational activities and generally, just to be together. This place is the Cape Town Arts Centre in Green Point.

Every day there is some kind of activity at the Centre. If it's not first aid and home nursing, it's dressmaking and designing, or a meeting of domestic workers.

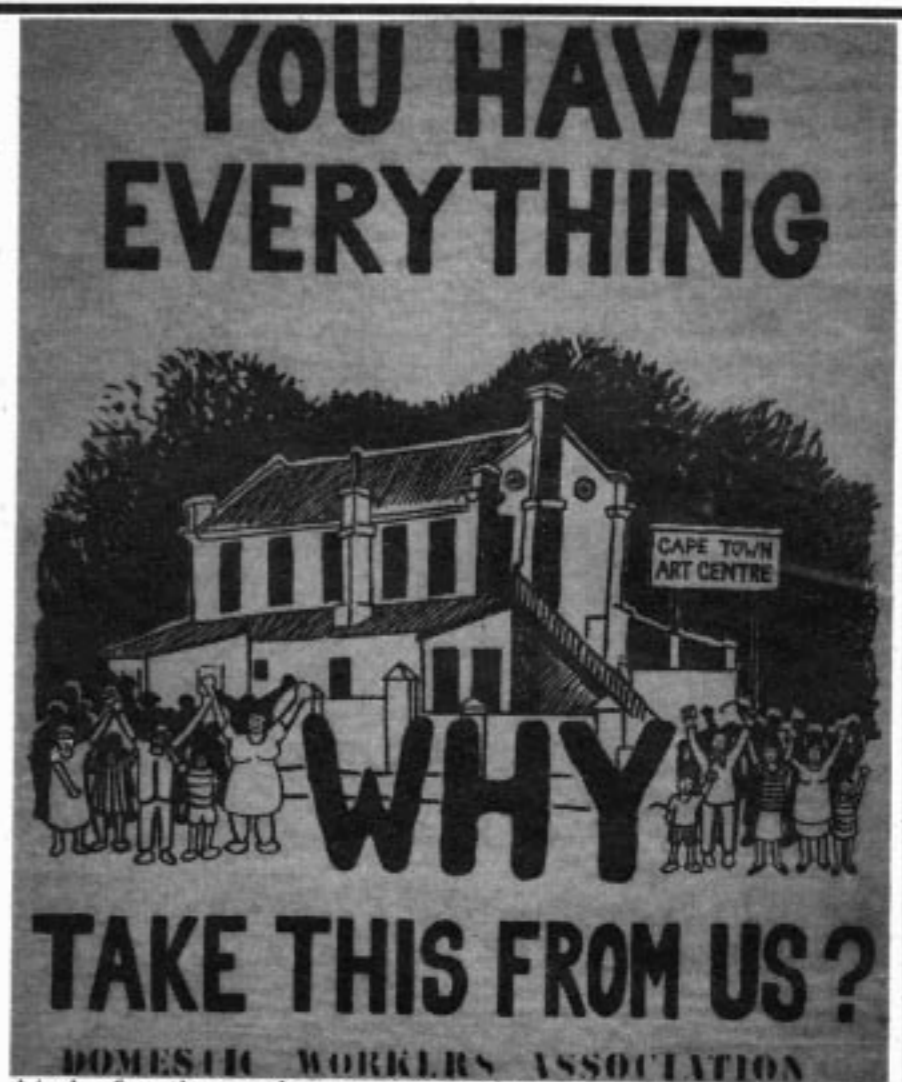
For 15 months the Arts Centre has been like a home for domestic workers.

Now the Cape Town City Council has decided to interfere. They have warned that the domestic workers may lose the place. The council wants to make a business centre or a restaurant.

This has angered the domestic workers.

"We will not accept this just like that. It is the ideal place. Most workers have to spend all their time in isolation in the backyards of their employers.

"There are enough businesses and restaurants in Sea Point. I don't see why the Council would want to take this place away from us. This



kind of action makes one want to question the role of the Council.

Ms Oewies said all the workers were involved in the fight to keep the centre.

"Twenty years ago the workers did not have this problem. At that time, District Six was around the corner and people could go there for social activities. But since people were moved out of District Six, domestic workers have become totally isolated.

The first step in the campaign to keep the Arts Centre was a poster making-session recently to popularise the workers' demands.

A number of meetings are planned with people in the area to gain support for the workers.

Domestic workers have decided to send a delegation to the Council about the

Art Centre. This poster was made by domestic workers at a recent workshop.

The poster has been put up in the Sea Point area to make people aware of the domestic workers' demands.

Labour Relations Act:

New Law controls

THE government has made new laws to control independent unions.

Over the last few years, workers and their independent trade unions have made important gains.

Many unions have signed recognition agreements with employers. This means that they have the right to organise the workers in a specific factory.

The union is then allowed to represent the workers in talks with the bosses.

The workers and their unions then do not need to work through the state-controlled bodies like the industrial councils. They deal directly with the bosses.

This has been an important victory for the workers. This victory has come about because of the growing strength of unions such as the General Workers' Union, Food and Canning Workers' Union, Federation of South African Trade Unions and the South African Allied Workers' Union.

But, the government

is not prepared to sit back while workers and their unions grow stronger. Many laws have been introduced to control the workers organisations.

They have now passed an amendment to the Labour Relations Act. It states that all unions should give the Department of Manpower all documents dealing with:

- Recognition agreements signed;
- lists of office bearers;
- list of union members;
- the union's constitution;
- financial accounts and source of income.

Otherwise, no recognition agreements signed with any employer will be upheld in a court of law. This means recognition agreements will be powerless documents to the unions.

The unions affected, mainly the independent unregistered trade unions, have reacted with anger.

Dave Lewis of the GWU said that it was clearly "further inter-

ference in the internal affairs of a trade union".

Piroshaw Camay, general secretary of the Council of Unions of SA, said the government's next step may be to say what goes into the recognition agreements as well. He added that the unions had nothing to hide but that the recognition agreements were "private arrangements that had nothing to do with the state."

THE General Workers' Union has become the victim of a smear campaign. Pamphlets attacking the GWU - telling workers their union was dead and urging them to resign from it - and its general secretary, Dave Lewis

were distributed earlier this month at the

Everite factory in Brackenfell. Most of the workers at Everite belong to the GWU. Grassroots asked Dave Lewis about the smear campaign.

What do the pamphlets say?

The pamphlets basically call on workers to resign from the GWU and they support this call by defaming the union and leading union officials through lies and racist slurs.

Why do you think they attack you personally?

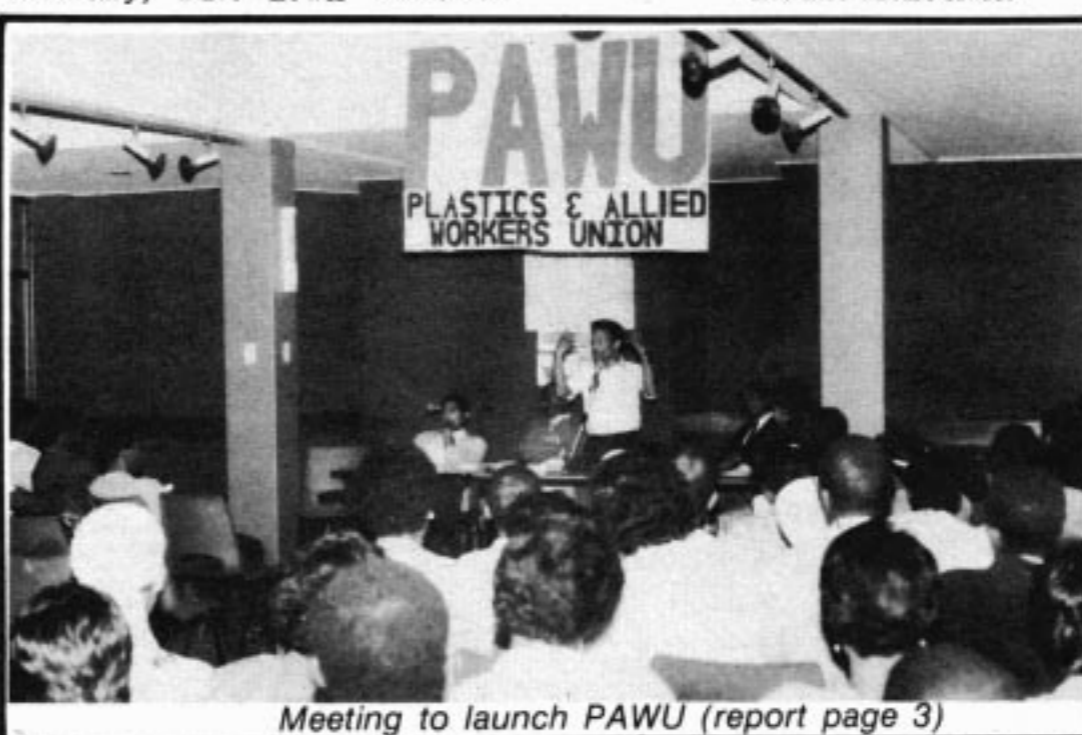
The people responsible for the pamphlet would want to discredit a leading union official, but they also attempt to take advantage of the fact that I am white. Obviously people who put out this racist filth think that the workers have similar racism. But they are sadly mistaken. Do you know why the Everite plant at Brackenfell was chose for the smear campaign?

I'm really not certain. The only time that this has ever happened before was once in Port Elizabeth when we were organising South African Railways workers. And the other time was when we were organising the Everite workers in Port Elizabeth.

Now this is the second occasion that this has happened at an Everite plant. We're not certain why Everite seems to be a target. Is the union intending to take any action to counter the campaign?

The major form of action will be taken in our organising practice. No workers believe those extreme slurs anyway. And if there are any people who do, and I doubt that there are, then in the process of organising they will come to disbelieve it. With regard to this particular case, if we are able to identify the culprits then we'll take legal action against them.

Pamphlet attack on GWU



Meeting to launch PAWU (report page 3)

100's owed workman's compensation

DO YOU know Mr J. Dyssel who used to work for the De Waal Hotel? If so, you can give him some good news. He has been awarded Workmen's Compensation of R163,51, which he can claim from the Department of Manpower.

Mr Dyssel is one of hundreds of workers who have been injured at work but cannot be traced to get their Workmen's Compensation. Every six months, however, a list comes out with the names of those who are entitled to Workmen's Compensation. Here are just a few:

- Daniel Tait, Observatory - R69,00
- A.J.W. Scholtz, Kapel Klawer - R505,47
- Mathew Hlapezulu, LTA Construction - R69,19
- A.J.L. Munnik, LTA Construction - R133,07
- Lesley Hopley, Dowson and Dobson - R272,00
- Simon Arries, Cape Steel Construction - R273,33
- Lena Ruiters, Stellenbosch - R109,79

- Kevin Dyer, Wynberg - R149,50
- J.Abrahams, Stellenbosch Afdelingsraad - R346,67
- Moegamat Kassiem Isaac, R.H. Morris - R104,40
- Walter Ntwanabi, Ovcon - R58,08
- Piet Moekoena, Plifford Harris - R60,63
- M. Poole, Sea Harvest Corp. - R58,46
- Hamilton Mepetygesi, B & M Metals - R103,78
- Jeanetta Sophia van Wyk, Observatory - R99,20
- M. May, Nasionale Tydskrifte - R88,80
- J.H.F. Wagener, Kraaifontein - R66,65

Money is not much comfort when you have lost a limb in an industrial accident, but the workers have put their money into Workmen's Compensation so they should make sure they get it out when they are injured!

The Trade Union Library at Malta House, Salt River, has the list for you to check your name.

End the war in Namibia, Angola!



300 people resolve to call for an end to conscription and to support the UDF.

ABOUT 300 people attended a protest meeting in Rondebosch last month to protest against South Africa's military raid on Angola.

This raid, termed Operation Askari, began on December 6, but was only admitted to the press three weeks later.

Speakers at the meeting explained how the SADF has been active in Angola for some time. They said South Africa had invaded Angola eleven times in the last eight years, causing much damage to the country and

killing many innocent civilians.

South Africa is also said to lend support to Unita, which opposes the MPLA, Angola's government.

Through its aggression South Africa tries to increase its economic and military power over Angola, the speakers said.

Statements of support for the meeting came from Black Sash, the Conscientious Objectors' Support Group, UWO and CAYCO. A standing ovation greeted the message of support sent to the meeting by

SWAPO.

The overall message of the evening was that to end war in Southern Africa, South Africa needs to change its policies.

By helping to win justice in South Africa, we will help the people of Namibia and Angola to win their peace, the meeting felt.

The meeting ended with a resolution to support the call for an end to compulsory conscription, and to support the UDF and all people striving to build a free and peaceful Southern Africa.

CRADOCK GROUPS ATTACKED

THE Cradock Residents Association (CRADORA) and Cradock Youth Association (CRADOYA) are coming under heavy attack from the government and security police.

CRADORA was formed in October last year after residents united to fight high rents in the township. Since then CRADORA has won the support of the whole community. Together with CRADOYA the association joined the U.D.F. in December 1983.

The residents' strong support of CRADORA and CRADOYA put fear into the govern-

fired from his post.

The security police also questioned four civic and youth members and took their photographs.

Closed doors

Today CRADORA and CRADOYA cannot get halls for their meetings. The churches have closed their doors after being visited by the security police. One church wants the organisations to pay R15 a night to use their hall. A member of the church council who opposed this was kicked out of the council.

The people of Cradock are angry. A petition in support of Matthew Goniwe is being organised by CRADORA and CRADOYA. The youth say they will call a school boycott if Matthew is not given back his job. At the same time the increase in rents is being challenged in court.

The people of this small town are determined to win their demands. They say they will fight for their rights. Their courage and unity is a lesson for all South Africa.

iCommunity Council Idiliza iHoki zethu

IBE ikokokuqala umbutho wabahlali ubiza intlanganiso yabahlali emva kwenyanga ezintathu bangazifumani indawo zokubamba intlanganiso zabahlali.

Apho lo mbutho uthi ukwazi ukucacisela abantu ngezinto ezibadlayo.

Intlanganiso ibingombandela wokuchithwa kwehoki zichithwa yi community council. Nto leyo ibatsho abantu bavumbuluka ngumsindo. Bebe malunga nama 400 nangaphezulu abantu ebebezile kulo ntlanganiso.

Uthe xa ebethetha usihlalo we civic "bahlali niyalahleka ngokujoyini le community council kuba soze yanenzelanto.

"Kuba ayimelonga nina imele ibodi. Andibi namhlanje ibodi xa ufuna indlu ikuthumela kwi community council? Kuba isithi yona ayinalawulo yi community council elawula izindlu."

Kwale community council yiyo echitha ihoki zenu yayingathanga izakunimela. Ingabo kukunimela oku ikwenzaya ngoku.

Uphakamile omnye umana wahlasela kabukhali omama esithi "Community council isebenzisa bona kanye. Watsho esithi yena uyavuya kuba unaye umthetheleli oyi civic bomama joyinani umbutho wabahlali oyi civic"

Le ntlanganiso ibe ezinyaswe nalilungu lombutho omkhulu i UDF sona sithe.

Bahlali kha nizibuze ukuba kutheni nixoxela ingxaki zenu ecaweni ayaphi amaholo.

Kanti kwenzekani kwisizwe esimnyama? Le mithetho ilungiselelwe ukusicinezela ngoba le community council idoNtsa imali kuthi.

Futhi ayizimisele ukuphatha imicimbi yethu qha yona ifuna thina sikhokhe imali njalo.



NUTW Launch March 11

THE National Union of Textile Workers will be launching their Western Cape branch this month.

The branch will be launched on Sunday **March 11** the Swanees Inn, Bellville. It starts at 9 a.m.

DIE Afdelingsraad in Elsie Rivier het op Vrydag 17 Februarie drie lede van die Avondale Huurdersvereniging ingeroep. Die drie het vorms gekry dat hulle hul rentkaarte ook moes saambring. Die huurdersvereniging het toe besluit om nog twee mense saam te stuur.

Mnr Carpenter van die Afdelingsraad het die huurders vertel dat hy baie bekommerd is oor 'n pamflet wat in die gebied versprei was. Hy voel dat die huurdersvereniging is daarop uit om die mense te verlei. Hy dink ook dat die Raad uit die mense wil geldmaak nie, maar dat die geld gebruik sal word om huise te bou vir die mense op die

Staat — "bang vir inligting?"

waglys.

Die huurdersvereniging het vir Mnr Carpenter ingelig dat die pamflet slegs vir inligtingsdoeleindes uitgegee was. Die inligting wat daarop was, is in koerante en die vrae daarop was om vir huurders te help om die regte besluit te neem indien hulle hul huise wil koop.

Die huurders het vir Mnr Carpenter vertel dat baie van die mense verkoopbelasting en

persoonlike belasting betaal. Hy het geantwoord dat baie van Elsie Elsie se mense op die staat se nek lê, want baie trek pension of "disability". Hy het ook beaam dat die staat nie meer verantwoordelik sal neem vir behuising en dat mense wat meer as R150 'n maan verdien, op hulle eie sal moet koop of bou.

Die komitee het aan die Raad gevra. Hoekom was die komitee in

die eerste plek ingeroep? Waarom is hulle bang vir die inligting wat die komitee versprei? Is hulle miskien bang dat die komitee al die foute aan die mense sal uitwys?

Is die hele huisverkoper so belangrik vir die Raad?

Die komitee was ingelig dat Mnr Sass, wat op die bestuurskomitee is, die inligting van die pamflette oorgedra het aan Mnr Carpenter.

Nuwe unie vir Plastics werkers

Ons moet saamstaan

'n NUWE unie, die Plastics and Allied Workers' Union, is onlangs by 'n vergadering van omtrent 100 werkers gevorm.

Die werkers kom van drie fabriek waar PAWU alreeds met organisasie begin het. Op die oomblik is daar 74 plastiek fabriek met 'n totaal van 8000 werkers.

By PAWU se eerste vergadering het werkers verslae gegee van hul werksomstandighede, die lae lone en die lang werksure. Baie werkers het gepraat oor die

geskoolde arbeid wat hulle doen, terwyl hulle nie daarvoor betaal word nie. Hulle het gevoel dat die base se werksomitees nie na hulle regte en belange omsien nie.

Een van die werkers, Oom Gert, het in die vergadering gesê:

"Die prys van brood gaan al weer op. Die toekoms lyk donker vir ons, maar deur dit alles gaan ons saamstaan en ons probleme oplos.

'n Lid van die Behuisings Aksie Komitee, het gesê:

"Ons organiseer die mense van Bellville. Daar is nie net probleme by die werk nie, maar daar is ook probleme in ons gemeenskap ook, soos hoe huur 'en lae lone. Daar is baie probleme in ons gemeenskap ook. Ons moet saamstaan om ons probleme op te los."

Aan die einde van die vergadering het die werkers die grondwet en beleid aanvaar vir die nuwe unie. Al die lede van die komitee was aan die vergadering voorgestel.



After the PCP was removed.....

"No to PCP"

"WE don't want puppet leaders and the government's new deal. We want democratic rights in a free South Africa."

This is the message from the people of Mitchells Plain that greeted the People's Congress Party when they tried to have a meeting at the Westridge Civic Centre recently.

People from the democratic organisations in Mitchells Plain, represented in the United Democratic Front, (UDF), ended the meeting in less than 30 minutes, and forced Peter Marais and his PCP to leave. PCP has decided to go into the new "coloured parliament".

The meeting then passed a unanimous resolution to support the UDF and the Signature Campaign.

PCP had called the meeting to win support for their decision to support the government's new deal. But

they did not get any support from the people of Mitchells Plain. PCP brought a busload of people from outside Mitchells Plain - about 60 people which included about 25 young children dressed as drum majorettes and a group of young men armed with sticks.

The rest of the people - about 150 - were supporters of the UDF.

After the first speaker had spoken, people in the audience stood up and demanded to ask questions. The PCP chairman refused to allow people to ask questions or say anything.

This led to the majority of the people in the hall standing up and moving towards the stage. The people forced the PCP officials - and their bodyguards - to leave the hall.

PCP leader Mr Marais allegedly physically assaulted a Grassroots worker and smashed his photographic equipment. Mr Marais was allegedly seen attacking other people also.

The UDF supporters continued the meeting inside the hall and passed a resolution to "commit ourselves to intensify the fight against Botha and all his puppet leaders."

The UDF Mitchells Plain deplored the PCP's tactics of manipulating children and using the police to suppress the people from voicing their political opinions and aspirations.

"You know a man by his friends and by having only the police to support them, the PCP stands exposed with no support for their policies. They are setting themselves up as enemies of the people in their struggle for justice and equality in the land of our birth", the UDF said.

After a while Peter Marais called in the police and about 30 policemen in four vans, a truck and some cars came and asked the UDF supporters to disperse.

Police allowed the PCP to go back into the hall and formed a cordon outside the door to stop anyone else from going inside.

Earlier, the UDF Mitchells Plain had started its signature campaign which was supported by people from the democratic organisations in the area.



Peter Marais points out UDF members to the police.



As One, We Say: No to Apartheid!

SIGN! UNITE!



Workers in factories, out on farms, miners deep under ground, we who build the cities, and for roads, our pay packets are small, yet the wealth of this country is born in our hands.
We Say: No to Apartheid!
SIGN! UNITE!

People locked into hostels, pushed off the land, we who are standing in resettlement camps, unemployed, rural people, contract labourers, old and young left behind, South Africa is one country, it belongs to us all.
We Say: No to Apartheid!
SIGN! UNITE!

Communities ripped up by Group Areas, pushed out into ghettos, we who reject better education, job-based workers, second class rights and second rate deals.
We Say: No to Apartheid!
SIGN! UNITE!

Women, who struggle to find food, shelter and clothing, Mothers, sisters, domestics, workers for bosses and keepers of homes, two jobs a day, we who carry the future strapped to our backs, who watch how our dreams for our children get shattered each hour.
We Say: No to Apartheid!
SIGN! UNITE!

Youth, who demand freedom to learn and are held in darkness, we who fight for peace, who face unemployment, poverty, forced call-up into the armies of oppression, we, the youth who tomorrow inherit only what we build from today.
We Say: No to Apartheid!
SIGN! UNITE!

South Africans, black and white, people from many traditions, operators of different languages, we who have many pasts but one future, who love this country, reject the racism that tears it apart.
We Say: No to Apartheid!
SIGN! UNITE!

Throughout the wide land, from Limpopo up north, to Cape Town in the south, east across to the west, in towns, compounds, dergs, out in the countryside, let the whole world hear
As One, We Say: No to Apartheid!
SIGN! UNITE!

MANY people are asking about the UDF's Million Signatures Campaign. Grassroots spoke to a UDF official about the campaign.

GR: Why did the UDF decide to have this campaign?

UDF: We need to show our opposition to apartheid and the government's new deal. Through the Signature Campaign the UDF will be able to show that our people reject apartheid and that they support the dramatic aims of the UDF. We are asking South Africans, through the Signature Campaign, to show they have confidence in the UDF.

GR: What does the Signature Campaign or the UDF do about the problems we face in our communities, like huge rents, low wages, bad housing, etc.?

UDF: These kind of problems are a result of the system under which we live. This will change if the system changes. By making people aware of the shortcomings of the new deal, the UDF can

show that the new deal will only become worse in terms of this new deal.

The new deal will also not increase wages, put an end to unemployment or remove hurtful apartheid laws. The main apartheid laws, like the Group Areas act will remain. The UDF is making the people aware that we need to oppose these laws with much more vigor.

The UDF and the Signature Campaign are also strengthening the organisations which fight for these basic demands so that the organisations can be more effective.

GR: What does the UDF intend doing with the Signatures?

UDF: The signatures are being collected to show our opposition to the new deal and apartheid. It is not a petition that we take to the government. We do not need to beg the government for our freedom. It is our right and we will win it.

GR: Won't I get into trouble if I sign?

UDF: No, definitely not. If anybody will get into trouble, it will be the hundreds of volunteers who go out to collect signatures every weekend. So far, we have seen these volunteers going out without any problems. We have a legitimate right to protest against the new constitution. Nothing can happen to you. Even if they wanted to, I don't think they can take action against a million people.

GR: Who can sign?

UDF: Anyone over 16. Not only one person in a household, but all those over 16. People are forced to carry reference books from 16 years, so they should have a right to sign in the campaign.

GR: How will the Signature Campaign do anything to destroy apartheid?

UDF: The Signature Campaign itself cannot destroy apartheid. Only if we are properly organised and united can we destroy apartheid. But we must be honest. We must realise that many of our people

have gone through many experiences under apartheid. They have seen political organisations of the people being repressed. They have seen some organisations making promises and not keeping them. They have seen the way in which the State has hit out at its opponents. Many of our people have become totally disillusioned with any attempts to challenge the government.

We are embarking on the Signature Campaign with these things in mind and under these conditions. To gain the support of one million people for our campaign will be a major achievement for the UDF.

And if we get one million signatures, it would not mean that only one million people support us. I think millions more would support us, but with our limited resources we may not be able to reach all the people.

Freedom

GR: But our people already know that apartheid is bad. Our people are ready for freedom.

UDF: We are glad to hear that people here reject apartheid and are ready for freedom. But we must be sure that all the people in our country are ready so that when we move, we move together. The idea of unity has something to do with that.

Also, more than reaching our target of one million signatures, our campaign must mobilise the people. It must take the UDF to every corner of South Africa. It must aim to make one million people actively support our struggle and become part of our organisation.

Student anger over age limit

THE last few weeks have seen students on the march again in protest against unfair education. Students, particularly at the Ibhongo Senior Secondary School in Soweto and at three high schools in Atteridgeville near Pretoria, have been boycotting classes and there have been incidents of violence. A fourteen year old schoolgirl, Emma Satheke, died after disturbances at school.

The main cause of the anger is the age-limit regulation introduced by the Department of Education and Training in 1981. This regulation prevents students over the age of twenty from attending Std 9 or 10 classes. Pupils over the age of 18 cannot be admitted to Std 6, 7 or 8.

The fifty percent failure rate in African schools in matric last year has led to thousands of matriculants re-applying to school. The age-limit regulation is forcing them to drop out of school against their will. Some students have

been going from school to school to continue their education.

Students have pointed out how how this regulation is particularly unfair on black students. Black students start school later than whites and often have to leave school for a time to help support their families. The bad conditions at school and at home also mean that it is difficult for students to study properly to pass their exams.

"How can one be too old for education," said one student. "The age limit is an attempt to get rid of those older students who are politically aware because of their experiences in 1976."

Other demands of the Atteridgeville students are the abolition of corporal punishment and the prefect system, and the introduction of a students' representative council. A refusal by the authorities to recognise a student representative body makes it impossible to discuss or solve problems.

CAPE TOWN

The unrest has not as yet spread to the black schools in Cape Town but students here are suffering under equally serious frustrations. Children are having to share books, and the age-limit regulation is also being applied. Schools have also been asked not to admit children who do not have 'legal rights' to stay in Cape Town. It has been announced that no extensions will be done to the overcrowded schools in Langa, Gugulethu and Nyanga, but that a school will be built in Khayelitsha. This is a something that might force parents to move to Khayelitsha against their will.

The congress of South African Students (COSAS) has pledged its support for the demands of the pupils in Pretoria. COSAS has accused the authorities of demonstrating a "lack of seriousness" in dealing with the urgent matters affecting black education.

Anger at G.S.T. and bread price increase

AT a time when thousands of South Africans are dying from starvation, when thousands are without a job, when thousands are struggling to feed their families, the government has increased Sales Tax from six to seven percent, and increased the price of bread.

This has angered the people. Our wages are not going up. Rents and maintenance will only increase. Where must we find the extra money for food," people are asking.

"The increase in GST will mean that we are giving the Government an extra R50 million per month. Will that money be spent on decent housing and education for all of us?

"No. The government is spending our tax money on the new constitution, on homelands, on the apartheid system which our people reject.

"They spend money on salaries for politicians. These salaries have just increased. They will now be earning nearly R3 000 per month — more than many of us earn in a year.

"They spend our money on weapons to protect apartheid. Last year, nearly R3 Billion was spent on defence.

Mrs Jacobs, of Retreat, said: "We are forced to pay GST when we can't afford it. We must pay high rents, water and electricity bills. We will have to buy less food to pay for GST."

"I see this as part of how the government is operating. It is part of the weapon that is used against us. The government spends more money on defence than education, which is much more important," said Mr Ismail, Bellville.

Mr Mngesi of Nyanga said: "Why must we pay this? We can't afford it. And we don't get any benefits. We have no say in how they spend tax. Why don't rich people pay more tax?"

Mitchells Plain Co-ordinating Committee:

WE DEMAND A HOSPITAL NOW!

"We don't want a day hospital. We want a proper general hospital."

This is the demand of the Mitchells Plain Co-ordinating Committee (MPCC) and thousands of residents who support their petition for a hospital to be built in the area.

The MPCC consists of civic organisations in Mitchells Plain. With a group of doctors, the National Medical and Dental Association (Namda), the MPCC had asked to meet the hospitals director, Dr R. L. Kotzé. They wrote to him last year.

Dr Kotzé replied this month. He said he wanted to see the MPCC's constitution. He wanted to see if they had "any interest in health services."

Dr Kotzé's reply has angered the people of Mitchells Plain.

The MPCC said: "Community organisations in Mitchells Plain have democratically decided to meet with the Director of Hospitals. His reply to us in writing was that we should present our constitution and that after perusal he would decide whether to see us or not.

"He wanted to see



People wait for hours to see a doctor. What about emergency cases?

whether the constitution covered health care. We were prepared to sit down to discuss one of the major needs in Mitchells Plain, namely a hospital.

"We are disgusted that puppet leaders can just walk into the white parliament while a simple request like ours is met with delaying tactics. The MPCC does not see a hospital as an unrealistic demand, considering the population and the latest development of 3100 houses to be built in Mitchells Plain.

"Houses are a right

and proper health care is one of the first priorities. The health facilities in Mitchells Plain are grossly inadequate and the authorities concerned should stop side-tracking the issue by building community health facilities.

"Our demand is for a hospital. The Council builds houses for profit, far from work places. Residents face extremely high cost of living like high rents, transport, electricity. All this causes stress, anxiety and social problems.

"The logical con-

clusion is to build a mental institution which could have been prevented if it were not for the Group Areas Act. Houses presently in the area and those which are going to be built will inevitably end up like another slum creating more illnesses.

"A rich country like South Africa has an escalation of TB, yet it dumps large quantities of milk every year. An illness like TB could have been controlled if they used the money on proper health care

instead of pouring millions of rands into defence.

"So much money is presently used to implement the 'New Deal' to keep Nationalist ideology in power and entrenching apartheid, but there is no money for a hospital in Mitchells Plain.

"The MPCC would also like to see a hospital which will serve surrounding areas like Crossroads, Guguletu, Manenberg and Heideveld and other areas. Presently our need in Mitchells Plain is for a general hospital."

CAHAC leader fired

WILFRED RHODES has always had two priorities — his work and his people.

For 28 years he had worked hard at a weaving firm in Maitland. He had started out as a learner weaver, he could do just about any job in the factory and eventually he was given the responsibility of being production controller and works planner.

In the same energetic way Mr Rhodes had worked in community for his people. And as a show of their appreciation for his hard work, the people elected him chairperson of the Kensington/Factreton Rate-payers and Tenants Association. When the Cape Areas Housing Action Committee was formed out of more than 20 civic bodies, Mr Rhodes was elected chairperson. He is still chairperson of CAHAC.

But Mr Rhodes found out the hard way that it is difficult to satisfy the bosses when one is serving the people.

After 28 years of working for the same company he lost his job last month.

The boss said Mr

Rhodes was incompetent and did not work properly. Mr Rhodes said he had to do the work of four people and had a clean record over 28 years.

"I never took off from work unnecessarily. In fact, the last three days I took off was when I got hurt at work. I even went back to work before I had completely recovered and did not claim," said Mr Rhodes.

Mr Rhodes said other people in the factory had been put

off or were forced to resign in the same way.

"One man was given many added responsibilities just before he had to retire. Because he could not cope with these responsibilities, he was forced to resign. Another man resigned when the boss refused to give him any increases. Others are just put off."

Shortly after Mr Rhodes lost his job, he was phoned by a man claiming to be a policeman.

"The man said: 'I told you we would get

you.' This man had phoned me in the past and had made threatening statements.

"This made me wonder if there was a connection between the fact that I was sacked and my involvement in the community."

Mr Rhodes said losing his job had only strengthened his commitment to bring about change.

"This kind of incident is part of the pains suffered by people involved in the struggle," he said.

March 12:
We remember
detainees
and
prisoners

MARCH 12 is National Detainees Day. On this we remember all those who have been detained, imprisoned or banned in the freedom struggle.

National Detainees Day will be observed throughout the country by the detainees' support committees. In Cape Town these committees are the DPSC (Detainees' Parents Support Committee) and ADAC (Detention Action Committee).

A meeting will be held in Athlone on Saturday March 10, with more meetings planned for the Universities of Cape Town and Western Cape.

"Churches have been approached to support detainees day. The focus this year will be political prisoners and repression in the bantustans," an ADAC member said.

"We hope to strengthen the support committees through this focus and draw in more parents," he said.

Similar focuses are planned throughout the country.

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Comment

Whose leaders?

The government has set the date for elections to the coloured and "indian" chambers of parliament. It has decided that on August 22 "coloureds" and "indians" must elect "leaders" to these chambers. Within a week of the election, we will have the new three-chamber parliament.

The government has ignored calls for a referendum to test the people's feelings about the new constitution. If the government was sure of our support, why should it be afraid to call a referendum? The answer is clear: The government knows that the majority of the oppressed people of this country reject the new constitution. We reject the puppet leaders and political parties who try to sell the new constitution to us on TV.

So, as usual, the government will force this new constitution down our throats. The new constitution has no benefits for us. It will not solve our problems of low wages, passes, no houses, high rents and gutter education. It will strengthen apartheid and continue our oppression and exploitation.

There is only one path open to us: Organisation and unity.

We must continue organising our people into civics, youth, students, women's organisations and trade unions. We must unite all the oppressed people into a powerful force.

This is the only way to end apartheid and exploitation. The only way to build a new South Africa. A South Africa that is one nation and without racism, oppression and exploitation.

Increase our wages

GST has increased to seven percent. The bread price has gone up by six cents. Soon under the new housing deal, rents will be increased. The bosses and the government are increasing prices almost daily. The only thing they don't increase is our wages.

Today over two-million workers are unemployed. Thousands more are being laid off daily. They are all asking: "How can we live. How will we feed our families?"

These problems of unemployment, low wages, high cost of living are not of our making. The blame for them must be put squarely at the feet of the government and the bosses. The bosses make huge profits out of our sweat and toil.

The government can raise the salaries of members of parliament from R30 000 to R34 000 a year. They can spend R3 000 000 000 a year on the military. But when it comes to proper housing, equal education and decent wages, the government and the bosses have the same story: "There is no money".

Those who rule do not have our interests at heart. They are not concerned about our problems. It is only we ourselves, through our organisation and unity, who can put an end to our problems.

Sir Richard tells all...

MUCH has been said and written about the recent visit to South Africa by the British film director, Sir Richard Attenborough. Grassroots guest writer GADFLY is convinced this is the "real" story behind the visit.

BILLY was working alone in the pub that night. He couldn't afford to have many people working in the pub. "It appears people don't drink anymore. I think this economic recession is hitting everyone," he said to himself.

Just as he thought he would have some rest, a rich-looking, elderly man walked in.

"This must be a tourist. Who knows, maybe he is related to Lady Di. He looks like royalty," Billy thought.

Billy greeted politely, asked the normal questions and the client settled down to drink.

After a while, Billy scraped up enough guts

to ask: "May I ask, I hope you don't mind, but what is your name sir?" to which the visitor responded: "Attenborough."

Billy couldn't believe his ears.

"You mean THE Attenborough, Sir Richard Attenborough? Gandhi? Steve Biko, Nelson Mandela? ANC?" he stuttered.

"Yes, THE Attenborough," said Sir Richard as he took another sip of his drink.

THEN Billy knew that tonight was going to be a special night in his life. This was the first time somebody like Sir Richard had visited his pub. Billy

worked out how we would approach the newspapers the next day and he could see the headlines: "CAPE'S BEST BARMAN TELLS OF SIR RICHARD'S VISIT", "ATTENBOROUGH VISITS BILLY'S PUB".

But as the evening went on, Billy realised the headlines could be even more exciting. Maybe it could be something like "SIR RICHARD TELLS BARMAN OF REAL REASON FOR SA VISIT".

There was no stopping Billy. He was going to be famous.

And then Sir Richard did what so many people do. He decided to confide in the barman.

"You know," Sir Richard told Billy,

"I've really fooled them all. I told them I'm interested in making a political film about South Africa. Now everyone is speculating that I'm going to make a film about Steve Biko or Nelson Mandela.

"But my film won't be dealing with Biko or Mandela. My film will deal with the 1976 Soweto uprising, with the trauma of a young police officer during that period. My hero eventually decides to leave the police force after 1976."

And Sir Richard's next words had Billy gasping.

"Why do you think I moved so quietly. I'm trying to find Captain Andre Stander. That man is ideal material for a movie," said Sir Richard.

As soon as Richard

left, Billy closed the pub excitedly.

"My name is going to be on the front page of every newspaper in this country," he thought. He couldn't wait to phone the papers.

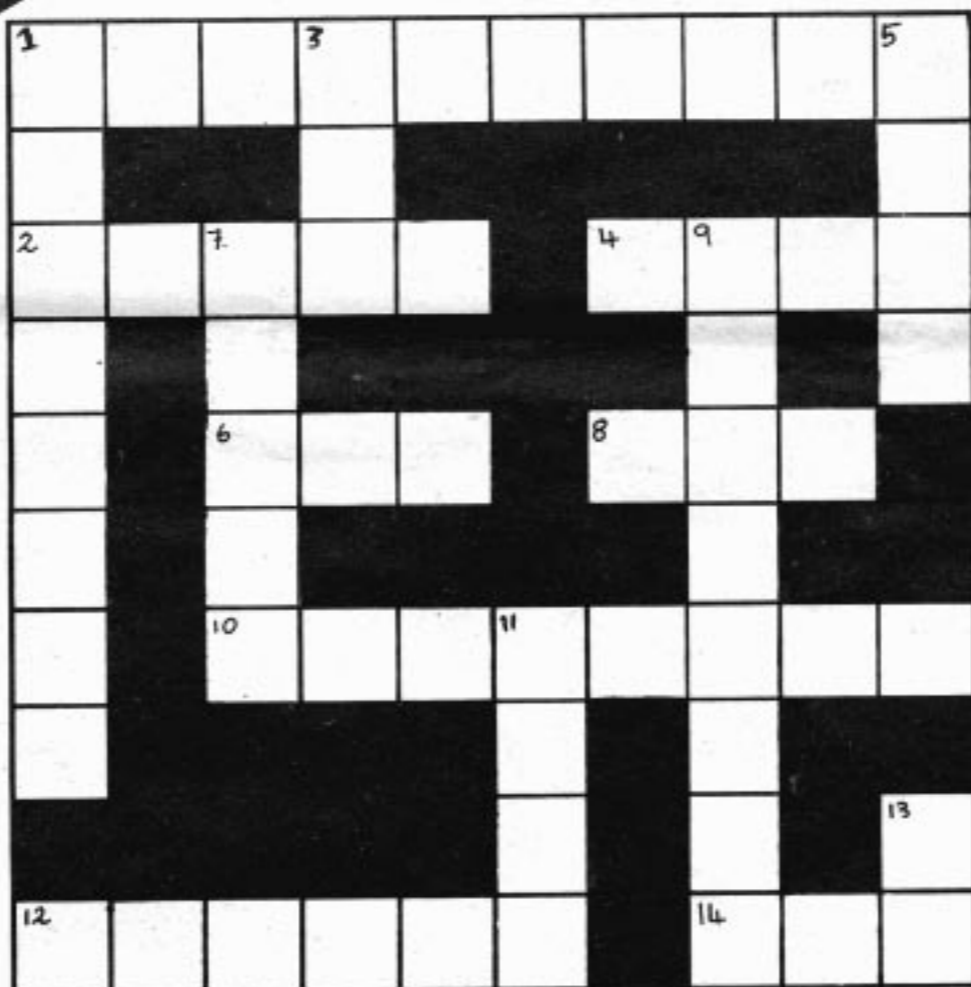
But Billy was too excited. He did not look as he crossed the road. That was the end of Billy the barman.

The next day, Billy's name was in the newspaper. Not on the front page. That belonged to Stander. There was a small notice in the paper saying that Billy had been knocked down by a car.

And as Billy was lowered into his grave, the secret he shared with Sir Richard was kept from the world. Now we will have to wait for Sir Richard to tell us one day.

CROSSWORD

TRY your hand at the Grassroots crossword puzzle. We hope to make this a regular feature of our paper. The answers are at the bottom of the page. All the questions are taken from articles in the paper.



ACROSS

1. Sign your names in this campaign.
2. The organisation which organises 7 Down in the Western Cape.
4. The government is trying to treat us like cattle, pushing us around.
6. Apartheid divides, but we unite!
8. Can you do New Deal maths? 4 (whites): 2 (Coloureds): 1 (Indian): 0 (Africans) = 20 : ? : 5 : 0.
10. The sick people in Mitchells Plain need a place to go.
12. In South Africa, in Nicaragua, in Angola, we say, "Get up, stand up, stand up for your!"
14. At the UDF National Launch we heard Boe-

sak calling for our rights, all of them, here, and when?

DOWN

1. One of CAHAC's three main aims.
3. Rajbans; will have to stand up to this strong UDF affiliate in Natal.
5. Their war games are no fun.
7. These people demand, "Freedom in our lifetime."
9. Only when it is non-racial and democratic will we not boycott it.
11. The most hated document in South Africa, it affects 20 million people.
13. Guess who wants to be South Africa's first Executive President and grab all the power for himself?

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE.
 Across: 1. Signatures 2. Cayco 4. herd 6. UDF
 Down: 1. security 3. NIC 5. SADE 7. youth
 9. election 11. pass 13. PW
 8. ten 10. hospital 12. rights 14. now.



WILL YOU NOW FIGHT?

We talk about a land that's free
 But, is this land for you and me?
 We fight against injustice
 Because we deserve the righteous.

We want to live a life that's free
 But peace is not for you and me.
 If you allow them to be your boss,
 You will all be lost.

What is life without freedom?
 What is freedom without love?
 To get this love, we all must fight.

But leave the swords and guns aside.
 The only weapons we will use,
 Are our tongues.

Will you now fight?
 D. Collins
 (aged 16)

Kom na ons skole

Ek beskou Grassroots as 'n maandelikse brief wat aan ons vertel van die strydte en probleme wat ons medemens in die verskillende areas moet deurgaan. Dit gee ook aan ons die goeie nuus wanneer daar 'n suksesvolle taak deur 'n ander organisasie verregtig was. Ek glo ook

dat sonder die verskillende organisasie se bystand deur hul stories en nuus in hul omgewings, hierdie brief nie gepubliseer of sy verskyning in ons huise, ons skole, werk of op state kon gemaak het nie. Grassroots lewer baie interessante artikels, en dit is ook baie

opvoedend, maar ek sal graag aan Grassroots vra of hulle nie ook 'n draai sal maak by ons skole nie. Daar is baie studente wat probleme in Afrikaans, Engels, Biologie ens. het. Kan julle nie in spesiale bladsy hierby insluit nie, met oefeninge en oplossings. Ek weet hulle sal dit baie hierby insluitwaard. Grassroots ondersteuner

We need your help!

GRASSROOTS needs you. We need people to help us with delivering the paper to the different areas where it is sold.

Grassroots depends on volunteers to do most of the work, because we are a community newsletter. However, we realise that people do not have much time to do deliveries. So, the more volunteers we can find, the better.

Volunteers need to have a car. It will take you about two

hours on publication day depending where you are delivering. Our next publication day is Tuesday April 3.

If you are interested, contact the Grassroots office (phone 45-3321) and ask for Naseegh.

If you are interested in assisting in any of the other areas of Grassroots, like writing news, you can also contact the office. Your participation is important because Grassroots is YOUR paper.

Nicaragua builds their new society

THE film "Under Fire" is showing at many bioscopes. It is about two journalists reporting on the struggle in Nicaragua. The film shows the last few months of the war before the Nicaraguan people won their freedom. It shows how the Nicaraguan people united and struggled together to overthrow a harsh and oppressive government.

But the film does not show the whole story of how the Nicaraguan people won their freedom.

THE people of Nicaragua are building their new society.

In 1979 the people overthrew the dictator Somoza.

Somoza had made their lives unbearable. A small group of people owned the wealth of the country. More than half the people were unemployed. Housing and health services were few.

The National Guard, Somoza's army, killed thousands. This was their way of keeping law and order.

Somoza was assisted by the United States. The people of Nicaragua had only their unity, determination and courage.

Sandino

The struggle in Nicaragua began in the 1920s when a general named Sandino led an uprising against the United States marines who controlled the country. The uprising lasted for four years and Sandino became a national hero.

When the marines left Nicaragua, they put Somoza in their place.

But Sandino's tradition was revived in 1961 when the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) was formed.

The FSLN had many setbacks in the 1960s but in the 1970s they were able to rally the people against the dictatorship.

Throughout the 1970s economic conditions worsened. Somoza's regime became more brutal. Peaceful protests were stopped with a hail of gunfire.

More and more people began to be against Somoza. Unemployed peasants who had no land, workers who were paid low wages, large sections of the middle class who rejected the violence of the dictatorship, and even some rich people (capitalists).

The Sandinistas tried to unite as many people as possible. They formed peoples' organisations and fronts so that everyone

WHERE THE PEOPLE RULE

America tries to overthrow popular government

THE United States government has always supported the Somoza dictatorship.

The US helped to build up and train Somoza's army. When Somoza was overthrown, some members of the National Guard fled to America.

The USA refuses to recognise the new Sandinista government.

They called it a puppet of Cuba and Russia. In 1981, the US began to train the old National Guard members. They wanted to overthrow the Sandinista government.

Small groups of the National Guard were sent into Nicaragua to attack factories farms and schools. The Nicaraguans called

them Contras. The Contras want to give Nicaragua back to the dictatorship and the big American companies.

In the last year, the US has tried to step up their war against Nicaragua. They sent battleships to search all ships going to Nicaragua. The US Army even practised an attack on Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan people are fighting back. They have formed groups throughout the country to fight the Contras. People are again picking up the guns they used to overthrow the dictatorship. The Nicaraguans are fighting to protect their struggle for a democratic society.



July 19, 1979 was freedom day for the people of Nicaragua.

could act in a united way. The Sandinistas decided to take up arms.

The struggle was supported by the church. Some priests even took up arms. 90 percent of all Nicaraguans are staunch Catholics.

Somoza became more and more isolated. The people were not allowed to have mass protests. The Sandinista People's Army grew. In July 1979, they finally overthrew Somoza who ran away to America. The Nicaraguan people were at last in

charge of their own country.

Women played a big role in the Nicaraguan struggle. They formed women's committees; they worked in civics and youth organisations; and they fought in the people's army. Now they are playing a leading role in building the new society.

The Women's organisation, AMNLAE fights for the rights of women. They make sure that women play an active role in the struggle.

After overthrowing Somoza, the Sandinistas divided the land among the peasants and put the

factories to work for all the people. They built thousands of houses for the people. The unemployed got jobs. They sent the youth to the countryside to teach the peasants to read and write.

The Sandinistas also built organisations through which all Nicaraguans could take part in making all decisions. Community organisations, women's organisations, youth and student organisations, and trade unions all take part in the government of the new Nicaragua. In Nicaragua it is the people that govern!

Perhaps you enlisted in the National Guard because you were unemployed. You were probably without land, with no place to work. Or a farm labourer tired of working for almost nothing. So you decided to try the National Guard. Or perhaps you were simply so hungry, they talked you into it.

Now Somoza and the rich of this country are using you as cannon fodder, turning against your people. You, the enlisted men, are the guard dogs who watch over the riches of Somoza and the wealthy. That is why they praise you. We appeal to your conscience: think about this, and compare the lives of your superiors to those of the peasants and workers they send you to kill.

Letter signed by the FSLN and sent to the National Guard September 1975



Nicaraguans spread their message wherever they could.

GRASSROOTS interviews Peter Marais of the PCP.

Who's fooling who?

PETER MARAIS used to be a pop singer. He was not very successful and he never became famous.

Today he is the leader of the People's Congress Party (PCP) and he is still not very successful.

But Marais and other people like him, hope that, even though they might not be very successful, they might just become famous in the government's new three chamber parliament.

Grassroots asked Mr Marais why he is going into a system that has been widely rejected.

"I believe a good soccer player like Pele

is no good to his country sitting in the stadium," he said.

"He can be the best cricic in the stadium but he can never win the game for Brazil. He'll win the game if he is on the field. And that man on the field may be the weakest player, he may be the most unfit player, but he is the only one who can score a goal. And if he doesn't score the goal, the team will lose. He can criticise, but in his heart he will wish this guy scores a goal. I'm going on to the field to play. And even if I'm criticised by people for playing, they know

if I score they win.

GR: Even if no-one is watching.

Marais: Everyone is watching. This is the one game that everyone is forced to watch. Politics is the only thing that one is forced to take note of. You can't tell me you are not aware when the bread price goes up, or when people are being chucked out of their homes. Whether you like it or not, this is the only game where everybody is a forced spectator.

Yusuf Deers, PCP's Western Cape chairman added: "Even if we know that we haven't

been given anything or we haven't been given much, at least inside there, I can speak without being scared of being locked up or banned or anything like that. I'll have a platform, not only for my people, but we'll have a platform where foreign correspondents will be sitting and taking notes, and these things will go out to the outside.

On the UDF, Marais said said: "The blacks are misusing the coloureds in the UDF. They got Boesak and Howa to sign, but who are the UDF presidents. Only blacks. There are no coloureds or Malays.

The blacks must stop throwing their numbers around. People normally talk about democracy being a show of hands. Nobody ever takes the trouble to measure people's brains. That's why you get hawkers and uneducated people to be the leaders of doctors and lawyers."

How does he see a future society, does he believe in a united South Africa?

"A united South Africa is a pie in the sky. I believe in a federation of States in South Africa." Mr Marais did not say what he meant by this.



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Thousands of people have no houses. The new housing deal will not give them a decent place to live.



Why must we buy broken-down houses?

This policy will just mean more evictions, more overcrowding, more slums...." Cahac member What will "new deal" bring

The government's new housing policy is trying to force people to buy houses. What will this new deal mean for us?
Who will get Council houses
People earning less than R150 per month will get small, damp council houses.
The rest must borrow money from their bosses or from the government to buy houses. Or they must build their own. But how can we afford this?
Rents will go up
The government knows that our wages are low. But they will put up our rents, to make us buy the houses.
The government has said before that no-one should pay more than 1/4 of their income for rent. But nearly half the council tenants pay more than that, now. And in July, the rest will increase for all tenants who won't or can't buy their houses.
At the moment, rents are worked out from the wages of the main wage earner in the family. From July, rents will be based on the income of the whole family - any other money the family gets will be counted.
Mr Du Plessis of Grassy Park told us: "I pay R34,60 per month for rent. In July I will be paying R52,50 per month. And my wages have stayed nearly the same."
Maintenance will go up
The government wants to sell us their properties" said a Kensington tenant. Houses will not be fixed before they are sold. But we all know about the damp walls, leaks, broken pipes in most of the houses.
Part of the rent we pay is for these repairs. So we have paid for these repairs already. But our houses are still broken.
Since 1981 the government has refused to do repairs like plastering, fixing windows and so on for new tenants. And

now from July, they will demand higher maintenance fees.
Mr Du Plessis, who used to pay R2,43 a month for maintenance, will now have to pay R4,60.
"Oms wil elektriek hel"
Many CAHAC affiliates have made this demand. Now many more will be demanding electricity.
The government is planning to lower housing standards. Housing standards are there to make sure that houses are safe and healthy to live in.
Now the government is going to build houses for people who earn less than R150 per month. These houses will also have no ceilings, hot water, floor coverings, inside paint, fencing or washing lines.
Self-help schemes
The government used to say that self-help housing was a bad thing, because it caused slums.
Now everyone who earns more than R150 per month and cannot get a house, will have to build one in the government controlled self-help scheme.
The government or the houses will lend you the money for the land and materials. This money must be paid back in 30 years. You will get a title with water and electricity, and maybe a toilet with 2 walls.
This will not solve our problems. It

will mean more bad houses. The government is prepared to accept slums. But we are the ones who must live in them.
The government will also allow lower quality building material to be used for other houses.
This will mean more sickness, more damp houses, more dangers from gas and paraffin.
More evictions
What will happen to the people who can't afford high rents and maintenance, or the cost of buying a house?
There are already so many evictions. In 1980, Divisional Council sent out eviction notices to 37 000 tenants.
An angry tenant said, "When we lose our jobs and get behind in the rent, the Council just kicks us out. You have to be out in 7 days. If we refuse, they send officials to throw your furniture in the street."
Now even more people will be evicted. Rents will be higher, and more difficult to pay. If you buy a house, you can still be evicted if you can't keep up your payments. And you will lose all the money you have paid on the house.
Rents and payments go up, but our wages don't. We have a right to housing, security and comfort, and higher wages. We must say no to the new deal, to more evictions, more slums, and more overcrowding.

GOOD HOUSING IS OUR RIGHT!

GOOD housing is our right. But in South Africa, the government cares more about the bosses than the workers. They do not give much thought - or money - to the housing needs of the people.
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The government hopes to end our protests by selling the houses. It hopes to stop us organising ourselves in Civic to fight for our rights. And the money they make from the sale of houses can be used for defending apartheid.
If the houses are sold, the new owners will have to pay for repairs and maintenance. The government will not have to pay for these things. The people cannot demand maintenance from the council any more.
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The new housing deal does not satisfy this. It just shifts the responsibility for houses onto the backs of the people.
We must make the government listen to us. We can only do this if we unite in our civics to fight for our rights.



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150 people volunteered to organise action against the new deal.
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"Housing is the government's responsibility" they said. "Why must we pay for their mess up? They spend R200 million on defence to protect apartheid. Why don't they spend that on houses?"
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But in the Western Cape, Africans have never been allowed to own their houses, because they are not allowed to own land.
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Even if you have a 30 year leasehold, you can be evicted after 30 years. It is not real home ownership, because the government still owns the land.
As one Langa resident said, "Most of us don't have the money to buy houses. Why does the government talk so much about selling houses? There are not even enough houses to rent. We just want more houses, and the right to stay in them."
The government does not want to spend more money on houses. Since 1977, only 160 houses were built in Langa, Gugulethu and Laysaga. Thousands of people are on the waiting lists for houses.
By 1990, 46 000 houses will be needed. And in Khayalitsha, near Stellenbosch, have to build their own houses there.
A member of the Western Cape Civic said, "The people here did not ask for Khayalitsha. Some people moved there because they had nowhere else to go.
"But most of us will not move. We have been pushed around 300 miles. The government must build more houses for us and fix our houses where we are."
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Thousands of people have no houses. The new housing deal will not give them a decent place to live.



Why must we buy broken-down houses?

This policy will just mean more evictions, more overcrowding, more slums...." Cahac member What will "new deal" bring

The government's new housing policy is trying to force people to buy houses. What will this new deal mean for us?
Who will get Council houses
People earning less than R150 per month will get small, damp council houses.
The rest must borrow money from their bosses or from the government to buy houses. Or they must build their own. But how can we afford this?
Rents will go up
The government knows that our wages are low. But they will put up our rents, to make us buy the houses.
The government has said before that no-one should pay more than 1/4 of their income for rent. But nearly half the council tenants pay more than that, now. And in July, the rest will increase for all tenants who won't or can't buy their houses.
At the moment, rents are worked out from the wages of the main wage earner in the family. From July, rents will be based on the income of the whole family - any other money the family gets will be counted.
Mr Du Plessis of Grassy Park told us: "I pay R34,60 per month for rent. In July I will be paying R52,50 per month. And my wages have stayed nearly the same."
Maintenance will go up
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Since 1981 the government has refused to do repairs like plastering, fixing windows and so on for new tenants. And

now from July, they will demand higher maintenance fees.
Mr Du Plessis, who used to pay R2,43 a month for maintenance, will now have to pay R4,60.
"Oms wil elektriek hel"
Many CAHAC affiliates have made this demand. Now many more will be demanding electricity.
The government is planning to lower housing standards. Housing standards are there to make sure that houses are safe and healthy to live in.
Now the government is going to build houses for people who earn less than R150 per month. These houses will also have no ceilings, hot water, floor coverings, inside paint, fencing or washing lines.
Self-help schemes
The government used to say that self-help housing was a bad thing, because it caused slums.
Now everyone who earns more than R150 per month and cannot get a house, will have to build one in the government controlled self-help scheme.
The government or the houses will lend you the money for the land and materials. This money must be paid back in 30 years. You will get a title with water and electricity, and maybe a toilet with 2 walls.
This will not solve our problems. It

will mean more bad houses. The government is prepared to accept slums. But we are the ones who must live in them.
The government will also allow lower quality building material to be used for other houses.
This will mean more sickness, more damp houses, more dangers from gas and paraffin.
More evictions
What will happen to the people who can't afford high rents and maintenance, or the cost of buying a house?
There are already so many evictions. In 1980, Divisional Council sent out eviction notices to 37 000 tenants.
An angry tenant said, "When we lose our jobs and get behind in the rent, the Council just kicks us out. You have to be out in 7 days. If we refuse, they send officials to throw your furniture in the street."
Now even more people will be evicted. Rents will be higher, and more difficult to pay. If you buy a house, you can still be evicted if you can't keep up your payments. And you will lose all the money you have paid on the house.
Rents and payments go up, but our wages don't. We have a right to housing, security and comfort, and higher wages. We must say no to the new deal, to more evictions, more slums, and more overcrowding.

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Students must organise — UWC SRC

THE Students' Representative Council (SRC) at the University of the Western Cape recently had a very successful orientation week to welcome new students to campus.

"Normally the university administration holds an orientation week as well but that only deals with student activities, university rules and what students can do when they leave university.

"The SRC differs. We try to reach the students and bring

them back to reality. For example, the university administration will not tell the students about the bad educational system," an SRC member said.

"In our programmes, it is made clear to students that they are first and foremost part and parcel of the oppressed community. It is very important for them to go out into these communities to organise.

"First year students have been introduced to various campus organisations, such as

Azaso (Azanian Students' Organisation)."

Oscar Mpetha, president of the United Democratic Front, and Dr Allan Boesak a patron of the UDF, spoke during the orientation week.

"Students should not only be interested in getting their degrees. Freedom now, a degree tomorrow," said Mr Mpetha, to a standing ovation.

He spoke on the day when UWC launched the UDF's One Million Signature Campaign on

the campus. About 2 000 signatures were collected.

The campus was flooded with posters and banners and tables were placed at different points for people to sign. Members of community organisations manned the tables.

After the mass meeting, many students stayed behind and volunteered to help in the signature campaign in the community.

The SRC had many problems with the administration during

orientation week.

"They tried to limit the time we had to present programmes. We were allowed five hours for the whole week to present programmes. This means we had only one hour a day. This was very unreasonable and unrealistic.

"After we approached the university administration, we got more time and some lectures were even cancelled.

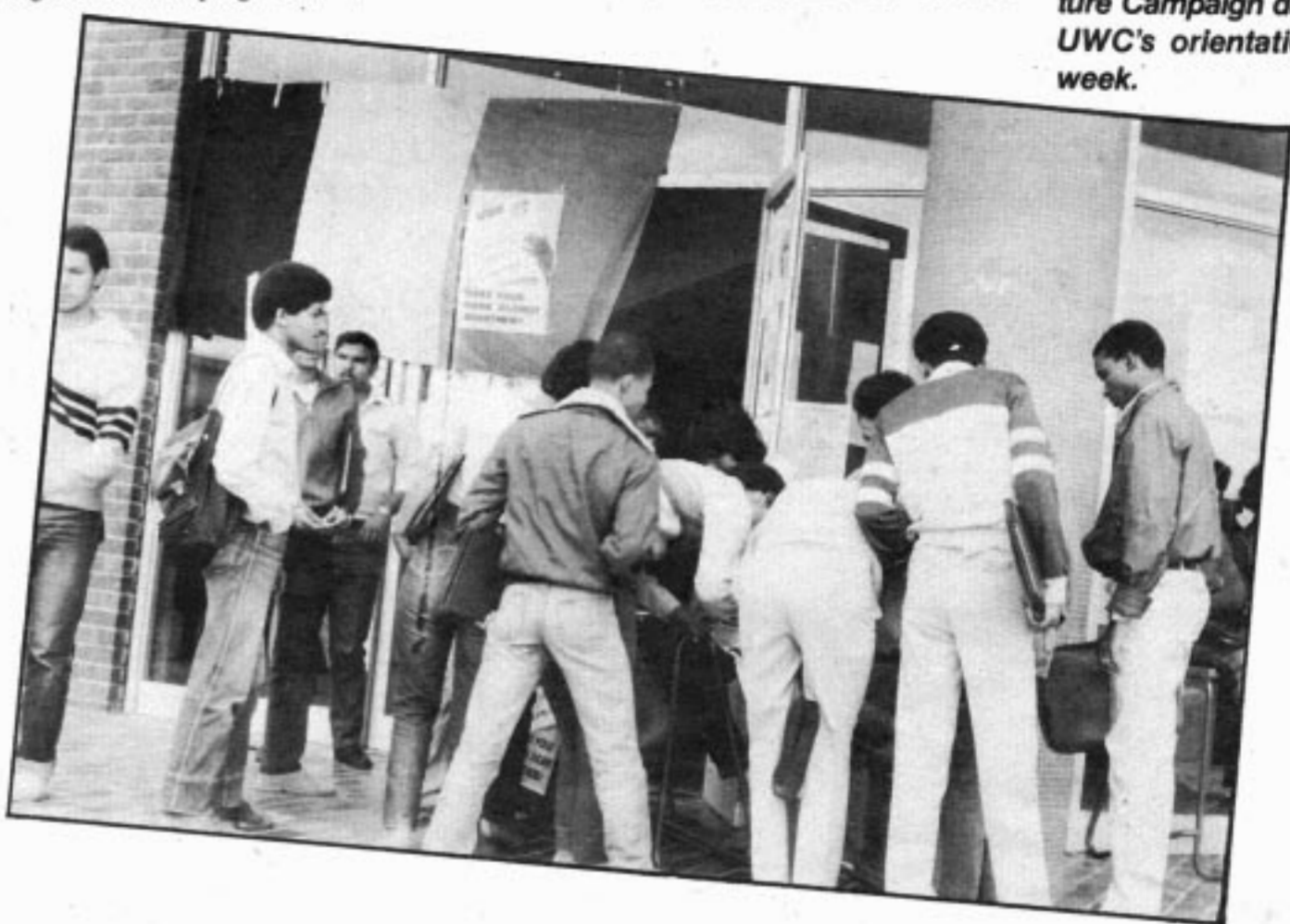
"The week was very successful but this is

not enough. We will still have to work consistently throughout the year. This year is very important for us and will require hard work," an SRC member said.

A similar focus was held by the Azanian Students' Organisation at the University of Cape Town.

Speakers looked at the role of students and the threat of conscription.

Students support the UDF's Million Signature Campaign during UWC's orientation week.



Will they ever learn?

ARROW of God, by the Nigerian writer, Chinua Achebe, was prescribed for Std 9 pupils in Department of Internal Affairs schools for 1984. The Department decided this in 1982.

Two years later the books were bought for R70 000.

Then, after two years, and after spending this huge sum, the Department decided the book was not suitable. Schools were told to return every copy.

By this time schools had stamped the books and students had written their names in them. Now they are useless, waiting for the bonfire.

People are raising many questions and complaints at the Department's actions.

"What a waste! R70 000 spent and

burnt. And this, in a country where one in four children in the "homelands" suffers from kwashiorkor or starvation, and thousands are homeless. How are students and teachers expected to respond to pleas of lack of funds for windows, equipment and more schools, when they see the Department throw away R70 000" people are asking.

Some people are complaining that the decision was not democratic. "The Department didn't consult us!" they say. "They have never consulted us on any of their decisions. Have we ever been asked if we want any of the books they give us year in and year out? Of course not. We cannot have a democratic department of educa-

tion in a country where the majority of people have no democratic rights at all.

Many students are aware of this. In student and youth organisations they discuss both the present problems of education in South Africa and the kind of education they want in the future.

In a democratic society, education will also be democratic. Students, teachers and parents will make the decisions about what should be learnt and taught.

Some people said the department were removing the book for political reasons because it's written by an African.

"No," says the department. "It's because of sex." The word is mentioned 6 times.

"Any student or

teacher which got the book must be laughing. By Std 9, most of us have not only heard that dreadful word, but at least half of us possess it.

"And, if it is sex that makes the book unsuitable, how can they let us read Sons and Lovers, the Std 10 setwork?"

In Arrow of God it's only the words that are there. In Sons and Lovers we read about the hero's sexual experiences with two women, and of his sexual feelings for his mother! Should we ask the department to remove Sons and Lovers too? Waste another R70 000?" the people are saying.

This action of the Department has made many people angry: teachers, who prepared to teach the book, students who have to wait for the replacement to arrive and the public who sees R70 000 thrown away.

"In our schools there are many shortages — teachers, windows, textbooks, playing fields, equipment. The list goes on and on. Yet the Department waste R70 000 in this way. After its experience in 1976 and 1980 one would think that it enjoyed digging its own grave.

But from 1976 and 1980 the students have learnt. That is why they are organising at schools, colleges and universities all over the country.

WE WILL NOT BE SILENCED

THE Faculty Board of Natal University has closed down the university's Medical School.

Trouble began when students came back to school in January. The students found that almost half the second year class had failed. 28 students were allowed to register. And seven were told they had only "conditional passes", something that never happened before.

The students asked the Medical Students Representative Council (SRC) to meet the Faculty Board to discuss their problems. But the Faculty Boards reply was that those problems were not urgent. They refused to meet the SRC.

The students sent a petition to the Faculty Board asking for a meeting. The petition was signed by 471 students (there are about 540 students altogether). Still the Faculty Board refused to speak to the SRC.

A meeting was held on February 1. Here the students decided to boycott all classes until

their problems are solved. The next day the SRC was told that the Medical School will be closed if students did not return to classes. The students said that they were ready to go back. But there had to be a meeting to discuss the student problems.

On 3 February the Medical School was suddenly closed and the students were forced to leave. They were told that school will re-open on 20 February. However, the university will decide who can come back.

The students and community are angry. A student said: "Last year the Vice-Principal told us that the SRC is important. That it is necessary for the Faculty Board to consult the SRC and have meetings with it. Now they are refusing to meet with us. They are behaving just like Sebe's friends at Fort Hare."

The students' parents and many progressive organisations are fully behind them. The parents and many pro-

gressive organisations are fully behind them. The parents also signed a petition calling on the university to take back their student sons and daughters.

Then on 9 February a crisis committee was formed to try and solve the problem. Now the university is saying that they will only meet the SRC when students are back at school in late February.

The MSRC at Medical School is affiliated to the Azanian Students' Organisation (Azaso). An Azaso member told Grassroots: "It looks like aa the university administrations want to break the power of Azaso. Last year we were banned at Durban-Westville and Medunsa (Pretoria). We are not even allowed at Fort Hare or Ngoye. But we will not be silenced. We have the students behind us. We are determined to fight for our rights. Only when our people have a new South Africa based on the Freedom Charter, will be be satisfied."

Take racism out of books

A group of people got together in Mowbray last year to discuss racism in school textbooks.

It was felt that though teachers were aware of the problem, nothing is being done to raise the awareness of the users of textbooks.

The group felt action had to be focussed on English, Afrikaans, Xhosa, History and Geography textbooks so they examined textbooks, nursery rhymes, children's literature, toys and games used in the nursery schools.

A seminar held during the September vacation was the launching pad for the awareness programme. The seminar group mandated the ad-hoc committee which was established at the seminar to draw up a report for circulation, as well as to publicise the whole issue of racism in textbooks.

The ad-hoc committee was asked to invite organisations and individuals to set up a more representative committee.

GRASSROOTS asked them their views on racism.

"Racism is the theory, or belief, that human abilities, intellect and other qualities are determined by 'race'. It is the belief that one 'race' is better than the other. An important feature of their belief is that the 'white races' are superior to the 'other races'. But there is no scientific proof for the concept of 'race'. People are different not because they belong to 'different races' but because they come from different social backgrounds.

"But while there is no basis for a race theory, this does not mean however that there is no racism. No! Racism is very much a part of our daily lives.

"Because of hundreds of years of discrimination on the grounds of supposed physical differences people have come to regard themselves as 'races' different from each other. This difference is then used to justify discrimination and exploitation.

The committee says there are many reasons

why racism is used in textbooks.

The textbook is a tool of the rulers to corrupt and poison our minds. It is used in many ways.

- Our textbooks teach us that there are many 'races' in South Africa.
 - They stereotype people — that is they say certain 'races' are all the same. For example all 'coloureds' are shown as jovial, musical and fit only to be artisans, truck drivers, fishermen, and so on.
 - "The Afrikaner is shown as a God-fearing, hard-working, person whose duty it is to save the Blacks from evil. For this reason, Afrikaners have to be the leaders.
 - "Textbooks also put forward government policy and lend support to 'homelands' management committees and other unjust laws.
- If you find examples of racism write to Grassroots and tell us about it.
- Don't forget to say which book it comes from; also the standard, and the publishers.

CAYCO TO FIGHT CONSCRIPTION

"VOTE Today, Border Tomorrow". This was one of the slogans which came out of the Cape Youth Congress (CAYCO) conscription workshop.

On February 4, branches of the CAYCO came together to plan the anti-conscription campaign. "It is becoming increasingly clear that the South African society is becoming more and more militarized", said one speaker.

"The South African Defence Force presence can be seen everywhere. They are in our parks playing with the children and in our schools trying to win the hearts and minds of our people".

"We must put a stop to this," said another youth member, "We will not defend apartheid!"

Youth members looked at what conscription (the call-up) means to our youth. It became clear that conscription of coloureds and Indians into the SADF is an attempt to divide the oppressed people.



It is a serious threat to the non-racial unity which has been built in our organisations over many years.

Also conscription will destroy the family life of our communities.

It was felt that it is important that we educate our members about the role of the

SADF so that they can carry the message to the community.

This education will take place through workshops, focus weeks, discussions, slide tape shows, films, plays and newsletters.

A member said that we must make sure that we draw as many people

and organisations into the campaign as possible.

The workshop took a decision to resist and oppose all attempts to force our youth to serve in the SADF.

An active campaign to make people aware of the SADF's activities was also agreed upon.

We don't want to join an army that represses our people."



Matroosfontein forms youth

A NEW youth movement has been formed in Matroosfontein.

"For too long the young people of Matroosfontein have been isolated from each other. We hope to

change this," said a member of the Matroosfontein Youth Movement (MATRYM).

Matrym will be having a dance in the St Nicholas Hall, Elsie

River, on March 9. Another fundraising event will be held in Durham Way, Matroosfontein on March 3.

The youth movement will have its official launching on March 11 in the Matroosfontein Civic Centre.

"We must remember that we must unite. We have a common experience of exploitation, discrimination and oppression," a member said.

Aims of the youth movement include:

- To work in the interests of the residents and

youth of Matroosfontein.

- To attempt to improve the living conditions in the area.
- To build up a strong community and youth spirit.
- To work with other organisations with similar aims.

MATRYM intends to join up with the Cape Youth Congress (CAYCO).

For more information about the youth movement, contact Tersia (93-18870), Richard (931-3797) or Jerome (931-9063).

Youth on a drive

THE Kensington/Factreton branch of the Cape Youth Congress (CAYCO) will be going on a membership drive soon.

Two events will be organised. On Wednesday March 7 a music evening will be held in the Factreton Commu-

nity Centre starting at 8 p.m.

A Fun Run will be held on Saturday March 10. For entry forms contact Dennis at 501755 or come to the Community Centre on Mondays or Wednesdays between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Youth looks at future

YOUTH from all over South Africa came together in Johannesburg recently at a National Youth Conference.

The conference was an attempt to sort out problems experienced by most youth groups throughout the country.

were passed at the conference.

The youth pledged support for the people of Namibia in their struggle for freedom.

At the conference were representatives of the Cape Youth Congress (CAYCO), Soweto Youth Congress, Alexander Youth Congress, Port Elizabeth Youth Congress, Lamontville Youth Congress and many others.

Another resolution rejected the conscription of coloured and Indian youth into the South African Defence Force and the increased military presence in South Africa. Conference resolved to oppose conscription.

Papers were delivered on the role of youth in the struggle, militarisation and conscription, and problems and the future of youth.

It was decided that another conference would be called next year to assess the development of youth and to discuss the possibilities of a national formation.

Delegates felt that problems facing the youth were national co-ordination and communication, the political direction of the youth and knowing what are the interests of youth.

Conference resolved to propogate the Freedom Charter as the Beacon in the struggle. The Freedom Charter was drawn up at the Congress of the People in Kliptown in 1955.

The conference discussed ways in which youth groups in the same region could be in contact with each other.

"This conference was in all aspects very important for the future of youth in South Africa and shows that youth has an important role to play in our struggle for liberation from oppression and exploitation," said one delegate afterwards.

The militarisation of South African Society was discussed and it was decided to use youth structures to educate people on the issue of conscription.

Important resolutions

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CAP: ART FOR EVERYONE!!



ART IN our society is a hobby of the rich. Most of us are too busy with the problems of living - with working hard for a few cents to pay for food, rent, clothes How can we think about things like art?

And how many of us can afford to study at expensive art schools? Or to buy expensive tickets for concerts and plays?

But we also have a right to art and culture. We also have a right to develop our talents and learn artistic skills. To speak our suffering,

COMMUNITY Arts Project is an art school for the people. It is open to anyone who is interested, and encourages everyone to come along. On this page Grassroots looks at some of their activities.

hopes and dreams in paintings, music and plays.

This is what Community Arts Project believes. "We believe that art belongs to everyone. And we invite you to join us. No matter who you are there is something to interest you."

There are many things we can learn at CAP - pottery, drawing drama, silk screen-

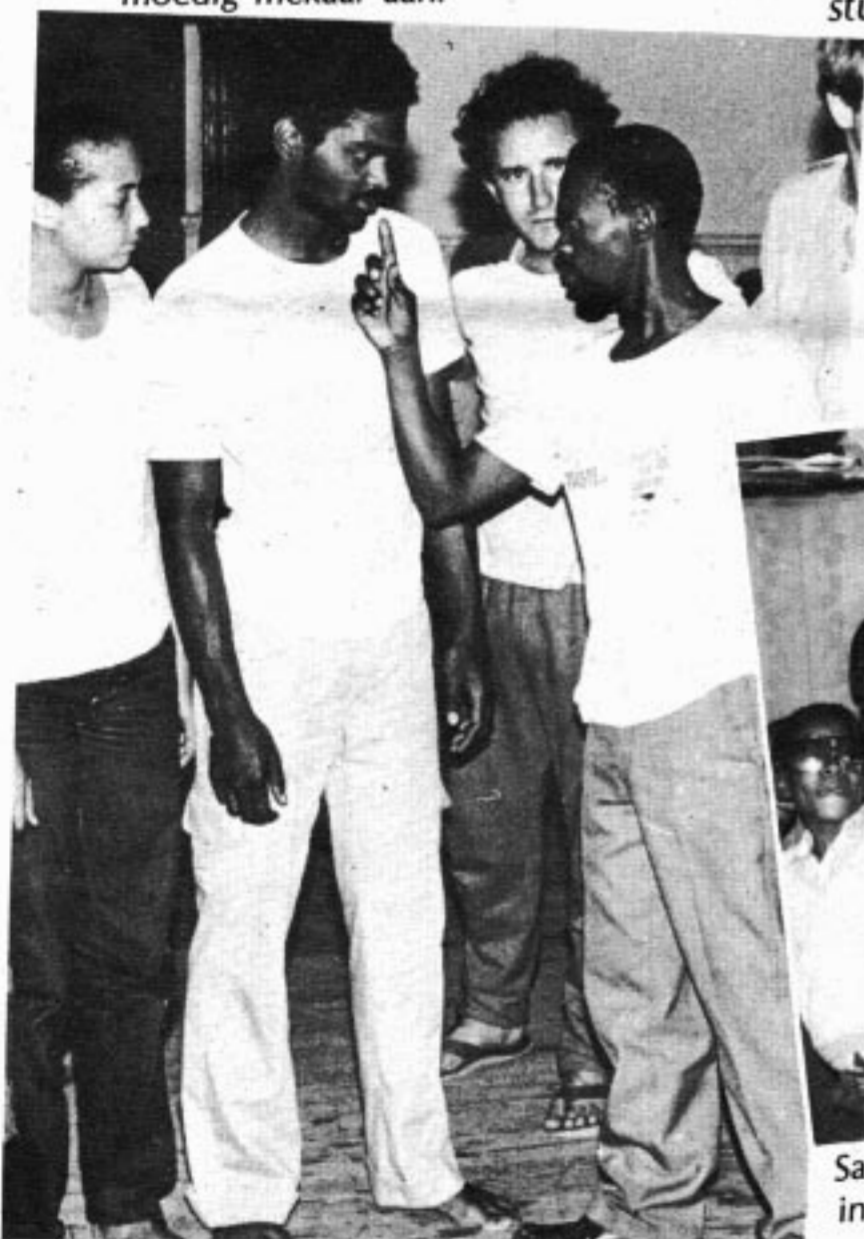
ing, photography. And because CAP believes that art belongs to everyone, the fees are very low. And there is sponsorship for those with financial problems.

CAP also has classes in art, drama, and dance at the St. Francis Cultural Centre in Langa, the Impunelelo Library in NY5 and the Crossroads Development centre.

"Daar is baie wat van wyd en syd kom om hier by CAP te kom aansluit. Die oomblike toe baie van ons hier ingestap het, het ons welkom gevoel. Ons word goed opgelei en almal help en moedig mekaar aan."

All photo's taken by CAP students

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Saturday is for children. Here a painting class poses for a photograph.

Vukani rehearsing at CAP

A drama group rehearsing.

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WOMEN OF THE WORLD UNITE

MARCH 8 is International Women's Day. The day when women all over the world commit themselves to fight against war, injustice and oppression.

The idea of International Women's Day started in 1910 at an International Women's Conference. There, women called for a Day of Action when women in all countries would demand the right to vote.

Since then, women have met on March 8 to discuss their problems at home and at work, and to support the struggles of women all over the world.

It was in this spirit of international unity that the Women's International Democratic Federation was formed. This organisation called for a World Congress of Women.

The cry went out to mothers, factory and farm workers, domestic servants and professionals of all countries to "clasp hands across the frontiers and bar the road to war, oppression and poverty."

INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY SOUTH AFRICA.

These are all problems faced by



Opening conference of FSAW in 1954

women in South Africa. We do not have the right to a place to live and work, to bring up our children in peace and security.

The government is already sending thousands of white men to fight the people of Angola and Namibia. Soon, it will be calling on our brothers, husbands and sons to go to the army to defend the apartheid system.

But the government is not having it all its own way. The women of South Africa have shown that we will not accept pass laws, removals and exploitation.

Over the years, we have come together on March 8 and August 9 to state our commitment to the struggle for justice.

In 1955, the Federation of South African Women sent Dors Tamana

and Lilian Ngoyi to the World Congress of Women. Both these women were leaders who fought for an end to oppression, for creches and housing, for the demands of the Freedom Charter.

They went to the congress. They came back and told the women here that they had seen countries where "the children are happy," where "the women work side by side with their men as leaders."

In 1956, on March 8, women from all over SA met to discuss the most pressing issue of that time - passes. On that day the plans started for the campaign against passes, which ended on August 9, 1956, when 20 000 women stood outside the Union Buildings in Pretoria demanding an end to the pass laws.

Today, in 1984, we are still fighting an end to oppression, against the pass laws and all unjust laws. Women are joining together in all our organisations to fight "side by side with our men" for a country where a "rich and full life"

JAZZ WITH UWO



AN evening of jazz and disco will be held at the Club Montreal, Manenberg, on Monday, May 2 from 8 p.m.

The price is R4 a ticket and will go towards the annual conference of the United Womens Organisation (UWO) to be held on April 14 and 15.

UWO will have a mass meeting on Friday, April 13 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Federation of South African Women.



Excitement at the launching of the UWO branch in KTC last month.

Imiselo lwesebe lase K.T.C.

UWO ibe imisela isebe lase K.T.C. ngokusekweni ngecawa umhla we 2 ka February.

Lube mnandi olusuku kumakhosikazi alombutho. Ingakumbi wisebe elo belimisela. Usuku wabo lusikelelekile.

Ivuliwe intlanganiso ngusihlolo laseGuguletu u Bheshi "uthe xa bethetha apha asizanga kunichitha ineka nimenyane kungangeni moya hakathi kwenu".

Kuphakame uSihlalo wakwandlu kulu. Uthe monyanani makhosikazi antsi intlangano yi UWO.

Bathethile omama bokwandlunkulu bekhumbula emva apho lombutho usuka khona kude kube ngoku bekhumbula nemihla enzima apho babelala naba mama behudlwa yimimoya kulampenge mpenge yase K.T.C. zikho ingxaki kodwa ngenxa yobunye namhlanje bayazingca ngalendawo kube yenze imbali kumzabalazo weli.

Umsitho lo ubuzinyaswe nazingwevu zethu. Yonyulwe ikomiti namalungu engezelelweyo e komiti. Umsebenzi uphethwe ngonkosi sikelela iAfrika wavela usihlalo wakwandlunkulu.

Ukunyuka kwerafu nakumakhosikazi amnyama

ULUMENTE uphambene. Izolo u ebenyuse irafu ntengo (GST) oku nokutya ngokunjalo. Namhje basixelela ukuba isonka sizayuka nge 6c esimdaka. Ngoku una sibhatala irafu ezininzi. Funeka sizilwe ezimpambano inye sakuqabuka singakwazi noku-ka sakuphila njani ngalamaxabiso? ibingamazwi ka Mrs Gwebani. uMrs Gwebani unomsindo kak- u yilento. Ngoba uyazi ukusukela umhla 1 ka March uzakubhatala fu.

Ukusukela kumhla 1 ka March e amakhosikazi amnyame azagalisa ukubhatala ezirafu. Esi sisi- so sika Rulumente. Kude kube ku amakhosikazi amnyama ebeb- ala impundulu. Ngoku uRulumente uthi wonke

umntu omnyama naye uzakubhatala ezirafu bezibhatalwa ngabo nababala (income tax) ngoku sonke siwa phantsi komthetho omnye.

Lamanani angezantsi ayasibonisa indlela esizalimala ngayo thina bantu batshatile yo.

Wage	Irafu endala	Irafu entsha
R50 per week	27c	R1,82
R60 per week	51c	R2,82
R200 per month	74c	R6,42
R250 per month	R1,94	R11,42

Abahlolokazi nabo bazakubhatala ezirafu. Amaxabiso ezinto ayenyuka kodwa yona imivuzo imi ayinyuki.

Omnye unkosikazi ongumsebenzi uthe "Ukulumente wathi uzakwenza inguqulelo, kodwa amaxabiso onyuka umhla le. iUDF ilungile. Funeka simanyane silwe lo Rulumente. Kuba akasi khathalele."

Women can build unity in the UDF

AT ROCKLANDS last year UWO called on women to bring the organisations they are part of into the UDF.

We said that when women are active in our civics, trade unions, youth organisations and in UDF, we know that we are well organised. We called for the unity of women.

On 29 January, UWO held a workshop to talk about the organisation of women. Some of the questions discussed were:

How far have we answered the UDF call?

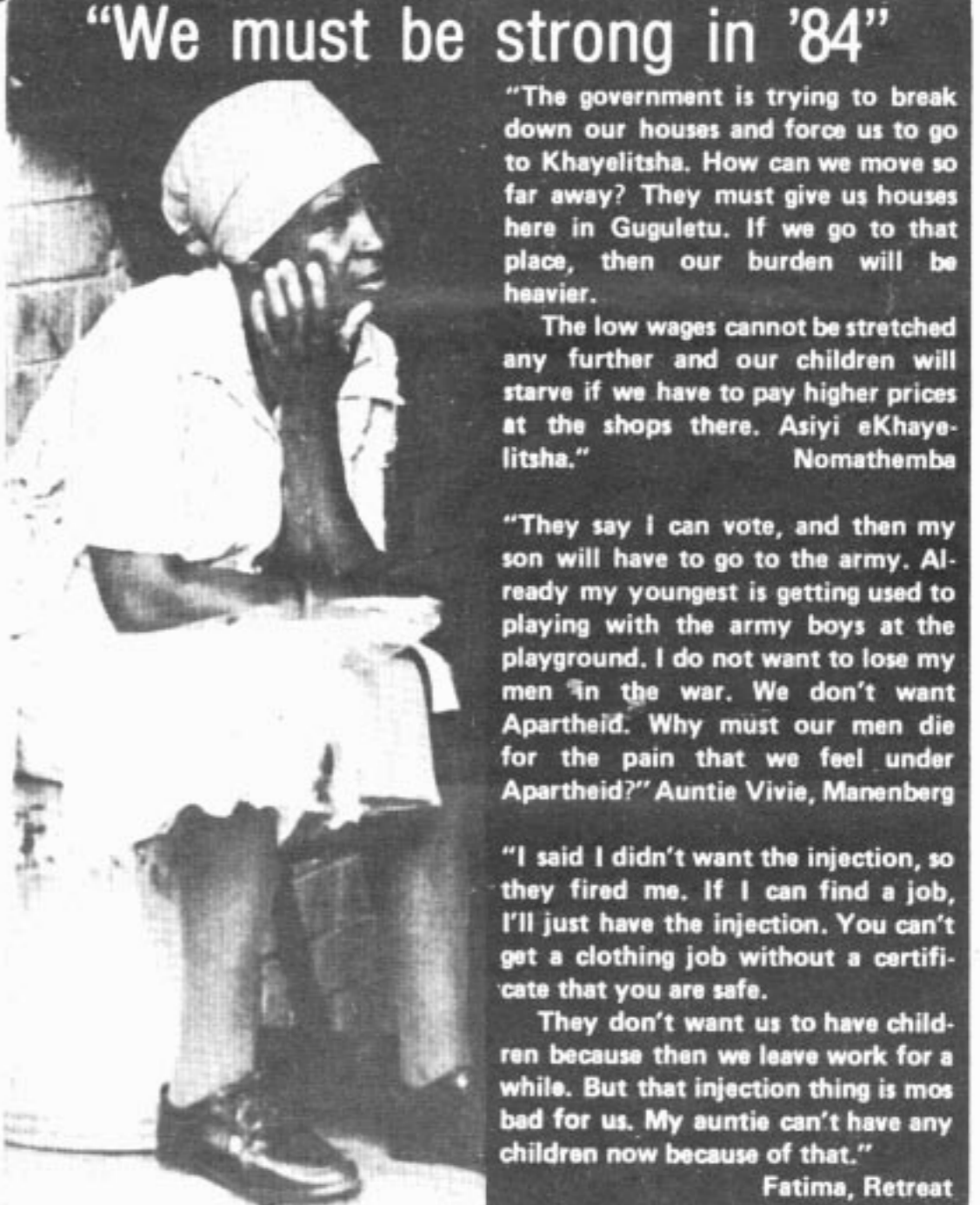
One of the Guguletu members said "UDF is our government. It is our parliament. We can raise our voices in UDF. Let the women speak with one voice in UDF."

The workshop agreed that women are important in UDF; and felt that UWO must help to build unity amongst all UDF women.

Women will need to be strong in 1984. The government's plans will bring us many problems. If the Koornhof Bills are passed, it will be more difficult for women to get passes. Women will bear children to be killed in the SADF. The government will continue to control our lives in every way.

Why do we need a womens organisation when many women are members of other organisations?

"We women share with our menfolk the cares and anxieties imposed by poverty and its evils. These evils will not be ended by the new pass laws and Black Local Authorities,



and nor by Botha's three Houses.

As women and as mothers, these evils fall heavily on us. We cushion the blows of poverty and Apartheid for our men."

The women at the workshop said that the men did not take the problems seriously when women spoke up at meetings. It was only at UWO meetings that people felt they were really listened to.

"There is no discrimination at UWO meetings. There are times when men can help us. But there are times when we must push forward on our own.

"From UWO meetings we can tell women that we share all problems because of the government. In UWO we can build women and give each other courage so we can speak out."

Must all women join UWO?

One of the speakers said that many women in the Western Cape are not organised into progressive organisations. Other women are active members of the unions, civics, youths and student organisations.

The workshop felt that UWO must work more closely with women in all areas and in all organisations.

"The government is trying to break down our houses and force us to go to Khayelitsha. How can we move so far away? They must give us houses here in Guguletu. If we go to that place, then our burden will be heavier.

The low wages cannot be stretched any further and our children will starve if we have to pay higher prices at the shops there. Asiyi eKhayelitsha." Nomathembe

"They say I can vote, and then my son will have to go to the army. Already my youngest is getting used to playing with the army boys at the playground. I do not want to lose my men in the war. We don't want Apartheid. Why must our men die for the pain that we feel under Apartheid?" Auntie Vivie, Manenberg

"I said I didn't want the injection, so they fired me. If I can find a job, I'll just have the injection. You can't get a clothing job without a certificate that you are safe.

They don't want us to have children because then we leave work for a while. But that injection thing is mos bad for us. My auntie can't have any children now because of that."

Fatima, Retreat

What is important is that every woman must join an organisation and bring that organisation into UDF. We must never leave a woman alone with her problems.

Women who have problems at work must unite with other workers to form trade unions. Women in the communities should join the civics. Women at school should take their problems to the student organisations. Women in the churches should raise their voices.

Through UDF we can build unity and go forward to a non-racial, democratic South Africa.

grassroots

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ADVICE

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DANGERS

WHEN you buy something for cash, for example, when you walk into a cafe and buy a loaf of bread, you become the owner as soon as you have paid the purchase price.

But when you buy something and pay in instalments, for example, when you buy a TV set on hire-purchase, you don't become the owner until all the instalments have been paid.

And although the goods you have bought may be delivered to you, if you don't finish paying all the instalments, the seller of the goods on hire-purchase can force you to return the goods. And the payments may go on over a long time so that you may not be sure of exactly how much you've paid and how much you still have to pay.

These articles are going to show some of the problems people have had buying goods on hire-purchase: most of these examples have come from the files of different community advice offices.

(Hire-purchase is referred to as h.p. in most cases.)

STEENBERG ADVICE

Steenberg Advice Office dealt with this case:

The Problem

Mrs Peters was encouraged by a salesman to have a photo enlarged and framed at a studio. She paid a deposit and then a monthly instalment.

But Mrs Peters did not receive the photo although she was paying regularly.

She was not given a copy of the contract or receipts for the money sent to the studio.

Action taken by office

The advice office worker phoned the studio and asked for a copy of the contract and a statement showing how much Mrs Peters had paid and how much she still owed. The studio did not send this.

The advice worker then wrote a letter saying that Mrs Peters would make no further payments until she knew how much she still owed.

The studio answered this letter. But according to the statement they sent, Mrs Peters had already paid R20 too much.

The advice worker then wrote another letter to the studio and enclosed photo-copies of the counterfoils of the postal orders sent

by Mrs Peters. The letter demanded that the studio must send the photo immediately and that they must pay back the extra R20.

Seen thereafter Mrs Peters received the photo and the R20.

Things to remember

1. Always ask for a copy of the h.p. contract.
2. Make sure that you get receipts for all the money you pay.
3. Keep your receipts for all the money you pay.
3. Keep your receipts and keep a record of how much you've paid altogether.
4. Ask when you will receive your goods. If you don't receive them on that date write to the shop and say that you will stop paying until you get your goods.



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LAVENDER HILL ADVICE

Lavender Hill Advice Office dealt with this case:

Mr Oliver, a pensioner, bought a deep-freeze from a salesman on h.p. Included in the contract was a Benefit Protection Plan. He was told this meant that all payments would fall away if Mr Oliver died while still paying for the deep-freeze.

Later Mr Oliver did die, while still paying. His widow, Mrs Oliver, inherited the freezer and informed the seller, but accounts for the instalments kept on coming and the firm

insisted on Mrs paying them. She then came to the Advice Office with her problem.

The Adviser discovered the Benefit Protection Plan had a clause in it saying that it is not available to pensioners. Therefore this part of the contract that Mr Oliver signed was in fact meaningless.

But the Adviser succeeded in getting the firm to reduce the payments to an amount Mrs Oliver could afford and to stop charging her interest on her arrears payments.

Things to remember

1. Read the contract you are signing carefully.
2. If you sign a h.p. contract at your home it is not binding until 5 days have passed.
3. If you aren't sure what the contract says or what the salesman is telling you about the contract, ask for a copy. Read it through in your own time or discuss it with a friend or your community advice office before signing your name on it.

List of Advice Offices that can help with Hire Purchase problems

SALT RIVER WORKERS ADVICE OFFICE:
Times open: Fridays 3 to 5.30 p.m.
Saturdays 9.30 to 1 p.m.
Address: 7 Junction Building
3 Junction Road
Salt River

HEIDEVELD ADVICE OFFICE:
Times open: Saturdays 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Address: cnr Assention & Heideveld Rd.
Heideveld Town Centre
Tel: 638-3525

LAVENDER HILL ADVICE OFFICE:
Times open: Saturdays 9 to 1 p.m.
Address: Lavender Hill Community Centre
Grindal Drive
Lavender Hill

WOODSTOCK ADVICE OFFICE:
Times open: Saturdays 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Address: St. Mary's Church hall
Station Rd.
Woodstock

ker.....health.....student.....housing.....legal.....

ADVICE

OF H.P.

Grassroots

My husband bought some furniture on h.p. He was laid off by his firm and could not keep up instalments.

The shop arrived and took the furniture back and my husband got a summons to appear in court to pay the balance. Can the shop do this?

Please write and advise me. I'm very worried.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Jacobs

This is a letter the Grassroots Advice page received, a while after we last carried information on h.p.:

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

So we have seen the following points come out about h.p.:

1. Be careful when you sign a h.p. contract that you can afford to keep up the payments for the full period of the contract.
2. Insist on a copy of the contract you have signed; and read it carefully before signing it.
3. Insist on delivery of the goods actually bought.
4. Keep a record of all h.p. payments made - the best way is by keeping receipts.
5. If you miss a payment, the goods can only be repossessed if (a) the seller sends you a registered letter of demand giving you at least 30 days to pay all arrears. (b) If you haven't paid the arrears within 30 days and the seller has sent a summons from the magistrates' court and you haven't paid after the time for payment given in the summons has passed.
6. If the seller takes the goods back (repossesses them) you must still pay the balance owing on the contract but it must not be more than the goods are worth. And remember: The firm that sells you goods on h.p. is not doing you a favour: you eventually pay more than the cash price.

GRASSROOTS ADVICE REPLIES

The shop could not take the furniture back. They must first give your husband a 30 day notice to pay the arrears, and then send him a summons to appear in court. If he still doesn't pay, the court can order the shop to take the furniture back.

Your husband can offer to return the furniture and cancel the contract if he can't keep up the payments. If your husband

does cancel the contract the seller can demand the total amount which he still owes. But before the shop does this the furniture must be valued and your husband given credit for whatever it's present value is. The shop can then demand from your husband the balance i.e. the difference between what the goods are worth now and what is owed. So if the furniture is valued at R75 and the balance

owing is R100, your husband would only have to pay R25.

4. The court cannot order your husband to pay the amount owing directly out of his wages. The court can allow the seller to have other possessions of your husband's sold by the messenger of the court to raise money to pay the balance owing. This is the only way your husband can be forced to pay the total amount.

STEENBERG ADVICE

Steenberg advice service to deal with this case:

Mr M was encouraged by a salesman to buy a radio on h.p. Mr M's income comes from a disability grant. Mr M was not given a copy of the agreement he had signed.

Mr M paid the deposit on the radio and then began paying monthly instalments. He found after the first month that he couldn't afford the amount agreed upon and reduced his instalments.

The shop then sent him a letter demanding that he pay all the arrears on the account at once otherwise they would take legal action against him.

At this point Mr M

came to the advice office for help.

The advice worker and Mr M worked out what he could actually afford to pay.

The advice worker then telephoned the shop and asked that the payments be reduced to this amount and for a statement of the balance owing on the account.

Letter

This brought no response so the advice worker wrote a letter repeating Mr M's demands.

The shop wrote back with the information asked for and finally agreed to reduce the payments to an amount Mr M could afford.

Things to remember

1. Don't sign a h.p. contract unless you're sure you can afford the payments for the whole contract period.
2. If you can't afford the payments you've agreed to, you must contact the h.p. seller. If you just reduce the payments without the seller agreeing to this, the seller can bring legal action against you for the payment of all arrears or else the cancellation of the contract and return of the goods.
3. Your monthly payments cannot be more than 1/4 of your monthly income.

Meaning of words used in H.P. stories

Arrears: money that is owing and should have been paid earlier.
Summons: an order to appear in court.
Credit: money you have already paid off on your account.
Balance: money you still owe.
Messenger of the court: official who carries out the orders of the court.

Contract: a piece of paper that you have to sign when you buy something on h.p. It usually has many big words in small print.
Instalment: amount of money you pay off on your account each week or each month.
Counterfoil: the part of a postal order which you tear off and keep.

Purchase price: the amount of money you pay to buy a thing.
Interest: the extra money a seller wants for letting you pay for something over a long time.
Terms: a fancy word for what is written in the contract.

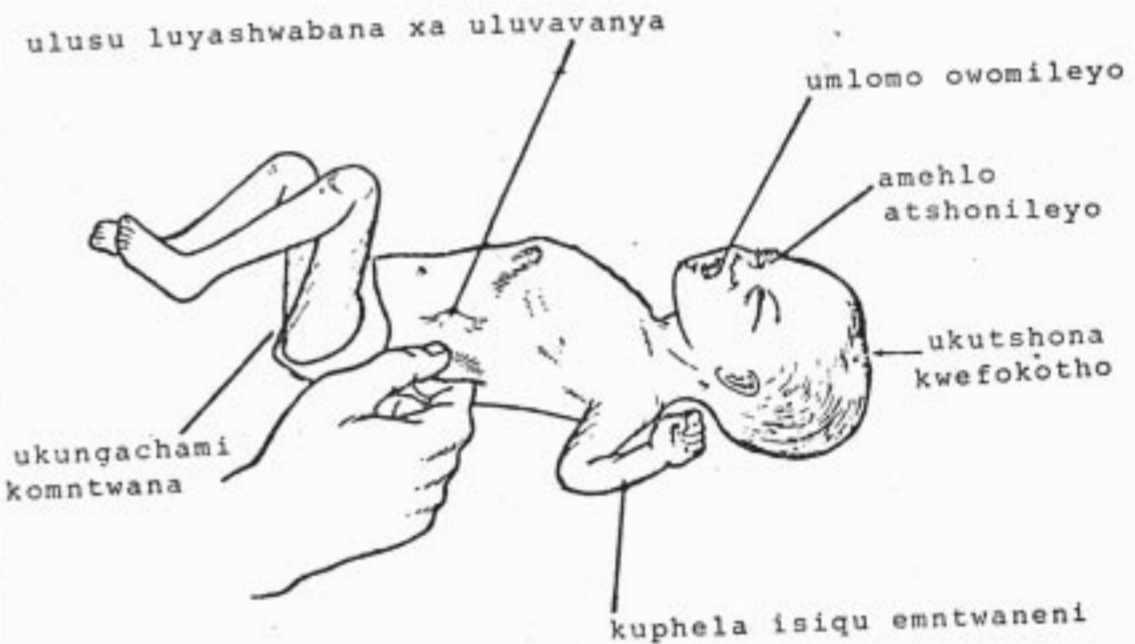
Gastro-Isifo Esibulalayo

SIYEVA ukuba landlu yothiwo manzi okanye gazi kwisibedlele sabantwana yamkele ngaphezu kwama 900 abantwana abane-sisifo kuthiwa yi gastro kwi nyanga ka January. Sifo eso simtsho umntana abengathi unomoya, okanye abile.

Esi sifo siyingozi kwaye ukuba umntana okanakfumana mancedo ngokukhawuleza angafa, ebulawa kuku phelelelwa ngamanzi netyuwa emzimbeni.

NGXAMA

Ubomi bungasinda xa unokuthi ukhawuleze ngamancedo asekhaya. Eyonanto ibalulekileyo kukuba uzame ukubuyisela manzi - nalatyuwa umntana ayiluzileyo ngenxa yesisifo.



ISISELO SESWEKILE NETYUWA Thatha ilitre yamanzi ecocekileyo - sebenzisa ibotile ye drink ecocekileyo okanye eyabisi ukwazi ukulinganise la manzi.

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- Galela zibelishumi ezeswekile zingazali
- Zamisa ngamandla okanye uh-lukuhle

Nika umntana kangoko kwesi siselo noba kukangaphi xa efuna. Qalisa za ubona ezimpawu zesisifo umfanjise ukuba uyancanca okanye umphe ubisi.

FUNEKA. UYE NINI KU QIRA Xa esala ukusela

- ekhupha
- Athule soloko esozela
- Naxa engabonisi mnyinyiva naku-suku olulandelayo.

Mphe esa siselo nasendleleni eya

KUTHENI ABANTWANA BETHU BEFUMANA ESI SIFO?

UNINZI lwabantwana abafumana esi sifo ngabantwana abahlala kwindawo ezingenazindlu kakuhle namanzi angqabe ne toilet umzekelo eCross-roads namenye amatyotyombe amanzi ayakhiwa kengoku owone-langa ukucoca kakuhle.

Yiyo lento kulula ukuba abantwana bachole esi sifo Ukuncancisa kuko okubhetele kune bhotile nancisa ukuba unayo indlela.

Vasa izandla xa uyela etoilet naphambi kokuba uphathe umntana okanye ukutya kwakhe.

Singasithintela esi sifo ngokuthi sijoyine imibutho elwa ingxaki zokuhlala nezindlu ezisempilweni nend-lala, eankosi.

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Where must we train?

ATHLETICS fever is in the air. Everywhere school pupils are training for inter-house and interschool activities.

But while our children are determined to do well at sport, they have to train under bad conditions with few and poor facilities.

Grassroots spoke to a group of young athletes from Mitchells Plain, Steenberg, Parkwood and Bonteheuwel about the problems they have in trying to become good athletes.

They spoke about the lack of proper athletics tracks, gyms and experienced trainers.

"We are forced to use roads, beaches, hills and uneven sandy patches which are called sportsfields. We cannot practise properly under these conditions," they said.

The athletes felt that if our athletes had proper facilities, they could develop enough to be ranked among the best in the world.

"Our athletes have proved this over the last few years by constantly setting new records. Many of these records are being set when the athletics season is almost at an end when tracks are at their poorest."

The group said they were forced to train on the roads because of the lack of sports-grounds in most areas.

We have a big sportfield in our area but the gates are always locked, we have to climb over the walls or make holes in the fences if we want to train there. Even then we have to be careful not to be caught," said an athlete from Mitchells Plain.

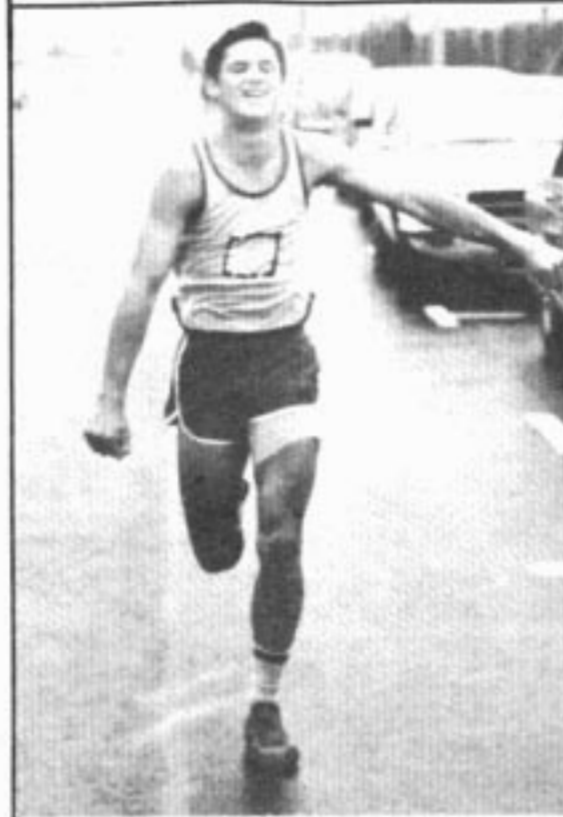
"Road running is very dangerous. People can so easily be knocked down. Also, the effects of road running are that it can be very bad for one's ankles and knees."

The pupils said the facilities at schools were very few. They did not know how much money is spent on sporting facilities and were not told by their principals.

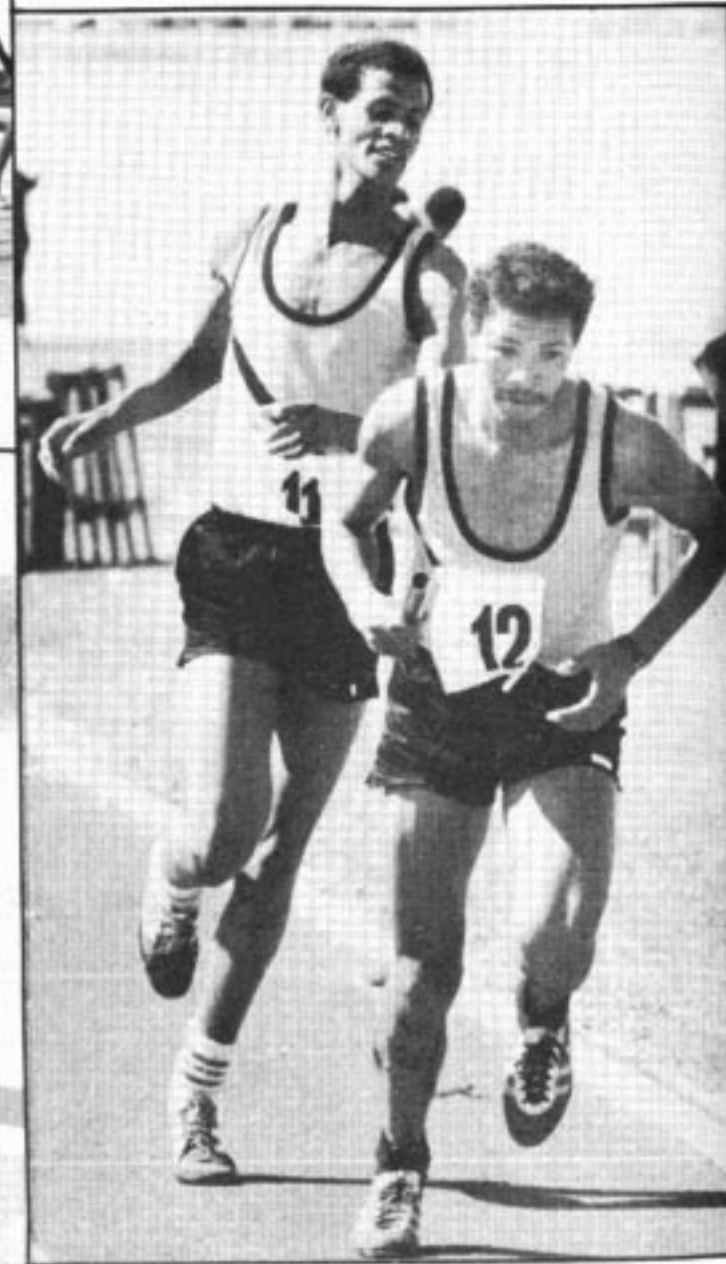
"It is amazing that the government can spend so much money on these so-called West Indians to tour here. That money could have been used to improve our facilities.

"The problems we are having with sporting facilities will only stop if there are enough facilities for all and if there is no more racial discrimination.

"Athletics and sport have become part of our life and our education. Many of the problems we are having are the same in different areas," the athletes said.



Grassroots looks at School athletics.



BCA Sports Day

WANNA see how fit you are? Why don't you encourage your organisation to take part in the sportsday of the Bonteheuwel Civic Association?

The sports day will be held on Saturday, March 24, at the Metropolitan Sportsground.

BCA has invited other community organisations, church

groupings and sports clubs to put up stalls, plays or take part in the sporting activity.

Any organisation wishing to know more, can contact the BCA at P.O. Box 20, Bonteheuwel, 7763.

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