

# Parents and pupils unite

Scores of parent-student committees have sprung up all over the Peninsula in response to the schools' crisis which affected thousands of families during the past few months.

In areas such as Heideveld and Bellville parents, students as well as teachers got together when they realised that the crisis was continuing and tried to sort out their problems.

Through discussions at some of the first meetings held in Lotus River, Heideveld and Bellville, it became clear that there was a need for some form of organisation.

In Lotus River, parents said that it was their duty to support the children and that they wanted to be part of everything. Because of the need to discuss with the students, a committee of parents and students were elected and they formed the parent-student committee. The purpose of the committee was to get together so that students could report back to parents and together with them could try to solve their problems.

The idea of parent-student committees spread and emerged in areas like Athlone, Bridgetown, Heideveld, Manenberg, Bonteheuwel, Elsie's River, Bellville, Bishop Lavis, Surrey Estate, Kensington, Wynberg, Hanover Park, Lansdowne.

Constant contact was kept with the people in the areas so that everyone was aware of what was happening. Here the members of the committee went out into the areas to make personal contact.

Initially the committee had to arrange mass meetings to keep the people informed and to listen to how they felt. This meant pamphleteering, arranging halls, organising speakers and trying to get the whole community involved.

The committees had to meet regularly to work out how they could handle all problems together with the students.

When problems became more intense with the bus boycott and the meatworker's strike, there was obviously more work to be done.

With the meatworker's strike, people felt that it was necessary to support the striking workers and once again the committees had to try to get the whole community involved.

# BIG SHOWDOWN ON RENT LOOMS

## New body formed to fight increases

WESTERN Cape communities, angered by rent scales as applied to council and Administration Board houses, have formed a broadly-based umbrella rent committee to take united action against rent increases.

The committee, which consists of more than 30 civic organisations from throughout the Western Cape, forms a backdrop to community action against rent increases over a widespread front.

- In Hout Bay alarmed residents have formed an ad hoc block committee to fight rent increases which have now been deferred.
- At Mbekweni, near Paarl, residents made urgent representations to the authorities to decrease the rents at a new housing scheme.

### PETITION

- The Valhalla Park Residents Committee has circulated a petition following a recent rent increase.

- Guguletu and Nyanga residents are attempting to invalidate recent rent increases and have taken the matter to the Supreme Court. Judgement has been reserved.

- Woodlands residents have managed to prevent rent increases in January and June this year.

The rent issue in the area was sparked off by a march on the local rent office by angry residents.

The umbrella rent committee was formed last month by civic organisations from Lotus River, Valhalla Park, Steenberg, Bishop Lavis, Ocean View, Heideveld, Avon Estate, Clarke's Estate, Hanover Park, Lentegur, Woodlands and Macassar.

Many other bodies have now joined.

A spokesman for the committee said it was formed to obtain and study information on rental structures; to stimulate the formation of rent committees in all areas; to co-ordinate the activities of these committees and to take sustained, unified action against rent increases.

He said the action committees expected more feedback from the various communities at the follow-up meetings.

## HANOVER PARK STARTS NEW CIVIC BODY

A NEW Civic body, the Hanover Park Civic Association, has been formed in the area following the schools' boycott.

At a mass meeting, students of Mount View and Crystal senior secondary schools expressed dissatisfaction at conditions and the lack of facilities at their schools. A parents-students committee was formed.

Residents of this body saw the need to discuss wider community problems such as housing and rent, and the civic association was formed.

The association has since taken decisions in support of the meat workers and the bus boycott.

'We realise the long road ahead and we pledge ourselves to act in the interest of the community,' the association said.



## 'Bus boycott goes on'

THE bus boycott will continue until fares are lowered. This has been made clear by the Bus Action Committee as the boycott entered its second month.

'We congratulate the thousands of people who have continued to boycott the buses in spite of the rain and cold weather,' the committee said.

When the boycott started on June 2, empty buses passed hitch-hikers and taxis were kept busy taking people to nearby

stations. (See picture above).

The boycott was total in Nyanga, Langa and Guguletu, and up to sixty percent in many other areas.

City Tramways refused to disclose how the boycott affected the company. The bus committee estimated that City Tramways lost R25 000 every day.

But as the boycott enters its sixth week, there are signs that people are weakening.

## Our price goes up

GRASSROOTS has been forced to increase its price from five to ten cents.

This is because of steep increases in printing costs which have escalated more than three times since the first issue of Grassroots was published.

The decision to increase the price was taken after consultation with communities throughout the Peninsula.

All felt the price was too low and had no objection to paying ten cents for the newsletter.

Our aim has been to keep the price of the newsletter as low as possible so that people of all walks can afford it.

Grassroots' policy has not been to distribute the newsletter free of charge as this may be seen as a hand-out.

Hence, we initially charged a nominal fee of five cents and while we would have liked to retain this price escalating costs have made it impossible.

Although Grassroots is a non-commercial, non-profit community newsletter, it is subjected to the same costs as any other publication.

Even with our present increase in price, we will not be able to cover our printing costs, let alone our other overheads.

This is why your support is so essential for the continued existence of Grassroots.

We appeal to you to subscribe and advertise in this newsletter.

grassroots  
The diary of protests — Page 16

grassroots  
Valhalla petitions against rent hikes — Page 3

grassroots  
What community councils are about — Page 4

grassroots  
Mbekweni wins court action — Page 4

grassroots  
Pay rise for garment workers — Page 5

grassroots  
Elsies creche finds a way out — Page 11

grassroots  
Behind the Urban Foundation — Page 7

# IT'S JOINT ACTION

## 'Let the buses go empty'

THOUSANDS of residents throughout the Peninsula are boycotting buses in the protest against the increased fares. Some are walking, some are hiking, some are taking taxis. "Let the buses go empty", they say.

The call to boycott came after representatives of 40 organisations met to discuss the increase in bus fares. From these representatives the Bus Action Committee was formed.

Bus fares increased by as much as 100 per cent in some areas. At the meeting the representatives discussed earlier action taken when bus fares were increased in some areas. They heard in 1979, bus fares were increased and Mitchells

Plain was seriously affected. Mitchells Plain residents took the City Tramways to court, but lost the case. A different kind of action was needed. It was unanimously decided that buses should be boycotted. Representatives decided to return to their communities and discuss how to put the boycott into action.

Mass meetings were held in every area. Volunteers were asked to stay behind after the meeting to serve as street representatives. An area map was drawn up and blocks of streets allocated to each representative. Each representative

went from house to house handing out pamphlets. Pickup lists were also taken to residents. Residents were asked to put down their destination points. People with empty cars were asked to say to how many people they could offer lifts and to what destination. Pickup points were arranged once this information was gathered by each street representative.

Alternative means of transport was arranged. Taxis were approached. In many cases the taxis agreed to reduce their fares and also agreed to start their services earlier in the morning.

Pamphlets were put out in each area explaining where pick-up points were. Certain rules were also set out in these pamphlets so that the whole action could run more smoothly. For example, people were asked to walk and to keep moving along certain routes. They were not to stand as this would upset the flow of traffic. Scholars were asked to lend their bicycles to workers.

People who were walking displayed large cards with their destination printed on it.

Motorists were asked to display red triangles of their windscreens.

In some areas where residents had easy access to alternative transport such as trains and cars, these residents were asked to play a supportive role to residents of near-by areas who were boycotting buses. In the Wynberg area people offered lifts especially in the evenings and early mornings to residents who stayed in Grassy Park and Parkwood Estate. Students were asked to control traffic at the pickup points so that the flow was smooth.

The Bus Action Committee consisting of the 40 representatives of community organisations met after each week to review events. They exchanged common problems and sorted out solutions. They also put out pamphlets to keep the communities in touch.

## Where boycott went wrong

In spite of the overall success of the bus boycott, certain problems were experienced in many areas.

In certain areas, where buses are the only form of transport, there were not sufficient alternative resources.

This problem particularly affected commuters in Ocean View who leave their homes at about 4.30 a.m. before the taxi run starts.

In certain areas, located along railway lines, many people own cars which were not properly used.

A further problem was commuters standing in areas where cars could not stop without causing a major traffic hazard, for example at yellow lines, traffic lights and no-stopping signs.

Groups of commuters travelling in the same direction should hitch together and identify their destination and motorists should indicate with a sign their willingness to give lifts.



**FINAL WINTER CLEARANCE AT CRAZY PRICES! NOW IN FULL SWING!!**

ALL PRICES EXCLUDE G.S.T.

KIDDIES WINTER PYJAMAS  
WERE from R2,99  
NOW **1,99**

LADIES ACRYLIC POLO-NECKS  
WERE R3,99  
NOW **1,99**

KNITTING CONES  
WERE R2,99  
NOW **1,99**

KIDDIES POLO NECKS  
WERE R2,99  
NOW **1,99**

USA T-SHIRTS  
WERE R2,99  
NOW **1,99**

KIDDIES CORDUROY PANTS  
WERE 2,99  
NOW **1,99**

TIGER CAPS  
**1,99**

**CAPE FLATS STORES**  
KLIPFONTEIN RD, ATHLONE, PH 67-4201  
(NEXT TO ATHLONE BIOSCOPE)

## How your rents are fixed

THE battlecry of communities throughout the Western Cape has become, 'fight rent increases'.

There is increasing resistance to increases imposed by local authorities, Administration Boards and the Department of Community Development.

But why the increases and how do the authorities actually fix our rents?

This policy of 'you pay for the services you get' is still very much in operation. This means that besides the rents, communities are paying additional amounts towards services and facilities in their areas.

Additional revenue, especially in townships under the Administration Boards, is obtained from:

- Registration and labour fees - paid by employers
- Fines for certain offences
- A service levy paid by the employers who do not provide accommodation for workers

- Sale of liquor

Over the years many of the indirect methods of generating revenue failed and rents had to be increased.

The most important source of income - the sale of liquor - was drastically affected by the 1976 uprisings when many administration board outlets were burnt down.

Another source - the levies paid by employers - came under strong attack in evidence given by employers to the Reikert Commission. Suggestions to increase the levy was rejected by the State and the Reikert Commission said the act under which the levies fell should at some stage be scrapped.

The Commission stated: "In principle it is desirable for black communities to bear to an increasing extent a greater burden in connection with the provision of services for their communities."

Residents are now expected to pay more for the accommodation

and services they enjoy. And this is what is at issue - the amount residents are expected to pay for accommodation and services.

In tenant areas of the Peninsula, the situation is less complex.

The divisional and city councils have no indirect sources of revenue such as liquor outlets and registration fees.

The rental structure is divided into the following:

- A rental to recover the amount of building costs and interest on loans.
- A service charge to supply roads, drainage, health services, and so on.
- An amount into a general reserve fund for future development.
- An administration fee.
- A fee for maintenance of the houses.

And the question being asked by tenants in Cape Town and in every other community is 'Why should we pay to provide for services and accommodation when we came from areas now proclaimed white areas, where we had these services?'

A tenant in Grassy Park summed up the situation at a recent rent meeting in the area: 'Where I stayed there was a pavement outside my home, but now there's sand'.

# ON ALL FRONTS

## COMMUNITY BACKS MEAT BOYCOTT

After more than six weeks, Western Cape communities continue to boycott red meat and to offer hundreds of rands to locked-out meat workers.

800 meat workers were locked out after a one day strike in support of 74 fellow workers who wanted true worker representation at Table Bay Cold Storage Company.

On May 19 the meat bosses refused to negotiate with the workers and it was decided to call on the community to boycott red meat and meat products.

To implement the boycott, workers had to go to the communities and explain to them why it was important for everybody to boycott red meat.

Community associations responded by organising mass meetings. Workers and union officials were invited to explain their situation to the people. One worker said: 'I am a meat worker at Karoo Meat Exchange. Last

month 74 workers of Table Bay Cold Storage Company went on strike for one day. The bosses refused to recognise their workers' committee. When they returned to the factory the next day, the bosses refused to allow them back,' he said.

Representatives from 14 other meat firms then came together and sent letters to the bosses of each firm, asking that they give an explanation for not allowing the workers back.

'The bosses again refused to recognise the workers' committee and then all of us decided to go on strike for one day. "When we tried to go back the following day we were all locked out. Policemen guarded the gates.

"This one day strike was only to show our solidarity with the workers from Table Bay Cold Storage Company. It was just a demonstration of our strength and unity," he said.

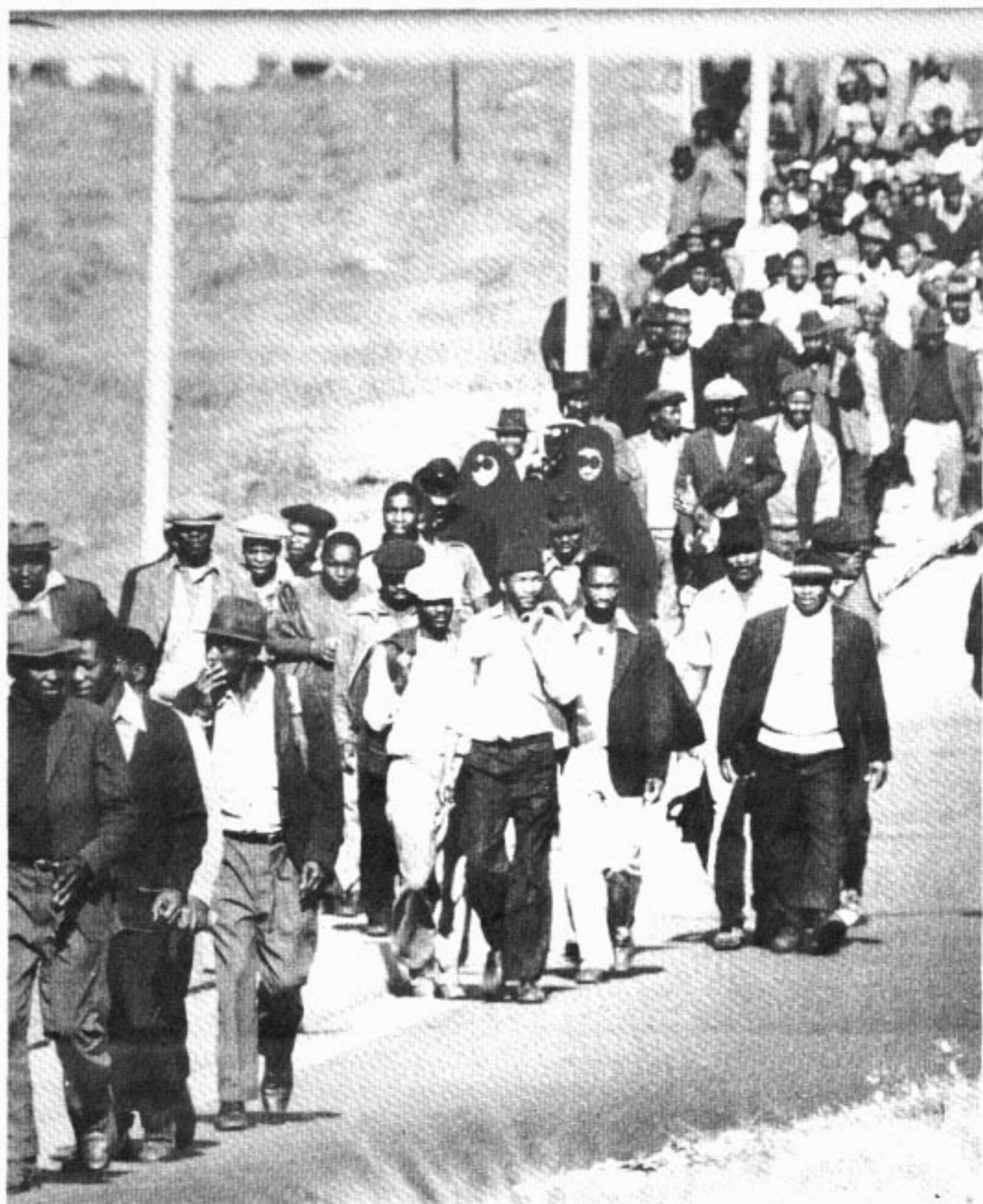
At the same time workers at National Meat Suppliers also asked for recognition of their own representative workers committee.

'We met daily at a hall in Athlone. We are determined to hold out until all our demands are met'.

There are three ways in which the community can help us:

- 'Financially, we need R12 000 per week. The union pays each of us R15 per week strike pay.
- 'By boycotting red meat and all other meat products.
- 'Scab labour - you must please speak to the people in your community. They must not take our jobs at the abattoirs. That will make us weak', he said.

Communities responded to the call and hats were sent around in the halls to collect money. About R40 000 has been collected to help the union pay the striking workers.



## Valhalla petitions against rent hikes

The Valhalla Park residents committee immediately circulated a petition in the area to get community support in their fight recently against rent increases.

Valhalla Park is an area of low-cost, high density houses which were built by the city council in 1977 to re-house 'squatters' mainly from the Ken-

sington and Surrey Estate areas.

The committee said it felt the increases, which have now been postponed by the council, were unjustified.

It said the standard of the houses did not warrant the increases and there were no facilities or amenities.

'The area was not planned at all and we

live on top of each other.

'The people here simply cannot afford the new rents and we demand they remain as they are,' the committee said.

The residents are planning the formation of a proper civic organisation which they hope will get full community support.

## Deferred increases worry Hout Bay

Proposed rent increases for Divisional Council flats and sub-economic houses in Hout Bay have been deferred. But the question asked by residents is: Until when?

Concerned residents held a meeting last month and an ad hoc committee, consisting of a representative from each block of flats, was formed.

The first task the committee set itself was to get full community support and gather information and opinions about rent structures.

The proposed rent increases had alarmed Hout Bay residents.

## BOARD RECOVERS 'LOSSES'

The majority of residents at Mbekweni township near Paarl are still paying increased rents in spite of representations and adjustments made by the authorities.

There are 622 houses in the township including a new scheme of 40 houses built recently.

Rents for houses at the new scheme were fixed at R24 a month but after representations to the Administration Board the rents were decreased by R4.

At the same time, however, residents in the rest of Mbekweni had their rents increased from R10 and R8,50 a month to R14 and R12,50.

The total decrease for the new scheme amounted to R560 a month but the Administration Board recovered the loss by collecting R1 928 extra a month from the other residents.

One resident said: 'The board is ripping us of a lot of money,' she said.

## 'Intimidation' behind butchers' boycott

Peninsula butchers who had been involved in the boycott of red meat took the decision not in support of the 800 dismissed meat workers but in fear of intimidation.

This was said by members of the Cape Butchers Association which called off the boycott after only three days.

The call to boycott red meat was taken up by butchers when they met and decided to stop selling red meat from June 2.

Their decision came after they had met with meat wholesalers in an attempt to explain to them that the dismissal of 800 meat workers was received in a serious light by the community.

The boycott lasted for three days before butchers reviewed the situation and started selling red meat again. Some of the reasons given at a meeting on June 4 were that:

- The public had responded poorly, perhaps because of poor organisation. During an "awareness programme" carried out by students it was found that many housewives were ignorant of the meat boycott.
- White meat markets, selling at a reduced price, were making extra profits.
- The manager of an Athlone butchery said, "There seems to be no point in furthering this boycott. The people of our community are making our sacrifices worthless. The loss has been tremendous thus far."
- Thirty butchers voted in favour of continuing the boycott because:
  - There had been no change in the position of the dismissed workers.
  - The buying power of the butchers was R1-million a week.

- They realised that although the boycott could not have carried on indefinitely it could have proven effective if the butchers had held out for at least a week.
- Many customers wanted them to continue the boycott.

The butchers' boycott started when they formed the Cape Butchers' Association.

About 250 butchers met initially to discuss the increase in the floor price of beef, but a more important problem needed attention at the time - the of the 800 meat workers.

Butchers who had been involved in the boycott said the association was never interested in the welfare of the dismissed 800 workers. "They took the decision because they feared intimidation from the public. It turned out that those butchers who sold red meat were still being supported by the community. The intimidation that they expected from the public did not happen either," they said.

Meanwhile the workers' union has appealed to the public to continue and intensify the boycott, despite the decision to resume the selling of meat by the butchers.

The meat boycott is still continuing intensively in Nyanga and Guguletu.

Butchers who were present at the meeting of the association said black butchers from these areas walked out in disgust when the decision to call off the boycott was taken.

A butcher in the Cape Flats area said that although coloured butchers were selling meat, business was not completely back to normal.

About 50 percent of his customers were still not buying red meat, he said.

# What community councils are all about

RESIDENTS in areas under the Administration Boards are told to go to community councillors in their areas when they have problems but many say that they do not know these men and women.

Who are the community councillors and what is the community council?

The Community Council Act passed in 1977 was supposed to give community councils the full status of local authorities with powers to control their

own communities.

The council, among other things, is responsible for housing matters, preventing unlawful occupation of dwellings, building and site allocations, approval of building plans and beautifying the area.

The constitution of the community councils states 'the council shall consist of a number of members determined by the Minister of Co-operation and Development.'

Although the councils have more power than the defunct Ad-

visory Boards, the Minister still has the final say in all matters.

Advisory Boards consisted of African 'leaders' headed by a White representative from the Administration Board.

The council cannot make its own laws and regulations. The minister can also at any time withdraw any power vested in the community councils and can authorise any person to take such steps which will ensure the continued functioning of the councils.

## MBEKWENI WINS COURT ACTION

THE community council of Mbekweni, near Paarl, received a setback when elections held there last year were declared invalid in the Supreme Court, Cape Town, this month because of certain irregularities.

The court's decision was the culmination of a long, hard fight put up by residents opposed to the community council.

Residents first showed their opposition when they packed the civic hall at Mbekweni on April 28 last year to attend the swearing-in ceremony of seven community councillors.

As the seven men were sworn in by the commissioner of Paarl and a number of other members of the Western Cape Administration Board, the hundreds of residents who filled the hall, jeered.

The victory came on 5 June as the Supreme Court, Cape Town, ruled that the first community council elections in Mbekweni were invalid.

The court accepted the case put by 12 residents representing the community that elections were not properly held.

The community decided to oppose the elections when they discovered that those nominated were not their leaders and as such did not represent them.

Six of the seven councillors had been nominated by the Administration Board.

They were Mr Simon Hebe, Mr Benjamin Nobula, Mr H Mpalala, Mr Jacob Hans, Mr Dixon Phaking and Mr Isaac Sothu. A seventh man, Mr Stanley Jacobs, was elected by residents in one of the seven

wards.

The superintendent in the area, Mr A Hanekom, who died before the court passed judgement, began making arrangements for the elections of the first community council in Mbekweni in January last year.

He placed an advertisement in the Paarl Post calling for nominations for the elections.

The response was poor and Mr Hanekom compiled the voters role from the records of the Administration Board.

As a result only 1000 of the 4553 voters registered.

In six of the seven wards, candidates were nominated unopposed. In ward two there were two candidates and the people voted for one.

Residents proved that not only was the Paarl Post not a newspaper generally circulated in Mbekweni but also that the period allowed for nominations - from April 10 to April 23 - was less than the minimum stipulated time of 14 days.

The judge ruled that other arrangements could have been made to notify residents.

After the court case residents were told that new elections would be held within the next few months.

New notices for nominations have been posted in wards.

But so far nobody has come forward. The board has been informed that its own officials will have to come and explain to the people what the council is all about because none of the real leaders are prepared to 'sell' the council to their people.



## Guguletu residents ask — who are these councillors

MORE than 200 Guguletu residents last month sent a delegation to the Administration Board to request a meeting with board officials and the community councillors.

The board refused to call a meeting and told the delegation to do so themselves.

Guguletu residents wanted a meeting to find out who the community councillors were and what they had to offer.

'We just don't know who these people are,' a resident said when Grassroots met with the Guguletu Residents Association this month.

'Whenever residents have problems and approach the board, they are referred to the community councillors,' he said.

In the interview, the association said residents rejected the community council because its members had not been democratically elected.

Also, the community councillors had not yet called a single meeting to inform the people who they were and what their function was.

'We will show them up for what they are - appointed and not elected,' said a spokesman for the association.

The aim of the residents was to elect their own leaders, he said.

## Residents force rates court to move

SCORES of Grassy Park and Lotus River residents - objecting to increased property valuations - forced a valuation court hearing in Wall Street to move to a Lotus River hall last month. The court room was too small to accommodate all the people.

On May 6 the attorney representing the 661 objectors presented his opening address to the court which was packed with 120 ratepayers who had taken time off from work to attend the two-day hearing. The attorney was engaged by the

Lotus River Ratepayers and Tenants Association.

He said the residents of Grassy Park and Lotus River wanted their property valuations set at pre-1979 levels.

Increases in bus fares, food and other essentials made it difficult for families to make ends meet.

Also, valuation increases in these areas were not warranted because of the lack of amenities, conditions of roads and inadequate street lighting, he said.

There were many facilities available in

white suburbs where lower rates were paid the court was further told.

The court then decided to inspect conditions in two areas. A downpour further highlighted the potholes, inadequate gravel roads and lack of pavements.

The court resumed the following day at the Catholic Hall, Klip Road. About 500 people attended.

Three witnesses, described to the court the poor condition of the area. One, a doctor, said she had treated many diseases. She blamed this on a filthy canal in the area and a nearby sewerage farm.

The Divisional Coun-

cil had shown little interest in the people of Lotus River and Grassy Park.

The attorney referred to two similar houses, one valued significantly higher than the other.

The chief evaluator replied that much depended on his discretion, since only certain properties were used as 'samples' on which to base overall valuations.

The presiding officer said although he had registered the ratepayers' complaints collectively he was bound by law to consider the objections individually.

But, at follow-up meetings, the ratepayers reaffirmed their desire to collectively fight the increased valuations.

## ZAKHE

A NON-PROFIT SERVICE ORGANISATION.

We help unemployed people to learn skills and start their own work groups.

We also help existing groups to work co-operatively. We are looking for people who would be interested in teaching their skills to a small group of people on a voluntary basis. Transport costs to the groups will be paid by ZAKHE.

IF YOU ARE WILLING TO ASSIST, PLEASE  
PHONE: 64 4591



### JULY SPECIALS

#### New Tyres

165 x 13 R32,81  
175 x 13 R35,84  
175 x 14 R36,40  
185 x 14 R42,03  
165 x 15 R33,70

#### CASH ONLY

Prices exclude GST

**NOSARKA** RETREADERS

NEW & RETREAD TYRES.  
WHEEL BALANCING & ALIGNMENT  
EXHAUST SYSTEMS & SILENCERS

SPECIAL DISCOUNT  
when you  
bring  
this  
ad.

HEIN RD.  
RYLANDS  
Ph. 67-1245  
67-0640

## THE NEW YORKER DISCO & RESTAURANT

ALIVE AND KICKING

at The Upper Level  
Withinshaw Centre  
(above Pick 'n Pay)  
Main Road, Wynberg,  
Cape Town

OPEN 8 TILL LATE  
WED, FRI AND SAT

BOOKINGS ONLY  
PHONE: 71 2772/71 3902

NEWSPAPERS claim that recent bus fare increases led to the downing of tools at various factories.

However, this was merely the last of a list of grievances we have against both our employers and the Garment Workers' Union.

We were due for a 7 percent increase in December which was supposed to cover the normal increase in the cost of living.

We knew 7 percent would not cover the increase in bus fares for our families let alone the increase in food prices.

Even 10 percent which is only R2,85 a week at most, does not cover the increases.

Our bosses, with whom the union is supposed to negotiate, were prepared to grant us more than the union asked for.

The bosses were also prepared to increase everybody's wages, while

A GARMENT WORKER, IN A LETTER TO GRASSROOTS, GIVES THE UNDERLYING GRIEVANCES OF CLOTHING WORKERS:

## 'We did better than union'

the union did not apply for increases for cutters, supervisors and so on.

Yet the union officials had the nerve to complain that we would upset their petty negotiations!

We did a better job of getting increases than they, whom we pay to do the job of improving our conditions!

At some factories, workers who receive top wages will get only a 5 percent increase, instead of

10 percent like everyone else, though their expenses increased like everyone else's.

We are also worried that bosses would rather increase attendance bonuses than actual wages. Most clothing workers are wives and mothers and almost all of us use unreliable public transport.

This means that if we accidentally come late or stay out, we lose the attendance bonus and our take-home pay is much less.

On other matters also the

union never supports us. I can understand bosses being against the bus boycott.

They deduct wages when bus boycotters come late, but not when bus users come late. But our union which is supposed to support our efforts to get bus fares down, tries to make us accept the increased bus fares. This was stated in union's newspaper, Clothes Line.

The recent stayaway was also condemned by the union.

Clothes Line said: 'After the wage increases, travel allowances and other benefits that have been granted, it would be ungrateful to hit at our employers.'

The union should worry about us, not about the employers.

We pay union dues and sick fund dues every week. But when we are sick we get at most, one third of our wages. And that is only if we are off for three days or more.

For one or two days off, we get nothing. Some of us pay more in bus fares to fetch those few cents from the union, than what we actually get in sick benefits.

When we join the industry, we are forced to join the union and pay the dues, but nothing is explained to us about the union.

All we know is that we keep on paying and get little in return.

## GARMENT WORKERS: HOW WE WON PAY INCREASES

A WAVE of strikes recently affected Cape Town's clothing industry. It started at the Rex Trueform factory in Salt River and soon spread to Riviers, Tej, Bergette, Val-Hau, Tom Pringle, Dermal Fashions and others.

Management had to give in to the workers' demands by promising pay increases.

Workers from Bergette, Tom Pringle and Dermal Fashions described how it happened.

### Bergette

'It was because of what happened at Rex Trueform that the other factories also boycotted,' said a worker.

'The workers were becoming more and more dissatisfied and the boss decided to call a meeting.'

'When the boss was not there on time, the entire factory came to a halt. Everything was switched off, including the machines and radios.'

'Soon afterwards the boss arrived and said he had come from the union and the workers would be granted a 10 percent pay increase.'

'The union,' he said had asked for only 7 percent for machinists, finishers and cleaners with no increase for supervisors and others.'

The workers who described these events said they could not understand the union. 'Why does the union ask for less than what the bosses give? 10 percent is only R2,80 - that's like money for sweets.'

Asked why she thought they managed to get a pay rise so quickly, she said: 'The whole thing is unity.'

### Tom Pringle

Workers went on strike from 8 to 9 am on Monday, June 2.

'The girls talked about it on Friday. We heard that Rex got it right,' a worker said. 'All the girls didn't want to sit still.'

'This brought an angry reaction from those that did stop work,' she said.

'Why are you working? Who are you working for? The boss gives you nothing.' These were some reactions.

The boss seemed surprised when the workers went on strike. 'He couldn't understand why we must do what other factories did.'

The boss told them that the increase would come through only in July, she said.

When asked what the Garment Workers Union was doing for the workers, she said, 'I don't know about a union.'

### Dermal

At Dermal in Woodstock about 400 workers went on strike on Wednesday, June 3, demanding higher wages.

A worker said that the strike action was taken independently of the union and without consulting shop stewards.

'We were aware that the union was negotiating for an increase, but it seemed that when firms heard of

this, they put up the prices of all their goods.'

'The bus fare increases was the last straw, we could not wait anymore. Our wages are very low, especially the learners. They often have to borrow money for bus fares,' the worker said.

'When we arrived at work, word was spread around that we must all strike. We were very excited. We had hardly started our tea break when the manageress came down.'

'Word had got to her as well. Without us saying anything she told us that we must not worry about the high bus fares as they will give us a contribution,' the worker said.

'When the bell rang at the end of tea break, nobody stood up. All the white staff came running in.'

We told them that everything had gone up, not only the bus fares. We demanded higher wages.

The management then promised to give us an increase and asked us to please return to work,' she said.

'We were told the next day that we would get a 10 percent increase. Although we were not very happy with this, we felt we had achieved something. We had felt our strength.'

### Manhattan

Not all strike action at clothing factories followed the same pattern. Workers at Manhattan in Salt River were the first to ask for an increase. They chose to ask their shop stewards to approach the bosses, who then

told them to wait as the union was negotiating for one.

### Bernadette

At Bernadette in

Maitland, the management responded to workers demands for higher wages by giving workers a choice - either to return to

work or to go home.

'The bosses threatened the workers in this way until all the workers returned to work.'

'The next day we were told that we would get a 10 percent increase. Our actions weren't in vain,' one worker said.

*Specials Now!*  
**COMMENCES IMMEDIATELY**

ZIPPER  
CARDIGANS  
R 9,99

LEE JEANS  
R 10,99

TIGER SHOES  
R 13,99

REAL AMERICAN  
SHIRTS  
R 4,99

GRASSHOPPER  
R 22,99

JASON  
WINDBREAKER  
R 13,99

BOYS  
CORDUROY SUITS  
R 16,99

TROUSERS  
FROM R 6,99

**TIGER  
JACKETS  
R 13,99**

**LAY-BUY NOW FOR EID**

**ESQUIRE  
MAN'S SHOP**  
KLIPFONTEIN ROAD  
(OPPOSITE ATHLONE CINEMA)  
ATHLONE

**SKIPPER  
BAR**  
(ELSIES RIVER SHOP ONLY)  
66 HALT ROAD  
43<sup>C</sup> HALT ROAD  
ELSIES RIVER

**JUST HIS  
MAN'S SHOP**  
ATHLONE CITY CENTRE  
KLIPFONTEIN ROAD  
ATHLONE



WE ARE PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH  
'GRASSROOTS'

**BARCLAY CENTRE** 2nd FLOOR  
% FINDON & KLIPFONTEIN RDS. ATHLONE  
(above Barclays Bank)

PH 67-8493

# grassroots comment

## Standing together

Western Cape communities have taken mass action on all fronts over the past few months.

Not only have people tackled problems facing them at home but also at work.

They organised to fight the rent increases where they live and have also downed tools at their places of work in demand for high wages.

A work stoppage by 3000 Rex Trueform workers on May 21 in protest against the increase in bus fares, resulted in an immediate 10 percent wage increase for the workers.

### THE MEAT BOYCOTT

When 800 meat workers were locked out after being denied true worker representation by their bosses, communities did not hesitate to take up their call for a boycott of red meat.

Civic, residents and community associations organised meetings where meat workers were invited to explain how they lost their jobs and how important it was to the workers that the communities boycott red meat.

At the meetings, hundreds of rands were collected to support the workers.

People from every area saw the crisis facing the meat workers as part of their own problem.

Many groups volunteered to go door to door to collect money and explain to people the meat workers struggle.

### THE SCHOOLS' BOYCOTT

Just as the meat workers needed the support of communities, so too did the schoolchildren.

Students and pupils began to experience harassment which made it difficult to discipline the boycott of classes and attendances dropped at schools.

But still during these difficult times, parents supported the action taken by the children. And now it is important for pupils and students to heed the views of their parents and the community when they reconsider the boycott.

### THE BUS BOYCOTT

Communities have taken up the call for a boycott of buses in protest against increase of bus fares. Fares were increased in some cases, by as much as 100 percent without any consideration to the rising cost of living.

While the cost of goods, transport, and housing has increased rapidly over the last years, wages have seldom been increased.

People could no longer make their pay packets stretch to cover living expenses and did not hesitate to boycott the buses.

On June 2 when the boycott started, thousands stopped using the buses. Although some people have gone back to using the buses the bus company has been forced to reduce the number of buses on the road.

People with cars have learnt to help those without cars — and a spirit of 'give and take' has slowly built up.

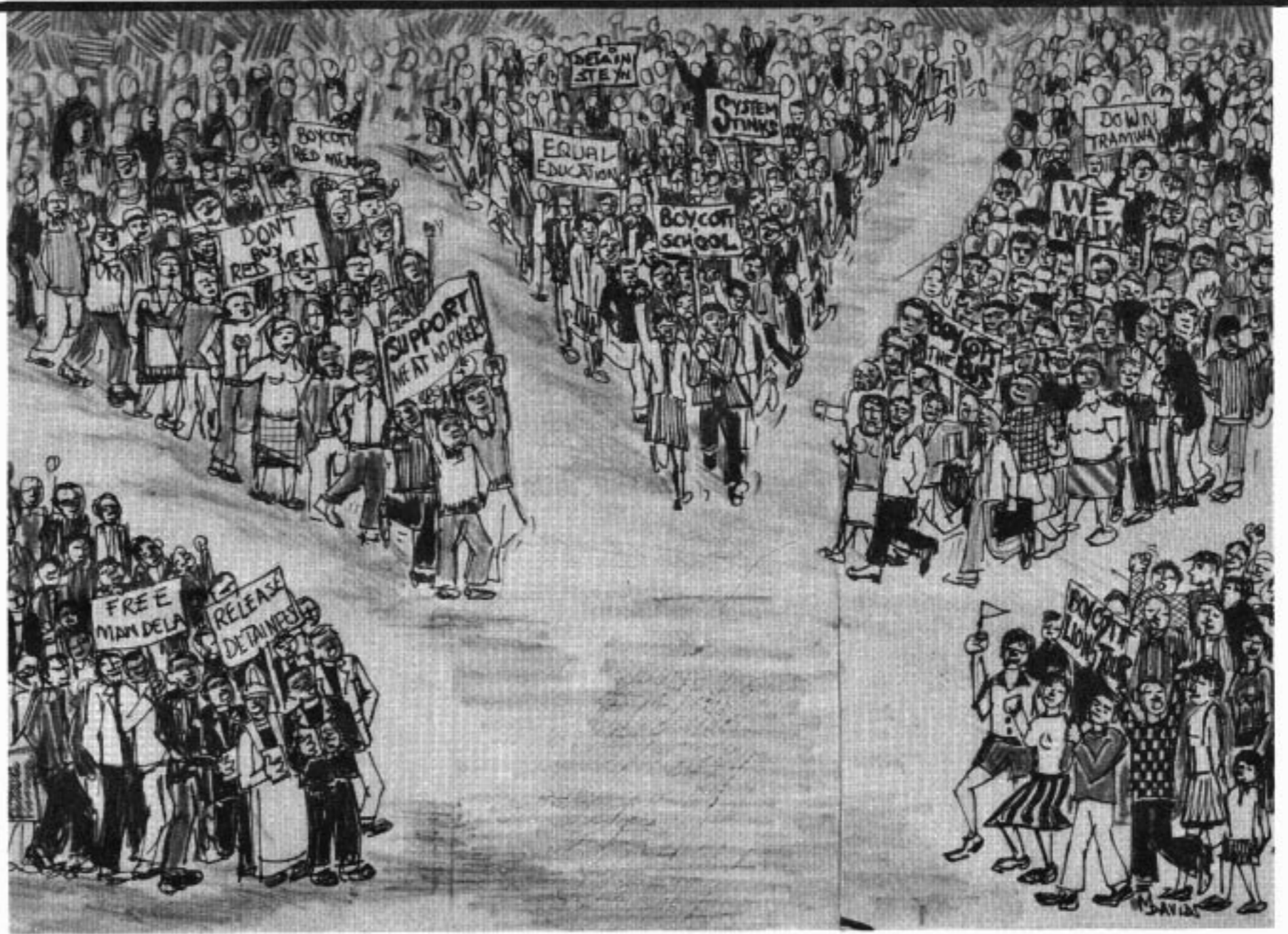
### COMING TOGETHER

Thus, the most significant development has been the coming together of communities from Langa to Ocean View to tackle common problems.

No longer are residents in one area fighting their problems on their own. Mass action has become the order of the day.

The saying so often heard among the people — 'ons kan nie saam staan nie' has become a thing of the past.

Community organisations have learnt that by doing things for themselves and standing together they can achieve much more.



## LETTERS

### Take action for a better South Africa



SIR, We are the people who have been born in this country, plus those who for long years helped to build up a prosperous South Africa, yet we have been denied our basic rights of citizenship.

So we have to struggle and suffer in order to eke out a living and in a great many cases merely to survive without hope. Awareness of our condition has been spread by the student action.

We now want a better South Africa for all and are taking action. We now know ourselves to be South Africans and not so-called Indians, Coloureds, Malays and Africans.

Our first task is to maintain the bus boycott which is in operation at the moment and a tremendous success.

Those who still use the buses and the car owners who speed past hitching workers on cold mornings and even colder nights, please join in, we need you.

South African mother  
Wynberg

SIR — The housing shortage in the Western Cape as we all know, is one of the gravest problems facing the authorities and the community at large.

Although it is an encouraging sign to see the authorities give some attention to this problem at Valhalla Park, Eureka Estate and greater Elsies River, I cannot see how a healthy and a sound socio-cultural environment can develop as a result of the rapid and speedy cluster building process.

After all, a house does not only comprise of four precast concrete walls. There are more important and necessary amenities and facilities that are needed that would at least give these clustered and instant townships a measure of respectability and attraction.

Surely there are people who live in these ill-designed and unattractive concrete

## We don't need modern slums

structures. What we have seen in Eureka Estate can hardly be called sub-economic dwellings.

Here I am especially thinking of the absence of safe playing areas for children; unsafe and open staircases; the absence of gardens or space for people to cultivate gardens, the lack of space for washing-lines; the lack of amenities that would enhance healthy cultural and social activity among the community.

We often ask the question: Why is there this rapid escalation of crime and delinquency amongst our youth?

What can be done

about it?

It is understood that the combatting of delinquency and crime today does not lie so much in the curing of it, but in the prevention of it.

Should the authorities embark on a scheme to bring about these badly needed facilities, I am sure many youngsters would cultivate healthy social attitudes and similarly a pride and respect for property.

While one is grateful to the authorities for removing shanties and replacing them with 'instant' flats, this prac-

tice does not ensure permanent satisfaction.

The rest, it seems, are left over to small institutions and agencies, that have to instill social and cultural life.

These agencies work with little or no Government aid at all and their struggle is rather a prolonged one.

Serious attention is needed to rid despondency and frustration amongst our people. We don't need the replacement of ancient slums with modern ones.

Concerned Social  
Worker  
Lansdowne

## Cafda has not shut down

SIR, Congratulations on your first two issues. We hope it will become the paper 'that fills the void' and reflects the views, ideas and feelings of Cape Town's 'communities'.

However, we would like to point out an error in your first issue. The article entitled Cafda Shuts Down Its Community Work Programmes is true except

for the headline.

Cafda has shut nothing down. It is just re-evaluating its community work programme which is a small aspect of its overall service.

This means taking a hard, critical look at itself so that it can become a more effective organisation in community work.

D W Fitnum  
Cafda

## Boycott has positive effect

SIR, As a social worker in the field, I can assure readers that the boycott had a positive effect on Blacks with whom we have regular contact.

Statistics show that office visits dropped during the past 6 weeks of the boycott.

They have become more self-reliant and determined to get themselves involved in constructive community

activities.

Also, there is no doubt that parent-child-relationships has improved to a more feeling of 'we are together in the struggle for equal rights.'

The priorities now are for the social workers to educate their clients that we are all working together towards reformation in 'our' land.

Social Worker  
Elsies River

THE British Lions, by deciding to tour South Africa, have aligned themselves with apartheid.

Indeed, as the tour draws to a close, it has become clear that the main parties to benefit from the tour are the white South African Rugby Board and the National Party - the architects of South Africa's sports policy. The only argument they have advanced for touring this country is that they are helping the cause of multi-racial rugby.

Billy Beaumont, the Lions' captain, said recently that his side had already played against three multiracial teams - something which had not happened before. Politics and sports cannot be separated - not in South Africa.

The Lions' motive for trying to separate the two must be questioned.

Opponents of apartheid, both in South Africa and overseas, have condemned the tour.

**Gleneagles**

It is against the Gleneagles Agreement to which Britain is a signatory.

In June 1977, heads of government of Commonwealth countries met at Gleneagles in Scotland to decide on a joint strategy against apartheid in sport.

They agreed that it was the urgent duty of

# Lions tour 'endorses apartheid'

each of their governments to vigorously fight apartheid by withholding support for, and by taking every practical step to discourage contact by their nationals with sports organisations, teams of sportsmen from South Africa or any other country where sport is organised on the basis of race, colour, or ethnic origin.

Most Commonwealth countries saw the British Government's failure to take any form of action to stop the Lions from touring South Africa, as tacit approval of the tour.

Angry African countries have already promised to either boycott the 1982 Commonwealth games in Brisbane, Australia, or to have Britain expelled.

In 1976, black countries staged a mass walkout at the Montreal Olympics in protest at New Zealand's participation. Earlier that year

a New Zealand rugby team had toured South Africa.

**Permits**

Although there is now some racial mixing on South Africa's sportsfields, it does not mean a black sportsman can now take part in sport on the same terms as his white counterpart.

A myriad of apartheid laws under which a black sportsman has to exist make this impossible.

Under the present sports policy, a black sportsman will, for two or three hours, become a white sportsman.

He will be allowed to play together with whites on the same field even have drinks with him after the match.

But as soon as it is all over he will revert back to being a black man and will once again be subject to all laws affecting blacks.

A system of per-

mits has been used to circumvent the laws which prevent racial mixing. But until these laws are removed from the statute books South Africa can never claim to play non-racial sport.

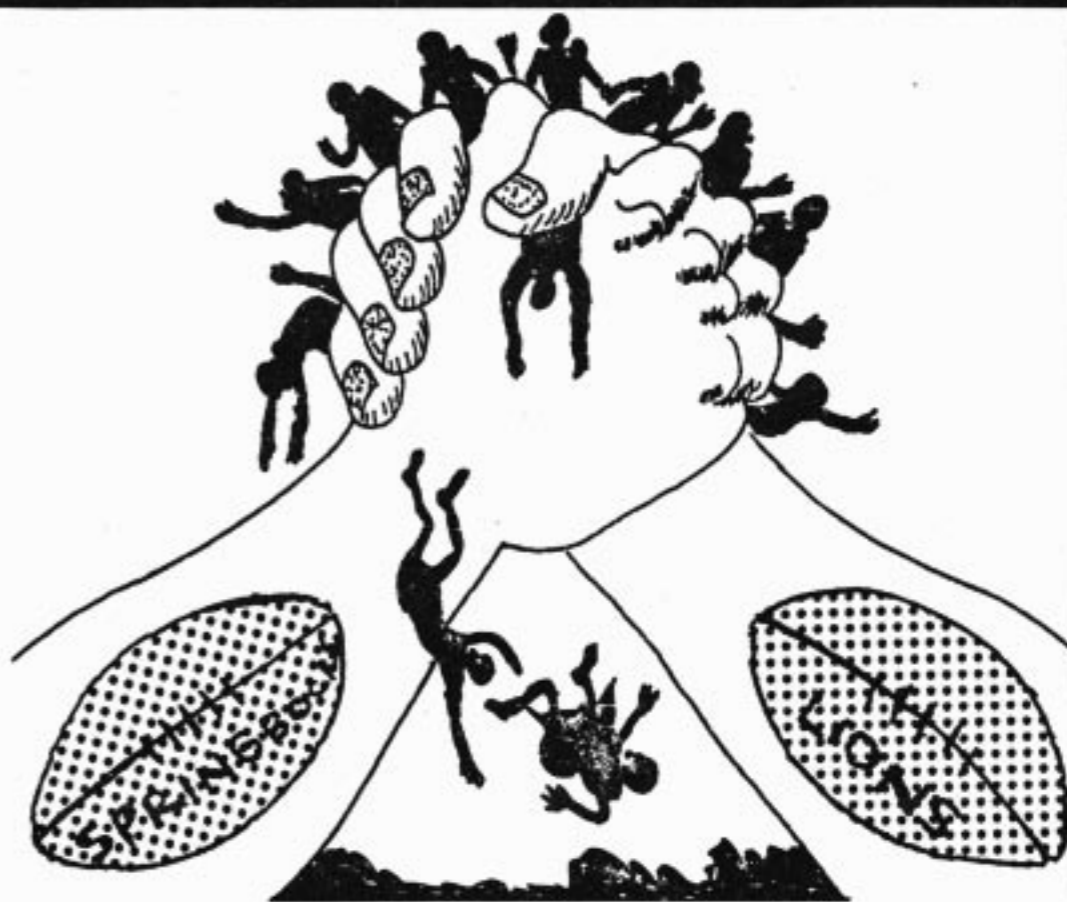
The National Party has stated often enough in the past that if it were forced to choose between international sports links and the retention of the South African way of life, it would abandon its overseas sports ties.

**Liquor**

A number of laws ensure the continuation of the 'South African way of life' in sport.

The liquor laws enable white clubs to apply for international status which allows white clubs to serve drinks on their premises to black competitors.

However, it still has a number of discriminatory restrictions. Liquor refreshments and meals can only be sup-



plied to a black who is a competitor taking part in a match on the premises owned by the white club.

Officials accompanying the black team or blacks who are guests of the white club may be served in this way. Supporters may not be served.

No dancing may take place while blacks are present.

The Separate Amenities Act ensures that sports facilities throughout the country are set aside for a specific race group. Special permits have to be obtained to allow a member of one group to play on the grounds of another.

The Group Areas Act ensures that the different race groups live in their own areas and use their own facilities.

**Schools**

Separate education legislation ensures that White, Coloured, Indian and African children attend separate schools. Facilities at white schools are generally far superior to those of the other groups. This makes the playing of non-racial sport at grassroots level virtually impossible.

Whites will always hold a decided advantage over children at other schools.

In addition white

educational authorities, frown on mixed school games.

These are just few of the laws which hinder the playing of true non-racial sport.

Opponents of apartheid find the permit system which has been used to circumvent these laws totally unacceptable.

Hassan Howa, president of the South African Council on Sport, summed it up very well when he said: 'No white sportsman has ever needed to apply for a permit to play for a white club. A black sportsman has to apply for a permit to join the same white club.'

# Behind the Urban Foundation

WORKERS earn too little to live on and they can't afford the millions needed to improve their living conditions.

Although they pay rates and taxes, the government, the city councils and the divisional councils are not providing community services and facilities.

Community organisations which want to start projects like creches, educational groups, cultural groups, sports clubs and food-buying schemes, need money.

Civic organisations need funds to hire halls and to pay for legal advice.

**ACCEPTING MONEY**

The big question is when money is needed badly, who should communities accept money from?

In November 1976, soon after the uprisings, a conference of mainly business people met in Johannesburg to discuss the 'quality of life of urban communities in South Africa'.

They saw the causes of the 1976 unrest as poverty, the housing shortage, the fact that urban Africans couldn't own houses, the lack of educational and train-

ing facilities, job discrimination and the lack of work opportunities.

They said the business community and not only the Government must improve conditions of African people living in cities.

**MIDDLE CLASS**

They argued that this would promote greater 'stability' and by improving conditions, a 'Black middle class' can be built.

One month later, in December 1976 the Urban Foundation was established, with Harry Oppenheimer as Chairman, Anton Rupert, deputy chairman, and Justice Jan Steyn, granted leave from the Cape Town Supreme Court, was appointed full-time director.

There are also regional boards in the main cities around the country.

**NON-RACIAL?**

The Urban Foundation advertises itself to the business community as 'Your Investment in the Future of South Africa.' As Justice Steyn said, the business community's reward for giving money is 'the emergence of a black middle class and greater stability in



It calls itself a 'non-racial, non-political, and non-profit making' organisation, which gets money from 'the business community and concerned citizens.'

It aims to improve conditions by "promoting changes" in policies and attitudes which cause frustration in communities.

**UPGRADE**

One of the Foun-

dation's main aims is to change the Government's policy on home ownership. They aim to 'upgrade' black communities by 'promoting' housing and home-ownership schemes, community services and facilities.

The Foundation is also involved in education and training projects such as for pre-school teachers and social workers.

It also provides literacy courses and training for apprentices and small businessmen as well as career guidance. It claims to promote the removal of discrimination in the work place, and to develop work opportunities.

In its first two years R22,7 million was given to such projects.

**HAND-OUTS**

About R45 million

was raised in loans during the same time. In the Western Cape area 78 projects were established through grants and loans totalling R2 million.

The Foundation says it does not give 'hand outs' but instead wants to promote self-reliance. All its activities recognise community involvement and co-operation with government and local authorities.

Grassroots spoke to community groups about the Urban Foundation here are some responses:

**NO IDEA**

- Although the Foundation has given money to local projects, some people involved, and those living nearby, have no idea what the Foundation is.
- People living in areas where projects are started are not asked about the most urgent needs of the community.
- Shawco wanted to use a Foundation loan of R40,000 to develop a sports-ground in 14th Avenue. But Ken-Facts said the loan had to be repaid, at 10 percent interest,

costing all the clubs R100 for each team every year.

**NON PROFIT**

Ken-Facts - the Kensington-Factreton bulletin - in fact questions whether the Foundation is non-profit making.

- Workers can't afford the millions of rands needed to improve their situations, but they say that even if they get money from the Urban Foundation 'we will still not be satisfied'.
- Many say the 'Black middle class' which the Foundation wants to create will not be the people who will be solving the country's real problems.

**LOW WAGES**

- Others say businessmen, assisted by the Foundation, will forget about their brothers and sisters in the poorer section. The better-off will also try to keep all the benefits to themselves.
- Many businessmen giving money to the Urban Foundation to improve urban areas, pay low wages to their workers, others claim.

**Ronald's**  
OF ATHLONE  
Craigant Centre, Lawrence Road, Athlone (Opp Post Office)  
Phone: 67 2606  
SPECIALISTS IN MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR

**WINTER SALE NOW ON!**  
All FASHIONABLE STOCKS AT COST PLUS 10% (inc. GST)  
HURRY! HURRY! BUY NOW AND SAVE  
... FOR 10 DAYS ONLY



ATHLONES EXCLUSIVE TRAVEL SHOP

SPECIALISTS IN UPHOLSTERY MATERIAL TRAVEL LUGGAGE CARIS  
SOLE STOCKISTS OF SAPRO  
BARCLAY CENTRE LINDIN STREET ATHLONE  
PHONE 67 3519

**SPECIAL REPORT**



**WHY A TRADE UNION**

**Standing together is the only way**

IT'S TIME the bosses realised that we just can't live on the wages they give us. Bus fares are up, food is up. Prices are going up all the time. What can we do? We can't go and steal. That is a crime. We've just got to stand together. It's the only way.  
A Meat Worker

TO ENABLE us to buy food and clothes and pay our rent, we have to work. Although thousands of people in Cape Town have jobs they go to every day, there is not enough work for all.

In Cape Town, only two-thirds of all Coloured people between the ages of 16 to 64 and three quarters of all African people of the same age have jobs.

Because there are always so many people looking for work, wages can be kept low. In Cape Town, wages are very low.

In seven important industries - clothing, textiles, building, furniture, baking and the municipality - minimum wages were from R27 a week to R32 a week.

These wages are not enough for people to live on. The University of South Africa (Unisa)

said a family with four children need R55 a week to live on. Even this means only R3 a week can be spent on transport and R25 a week on food.

Many workers are poorer than they were 5 years ago because

prices are going up faster than wages. Since 1975, prices have gone up 62 percent while wages in the clothing industry have gone up only 53 percent.

This means that the wages of workers in the clothing industry can buy less than they did five years ago.

Because there are so many people who do not have work, the bosses know that if their workers ask for more wages, they can dismiss them and there will be many new people to take their jobs.

The only way work-

ers can get more wages and better conditions at work is to stand together.

Many workers belong to trade unions. The main job of these unions is to help the workers to get decent wages and conditions.

Not many Africans in Cape Town belong to unions because, until a few months ago, Africans were not allowed to belong to registered unions. Only Coloured people could belong to registered unions.

Two important un-

Western Province Coloured Workers' Union (WPGWU) which has 10 000 members of all races, and the African Food and Canning Workers' Union, which has 2 000 members.

Most Coloured workers belong to unions. The biggest ones are the Garment Workers' Union - 50 000 members, the Textile Workers' Industrial Union - 8 500 members, the Food and Canning Workers' Union - 10 000 members, and the Cape Town Municipal Workers' Association - 9 640 members.

**HOW TRADE UNIONS HELPED US**

**Case One**

MR Z is a stevedore at the Cape Town docks. His job is to load goods on and off ships. Most of the work is with frozen cargo, which means that he is cold most of the time. Stevedores don't get any protective clothing to keep them warm while they work in these conditions.

Last year the workers elected a committee to represent them. However, the management refused to recognise the committee. So, in December, all the stevedores went on strike. As a result of this, both the workers committee and the workers trade union, the Western Province General Workers' Union were recognised by the management.

"I think it is very important for us to join the WPGWU because they are for everybody. As I see it, it is always the bosses' intention to split the workers. It is one of their tactics to make the workers weak.

Before, the foreman would say: 'I will have only bananas in my team' or 'I will give my brother a ticket before I give you one'. But now we are one big family."  
All the Cape Town stevedores, they are about 600 - we from three different firms but they are all represented on one committee, with five representatives from each firm.

From the five, three are Africans and two are Coloured, because there are more African than Coloured workers among the stevedores. Twice every month, they have general meetings with all the stevedores. The committees will have new elections in August.

When the committee meet with management, they always make sure they meet with all the stevedore bosses as representatives of all stevedores.

As a result of the recognition gained by the strike, union officials can attend meetings between workers and bosses but only as observers. All the negotiations is done between workers and management.

"The fact that all of us meet with all three companies has increased our strength. It gives us much more power, which the bosses don't like," said Mr Z.

Thousands of strikes in Cape Town have gone on since the last few months - some because workers wanted their bosses to recognise the committees they elected to represent them; others because they wanted more work.

Most of these strikes are members of trade unions. Groot spoke to three workers from different trade unions so that they could show these unions were involved in the struggles.

**Case Two**

MR X is a cutting garment factory in Salt River. He is the shop steward for his factory for the Meat Workers' Union. 50 000 garment sews belong to this union. There are about 3000 in his factory.

The last shop and held that position for 20 years. Mr X says he's afraid of losing her job so she didn't take workers complaints to the bosses. During month's strike, he was elected to take her.

Once a month goes to a meeting of all shop stewards with union. Shop stewards get paid R8 for attending these meetings.

There is a workcommittee in his factory, consisting of five men and himself. The committee takes orders from the workers to the employees. All workers at the factory stopped work for three days at the end of May.

The reason why we were striking was the increase in bus fares. The bus allowance was a 10 percent increase. All the workers in the garment industry paid increase.

"But what we don't know was that the union had been sitting with the bosses for three weeks before we went on strike. They didn't tell us this, so we went on strike."

He said most of the workers in his factory are women. Many of them were very young and did not have education.

**Case Three**

Mrs Y is a packer in the milling section of the Fatta and Mosa' factory in Bellville. She weighs flour into packets and then seals the packets.

"It is now more than a year since we first went on strike. It all started on a Monday on April 23 and five workers were sacked and no issues were given.

"All of them were members of the Food and Canning Workers' Union and some of them were shop stewards. So all the workers went on strike and asked for an explanation of why the five were fired.

They said that if the bosses could sack five for no reason, they could sack all of us."  
"After he spoke to us, most of the workers went back, except for five who decided to walk out.

On the Wednesday, 194 workers went on strike. We stayed out for seven months until management agreed to take us all back.

"When we went back we were given more money and we received X-rays for TB and more cereals."

"And the biggest victory was that everybody was taken back."

"You see now our problem is this. At our factory, we have two committees, a liaison committee and a worker's committee."

"The liaison committee has eight members who meet every Tuesday with the bosses."

"The union committee also meets every week, but on Thursday, at the corn shed, but when we want a meeting with the bosses, we have to ask for it."

"The union committee consists of 10 people who were elected during the strike. We don't know when the next elections are going to be."

"The union never meets the bosses unless the committee is present because one thing we learnt during the strike was how the bosses tried to separate the workers from the union."

"Another problem we experienced during the strike was of scab labour. These people took our jobs while we were striking. This made us very weak because our only weapon against the bosses was to stop the factory working."

Asked about the strike of the meat workers, she said: "What amazes me is how 17 factories came out in support of the Table Bay Cold Storage workers."

**ASSIST**  
**grassroots**  
**SUBSCRIBE**  
**NOW!**

- YOU ARE AWARE PRINTING COSTS TODAY ARE VERY HIGH.
- WE AIM TO KEEP THE NEWSLETTER'S PRICE LOW SO THAT ALL PEOPLE OF ALL WALKS CAN AFFORD TO BUY IT.
- TO ACHIEVE THIS WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.
- WE URGE YOU TO ASSIST THIS NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY PUBLICATION BY SUBSCRIBING NOW. PLEASE COMPLETE THE ATTACHED FORM.

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

GRASSROOTS PUBLICATIONS

P.O. BOX 181, ATHLONE 778

PLEASE PRINT  
Name .....  
Address .....  
Postal Code .....

**Your Advert Will Help Us**

SUPPORT A COMMUNITY PUBLICATION

ADVERTISE IN GRASSROOTS

PHONE 43-2117

SUPPORT A COMMUNITY PUBLICATION

ADVERTISE IN GRASSROOTS

PHONE 43-2117

SUPPORT A COMMUNITY PUBLICATION

ADVERTISE IN GRASSROOTS

PHONE 43-2117

**LOOK ALIVE**  
**UNISEX BOUTIQUE**  
GOLDEN ACRE PHONE 21-7324 (1/2 Mile Street Eastlands)  
48 HALT RD (near bridge) Elsie River Ph 88-2445  
PARKFAIR CENTRE Elsie River. Ph 88-5646  
HYPERMARKET Brockenford Phone 901426  
Athlone City Centre Phone 67-4734

**STOCK LIQUIDATION SALE!**  
(1/2 MILLION)  
**R 500,000 STOCK MUST GO**

DEADLINE: END JULY  
DONT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!

\* BARCLAY \* STANDARD CARDS ACCEPTED \* TAX EXCLUDED  
ALSO

**DISCOUNT MANS SHOP**  
BRIDGE WAY CENTRE, KLIPFONTEIN RD, ATHLONE • PH 67-4801 (All prices Excl D.S.T.)



**Ronald's**  
OF ATHLONE  
Craigant Centre, Lawrence Road, Athlone (Opp Post Office)  
Phone: 67 2606  
SPECIALISTS IN MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR

**WINTER SALE NOW ON!**  
All FASHIONABLE STOCKS AT COST PLUS 10% (inc. GST)  
HURRY! HURRY! BUY NOW AND SAVE  
... FOR 10 DAYS ONLY



ATHLONES EXCLUSIVE TRAVEL SHOP

SPECIALISTS IN UPHOLSTERY MATERIAL TRAVEL LUGGAGE CARIS  
SOLE STOCKISTS OF SAPRO  
BARCLAY CENTRE LINDIN STREET ATHLONE  
PHONE 67 3519

**SPECIAL REPORT**



**WHY A TRADE UNION**

**Standing together is the only way**

IT'S TIME the bosses realised that we just can't live on the wages they give us. Bus fares are up, food is up. Prices are going up all the time. What can we do? We can't go and steal. That is a crime. We've just got to stand together. It's the only way.  
A Meat Worker

TO ENABLE us to buy food and clothes and pay our rent, we have to work. Although thousands of people in Cape Town have jobs they go to every day, there is not enough work for all.

In Cape Town, only two-thirds of all Coloured people between the ages of 16 to 64 and three quarters of all African people of the same age have jobs.

Because there are always so many people looking for work, wages can be kept low. In Cape Town, wages are very low.

In seven important industries - clothing, textiles, building, furniture, baking and the municipality - minimum wages were from R27 a week to R32 a week.

These wages are not enough for people to live on. The University of South Africa (Unisa)

said a family with four children need R55 a week to live on. Even this means only R3 a week can be spent on transport and R25 a week on food.

Many workers are poorer than they were 5 years ago because

prices are going up faster than wages. Since 1975, prices have gone up 62 percent while wages in the clothing industry have gone up only 53 percent.

This means that the wages of workers in the clothing industry can buy less than they did five years ago.

Because there are so many people who do not have work, the bosses know that if their workers ask for more wages, they can dismiss them and there will be many new people to take their jobs.

The only way work-

ers can get more wages and better conditions at work is to stand together.

Many workers belong to trade unions. The main job of these unions is to help the workers to get decent wages and conditions.

Not many Africans in Cape Town belong to unions because, until a few months ago, Africans were not allowed to belong to registered unions. Only Coloured people could belong to registered unions.

Two important un-

Western Province Coloured Workers' Union (WPGWU) which has 10 000 members of all races, and the African Food and Canning Workers' Union, which has 2 000 members.

Most Coloured workers belong to unions. The biggest ones are the Garment Workers' Union - 50 000 members, the Textile Workers' Industrial Union - 8 500 members, the Food and Canning Workers' Union - 10 000 members, and the Cape Town Municipal Workers' Association - 9 640 members.

**HOW TRADE UNIONS HELPED US**

**Case One**

MR Z is a stevedore at the Cape Town docks. His job is to load goods on and off ships. Most of the work is with frozen cargo, which means that he is cold most of the time. Stevedores don't get any protective clothing to keep them warm while they work in these conditions.

Last year the workers elected a committee to represent them. However, the management refused to recognise the committee. So, in December, all the stevedores went on strike. As a result of this, both the workers committee and the workers trade union, the Western Province General Workers' Union were recognised by the management.

"I think it is very important for us to join the WPGWU because they are for everybody. As I see it, it is always the bosses' intention to split the workers. It is one of their tactics to make the workers weak.

Before, the foreman would say: 'I will have only bananas in my team' or 'I will give my brother a ticket before I give you one'. But now we are one big family."  
All the Cape Town stevedores, they are about 600 - we from three different firms but they are all represented on one committee, with five representatives from each firm.

From the five, three are Africans and two are Coloured, because there are more African than Coloured workers among the stevedores. Twice every month, they have general meetings with all the stevedores. The committees will have new elections in August.

When the committee meet with management, they always make sure they meet with all the stevedore bosses as representatives of all stevedores.

As a result of the recognition gained by the union, union officials can attend meetings between workers and bosses but only as observers. All the negotiations is done between workers and management.

"The fact that all of us meet with all these companies has increased our strength. It gives us much more power, which the bosses don't like," said Mr Z.

Thousands of strikes in Cape Town have gone on since the last few months - some because workers wanted their bosses to recognise the committees they elected to represent them; others because they wanted more work.

Most of these strikes are members of trade unions. Groot spoke to three workers from different trade unions so that they could show these unions were involved in the struggles.

**Case Two**

MR X is a cutting garment factory in Salt River. He is the shop steward for his factory for the Meat Workers' Union. 50 000 garment sews belong to this union. There are about 3000 in his factory.

The last shop and held that position for 20 years. Mr X says he's afraid of losing his job so she didn't take workers complaints to the bosses. During month's strike, he was elected to take her.

Once a month goes to a meeting of all shop stewards with union. Shop stewards get paid R8 for attending these meetings.

There is a workcommittee in his factory, consisting of five men and himself. The committee takes orders from the workers to the employees. All workers at the factory stopped work for three days at the end of May.

The reason why we were striking was the increase in bus fares the pin all dressed took on Monday and Tuesday, May 26 and 28, and we got an R3 bus allowance and a 10 percent raise. All the workers in the garment industry pin all dressed.

"But what we don't know was that the union had been sitting with the bosses for three weeks before we went on strike. They didn't tell us this, so we went on strike."

He said most of the workers in his factory are women. Many of them were very young and did not have education.

**Case Three**

Mrs Y is a packer in the milling section of the Fatta and Mosa' factory in Bellville. She weighs flour into packets and then seals the packets.

"It is now more than a year since we first went on strike. It all started on a Monday on April 23 and five workers were sacked and no issues were given.

"All of them were members of the Food and Canning Workers' Union and some of them were shop stewards. So all the workers went on strike and asked for an explanation of why the five were fired.

They said that if the bosses could sack five for no reason, they could sack all of us." "After he spoke to us, most of the workers went back, except for five who decided to walk out.

On the Wednesday, 194 workers went on strike. We stayed out for seven months until management agreed to take us all back.

"When we went back we were given more money and we received X-rays for TB and more cereals."

"And the biggest victory was that everybody was taken back."

"You see now our problem is this. At our factory, we have two committees, a liaison committee and a worker's committee."

"The liaison committee has eight members who meet every Tuesday with the bosses."

"The union committee also meets every week, but on Thursday, at the corn shed, but when we want a meeting with the bosses, we have to ask for it."

"The union committee consists of 10 people who were elected during the strike. We don't know when the next elections are going to be."

"The union never meets the bosses unless the committee is present because one thing we learnt during the strike was how the bosses tried to separate the workers from the union."

"Another problem we experienced during the strike was of scab labour. These people took our jobs while we were striking. This made us very weak because our only weapon against the bosses was to stop the factory working."

Asked about the strike of the meat workers, she said: "What amazes me is how 17 factories came out in support of the Table Bay Cold Storage workers."

**ASSIST**  
**grassroots**  
**SUBSCRIBE NOW!**

- YOU ARE AWARE PRINTING COSTS TODAY ARE VERY HIGH.
- WE AIM TO KEEP THE NEWSLETTER'S PRICE LOW SO THAT ALL PEOPLE OF ALL WALKS CAN AFFORD TO BUY IT.
- TO ACHIEVE THIS WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.
- WE URGE YOU TO ASSIST THIS NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY PUBLICATION BY SUBSCRIBING NOW. PLEASE COMPLETE THE ATTACHED FORM.

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

GRASSROOTS PUBLICATIONS  
P.O. BOX 181, ATHLONE 778

PLEASE PRINT  
Name .....  
Address .....  
Postal Code .....

**Your Advert Will Help Us**

SUPPORT A COMMUNITY PUBLICATION

ADVERTISE IN GRASSROOTS

PHONE 43-2117

SUPPORT A COMMUNITY PUBLICATION

ADVERTISE IN GRASSROOTS

PHONE 43-2117

SUPPORT A COMMUNITY PUBLICATION

ADVERTISE IN GRASSROOTS

PHONE 43-2117

GOLDEN ACRE PHONE 21-7324 (1/2 Mile Street Eastlands)  
48 HALT RD (near bridge) Elsie River Ph 88-2445  
PARKFAIR CENTRE Elsie River. Ph 88-5646



HYPERMARKET Brockenford Phone 901426  
Athlone City Centre Phone 67-4734

**STOCK LIQUIDATION SALE!**  
(1/2 MILLION)  
**R 500,000 STOCK MUST GO**

DEADLINE: END JULY

DONT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!

\* BARCLAY \* STANDARD CARDS ACCEPTED \* TAX EXCLUDED

ALSO



DISCOUNT MANS SHOP

BRIDGE WAY CENTRE, KLIPFONTEIN RD, ATHLONE • PH 67-4801 (All prices Excl D.S.T.)

LET



OF ATHLONE  
BE YOUR JEWELLER

ph.674718

ATHLONE CITY CENTRE  
KLIPFONTEIN RD.  
ATHLONE

**KISMET SUPERMARKET**

5TH AVENUE, GRASSY PARK. PHONE 72-7402

**Laurel Paraffin R7,29** 20litre tin

(not R1.29 as in some editions of Grassroots)

ALL OUR  
BEST WISHES  
FROM

**COSMIC  
ELECTRICAL**

WHOLESALE TO THE TRADE

STOCKISTS OF ALL  
ELECTRICAL ACCESSORIES

c/o ADEN AVE.  
& TEMBE ST.  
ATHLONE 7700



TELEPHONES  
67 3712  
67 7002

With Compliments from

**Savers  
Bazaar**

The shop for all your  
CROCKERY & KITCHENWARE  
REQUIREMENTS



KLIPFONTEIN RD.  
ATHLONE  
Ph. 67 4009

RETREAT RD.  
RETREAT  
Ph. 72 1401

**Save on vegetables —  
begin your own co-op**

A vegetable buying group started about two years ago is functioning well in many areas in the Peninsula.

When started in 1978, the vegetable group consisted mainly of students from Lansdowne and the Gardens.

At the end of the year all the students left and the group stopped functioning. The next year three groups started, one in Harfield village, Claremont, and the other two in Observatory and Woodstock.

One of the Observatory groups folded, but the others are still functioning this year.

There are a few working people involved and a group of workers in Guguletu has joined.

The groups, if organised well in the beginning, should function with very little administration and the responsibility should move from group to group.

Problems arise when the organising is left to a few.

It is the right of any unit or person to call a meeting either in their unit or in the group as a whole when things get out of hand.

Again, the responsibility for calling a meeting could be distributed. Unit one could notify their whole unit and notify one person in unit 2 who could then notify his unit and pass the message on to unit three, and so on until the message gets back to unit one.

At various times the vegetable buying group discussed the possibility of extending the group buying scheme to other commodities, but that has never got off the ground. The most important thing is that everyone in the group knows what is happening, so that if some people leave, the group still carries on.

This is how the two buying groups work.



**Paarl  
tenant  
wins  
back  
home**

THE Mbobosi family of Mbekweni have been allowed to pay their rent after residents watched over their home making it impossible for the authorities to evict them.

On May 29, two weeks after they were evicted, Mrs Angelina Mbobosi was notified that she could pay her rent which the authorities had turned down in April.

She had been informed earlier that her house had been given to another resident without being consulted on the matter.

When the authorities evicted her the community stepped in. They placed the family back in the locked-up house with the furniture which had been dumped outside the house.

For days on end residents guarded the house as soon as they saw police vans approaching. Both she and her husband were arrested over this period but the authorities soon released them when the residents exposed the alleged corruption of a clerk at the offices.

Mrs Mbobosi had paid the clerk R40 to obtain her house. She claimed that many people in the area had been forced to resort to such action because of the shortage of houses.

When Grassroots visited Mrs Mbobosi and the Mbekweni residents this month, they all said that they were pleased by the victory.

'If we did not win this fight, it would have made the people very despondent.'

**WE GUARANTEE LOW PRICES**

**New PIONEER RONDO 3000 R475**

- 36 watts (RMS) per channel
- Semi Automatic Turntable
- 4 band L.E.D. Tuner
- Multi Mode Tape

ATHLONE CITY CENTRE  
KLIPFONTEIN ROAD, 7700  
TEL. 67-8146 67-8147

PARKFAIR CENTRE  
ELSIES RIVER, 7460  
TEL. 98-1936

**MELOTRONICS RADIO-HI-FI TV**

**TELEFUNKEN R699**

67 cm

NEW MICROTEK • HI BRI

LESS CURRENT CONSUMPTION

ADELPHI CENTRE  
MAIN ROAD, SEA POINT  
TEL. 49-1477

AILEEN BUILDING  
SHOP No.10  
LAWRENCE ROAD, ATHLONE  
TEL. 67-8146 Ext. 6

**GAS REFILLS AT CUT PRICES**

ELECTRONICALLY FILLED (NO UNDER OR OVER FULL)

No 3	95c	9 kg	R6.72
No 7	R2.19	14 kg	R10.50
No 10	R3.29	19 kg	R14.25
20 Litre Paraffin	R7.99	48 kg	R36.00

EACL. GST.

FULL RANGE OF HEATERS IN OUR EXTENSIVE APPLIANCE RANGE ALL SOLD AT VERY LOW PRICES

SPARES-REPAIRS-INSTALLATION SERVICE

**gas galore**

Cor. Klipfontein Rd. & George Str.  
Athlone Ph 67-4822

**Instant Dry Cleaners**

PERSONAL ATTENTION

- 28 KLIPFONTEIN RD ATHLONE. Ph. 67 4008
- KLIPFONTEIN RD. RYLANDS trading as FLASH Dry Cleaners Ph. 67 2121
- TOWN CENTRE SURRAN ROAD HANOVER PARK. Ph. 67 7383

**SAME DAY SERVICE EVEN ON SAT.**

# CRECHES — THE BIG PROBLEM THAT FACE US

THERE is a growing awareness in communities of the importance of pre-school education.

There are at least two reasons for this. First, now that so many more women are working to contribute to the family budget, who will take care of the children during the day?

Second, more people realise how important the first few years of the child's life are for his or her future development.

The child can benefit from being in a creche or nursery school with qualified staff where activities take place which prepares the child for school.

But when we look at who provides creches and nursery schools and what the State contributes to this part of the child's education, we find something that is so common in South Africa.

Just as Blacks get inferior education, and get welfare grants based on discrimination, so also in pre-school education we find inferior provision for Black people.

The Cape Town City Council runs some creches in so-called Coloured areas, and community centres in Langa, Nyanga and Guguletu usually run a pre-school programme as part of their activities. Besides

this, it is left to private welfare and church organisations to get projects started.

What happens if a group of concerned parents in a Coloured area want to start a creche? Until recently, if they wanted to erect a building, they could have bought a site from the local authority at a very small cost — often only R2.

Now the National Housing Commission has passed a ruling which says that the full cost of the site must be paid. This can mean that a local group must raise R16 000 before they even start building.

Then the group would have to look at the cost of the building. The Department of Coloured Relations and local authorities have laid down certain standards that a pre-school building must have.

Building costs are so high that a creche-cum-nursery school of 60 children, built according to these standards, is now about R80 000.

There must be some standards for buildings for children. Basic levels

of hygiene, safety and health must be met. But to have strict standards means that such a building is simply beyond the reach of most community groups.

Loans for the building can be obtained from Coloured Relations and Community Development, and sometimes a Divisional Council will pay for the building, then hand it over to a local organisation to maintain.

Say a group has a centre going, it is an expensive thing to run. Staff must be paid, the children must have food and equipment, and the building kept up.

There is great discrimination in the help available from the State for each 'population'.

For Coloured children, the State will give a grant of 25 cents a child a day only where the parents' combined income is less than R160 a month. African children in the Western Cape get no grant at all.

But for White children, there is a subsidy from R21,25 to R31,25 a child a quarter. No matter how much the parents earn, the subsidy is still available.

White salaries are paid part or in full by the Department of Education. Coloured salaries are only partially paid by Coloured Relations. Africans get no subsidies at all.

There is a desperate shortage of Black qualified nursery school teachers. There is only one training institution for Coloured teachers in South Africa — in Athlone.

There was no training until recently for Africans in the Cape. Now the Early Learning Centre runs a course in Langa. It had 28 graduates last year. But it is difficult for the teachers to find properly paid posts.

What are the results of this situation?

There is a huge gap between Black and White children from the

very first years of their lives.

White children, already born into a privileged position, get the full benefit of State support in preparing them for their schools and their future.

Thousands of Black under the age of seven cannot attend pre-schools because of the shortage of centres.

The pre-school centres that exist in black areas face very big financial problems.

They must cut costs where they can. They either skimp on staff wages or on what is provided for the children.

In many cases, domestic wages in a creche are even less than private domestic workers' wages.

The salaries of qualified black teachers are very low for the training they have had.

In spite of these difficulties, some community groups have found low-cost, imaginative ways of providing pre-school care. Some of these projects will be discussed in future issues of Grassroots.

## Green Valley finds a way out



IN SPITE OF all the problems faced by the people in the Transit Camp in Elsie's River, their creche has brought a lot of meaning into their lives.

The creche, ironically called Green Valley Creche, was started in May last year. Before the creche started, a group of parents were distributing milk and bread every day to the children of the camp. They raised the money to buy this by arranging functions in the wood-and-iron community hall. They discussed the possibility of doing something to keep the children busy for the rest of the day. The idea of a creche came naturally to everybody.

Today the creche is running at its full capacity with 30 children. This is the number of children the Divisional Council allows to attend the creche. There are many more on the waiting list and applications have been received from areas like

Eureka Estate, Belhar, Clarkes Estate and Halt Road.

Mrs Grace Lawrence, the supervisor, explains that the creche operates with no real fixed time. Some children are brought at 6.30 in the morning before mothers go to work and some are fetched as late as 7.30 at night. Parents are paying R2 if the child stays the full day and R1,50 if the child stays only half days. The children receive a full days meal. Nurses visit the creche regularly. The children are kept busy painting, playing with blocks and cutting out pictures. They are also taught the basics of writing and learn many new words by reciting poems.

The creche has a staff consisting of the supervisor, a cook and two teachers. Looking back the staff is very proud of those who attended last year and who are at primary school now.

# KISMET

EX. GST.

**SUPERMARKET IS ALWAYS CHEAPER!**

★ LAUREL PARAFFIN **R7.29** 20 LITRE TIN

FIVE STAR RICE  
**27<sup>c</sup>**  
500g pkt

KOO SMOOTH APRICOT JAM  
**39<sup>c</sup>**  
450g tin

FISH OIL  
**89<sup>c</sup>**  
750 ml

DATO  
**55<sup>c</sup>**  
500g

JUNGLE OATS  
**65<sup>c</sup>**  
1 Kg

SUNLIGHT TOILET SOAP  
**29<sup>c</sup>**  
150g

TOMATO PASTE (65g)  
**2 tins for 25<sup>c</sup>**

Best Food Value at your doorstep

Also Fresh fruit & Veg. at Extra Special prices!

JIK <b>29<sup>c</sup></b> <small>750 ml</small>	SUGAR BEANS <b>65<sup>c</sup></b> <small>500g</small>
SUGAR <b>R1,09</b> <small>25 Kg pkt</small>	COFFEE MUGS <b>3 for 99<sup>c</sup></b>
HUGO'S MIXED FRUIT JAM <b>55<sup>c</sup></b> <small>900g</small>	GOLD CROSS MILK <b>49<sup>c</sup></b> <small>375g</small>

**GIHWALA'S**  
**Eastern Gem**  
 PRODUCTS  
 SPICE CONNOISSEURS TO THE NATION

Manufacturers and Distributors of  
 High Grade Prepacked Spices,  
 'Beatex' Bleach and 'Colorcharm' Products

GOVINDA HOUSE, c/o ANGELA  
 & CLAUDE ROADS,  
 ATHLONE INDUSTRIA 7764

Phone: 67 1942/67 3366

Madeley's  
 unisex hair boutique  
 % Thornton & Lawson Rds.  
 Lansdowne

specialists in...

EVERY  
 MON. — THU.  
**SPECIALS!**  
 for  
 PENSIONERS

TINTING  
 BLOW-  
 DRYING  
 CUTTING  
 PERMING

ph. 613316

**ATHLONE  
 PHARMACY**

YOUR FAMILY CHEMIST IN  
 ATHLONE

Dispensing and photographic chemists.

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

Athlone City Centre,  
 Athlone 7764

Phone: 67 4737

**S**  
**X**  
**I**  
**L**  
**E**  
**E**

**BODY  
 WORKS**

HEIN RD.  
 ATHLONE  
 INDUSTRIA

PHONE:  
 67-1223  
 67-1224

May your ROOTS grow strong!  
 GOOD WISHES FROM

**QUEENS  
 Jewellers**

\* Specialists in 9ct wedding sets  
 \* Guaranteed watch and jewellery

62B Halt Road  
 (Next to Half Price Stores)  
 ELSIES RIVER

**COSY CORNER**

RESTAURANT  
 AND TAKE-AWAYS

Our Oriental dishes  
 are known throughout  
 the country.

For something different  
 and delicious.

ALL FOODS HALAL

PHONE **772196**  
 119 OTTERY RD, WYNBERG.

STOCK UP FOR WINTER  
 at

**GAS MASTERS**

Distributors of  
 DRAGON, SAL, BP GAS  
 and PARAFFIN

Stockists of  
 CADAC & DRAGON  
 Appliances and Gas Heaters

Hadjee Ebrahim Crescent (off Johnson Rd.)  
 ATHLONE 7764

Box 75 Phone 67-3720  
 Lansdowne 7780 After Hrs. 77-8539

**PATEL  
 ENTERPRISES**

WHOLESALE & RETAIL  
 FRUIT & VEGETABLE DEALERS

Supplies to hotels and restaurants  
 Ship Chandlers and Boarding Houses

Stalls 40 - 50 SALT RIVER MARKET  
 Ph. 55 3732

## ADVICE BUREAU

# A worker's fight for compensation

VUMILE KHUMBUSE, 32, worked for Langeberg Co-op Bpk (LKB) in Paarl for R25 a week.

A contract worker from the Transkei, he was at work during the fourth month of his second six-month contract when he was struck on the right hip by a fork-lift truck. Two workers saw this happen.

He lost consciousness and awoke in the Paarl East Day Hospital where he was treated by the factory doctor and sent home to Mbekweni. The factory doctor treated him for two months until his contract ended.

### Sick Leave

His bosses sent him home. They paid him R8 for sick leave and took off R4 for rent, leaving him with R4.

He returned to the Transkei for six months. He could not walk as his leg was painful and weak.

In January 1979 he returned to Paarl but the LKB told him he was not fit to work because of his leg.

They refused to give him compensation.

The accident was his fault because he was asleep on the job, the company claimed.

### Sleeping

The two workers who witnessed the accident were no longer working at the factory and it was therefore difficult to prove his side of the story.

He went to the Food and Canning Workers Union who phoned LKB. They were also told he had been sleeping at the time of the accident.

In May 1979 he went to a Paarl doctor who assists workers in obtaining compensation. The doctor sent forms to the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation.

He discovered LKB had not reported the accident to the Factory Inspector as the law required. The commissioner said the bosses had denied the accident happened.

In March 1980 the commissioner said he would accept the case for compensation. If more tests showed the worker had suffered

permanent injury he would compensate the worker.

### Advice

The Advice Editor comments:

Mr. Khumbuse's story shows the difficulties a worker faces when trying to get compensation.

When an accident happens the worker or some other person acting for the worker is legally required to report it in writing.

This other person could be another worker, any witness or a doctor. The law says the employer has to report the accident to the factory inspector.

The employer must also provide free transport to take the worker to a doctor.

The factory doctor does not always send the forms to the compensation commissioner and the worker should ensure this is done. It would then be difficult for the employer not to report the accident.

The treatment of any doctor other than the factory doctor should also be better.

GRASSROOTS has received many questions about measles. We will try to answer most of these.

Measles is caused by a germ called a virus. This grows in many parts of the body, especially the skin, where it causes a rash. It can also grow in the lungs, and cause a very bad inflammation (pneumonia).

The measles germ grows in the lungs, and the child coughs up tiny drops. Although we cannot see these drops they have the germ in them and these drops go into the air.

Other children who breathe these drops may then get the disease one or two weeks later.

We all know that not every child's measles is very bad. Some children only have a rash and a temperature. Others may have a sore mouth, sore eyes and runny ears. If it is very bad the child may get inflammation in his lungs and throat and may have to be treated in the hospital.

Usually children from poor homes have the most severe form of measles. Why is this so?

Children from poor homes are usually underweight. Because

# Prevent measles: get your child injected

their parents do not have money for enough of the right kind of food, their bodies are too weak to fight the germ, and they become ill.

This makes their bodies even weaker, and they lose more weight. If another germ now enters the body, the child is not able to fight it, and so can get another sickness on top of his or her measles.

Hand in hand with poverty goes poor housing with overcrowding. If a child with measles coughs in an overcrowded home other children can easily breathe in the drops with the germ, because there is so little space. These children can then also get the illness.

So, although children of poor families do get severe measles there are very good reasons for this.

What can be done to prevent the disease?

We can prevent measles by taking children to the clinic at 7 months and 14 months of age for the measles injection.

Although the injection at 7 months does protect, much better protection is given if the child has another injection at 14 months.

If the mother is working, arrangements should be made for somebody else to take the child. These injections are free, and they are the right of every child.

It is also clear that if parents have money



Even for an accident which is entirely the fault of the worker, compensation is nonetheless due, unless drunkenness can be proved.

When the employer and factory doctor refuses to submit a report, the injured worker could consult an outside doctor. The details of the accident and injuries should be sent

to the commissioner in the form of a sworn statement.

The commissioner will then assess the compensation claim.

Treatment should be paid for by the commissioner and definitely not by the worker. The commissioner seldom pays both the factory's as well as the

worker's doctor.

**Should Pay**

The commissioner should pay three quarters of the worker's monthly earnings if the worker is unable to work.

Therefore, Mr. Khumbuse should have received R81,25 for at least two months instead of R8,00.

## How to feel for lumps

Dear Grassroots

Last month you answered a reader's question about breast lumps. From your reply and the picture, I am still not certain how to examine my breasts. Can you explain more fully?

Mrs Anster Hanover Park

A simple examination could save your life, especially since 95 percent of all breast lumps are discovered by women themselves.

You should check your breasts once a month, a few days after your monthly period.

It only takes a few minutes if you follow these steps:



Lie flat on your back. Put one hand behind your head. Put your other hand on your breast, and gently feel the breast.

Keep the palm of your hand and your fingers flat while you are doing this, and press very lightly on every part of the breast. Feel for a lump or thickening.

Do the same on the other breasts. Now sit up. With your hand behind your head, again feel your breasts with a flat hand.

If you do these check-ups regularly, you may find a lump early enough for treatment to produce a complete cure.

Remember that the sooner you see your house doctor, or a doctor at the hospital or the clinic, the sooner he or she can refer you for treatment.

Be sure to continue these check-ups after your change of life.



Prevent measles.



Get your child injected.

to buy enough of the right body-building foods, and can live in better houses, the children will probably not become as sick as they do.

If the child already has measles, the child must eat plenty of body-building foods such as milk and eggs. If still on the breast, the child must continue to take his or her breast milk. These protection foods will help the child to fight any germs which try to enter his or her body.

Try to keep the child's temperature down - use aspirin. If this doesn't work, sponge the child down. Too many clothes and blankets make the child's temperature worse, so that he or she may even have a fit.



Victoria Road  
Grassy Park

Phone: 72 8887/72 7188

**STOCKISTS OF:**

PLUMBING MATERIAL,  
HARDWARE, DOORS, WINDOWS,  
TIMBER & GLASS

## MOOSAJEE MOTORS

John Ramsay Avenue  
Bishop Lavis  
Phone: 93 3566

For all Mechanical, Electrical & General Repairs, Electronic Tune-Ups Silencers & Exhaust Systems fitted while you wait

Yellow Number Plates (SABS standard)

LP Gas & Gas Appliances

Fancy Accessories for all cars at competitive prices

Good complete engines for all cars at reasonable prices.

## Central Retreat Pharmacy



COMMUNITY CHEMIST  
for all  
Medicinal, Photographic  
& Cosmetic Requirements

Cnr. 3rd Ave. & Retreat Road  
RETREAT

Phone 72-8689

We're tops with friendly advice

**GRASSY PARK PHARMACY**

Busy Corner Grassy Park Phone: 72 8346

YOUR FRIENDLY 'PLUS' CHEMIST

FREE FILM GIVEN WITH ALL DEVELOPING & PRINTING

**JAFFERS' MOTORS**

VICTORIA ROAD, GRASSY PARK  
Phone: 72 8269

Service Station & High Class Workshop Repairs

Make Washing Day A Holiday at

**LAUNDRALAND**

Coin Operated Laundrette

Opp Jaffer's Motors, Busy Corner, Fifth Avenue, Grassy Park  
Phone 75 2390

Open 8 am - 10 pm. 7 days a week  
Be Wise & Save

**THE PRINT SHOP**

BUSY CORNER, 5th AVENUE,  
GRASSY PARK  
Phone: 72 3845

For All Your Printing Requirements  
Stationery - Bookshop

**LOOKING FOR WORK?**

LET US HELP YOU - call at



**STAFF SERVICES**

You need to bring with you

YOUR IDENTITY CARD, BOOK OF LIFE OR REFERENCE BOOK

A TESTIMONIAL or REFERENCE from your previous employer

30c TO COVER COST OF CONTACTS

SCHOOL LEAVERS WELCOME 16 ASTLEY ST. MOWBRAY, CAPE

We are proud to be the printers of GRASSROOTS

Let us assist you in your print requirements!

**Specialists in**

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

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

Hein Road, Athlone Industria  
Phone 67-1260/1

# Poetry and song in Ocean View

THE hugely-successful evening of poetry and music organised by the Sea View Cultural Society of Ocean View has showed that this small ghetto contains poets, artists, playwrights and musicians of outstanding merit.

The applause which greeted the poems showed that ordinary people can enjoy and appreciate poetry which plucks the strings of their plight.

Artist Peter Clarke drew laughter and tears with his humorous and sometimes serious verse. The enthusiasm was generated by Afrikaans poet Edward Hammand's lively reading. His soon-to-be-published collection of verse is keenly awaited.

The surprise - and, for many, the highlight of the evening - was the poems of Vicky Yon, read in public for the first time.

Yon, who was in the audience, rose and emotionally explained

the nature and inspiration for his poems.

Beverley Jansen read Yon's poems and also those of Donald Jansen, a new poet.

Gladys Thomas's hard-hitting verses were appreciatively received, and Albert Thomas read poetry by Zinzi Mandela, Winston Nkondo and Gladys.

A melodious note was the guitar solos and folk and pop songs interspersing the poetry readings. Herman Griegler played several classical guitar solos, noteworthy for their technical difficulty, with skill and sensitivity.

Sylvia Wyngaard and Darlene Miller sang beautiful songs, accompanied by guitarist Lena Laguma.

The successful evening was an opportunity for local artists to expose their work to the people, and a chance for the people to gain a unique experience. Further evenings will be arranged.



# Nyanga gets art centre

AN ART Centre where people can learn mime, puppetry, dancing, guitar and jazz, has been established in an old farm house in Nyanga.

Traditional songs and music are taught, according to the centre's liaison officer, Mr Mteto Mzongwana. He said, 'the Centre, started last

year by a group of local artists, was short of funds'.

They needed an annual grant for a resident artist, who would be able to co-ordinate an art workshop he said.

Anyone interested in joining the centre should contact R A Wilson and Co., 120 Main Road, Claremont.



# Bonteheuwel discusses culture

IN BONTEHEUWEL a number of youth clubs meet regularly. We visited one such youth club at the Moravian Church. When we arrived, more than 50 people were merrily signing and clapping their hands.

On the programme was a discussion on 'What is Culture?' Posters bearing definitions of culture were stuck on the wall.

Everybody had to read these definitions and decide which one defines culture best.

They were then divided into small groups to discuss the definition they chose.

- Culture is the human response to reality.
- Culture is the way of life fashioned by people in their collective endeavour to live and come to

terms with their total environment. It is the sum of their art, their science and all their social institutions including their system of beliefs and rituals.

During the discussion the group arrived at interesting questions. For example - Is it true that there are different cultures in the light of the racial divis-

ion in South Africa - or is culture universal? What is the difference between culture and tradition? What role does the newspaper and particularly the television play in our cultural activities?

These are very urgent questions and understandably resulted in a heated, though friendly, debate. Afterwards all the different groups

reported what they had discussed. A youth member then summarised the discussion.

He concluded culture is not something that stays constant, but as people work together to build their society, they also build their culture.

The evening was closed with more singing and informal conversation over a cup of tea.

# AUTOMOBILE SPARES DISTRIBUTORS (PTY) LTD.

WHOLESALE SUPPLIERS TO THE TRADE

HADJIE EBRAHIM CRESCENT, OFF JOHNSON ROAD, ATHLONE  
Phone 674444/676058

*We wish to Congratulate GRASSROOTS on their excellent venture*



DISTRIBUTORS AND STOCKISTS OF

**REPCO**  
CLUTCH & BRAKE PARTS

**VALVOLINE**  
LUBRICANTS

**PARKO**  
CLUTCH & BRAKE PARTS

BRAND NEW  
**BARTLEITE BATTERIES**  
LOW MAINTENANCE BATTERY  
ONE YEAR MANUFACTURERS GUARANTEE

**G.U.D.**  
ALL OIL & AIR FILTERS

**SMITH INDUSTRIES**  
GUAGES, INSTRUMENTS & DEMISTERS

**ECHLIN CHARGER**  
IGNITION & ELECTRICAL PARTS

**CHAMPION SPARK PLUGS**  
**N.G.K. SPARK PLUGS**

# Why new chess body formed

THE non-racial Western Province Chess Association (WPCA) was formed in June 1978 by a group of chess players as a result of the disillusionment they experienced while playing in the white Western Province Chess Union.

It was not until 1973 that the Western Province Chess Union managed to persuade the Athlone Chess Club, consisting of so-called Coloured players, to join them.

Once Athlone Chess Club joined the union, many other so-called Coloured chess clubs joined as well.

These clubs were then allowed to take part in the various competitions of the union.

## GIVES LIE

The WPCU, and the South African Chess Federation, to which the WPCU is affiliated, claimed to be completely non-racial.

However, a look at the conditions under which the clubs could take part in the

activities of the union, gives a lie to this claim.

Clubs were supposed to be 'open' to all 'races.' The constitution of the union states that no club belonging to the union can bar a chess player because of 'race.' In practice, however, individual clubs could decide who they wanted to accept.

## BARRED

Thus the University of Cape Town allowed players to join them, but clubs such as Goodwood barred players.

The activities of the union, league games, tournaments and so on, always took place under permit, although this was denied by the union.

Racial discrimination was still very much the order of the day.

It was not surprising that South Africa, together with Rhodesia was denied membership by the International Chess Federation (Fide) in June 1974. The Moroccan delegate accused South Africa and

Rhodesia of '... ignoring the most elementary principles of human rights ...' and also stressed the point that to continue playing against South Africa 'can only be interpreted as an encouragement of their racial policy.'

In 1976, however, South Africa's chess fortunes changed because the next congress of the International Chess Federation was held in Haifa, Israel.

## ISRAEL

All socialist and Arab countries refused to attend the congress because Israel was the venue. South Africa thus put its case for re-admission to FIDE in front of the Western powers only.

The result, was in favour of South Africa being readmitted to the world body. However, at a special meeting of FIDE in Switzerland in 1977 where all the countries were present, South Africa was once again excluded.

## EMIGRATED

In July 1977 many disillusioned chess players decided to stop playing in competitions of the WPCU and SACF. Almost a year later, in June 1978, the new non-racial Western Province Chess Association was formed.

The WPCA is affiliated to the Western Province Council of Sport. About 150 adult players and almost 400 students belong to the WPCA. Since the resignations of players from the union, the union has been going through a very lean period.

Many of the top white chess players, because of the lack of international competition, have either emigrated or have simply retired from chess. The WPCA is a young body but also one which is steadily growing.

At present the association consists of the following clubs:

Manyanani Chess Club, Lansdowne; Athlone Chess Club, Athlone; Bellso Chess Club, Bellville; Bellville Training College Chess Club, Bellville; Elsie's River Chess Club; Grassy Park Chess Club; Fianchetto Chess Club, Grassy Park; Steunitz Chess Club, Bonteheuwel; Walmer Estate Chess Club; Salt River Chess Club; W P. Senior Schools.

# Guguletu soccer still going strong

THE Guguletu Football Association, representing about 1 000 soccer players, withdrew from the Western Cape Soccer Board (WCSB) in 1976 because they were 'unhappy with the way the board co-operated with the Government's normal sport policy.'

Every weekend these same players play on a gravel pitch in Guguletu because they are prepared to 'put their convictions before comfort.'

In spite of playing under these appalling conditions the association has grown rapidly and this year another six clubs joined, bringing the number to 19.

The Association withdrew from the WCSB because it was affiliated to Mr George Thabe's South African National Football Association (SANFA) which played 'normal' soccer.

The Association still believes that this type of normal sport cannot be played under conditions which are not normal.

The players of the six new clubs

which joined say the association assessed the deteriorating situation in the soccer board and pressurised their clubs to join a non-racial body.

The determined stand taken by these was seen as a courageous move because when they played under the WCSB they played under very much better conditions.

The association has strived to improve conditions at their two fields and have approached the Administration Board many times in this respect.

Each time they say they have been referred to the community council - bodies which they 'totally reject.'

One of the officials of the association said about the council: 'It is a dummy body and we will have absolutely nothing to do with it.'

In spite of playing under these appalling conditions the association continues to grow and further its struggle for non-racialism.

# Tennis body calls off tournament

THE Tennis Association of South Africa (TASA) decided to postpone their first national junior tennis tournament because of the unrest.

The tournament would have been hosted by Western Province Tennis Union (WPTU), an affiliate of TASA. The president of the union, Mr Y Ebrahim, said 'It would be totally

unfeeling of us to continue with the tournament at this stage'.

It was to be held from June 28 to July 2 at the Glenhaven tennis courts.

'We cannot ignore the students have legitimate arguments. This also affects their social lives,' he said.

About 250 junior tennis players, from all

over South Africa would have taken part in the tournament. They are all under 18.

This tournament is the first of its kind since the formation of TASA in 1978. According to Mr Ebrahim, junior players are keen to compete at national level. The new date for the tournament is provisionally December 12 to 16.

**We welcome ASD to the trade and pledge our support to this long awaited venture.**

### CARRINGTON HARDWARE AND MOTOR SPARES

2 Carrington Avenue  
Athlone  
Phone 673473

### KARJIEKERS AUTO SPARES

Cnr Orion and Klipfontein Roads  
Surrey Estate  
Phone 676441

### CHAMPION SPANNER

Klipfontein Road  
Athlone  
Phone 676657

### KEY MOTORS

Klip Road  
Grassy Park  
Phone 731108

### DALVIES MOTOR SPARES

581 Lansdowne Road  
Lansdowne  
Phone 713234

### NU-STAR MOTORS

Lansdowne Road  
(next to Snoekies)  
Philippi  
Phone 677640

### JIMMY'S SERVICE STATION

Klipfontein Road  
Surrey Estate, Athlone  
Phone 671627

### VIVA MOTOR SPARES

Cnr Sussex and Mission Roads  
Wynberg  
Phone 778702

### JUNCTION MOTOR SPARES

Bus stop 10 Jakkalsvlei Avenue  
Bonteheuwel  
Phone 67244

### WELCOME MOTORS

Heideveld Road  
Welcome Estate  
Phone 674530

### WETLANDS SPANNER

Wetton Circle  
Wetton  
Phone 770635



**NOW at these retailers!**

**BRAND NEW**

**LOW MAINTENANCE BATTERY**



**ONE YEAR MANUFACTURERS GUARANTEE**

*Special price*

**R29,95**

**EXCL. G.S.T.**

# THE DIARY OF PROTEST

## June 16 commemorated

JUNE 16

About 80 percent of the black work force stays home to commemorate the deaths of those who died during the 1976 uprisings.

Planned church services for the day to commemorate the deaths are changed to ordinary services because of ban on all political meetings and commemorative services.

A large crowd of people who attempt to hold a meeting in Ravensmead dispersed by police.

The stayaway supported by hundreds of black businessmen who decide not to open their businesses for two days.

Minister of Police warns he will clamp down

on 'intimidators' who try and prevent people from getting to work and home.

Those who defied stayaway call are stoned and harassed at bus stops and railway stations when they return home.

JUNE 17

The stayaway continues with about 70 percent of the work force at home. Several incidents of stone throwing reported in Peninsula.

In some areas road blocks set up, tyres set alight. Cars are stoned and shops are looted and set alight.

Police ordered 'shoot to kill.' Many people die in night of violence.

MAY 3

Training college principals ordered to expel boycotting students.

MAY 5

The Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, meets a five-man delegation from Union of Teachers Associations of South Africa (Utasa). He undertakes to meet some of the demands of boycotting students on condition the boycott ends.

MAY 6

Committee of 81 rejects Utasa delegation as not being representative. Pupils on the Reef refuse to return to classes unless Marais Steyn is dismissed.

MAY 8

Strike by Peninsula teachers in support of the class boycott is called off.

74 meat workers at the Table Bay Cold Storage walk out in protest against a refusal of their request for a democratically-elected workers committee.

MAY 10

Committee of 81 decides to suspend the school boycott for three weeks. Submits ultimatum to the Government. Students decide to continue the awareness programmes at schools when they go back.

MAY 12

School principals told to request whatever books they need.

MAY 19

Meat workers' demands gain momentum and 800 workers throughout the Cape Town meat industry walk out in solidarity with the Table Bay Cold Storage workers who were dismissed.

MAY 2)

The workers are all turned away when they return the next day. The gates of their work are locked and security police with dogs are on duty outside.

MAY 21

Committee of 81 decides to resume boycott in protest against the closure of the University of Fort Hare, and in support of striking meat workers.



MAY 22

Boycotting pupils at Peninsula high schools and students at the University of the Western Cape are warned to return to their classes. Pupils threatened with expulsion and told to stop the awareness programme.

Meat sent to Cape Town from Port Elizabeth and the Rand. Butchers receive no meat and Cape Town community is asked by striking meat workers to support red meat boycott. Western Province General Workers Union pays meat workers R15 a week while on strike.

MAY 23

Western Province African Chamber of Commerce meet meat bosses to resolve dispute but fails.

MAY 24

Thousands of students and pupils stage a massive 'disruption programme' at shops in the centre of Cape Town and at several other shopping centres in the Peninsula. They are baton charged by police at the Golden Acre, Belville, and Parow. Many are arrested and injured.

MAY 26

More than 60 people are detained after a massive security police clampdown.

The police confirm that about 70 pupils are held after the Saturday protest. They also guard railway stations and the Golden Acre to prevent similar incidents.

MAY 27

The Government withdraws threats to expel pupils.

MAY 28

Trouble erupts in Elsie River and two youths are shot dead. The countrywide unrest at schools, colleges and factories continue. The number of arrests and detentions throughout the country reaches more than a thousand. Low attendances at schools.

MAY 29

Two WPGWU officials detained.

MAY 30

Complete stayaway at Peninsula schools.

JUNE 2

Bus boycott in protest against increased fares

gets under way and thousands of Cape Flats commuters walk or hitch to work.

Members of Cape Butchers Association start red meat boycott. It is, however, called off after only three days.

JUNE 9

Police baton charge a group of pupils at Belville South High School. Fifty-two people arrested. Committee of 81 decides to continue the school boycott.

JUNE 12

Rectors and principals of technical and training colleges in the Peninsula refuse to carry out a Government instruction to expel boycotting students.

42 meat workers arrested under pass laws and appear in Langa Commissioner's Court. They were found guilty a week later and repatriated to Transkei.

JUNE 13

Mike Morris and John Frankish of WPGWU detained. Others being held are Dave Lewis and Di Cooper.

UWC closed a week early for vacation because of class boycott.

JUNE 18

Many who participated in stayaway are sacked or have money deducted from wages.

Students at Hewat and Battswood training colleges expelled and told to reapply for admission.

### grassroots

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

News items for publication in Grassroots are welcome and should be sent to:

The Secretary,  
Grassroots Publications,  
PO Box 181,  
ATHLONE 7760.  
Phone 43-2117

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