

We will not be silenced



THE ban on Grassroots Vol. 2 No.3, May 1981 has been lifted.

This follows a successful appeal by Grassroots against the banning.

Members and members' organisations associated with Grassroots, were dissatisfied with the reasons for the ban.

Organisations protested against the banning and saw it as a means of silencing the voice of the people.

It was therefore decided to take up the issue by appealing against the decision of the Publications Control Board.

The lifting of the ban on the May issue of Grassroots means that you, the reader, may once again

- pass on copies to interested friends, and
- quote from that particular issue.

VICTORY!

Birth of a civic

ON November 23 Lavender Hill residents will meet to form their residents Association.

The meeting will mark the end of months of hard work by the Lavender Hill Committee.

Hundreds of people have already signed a petition supporting the idea of the formation of an association.

Speakers will include members of the Lavender Hill Committee and people from other resident bodies.

A GREAT victory for People's organisations, through united, mass action.

This is how most people saw the decision not to allow City Tramways and Mitchells Plain and Atlantis Bus Services to increase their busfares.

A young Bridgetown man saw the decision by the Road Transport Commission as a "tremendous victory for the people".

"It shows that unity is strength," he said.

"The decision showed that united action can work, and work indeed," said a Hanover Park woman.

Another resident from the area said that it showed that people could stand together if they were organised.

GRASSROOTS spoke to a number of people from different areas and asked them how they felt about the busfare victory.

Relieved

Most of them were very happy and relieved on hearing the decision.

The words of a Lavender Hill resident probably sums up the general feeling of people all over the Western Cape.

When asked how he felt about the fact that

the busfares were not going up, he said:

"Ek kan al die grys hare uit my kop trek, so bly is ek."

("I can pull every grey hair out of my head so glad am I.")

He said he could now at least still buy some bread for his children.

He felt that if the busfares had gone up, he would have had to spend less on food and his children would have gone hungry.

Breadline

He firmly believes that "if we had started organising ourselves long ago, the busfares would not have been so high today."

A Hanover Park woman said she wondered how people who earned very little would have survived if the busfare increase had been granted to City Tramways.

"Looking at the cost of living today, one cannot believe the bus companies still applied for an increase in busfares," she said.

"The price of bread, butter, meat and almost everything has gone up, how would the lower income group have survived."

People from all areas said they would have had no option but to walk if the busfares had

gone up.

The General Workers Union (GWU) said in a statement that it saw the refusal to allow an increase in busfares to the bus companies as "a great victory for the people's organisations."

Workers from the union felt that an increase in fares would have been a great financial burden on them.

One worker remarked: "Workers cannot tighten their belts any more. If they do, the buckles in front will be touching the leather at the back."

The struggle against increased fares started in July when City Tramways, Mitchell's Plain Bus Services Ltd and Atlantis Bus Services Ltd, had applied for increases ranging from 12 to 28 percent.

Action

Communities went into action after Hanover Park civic called a

meeting of community and worker organisations.

At this meeting, the following was decided.

- All the organisations present would lodge objections to the local Road Transportation Commission demanding that the increases not be granted.

- A pamphlet explaining why increases were not justified together with the demands of the people, would be distributed in all areas;
- A mass petition would be circulated in all the areas.

In mid-July, 22 organisations lodged ob-

jections at the local Road Transportation Board, offices at Nedbank on the foreshore.

Soon after the organisations received telegrams from the National Transport Commission (NTC).

These telegrams invited the organisation to attend a hearing at To page 16

SAIC - Mass rejection

THE South African Indian Council (SAIC) elections are about to collapse as pressure is continuing to build up in communities all over the country.

Already six candidates have withdrawn from the elections.

According to a spokesperson from the anti-SAIC committees in Cape Town, many more are expected to do so before the elec-

tions on 4th November.

This comes in the face of mass rejection by the people of bodies such as the SAIC, the President's Council and the 'Bantustans' policy.

"We will have no part in working the machines of our own oppression", said a civic spokesperson.

The campaign is a national one - the struggle against the SAIC elections is being waged

in all the major centres and surrounding towns in the country.

In Cape Town, public meetings are being held, pamphlets and newsletters have been distributed declaring the SAIC to be a "voiceless and powerless body".

A month after the SAIC elections, the government will be granting "independence" to the Ciskei.

More than two mil-

lion South African will lose their citizenship in the country of their birth.

The anti-SAIC committee in Cape Town has rejected the forthcoming Ciskeian independence as "an attempt by the government to divide and control our people".

As Nov. 4 is drawing nearer, the campaign is growing stronger.

Crossroads water struggle

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Youth on the move

- pages 8 & 9

Family planning and you

- page 12 & 13

Council workers' victory

- page 15

Houses for transit camp

- page 3

Unity and organisation of hospital workers brings results

RECENTLY the matron at Woodstock Hospital found a worker sleeping in the hospital cloakroom and using a few spare hospital blankets.

The worker lives in Darling and so only goes home at weekends. The matron took the blankets away from him. To try to keep warm he now has to sleep next to the boiler.

"This is an example of how we are treated", a worker said.

And it is issues such as this that will be taken up by the democratically elected workers committee, which has just been recognised by the hospital authorities.

For months the hospital dragged their feet over the issue.

Finally, all the workers signed a petition calling on the superintendent to recognise their committees.

This forced the superintendent to recognise the strength of the union (General Workers Union) membership and showed him that it was the workers themselves who were standing behind the demand for a committee.

AGREED

The management has agreed to regular monthly meetings with the committee.

At a general meeting of all workers, a list of grievances and demands and a constitution were drawn up. The grievances include

- Problems with pension
- Bad food
- Problems over hours of work.
- Bad treatment by the hospital authorities.

BADLY

Said a worker. "They treat us so badly - yet without us the hospital could not run. People often forget this.

"They see the hospital as just the doctors and the nurses. Even the medicines are treated with more care than us.

"Now that we have won our committee this sort of thing must stop. We must be treated with the respect and dignity we deserve."

This breakthrough at Woodstock Hospital is important for workers at other hospitals.

HARDLINE

The Provincial Administration is likely to take a hard-line approach towards an independent unregistered union like the General Workers Union.

The fact that the strength of the workers at Woodstock has forced them to concede will make it easier for workers at other hospitals to win a similar demand.

The struggle of the workers at Woodstock Hospital has in many ways only just begun.

UNITY

Unity of workers in all the hospitals will in the future be crucial in taking forward the major demands of the workers at each and every hospital.

Much determination and perseverance will still be needed to improve the very poor working conditions of the hospital workers.

Conference of Food & Canning workers



LAST month the Food and Canning Workers Union held their biggest ever conference at the union's centre - the Ray Alexander Centre - in Paarl.

More than 200 delegates from all the branches around the country attended the conference. The new branches, of Durban, Port Elizabeth and Gansbaai were welcomed.

Throughout there was much enthusiasm on the part of delegates to return to their areas to continue to build the strength of their union.

'Independence for Ciskei... death for workers'

"INDEPENDENCE for Ciskei is death for us workers", said a speaker at a recent mass meeting in Langa.

The meeting was called by General Workers Union, Food & Canning Workers and Municipal Workers Association. This was in line with a decision taken at a regional trade union solidarity meeting to actively campaign against the whole policy of "homelands" and "homeland independence".

ATTENDANCE

The attendance at the meeting was lower than expected.

As the chairman explained, this was largely the result of a pam-

phlet which had been circulated the night before in the African townships.

The pamphlet claimed to be from the General Workers Union and the African Food & Canning Workers Union and advised that the meeting had been moved from Langa to the Luxurama.

CONFUSION

Spokesmen from these two Unions, which had been the principal organisers of the meeting, pointed out

that this must have caused enormous confusion in the townships. Despite such crude tactics, the hall was reasonably full.

After opening the meeting, the chairman threw it open to the

floor. Much angry criticism of Ciskeian independence was voiced by workers.

DIVIDE

"The government has been dividing us 'coloured' workers from the African workers as well. We must stop this thing now", said one worker.

Another speaker pointed out that "Sebe, the Chief Minister of Ciskei, does not represent the will of the people.

"We do not support him, and he knows that.

"That is why he is detaining and arresting us workers in East London."

"Especially in those cases where the head of the household is a wo-

man or a pensioner, the income is so low that many households will barely be able to survive even if they do not have to pay any housing charges at all.

"Significant increases in pensions and wages are thus essential if people in these areas are to reach a reasonable standard of living."

ANGRY

Many speakers were angry because when the Ciskei becomes independent in December, thousands of people will be stripped of their South African citizenship. They will also lose even those few benefits, for example UIF, that they are entitled to at the moment.

An ex-meat worker said: "In the meat strike last year, our people were all united in their fight for democratic rights in the factories. In the same way, our struggle against Ciskeian independence is for democracy and non-racialism."

At the end of meeting, a resolution condemning Ciskeian independence was passed unanimously.

The chairman of the meeting pointed out that this was the first such meeting in many years, and that the unions intended to take up the issue again in further mass meetings.

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A delegation from the Transit Camp delivered a letter to the Council reading, 'all we want is houses, houses, houses.'

We need to rely on ourselves

AT a mass meeting in the transit camp about 300 people raised their message with one voice: "We need to do something for ourselves. We are ill, our children are sore-infested. The Councilors don't have to fetch water from the toilet outside. We need unity to ensure that we are moved before the end of the year."

Speaker after speaker spoke of the hardships of life in the camp.

A woman not even forty years old, had to be helped to stand up

and speak to the people about the problems.

Leaning on her stick, she said: "When I came here I had two healthy lungs, but now I only have one bad lung."

Her words, which formed part of the mood of anger summed up the grievances of the residents at the meeting.

"We have had enough of living in this camp where our child-

ren get murdered and our health gets bad. We want houses . . . immediately", they said.

And the residents who had gathered to speak about their problems were old and young, some in wheelchairs, some cripple, but all realising that they have the same problem and the only way to do something about it would be to stand together.

THE transit camp in Elsie's River was started a few years ago to provide housing for people who were on the waiting list of the Council.

The council promised the people that they would not have to stay in the camp for longer than 6 months.

Now, after nearly ten years, the people are still there and more are moving in.

The people are angry and are demanding that the council provides them with houses. It is also because of the poor conditions, the health problems caused by bad housing that the people came together to do something about it.

A survey was done and it was found that they do not want to stay in the camp. House visits and house meetings were held to draw

Transitcamp residents speak out:

WE DEMAND HOUSES IMMEDIATELY

in as many people as possible.

This was followed by a mass meeting where the residents decided to march to the local housing manager's office to make their voices heard.

But, on the night be-

fore the march the police came to harass the people.

One of the committee members was told that they would be stopped at the gates. The people decided not to march as there was confusion and fear, but

to send a delegation to the council.

They handed over a letter to a Mr Carpenter, reading, "all we want is houses, houses, houses". The excuse was that there is no money.

But, the people of the Transit camp are

not happy, they are determined to continue with their fight. Many gains have been made - the people are united and have organised themselves into a committee to press ahead.

Another public meeting is being planned where residents will decide on what further steps should be taken.

Crossroads residents fight against water charges

TWENTY Rand was all Mrs Nosanyile Ngqun-guza had when she went to pay the water account she received at her home in New Crossroads recently.

It was less than quarter of the amount she needed. Her bill was R83,29 - an amount that had been building up since December last year when she moved into No. 504, New Crossroads.

Other New Crossroads residents found themselves in the same position as Mrs Ngqun-guza, owing large arrears of three quarterly amounts.

Protest

They had refused to pay their accounts in protest against the way the administration board had handled the matter of water charges.

Crossroads residents had two main objections: They resented being the only township in the area that has to pay for water and they said the decision

to charge for water had been made without consulting Crossroads leaders.

They said this broke the promise given by the administration board that no major decisions would be taken without consultation.

No discussion

"There was no discussion on the issue of payment for water. We major issue and therefore we could not accept it because we considered it a breach of the agreement. We also cannot agree to being the only community around here that is charged for water," said a Crossroads committee representative in New Crossroads.

The committee raised the matter with Administration board officials, telling them of the resistance in the community and asking them to withhold their decision.

But the accounts continued to arrive, the

amounts adding up, until in September the words 'Final Notice' appeared stamped across the page in bold blue letters. It was at this point that the resistance campaign began to crumble.

The Administration Board, who refused to meet the demands of the Crossroads Committee, held the trump card: They began to threaten people in New Crossroads with eviction from their houses if they did not pay.

"People were just not prepared to face that," Mr Mdlovu said. "They had known for too long what it was like to be without a proper roof over their heads."

So many scraped together the amounts they needed to pay the arrears - ranging from R11 to R84 - and went to the board's offices to pay.

Within days the Board was claiming that 66 percent of the residents had paid and

there was no way the others would be let off.

Mrs Ngqunwuzwa was one of the people who held out longest.

But when she received the official pink form giving her "notice to vacate" the house where she, her husband, four children and two lodgers live, she decided she had no choice but to try to pay the R83,29 outstanding.

All I could raise so far was R20. I just hope the Board will give me time to get the rest."

At a meeting this week, the people of Crossroads admitted that they had no choice but to pay the water accounts.

However, the matter is by no means settled. At the same meeting the people pledged to continue the campaign against water tariffs in New Crossroads.

No strategy has yet been worked out. But the people are planning meetings to discuss how they can tackle the matter most effectively as a united community.



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APPLICANTS SHOULD POSSESS A UNIVERSITY DEGREE OR AN APPROVED TWO YEAR POST-MATRICULATION QUALIFICATION OR ANOTHER QUALIFICATION ACCEPTED AS EQUIVALENT.

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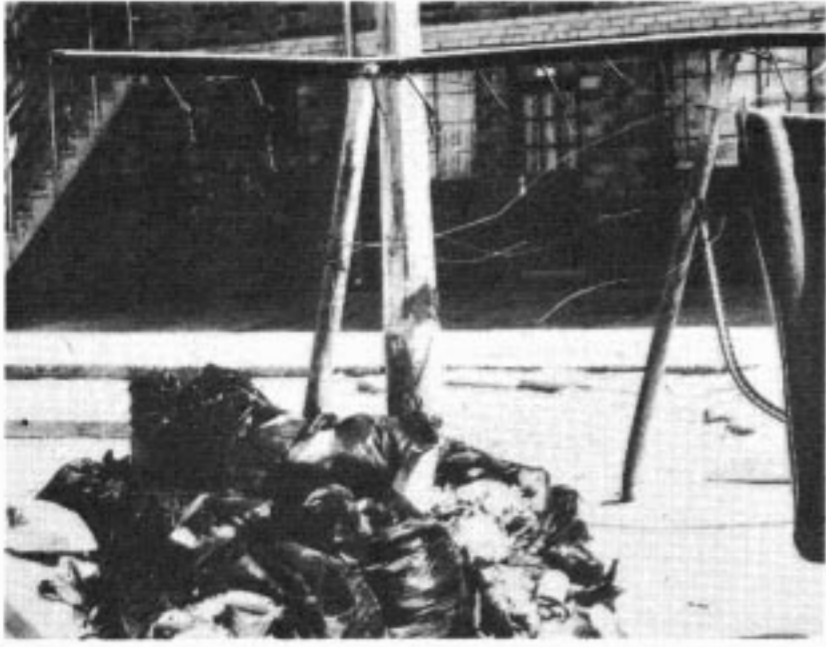
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MUST WE LIVE LIKE THIS?



IN Lavender Hill, residents have many problems. Houses are poorly maintained, children have nowhere to play, there are no proper creches and many other problems.

Grassroots interviewed the Lavender Hill Committee who told us what they and other concerned residents are trying to do to improve Lavender Hill.

"HOW WE STARTED"

"A few of us from Stuckers and Aspeling courts came together in March this year to discuss problems in our area. We agreed that something had to be done but we did not know where to begin. We finally decided to visit other residents to get some ideas how they felt.

"On our visits, we heard about the broken washing lines in Frere Court. We brought residents of the court together. A letter was written, sent and after two weeks the council came to repair the lines which were broken for nearly three years.

"We realised then that if we stand together we can achieve a lot. By this time a few more people had joined our working group.

"We then decided that we had to form a committee so that we could work better. And so the Lavender Hill Committee was born.

"OUR AIMS"

"The committee is a temporary body with three aims:

- to find out what the problems are in our area
- to ask all residents whether they agree that we need a residents association to represent our community.
- to call a mass meeting to form such an association once we are satisfied that the majority of residents agree.

To achieve these aims, we decided to run house meetings throughout the area.

HOUSE MEETINGS

"On Monday May 18 this year, we ran our first two house meetings in Van der Leur Court. While three committee members ran each meeting, others went out to find venues in the next court for two meetings on the Wednesday night. As the weeks passed, we increased the house meetings from two to four on a Wednesday night. We therefore ran six house meetings every week.

BEFORE THE MEETINGS

"A group of us would sell Grassroots in the court where we

wanted to run meetings.

"We first tried to find venues on either side of the court. We decided to run one meeting on either side so that people could all fit into the house. There are 48 flats in one court - 24 in every block.

"Once we have found venues, we quickly fill in the address on a standard pamphlet that we prepared to inform people of what the meeting would be about.

"When we hand out the pamphlets, we try and talk to the people and convince them to come to the meeting.

"The night of the meeting, we spend ten minutes before the meeting quickly going around to remind everybody."

MEETING PROCEDURE

"We follow a set procedure at every house meeting. One committee member runs the meeting while another takes notes.

"We welcome people and everybody introduces themselves.

"We then mention some of the problems in the area and ask

what are the specific problems in that court. We note down complaints and try to give advice where we can.

"We then summarise all the problems generally and ask residents what they feel could be done about them.

"We find that at most residents suggest joint action such as a petition.

"We then point out that any form of action will have to be co-ordinated and for this we need some form of organisation.

"We go on to explain the aims of the Lavender Hill Committee.

"So far residents have agreed with our aims at all meetings.

"We then read out a petition stating that there are many problems and ask why there is a need for residents associations. We ask if all the residents agree. They then sign.

"We then ask for a volunteer or volunteers to represent the court and serve on the committee.

THE TASKS OF THE REPS

"The reps are given the petition and asked to take it around to all residents in their court who have not been to the meeting. They have to explain what was said at the meeting and get them to sign the petition giving their support to the idea of a residents association.

"The reps are invited to the committee meetings which take place every Thursday.

Here we jointly decide on the work that has to be done for the coming week."

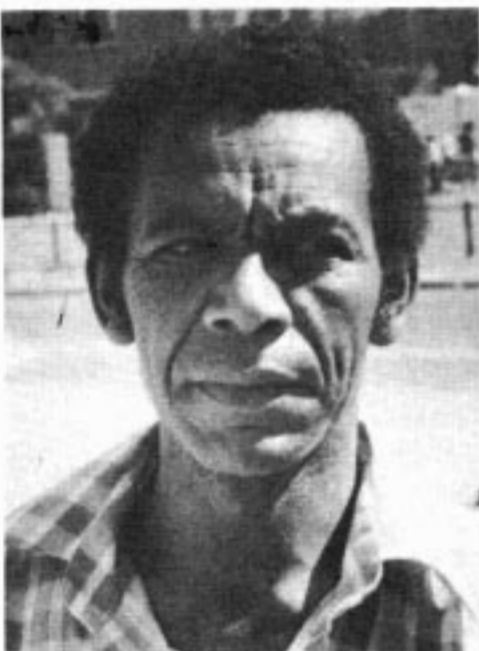
THE MASS MEETING

"Three weeks before the meeting which will take place on November 22, we will have covered the whole area in house meetings.

"We will then do the last of the preparation for the mass meeting. We have already started working on collecting material for posters, banners and will be bringing out a newsletter two weeks before the meeting.

"We will also be selling Grassroots widely in the area three weeks before the meeting."

Why a residents association



Mr Joseph Darries, Chapel Court: 'I joined the committee because there must be an organisation to help the people of Lavender Hill.'



Mrs Beira Boyce, Vogel Court representative: 'If everybody in Lavender Hill stood together, we would win a lot.'



Mr Clifton van Rensburg, 67, Fawley Court: 'It's a good thing. We must stand together.'

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RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES



More than 600 Bonteheuwel residents attended a recent meeting to protest against poor housing maintenance.

Maintenance is not the responsibility of tenants

TWO chairs and a table marked 'Reserved for Council' remained empty at a meeting in Bonteheuwel while more than 600 residents spoke about their anger at poor housing maintenance.

City Council officials had been invited to attend the Sunday afternoon meeting, but failed to turn up.

A speaker at the meeting said: 'If we wait for these people to come, we will wait for ever'.

Campaign

Angry residents then decided to go to the Council on Thursday October 29 and demand that the houses be repaired.

The campaign in Bonteheuwel started on July 5 when 1500 peo-

ple from all over the Western Cape united under the banner of the Cape Areas Housing Action Committee (CAHAC) to support the demands of the Bonteheuwel people.

A decision was taken then to organise the community into a strong organisation before taking any action.

Since then residents of Bonteheuwel have twice marched to the local housing office with complaint sheets.

Busfares

Residents said the response to the complaint sheets were not good, so they demanded Council must speak to them at the mass meeting.

"When everybody stood together against

City Tramways, they could not put up the bus fares. If we stand together here in Bonteheuwel, we will get the houses maintained,' a speaker said.

No notice

'If we go to City Council they take no notice. Why must we maintain the house that belongs to them. We only pay rent. We must take drastic action.

'City Council should have been here today to explain,' a woman said.

Another resident said: 'For 20 years we have been paying the Council to repair our houses, but they have not done anything.

'We have to pay so much money for food and transport. How can

Bonteheuwel Civic Association, we will afford to pay for maintenance?'

Mr Rosenberg of the association, said: 'We had no choice about where we wanted to live. We have been forced to live in the Council's houses.

'If we pay for maintenance now, we will just have more and more problems. We must stop talking over

our fences and start working together,' he said.

Council

Another speaker said Council wanted to fool the people into thinking maintenance was the responsibility of the tenant.

'Council must repair the houses as soon as possible,' he said.

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comment

Busfares - a victory for people's organisation

FOR the first time in many years the people in and around Cape Town have prevented the bus companies - City Tramways, Mitchells Plain Bus Services Limited and Atlantis Bus Services Limited - from increasing their bus fares.

These companies sought permission to increase their fares at a time when their profits were high, while the wages of the people remained low.

When these companies announced that they had applied for the increases it took some time for the organisations of the people to respond.

Many were unclear as to what had to be done. Some even felt that it would be useless to oppose the increases in any way.

Organised opposition

But then Hanover Park Civic Association took the initiative calling a joint meeting of community and worker organisations and the organised opposition began.

More than 22 organisations together lodged their objections at the Road Transportation Board and to show they were not speaking for a few they collected more than 20 000 signatures to support their stand.

It is the first time that our local organisations have petitioned so widely and when the victory came thousands knew they had been part of the fight against the increases.

We congratulate the organisations for their hard work. Today they see the results of organised opposition, but let these organisations not sit back now. The bus companies could once again apply for increases in six months time. And the people must be ready.

Help Grassroots grow stronger

GRASSROOTS is growing from strength to strength. It has only been possible because of the hard work of all the worker and community organisations in writing stories and distributing the newspaper.

As we are nearing the end of the year, it is once again time to take a hard look at our work. We are therefore asking you, the readers, to tell us what you think of GRASSROOTS, and how it can be improved. Your feedback will help us to plan for the new year.

If GRASSROOTS is to be truly alternative, your participation and involvement is essential. Tell us what you think. Help GRASSROOTS grow.



LETTERS

DUMMY BODIES DIVIDE AND WEAKEN US

THANK you for a newspaper that is informative and stimulating. Before we can act we must understand.

GRASSROOTS provides the medium for communities to understand one another's problems and how these are tackled by the communities involved.

In every community and labour matter we

see the need to organise. That is the only way to fight our electricity and all our other problems.

However, we must not only get together for specific issues. We must remain together and reject all dummy bodies that are created by the state to divide us.

We must reject the SAIC. We must reject

Ciskeian Independence. They only serve to divide and weaken us.

UNITED Mitchells Plain

Avonwood says thank you

THE Avonwood Residents Association held

a spring festival on October 3. There were drum-majorettes, games, sport activities and lots to eat.

We would like to thank all those wonderful people for their help and hard work in making the festival a success.

The festival was in aid of our old people in the area and also for our play centre. We want to care for the needy, especially, our old people.

We have many needy old people and want to raise funds to arrange for a Christmas dinner for them.

We also want to appeal to all tenants of Avonwood Estate who are prepared to help

make this possible for our old people, to come to our meetings on Thursday afternoons at 35 Betty Street, at 3 p.m.

We wish to repeat it next year if possible with more donations. Once again, thank you to all our sponsors and supporters for their kind co-operation throughout the day.

The whole affair was a great success.

Avonwood Residents Association.

Air your views and write to Grassroots

Box 181, Athlone 7760

Spring brings a change of heart

- Fred Jenecke

OUT of the bleak barren wastes of winter we emerge into the heady rapture of spring. We drink in its welcome warmth and abandon ourselves to its promise of joy and love.

Young men and maids allow its tender breezes to tug at their responsive heart-strings and all the world explodes in sound and song.

Even our senior citizens, stolid and staid, are not immune to its magic. Or so it seems.

How else can we explain the change of heart in the make-up of our crusty custodians of the law? For now no more the sound of crun-

ching bulldozers rolling through your makeshift bedrooms. No more the tug and tear of front end loaders or the sickly smell of plastic sheeting blazing against the inky blackness of a frosty winter morn.

Out too is the herding of human cattle into dark and murky buses on mystery drives into oblivion.

But perhaps we over-estimate the inspiring powers of spring.

Could it be that squatting is a seasonal indulgence? Maybe the harvesting season provides work for everyone.

Or is it that the mellowing effects of spring make people

reluctant to travel long distances to fill empty stomachs?

On the other hand maybe this is not the season that our women choose to sleep with a different man every night (as the magistrate said). Or perhaps for now we have been lifted to the status of donkeys and baboons who do not have to carry identity documents at all.

It could even be that time is inopportune to round out sleepy men, women and children at four in the morning to cringe in the icy blast and torrential rain. This is not the time for a baby to die of pneumonia on the way

to a land of hopelessness and despair.

But it could just be that our masters, after the strenuous activity of winter are busy preparing for the season of goodwill to all mankind.

Maybe this nagging doubt at the back of our minds is without foundation. It could be that we are wrong and that in this season of bud and bloom these old men have retired to plan more atrocities and cruelties for the next winter.

Let us hope this time we are wrong. We pray, we hope, but then the saying about the jackal remaining true to type...

SAIC: A VOTE FOR APARTHEID

FROM Cape Town to Durban and Johannesburg, the call is loud and clear:

"A vote for the South African Indian Council (SAIC), is a vote for Apartheid".

The people are saying that bodies such as the SAIC, the President's Council and the Homelands policy have been created by the government to suit the aims of Apartheid and to make it more workable.

Apartheid is a means of separating people into different groups where

each "racial group" will manage and have a say in the running of its own affairs.

But these are all efforts by the government to divide and control the lives of our people. Instead of giving us a direct say in the running of our country, they create such bodies to give us the impression that we do in fact have a say.

These bodies can never speak on behalf of the vast majority of the oppressed because they were not of our making. Over the years, they have made

countless representations to the government to improve the living conditions of the people.

It is clear that they do not have the power to change things. Neither do they represent the real interests of our people, but that of the government which has placed them there for its own ends.

The government also knows that it cannot only rule by force alone. For this reason they are trying to buy off the

people by giving them bodies such as this. These bodies are not organisations of the people and cannot speak on behalf of the people.

This is why we need to build strong democratic people's organisations at work and in the communities where we live to be our voice. So, from Bishop Lavis to Chatsworth, from New Brighton to Lenasia and Soweto, the people are demanding no more and no less - "WE SPEAK FOR OURSELVES."

A people's resistance

EVER since the first Indian Labourers came to South Africa in 1860, they have been involved in a struggle for human rights and a non-racial and democratic South Africa.

Like the plight of many South Africans, their conditions were very bad. From 1890, all sorts of laws were passed that were heavily loaded against them - they lost their right to vote; in the Transvaal the Asiatic Bill forced every Indian over the age of eight to register and carry a "pass". Those who refused to register were jailed, fined or deported.

There was also the £3 residents tax on all contract workers over 16 years. In 1913, all Indian marriages were declared invalid.

It was in direct res-

ponse to these hardships that they organised themselves to resist.

Mahatma Gandhi came to South Africa in the early years of the century and spread the powerful message of Satyagraha - which means that resisters should offer no violence, but allow themselves to be arrested

and punished without any opposition or feeling of anger against their oppressors.

This was certainly a powerful force in uniting the people.

The people's history is enriched by the struggles of this period - the mass campaigns, against the 'pass laws', the £3 tax, the coalminers

strike and the general strike of 60 000 Indian workers.

In later years, the people were organised under the banner of the South African Indian Congress, as the voice of the people.

During the 1940's and 50's the oppressed people came out strongly against the Nationalist government

and its policies of Apartheid.

The Indian Congress, threw its weight behind the broader struggle for change and participated among other things in the defiance campaign of 1952 against all unjust laws.

Thousands of resisters were arrested.

The South African Indian Congress, the African National Congress, the Congress of Democrats and the Coloured People's Congress joined hands to form the Congress Alliance.

They called a 'Congress of the People' which took place at Kliptown on 25/26 June 1955 where they dedicated themselves to fight for a free South Africa.

3000 delegates from all the people's organisations around the country attended the congress and adopted the Freedom Charter which set out the demands of the people of South Africa.

During the late 50's and early 60's, the government stepped up its action to crush these organisations.

Organisations and individuals were banned, arrested and leaders were jailed. The government hoped to crush the resistance of the people and to disorganise them.

It was in this climate that bodies such as the South African Indian Council were created by the government.



'No more than a farce'

THE South African Indian Council (SAIC) was formed in 1964 after many secret meetings between government sympathisers. This body was to be a separate body for Indians only, like the Coloured Representative Council.

The Minister of Indian Affairs said at the time, "political rights of Indians will be limited to self-government within their own community, but it will end there".

Following the mass protests and resistance to government policy during the 1950's and early 60's, these bodies were created to give the impression to the people that they had a say in matters affecting them.

Rejection

The history of SAIC is one of total rejection and has been labelled as "nothing more than a farce".

When the SAIC was

formed it consisted of 21 members, all chosen by the government and not by the people.

It was to be an advisory body to the government.

The last SAIC was constituted in 1974 when 15 members were chosen by the government and 15 elected by the people.

Since 1976, the government has tried to press ahead with elections for the Indian Council, but these elections were postponed,

the main reason being that the government had to resettle Indians under the Group Areas Act first, before a proper voters role could be drawn up.

Thus, thousands of people had to be evicted and resettled first before the elections could be held.

November 4th, 1981 is the day chosen by the government when Indians all over South Africa are expected to cast their "vote for Apartheid".

Anti-SAIC campaign today

IN major centres around the country, the struggle against the SAIC elections has been taken up by the people. Committees have been formed in the Transvaal and Natal and regional committees in the country areas.

TRANSVAAL:

Mass meetings have been held all over the Transvaal. In Lenasia, close to 4 000 people attended a meeting where Dr Essop Jassat, the chairperson of the committee called on the people to "organise a total boycott of the SAIC elections in November."

NATAL

A committee was formed under the banner of the Natal Indian Congress and other people's organisations. It has called on the people "not to betray our history and accept the SAIC, Apartheid and injustice . . . Lets unite and reject the SAIC".

CAPE

In Cape Town an anti-SAIC committee was formed consisting of civic organisations, trade unions, youth and student organisations. These organisations will be visiting voters in their areas to boycott the elections.

A mass meeting is planned for Sunday, 1st November. The committee has also taken a strong stand against the proposed independence of the Ciskei on 4th December.

CONFERENCE

On 10/11 OCTOBER a national conference was held in Durban of all organisations opposed to the SAIC. More than 100 organisations were represented and passed a resolution rejecting the SAIC and other separate bodies created by the government in the name of Apartheid. November 1st was declared national Anti-Saic day.

ROSEMEAD

SUPERMARKET

ROSEMEAD AVE, CLAREMONT • BELLMORE AVE, PENLYN
LANSDOWNE RD, LANSDOWNE • 4th RD, HEATHFIELD
RETREAT RD, RETREAT • HALT RD, ELSIES RIVER

OUR IN-STORE BAKERY
AT CLAREMONT SPECIALISE
IN WEDDING & BIRTHDAY
CAKES

LATE
NIGHT
SHOPPING
AT CLAREMONT
7 DAYS A WEEK
7 AM - 10 PM

KWIKSAVE



DAGBREEK AVENUE
WESTRIDGE, MITCHELLS PLAIN
PH: 31-0510

THE MANAGEMENT
AND STAFF ARE
PROUD OF BEING
OF SERVICE
TO YOU.

THE SEVEN
DAY STORE
THAT OFFERS
YOU MORE

FROM Guguletu to Mitchells Plain, from Ocean View to Hanover Park, young people are getting together and responding to the call to build strong people's organisations.

Grassroots organized a series of meetings with representatives from 15 youth

organisations.

On this page, the youth speak about the need for young people to be organised and united. They share important experiences and talk about their strengths and weaknesses.

Why we need youth movements

THE 1980 schools boycott and mass community action in support of the demands of students and workers, led to increased community awareness and the need for organisation on many different fronts.

Students saw the need for SRC's, residents saw the need for civic bodies, workers saw the need for trade unions and young people saw the need for youth groups.

The call was for strong people's organisations to take up the issues of the day and to be their voice.

Many of the ad hoc committees which were formed during this period became inactive

after the boycott. It

was out of these committees that youth organisations emerged.

Many youth organisations were started over the past year, some being stronger than others.

These youth organisations hoped to cater for the varying needs and interests of young people in their areas.

It was found that the specific interest groups, among others, drama, table tennis or religious youth groups excluded many young people whose interests were not catered for.

In this way, many young people could be reached and through democratic participation and active involvement their awareness

"ACTIVITIES are the life blood of a youth organisation". This was the general feeling of youth representatives at the meetings. It draws young people to the youth and should sustain their interest.

Youth representatives felt that in planning and presenting programmes, the aims of the organisation and the needs of members must be borne in mind. Very often stress is placed on activities such as games, or on raising the general awareness of young people.

There must be a balance between the two. At the same time, programmes should be as interesting as possible.

GRASSROOTS surveyed the opinions of youth representatives about their experiences and problems in providing activities.

How can you present interesting programmes?

Firstly, it is important to know what kind of programmes will interest most members. Feedback of members on programmes is important. It can be obtained by having regular evaluation sessions.



How can all youth members be involved in the programmes?

There are various programmes which can be used to involve all the members such as, group games, drama sketches and other social events.

'Activities are the life blood of youth organisations'

Games should not promote competition among members, but rather the idea of collective work.

Bigger projects like a Parents' Evening or a youth variety show can also involve all the members.

They could act, tell jokes, sing, sell tickets and so on. When members are given tasks, they will feel more

committed to the organisation.

Advertising youth activities is important as it awakens excitement amongst the young people and also serves to promote the youth organisation in the area. Many new members can be attracted in this way.

What problems have been experienced with permanent sub-committees?

In many youth groups people can share in programme planning by belonging to different sub-committees, such as sport, games, history, music, education and culture.

Some problems have been found

with this system. People tend to become bogged down in only one activity of the youth group. Some members tend to become too loyal to their sub-committee to the point where it can cause a split in the youth.

When there are too many sub-committees, it is difficult to co-ordinate activities. But, with fewer sub-committees it is also far easier to assess the progress and development of youth members.

Formality, such as strict rules and procedures in the running of sub-committees could be off putting for new members.



Sub-committee where only a few members can participate, must be avoided, as it excludes many members. The bottom line is that there must be a place for every member in the sub-committee.

What other kinds of activities can youth groups be involved in?

On many occasions youth groups have provided the manpower in various activities, like the Wilson-Roseville boycott, Leyland strike and in campaigns taken up by their civic bodies.

Although supportive action is important, it must be remembered that this type of involvement does not interest all youth members. Their awareness is not the same and they cannot be forced in supportive activities of this nature.

Outdoor programmes tend to bring youth members much closer together on an informal basis. People tend to work much better with one another if they have socialised together.

YOUTH RESPOND TO THE CALL FOR ORGANISATION

GRASSROOTS asked youth representatives how they started their organisations. This is what they said:

"During the hectic activities of last year, organisations flourished on all levels. The whole oppressed community was up in arms against the government.

"Out of this unity ad hoc committees were formed in virtually all areas. Soon, these were transformed into support committees for the near workers and transport committees to regulate the bus boycott as the battle intensified.

"But these were not permanent bodies. When the events were over, these bodies did not function anymore."

said one youth representative.

"But, as we young people, took up the call to form more permanent organisations. In many areas youth organisations were the only remaining bodies after the events of last year."

Another continued: "We were small groups when we started these organisations. There was a civic body in our area so we could ask them for guidance, but in some other areas no organisations existed and the opinions of a cross section of active people in the community were asked."

Said still another member: "We went around to church youth groups and other social

clubs to see how these were run. We tried to broaden our understanding by doing research on youth activities.

'Students saw the need for SRC's, residents for civic bodies, workers for trade unions and young people saw the need for youth groups.'

ties in other parts of the country and even other parts of the world.

"We also conducted a survey in our area to find out what the needs of young people were and at the same time made people aware of

what we were doing in the area.

"The findings were then used in starting our group," she said.

field work needs to be done. It can serve as a training ground for young people on different levels. Also, in this way, the tasks of the young people and civic members can be defined more clearly."

Another youth representative said they conducted house visits in the area to sell the idea of a youth group and to try to involve more people in decision-making.

"This proved very time consuming, but laid a very firm basis for building our organisation and recruiting members", he said.

Other groups started off by trying to be an umbrella body for different youth groups. However, they all agreed that the most important gain made by youth groups was the

actual establishing of the group.

Said a youth organizer: "Through the organisations we are reaching many young people, many of whom would never have come together otherwise."

"Young people are able to make their awareness grow through their organisations and many people also become aware of their hidden potential by being involved in various activities of their groups."

"Through these activities, young people get to work and play with many other people from their own area and also from other areas."

"They start realising the importance of standing together and also of working with other organisations, like civic bodies, trade unions and student organisations."

Through this work-

ing together, the youth members are not only accepted by each other, but also by other organisations, especially the community organisation.

The recognition of the youth by the community organisation in the area is also an acceptance by the broader community.

By helping the civic body, the youth are actually helping their community.

Grassroots: How can you overcome these problems?

Peter-John: I think we need young people to be inside the time and the commitment to build the youth groups.

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WHAT WE HAVE LEARNT

THE youth leaders of today are the people's leaders of tomorrow."

This is one of the major gains of youth organisations - the breeding of future leaders, according to various youth groups.

Through youth organisations people gained experience in organising and working with others, they said.

However, they all agreed that the most important gain made by youth groups was the

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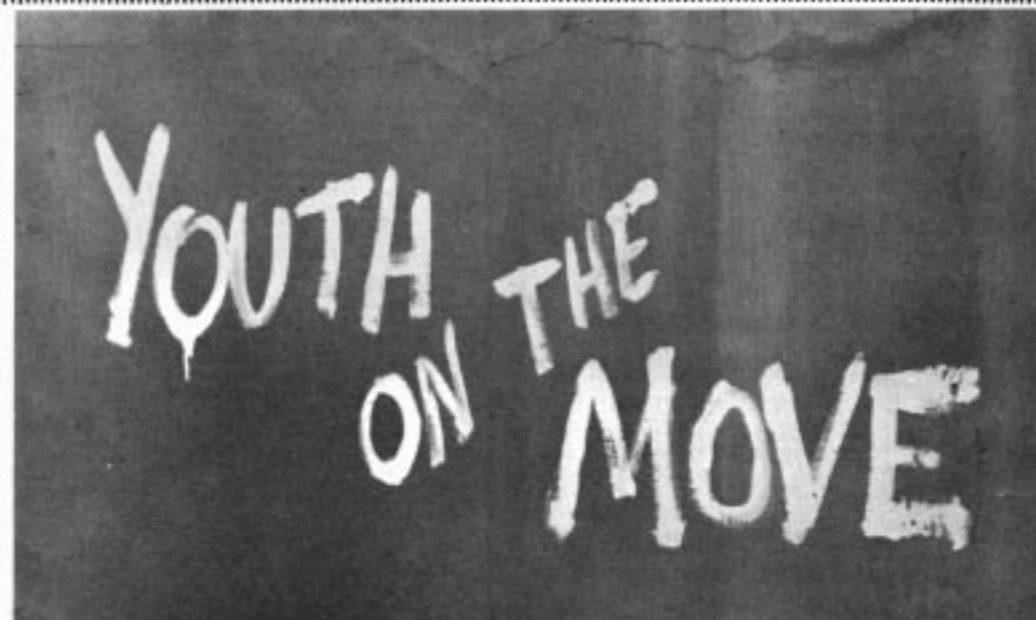
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How we have overcome our problems

In this story, youth representatives talk about the problems that they have experienced in building their organisations. They also share useful ideas on how they have overcome some of their difficulties.

Grassroots: What would you say are the most important problems facing youth clubs today?

Peter-John: In many of our youth organisations, the active and experienced members are often involved in too many other activities besides the youth.

The result has been that they do not have the time to plan programmes and to keep the youth active and interested.

There are also too few experienced youth members who could accept these responsibilities.

Grassroots: How can you overcome these problems?

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A part of broader community

In many areas of the Western Cape the relationship between the youth groups and community organisations in their areas, is very good.

Young people are realising the importance of putting a little bit of their energy back into the community.

In some areas, the youth groups play a supportive role to the civic body.

They help the civic by issuing meeting notices and sometimes going door to door to make people aware of the existence of the community organisations.

In many areas, the youth has taken the initiative and started civic bodies if there was no organisation in their area.

As one youth organizer said: "We do not only want the young people to get together.

each others problems, and activities and possibly share whatever equipment they have."

This kind of contact would also make youth groups feel they are not operating in isolation, but it will make them feel part of a much broader community.

There have been many times when youth groups have worked together with trade unions and students organisations, not forgetting religious organisations and sports clubs.

In this way, people from different religions can be brought together for common events.

However, there will exist a divide there for more frequent and meaningful communication between youth groups from different areas.

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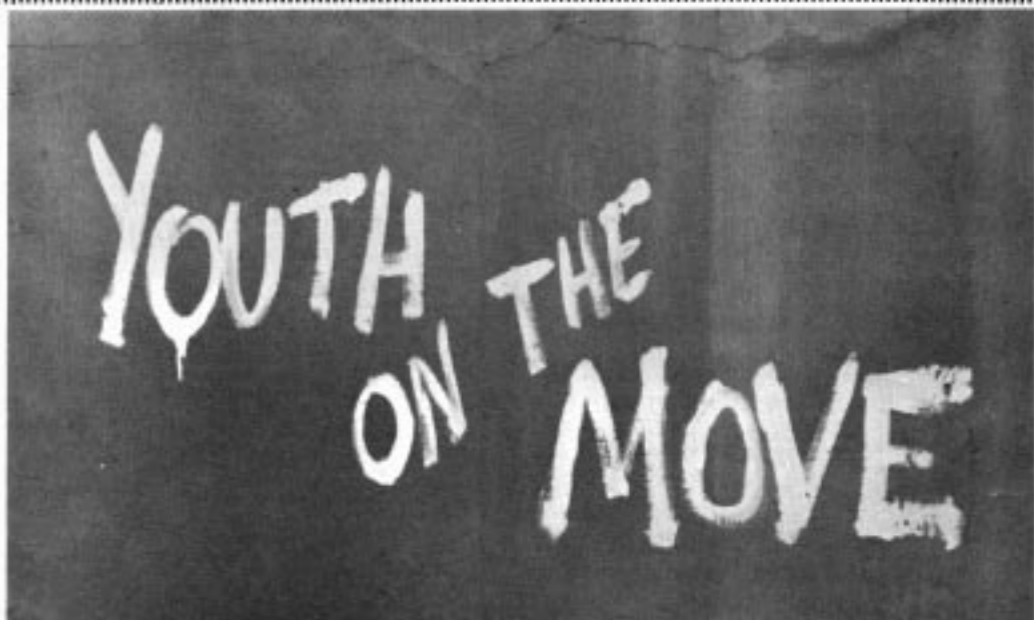
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Peter-John: In many of our youth organisations, the active and experienced members are often involved in too many other activities besides the youth.

The result has been that they do not have the time to plan programmes and to keep the youth active and interested.

There are also too few experienced youth members who could accept these responsibilities.

Maad: Maybe it is because they do not realise that young people in such, should be organised.

Fitzgerald: I think the problem is that they do not consider the organisation of youth as a priority.

Grassroots: How can you overcome these problems?

Peter-John: I think we need young people to be made the time and the commitment to build the youth groups.

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Fitzgerald: The important thing is to train co-

ordinated members and to create opportunities for our members to get the necessary experience in organising activities. Even the junior youth should get the experience. In our youth, we have had workshops and seminars to discuss our problems and how to overcome them.

Maad: Workshops and seminars are important, but it is only through practical activities where members are directly involved in planning and carrying out tasks, that we will really learn and get the experience.

Grassroots: Maad, does your youth club have any problems with venues?

Maad: At the beginning we had a lot of trouble in getting a venue. But, we did not let this prevent us from doing our work.

Peter-John: We want to speak to the local Minister's Fraternal and the library. At the moment this is no longer a problem.

Fitzgerald: Our youth uses the community centre.

Because we work very closely with our

civic in the area, we managed to get the centre through them.

Before that, we met in our backyards and garages of members. We can only learn in this way.

Grassroots: Fitzgerald your youth is in an area where there is a high crime rate. How does this affect your work?

Fitzgerald: First of all, this problem is deeply rooted in the system under which we live. Because parents do not want their children to be out late, we start early or close early.

We have also experimented with changing the days of our meetings from Wednesday evenings to Saturday

afternoons. Maad: We have tried to organise transport for our members. We also walk home in big groups, this is quite fun at times.

Fitzgerald: Whatever our problems, the im-

portant thing is to think of alternatives, to experiment and not be afraid to make mistakes. We can only learn in this way.

The most important thing is that young people must be brought together.



YOUTH RESPOND TO THE CALL FOR ORGANISATION

GRASSROOTS asked youth representatives how they started their organisations. This is what they said:

"During the hectic activities of last year, organisations flourished on all levels. The whole oppressed community was up in arms against the government.

"Out of this unity ad hoc committees were formed in virtually all areas. Soon, these were transformed into support committees for the near workers and transport committees to regulate the bus boycott as the battle intensified.

"But these were not permanent bodies. When the events were over, these bodies did not function anymore."

said one youth representative. "But, as we young people, took up the call to form more permanent organisations. In many areas youth organisations were the only remaining bodies after the events of last year."

Another continued: "We were small groups when we started these organisations. There was a civic body in our area so we could ask them for guidance, but in some other areas no organisations existed and the opinions of a cross section of active people in the community were asked."

Said still another member: "We went around to church youth groups and other social clubs to see how these were run. We tried to broaden our understanding by doing research on youth activities in other parts of the country and even other parts of the world.

"We also conducted a survey in our area to find out what the needs of young people were and at the same time made people aware of

what we were doing in the area. "The findings were then used in starting our group," she said.

"Students saw the need for SRC's, residents for civic bodies, workers for trade unions and young people saw the need for youth groups."

ties in other parts of the country and even other parts of the world.

"Youth representatives agreed that this type of relationship between the youth and civic bodies has definite advantages.

"In this way the youth can run its own affairs. It can provide the civic with a ready army of workers when

field work needs to be done. It can serve as a training ground for young people on different levels. Also, in this way, the tasks of the young people and civic members can be defined more clearly."

Another youth representative said they conducted house visits in the area to sell the idea of a youth group and to try to involve more people in decision-making.

"This proved very time consuming, but laid a very firm basis for building our organisation and recruiting members", he said.

Other groups started off by trying to be an umbrella body for different youth groups, in their area - for instance,

religious groups, drama, recreation and culture. There were many problems in trying to bring these different groups with different interests together.

"We also found that it was difficult working from the top and that we should first establish our roots among the membership", they said.

Many civic bodies now have youth wings which are a part of the organisations.

The youth wings, however, remain independent bodies in that they have a say over their own affairs. Usually, they also have some representation on the sub-committees of the civic.

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNT

"THE youth leaders of today are the people's leaders of tomorrow".

This is one of the major gains of youth organisations - the breeding of future leaders, according to various youth groups.

Through youth organisations people gained experience in organising and working with others, they said.

However, they all agreed that the most important gain made by youth groups was the

actual establishing of the group.

Said a youth organiser: "Through the organisations we are reaching many young people, many of whom would never have come together otherwise."

"Young people are able to make their awareness grow through their organisations and many people also become aware of their hidden potential by being involved in various activities of their groups.

"Through these activities, young people get to work and play with many other people from their own area and also from other areas."

"They start realising the importance of standing together and also of working with other organisations, like civic bodies, trade unions and student organisations.

Through this work-

ing together, the youth members are not only accepted by each other, but also by other organisations, especially the community organisation.

The recognition of the youth by the community organisation in the area is also an acceptance by the broader community.

By helping the civic body, the youth are actually helping their community.



Youth of today



Community drama



Helping civic



Taking a break



Workers of tomorrow

A part of broader community

In many areas of the Western Cape the relationship between the youth groups and community organisations in their area, is very good.

Young people are realising the importance of putting a little bit of their energy back into the community.

In some areas, the youth groups play a supportive role to the civic body.

They help the civic by issuing meeting notices and sometimes going door to door to make people aware of the existence of the community organisations.

In many areas, the youth has taken the initiative and started civic bodies if there was no organisation in their area.

As one youth organiser said: "We do not only want the young people to get together,

each others problems, and activities and possibly share whatever equipment they have."

This kind of contact would also make youth groups feel they are not operating in isolation, but it will make them feel part of a much broader community.

The contact between the different youth groups can take many forms. They can get together for social, sporting or cultural events where members will not only be talking to each other, but will also enjoy themselves together.

This kind of contact can be maintained by youth groups from areas close to each other getting together to help each other with activities and people possibly exchanging newsletters and other publications.

Contact

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Victory for Tafelsig residents

AFTER moving into the new area of Tafelsig at Mitchells Plain the residents were shocked to find not a single school in the area. An Interim Schools Committee was elected to call a meeting of all the residents to discuss this problem.

After two well attended meetings 50 men, women and children travelled to the Wynberg Coloured Affairs Offices.

They handed in their memorandum and then discussed their problems with Mr Brinkhuis, the representative. The memorandum gave the results of the survey they had conducted and outlined the demands voiced at a mass meeting.

Mr Brinkhuis agreed to provide a free bus service to children travelling to schools in Mitchells Plain, and to subsidise travelling costs to schools outside Mitchells Plain.

A second delegation of the Interim Schools

Committee went to the City Council where they demanded: "that Council provide the parents with houses to serve as a school, a clinic, & community centre which could also be used as a day centre during the day."

The City Council promised nine houses — four to serve as schools, two as a clinic, two as a community centre and day centre and one as an advice office to be run by the Council.

Residents in East-ridge, encouraged by what the Tafelsig Residents had achieved, formed the Eastridge Residents Committee.

Here too the most urgent problem was the lack of schools. A survey was done to determine the extent of the problem and to have figures to back their arguments.

To get wider support for their demands a petition was drawn up and signed by over 300 residents.

The Eastridge Residents Committee met with the Tafelsig Residents and together they decided to send a joint delegation to see Coloured Affairs and the City Council.

On the morning of the 15 October the joint delegation set out for the regional offices of Coloured Affairs in Wynberg. Their first demand was that accommodation provided for 63 children who were not attending school in Eastridge. Secondly a

Free bus

free bus service be provided for children in Eastridge and those who travel outside Mitchells Plain. It was agreed to subsidise the travelling costs to schools outside Mitchells Plain, and to extend the free bus service from Eastridge to Tafelsig.

Their demands were:

- Houses to serve as a day centre and a community centre

for Eastridge

- That Council deliver the two houses to Tafelsig it had promised.

Tafelsig informed the Council that it wished to have two more houses to serve as a creche to help solve the serious problem of facilities for children.

Council agreed to attend to all these demands.

The recent struggle of the people of Eastridge and Tafelsig around the schools and community issue has revealed:

□ Little or no co-ordination between the Department of Internal Affairs which is responsible for providing educational facilities and the City Council which is responsible for building homes.

□ A serious shortage of school accommodation in Mitchells Plain for children in all age groups. When the 1982 new school year begins and when there will be thousands more people living here the shortage of school accommodation will be far greater than now.

□ The need for people to organise.

Gains

People now realise that together they were able to achieve what they were not able to do as individuals. A number of residents had tried on their own to get help in connection with children's schooling.

The principals sent them to Coloured Affairs and Coloured Affairs sent them away.

Nobody could help. Anger, desperation and frustration was all they knew.

It was only when the people came together and worked together that they began getting somewhere with their problems.

A resident said: "The few gains we, the people of these two areas, have been able to make were made possible by the unity and organisation we built in a very short time. Much more still needs to be done, and much hard work lies ahead, but the ground for good work has been laid and must be built upon."

Hospital campaign

IN Mitchells Plain there are about 100 000 people, yet there is not a single day hospital. Most of the residents are ordinary working people earning very low wages.

It is becoming more difficult to cope with high rents high transport and other daily expenses.

When there is sickness in the house the people are either forced to go to a day hospital outside the area or they have to treat themselves.

"It is an even bigger problem when someone gets sick at night, as very few of us have our own transport," a resident said.

There are also many residents who are in need of regular treatment.

Because they cannot

afford to go to private doctors, they are forced to attend a day hospital outside the area.

Responding to this problem, a number of residents formed themselves into a committee called the Day Hospital-Committee.

These residents have started work in Rocklands, a suburb of Mitchells Plain.

Members of the Committee started speaking to residents about the problem. House meetings were then held, where the problem was discussed.

The information that the Committee collected from the house meetings and the house visits was used to draw up a pilot survey.

At the house meetings residents were asked to assist with the survey.

Among other functions, the survey was therefore also intended to give the residents an opportunity to participate in the campaign.

When it was realised that many residents could not read or write, the committee had to find other means whereby the residents could be drawn into the campaign.

The results of the pilot survey contain interesting possibilities around which residents could be brought together.

Thus far the campaign has been met with great enthusiasm by the residents of Rocklands.

The Committee has also discovered another important way in organising communities and that is around health problems.

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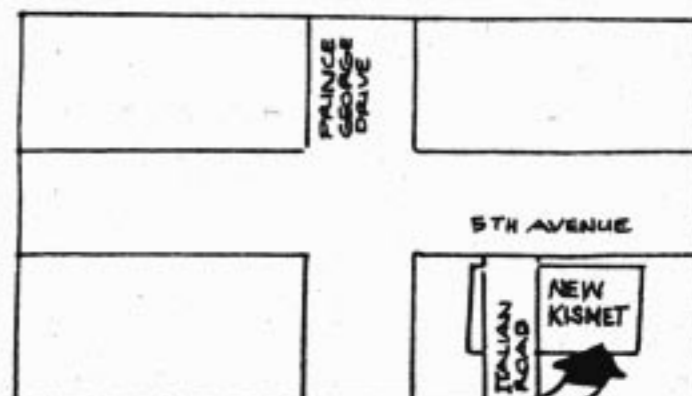
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ADVICE

Democracy – take it right into our meetings



IN the previous issues of GRASSROOTS, we discussed organisations and constitutions. In this issue, we will discuss standing orders.

What are standing orders?

Standing orders are unwritten rules which govern meetings and meeting procedure.

These rules have been adopted by common practice and have become part of meeting procedure.

What is a meeting?

A meeting is a gathering of members of an organisation to discuss the business of the organisation and take decisions on certain matters which are placed on the agenda for discussion.

An organisation usually has a General Meeting and an Executive Meeting.

The General Meeting comprises all the members of the organisation.

The Executive Meeting comprises those members who have been elected to carry out the decisions of the General Meeting.

What is an Agenda?

An Agenda is a list of items which are to be presented to a meeting for discussion and consideration.

The Agenda usually takes a particular form which is listed in the order in which the matters are to be discussed.

The usual order is (i) Minutes (ii) Correspondence (iii) Finance (iv) Reports and (v) General Business.

What are Minutes?

Minutes are the written recordings of the business discussed, motions proposed and resolutions taken at a particular meeting.

The minutes are noted in a minute book and presented at the following meeting for approval and acceptance.

What is a Motion?

A motion is a proposal

made for acceptance by a meeting on any matter which is placed before it for discussion and consideration.

The motion is moved or proposed by a member and seconded or supported by another member.

The motion can be opposed by another member provided such a member has a supporter or seconder.

Such opposition is known as a counter motion. The motion and counter motion is voted upon. If the majority of the members present vote in favour of such motion, it is carried or accepted.

If the majority vote in favour of the counter motion, the original motion is rejected.

What is a resolution?

A resolution is a motion upon which the majority of the members have voted in favour of.

In other words, a resolution is a motion which has been carried.

A resolution is binding on the organisation and can only be withdrawn by special procedure.

What is a Vote?

A vote is the right of each member, at a meeting, to have a say in the decision-making process of the organisation. Each member usually has one vote. It is called the deliberate vote. The Chairperson can have both a deliberative and a casting vote, should there be a deadlock.

What is a Casting Vote?

A Casting Vote is the right of the chairperson to vote on a motion where there is a tie i.e. where an equal number of members voted for and against a motion.

The chairperson can cast his vote either in favour of or against such motion. This is called a casting vote.

What is a Quorum?

A quorum is the number of members who must be present at a meeting before it can start.

The constitution normally stipulates the number. If there is no quorum at a particular meeting, it is postponed to a later date and the members present at such meeting proceed

with the business of the meeting.

How is a Resolution Rescinded or Withdrawn?

Before a resolution can

be rescinded or withdrawn a member must give notice of his intention to move a motion to review and rescind a resolution.

After such notice is received the matter is

placed on the agenda at a subsequent meeting.

At such meetings the resolution is reviewed and if the majority of the members support the motion, the

or withdrawn.

In the next issue of GRASSROOTS we will look at the role of the CHAIRPERSON, SECRETARY and TREASURER.

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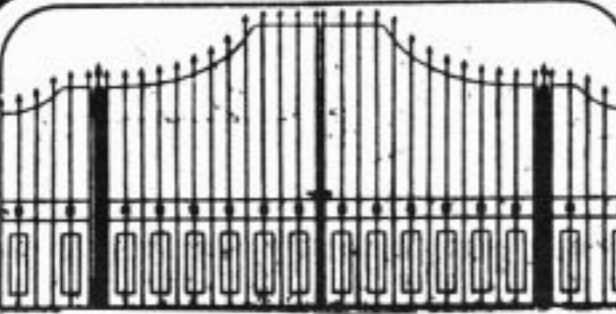
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ADVICE LOOKS AT DOES A SMALLER FAMILY MEAN A BIGGER FUTURE?

ANY woman who has given birth to a baby at a hospital or day hospital, any woman who has been to a clinic with a womb problem or often even if she takes her children to a clinic she is asked one question:

ARE YOU ON FAMILY PLANNING?

She is often asked several times by the doctors and the nurses.



Women who have just given birth are usually given a birth control (depro) injection immediately, often without being told what it is, let alone asked if they

want it. Whenever a community calls for medical services (Mitchells Plain, for instance), the first thing the state does is to start a family planning clinic.

Why is the state obsessed with family planning? Why

do medical staff ram it down our throats? The answer is the Big Lie. The state believes it (or pretends to); medical staff teach it and are under pressure from their superiors to spread it.

Here we compare the Big Lie to the opinions of a SPECIAL GRASSROOTS panel.

The Big Lie says:	Special Panel:
• Families are poor because they are too big.	• They are poor because wages are low
• Families are unhealthy because there are too many children.	• Families are unhealthy because they are poor.
• Big families cause malnutrition, TB and other children's diseases	• Low wages and bad conditions at home cause malnutrition, TB etc.
• Big families cause over-crowding.	• Too few houses cause over-crowding.
• Education is bad because there are too many children in the community.	• Education is bad because not enough money is set aside by the state.
• Unemployment is caused by too many children growing up to become too many people looking for work.	• Unemployment is caused largely by the bosses who can keep wages low if there are many people out of work.
• Big families lead to crime.	• Too few jobs causes crime.
• There is not enough food and wealth in South Africa to feed and clothe everybody.	• There is plenty of wealth in the country; the problem is that a few have too much while most have too little.

THE solution, says the Big Lie, is that working class people should have fewer children. The survival of all of us (workers and non workers), says the Lie, depends on it.

A counter argument is produced by some people

They say that workers should have as many children as possible in order to overburden the system and hasten its collapse.

The panel believes that this is also wrong. It is the same mistake as the Big Lie - numbers do not count in the struggle; organisation does.

How also can one explain that, for example, Guguletu has three or four times as many people as Crossroads, yet Crossroads is stronger than Guguletu?

It is because community organisation is stronger. Sheer numbers cannot change the system in this country - only organisation can.

What can contraception do?

Contraception can

help set women free; free from fear of having unwanted children every time they have a relationship with a man;

Free from the burden (unless they want it) of spending their entire adult life look-

ing after young kids.

- Free from the threat of having something go wrong with the pregnancy or the baby if they are over 40 or have had more than five children.
- Free from the dan-

ger to their health a pregnancy may bring if they already suffer from diabetes, heart disease or some other illness.

Every woman should have the right to use contraception if they

want it; and the right to refuse it if they do not.

Every woman should have the right to be told about alternatives if she is not satisfied with the contraceptive she uses.

1. Always go there with a friend or relative.

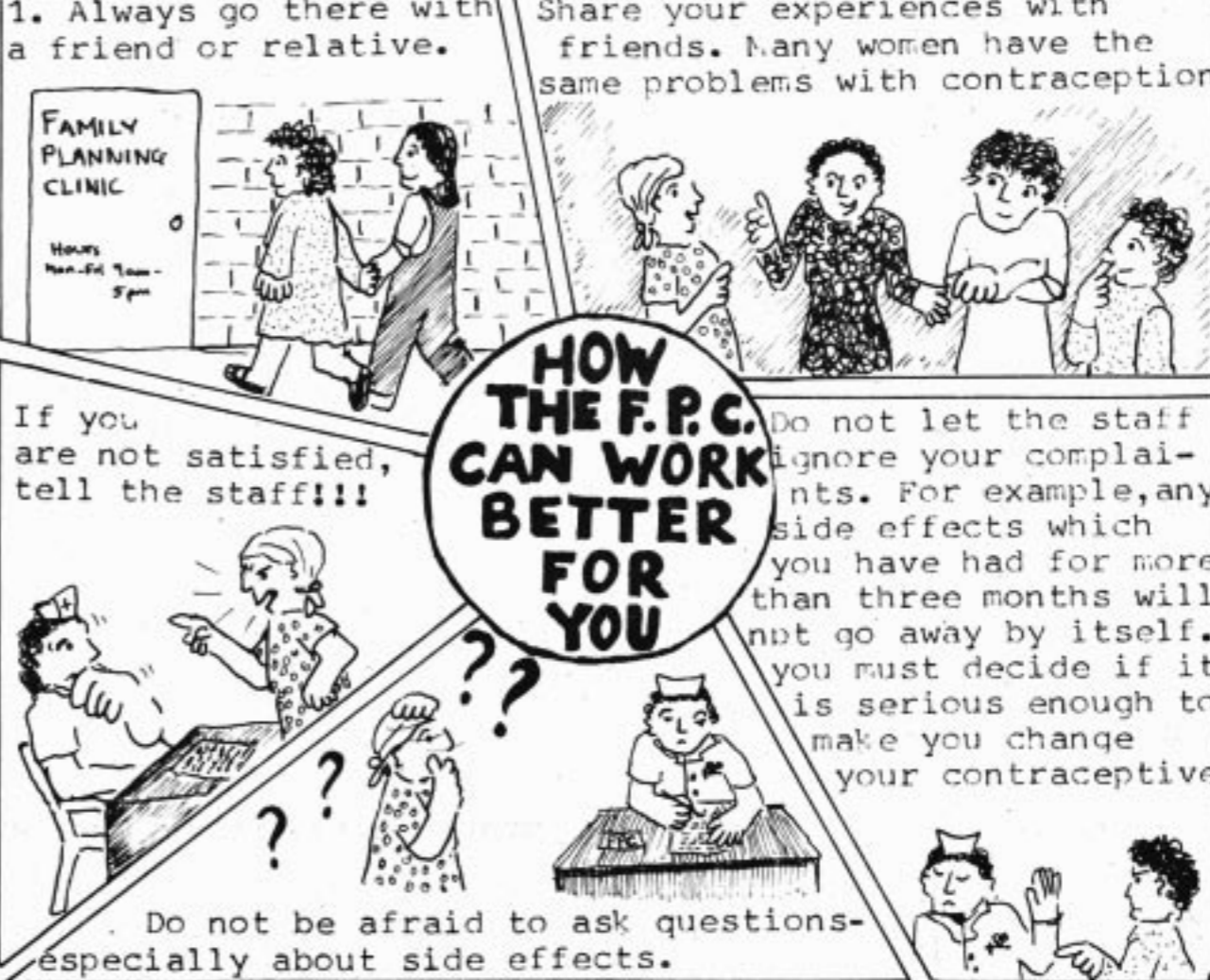
Share your experiences with friends. Many women have the same problems with contraception

Do not let the staff ignore your complaints. For example, any side effects which you have had for more than three months will not go away by itself. you must decide if it is serious enough to make you change your contraceptive

HOW THE F.P.C. CAN WORK BETTER FOR YOU

If you are not satisfied, tell the staff!!!

Do not be afraid to ask questions - especially about side effects.



FAMILY PLANNING

THE PILL — Do you have side effects

This month two forms of contraceptives are going to be discussed — the injection and the pill.

Oestrogen and progesterone are two substances (hormones) found in the body. When given in contraceptives they act by stopping ova (eggs which are fertilized by the man's sperm to begin the baby) from being released from the ovaries.

There are important differences between oestrogen and progesterone. Oestrogen can never be given without progesterone; progesterone can be given alone (as in the depot injection and micronorm pill).

Very, very occasionally oestrogen can damage a woman's blood vessels; progesterone has not been found to cause any serious problems over many years — although it can cause many very worrying minor problems.

Side effects that women have from the injection are all from progesterone.

Side effects that women have from the pill may be largely from oestrogen, largely from progesterone or combined effects from both.

Common side effects from oestrogen:

- More water retained in the body (weight gain).
- Sore breasts.

- Nausea (want to vomit all the time).
- Thrush in vagina (female parts). Thrush is a fungal infection causing an itchy discharge.
- Heavy periods (bleeding more every month).
- Heavy discharge.

Common progesterogenic side effects:

- Light periods (or even no periods — very common with the depot injection).
- Feeling miserable and depressed.
- Less feeling for sex.
- More fat stores in the body (weight gain).
- Dry vagina during love-making.

Common combined

- effects:
- Headaches
 - Pimples.
 - Chloasma (brown marks on the cheeks).

Side Effects

Side effects should be thought about carefully by the woman before she decides to stop or change her kind of contraception.

Side-effects are always worse in the first month — pill or injection — and may settle down in the second or third months.

Secondly, for example, a woman who gets sore breasts at the beginning of her month but is otherwise happy with the pill would probably be wrong to want to change — she

probably would not be able to do better on another kind.

But, to take for example, say a woman on the pill has gained a lot of weight, has a very dry vagina and does not enjoy making love any more.

These are all progesterone effects and she might benefit from changing her type of pill.

This must be done in consultation with the family planning clinic staff because a change cannot be made without their agreement.

Similarly the Doctor/nurse should not change a method of contraception unless the woman understands and agrees.



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Women speak out

CHRISTINE Jacobs, of Facreton says: "I have 5 children. I'm not interested in family planning. I'm going to have children till I drop. Family planning takes all my strength away."

Nomise Magirana, 22, of Guguletu who has 1 child said: "I was on the injection for 6 months. The first time I had the injection I bled a little every day for the whole three months. I went back to the clinic and the sister said I must come next week to see the doctor. When I arrived the doctor wasn't there so they gave me another injection and I carried on bleeding for another 2 months."

Franscina Cohe, 18 of Mitchell's Plain says: "My mother had 8 children. Every time it was my birthday my mother was in hospital with another child. She's 40 now and looks like an old woman. I like men but I don't want to do the same as my mother. I want to enjoy myself while I'm young."



Types of pills

The following is a list of pills. They include most of the ones that are available at clinics in Cape Town.

The figures are oestrogen and progesterone (Ovral is taken as "20"; the others are amounts oestrogen and progesterone as compared to ovral).

	Oestrogen	Progesterone
1. Micronovum	-	.9 (proges only)
2. Minovlar ED	20	2.7
3. Brevinor	14	.65
4. Orthonovum	± 20	2.7
5. Restovar	15	2
6. Ovostat	20	2.7
7. Normovlar	20	4.2 different strengths
		10 in 1 packet
8. Gynodar	20	8.1
9. Anovlar	20	10.8
10. Nordette	12	12
11. Ovral	20	20
12. Ovulen	± 28	20

General principles for using the pill

NOTE: It is common practice in family planning clinics to use Ovral to a greater extent than the others. The reasons is that if a woman forgets her pill one night she is fairly safe from pregnancy on Ovral; if she is on the lower dose pills she has taken a big chance.

So we can see that the clinics are

more concerned with preventing pregnancy than caring for the well-being of the patient.

General principles for using the pill (to be discussed with the family planning staff):

- Those beginning pill for the first time — try low dose pills (Nos. 1-7).

- Those with oestrogenic side effects — try lower oestrogen pill (Nos. 3, 5 or 10 for example).

- Those with progesterogenic side effects, heavy bleeding before the pill or breakthrough bleeding (bleeding in the middle of the month) while on a low dose pill — try higher dose pill (eg. Nos. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12)

Bishop Lavis fight for lights continues . . .

THE fight for lights is by no means over in Bishop Lavis. The people are determined to push through to the bitter end!

At a report back meeting on September 30, 400 eager faces awaited the reply of the delegation which was elected to get an answer to their demand of "when will electricity come to Lavistown".

Speaker after speaker endorsed the idea that "the struggle must continue for what is rightfully ours. We have come a long way and we just cannot afford to back down now", they said.

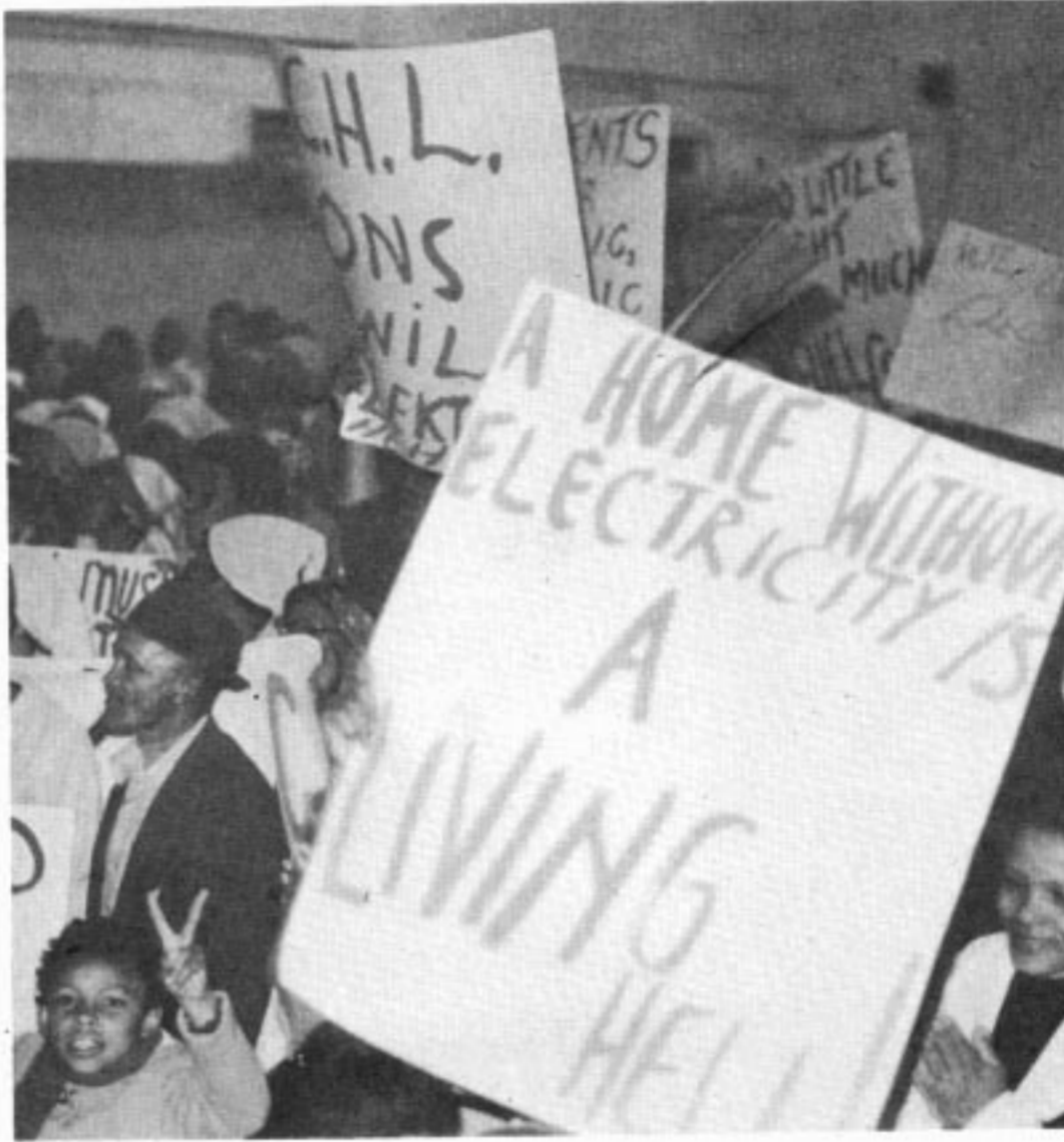
The delegation reported on the meeting with Citizens' Housing League (CHL) and their reply.

The negotiations were long and hard with the people fighting back.

But CHL's reply was that they do not have the money and that the Department of Community Development (DCD) did not have it either.

The people were not satisfied.

"On September 10, one of your Directors told us that CHL had some money but it was not enough. How much money do you really have?" they demanded.



have to bear the burden.

This was not acceptable to the delegation, as the people have said: "electricity is our right, we demand that it be installed at no unreasonable cost to tenants."

After all, we pay taxes and the DCD gets its money from our hard-earned wages."

And so, the delegation pushed forward with the demands, having a mandate and support of, almost every household in Bishop Lavis.

CHL gave in a little, and the people pushed even harder.

After two and a half hours of talking, weeks of protest - house-meetings, mass meetings, marches, petitions - the list goes on and on - CHL agreed to write a memorandum to the Department of Community Development stating in no uncertain terms that the people of Bishop Lavis are determined to have their demands met.

Demands

- They asked the DCD for permission to use the money that they have in the reserve fund to complete the sewerage project
- to raise a loan in the private sector to install electricity and
- that the DCD subsidises the interest rate so that ordinary working people do not have to bear the burden of extra costs.

Residents at the meeting decided to continue to place pressure on CHL, but also to send a delegation to DCD with a petition to let them know of the demands of the people.

"We have made many gains, this struggle has taught us that our fight is a long and hard one. We must continue to go forward", they said.

And so, the struggle for electricity in Bishop Lavis continues

"Well, we have R1,8 million in our reserve fund, but we need R2,5 million to install electricity", they replied sheepishly.

"Why can't you use this money?" the people asked.

According to CHL,

they have to get the permission of the DCD to use the funds that they have. This money in reserve has already been set aside for a new sewerage system in Lavistown.

The delegation was determined, "why can't

you raise the money from the private sector?"

CHL claims that this can be done, but that the interest rates are much higher than that

of DCD. This means that the people will

Grassroots Bookshelf

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THIS book looks at origins of the apartheid design from its first beginnings as a segregation system in the 1980's to its renaming as Trusteeship in the early 1930's.

It tries to show that segregation not only goes hand in glove with economic growth but is designed as a "forced" labour system geared to ensure the bosses' profits.

The chapters describe this relentless chase after economic growth which swelled wealth, power and privilege for the few - while increasing poverty and exploitation for the mass of South Africans.

The country's economic growth, and even the mining of its vast mineral wealth, has - according to the author - been made possible at the expense of human need.

Made possible by the

sheer battle for survival of most Africans - millions of them - who year after year "work for nothing - for Boroko - a place to sleep."

A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF SOUTH AFRICA, VOL 1 by Luli Callinos. Entitled Gold and Workers, this is the first of a series and covers the period 1886 to 1924.

It deal with the Gold Rush and how the min-

ing industry helped to shape the present labour structure of the country.

DRAWINGS

Use is made of photographs and drawings all the time, cartoons, quotes, excerpts, tables and a flowing style that make it interesting and easy to understand.

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MAJOR GAINS FOR COUNCIL WORKERS

LIKE their co-workers in other parts of the country, the Cape Town City Council workers have vowed to continue with the struggle for a living wage and better working conditions.

The workers, through their union, the Cape Town Municipal Worker's Association (CTMWA) has been involved with a great battle with the bosses.

Year after year, the union has demanded higher wages. By 1980 workers were desperate and told the union: "Let us stand up on our feet and fight the Council. Why must we accept the crumbs they offer?"

And so, in December last year, the union pressed ahead with wage demands.

Realising the mood

of the workers, the Council raised the wages of the lower paid workers (labourers) from R29,44 to R37,26 per week on the start and R44,16 to R48,76 per week on the top from 1st January 1980.

This would break the unity and fighting spirit of workers, they thought. But, the Council was wrong.

Inspired by workers' struggles in other parts of the country, for the first time in 15 years, they made their voices heard.

Workers told the Council: "We have had enough of double talk. Give us a living wage or else . . ."

The mood of the workers was militant and the union pressed ahead, and went to the Conciliation Board to settle the matter. The

workers also threatened to take the matter to Arbitration Court if the Council still refused.

Bending under the pressure and fearing militant industrial action, the Council made further concessions which they have never made before.

The Council accepted recommendations for *drastic* pay increases.

They also accepted the union's demand for payment according to a proper evaluation of work.

It was clear that the Council was in retreat.

The new pay increases came into operation 1st September 1981.

• the labourer's scale has been increased to R44,16 on the start and R58,42 per

week on the top

• all workers are to receive increases in holiday bonus, for the lowest paid workers this amounts to R229 per year.

This is a big jump from what the workers were earning at the time the Union made its demands.

When asked what would happen next?, the secretary of the union, Mr Erntzen said: "the members meeting made it clear that the Union must re-assess the matter and submit fresh demands for a living wage at the earliest opportunity.

"The struggle for a living wage is one which goes on all the time. Our members are in a militant mood and we assure Council it will have a big fight on its hands soon."

Council workers say no to arbitration

TRADE unions are tied by many different industrial laws. In the case of the City Council workers' fight for a living wage, they were faced with the question of how to use these means to back their struggle.

The workers were dissatisfied with the increases that the council gave. "It is not enough. We will not come out on the new pay. The council is hiding behind the law," said one of the workers.

Question

At a general meeting of workers, they were faced with the question of where to now?

"What must we do?" asked a worker at a meeting, "to get a decent wage." According to the law, came the reply, we cannot strike.

"Why not?"

"Because the law says we perform an essential service."

"What law?"

"The Industrial Conciliation Act".

"Then what must we do?"

Dispute

"That law says when there is a dispute you can ask the Industrial Court to arbitrate."

"Well then, lets ask them to arbitrate!"

And so the Union applied for arbitration. Throughout the municipal service workers spoke about nothing else but "Arbitration."

Now according to the law there is a procedure to be followed.

Before you can go to arbitration, you must go to "Conciliation". But what is that, say the workers.

"No, no, first we must get together to talk," say the bosses.

"But we have talked already!"

"No, but the law says we must talk again!"

And so the dispute between the Union and the Council dragged on and on. Meanwhile workers starved, lost their homes and took their children from schools.

The Union was forced to go through Conciliation proceedings and only then was the matter set down for hearing before the Arbitration Court.

The Union says its action in applying for arbitration was a successful move. This is what forced the Council to offer further increases.

When asked why members had voted against going to the Ar-

bitration Court after Council's latest offer, the Secretary of the Union, John Ernstzen said: "We would have gone on but in terms of the law, once the Court gives its decision, the award would be binding on us for 15 months.

"That means we would not be able to get further increases until 1983 some time. And who knows whether the Court would have given an award above Council's offer.

"Secondly, when will the Court make its award? Maybe in January or February 1982. And the 15 month period runs from that time.

"That would not have been in the interest of the workers. I must point out that many workers felt we should have fought to the end - win or lose."

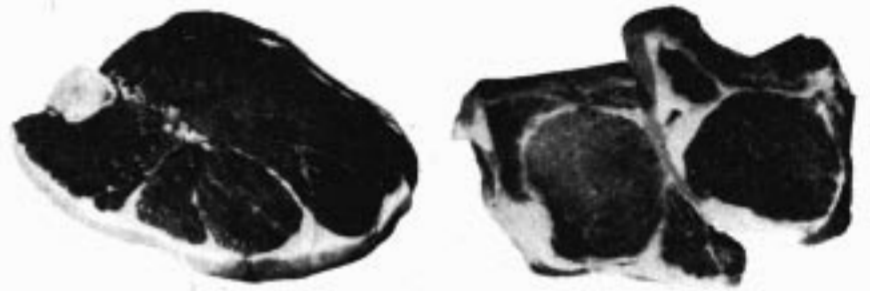
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City Council goes back on promise

RESIDENTS of Tafelsig and Eastridge are upset after not getting all the houses they were promised by the Cape Town City Council.

The residents of Tafelsig were promised nine houses, but they only received two for a

clinic which runs one morning a week.

'We only asked the Council for four houses and they promised us nine. Now they are going back on their promise,' a resident said at one of the protest meetings in Tafelsig

recently.

At the last protest meeting it was decided to write a letter to make an appointment with the full Council Housing Committee.

'We are sick of speaking to officials who only break promises. We must speak to all of them together,' a resident said.

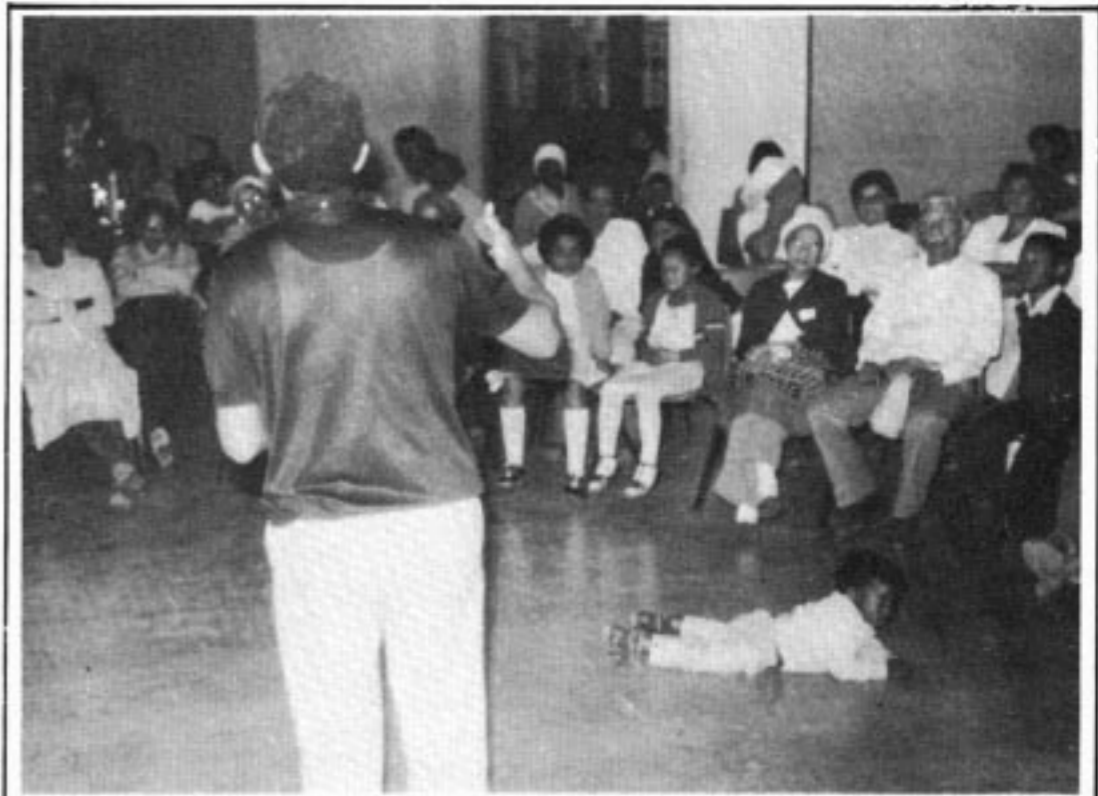
At one meeting, residents said they were promised many things before coming to Mit-

chells Plain.

'However, now that we are here, we find there are not even schools for our children,' they said.

Tafelsig residents said they needed the other houses for a community centre and a creche for their children.

'Our mothers are forced to work, so the children must have a place to go,' one resident said.



It's not all hard work . . .

Civic strikes a balance

RESIDENTS in Hanover Park met on Saturday 22 August 1981 at the St. Dominics Hall around a cup of tea and cake. A pleasant atmosphere prevailed as residents recalled the good old days of District 6.

It was decided on this entertaining venture so that the people from all over H.P. could meet each other, discuss in an informal way and relate experiences.

Disabled Mr Coates of the pensioners' quarters met a friend he last

saw 11 years ago.

This social event was also educative, because slides of the area were shown, exposing the conditions in H.P. People spoke about their experiences in the community. For instance Mrs Rumble from Oriibi Court explained to the people how they organized around the broken washing lines in their court and finally the march to the rent office.

Council repaired the lines within hours.

The film "It's ours whatever they say" focussing on community organization was screened to the people. There was also some discussion on the Nyanga squatters situation backed up with a film on squatters.

Finally they were addressed by our CAHAC chairman, Wolfe Rhodes, who spoke on why people should stand together to fight for better living conditions and the need for organization.

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Bus fares victory

From page 1

the Nedbank Building starting on July 29.

The hearing was called to listen to arguments from the bus companies and from the organisations.

Meanwhile the organisations distributed pamphlets and collected signatures to a petition.

Sympathetic legal men offered to help the organisations at the hearing.

The hearing was postponed at the request of the organisations to August 24.

On August 24, 25 and 26 the hearing was held at Nedbank Building where members of community organisations and trade unions stated their opposition to increased fares.

Mothers, fathers and children packed the boardroom, and showed their support for the organisations.

The organisations had brought with them hundreds of petitions signed by 20 000 people.

The bus companies said they were not mak-

ing any profit but the people showed that Tramways had made R12 million profit in 1980 and were able to pay their top five directors R5 800 a month each.

At the end of the three-day hearing, the National Transport Commission said they would make the outcome known at a later date.

Two weeks ago, the decision was announced.

The organisations that opposed the increase were:

Avondale Estate Tenants Ass./ Bishop Lavis Action Committee / BBSK Residents Ass. / Bonteheuwel Civic Ass. / Clarks Estate Tenants Ass. / Electricity Petition Comm. / Hanover Park Civic / Kensington-Factreton Youth Ass. / Lavender Hill Comm. / Lotus River & Grassy Park Residents Ass. / Steenberg Comm. / United Womens Organization / Food & Canning Workers Union / CAHAC / Atlantis Civic Affairs Ass. / General Workers Union.

NOTE: A number of people interviewed felt that it was important that people's organisations should remain on the alert as the Tramways could be expected to apply for increases again in six months time.

"We must fight them with everything we've got if this happens," said one.

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