

Council is boycotted

THE Cape Town Community Council members have been having a hard time in the past few weeks. This follows a boycott of councillors' businesses by Guguletu residents.

Last month, angry residents voted to boycott the Western Cape Administration Board's beer halls and the councillors' businesses after several evictions of tenants in the township.

At a mass meeting more than 500 people condemned the community council as a "puppet body" and claimed there was corruption in the allocation of houses.

Feeling the effects of the boycott, the chairman of the council called a special meeting to investigate the housing portfolio. But eight councillors - including the chairman of the housing committee - boycotted the meeting and they could not get a quorum.

However, all the councillors attended a meeting the next day, which had been set aside for the election of a chairman, vice-chairman and executive committee for the council. This time the meeting ended in uproar with angry councillors shouting at each other.

A further meeting held the following week to elect office-bearers was again boycotted by most of the councillors and a quorum was not achieved.

Later, an attempt was made to pass a motion of no confidence in the current chairman, but again there was no quorum.

Workers stop talks after police arrive

THE bosses of Langeberg cannery in East London have sacked 800 workers. They were sacked after stopping work in demand for higher wages.

The union representing the workers, the African Food and Canning Workers Union, is fighting to get the bosses to take the workers back.

So far, management has agreed to take back about 500 workers.

However, the union is unhappy. It wants full re-instatement.

Management said the workers had been demanding an 80 percent wage increase and "the release of Oscar Mpetha, held under criminal charges."

These negotiations had broken down because of the presence of security police on the factory premises, said a union spokesman.

The major concern of the workers in the wage negotiations had been the fact that the factory planned to close over the summer period.

Workers are faced with the hardship of being unemployed until February.



A mother and child is loaded into the back of a police van after an early morning pass raid.

A DISGRACE!

A DISGRACE. A shame. Cruel. Violence against humanity. Evil. Increasing bitterness. Making war.

This is how the story of pass raids have been described.

Hundreds of our people have been arrested almost daily. So far more than 2 000 have been picked up and fines of R50 000 have been paid.

Many of our people come from the so-called homelands and resettlement camps. There's no work or food there. They have to come to Cape Town - or starve. They want only work, food, shelter, family lives. This is their "crime".

Instead they get raids, police vans, jail cells, crowded court rooms, sentences, and big fines.

Even children and babies don't escape. They see men bursting into their places late at night. Heavy

boots, brown uniforms, guns. They see their mothers torn from their beds. They see apartheid.

With feeding bottles in their hands and babies on their backs, mothers scramble into the vans. And when the vans go screaming off, the cries of babies can still be heard.

The people believe that this is part of the government's new plan. They want to force the people back into the homelands. They want new tougher pass laws.

The Disorderly Bill Committee is the organisation fighting against these new pass laws. This new Orderly Movement Bill is not yet law. But the Disorderly Bill Committee believes the government is already using it.

In Crossroads, the board has thrown down the trading market.

They have killed the work of more than 100 families.

In spite of the shortage of houses, the government has decided not to build more houses in Emfuleni and New Crossroads.

The Administration Board denies it is "waging war". It says its inspectors are merely starting again with their normal duties. They had been busy with other work and they were also short of inspectors.

At the National Party's Cape Congress last month to discuss "changes and new deals", calls were made for "human-proof fences" to prevent our people getting out of the homelands.

And Minister Piet Koornhof at once promised tougher laws. He also said loopholes in the pass laws would be closed. These loopholes allow wives to stay with husbands who had urban area rights.

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Railway workers fight on

THE General Workers' Union has applied to the South African Transport Services to give evidence before a SATS Committee of Inquiry into its industrial relations structure.

SATS have said the union can submit written evidence but has not yet confirmed whether a worker delegation from the Port Elizabeth docks will be allowed to give verbal evidence.

Workers go-slow

This follows the strike by about 700 railway workers in the PE docks about 6 weeks ago. The workers went on strike after 400 had been dismissed for taking part in a go-slow, aimed at trying to open discussions with SATS.

The workers, all members of the GWU, had been trying to get SATS to the negotiating table for about ten months before the go-slow. They are asking that SATS recognise the local committees representing dockers in PE and East London—the two ports where the GWU has a clear majority among the SATS dockers.

Union fights to protect unemployed

THE current economic recession is hitting thousands of workers in the Western Cape, who have already lost or will lose their jobs as bosses try to cut down on costs.

Workers in the steel and engineering industry and in the building industry have already been badly affected and many have been retrenched.

The most hard hit are unskilled contract workers. Unskilled workers are the first to be out on the streets when work is short and in South Africa most contract workers are offered little protection against retrenchments.

Workers from "independent homelands" find it very difficult to get their unemployment insurance benefits (UIF), if they manage to get them at all.

Contract workers who lose their jobs are no longer allowed to stay in the towns and look for new jobs.

They are endorsed out under influx control legislation, back to

impoverished homelands, where they once more have to join the long queues of unemployed outside the labour bureaux.

For those workers organised into trade unions, the battle against retrenchment is one of the most difficult. When bosses no longer need the workers, their position is weak.

Workers are sometimes so desperate in times of high unemployment, they are often prepared to take anything, no matter what the wages or working conditions.

The General Workers' Union, which has many contract workers as members, have been negotiating retrenchment procedure with bosses in the factories where they have a majority for the past few months.

Although it is very difficult to abolish retrenchment altogether, the union says there are ways to fight retrenchments and so

to lessen the blow for the workers.

An important principle to establish with the bosses is that workers must be given long notice of an intended retrenchment.

The amount of notice differs in various factories.

Options

In the stevedoring industry, for example, it is two weeks notice. This gives the workers' committee time to fight the retrenchment, says the union.

Bosses must explain exactly why they need to retrench certain workers.

The more information workers have, the easier it becomes to protect themselves against bosses trying to use a smaller number of workers to do the same amount of work as a way of cutting costs. It also gives workers time to think about alternatives to retrenchment.

Workers in the GWU have thought of three main alternatives to

retrenchment. The first is a ban on all overtime. The second alternative is to put all workers on short time, so that all workers in a factory work fewer hours, rather than some of the workers being retrenched.

A third alternative, which has been taken up by workers at Dorman Long, is for workers to take unpaid leave in cycles. This means that all workers share the burden of the work shortage and are guaranteed their jobs back at the end of their cycle of unpaid leave.

An old union principle, and one that many of the progressive unions in South Africa, including the GWU try to stick to is the "last in, first out" principle.

If retrenchments seem inevitable, then workers with the shortest service should be the first to go.

The practise of "last in, first out" avoids victimisation and makes it difficult for the bosses to use retrench-

ments as a 'disciplinary procedure'.

When workers are retrenched many workers ask that "job-loss" pay be paid out to those who have lost their jobs. Bosses are often reluctant to do this.

But, says the GWU, why should workers be the only ones made to suffer the effects of retrenchment.

During the boom that usually precedes a recession, profits are usually high. The workers who have made those profits should also be entitled to share when times are bad.

Protection

In factories where workers have been retrenched, the first available jobs should go to those retrenched workers. Bosses should also try to find jobs in other factories.

As the unemployment queues get longer and the recession gets bleaker, workers are trying even harder to protect themselves against retrenchment.

In comes the knitwear....

FOSATU condemns new bill and PC proposals

MORE than 600 workers at two textile factories will be without jobs from November. There is no Christmas bonus to look forward to for these workers.

In Paarl 560 workers (an entire shift), will be laid off at Berg River Textiles from early November. About 100 workers at SBH Cotton Mills in Epping will lose their jobs on November 8.

All this because cheaper garments from Taiwan are sold in South Africa.

Factories in SA are forced to slow down production because of the imported goods.

Workers in Taiwan get very low wages because the government there harasses their trade unions.



out goes the workers.....

The garments they produce can therefore be sold very cheaply.

When they are imported into South Africa the SA government does not charge any customs duties like

they do on other imported goods. This makes the knitwear garments even cheaper when they are sold here.

Cheap maize from South Africa is exported

to Taiwan as part of an agreement made by P.W. Botha when he visited Taiwan last year. In return cheap garments from Taiwan are sold in S.A.

"The black worker

in South Africa suffers in order to increase the bank balance of South African farmers," says a spokesperson for the National Union of Textile workers.

THE Federation of South African Trade Unions (Fosatu) which represents 100 000 workers strongly condemned the new Orderly Movement and Settlement of Black Persons Bill, describing it as a "further curtailment of the rights of workers".

At a meeting of the central committee in October, a resolution was passed condemning the Bill and "all legislation aimed at controlling the movement of black workers in the interests of minority rule."

"The Bill is clearly aimed at dividing workers

into those who live in the rural areas and those who live in the towns.

"The influx control system must be condemned not only as a way of entrenching minority rule but also as a way of weakening the worker movement, which aims at a better life for all South African citizens.

"Fosatu is aware that many strikes have been broken by the use of influx control legislation to ship striking workers away into the homelands," said the Fosatu central committee.

Fosatu also passed a motion condemning and rejecting the President's Council.

"The recommendations of the President's Council are based on the divide and rule policy which has existed for generations in South Africa and which is dedicated to oppression of the majority by the minority," said the resolution.

Fosatu re-affirmed its commitment to a non-racial South Africa controlled by the majority of its citizens and said it would continue to work "building a non-racial democratic trade union movement as its contribution to a future South Africa."

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Bread protest

ABOUT 500 people attended a meeting in Guguletu recently to protest against the high bread price.

The people were angry. They said they were tired of the Government's attacks.

"We must take action," they said.

The meeting decided to call for a protest boycott in the week of November 22 to 29. The people elected a Food Committee to talk to other organisations about supporting the boycott.

This meeting followed an assessment of the Bread Campaign by the UWO.

They organised a "rag" procession to "parade" through the streets of the

township, announcing the meeting. The Branch borrowed a van. They covered the van with banners and posters. The banners were painted with slogans: **BRING DOWN PRICES, WE ARE HUNGRY! WE WANT BREAD, BUT THE GOVERNMENT BUYS GUNS! BREAD FOR PEOPLE, NOT FOR PROFITS!**

Women stood on the van, using a loudspeaker to talk to the people in the streets. People came out of their houses. They came out of the beerhalls and they stepped off the buses to hear what the "rag" had to say.

The procession moved slowly from street to street, from Section 1

across to Nyanga, New Cross Roads and the Nyanga Bush settlement.

The women handed out pamphlets from house to house as they went along. They talked to the people about the meeting. They urged them to attend.

"Imbila yswela umsila ngekuyalezela" they said. (Come and hear for yourself so that you hear the true story.)

Children crammed on to the back of the van, eating bread. "It may be the last time we eat bread. Bring down prices, we are hungry", they said.

The "rag" procession was harassed a number of times by vans and uniformed men, but the women went on regardless.



75,000 sign petition

IN ABOUT four weeks more than 75 000 people have already signed a petition in Durban to protest against the bread price increase.

Durban's Bread Committee say they aim to hand in 250 000 to the Government.

At a meeting in Newlands East recently, more

than 200 agreed that the price of bread should not go up.

However, they rejected the call by Chief Gatsha Buthelezi of Inkatha and the SA Black Alliance, for a boycott of white bread.

The meeting was organised by the Bread Committee. The committee represents political,

worker, community, student and church bodies.

The demands of the petition are:

- The increase is totally unjust;
- The Government subsidy is too low;
- None shall go hungry in our society.



ANOTHER DISTRICT SIX?

"DISTRICT SIX is gone. Will Bo-Kaap be next?"

This is what Schotcheskloof residents are asking. They are asking this because they are seeing all the signs of a plan that will force them to move.

Home owners have already been forced to sell their homes to the council. No improvements are being made in the area.

Again and again, the council refuses to allow people to buy houses and vacant land. Even providing a rent office is too big an effort for the council - the people pay their rent through the caretaker's bedroom window.

The council says they have no money for Schotcheskloof.

The people do not believe the council. They say the council wants to move them into the bush because they cannot move them further up the hill.

"Our forefathers lived in the cen-

tre of town," they say. "Keerom Street, Loop Street and Long Street were where we used to live. But then the Supreme Court and other businesses took over the land." The people had to move up to Signal Hill.

In the fifties, a section of Bo-Kaap was declared white. More than 100 families were forced to move elsewhere in Bo-Kaap or out to the Cape Flats. At the time, the people had no strong organisation through which they could organise resistance.

Today, the Schotcheskloof Civic Association, leads the people in their struggle for the right to live in the area.

At a public meeting recently, more than 300 people decided that they would have no further dealings with the city council.

The people clearly have no confidence in the council. They have resolved to have meetings with other residents before any approach be made to council.

Unite to defend living standards

MORE than 400 people in Bokmakierie, Bridgetown, Silvertown and Kewtown met recently to discuss their problems. The meeting called by the BBSK Residents Association, looked at problems facing workers and tenants as a whole. These included the rising cost of living, the Orderly Movement & Settlement Bill and the Presidents Council's proposals.

In his opening address, the chairman of the Association said,

"Bread, GST and bus fares have gone up in price. Daily, the rising cost of living puts more and more basic necessities out of our reach. Low wages and the swelling numbers of unemployed and retrenched mean that workers are faced with increased misery and deteriorating living conditions."

"In the BBSK area, surveys have shown that 6% of workers are unemployed and that 42% are on pension or disability. Of the

36% who are wage earners, 75% earn less than the minimum family subsistence level of R258,00 per month. Clearly, workers have to bear the brunt of the economic crisis so that bosses can continue to profit!"

To solve this problem, he drew attention to BBSK's slogan: "Workers and tenants - in your factories and townships - UNITE TO DEFEND YOUR LIVING STANDARDS."


In response to the "Orderly" Bill - an attempt by the state to drastically tighten restrictions on black workers - and the President's Council proposals, the meeting resolved to reject attempts to divide workers and to actively work towards forging stronger links with the African townships.

been submitting complaint sheets for a number of streets to the local rent office. Tenants have gone back

Tenants also expressed anger and impatience at Council's neglect of their responsibility to maintain houses in the area. This problem has reached serious proportions in the area. It has led to poor health, inconvenience, high electricity accounts due to faulty wiring, houses burning down - all contributing to increasing misery and further depleting meagre wage packets.

"For the past year and a half, BBSK has

again and again to demand that their repairs are done. Although this form of pressure has shown limited results, and must continue, it is not enough to force Council to provide a proper maintenance service" - a speaker said.



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Guguletu evictions lead to boycott

THE biggest meeting in years took place in Guguletu last month. More than 1 000 people came together. This shows how angry the Guguletu residents are about the evictions.

The meeting decided to boycott the businesses of the Community Councillors and the beerhalls of the WCAB (Western Cape Administration Board). The residents said that these are the bodies which evict people from their homes. They were especially angry about the "unnecessary ill-treatment" suffered by two families in the first week of October.

Mrs Miriam January and her family of 12 have lived in NY3 since 1963. In the first week of October, the Januarys were thrown on to the street by the Administration Board.

"We were only R6,00 in arrears and only one day late", said Mrs January who is an old-age pensioner. Mrs January's neighbours were shocked at the violence

of the WCAB who threw the family's belongings into the street.

The other residents of NY3 formed a street committee. The committee called on the Western Cape Civic Association to take up the case against the WCAB.

The Fenis, a family of 18 who live in NY84 were thrown out of their house in the same week. When the family refused to move, Mr Fenis was arrested and charged with trespassing. Mr Fenis is unemployed. Mrs Fenis is the only breadwinner in a family of 18.

The residents of NY 84 stood by the Fenis. They came together to form a street committee. They were present at the court when Mr Fenis was charged with trespassing in the house where he lived.

They helped Mrs Fenis's daughter who has TB.

They stood by the family as teargas was thrown into their home. They approached the Civic Association to call on the residents of Guguletu for support.

And they were all there when Mr Fenis won his case against the WCAB and was returned to his home with his family.

Meeting

The Western Cape Civic Association responded to the demands of the organised street committees and called a mass meeting. The meeting discussed the causes of the evictions.

The residents talked about how to stop this ill-treatment by the WCAB and the Community Council.

"The main cause for evictions is the housing shortage", one speaker said. "It is not that people do not pay their monthly rentals. People are evicted from their rightful places because the Board and its stooges, the Community Council, are short of houses."

Corruption

Other residents spoke of the

corruption of the Community Council. "Certain people pay large sums of money to BARB officials and Community Councillors. They get houses even if they are not on the waiting list. And because the BARB hasn't got enough houses, they take our houses away and sell them for bribes."

Three people told the meeting that their houses had been "sold" to other people in this way.

WCAB is the new name for the Bantu Administration Board or BARB. According to the WCAB there are more than 2 000 people on the waiting list for houses in the townships. Some of these people have been waiting for more than 10 years.

The residents resolved to take action. As one speaker said, "This hardship is caused by the dummy Community Council body and the Administration Board. We must

unite to protect our well-being as human beings."

And so the meeting decided to launch a boycott of the businesses run by individual Community Councillors and the beerhalls of the WCAB.

The names of the Community Councillors and the location of their businesses were announced at the meeting. They include a taxi business, shops, a butchery and an undertaker. The beerhalls were also named. From now on, the residents will not buy at these shops or support these businesses in any way.

Many residents joined the Civic Association at the meeting. They resolved to organise every street to fight the victimization of the people.

"The Community Council have shown us what they are. They have proved to the residents that they do not care about the people. They care only about their own pockets."



Pass raids in Nyanga, July 1981. Part of the crowd scrambling for safety after police fired tear-gas outside the Langa Commissioner's court.

"If you've got no vote, you've got to fight"

LOTS of us think that the ordinary people cannot change the laws of South Africa. Some of us say, "It is the rulers who make the laws. The ordinary people can do nothing."

But it isn't true that we have got no power to change the laws. The mass of the people can make the laws change. Let us look at some examples.

The Pass Laws

For three days in 1960 there were no pass laws in South Africa. How did this happen?

In 1960 the people all over South Africa demonstrated against the pass laws. At Sharpsville and Langa the police fired on the people and killed many. All over South Africa the black people were outraged. The government was scared that the people would rise up against it. So for three days the government cancelled the most-hated laws in South Africa. For three days there were no pass laws.

But as soon as the government felt strong and safe again, the pass laws were back.

Trade Unions and Pensions

During 1981 workers in factory after factory went on strike. 4 000 workers here, 100 workers there, 2 000 workers in the next town. Organised workers, unorganised workers — all downed tools. Why did so many workers strike? What was their demand?

The workers heard that the government was planning a new law on pensions. The new law said, "If you lose or leave your jobs, you cannot get your pension money. You can only get your pension when you are 60 years old."

All the workers were united by one thing — their rejection of the new law. Thousands of workers went on strike and demanded their pension money. They needed their money now, they refused to wait.

The bosses were losing profits because of the strikes. The anger and unity of the workers frightened the government. So the government gave up and threw away the new pension law. The workers won their demands, and forced the law to change.

Koornhof's Pass Law

So the people have struggled against laws in the past. We have forced the government to change some laws.

Already our anger has pushed back the Koornhof law. First the government wanted the law to start next year, but now we hear the law is only for 1984. But that is not enough. We have to stop this law completely.

As one worker said during the pension strikes: "If you've got no vote, you've got to fight."

New bill — Koornhof's answer to people power

THERE will be people crying in the wilderness. There will be millions of people starving in Transkei and Ciskei. People will lose their rights in the cities. People will be forced to their death in the homelands.

There will be police on the streets every night, hunting for "illegals". There will be police banging on our doors every night, hunting for "illegals".

What will be the cause of all this?

Koornhof's new law is the cause! His new law will turn brother against brother. If your friend is an "illegal" he will be your worst enemy. If your wife is an "illegal" she can cost you R500. If your mother is an "illegal" you will lose your rights. It will seem as if your mother is the worst enemy you ever had!

This is the new law the government is bringing to us.

Why?

In the last issue of Grassroots we saw that the new law will mean fewer people have rights to live in the towns. The law will also force all the "illegal" blacks out of the towns. Clearly, the government want less black people in the towns. And it wants to control the people better. Why?

To understand this, we have to look at the big problems that worry the government.

Unemployment

There are at least two million people with no jobs in South Africa. Unem-

ployed people are hungry people. Hungry people are angry people. Angry people might riot. The government is scared that the unemployed people will demand jobs, money or food.

So the new law will push most of the unemployed people to the homelands, where they must starve in misery and silence.

Houses

The government spends vast amounts of money on the army. But it does not want to spend money on houses for the people. So the new law allows less people to live in town. Then the government does not have to build houses for them in the towns. The people have to live in cheap mud or tin huts, or even tents, in the homelands.

And when the people do come to town they will come as migrant workers. The government can house the migrant workers in cheap hostels where they live like bachelors, because their families must stay behind in the homelands.

Schools, Hospitals, Creches

If there are more people in the towns, they need more schools, hospitals and so on. The government does not want to spend money on building and running schools, hospitals and other facilities. By forcing more people out of town, the law will save money for the government.

Wages

The government wants to weaken the workers. It hopes that migrant workers will be scared of losing their jobs. It hopes they will accept low wages.

If workers do strike, the government simply puts them on buses and sends them back to the homelands. In this way the government wants to help the employers and control the workers.

The People's Power

The government is worried about the growing power of the people's organisations. The people reject the government's crumbs. Everyday the people's voices and the people's demands get louder. Truly, this worries our rulers. The government feels the ground shaking beneath it.

Koornhof's new pass law is the government's answer. The government hopes the new law will divide the people, brother against brother, Permanent Urban Black against homeland citizen.

At the same time, the President's Council proposals will give "coloured" people a small voice in the government. In this way the government hopes to divide "Coloured" and "African"

The government wants the new law to do two things. The law must help cut costs for the government, and at the same time the law must divide and weaken the organisations of the people.

Koornhof's law is the government's answer to the challenge of the people. Now how are we going to answer this attack by the government?

Come to our newsletter workshops



This newsletter was produced at a Grassroots workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to teach pupils at schools how to produce their own newsletters.

If you are interested in publishing your own newsletter, contact Grassroots telephone 432117 or visit us at our office at Atlantic House, Corporation Street, Cape Town.

"Each one, teach one"

This was the slogan at the Grassroots workshop, which was held from 1st to 3rd October.

Delegates from 6 schools in the peninsula attended the workshop to learn how to produce newsletters at schools.

The program started with a comparison of the commercial press and the alternative or the people's press. Students learnt writing skills, and how to lay-

out a newsletter. We also discussed ways and means of setting up a magazine committee at schools.

"Dit was baie leerzaam, ons het kontak met ander skole gemaak".

"I learnt a lot about starting a newsletter".

"Have workshops more often".

"Valuable experience, met more people".

"Pity, such a few schools attended".

THEY came from Hanover Park, Lotus River, Lavendar Hill, Bonteheuwel and other areas.

Close to 150 youth responded to the Grassroots distribution drive in Mitchells Plain.

2 500 copies were sold in a few hours.

Young and old knocked on the doors of residents talking to them about Grassroots.

The explained how Grassroots is different to the Plainman and why we say it is the "People's paper".

They also talked to the people about joining the organisations in their area.

Dressed in Grassroots tee shirts, they worked their way through the area. And, all over Mitchells Plain, small groups of residents gathered to discuss the contents of the paper.

Some were eager to buy, others were not so eager.

"Talking to the people is the best way to sell," said one of the members.

A TV film was made of the distribution drive.

After all the work was done, we all gathered to watch the film. It was exciting seeing ourselves on TV, the youth members said.

The film will be used to show the organisations distributing Grassroots. In this way we hope to talk about our distribution problems and how we can take Grassroots to the people.

Grassroots distribution drive



Youth prepare for a morning of selling Grassroots in Mitchell's Plain.



500 ratepayers object

EVERY 10 years the Provincial Administration revalues properties in the different areas. The new values guide Councils in deciding on the amount of rates to be paid. This year revaluation was done for all areas falling under the City Council.

In Kensington/Factreton, the Administration had decided to ask for increases of 150 per cent. This would mean very steep increases in rates for all residents in that area. When residents heard of this,

they united under the Kensington / Factreton Ratepayers and Tenants Association to oppose the increases. More than 500 ratepayers objected in this way.

On October 19, the Valuations Court heard the reasons why the residents felt that the increases were too high. More than 100 residents had attended the hearing to show support. Their case was presented by 9 witnesses who are members of the association. The witnesses told the court

- The poor roads, playgrounds and sportsfields in the area.
- the nuisance caused by factories, railways and national roads in and around the area.
- The new valuations would make Kensington / Factreton more expensive than areas like Bishops-court.

Witnesses also told the court of the effects of the Group Areas Act

on the price of land in Black Areas.

They said that it was this which caused the prices of land to appear so high.

After the witnesses had presented their case, the valuer from the Administration told the Court that he had made a mistake.

He asked the court to change the values slightly. Residents who attended the court were excited by this. They said however that the values which he was

proposing were still too high.

It was then that the Court had seen the strength of our arguments.

They decided to visit the area the next day, accompanied by members of the Association.

This decision by the court and the admission by the valuer was a big victory for the people of Kensington/Factreton. Once more, we have seen that a victory was won by people united in their civic.



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COMMENT

We demand to live and work where we choose

THOUSANDS of people have been picked up in early morning raids over the past few weeks.

Families have been dragged from their beds and mothers with babies have been thrown in jail. Thousands of rands have gone into the pockets of the Government by fining poor working people.

Many questions are being asked. "Is the Government implementing the Orderly Movement and Settlement of Black Persons Bill? Did they not say that the bill has been shelved until 1984?" The recent pass raids tell a different story.

The Government says that the people are in Cape Town illegally. Those who do not have rights to be in the cities, those who do not have jobs must return to the homelands.

Raids continues

But, the people have refused to do so. They have refused to be condemned to a life of misery and starvation in the homelands. And so, they return to Cape Town and other cities to find work.

This year, more and more workers have been laid off because of rising unemployment. The government fears the unemployed workers. They fear thousands of men and women walking the streets looking for jobs. They cannot have the Disorderly Movement Bill, but they have the pass laws. Their answer to the problem is massive pass raids. Not an area has been left untouched in the search for "illegals".

Bill Shelved

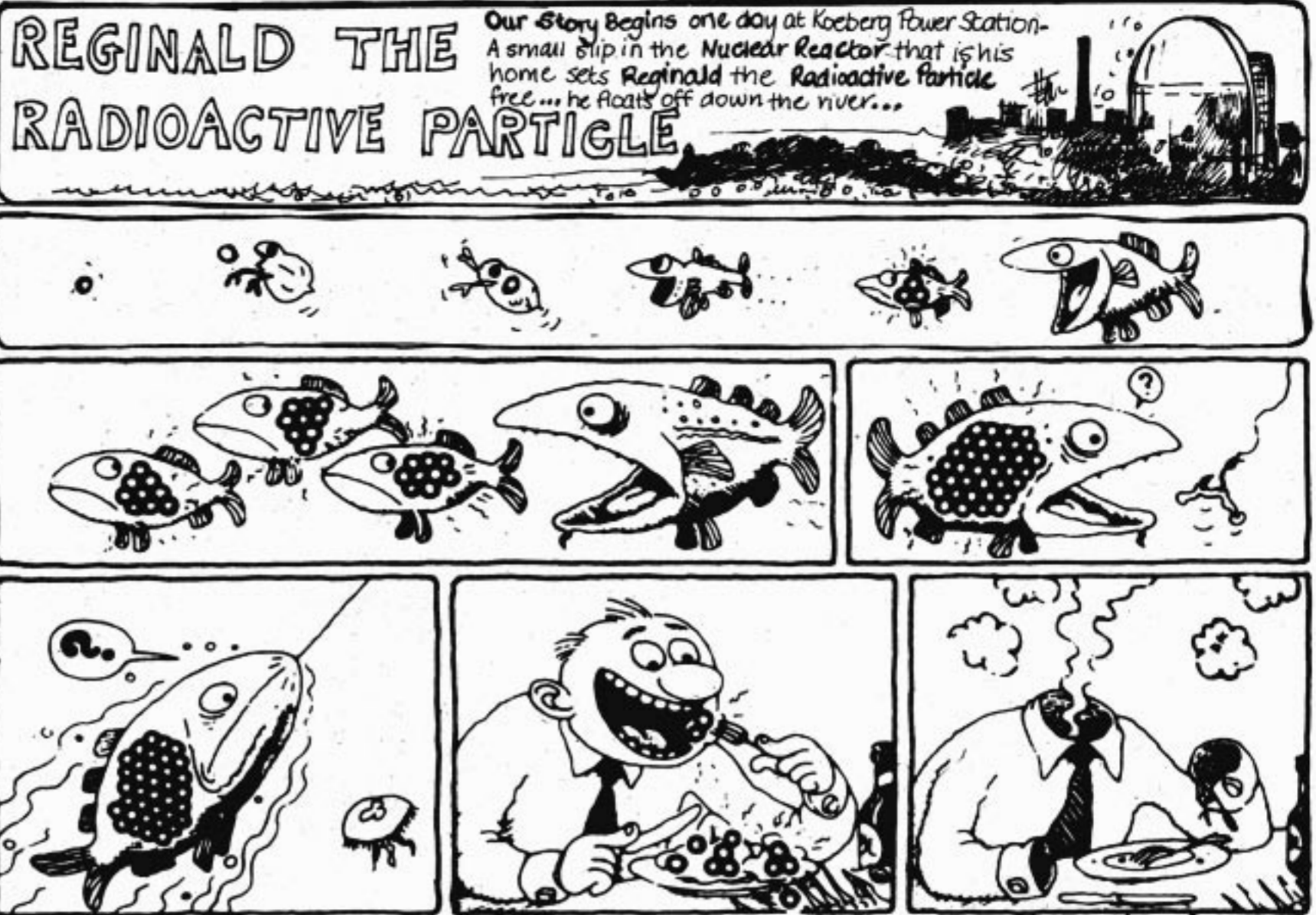
The Government wants to sow divisions between those who have "rights" and those who do not. And, because the Government has declared the Western Cape a "Coloured" Preferential Area, they want to sow further divisions between so-called Coloureds and Africans. But, our people have refused to be divided.

The pass raids is another desperate attempt by the Government to solve problems of its own making.

People's organisations have rejected the Orderly Movement Bill as a bad and vicious law. It is because of the people's opposition that the bill has been shelved. But, the pass raids continue.

Rights attacked

This is yet another attack on our people's right to freedom of movement. To the right to live and work where we choose. These are the demands of the people. We cannot remain silent in this attack on our basic human rights.



IF THERE was an accident at the Koeberg nuclear power station the people of Atlantis and the workers at the power station would be first to suffer.

They live within the danger area of 16 kilometers from the power station and in future new areas of Atlantis will be built even closer to Koeberg. (see map.)

Even though the chance of a serious accident is very small, it is not impossible and the results would be terrible: At least 6 000 people could die of cancer, the countryside would be destroyed and parents could have deformed children in future years.

People opposed to nuclear power say the results of a serious accident would be far worse than this.

Less serious accidents are more likely to take place (although the chances are still very low.) Such accidents could also have serious consequences although scientists have not yet been able to find out exactly what the effects on human beings could be.

Protect

The people living closest to Koeberg would be the most seriously affected, but the whole of Cape Town would be in danger because recent tests have shown that a gas leak from Koeberg could cause a highly dangerous atomic cloud to head for Cape Town over the Atlantic Ocean.

That is why Koeberg and nuclear power have become such important issues in Cape Town as it has all over the world.

Groups and communities are organising around the issue and demanding that the authorities take the necessary steps to protect them in case of a disaster.

People are also protesting that Koeberg has been built in the wrong place and that the people of Atlantis - who would face the greatest danger in case of an accident - were not consulted.

A report on nuclear power, drawn up in the United States, says that a nuclear power station should not be built within 60 Kilometers of an area where many people live. The whole of Cape Town falls within that distance from Koeberg.

People are saying that it makes no difference that the

Nuclear power: stop it before it stops you

- ← SHORT TERM MAIN GROWTH DIRECTION
- ◀ LONG TERM MAIN GROWTH DIRECTION
- ▭ NON-URBAN USES
- BOUNDARY PLANNING REGION 28
- IMPORTANT ACTIVITY NODE



chances of a serious accident are very small.

No matter how small the danger, they are demanding that the authorities make plans to protect them in case of an accident at Koeberg.

They remember the ship called the Titanic that people said could never sink. For this reason it only had a few life-boats. But the first time it went out to sea it sank and the 1500 people on it were drowned.

Recently Escom that runs Koeberg, handed out thousands of pamphlets describing

what people would have to do if there was an emergency after a serious accident at Koeberg.

But Koeberg Alert, an organization that has been formed to inform people of the dangers of nuclear power, says Escom has based its plan on an American report that is out of date, faulty and discredited.

Escom warns people to go inside their houses immediately if there is a nuclear accident and close all the windows and doors so that they will not be exposed to harmful radioactivity in the air outside.

But doctors say this method cannot be effective because very few houses are leak-proof and the radioactivity could still get in.

If the accident was very serious, people would be moved out of their houses to other areas. But Escom admits that housing would be a problem. Where would all the people go?

And if the whole of Cape Town was in danger it would absolutely impossible to move everyone.

If there was a serious accident, people living near Koeberg would have one hour to take medicines and get out of the area. People are asking how they would find out about the accident and be able to move in time.

Why can an accident at Koeberg have such terrible results? The reason is that radioactivity could be released through water vapour in the air and this would be extremely dangerous to all forms of life.

You can't smell, taste or see radioactivity, which is present in natural substances in very small amounts. But it is produced in very large amounts in the process of producing nuclear power by splitting uranium atoms.

The process of splitting atoms makes a lot of heat which passes through a reactor to boil water. The steam from the boiling water is used to make electricity. If the reactor overheats, it could melt, and cause radioactive gas or water to be released in large quantities. This would be the worst possible accident - and it nearly happened in Three Mile Island in America in 1979.

At least 100 000 people had to leave their homes in a nearby town for a while.

People who are against nuclear power are also very worried about how to get rid of the radio-active waste that is produced in the process. Some of that waste can remain very dangerous for a hundred thousand years and no safe method has yet been found of getting rid of it.

One of the most important reasons why people all over the world are against nuclear energy is that they say it is really a way of covering up the real reason: to make nuclear weapons that could destroy the earth if they were ever used.

In South Africa some people fear the authorities will use the plutonium produced at Koeberg to make nuclear weapons.

For all these reasons, more and more people are saying: "Stop nuclear power before it stops you."

Message to teachers: Please stop caning us

Dear Grassroots

I would like to comment on corporal punishment.

I think that a teacher should abide by the rules of the school and not just hit the pupils of their own accord. If the pupil really needs a hiding it should be done in the office. Punishment should be given by the person in charge of the school.

However teachers behave like lunatics by hitting the children with all their strength. A teacher at the school which I attend, hit one of my friends for singing in the line. Pupils should be caned in the office and not be embarrassed in front of their friends.

I think that pupils who are caned should not be given more than six cuts.

I hope my letter is published and will be read by the teachers who are concerned.

RIEDWAAN ROBERTS
HANOVER PARK

Dear Grassroots

I wish to give my opinion on teachers who cane pupils.

If pupils need to be caned, it should be done in front of the principal. Teachers are not allowed to punish violently for failing a test or any other reason.

Unnecessary ruthless and brutal punishment should be abolished. This is an appeal to all teachers.

I have heard several complaints from pupils at school of teachers who cane ruthlessly and seem to find pleasure in doing so.

I would like to say that I hope this will stop. I also hope that the method of punishment be changed. As the saying goes: "the devil finds work for idle hands". I hope that teachers who are bored and frustrated at home do not cane pupils simply because they need something exciting to do.

My message to teachers like these is: "Leave your problems at home and go to school as a teacher, not as a sadist."

ANGRY

Grassroots helps us act together

Dear Grassroots

I went to Pietermaritzburg recently and took the opportunity of finding out how much communication went on between people in other areas. I was somewhat disappointed.

Firstly I discovered that there were no civic associations and youth movements in these areas. Secondly there was no regular news letter.

This is a sad state of affairs when compared to the Western Cape. There seems to be no communication between residents of different suburbs.

I think we should appreciate Grassroots and realize that it per-

forms an important function for all of us.

It serves as a mouthpiece, we keep each other informed of issues through Grassroots and we learn to act upon and tackle our problems together.

I realize happily that through Grassroots youth movements, civic bodies, and all people of the Western Cape can create a united front of action to deal with problems and issues affecting us.

It is a pity that the community of Pietermaritzburg are not as fortunate as we are.

YOUTH MEMBER
WYNBERG

Letters

If you have a comment to make, an experience to share, this is your page. Write to us at Grassroots.

grassroots
p.o. box 181
athlone
7760

Problems with transport...

Dear Grassroots

I would like to complain about the ever increasing prices of bus-fares. Commuters who travel on the busroute from one terminus to another are charged one price. Those commuters who only travel for part of the journey are charged the same price. So I don't see how the bus companies can say they don't make any profits and have great losses.

Many people have to take two buses to get to

work. The bus companies get big discounts on whatever they need to keep their buses on the road. From what I read in the daily newspapers I see that the yearly profits of bus companies run into large sums.

I think it is ridiculous that busfares are increased without considering the man in the street.

Susan Groenewald
Manenberg

Dear Grassroots

FOR the past two years I have been travelling by train from Mitchells Plain to Cape Town. Trains are very overcrowded because hundreds of people use the trains as a means of transport.

Carriages are very small so people have to fight each other to get a place in the train in order to arrive at work in time.

My boss is furious because I am always

late. I have been late many times and am punished by losing my attendance bonus.

If trains are late because of technical faults I also lose my bonus. Bosses even deduct from wages for late-coming, which is such a little as it is already.

As I am a Garment Worker I cannot take these problems to the Union because they do not fight these issues like the other Trade Unions do. What can we oppressed people do to fight this problem?

GRASSROOTS FAN
WESTRIDGE

...and prices keep rising

Dear Grassroots,

I liked the article on the food prices. I think it showed clearly the problems which our people face.

I want to tell you a little bit about my situation. I remember only six years ago my wages could cover my cost of food and all my other basic needs. I was earning R36 a week. My rent, light and travelling expenses came to R35 a month.

There was enough money for food and even for a dog which we kept as a pet. We could also afford to go to bioscope now and then.

Today my wages have increased to R58,00 a week but because of all the food prices going up, I can no longer afford to eat meat every day.

I also gave up my dog as even dog meat is so expensive. Bioscope or other pleasures are out of my reach now because the busfares to get to these places is so much.

How many families have to give up much more because of the rising cost of food. Think of all the little children who will have to go to school with 2 slices of bread less than before because mommy has not got the necessary money.

If nothing is done about this our children will grow more hungry and will become beggars and thieves. Let us not blame our children. Let us blame the high cost of living.

F. Bayat.
Lotus River.

Krismis geluid

NOVEMBER maand hoor ons oral die geluid van kersfees. Mense begin klere en meubels te koop. Heel jaar het my man en kinders hard gewerk om R5 elke week te spaar.

Krismis is 'n dag om heilig en plesierig te wees. Familie en vriende behoort bymekaar te kom om hulle gevoelens te deel met mekaar.

Wat eindelijk gebeur is dat ons spandeur almal onse geld met krismis en Januarie maand sit ons honger sonder geld en kos.

Skaars busfare om by ons werk uit te kom Aanvaar my onder-vinding sodat ons nie weer in die-selwde ding beland nie.

Mev. M. Marks
Steenberg

Waar kom 'gangs' vandaan?

Liewe Grassroots

Deesdae praat almal in Worcester oor die probleem van gangsters. Onlangs is die probleem weer skerp onder die vergrootglas geplaas na die tragiese dood van 'n hoërskool-leerling.

Ons weet vir 'n feit dat alle jongmense nie aan bende behoort nie. Volgens die reeks in die Worcester Standard 2/7/82, is daar om en by 400 jongmense wat aan bende behoort. Dit is baie duidelik dat 'n groter aantal jongmense ywerig deelneem aan sportaktiwiteite.

Die vraag bly nog altyd, "waar kom die bende vandaan? Word hulle gebore, of word hulle gemaak deur ons lewensomstandighede? Wat is die moontlike oorsake van

die probleem?" In die eerste plek woon ons in oorbevolkte huise. Die gemiddelde inwonertal is 9 per woning. Die meeste mense woon in een en twee slaapkamer huise in Roodewal en Riverview.

Ten tweede is daar geen sale en speelparke nie. Jongmense kan nie binnehuis sport soos tafeltennis en vlugbal beoefen nie. Verder verhoed die hoë tariewe van die Gemeenskapsaal dat die meeste mense nie gebruik kan maak van die saal nie.

Die gevolg hiervan is dat jongmense doelloos op die strate en winkelstoepe beweeg.

Ons doen 'n beroep op alle inwoners en instansies om bymekaar te kom om saam te werk op die probleem.

P. MARAIS
WORCESTER
AKSIE KOMITEE BEHUISINGS

Blac funds stolen

Dear Grassroots

We would like to inform your readership of a most terrible thing which struck our organization (BLAC) recently.

On Friday, 15 October our organization held a scene in aid of funds for Grassroots. We have a system for selling Grassroots in Bishop Lavis whereby the organization subsidizes every copy of Grassroots sold with five cents. In this way the people of Bishop Lavis are able to buy their Grassroots for only ten cents. Many people are then able to afford the paper.

In order to pay this subsidy the organization arranges a scene once

a month.

At our last scene of 15 October, however, a group of youth gate-crashed the scene and made off with the takings. It is estimated that they stole about R250,00.

We were most upset by this incident as the money made at the scene was not intended for ourselves but for the benefit of the community. These youth thus did a disservice to their community.

We sincerely hope that such an incident does not recur as it makes or organization's (a peoples organization) work that much more difficult.

A BLAC MEMBER

'Profits before safety' - Bosses

I work in Elsie's River in a furniture factory. I operate a machine in the furniture factory. It is the dust that causes sickness. The dust makes the workers feel feverish. The people who work with a sandpaper machine get more dust because the sandpaper machine hasn't got a pipe to take the dust out. The workers often get TB.

Most of the machines are not protected. It is easy for the worker to get injured. So all the time when you work you must be careful. The machine that cuts wood must have a guard to protect the worker. But if the machine has got a guard, it is slower to cut the wood. If the machine hasn't got a guard, it is slower to cut the wood. If the machine hasn't got a guard it works faster. The bosses want faster work, and big profit. The bosses don't think that the faster work can injure the workers, if there is not a guard.

The faster work in a machine without a guard often injures the workers. After you get an injury the boss says you are stupid. So he doesn't think that the machine without a guard can injure you.

Last month in my work one of the workers was injured. He was working with a broken machine, the machine injured him. I asked my foreman, Why did you say that the worker must work with

a broken machine? He said, that work must be finished before a week. He said that the worker can get money from Workmen's Compensation. I asked about Workmen's Compensation.

He told me. I told him Workmen's Compensation is not quite right for the workers. Workmen's Compensation is thick as thieves with the bosses. Because when you are injured Workmen's Compensation gives the boss money, and he gives it to you. You don't know how much Workmen's Compensation gives you, the boss can tear off for himself. After that he can fine you, maybe you haven't got a hand, you never get jobs anymore. I think Workmen's Compensation should give you the money, not the bosses.

I think if the workers can unite and rule the work will be less dangerous. The workers can buy good machines and protect the workers. The workers are not like the bosses. Because the bosses want more profit they don't care about the workers. But the workers don't want profit more than their lives. So the workers must unite and fight the bad conditions of the bosses work. To rule us.

UNITY IS POWER! FORWARD WORKERS!
Elliot Sixhaso
New Crossroads

Advice and the people

THOUSANDS of people in our country spend hours in waiting rooms of government departments, labour bureaus, legal aid offices, the courts, the local police station, the housing office, the revenue.

And, if we stop to speak to them, all they are asking for is information and advice. How to fill in a form. How to apply for identity documents, grants, pensions, unemployment and legal advice.

Some can read and write. Others cannot. Some speak Afrikaans and others speak Xhosa. Some are disabled and some are fit. They say they feel trapped like a spider in a web trying to get information. There are departments and more departments, forms and more forms to fill in. Files and more files and officials and more officials. . . . some give up as more and more doors are closed to them. And, others press ahead to claim what is rightfully theirs. But they are far and few between.

These are the problems that add to the burden that our people have to bear. Information has become the power of a few people - the officials in government offices and the professionals. The one has something that the other does not have. That is, information and it means power.

Power in the hands of a few over the vast majority of the people. From the day that we are born to the day that we die, we are caught in this trap. A trap which makes us powerless and believe that we cannot change anything. This trap that we are talking about has a big name. It is called bureaucracy.

Life is not as simple as it used to be. The authorities with the help of many clever people, invent new machines such as computers. They say this will bring information to the people and the departments will run more smoothly. But all this has done, is to make the people feel powerless and confused.

Because of all these difficulties, thousands of people do not claim their benefits, such as unemployment, workman's compensation, pension, medical aid and so on. Many people just do not know how and where to go to. The result is that the pockets of government departments and private businesses are filled with unclaimed money.

This is not charity or handouts. It is the people's right because they have paid for it. Whether we pay tax to the government through general sales tax, or whether it is deducted from our wages, it is still our money.

Why does the government still bother to give us benefits if it is so difficult to get? This question was asked by one of the members of the advice group in Heidelberg.

We must never forget that every benefit that we receive we have fought for. It is because the people have fought the government and the bosses for many years that we are getting some benefits. These benefits are small, it is just enough to keep our people satisfied. The government fears the unemployed workers, they fear the hungry people.

But these benefits can never take the place of a people's right to work for a living wage, to housing, health care and the right to a comfortable old age. These are the demands of our people which can only be met in a free and democratic South Africa.

We solve problems jointly

"SLIDES about the people's problems are shown at our advice office. The slides always bring out the message: Join your organisation!" said the Loga (Lotus River - Coeney Park Residents and Tenants Association) members when they were interviewed.

Loga members believe that community members must be trained to give advice. People who want to learn to give advice can do so during the interviews.

In this way they learn about the people's rights and can give advice in the community. Loga members also do follow-up work and visit people at home.

"We believe that our advice service should not become a 'handout service for the deserving poor'. This was debated by members in many meetings before the advice bureau was started.

"The link between

the advice bureau and the residents associations must be strong to ensure that it does not become a charity or welfare group", the members said.

The Heidelberg advice group is busy training its members in giving advice. A member explained how they use the advice bureau.

"We are not so much interested in solving individual cases. We want to solve common problems", a member said. Sick pay, unemployment, grants, rent and maintenance are some of the issues facing the tenants in Heidelberg. This the advice

group discovered after they had done a survey in the area.

For instance, Mrs. Isaacs has a problem with stress on her rent. But she is not the only one. In Heidelberg many people have problems with rental arrears. They hope to involve all the people who have the same problem in solving it.

"Treating a problem as something that affects more than one person has many advantages. Many more people get to know their rights. With this knowledge they can pass it on to others and organise around it."

Legal aid, grants and pensions, unemployment, medical aid... You've paid for it, claim it if you can.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

THE ATHLONE ADVICE BUREAU...

...helps people with permit and pass problems. In 1981, 6000 people came to the bureau for help.

WORKER'S COMPENSATION

Workers can claim benefits if they are injured at work. In 1979 R58m was paid in the fund, and R42m of this was paid to injured workers. So there was R16m left in the fund.

HOW MUCH OF THIS WAS UNCLAIMED BENEFITS???

CECILIA Thompson is a mother of two children. The father of the children deserted them. To make ends meet, she has been working in a factory as a garment worker. But now, the doctors have decided her unfit for work. She has kidney trouble and problems with her back after sewing thousands of garments.

Cecilia went to the union to help her claim a disability. She was sent to 'Coloured Affairs' and then to the Department of the Interior to apply for a book of life. She has also heard that she can apply for a maintenance grant for her children.

But, she must first apply for 'identity' for her children. Their birth certificates were burnt when there was a fire in their house last year. She must apply again, they said.

Cecilia says that she has been going on for four months. The waiting, the running around

from one office to the next.

Borrowing money and money for food and rent from her friends and relatives.

Looking for work in spite of being sick. Looking for a sympathetic person, a smile or a nod of the head and the feeling: 'Today, somebody is going to help me', but all they say is 'sorry I cannot help you'.

This is not only Cecilia's story. It is the story of thousands of people who are sent from one government department to the next.

All in search of information, whether it be legal advice, unemployment, workman's compensation, grants and pension or housing.

Only to be told, come back next week, go to the sixth floor of Soleson; bring your book of life; you do not qualify or we cannot help you.

On these pages Grassroots looks at how our people are affected in their search for information and advice. Advice bureaux are being set up in the communities to advise members of the community and workers about their rights.



Advice offices

- Workers' Advice General Workers' Union, Beverley Street, Athlone
- Passes & Permits Athlone Advice Office, 5 Long Street, Mowbray
- Community Advice Loga Centre, 1st Avenue, Letasriver

For every R100 spent by the state on welfare... R7.00 is spent on DEFENCE.

Will advice centres stop queues?

GRASSROOTS spoke to members of advice groups about the problems and issues facing them. This is what they said.

Question: What kinds of problems have you experienced?

Answer: Because it is a new project, we have debated the idea fully in our organisation. Some people fear that it will become another charity. But others felt that it must be linked to the organisations in the area.

Question: Why is training difficult?

Answer: Well, information about unemployment, pensions etc., is difficult to understand. And, it also seems to change every year.

Question: Will the advice bureau stop the queues and endless forms that must be filled in?

Answer: No. The people will still have to go to government departments and so on. We can only advise people about their rights. Tell them what documents to take with them. And, because they know that they are not alone they may be more determined to demand what is rightfully theirs.

Question: How will an advice bureau build people's organisation?

Answer: We have taken up issues all the time. But we do not have on-going projects in our communities which will keep us in touch with our members. An advice bureau can keep the link with our members. It can tell us the problems of the people are so that we can organise our people for their rights.

Have you claimed unemployment?

UIF is deducted from the worker's wages. The balance in the fund over 10 years (1970 - 1979) is R205 million. A large part of this is unclaimed benefits.

Workers and houses contribute to this fund to help unemployed workers. Unemployment is rising and according to official figures, over 2 million workers are unemployed. Worker organisations have protested recently against the delays in paying out unemployment money. In some cases, workers have to wait nine months.

And now the Department of Manpower has introduced fancy computers which will cause a delay in paying out unemployment benefits of up to six months.

The Transvaal unions and advice offices have protested against a fund of R2 million which will be used to pay workers who refuse to strike.

A union spokesperson said "We condemn this interference by the State in strikes on the side of the bosses. Workers have lost their jobs through no fault of their own. Thousands of unemployed workers are not receiving over their rightful unemployment benefits through what appears to be the fault of the Department of Manpower".

Advice builds people's organisation

WHAT is a Community Advice Bureau? Many people need information and advice. Community Organisations are beginning to respond to this need. In 1972 the Western Province Advice Bureau was started. Hundreds of workers came for advice. They saw that their problems were the same and that they needed an organisation of workers to fight common problems. In this way the General Workers' Union, lawyers and social workers.

Grassroots advice paper have also been useful in the training of members.

- ### What is a community advice bureau?
- What is a community advice bureau? Grassroots spoke to members of the advice groups. This is what they said.
- It is a community service run by the community for the community.
 - It educates people about their rights and how to claim benefits. "You have paid for it, claim it if you can", they say.
 - It gives advice and information to members of the community and workers about matters such as rents, workers problems, unemployment, legal aid, hire purchase, passes and permits, grants and pensions.
 - Assistance with documents.
 - It will offer training to community people to offer advice.
 - It will not only solve individual problems, but will organise people to fight common problems.
 - It will be a link between the people and the trade unions, the civic organisations, youth and women's organisations.
 - Most of all, it aims to build and strengthen people's organisations.

VICTIM OF THE SYSTEM

She worked in a factory. She didn't understand these benefits, but her boss explained that she would always have money if she needed it.

After working for 2 years, she had a baby. She had to leave work, so she went to the Labour bureau to get UIF.

They told her to get a card from work. But there was a new boss, who said he had no record of her working there, so she didn't get it.

She gave up getting UIF. Then she went to register her baby's birth - and was fined because she was 2 weeks late.

Then money from the baby's father stopped coming. After searching Cape Town, she found out that he was in prison.

Now she had no money. She went to the welfare office, but they asked for more forms and more certificates.

Fatima's whole life seemed to be spent in queues. She felt like a priority of forms and paperwork that she couldn't understand.

People in her community opened an advice centre. AT LAST SOME-ONE WOULD HELP HER!!

Happy birthday Lavender Hill

THE Lavender Hill residents' Association will be one year old. The Association plans to hold their first AGM on the 21st November at the NG Church in

Grindel Avenue. The Association plans to have a Family Fun Walk on the 15th November. The starting point will be from the field next to the NG Church.

After walking through the streets of Lavender Hill and Steenberg, all those taking part will be served with refreshments and can take part in fun and games organised by the Association. This is an activity for the whole family and everyone is urged to take part.

If you want some more information, please contact the secretary, Patrick Solomons at 26 Arundel Court, or phone 75-4424.

MPYM snack dance

THE Mitchell's Plain Youth Movement is having a snack dance on December 20.

The dance will serve as a Parents' Evening cum Bust Up and will take place at the Westridge Civic Centre. Tickets are R3. Contact Logan at 32-6316 for more information.



Bellville plans food price education

THE Bellville Housing Action Committee held a meeting on October 17 to discuss the latest increase in the price of bread.

Churches, youth groups and other organisations in the area attended. At the meeting it was decided to arrange an educational programme to make the community aware of

the reasons for high food prices.

This programme would be in the form of an educational workshop. A Bread Coordinating Committee was elected to co-ordinate the programme.

BHAC also sees this programme as a way of getting all groups in the area involved in working together. This could

also serve to strengthen the organisations in the area.

Westridge stall

THE Westridge Action Committee plans to have a stall at the Anglican Church Bazaar on the 8th November.

Sweet baskets, delicious cakes and low priced groceries will be sold, so come along everyone, join in the fun and support your own favourite community organisation in the "Plain".

The Committee is having a programme on rising food prices on November 20. A play on food prices will be performed and speakers have been invited. The programme will be held at 2.30 at the Anglican Church.

Lavis shop can stay!

PEOPLE in Riverton open their shop again.

This victory has been won after a long struggle with the Citizens Housing League to reopen "Maureen se Winkel".

This shop had been closed down earlier this year.

People in the area then approached BLAC. House meetings were held, and a delegation was sent to the CHL and to the Divisional

Council. After much pressure the authorities had to give in.

Maureen Jacobs has now reopened her shop to all.



Newsletters on streets

SEVERAL youth and civic organisations in the Western Cape have brought out newsletters.

The Mitchells Plain Co-ordinating Committee (MPCC) has brought out "The Voice of Mitchells Plain."

Also out in the area is the Mitchells Plain Youth Movement publication called "Spokes."

The Bishop Lavis Action Committee

(BLAC) is busy distributing their own newsletter, "The Peoples Voice".

Lavender Hill Residents Association and the Belhar Civic are hard at work on their own publications, to be printed and distributed soon.

Watch out for these newsletters in your area!

UWC elects student council

ELECTIONS for the new S.R.C. of the University of the Western Cape, took place in September 1982. Eighteen candidates stood for elections. The following persons were eventually elected to form the 1982/3 S.R.C.

Vernon Stevens, Chairman; Jonathan De Vries Vice-Chairman; Moira Marais, Secretary; Shaun Bynevelde, Treasurer; David Visagie, Minute Secretary; Johannes Flemmit, Andrew Petersen, Deon Botman, Revenia Syme, Nathan Rhode, Peter Constable.

For the first time we had a 36% voting poll.

In his manifesto speech the newly elected chairperson, Vernon Stevens, spoke about the struggle towards a just and equal education system for all in S.A.

De Vries spoke about the need for a democratic S.R.C. and Moira talked about the need for women to be come involved in the struggle towards a just society.

The new S.R.C. aims to be a mouthpiece for students on campus and to make students aware of their role in the community.

They see themselves as part of the community and will at all times strive to put their struggle

on campus in perspective with the broader community struggle.

They will fight all attempts of the authorities that are aimed to make them fit into a system of oppression, especially the PC-proposals which will co-opt coloureds and exclude blacks, thus accomplishing their twin strategy of divide and rule.

They hope to get the support from as many students as possible to make the S.R.C. a real mass-based organisation on campus. They also want to build up links with progressive community organisations.

Belhar bus meeting

THE Belhar Civic plans to hold a mass meeting in the area to talk about bad transport services.

Members of the Civic are holding house meetings to discuss the issue and have also drawn up a petition. At the mass meeting a delegation will be chosen to take the petition to City Tramways.

The meeting will be held at the NG Church in Suikerbossieweg, on the 16th November.



Wynberg plant sale

THE Wynberg Branch of UWO held a plant sale and a games afternoon for children at Wynberg Park on the

30th October. Parents were invited along with their children and prizes were given out.

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CIVIC FIGHTS FOR HEALTH OF RESIDENTS

ARE you a pensioner, living in Grassy Park or Lotus River?

The civic has good news for you.

You can have a health check-up from a doctor free of charge. And the doctors will talk to you about your problem.

Every Saturday morning, old people from the area get together at "The Centre."

This is what happens:

- a doctor will give you a check-up.
 - the doctor will explain what is wrong with your body
 - all the old people and the doctors will together look at a slide-show on health, be it high blood pressure; diabetes, smoking or overweight.
- Why is the civic interested in health? The Lotus River-Grassy Park Residents Association say

"There are many problems in Lotus River. The houses do not all have electricity and ceilings. The flats leak in winter. The roads are not all tarred. We do not have nice playing-fields and grass for the youngsters to play on. Also, the canal is always dirty and unhealthy. This makes our health very bad.

Contact

This the civic must fight. The civic must fight for the health of the people."

There are 2 day-hospitals in Grassy Park and Lotus. But old people do not always have transport. And when they go to hospital, the doctors do not look properly at them.

"They just put a machine on you and give you medicine or tablets. They

don't tell us what is wrong with our health", Auntie Biba told us.

"At The Centre, the doctors are nice. They give us good check-ups. And we watch a slide and tape show. They also have biscuits and tea sometimes. I like going to The Centre. I ask all old people of Lotus River to come to The Centre. Do not be shy. Come on a Saturday morning," she said.

Once the doctors have looked at the people, they may refer them to Groote Schuur or the Day Hospitals for more treatment. So, even if you attend Day Hospitals or a "private doctor", you can come along. We will talk about your health and explain any questions you have.

The Centre is in First Avenue near Zeekoei Road. If you want to come, you can phone Julie at Ph. 73-5922.



Health check-ups, health education..... Logra's service to pensioners.

Women's meeting rejects new bill



"We are prepared to fight new bill," says Mildred Lisia.

"THE people are angry. We are prepared to fight the new bill, even if it means that we all sleep in prison. Our daily life is already a prison."

This is the message by Mildred Lisia to a public meeting held in Mowbray on September 29th.

The meeting was organised by the Observatory UWO to protest against the Orderly Movement and Resettlement Bill. It was attended by about 150 people.

Two other speakers (Shannaz Meer, a lawyer, and Val West, Black Sash) addressed the meeting. They spoke on the history of pass laws, and on how the new bill would further control and repress the people.

The following resolution was passed unanimously:

This meeting resolves to

- * express its total rejection of this bill and of other influx control and all other repressive laws.
- * call on public representatives and those in influential positions to actively oppose the bill
- * that those here present work in all possible ways to publicise the iniquities of this bill and to prevent its passage int

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PEP

VALUE FOR MONEY

Advice

THE Provincial Administration is at present revaluing all property in Cape Town. In areas such as Kensington and Walmer the value of property has almost doubled, while in Constantia values have only risen a small amount.

The residents of Kensington, Salt River, Woodstock, Walmer, Crawford and Rylands have decided to protest against these increases. In the Valuation Court Hearings held last month more than 200 people from these areas, and their civic associations, told the Valuation Board that they would not accept these increases.

They said that their areas were in poor condition and the Council had not spent money on them. Therefore there was no reason why the value of property should increase.

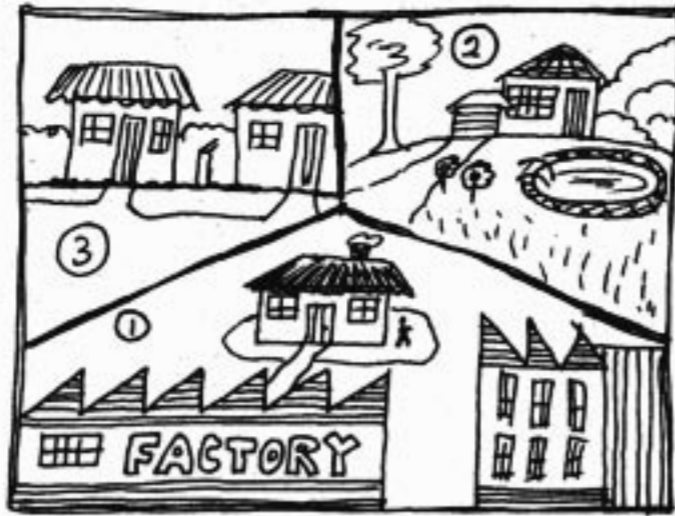
If you own your house and the value of your property is increased it will probably mean that the rates you pay to Council each year are increased.

How does Province revalue properties and what can you do about it?

HOW PROPERTY IS VALUED.

All property in Cape Town is given a "municipal valuation." This valuation is laid down by the Provincial Council in both City Council and Divisional Council areas.

All property has to be revalued every ten years. Municipal value is not the same as



market value (although it may be close to it): market value is what you would get if you were to offer your property for sale; municipal value is a value decided on by Province. City Council rates are based on municipal value and Council charges a certain number of cents for each rand your property is valued at.

When Province carries out a re-valuation, it values the land and the building on each property separately - first the land and later the building. Then it adds the two together to give a final value.

HOW IS LAND VALUED?

Within a suburb (for example Salt River) the land is divided up into different areas.

For example, in the diagram you have the Area 1 near factories which may be noisy or polluted and properties here would sell at a low price.

Area 2 is on a hill, near a swimming pool and shops and properties here would sell at a much higher price.

Houses in area 3 would be somewhere inbetween 1 and 2.

Other factors which would give an area a high value are: closeness to schools, transport, shops and community facilities, trees, sloping land, a good view etc.

Factors which can give an area a lower value are: closeness to factories, pollution, noise, dampness, no view, no shops and so on.

The valuers then choose a sample property in each area and estimate what it would sell for on that day (per square meter). They assume that all properties in the area have a value (per square meter) the same as the sample.

The valuer then sends a letter to every property owner in the

area telling him or her the price of the land at the nearest sample. The letter also says that if the property owner wants to object to the valuation it is possible to do so.

It is better for the property owner to have his/her property valued as low as possible as this will mean paying less rates. You should therefore object if possible.

Unfortunately the closing date for objections to land valuations has already passed. However buildings still have to be valued and it will be possible to object to the valuations.

HOW ARE BUILDINGS VALUED?

This is not done on a sample basis like land. Instead every single building is valued separately. Also the value of the building is not based on market value, but on "depreciated replacement" cost.

This means that they look at

what it would cost to rebuild the house now, and then they reduce this amount depending on how old or worn out the house is. Again you will get a letter from the valuer telling you what he thinks the value of the building is.

There are two kinds of reasons you can give the valuer as to why your building value should be lower than he has laid down.

1. You can argue that your house should have a lower value because the Valuer has not noticed what a bad condition it is in - it has cracks in the walls, damp in winter, peeling paint, a leaking roof etc.
 2. You can argue that the valuer has not taken into account how bad the area is - that the pavements are broken, the gutters are blocked, the buildings nearby have not been painted etc. Perhaps the Valuer visited the area in summer and did not see how the water stands around in winter.
- How should you go about objecting:

1. It is possible that the civic in your area is organizing objections from everyone (just as they did in some areas with the land). If this is so they will submit an objection on your behalf. So contact your civic first.
2. If your civic is not organizing objections, you should discuss the matter with other people in your street so that you can all send in objections together. The more objections that are sent in, the more the Valuer is likely to listen. If this is not possible, you can send an objection on your own. Write your objections in the form of a letter and send them in to: Valuations, Provincial Administration, Wale St., Cape Town. This may mean that you (or your civic) will be asked to go in and see the Valuer and explain your objection in words. Do not let this worry you - he can only say no!

More should make decisions

"Participation in decision-making is a key question. People are normally not trained to participate." This is one of the views given in a meeting of a study group which is coming together regularly to discuss the process of democracy in organisations.

In an article about decision-making in SRC's and youth organisations, in the last GRASSROOTS, someone said that more people should be involved in decision-making. We agree with this.

But this seems to be easier said than done. Therefore we have formed a study group linked to our organisation in Hanover Park. We have been looking over the last 5 months at issues involved in trying to work democratically. They are difficult issues. We see the need to educate ourselves to understand the issues.

In our group one of the ways which we have discussed, for

increasing participation in the running of organisations is to rotate or change the positions of chairperson, secretary and treasurer regularly.

The group agreed that this won't work in all organisations. But as one person said, "If you are going to rotate these positions, then those people with skills must teach the others."

Another person put it another way. Different people understand democracy differently. Some people see their election, as an office-bearer, for instance a chairperson, as the go-ahead to dictate to others. Others see sharing as most important.

The one set of people will see the need for a rotating chair, the others not. Having just one fixed chairperson can divide people. Work can become divided between those people who are seen as 'the brains', and others who

are seen as 'the workers'.

The group felt that the need to share skills amongst the members of how to run an organisation, was important.

Also, as one person emphasised, "For people to be able to participate there must be sharing of information. People cannot participate fully in making decisions if they don't have all the necessary information."

Controls

The person who controls the information has a lot of power. It is important that it is shared."

Another member raised the need to prepare and think about issues before a meeting. "Every meeting should have a clear purpose. Is it to take specific decisions? Is it to share information and discuss issues? If it is to take specific decisions, then members should get the important information beforehand."

The group felt that participation of members can be increased if the responsibilities for running the organisation are shared. This should be linked to the sharing of skills and information.

"Every time I chair, it's a challenge - although the more I do it, the easier it is. For instance in the beginning I didn't know when to move on to the next point. And whether I've given everyone a chance to speak."

But recently we've started giving one another feedback straight after the meeting on how the meeting went. I've learnt a lot this way."

The study group would welcome the chance to link up with other people interested in looking at 'the process of democracy in organisations'. If you are interested in making contact with us, please phone 6386084.

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Advice

Have you been fired?

THIS article will give a brief guide to conditions under which workers may be dismissed and things to check when dismissed. It will not fit every case. If at all unsure of your rights or dismissal, contact one of the agencies listed at the end of the article.

WHAT IS A CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT?

A CONTRACT of employment in its simplest form is an agreement between the worker and the employer that the one will work for the other doing a job for a wage. It need not be in writing.

Many contracts of employment today are detailed and say such things as amount of annual leave, hours of work per week, amounts of overtime allowed, and so on. But domestic and farm workers usually have only the essentials like the job and the wage mentioned in their agreement which is not usually written down.

HOW DOES THE CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT END?

THERE are different ways of bringing it to an end.

One way is when the employer dismisses the worker.

DISMISSAL ON NOTICE

**How much notice of dismissal is a worker allowed?*

If there is nothing in the contract about notice, then the common law applies. This provides for notice

- for workers paid monthly: one month's notice given not later than the first day of the month
- for workers paid weekly: one week's notice given not later than the first day of the week
- for workers paid daily: one day's notice given not later than the first hour in that day.

Most workers in factories, shops or offices are covered by a

wage determination or industrial council agreement which states how much notice must be given.

But the Shops and Offices Act which applies to shop and office workers says that monthly paid workers need only be given 2 weeks notice. And, only one day's notice in the first four weeks of employment. Many of the above agreements have the same provisions, and some provide for less notice than the common law, e.g. 2 hours notice in the construction industry.

** Can the employer give the worker pay instead of notice?*

Yes. An employer can give the

worker wages for the notice period instead of getting the worker to work out his notice.

** Can notice run at the same time as annual leave or sick leave?*

No. This means that if a worker has been allowed annual leave or sick leave and the employer wants to dismiss her/him, the employer must pay wages for the notice period in addition to the period of leave.

DISMISSALS WITHOUT NOTICE

THE law says that under certain

conditions an employer may dismiss a worker without notice. This is known as summary dismissal, and can happen

- * if the worker deliberately stays away from work without permission, or refuses to obey a lawful order. (Note: A worker may refuse to carry out an unlawful or unreasonable order, like working on a Sunday. But this only applies if the contract of employment specifies Sunday working, and the law allows it (The Factories Act and Shops and Offices Act say than an

employer may ask for a doctor's certificate from a worker who is off sick for more than two days. The worker may be summarily dismissed if he/she was not given leave.)

- * if the worker deserts from employment, i.e. stays away from work for more than three weeks without permission (Note: in this case the worker also loses any money owing for work done or leave pay)
 - * if the worker said he had a special skill, and was employed for this, but he does not have that skill or works very badly, he may be dismissed without notice. (Note: Unskilled workers cannot be dismissed for this reason)
 - * if a worker causes serious damage to the employer's property he may be summarily dismissed. Only breaking something is not a reason for dismissal.
 - * if a worker secretly makes money at the employer's expense, or steals from the employer
 - * if the worker is very rude to the employer, or deliberately lazy, he can be dismissed without notice. An order need not be obeyed if it is unlawful.
 - * if the worker behaves badly, like being too drunk to work properly, or assaulting a fellow worker on duty.
- If the worker is dismissed for any other reason than those given here, notice or notice pay must be given.



Boss had to pay night watchman

MR S.N. and Mr M.S. came to the General Workers Union Aid Service for help.

They were working as night watchmen at a wage of R65 per week for a large company. They had been dismissed without notice after a security guard claimed that they were drunk on duty. The workers both denied this and had evidence to support their denial.

The Aid Service checked that the workers had received everything owing to them except notice or notice pay, then wrote a letter to the employer demanding R65, which was one week's notice pay for each worker.

The company realised that the workers were right, and sent a cheque of R65 for each worker.

Checklist for sacked workers

POINTS TO CHECK WHEN DISMISSED

- ** Have your wages for work actually been paid?
- ** Were you given notice, or pay instead of notice (unless you were summarily dismissed)?
- ** Were you given leave pay?

This applies to all workers in factories, shops and offices) on dismissal you must receive money for annual leave due to you which you did not take.

** Did you receive your blue Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) contributor's card?

** The Shops and Offices Act provides for a certificate of service to be given to workers on request. This must state occupation, length of

service and wages.

** If you were contributing to a pension fund, find out what the rules are about reclaiming your contribution, or else saving it until you actually retire.

If you are not sure of your rights you can go to the following organisations for help:
UCT Legal Aid Clinics (telephone 66-8926 to find out where to go)

Aid Service, General Workers Union, 1st Floor Benbow Building, Beverley Street, Athlone (67-0870)

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Ouma of Bishop Lavis speaks

'I'll fight until I die'

"THOUGH I am old already I shall fight till I die. Not for myself, but for my children and for those who will follow them." These are the words most often spoken by Mrs Alida Stoffels.

In fact this seems to be the main reason why Mrs Stoffels joined Blac, the civic organisation which fights for the rights of the people of Bishop Lavis.

At the moment Mrs Stoffels, known to everyone as "Ouma Stoffels" is the oldest (73 years old) and perhaps the most hardworking member of Blac.

"Nothing but severe illness will keep me away from civic meetings or going to see CHL," she says.

And her presence on the delegations is something the council does not like. Ouma never holds back any punches in her dealings with the Council which she always calls a bunch of thieves.

Ouma is so hard on them that the housing superintendent (CHL) once said: "Don't bring along that 'old lady' who forever wants to attack us on our inefficient ways."

But Ouma will never neglect what she considers to be her duty, namely seeing that the rights of the Bishop Lavis people are protected.

Ouma Stoffels was born in Richmond (Cape) in 1908 where she spent her childhood. During the depression years, however, her father was forced to take his family to Caledon where he could provide them with a decent living.

After her marriage to Mr Stoffels, Ouma moved into her own house in Goodwood Akkers. The house had everything she needed - electricity and a decent toilet.

"Because of the Group Areas Act I was kicked out of my house in Goodwood into this stable which they call a house," Ouma used to say.

At first Ouma resisted the government's move to try and rob her of her house. But the law of this government eventually forced her to move. The government wanted to pay her R350 for her six roomed house (The amount she had spent to build on an extra room and a bathroom).

Ouma refused to accept this without a fight. She went to the Supreme court saying that she

was not prepared to accept crumbs for a house which she had spent so much money and hard work on. She won the case against the government.

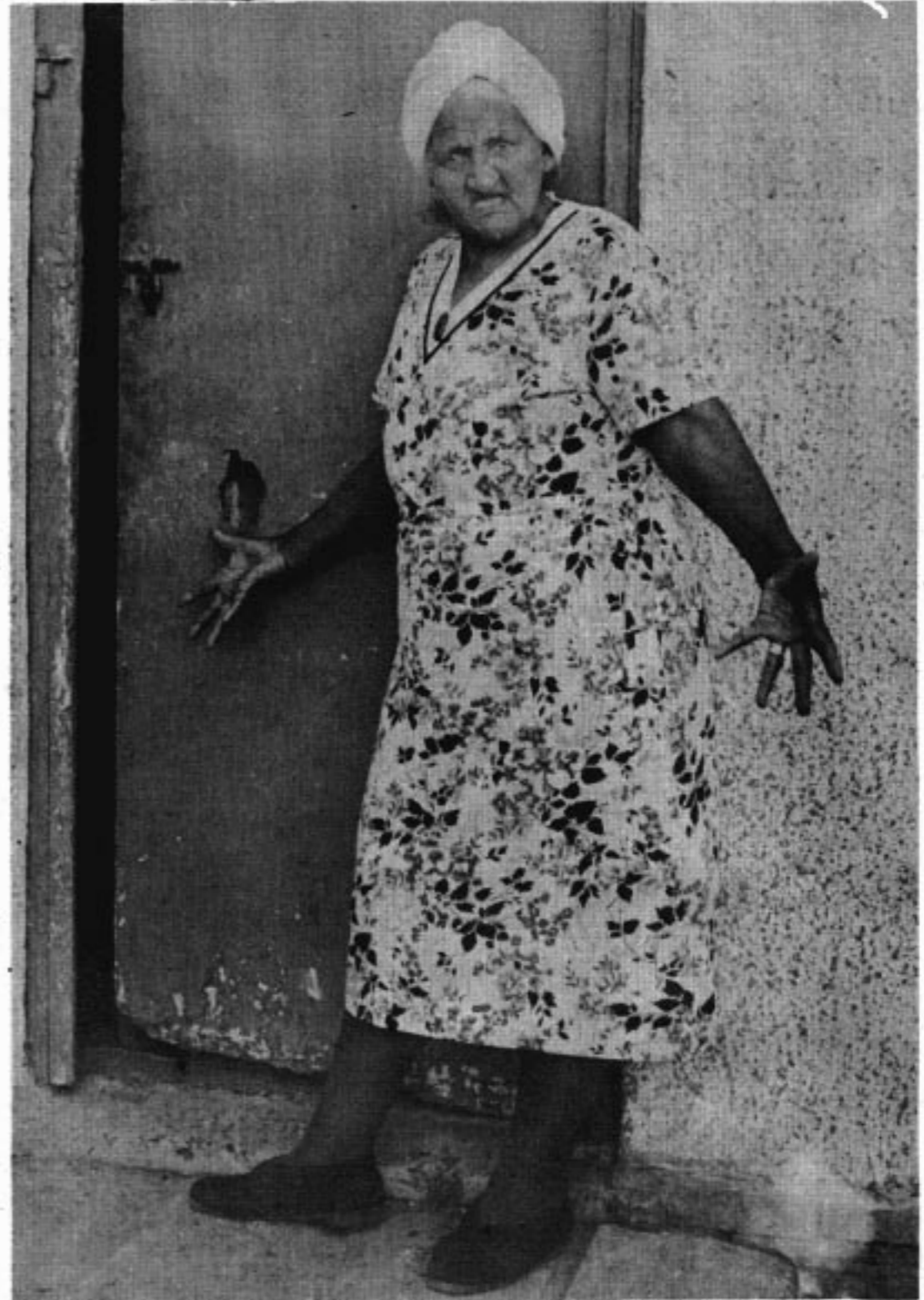
The spirit with which she fought the government at that time shows how she approaches all civic struggles.

Taken from her comfortable home in Goodwood, Ouma was placed into a two-roomed house in Bishop Lavis - her stable. The house does not have plastered walls, it has no ceiling, no electricity, no tap inside the house and she has to share a toilet with a neighbour.

This unfair treatment of Ouma and all our people in South Africa led to Ouma deciding to join organisations fighting to change these evil deeds by the authorities. During the late fifties she became involved in the Federation of South African Women which fights for the right of every citizen in this country to live a decent life.

Ouma's struggle against this unfair treatment continues even today at the age of 73. She has joined Blac and is working very hard.

To Blac Ouma was an inspiration. She helped build the organisation. But at the end of this year she will be leaving Bishop Lavis to stay with relatives as she can no longer afford to keep her house with the small pension which she is getting. Blac wishes Ouma well and hopes that the community which Ouma will be joining will realise what a gem they will be gaining.



'Because of the Group areas Act I was kicked out of my house in Goodwood into this stable which they call a house.'

'Join organisations like blac'

MEMBERS of BLAC spoke to Ouma Stoffels. This is what she said.

Q. Why did you join the Federation of SA Women and Blac.

A. Because I feel we are generally treated very badly in this coun-

try. If you consider how I was kicked out of my own home and placed into this stable. If you consider how I had to battle for a second class education. If you consider how I had to watch our people being killed in 1960

and 1976 - then surely I had no option but to join an organisation which is fighting to better our society.

During 1956 when the women marched to Pretoria and other big cities to demand that the government recog-

nize their status as full citizens of South Africa, I realised that I also had to join an organisation like that. An organisation that strives to rid our society of its wrongs.

Q. What to your mind

is the cause of our people's hardships Ouma?

A. My Kind (My Child) our problems started when Jan van Riebeeck came to SA, when our land and what we owned was taken away from us. Since then we have had to fight this terrible attack made against us by this very cruel system. We had become second class citizens in our own land. To prove this I merely need to refer to the pensions which we blacks get. I receive a monthly pension of R72 from which I have to pay nearly R30 for renting this two room house. Compared to Whites pension our pension can be considered pocket money.

Q. What would your message be to other women?

A. Women, we are facing a very serious and hard attack on our living standards. Prices of everything are increasing, jobs are becoming scarcer and more and more black people are forced into homelands.

We will have to fight hard to survive and we can only be positive of winning if we join organisations such as Blac.

Do not be afraid. Ek is nie bang vir g'n mens of regering nie, net vir my God (I fear one only - God).

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THE sounds of our artists exploded on Sunday 17 October. They played our music, they sang our songs, they told our story of suffering.

For too long now, our culture has been crushed. Our ears listen only to the tin sounds of America and England. The drums of Africa have been silent.

But no more. Ama-Mpondo, a local group from Langa, brought the beat of the drum to Athlone when they played that night.

And the more than 300 people who attended the concert held at the Galaxy, were spellbound.

For the first time in years, they saw that we have people amongst us who know best how to express our life's feelings.

Basil Coetzee's saxophone spoke of life in Manenberg. His vibrations drew the crowd to dance for half an hour.

It was as if he would never end. It was if nobody there wanted it to end.

Look at the pictures on this page to see our artists in action. Their expressions will help us to open the door of culture and learning — will help us to chart the road to freedom.

BILLY Brink and Friends made many more friends at the Expressions. The song "Working-class Hero" did the trick, with words like: "They hurt you at home and they hit you at school! They hate you if you're clever and they despise a fool".

A folk musician from Lansdowne, Billy and his friends have appeared at many concerts with groups like Ama-pondo and the Malopoets.

Their own composition 'The Dove' told us about the violence in our society.



MANENBERG is where it's happening!

This was the message of Basil Coetzee and his saxophone when he played this famous Dollar Brand song.

The audience jumped on to the dance floor in appreciation of this song which has become a symbol of our hardship.

Basil, who lives in Mitchell's Plain, also played a tribute to Steve Biko and had the audience guilty recalling the death of a great figure.

For the first time in years Basil has come into the lime-light again. We hope this will not be the last time. We need musicians who can express our people's feelings.



A Pass to be in Cape Town, a Pass to be in Jo'burg. All part of ensuring a cheap supply of labour for the bosses. This was the message of the Wankie, a group from Nyanga.

Through poetry read to music they told of the vicious system of influx control, the Pass Laws and other apartheid laws. The audience sat glued to their seats as they listened to Wankie. Nobody realized that poetry could be made as interesting as this with music they composed.

Poet's corner

THE VOICE OF A SUFFERING CHILD

Mother may I have bread,
 No my child,
 I must buy candles.
 Mother may I have something to drink,
 No my child
 I must buy paraffin
 Mother may I have a shirt,
 No my child,
 I must pay the doctor
 Because all of us have asthma.
 Mother why must I study in the dark,
 There's no alternative my child.
 Mother for how long
 Will we have to suffer like this,
 My child, until the council
 Decides to install electricity
 Mother is it a privilege,
 No my child,
 It is our right.
 Mother if it is a right,
 Why can't we have it,
 We will my child,
 Surely we will,
 If we all stand together,
 And fight for it.

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NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

grassroots

THE PAPER ABOUT YOU

15c

THOUSANDS of people from all over the country came to Cape Town last month for the big SACOS Sports Festival '82.

Sacos sport — a success

Spectators were treated to the best sport in South Africa by the best players in the country.

One of the highlights of the Festival was when 1500 school-children spelt out the initials of the South African Council on Sport as part of their gymnastada.

Observers said the success of the Festival showed the support for nonracial sport.

There were attempts to sabotage the Festival when fake pamphlets were issued and fields were tampered with.

Twelve codes of sport were presented at different venues.



Bow to Sacos



700 school children participated in the gymnastada. Here they pay tribute to Sacos and all non-racial sports persons at the Athlone Stadium early last month.

No to Sri Lanka tour

SOME people are prepared to do anything for money.

A group of cricketers from Sri Lanka (Ceylon) were lured to tour South Africa last month with offers of thousands of rand.

They accepted and immediately ran into trouble at home, and in South Africa.

All the players were banned for 25 years from playing any cricket games in Sri Lanka. In effect, this means the players will no longer be able to play cricket in their country.

Reports have been

heard that some of the rebels intend staying in South Africa now because they have been rejected by Sri Lanka.

The rebels call themselves Arosa Sri Lanka. They have been told they cannot tour as an official Sri Lankan team.

Shortly after the rebels came to South Africa, the official Sri Lankan cricket team started a tour of Zimbabwe. One of the selectors said the cricketers touring South Africa would not have been good enough to be selected.

The Sri Lankan team in Zimbabwe have been more successful than the rebels in South Africa. The group touring South Africa have not been able to win any matches, even against very weak teams.

The white South African Cricket Union said the rebel tour would help them come back into international

sport. They say there is no more discrimination in sport in South Africa.

The people have rejected their arguments.

At a mass meeting in Lenasia, Johannesburg, more than 300 residents called for a boycott of the tour.

The meeting was organised by the Federation of Residents' Associations in Lenasia.

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