

# grassroots

THE PAPER ABOUT YOU

Vol. 9 No. 6 September 1988

This newspaper has  
been censored in  
terms of the  
emergency  
regulations

## 14 youth convicted

In the type of treason trial that is becoming increasingly common, 14 South African youth were convicted in a court whose jurisdiction they did not accept.

One of the accused, Ashley Forbes, said in a statement in April this year that they would take part in their trial under protest.

"I find myself in conscience unable to plead to charges which label me a terrorist for opposing Apartheid."

Six months later on 2nd September he, together with Peter Jacobs, Niclo Pedro, Nazeem Louw, Anwa Dramat and Clement Baadjies were found guilty of terrorism.

In the same trial- David Fortuin, Jeremy Veary, Walter Rhooide, Wayne Malgas, Colin Cairncross, Ashraf Karriem and Colin Petersen were found guilty of providing assistance to terrorists.

Leon Scott, the fourteenth accused, was found guilty of furthering the aims of the ANC. He was commander of an ANC propaganda cell.

A further accused, Yasmina Pandey, was previously acquitted of all charges.

The fourteen sat silently as Mr. Justice Williams read out their convictions. The Judge found the 14 guilty after they admitted to involvement in ANC activities in the Western Cape.

The public gallery was filled with family and friends on judgement day. After the convictions had been read, the 14 stood on the benches in the dock and called out greetings to the public.

There was little visible indication that they were affected or upset by the court finding. Rather one was struck by the almost casual acceptance.

It was only after leaving court that one was hit and felt humbled by their remarkable courage and strength. For they were the strong ones ...

This strength is sure to carry them on the 20th September when they outline the conditions and circumstances that force our youth to take up arms at the risk of being imprisoned or killed.



Mr and Mrs Igshaan Williams and their two children have been staying on the pavement for the past two weeks. They were evicted from their Valhalla Park home in the 6th September. After renting the house to them for two years, the City Council evicted them to make room for another family on the long waiting list. The new tenant, Mr Solomons, has refused the house in solidarity with the Williams family.

# CHURCH UNDER ATTACK

## Anti-apartheid conference

Very shortly our people and the world will read and hear about a gathering which is bound to change the course of South African events.

A range of organisations stretching from the UDF to Five Freedom's Forum are to meet at the round table to discuss the country's future.

Every conceivable sector and interest-group - labour, women, students, religious, civic, business, youth, political, professional, culture, sport, the unemployed - will be there.

People are showing a preparedness to, despite the divisions and differences of opinions, shelve these in an honest attempt to work out what is best for the majority of South Africans.

And the one thing that is to bring them together is the acceptance that Apartheid should go.

The Anti Apartheid Coalition, as the gathering is called, has twin themes around which discussion will take place:

The first is that of 'Anti - Repression': This was decided upon in the light of the banning of 18 organisations this year, the restrictions on COSATU and the media clampdown. Thousands remain in detention; treason trials and hangings are the order of the day.

The South African government is prepared to use the most severe repression to crush democratic organisation and opposition. Their only way to rule is by force.

The second theme centres around the idea of 'One Person One Vote in a Democratic South Africa':

In this country the large majority has no real say. The conference intends to work out a plan which would allow every South African to have a meaningful say in the running of their lives. The participants realise that racist structures and Apartheid elections like those in October cannot address the problem. These structures are undemocratic and are unacceptable to those who believe in non-racialism and democracy.

The Anti - Apartheid Coalition Conference is but a start in the process of change. It is a Conference that hopes to address our many problems in a peaceful and sincere way.

What happens after that conference is going to depend on every person who lives in this country and who wishes to see it rid of Apartheid.

The church will not be silenced by bomb blasts and arson attacks, say church leaders in reaction to a growing attack on the church.

Church leaders have openly defied government measures to stem opposition against the October municipal elections.

In a statement carried in Crisis News - 26 church leaders including Beyers Naude, Desmond Tutu, Frank Chikane and Allan Boesak - called upon people "to seriously consider their involvement in the elections for an illegal government."

The statement further called upon people not to vote, explaining why they should not participate.

30 000 Copies of this Crisis News, the official organ of WPCC, were subsequently confiscated.

The stand, in clear defiance of laws surrounding the October elections, has led to an intensification of attacks on the church.

Already a public statement from Law and Order Minister, Adriaan Vlok, warned: "We'll clip their wings. We'll watch covert activists and terrorists who hide behind the masks of so-called liberation theology and people's democracy."

One suspects that warnings and threats of this kind have paved the way for the wave of attacks that has hit church leaders and institutions.

The headquarters of the South African Council of Churches, Khotso 'Peace' House, was seriously damaged in an explosion on 31 August, leaving 23 injured.

In an immediate response, the SACC General Secretary said the bombing was connected to the organisations' stand on the municipal elections.

Reverend Pierre Van der Heever, the organising secretary for WPCC, feels that the state church conflict is intensifying. "The past of verbal attacks by P.W Botha, A.Vlok and other pro-government agencies has been replaced by death threats to church leaders, hostage dramas, attempts to block foreign funding and bomb attacks," he said.

The WPCC offices have twice been raided and the Reverend held for more than five hours' questioning.

A Paarl Congregational Minister, Rev. Abe Maart has been fighting a harassment campaign for the past few months. His car was destroyed in a

mysterious fire outside his house and Afrikaans pamphlets appeared in the area which accused him of "living like a king, like an oppressor in the white town."

Copy of a sermon delivered by Archbishop Tutu was seized at his home and subjected to police scrutiny - for containing opinions on the October elections and Apartheid policies.

A spokesperson for the Archbishop said that it was clear that the government is trying to smash all opposition to its rule.

"Since the banning of a number of the major opposition groupings, the church has become one of the main independent institutions in the country that is able to speak out," he said.

A considerable group of church leaders had shown the preparedness to speak out against government policies. The church was one of only a few avenues where vigorous opposition could be expressed. As a result the government's sights were set on the church.

\* In a statement the African National Congress said it supported Cape Town's Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu for urging a boycott of South Africa's October municipal elections.



# Five years of the UDF

a grassroots special supplement

## "Strengthen our unity," - says Comti

"Those who are not part of the democratic movement in our country, must be shown the vision of a truly non-racial and democratic South Africa.

They will then surely join us in our struggle."

So says Mr Christmas Tinto, 64, a veteran of the struggle and a widely respected UDF leader.

"Comti", as he is affectionately known, told Grassroots that as UDF enters its sixth year, its main tasks are to build the people's organisations, strengthen the unity of the oppressed and be alert for attacks on the democratic movement.

"In such a difficult time as we are living in now, organisations are growing, they are actually growing," said Mr Tinto who is restricted to his home between 6pm and 5am each day.

He stressed the importance of unity. "We should try and develop a working relationship with even those organisations who differed from us, politically and ideologically - organisations such as the Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo)..

We must meet them and discuss ways of working together,

It is also vital for us to draw closer those organisations who have in recent years taken a gradual change in political direction."

Mr Tinto referred more specifically to the Cape Teachers Professional Association and Penata.

"If we have something to give they will be prepared to listen and we can develop a more solid understanding."

"The attacks on the democratic movement constantly remind us of the importance of unity, said Mr Tinto."

Incidents such as the bombing of Khotso house, the killings of activists and the constant attacks on our people will continue as long as apartheid exists.

Similar things were carried out in countries like Angola, and Guinea Bissau, by Ian Smith's Sealous Scouts. But in each case the people won liberation. Things will be no different here."

"We must always be vigilant and alert at all times to the enemy's every move."



## "The UDF has given us faith in our ability to bring about change" - Dullah Omar



*In an interview with GRASSROOTS shortly after the Fifth Birthday of the mass organisation which shook the very foundations of apartheid, Advocate Dullah Omar, UDF Western Cape Chairperson reflected on the achievements of the past and the challenges of the future*

"The greatest achievement of the United Democratic Front in the past five years was to transform the mood and self-confidence of the oppressed into one in which they had the faith and ability to bring about change."

"In other words," said UDF Western Cape Chairperson Advocate A "Dullah" Omar, "in a very short period of time, the UDF has built up faith and confidence in our own ability to bring about change."

"One of UDF's greatest organisational achievements was to unite town and country. People from Cape Town, Worcester, Oudtshoorn, Graaf-Reinette, Durban and Johannesburg have now been united into a unified, national opposition against the apartheid system.

The UDF has also changed the rural picture. For a long time there were sporadic revolts in the rural areas, but these remained isolated. The UDF has

managed to get rural people off their knees and onto their feet. It has helped them to organise themselves.

On a political level, the UDF's political ideas helped to transform protest politics into a challenge to the very existence of the apartheid regime.

Obviously, repression has taken its toll, and we should not pretend otherwise. In order to advance from the gains made by the UDF, we need to make an honest assessment which would reveal a number of levels where the regime has succeeded in causing damage to our organisations.

Advocate Omar said however, that the political gains of the last five years remain intact. He said that in many areas, the initiative remains in the hands of the democratic movement. "There have been reverses, but still there is a general rejection of the apartheid regime."

So, today, the potential remains for ad-

vancing the struggle further. Even though the UDF has been virtually banned, the politics of the front has continued to make advances.

The apartheid regime is more isolated than ever. So we enter the coming period with optimism and confident of the ability of the working masses of this land to take the struggle to greater heights through the trade unions.

Advocate Omar concluded by saying that the events of the last five years have impressed on us "the importance of building unity of struggle in the workplace and the townships."

"The nature of that relationship and unity is in the process of being defined.

The key words for all of us at the moment are organisation and unity. Which means building a United Front coupled with the strategy of the isolation of the apartheid regime.

"To a large extent the possibility of achieving those aims is strong.

"So we enter this period with great hope, optimism and confidence despite the knowledge that many sacrifices lie ahead."

### WHERE ARE THEY NOW? WHERE ARE THEY NOW? WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

THE struggle in SA has produced some exceptional leaders. Facing severe police harassment, leaders of the UDF have won the love and respect of millions of South Africans for their tireless work. Grassroots looks at some of them and where they are today.



**Oscar Mpetha**  
Oscar Mpetha was Chairperson of the ANC in the Western Cape in the 50s. He worked as organiser for the Food and Canning Workers Union for many years, and was one of the UDF's first national presidents. In 1984 he was convicted for terrorism and sentenced to five years in jail. Although still in prison, he was recently elected as national president of the Release Mandela Committee.



**Trevor Manuel**  
As General secretary of CAHAC, Trevor played a vital role in the formation of the front and was the first UDF regional secretary with Cheryl Carolus. He was detained under section 29 in 1985. In August 1986, he was detained again under the emergency for 695 days. On his release he was given restriction orders, which confine him to his house between 6pm and 6am.



**Cheryl Carolus**  
Cheryl was a member of the first UDF delegation to meet the ANC in Sweden in 1985, and was detained on her return. She was a member of the United Women's Organisation before the formation of the UDF, and became joint General Secretary of the UDF in 1983. She is currently Secretary of the Federation of South African Women which was launched in August last year.



# 'Be on the alert'

## Says shooting victim Veliswa

GRASSROOTS journalist Veliswa Mhlawuli, shot in front of her house in Tambo Square on 19th August, is adamant that this attack has not changed her attitude about the struggle. Instead she says that it has strengthened and made her more determined to continue the fight for freedom.

Yet it is going to take her some time to recover.

"I still have headaches due to the crack in my bones. My left eye, damaged in the shooting, has been removed. In 6 weeks time an artificial eye will be put in and I will have to wear spectacles to relieve the strain on my remaining eye."

She confesses to being emotionally affected. Veliswa has constant nightmares and cannot help thinking of what would have happened to her children and pensioner mother if she had been fatally shot: "When I'm alone I keep on thinking of the incident and when I look at my children, I get the sad feeling that now they could have been without a mother."

People from all over the world have flooded Veliswa with calls, wishing her a speedy recovery and expressing concern at the at-



Veliswa with her son Brian at the Grassroots office before the shooting took place

tack. She is pleased at the concern displayed by people from other countries.

To activists and Grassroots readers, Veliswa has special advice.

Activists involved in the struggle for freedom

she urges to be on the alert at all times: "You never know who is following you or who is thinking what

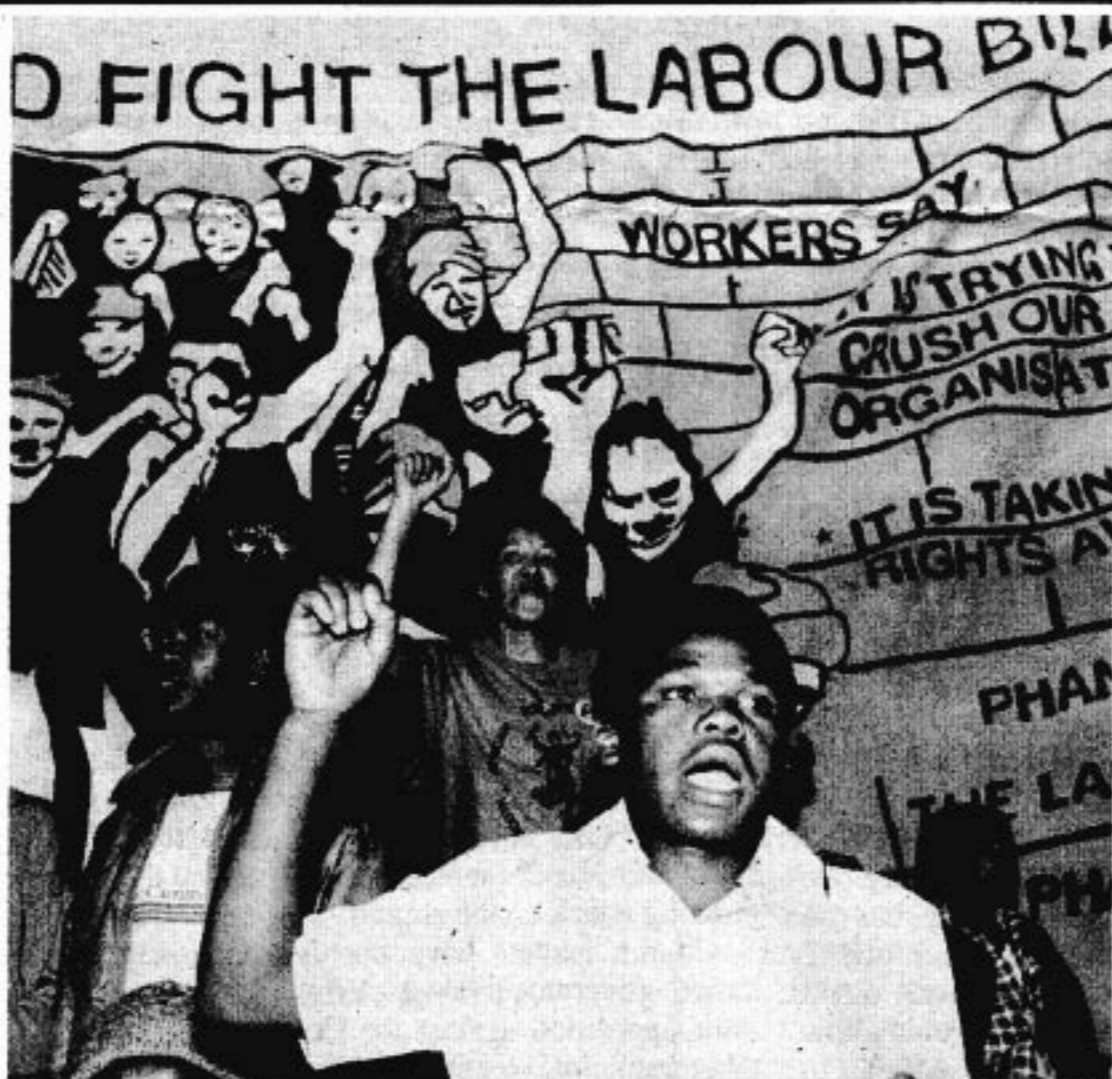
about who. We shouldn't fall into the trap that only people in other parts of the country are open to assassi-

nations and kidnappings. What happens to them, we can expect to happen to us."

As a journalist she appeals to Grassroots readers to support and assist the newspaper. She feels that it is important to keep the na-

tion informed because most of the newspapers do not give people all the news. Other newspapers,

she said, gave a completely different reflection of what was really going on in South Africa.



Workers at the COSATU rally protest against the Labour Bill

## Worker Power!

THOUSANDS of workers at factories in the Western Cape took part in "go-slows", placard demonstrations and bans on overtime work in protest against the Labour Relations Amendment Act which became law on September 1.

Workers belonging to the Almagamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union of South Africa (Actwusa) went on a go-slow, refused to work overtime and marched during lunchtime in Bellville and Maitland.

There were lunchtime demonstrations at several factories by members of the Food and Allied Workers Union.

In Atlantis, workers staged a march through the streets of the industrial area.

At RPM in Maitland, workers went on a three-hour work stoppage and refused to work overtime.

Members of the Garment and Allied Workers Union (Gawu) demonstrated and staged walk-outs at several factories in the Peninsula.

More than 2 000 workers attended a Cosatu protest meeting in the City Hall last month.

The New Labour Relations Amendment Act will:

- enable employers to sue unions for damages during illegal strikes,
- give unions with minority membership at a factory the right to negotiate with employers,
- make it easier for employers to fire workers by extending the definition of an unfair labour practise,
- restrict the right to strike by outlawing 'sympathy strikes' and
- open the way for costly legal action against unions.

## Woodstock residents oppose Group Areas

"The Group Areas Act is one of the most vicious laws used by the Nationalist Party to enforce its racist rule," says the newly-formed Woodstock Residents Against Group Areas.

Hundreds of residents have united under the banner of the committee to campaign against Group Areas and the Group Areas amendment Bill.

If the Bill is passed, people living in the "wrong" area could be

fined R10 000 or jailed for five years. If you own your house, it can be confiscated and sold.

Woodstock Residents Against Group Areas have called on all people in the area to join in the campaign.

The committee can be contacted through the Woodstock Advice Office, 41 Salt River Road, Salt River at 47 8112 (office hours).

## HELP OPEN BOOKS

Open Books, the popular observatory book shop which was gutted in an arson attack last month, could be back in business at the start of November.

The damage caused in the attack is estimated to be in the region of R50 000. The shop was extensively burnt and only a handful of books can still be used.

Although the bookshop was insured, all the money would not be recovered.

Ms Emily Fairbairn, amongst a group who are one of the shops employees has made an appeal for regular Open Books clients to donate at least five books each.

This, she said, will contribute significantly towards the re-opening of the shop.

A trust has been set up and financial assistance could be sent to Open Books, PO Box 24 559 Lansdowne, 7780 or 19 Ash Street Observatory 7925.

A number of bookpublishers have come out in support of Open Books. Ravan Press, David Philip Publishers and Ilrig are encouraging Cape Town Book Publishers to supply books at cost to Open Books and to write off old debt.

## 17 Youth held

The entire executive of the South African Youth Congress (SAYCO) were detained in Johannesburg on August 1.

According to a reliable source they were detained at the end of a three-day national meeting.

Sayco General-Secretary Rapu Molefane was amongst those detained.

Three members of the Cape Youth Congress (Cayco) were taken as well. They are Logan Wort, a field worker at the Education Resource and Information Centre at UWC, Paul Stober, a UCT student and Phillip Pikle, a UWC student.

The families of the Cape Town three were informed a few days later that they were being held at the Soweto police station in terms of Section three of the Emergency Regulations.

## Crisis committee honours detainees

Sunday 4th September saw a teaparty ... with a difference.

Mammies, pappies, boeties and sussies listen carefully to the story of ex-Robben Islander Patrick Matanjana; tearfully watch a youth play on student detentions; join, cautiously and then with increasing feeling Jean Benjamin in her singing of 'Stop killing our Children', appreciatively listen to Tyrone & Donny's penny-whistle and guitar music and then at the end of it all, raise and clench fists to sing Nkosi Sikelel iAfrika.

Certainly not your ordinary teaparty, but the kind that families of emergency & Sect.29 detainees and Treason Trialists have grown used to during their monthly gatherings.

Formerly the now restricted Detainees Parents Support Committee (DPSC) used to organise regular gatherings for the relatives of detainees and political prisoners.

This has now been taken over by the W.C Detainees Parents Co-ordinating committee. This time round the Mitchell's Plain Crisis Committee displayed its skill as host.

Matanjana was released in 1987 after having spent 18 years on Robben Island for Umkhonto We Sizwe activities.



"Down with the Labour Bill!" says this workers poster



# FIVE YEARS



## Year 1: "Don't Vote in Apartheid Elections"

23 January 1983: Dr Allan Boesak calls for the oppressed people of South Africa to come together to fight against the government's new Tricameral parliament constitution.

20 August 1983: 600 organisations and some 15 000 people from around South Africa meet in Mitchells Plain to form the UDF. They pledge to fight Botha's Tricameral parliament and take up the slogan "UDF Unites, Apartheid Divides".

Archie Gumede, Oscar Mpetha and Albertina Sisulu are elected national presidents. Among the patrons are Dr Allan Boesak and Nelson Mandela.

### UDF and the ANC

From its very birth, the Government insisted that the UDF was nothing but a 'front' for the ANC. They thought that this charge would 'smear' the organisation, and discourage people from joining.

If anything, the opposite occurred, as hundreds of thousands of people flocked to the Front.

But the UDF was not a creation of or a front for the ANC. The ANC itself welcomed the UDF as an important initiative of the people. Members of the UDF and ANC National Executive Committees met for the first time in January 1986, and compared notes on the situation at home.

At its launching conference UDF made clear that it was not setting out to replace the ANC or any other liberation movement. It called for the unbanning of the ANC as an essential step towards resolving the crisis in our land.

22 January 1984: The UDF launches its Million Signature Campaign. The aim of the campaign is to bring the message of the UDF to the people of South Africa and to protest against Botha's "new deal".

Thousands of activist go door-to-door, to bus-stops and stations, to collect signatures. After six months half a million signatures are collected.

July/August 1984: The UDF campaigns against the elections for the coloured and Indian parliaments. Its message to the people of South Africa is: "Don't vote in Apartheid Elections!"



19 August 1984: The UDF celebrates its first year with mass rallies. Three days later the elections for the coloured parliament are held. Only 17,5% of people turn out to vote. A week later, in the election for the Indian parliament, the poll is even lower with only 15,5% of people voting.

## Year 2: Fighting Apartheid - "From Protest to Challenge"

3 September 1984: A stay-away and peaceful protest march against rent increases in the Vaal Triangle area turns into a bloody battle between residents and the police. Within a week 66 people have died.

In Sharpeville a community councillor is killed. Later six people are tried and sentenced to death for the killing. A national and international "Save the Sharpeville Six" campaign is started which continues to this day.

The uprising in the Vaal is the start of two years of continuous "unrest" in the townships of South Africa.

### Isolating Apartheid

One of the UDF's triumphs on the international stage was the "Consulate 6" affair. 6 UDF leaders who the police wanted to detain took refuge in the British consulate.

By demanding British protection, they put massive pressure on Botha's major Western ally, Margaret Thatcher, and gave a rallying point for overseas anti-apartheid campaigners.

Today, Pretoria remains more isolated than ever, with little prospect of making new friends internationally.

September 1984: The UDF makes headlines around the world when six of its Natal leaders, on the run from the security police, take refuge in the British Consulate in Durban. The consulate "sit-in" creates tension between the British and South African governments. It focusses international attention on the UDF and exposes the government's system of detention-without-trial.

After three months the UDF leaders decide to leave the consulate. Five of them are arrested and, along with eleven other UDF leaders are charged with high treason in the Pietermaritzburg Supreme Court.

All the accused in the "Pietermaritzburg trial" are eventually acquitted.

October 1984: In response to the continuing "unrest" in the Vaal the police and army launch "Operation Palmiet" and 7 000 police and SADF troops invade the township of Sebokeng. In the following year over 35 000 troops are deployed in 93 townships.

In response the UDF and the End Conscription Campaign take up "Troops Out of the Townships" campaigns.



5-6 November 1984: A UDF affiliate, the Congress of South African Students (COSAS), together with the trade unions organise a stay-away from work in the Transvaal. It is the largest stay-away ever in South Africa.

January 1985: US Senator Edward Kennedy visits South Africa as the guest of Dr Boesak and Bishop Tutu. He speaks at a rally in Athlone but a planned meeting in Soweto is broken-up by Azapo supporters. Over the next year there are sporadic outbreaks of fighting between UDF and Azapo supporters in PE and the Transvaal.

On his return to America Kennedy calls for sanctions against South Africa.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW? WHERE ARE THEY NOW? WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### Frank Chikane

At highschool Frank Chikane was a member of the Student Christian Movement. He progressed through SASO and subsequent detentions to delivering the opening address at the launch of the UDF in 1983. Detained again in 1985, he was charged for treason and was acquitted. Head of the SACC, Comrade Chikane has constantly denounced apartheid.



### Terror Lekota

Terror - so called, not because Le Grange was terrified of him, but because of his brilliance as a soccer player, spent six years on Robben Island for his involvement in SASO. On his release he joined the UDF and became the first UDF National Publicity Secretary. He was re-elected in 1985, but shortly afterwards he was detained. He is currently on Trial in Delmas for treason.



### Popo Molefe

Popo Molefe was the first National UDF General Secretary and is currently one of the trailists in the infamous Delmas trial, which has dragged on now for over three years. As an awaiting trial prisoner, his photo may not be published.





# Anger builds up as more and more residents demand....

# 'Rents we can afford'

**GROWING** anger at crippling rent increases could very soon lead to confrontation between thousands of township residents and local authorities.

All over Cape Town, residents are meeting regularly to look at ways of opposing the harsh and unfair increases.

And, in another development, many residents are defiantly refusing to pay their new rents.

At several public meetings in the Peninsula over the last month, thousands of residents have called for the scrapping of all rent increases and demanded rents they can afford.

Grassroots spoke to members of civic organisations and tenants throughout Cape Town about the critical rent problem.

## SCOTCHESKLOOF

Fifty residents attending a meeting of the Scotchskloof Residents Association on August 15 expressed their rejection of high rents and the new rent formula.

People living in the flats have refused to pay the new rent, simply ignoring the increases.

"We will not pay the increases," said Mrs G Majiet, Mrs A Williams, Mrs A

Samuels and her pensioner mother, when Grassroots spoke to them near their flats in "Freedom Court".

Mrs Samuels, the pensioner, said; My rent increased to R69 and my pension is R162 per month. I have to support five others with this.

Mrs Williams continued; "I simply cannot afford the increases. My husband receives R185 a month. With it we must feed my mother-in-law and our three children."

"The council increased our rent from R125 to R170," complained Mrs Majiet, who told Grassroots the family has a weekly income of R165.

## KRAAIFONTEIN

An executive member of the newly-formed Kraaifontein Residents Association explained to Grassroots how residents had started a campaign for affordable rents. He says...

Op die 18de Augustus het die huurders van Scottsdene en Scottsville vir 'n vergadering oor die hoe rent bymekaar gekom. Hier was die mense baie ontevrede oor die nuwe rent formule.

Die mense het nie eintlik veel kans gehad om te besluit oor die nuwe of ou rent formule nie.

Die persone van die rentkantore en die Bestuurskomitee kon nie eers vir die mense hiermee help nie.

In Junie hierdie jaar, het mense se rent opgegaan. In Scottsville is daar mense wie se rent met R100 opgegaan het.

Op die vergadering het die meer as 400 inwoners eenparig besluit om die verhogings sowel as die nuwe rent formule te verwerp.

"Hoe kan ons nog lewe, het een vrou gevra? Moet ons nou meer geld vir die bestuurskomitees en Currie-hulle se salarisse betaal.

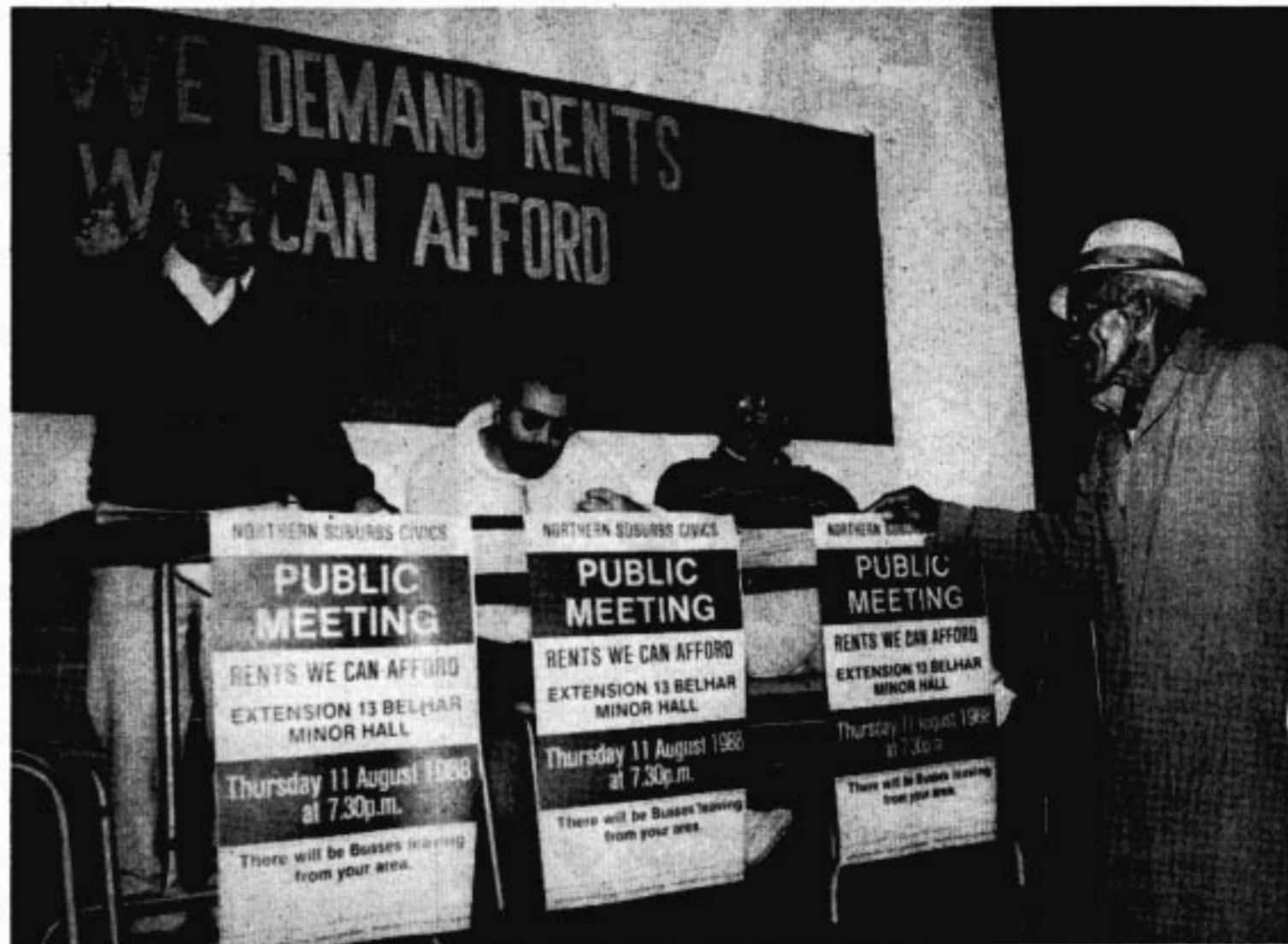
Die Kraaifontein Inwoners Vereniging was amptelik by die vergadering gestig en die volgende resolusie is aanvaar;

"Ons, die mense van Kraaifontein, verwerp hiermee die nuwe rent formule en die gepaardgaande huurverhogings en ook die onregverdigde ou formule. Ons sal ons ook beywer vir rent was die mense kan bekostig en eis verder dat enige huurformule wat ingestel word moet met die samewerking van die mense en hul organisasies plaasvind.

## BELHAR

Rent increases are being strongly opposed by community organisations in Belhar.

The last two months



**A Belhar resident explains his problems to the speakers at a recent mass meeting held to protest against constant increases in rents**

have seen several marches to the local rent office by angry residents, two well-attended public meetings,

and numerous house meetings.

The campaign is being conducted by the Belhar Residents Association, The Belhar Advice Office and other organisations in the area.

On August 17, four families were evicted from their homes because of rent arrears.

Members of the community marched to the rent office to protest but the office was closed.

That evening the Residents Association got together, went to the affected families and assisted them to re-occupy their homes.

The Residents Association has stepped in to stop other evictions in the area.

Many people in Belhar are heavily in arrears with their rent.

According to a reliable source one family owed over R5 000.

## MANENBERG

The MANENBERG RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION launched a cam-

paigned at the end of July, shortly after the Government announced plans to implement the new rent formula.

In Manenberg, residents have refused to pay new rents.

People simply pay what they can afford. An entire court would pay on the same day.

In this way, if one could only pay R1 or R2, there would be at least sixty others paying similar amounts at the same time.

Manenberg residents have had enough of evictions. Whenever someone is put out of their house, neighbours, friends and members of UDF affiliated organisations carry their furniture to the rent office and demand they be given other accommodation.

In almost all cases, the residents have immediately been given a place to live.

Through the rent campaign, many people have joined the Manenberg Residents Association.

## STRAND

In the Strand, the Helderberg Advice Office has been flooded with people complaining about rent increases, dealing with severe.



**Bo-Kaap pensioner, Mrs Samuels, struggles to pay her rent. Here she is surrounded by her grandchildren.**

The story of Ouma Tokkies, a Strand pensioner, is the most shocking.

She was sent a notice re-

cently informing her that her rent had increased from R56,86 to R327,74.

Ouma Tokkies gets a monthly pension of R167,00.

## MP calls for boycott of October Elections

With the emergency regulations banning the call for a boycott of the October elections, political organisations are restricted from taking up this call.

One of the few places in South Africa safe from police action is - surprisingly - parliament.

And this was where the message went out to South Africans to boycott the October elections.

"The democratic movement and its leadership throughout South Africa are telling all voters not to participate in the apartheid regime's racist local government elections in October," came the call.

"They are telling them: do not vote and do not stand for black town council and coloured and Indian Management Committee elections.

"Boycott these elections. By participating in these elections you not be working for the liberation

of our people.

"Instead you will become the apartheid regime's partner in apartheid oppression."

The speaker was Jan van Eck, Independent MP for Claremont.

Van Eck's speech was interrupted by numerous interjections from MP's who preferred not to hear what he was saying.

"Black people do not really want a vote within the present apartheid constitution," Van Eck said.

"They want a say in determining within which constitutional structures they can exercise their vote.

"An apartheid constitution based on group areas is unacceptable to them."

Van Eck said that was the message being sent throughout the country by people not represented in parliament.

He said the government had not only banned and restricted most leaders and organisations of the op-

pressed, but had now also made it illegal for the people to campaign peacefully against participation in the October elections.

"It is now illegal to say outside this house that people should boycott the elections," he said.

"I take this opportunity to convey this call made by the democratic movement to the oppressed people of this country."

Van Eyck said the call was subscribed to by people throughout the country. "This government is not even allowing them to discuss the option of not voting," Van Eyck said. "They are saying: You will vote! They are saying to a person who does not want to vote that that person is committing a crime."

A. Fourie, National Party MP for Turfontein, interrupted: "Do you support them?"

Van Eyck: "Why should that be a crime? I do support them."

## War resisters respond to ECC banning

WAR Resisters International, a pacifist organisation based in London, is to put pressure on European governments to withdraw passports from those South Africans with foreign passports who serve in the South African Defence Force.

WRI decided at a recent international meeting of conscientious objectors to make South Africa the focus of International Conscientious Objectors Day next May.

The organisation also planned to increase its activities in European countries which did not give asylum to South African war resisters.

War resisters were reportedly "very concerned" about European passport holders being conscripted into the SADF.

The banning of the End Conscripting Campaign meant that people called by the state to serve in the SADF would have to look to organisations, church groups and conscientious objector support groups for advice and assistance.

An informed source in London told Grassroots that between 6 000 and 10 000 South Africans had left the country rather than join the SADF.

He believes that the banning of the End Conscripting Campaign here will strengthen the cases of young South Africans seeking refuge overseas as war resisters.

**Surrey Estate, Greenhaven and Primrose Park Civic Association**

are having a  
**FAMILY FUN BAZAAR**

- Stalls
- Refreshments
- Karate demonstration

**VENUE:** Machasen Hall (Jupiter Road, Surrey Estate)

**DATE:** Sat. 17 Sept.

**TIME:** 9.30 am - 2 pm.

**BRING YOUR FAMILY ALONG**



# OF UNITED ACTION

21 March 1985: On the anniversary of Sharpeville, 22 people are shot dead by police at Langa, Uitenhage. Over 80 000 people attend their funeral in PE.

Later in the year further massacres are committed in Queenstown, Mamelodi (November 1985) and Alexandra (January 1986).



6-7 April 1985: At its second National General Council meeting the UDF adopts the theme "From Mobilisation to Organisation: From Protest to Challenge".

19 April 1985: Two of the UDF's most important leaders, General Secretary, Popo Molefe and Publicity Secretary, "Terror" Lekota are detained. Along with 20 others they are later tried for treason in the famous "Delmas Treason Trial". After more than three years this trial is still going on.

"Sparrow" Mkonto, are found near Port Elizabeth. During 1985 at least 11 UDF leaders and activists "disappear" or are killed in mysterious circumstances.

21 July 1985: Matthew Goniwe and his three comrades are buried at Cradock. On the same day the government declares a State Of Emergency.

A call is made for a national boycott of white shops to protest against the Emergency.

July 1985: Under the Emergency thousands of UDF activists and supporters are detained.

August 1985: Schools in Cape Town and the rest of the country come out on boycott against the Emergency. In response to the crisis in the schools the government bans COSAS on 26 August. Local student organisations such as ASAC, BISCO, and later WECSO are set up.



26 August 1985: Thousands of people gather in Cape Town for a march to Pollsmoor to deliver a message to Nelson Mandela. The march has been called by Dr Boesak and is supported by the UDF. It is broken-up by the police and over the next few weeks there are continual clashes between students and police.

## Year 3: "Forward to People's Power"

October 1985: The UDF is now a mass movement. Opinion polls show that, along with the ANC, it is the most popular organisation in the country. Yet, under the Emergency, it is prevented from holding meetings. Many of its activists and leaders are in detention.

The UDF takes up the slogan "Forward to People's Power". It calls on ordinary people to organise themselves into street and area committees.

Through its affiliates it supports consumer, rent and school boycotts which aim to pressurize the government to lift the Emergency, unban the ANC and release Nelson Mandela.

29 November 1985: The Con-

gress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) is launched in Durban. It is actively supported by the UDF, and over the next two years close relations develop between UDF and COSATU.

12 March 1986: The government, under pressure from Europe and America, lifts the State of Emergency temporarily. In the townships people continue to organise themselves into street committees.

30 March 1986: The National Education Crisis Committee (NECC) holds its second conference. The NECC has been started with the support of the UDF to deal with the education crisis. It encourages students to return to school but to implement programmes of People's Education.

1 May 1986: The UDF, together with COSATU, supports a work stay-away on Mayday. Over two million people stay-away and many companies now begin to accept Mayday as a paid holiday.

12 June 1986: On the eve of the 10th anniversary of June 16 the government again declares a State of Emergency. Over the next year some 20 000 people are detained, many of them UDF activists or supporters.

16 June 1986: Despite the Emergency there are massive work stay-aways and school boycotts on June 16.

## Adopting the Charter

When the UDF was launched, many of its affiliates supported the Freedom Charter. The UDF did not adopt the Charter, however, hoping to bring a wider range of organisations into the Front.

Over 4 years of struggle, masses of South Africans embraced the Charter. Mineworkers fighting low wages, residents fighting low rents, students resisting Bantu Education - all were united by the Charter's demand that "The People Shall Govern".

On banners and in song; in slogans and discussions; millions of South Africans looked to the Charter to guide them to a non-racial and democratic future.

The groundswell of support in its ranks led the UDF to adopt the Freedom Charter in August 1987.

## Year 4: "Defend, Consolidate, Advance"

August 1986: The Emergency makes it impossible for the UDF to work openly. Many of its activists now begin to work "underground" to avoid detention. They concentrate on trying to build strong new national organisations amongst youth, women and students.

1987: A new nationwide youth organisation, the South African Youth Congress, is formed. It affiliates to the UDF and claims to have more than 600 000 members and about two million supporters.

5-6 May 1987: The UDF supports a two day work stay-away in protest against the all white election. Once again millions support the stay-away call, showing that despite the Emergency support for the UDF and its allies is undiminished.

29-30 May 1987: The UDF holds a secret conference. It adopts the slogan "Defend, consolidate and Advance" as its new theme.



9 August 1987: The Federation of South African Women (Fedsaw), an organisation previously active in the 1950's, is relaunched. UDF activists play a large part in reviving FEDSAW.

22 August 1988: The UDF celebrates its fourth anniversary. Over 5 000 people attend a rally at UWC. Although the State of Emergency has weakened the UDF it has managed to set up new organisations and it is still one of the most popular organisations in South Africa.

## Year 5: The UDF "banned"

November-December 1987: ANC leader, Govan Mbeki, is released after 25 years in prison. The UDF helps to set up committees to organise "Welcome home Mbeki" rallies in Athlone and elsewhere. The government bans the rallies. Mbeki is also banned.

## Negotiations

Shortly before it was restricted, the UDF explained that negotiations between the Government and the ANC would be the speediest resolution of the problem of apartheid.

However, the Government was not interested in peaceful solutions. The UDF explained that if they were serious about creating a climate for negotiations, the Government would have to:

- Release all political prisoners, detainees and trialists, and allow the return of exiles
- Unban the ANC and all banned organisations
- Withdraw the security forces from townships and confine them to barracks
- Lift all restrictions on freedom of speech, assembly and information
- Strip 'Homeland' authorities of their powers to impose similar restrictions
- Lift the State of Emergency.

Without these steps, it would be impossible to consult democratically, therefore making negotiations impossible.

February 1988: The government restricts the UDF, as well as several of its most important affiliated organisations. In terms of the restrictions the UDF is not allowed to hold meetings, make statements, or organise campaigns.

Several UDF leaders are also



restricted including national presidents, Albertina Sisulu and Archie Gumede.

March - August 1988: Although the UDF is now banned many of its activists continue to work in organisations which are still legal. Although they risk detention and are continually harassed they manage to keep alive the non-racial and democratic ideals for which the UDF has always fought.

## The rural giant rises

"Die UDF sal nooit verloor" and "Klim op die UDF se wa" were sung all over the Karoo and Southern Cape in 1984, as thousands of people were touched by the spirit of the Front.

Youth Congresses and Civics sprung up in the tiniest towns as the message of the UDF spread like a veld-fire. Even in the Bantustans, apartheid's puppets came under fire. UDF regions were opened in the Northern Transvaal, the Orange Free State, the Karoo, the Northern Cape, the Southern Cape and the West Coast.

Towns like Cradock, Beaufort West and Oudsthoorn became centres of resistance during the revolt of 1985/6. Whole communities stopped paying rent, and boycotted white shops.

While vicious repression has taken a heavy toll in the rural areas, the people of the small towns have not forgotten their heroic struggles. The rural giant will rise again.

1 July 1985: The bodies of four UDF activists, Matthew Goniwe, Fort Calata, Sicelo Mhlawuli and

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW? WHERE ARE THEY NOW? WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### Billy Nair

As an executive member of the Natal Indian Congress, Billy Nair participated in the defiance Campaign and served in the first SACTU executive. In 1963 he was arrested for being the Natal commander of the newly formed Umkhonto We Sizwe and served 20 years on Robben Island. On his release he became a member of the Natal UDF executive and is currently in hiding.



### Henry Fassie

A member of the ANC since 1949, and past executive member of the Food and Canning Workers Union, Comrade Fassie has an impressive history. He spent nearly 21 years on the Island for arson and being an ANC member. After his release in 1983, he immediately joined the Port Elizabeth Black Civic Association and was elected vice-president. He is presently in detention.



### Curnick Ndlovu

A member of both the ANC and the Rail and Harbour Workers' Union by 1956, Curnick served on the Executive of SACTU and became a member of Umkhonto We Sizwe. He was sentenced to 20 years on Robben Island in 1964 for sabotage. On his release he became active in UDF and was elected national Chairperson in 1985. He is presently in detention.



### Mohamed Vallie

After studying at the University of Durban Westville in 1976, Mohamed Vallie became a teacher, but was expelled by the Dept. of Indian Affairs for his political involvement. He was secretary of the UDF in the Transvaal Region since its inception and took over from Popo Molefe as National General Secretary. Vallie has been in detention since July 1987 and we can't print his photo.



# Paying for Apartheid



" We stopped eating red meat because it has become a luxury for us in the Elsie River area."

## This is money

Did you know

- That the government is spending every new home on the start of the tri-cameral system.
- It was found that the government is spending money on Christmas parties for friends and families of each cabinet minister.
- Cabinet ministers are spending money on decorating and redecorating their homes.
- According to the government, the cost of the lands is costing the state a year.
- Corruption is also a major problem. It was announced by the government that the cost of corruption was R1 million in 1987 and is expected to reach R2 million in 1988.
- This government's spending on television alone in the past year has reached R1 billion.
- This month the government has announced a fleet of new cars for the cabinet members to R42 000. Added to this is the cost of the cars for the rest of the cabinet members to receive free television.



A group of children in Victoria West who have to survive rural poverty.

People like Mrs. Klaase, Mrs. Petersen and millions of other families fight for survival in our country daily.

More than six million people are unemployed with possibly over half of them having no hope of a job in the near future.

South African children die of malnutrition and diseases like kwashiorkor reaching a yearly toll of 3 million.

In the midst of all of these we are saddled with a government that wastes millions on a Tri-cameral system that has done nothing for the people other than upholding Apartheid.

Now, with these racist rulers and their Apartheid policy becoming increasingly isolated on all levels the world over, the ordinary persons are the ones who suffer.

Instead of getting rid of the very policy which causes this suffering, the government insists on dishing out Apartheid in new forms all the time.

First it was the Tricameral system and now Botha is attempting to continue and make this system more acceptable through the coming Municipal Elections.

We all know that while the ordinary people are being asked to tighten their belts because of an economic recession; Cabinet Ministers like Hendrickse, Curry and Rajbansi are comfortably letting out theirs.

Constant increases in the cost of living is systematically crippling areas like Atlantis, Elsies River, Manenberg, Langa, Guguletu and numerous others throughout the Cape. GRASSROOTS spoke to people living in some of these areas to find out how these increases will affect them.

### Mrs. Klaase

" By die middel van die maand moet ek geld gaan leen om kos in die huis te koop. Ek weet nie wanneer laas ek kleres vir my kinders gekoop het nie of 'n birthday gecelebrete het nie."

This is how Mrs. Klaase of Elsies River described the desperate situation she finds herself in. Mrs. Klaase has four children, the eldest is 21 years old and the only breadwinner in the house. Her son earns R280,00 a month.

With this money Mrs. Klaase must pay R59,00 for rent, R60,00 for electricity, R30,00 for the telephone and R50,00 for furniture and other accounts. After the deductions she only has R80,00 left for food, clothes and transport. " My kinders eet nie breakfast of neem lunch skool toe nie. Ek kan nie afford om vleis te koop nie daarom lewe ons meestal op pap en brood. Met al hierdie increases weet ek nie wat ek gaan doen nie. Ek hoop maar vir die beste."

### Mrs Petersen

Mrs. Petersen, also of Elsies River, finds herself in the same position as Mrs. Klaase. She says she always has arguments with her children when they want to go on school outings or when they want to go out with friends. " They don't seem to understand that I don't have any money for them," she said.

My income is R350,00 for the month, R82,00 goes for rent, R22,00 for rates, R45,00 for electricity. I also have to pay my water, my insurance and hire purchase accounts with this money, I don't know how I am going to cope with these increases. " We stopped eating red meat because it has become a luxury for us " Mrs. Petersen also walks about 10 km to shop every week because she cannot afford to pay for public transport.



Mrs. Klaase of Elsies River has to survive on an income of R280,00 a month.

## Increases cause more hardship in Atlantis

Constant increases in the cost of living is causing untold suffering for the West coast town of Atlantis. The already high unemployment rate is growing, rent, electricity and water arrears are running into ten of thousands of rands, squatter communities are rapidly developing and large factories regularly close down.

This bleak picture emerged during interviews with Mr. Noel Williams, a member of the Atlantis Residents Association and Ms. Sybil Mckinna of the Atlantis Advice office.

" One resident is R1743 in arrears with her water account, Mr. Williams told Grassroots. " These kinds of cases are widespread. Our people just cannot cope with these increases. Bus fares recently went up. A person working in Cape Town has to pay traveling cost of R71,00 for the month now"

The unemployed will be affected most. Now they cannot travel around to look for jobs any longer. Local factories are closing down all the time. It is estimated that out of every ten

people, four had no job".

Ms. Sybil Mckinna outlined to Grassroots the numerous cases of people who came into the Advice Office with problems. " The people cannot keep up with higher purchase payments, rent,

water and electricity accounts and the general increase in the cost of living. " With the old prices people already could not cope," she told Grassroots. What

as a big shock to me. Bread is a basic food. Why must we live in such a crisis?"

"The people shall share



When the UDF was launched, it was not clear whether the Government would allow the movement to get off the ground. Although the police threatened to disrupt the launch, the most serious form of harassment at that stage was a fake pamphlet "postponing" the launch.

As the UDF spread across the country, the state began to move against it. The Front was banned in many of apartheid's homelands.

The UDF Million Signature Campaign went ahead amid intense harassment of activists. Many were arrested, threatened, and beaten up.

As the campaign to boycott the 1984 elections reached its peak, the government moved heavily against the UDF. National leaders were detained. Many UDF activists were arrested, and police attacked crowds of protestors with tear gas and sjamboks.

Dark clouds began to gather for the UDF. Sixteen of its national leaders, including presidents Archie Gumede and Albertina Sisulu, were charged with treason in Pietermaritzburg. All the accused were eventually acquitted.

In October 1984, the state declared war on township residents. It sent the SADF to put down protests against rent increases. Over the next year, over 35 000 troops were used in 93 townships.

In Cradock, the local SADF Commando raided Lingelihle township. In Beaufort West, popular UDF leader William Mandlenkosi Kratshi was shot dead by police outside his house.

On March 21 1985, Sharpeville Day, police shot dead 22 people at Uitenhage. Later massacres at Queenstown, Mamelodi and Alexandra showed that the Government was

# Repression hits hard...



## but our spirit will never be broken

prepared to use massive force against unarmed people.

In April 1985 two of the UDF's most important leaders, General Secretary Popo Molefe and Publicity Secretary "Terror" Lekota, were detained. They have been held ever since, after being charged along with 20 others in the famous "Delmas Treason Trial".

Not all repression against UDF was carried out through legal channels. In July 1985, the twisted bodies of Matthew Goniwe, Fort Calata, Sicelo Mhlawuli and Sparrow Mkhonto, were found near Port Elizabeth. During 1985 at least 11 UDF leaders and activists "disappeared" or were killed in mysterious circumstances.

In July 1985, the Government declared

a State of Emergency, detaining thousands of activists. The Emergency failed to stop the UDF, and resistance intensified.

In Cape Town, thousands tried to march to Pollsmoor prison to demand the release of Mandela, and were violently dispersed by the police. Months of ungovernability followed.

Most Capetonians remember the "Trojan Horse" shooting, when policemen hid in boxes on a railway truck and then fired wildly at a crowd, killing two Athlone youths.

A sinister new form of repression began to emerge in 1986 - vigilanteism. Armed bands in the townships would carry out vicious attacks on UDF members. The Imbokhoto of Kwandebele, the Inkatha warlords, Ama-

Afrika of Port Elizabeth and Ngxobongwana's Witdoeke at Crossroads all carried out apartheid's "dirty work".

The UDF survived everything the government threw at it. In desperation Botha declared a new Emergency on June 12 1986. 20 000 UDF activists were detained in the first year of that Emergency. Some like Trevor Manuel and Raymond Suttner were held for over 2 years. Others, like Murphy Morobe, Mohammed Valli and Heny Fazzie are still in detention.

Through its JMC system the Government hoped to eliminate all UDF structures in the townships, and replace them with pro-Government structures. While the UDF was dealt heavy blows by the Emergency, it refused

to lie down and die.

It is for this reason that the Front was effectively banned under new restrictions of February 1988. The Government was now determined that UDF would not be around to spoil their plans for apartheid local elections in October.

Repression has cost the Government many friends. Even its closest allies in the United States and Britain have been appalled by the Government's actions against the democratic movement.

The UDF has suffered heavily under apartheid repression. But it has not been broken. While the Front is restricted, its affiliates and activists are continuing to take forward the struggle against all apartheid's schemes.

# Quotable quotes

## Mr. Franklin Sonn on behalf of the CTPA



"In 1980 the government committed itself to equality in educational provisions within a period of ten years. Today, 8 years later, the state has a dismal record of so-called 'reform' in education. Despite the repression and the silencing of the voice of the organisations of the people, the UDF is celebrating its fifth year of existence, signifying the determination of the people to resist the 1988 brand of repressive apartheid.

## Noel Williams - Chairperson of the Atlantis Residents Association

"Never in our wildest dreams could we have imagined the impact that the UDF would have on our struggle for democracy and freedom.

"The banning of the UDF and other organisations and persons has not been able to stop our people's march to freedom. We demand the withdrawing of the restrictions on all banned organisations so that the processes of negotiation can be initiated. We also demand the release of Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners and detainees. The march to freedom shall proceed with the workers and the UDF as the vanguard."

## Duncan Crowie - South African Soccer Federation Footballer of the Year



"I have always supported the UDF. The UDF has brought the oppressed communities together. I believe in the UDF. My biggest hope is that all sportspeople will unite under the banner of the UDF one day."

## Geordie Ractliffe - UCT SRC President

"The formation of the UDF was, for students, the most important event of the 1980s; an event that facilitated and directed our participation in the struggle both at a national and local level. The building of non-racialism, democracy and unity remains our first priority. The banning of the UDF cannot remove our commitment to these principles, or the power that will be unleashed when we realise them."

## Vincent Baartjes - President of Western Province Association Football Board

"I congratulate the UDF on their five years of struggle against the apartheid forces in this country. Continue this fight against this evil for this oppression must stop."

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW? WHERE ARE THEY NOW? WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### Murphy Morobe

As a member of the Soweto Student Representative Council, Comrade Murphy participated in the historic march of 1976. In 1979 he was convicted in the SSRC trial and sentenced to four years in jail. He was elected a UDF's Rural Secretary in the Transvaal and later became National Publicity Secretary. He was detained in July 1987 and is still in detention.



### Albertina Sisulu

Albertina Sisulu became involved politically in the 40's and soon joined the ANC Womens' League. Surviving detentions, banings and a two year prison sentence, she was elected Transvaal UDF President. In 1985 she and 15 others were charged with treason, both the charges were dropped due to lack of evidence. She is President of FEDSAW.



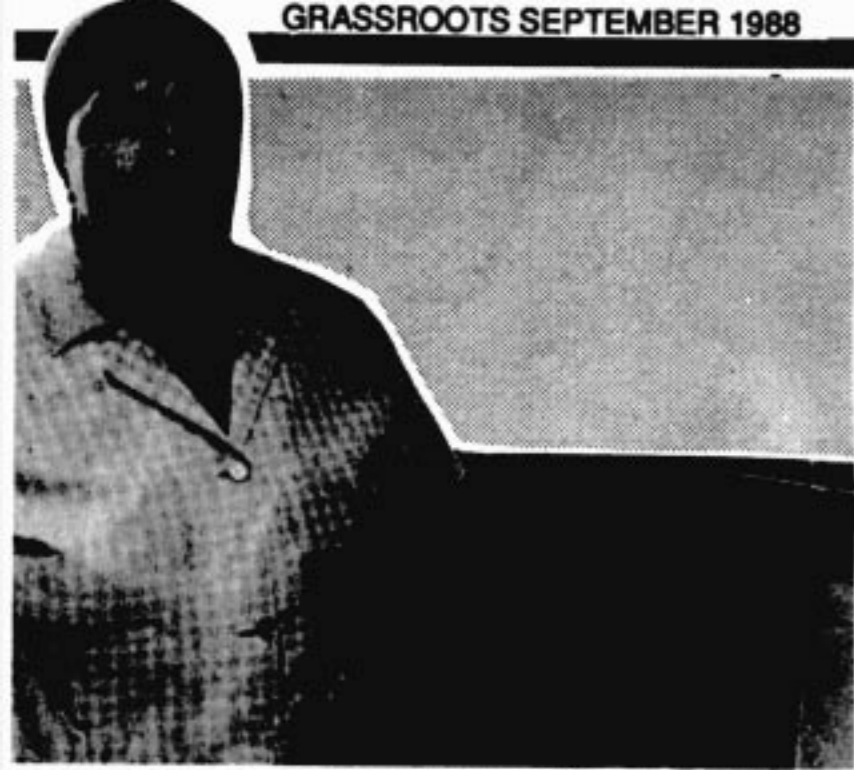
### Archie Gumede

After joining the ANC in 1944, Archie Gumede led the Natal delegation to the Congress of the People in 1955. He was banned for five years and then helped to establish the Release Mandela Committee, and was the first President of the UDF. In 1984, he sought refuge from the SAP in the British Consulate and was later charged with treason. The charges were dropped.

### Grassroots salutes:

Mathew Goniwe  
Fort Calata  
Sicelo Mhlauli  
Victoria Mxenge  
Mxolise Jacobs  
William Kratshi  
Peter Nchabaleng  
Alfred Makaleng  
and all who have given their lives in the struggle to end apartheid.





at because of high prices," Mrs Petersen of Elsies

# how our is wasted

it spent R600 on installing postboxes at the Tri-cameral cabinet ministers at the general parliament in 1984

Cabinet ministers spent R159 291 of our mas cards last year .The cards went to es and some of them cost up to R4,50

also spent more than R84 million on decorating their offices and homes

Africa Institute corruption in the home-e South African government R175 million

rife in government departments.This was Minister of Justice Kobie Coetzee last corruption and bribery involving R113 and R130 million in 1988 were released

ent more than R300 million on ammuni-present Angolan war

overnment is spending R6 million on a or Cabinet ministers. Every car costs up to this Tri-cameral ministers travel free ir lives on South African Airways.They sion and video recorders at our expense.



la West, sitting outside a shack without food, trying

## What our organisations say...

### Cape Areas Housing Action Committee

Grassroots spoke to some community organisations about the the new price increases and how they are affecting the people.

The Cape Areas Housing Action Committee (Cahac) said in a statement that the high cost of living meant

greater hardship and suffering for the oppressed communities in South Africa." The increases in basic food-stuff like maize, bread,milk and candles

and rents and rates comes at a time when many are already living below the breadline and cannot afford the increases.Even our pensioners who depend on the State for a living, now have to spend a greater part of their pensions on higher rents.

"The great distances that we are forced to travel from our ghettos and locations to our workplaces is exploited by bus companies, like Tramways, who make big profits from regular

busfare increases. There is a massive housing

shortage in country but the government spends over R3.5 million on propaganda for the coming municipal elections in October.

"We in Cahac reject the Primary Local Authorities (PLA's) and Regional Services Councils as we rejected the tri-cameral system in 1984. These structures do not represent us,they are undemocratic and racist.

"We want a democratic,non-racial South Africa in which the wealth will be shared

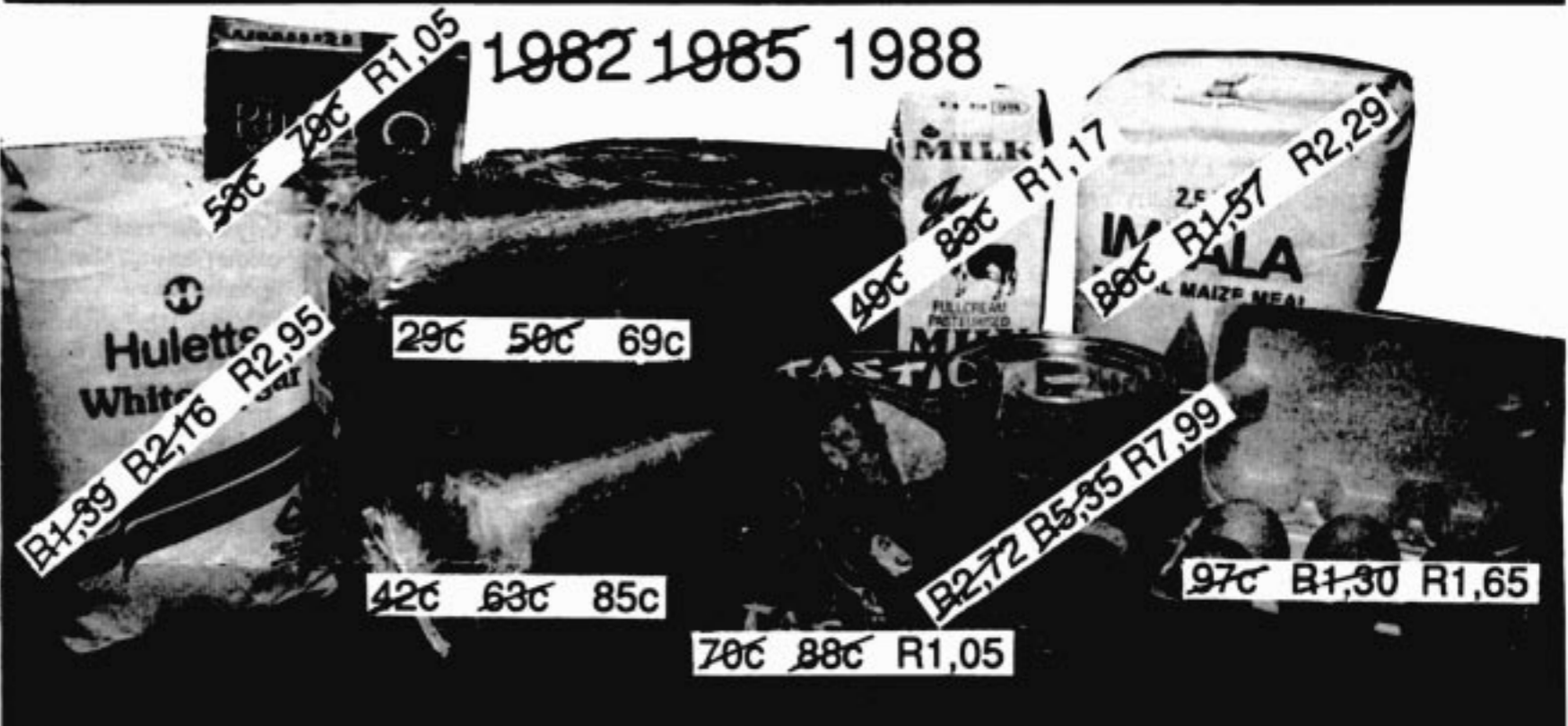
among all and where there will be housing and comfort for all. Forward to a people's Democracy".

### United Women's Congress

"Women always face the major brunt of any price increase because as women we are directly responsible for the care of our families.We are also being exploited by the bosses and the government.We get the most insecure and the lowest payed jobs

.But each time we go to the shops we pay more and more for food to feed our families.With all these price increases the government expects us to vote on October 26 for people who are only interested in filling their own pockets. People who never have been concerned about the high price of food or our high rents.

"When we say that the people shall govern ) we mean that the people must have a say in earning living wages, paying rents we can afford and a government that does not drive people into deeper poverty day by day



Grassroots compares the prices of food for 1982, 1985 (just after the elections) and 1988 (a month before the municipal elections).

Above is essential consumer products in every household, but for many families it is

becoming a luxury to buy basic food like this.

If you bought the food pictured above, in 1982 you would have payed R8,37. Today you have to pay R19,69 - an increase of more than 135%. It is more than double the prices of 1982!

The price of milk increased with 69.8 % since 1985 (R0,83 in 1985 to R1-17 in 1988). And just recently the price of petrol increased with 13 %.This will result in further increases on all consumer goods.

City Tramways increased

the busfare with 15 % recently.Pushing the busfare up from 70 cents to 80 cents in some areas and the clipcards from Athlone to Cape Town, from R8,00 to R9,00. We can expect a further increase in busfares later this month

## Things that we don't hear about



**HENDRICKSE:**  
Allan Hendrickse, leader of the Labour Party, was recently found out to be imposing the Group Areas Act in Port Elisabeth.  
Hendrickse caused an uproar in parliament when he staged a walk out during a reading of the Group Areas Bill.  
However in Port Elisabeth, his Labour Party controlled management committee declared a residen-

tial area coloured and announced that black families would be evicted.



**CURRY:**  
David Curry, Minister of local Government,Housing and Agriculture is the mastermind behind the New Rent Formula which has confused tenants throughout the Cape Flats.  
He has also threatened to cut off coloured housing funds to the Cape Town City

Council unless they deal with the unrecognised management committees.



**RAJBANZI:**  
Amichand Rajbanzi is being investigated by the James Commission in Durban. The commission has heard evidence of corruption in the House of Delegates.  
Rajbanzi was suspended as Chairman of the House of Delegates in June. He was

found guilty by a parliamentary inquiry of "maladministration" last month.



**ABE WILLIAMS**  
Abe Williams,Labour party MP for mamre, was in the soup after newspapers exposed that he was the owner of 40 houses in White City, Saldanha. The houses were described as being "fit only for animals to live in".

in the country's wealth' The Freedom Charter



## grassroots comment

### Botha's blankets have holes in them

PW Botha has put a blanket over the October municipal elections. He has restricted the UDF and other people's organisations. And he has banned calls for a boycott of the elections.

But Botha's blanket has holes in it; holes which are growing bigger.

Inside the racist parliament itself, Mr Jan Van Eck called on people not to vote for the 'apartheid elections'. Then Archbishop Tutu challenged the elections - he said the Church could follow only God's law, not the laws of apartheid.

It seems that even Botha's restrictions cannot stop people expressing opposition to the October elections.

Meanwhile, in the oppressed communities, our people see squirrels on TV telling us to vote. But our people are hungry. Many are without work. Rents are rising.

Food is becoming so expensive that it is a miracle that people can still live!

But the Government still spends millions on its 'security forces', on its apartheid structures and even on its squirrels who tell us to vote.

Why do these squirrels not tell us about high rents imposed by the Town Councils? Why don't they tell us about hunger and unemployment, while the bosses grow richer? Do these squirrels not know that our leaders are in detention and prison?

Everywhere people are saying "we must do something". Soon the leaders of millions of our people will gather at a massive Anti-Apartheid Conference to find ways to deliver us from Botha's evil system.

Grassroots says "Let all who love their country and their people unite. Together we can destroy the apartheid monster!"



Hundreds of members of the Federation of South African Women flocked to Tygerberg Hospital last month to wish Comrade Nelson Mandela a speedy recovery. They were not allowed into the hospital so they toy-toyed outside hoping to get their message through to the ANC leader

## UWC strives to build a true people's university

GRASSROOTS interviewed the University of the Western Cape Media Officer Moegsien Williams on events on the campus in the past month and the allegation that there was a "dirty tricks campaign" behind the bad publicity the university has been getting recently.

**GRASSROOTS:** There have been allegations that there is a concerted campaign being waged against UWC.

**WILLIAMS:** We see the attacks on UWC as part of the strategy adopted by the government to attack all sources of opposition to its policies. The depoliticisation of the universities has been identified by the state as an important strategy.

We think that the focus by media such as Die Burger, SATV and Huisgenoot on recent events on campus are part of an attempt to isolate UWC.

A spate of pamphlets appeared on campus criti-

cising the rector and trying to divide the university community.

The "dirty tricks" campaign is directly linked to the commitment of UWC to democratise the university and implement peoples' education.

**GRASSROOTS:** UWC has acknowledged that there are problems. What problems are there.

**WILLIAMS:** We would be the first to acknowledge that problems do exist at UWC. In many ways these problems are linked to the unique nature of the university. UWC is the fastest growing university in the country. At present we have 10 500 fulltime students and a further 4 000 part-time students.

There is a historic backlog in building at UWC which has meant a shortage of accommodation. This is partially the cause of the hostels problem where students are living in other students rooms because

they either cannot find or cannot afford alternative accommodation.

Often these students do not have the financial means to study. The students come from diverse backgrounds and have to learn to relate to one another.

All these factors in turn bring problems which are yet to be dealt with by other universities.

The government's subsidy cuts in recent years does not provide for the needs of a university with a large student population.

This means that we will increasingly face problems with space, teaching staff and classroom aids.

Specific problems such as those in the hostels are being actively addressed in consultation with the students involved.

The recent problem with the law faculty is in part a problem of democratising the teaching process.

The boycott of classes was not a sudden decision but came after months of negotiation between the student representatives and the faculty.

That students waited so long before openly declaring a dispute is an optimistic sign and is an indication of the success of UWC's policy of seeking to resolve student grievances through negotiation rather than leaving them to simmer.

In the long term this will mean the university is a happier place.

**GRASSROOTS:** What is being done to solve the problems.

**WILLIAMS:** UWC has recently launched a campaign aimed at reaching out to the broader community. We see the wider community as one of the pillars of our university and we are committed to forming a relationship with the community.

The campaign aims at discussing with the community what we mean by the democratisation of UWC. We have had three meetings so far - at Worcester, Saldanha and Bellville - and have been well received.

A further 12 meetings are planned for this year and we will be doing follow-ups next year. The campaign is a two-way process with the university becoming more involved in community issues and being answerable to the community.

**GRASSROOTS:** What role do you see UWC playing in the future?

**WILLIAMS:** We are committed to the establishment of a non-racial democratic society and playing an active role in the process of achieving this aim.

It is no easy path but a challenging one which UWC is actively treading.

Send all letters to Grassroots, P.O.Box 1161 Cape Town, 8000

## 'INDEPENDENCE FOR NAMIBIA!'

Dear Grassroots  
These are very exciting times. At last it seems, the racists have been taught a lesson in Angola. They have crept back to Namibia with their tails between their legs, having been smacked hard by the Angolans and Cubans.

Botha has been forced to agree to Namibian independence. The people of Namibia are marching forward, under the banner of SWAPO. Strikes, school boycotts and stayaways have made the country un-governable by Pretoria and its puppets.

But comrades, we can be sure that Pretoria will do everything to try and sab-

otage Namibia's independence. Magnus Malan has said that to see SWAPO in power would be unacceptable.

SWAPO has called a ceasefire in preparation for independence. But now someone is 'mysteriously' setting off bombs as an act of provocation, to create an 'excuse' for the SADF to remain in Namibia.

Comrades, there is still a hard road to independence. We in South Africa must do all we can to assist the Namibian people. We must take up their call: SADF out of Namibia! Independence now!  
Mxolisi  
Cape Town

## Amos held again

Dear Grassroots  
Amos Khomba is 27 years old. He was born and bred in Zwelethemba Township near Worcester.

He played a big role in the community as general secretary of the Zwelethemba Youth Organisation (ZWEYO).

In 1986 he was detained and held at the Robertson police station. After a week he was sent to Worcester Prison. His parents did not know his whereabouts for two months.

Amos was charged after 11 months in detention and acquitted. He was released in May 1987.

In the community there was a clash between the so-called vigilantes and comrades. The community organisations tried to settle the conflict in a peaceful way.

It was during this period that Amos was redetained on October 27 1987. He

was released in May 1988.

As Amos had matriculated he wanted to further his studies. But this aim was disturbed due to the number of times he was detained.

In 1988 he joined the Unemployed Workers Movement due to the scarcity of work in Worcester. He is a committee member of the UWM.

On August 15 two policemen raided Amos's room for about an hour. His sister was present at the time of the raid. She asked where they were taking him and they answered that they would bring him back home.

They came back that afternoon with a document stating that he was detained again. This was after he had just spent three months at home after his last detention.

Comrade Zweletemba.

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# Nightmare of child abuse....

## What parents should know

People have read and heard lots of horror stories about child abuse over the last few months. GRASSROOTS takes a look at some possible reasons for the increase in child abuse and how parents and adults can pick up if a child is a victim.



taught to obey their parents at all times and if disobedient they will be punished.

There is however a difference between incest and child sexual abuse:

1. in an incest situation the abuse occurs within the family. In child sexual abuse the offender is a stranger or acquaintance;

2. in an incest situation there is a big possibility that other children in the family will also be victims of abuse while;

3. in child sexual abuse there is a known single victim

### What parents should know:

Children very seldom make up stories about being molested. they do fantasize, yes - but never about something as horrible as sexual abuse.

So if your child does make allegations or hints at being sexually abused, take it seriously.

Most sexual abuse victims *don't* tell because they either think no-one will believe them or they don't know what might happen.

But there are signs that adults can pick up; these can be physical ones:

- discharge on panties; nausea, stomach pains; vaginal bleeding; itchy, sore genitals; sexually transmitted disease; pain around the breasts, buttocks, thighs.

Or there can be changes in the child's behaviour. A child may....

- not want to go to a certain place or be with a certain person
- express affection in a sexual way
- be very scared of men
- cry easily
- have nightmares, wet his/her bed
- be aggressive, withdrawn, sad
- be depressed, suicidal
- run away
- have difficulty in relating to friends and people who they normally trust
- have difficulty at school
- be unable to concentrate

*It is possible that these signs may apply to other problems, not only sexual abuse.*

In an incest situation it is very difficult for the child to speak about what has happened whereas if a stranger had been the attacker it might be easier.

It is important that if a child tells an adult that he/she was sexually abused, the child should be listened to with sympathy. Try to be supportive, gentle and understanding. Show that you're glad the child has told you, and if possible, say that you and the child

can do something about it together.

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## HUNDREDS OF DURBAN TENANTS FACE EVICTION

Hundreds of Durban families who have been unable to afford rent increases could face eviction from council flats towards the end of the year.

And many families have been living in darkness in recent weeks after failing to pay their electricity bills and having their supplies cut.

Tenants who have paid only their old rents for the past two months, will have huge arrears in two months time - the eviction date.

The number of tenants in arrears have risen since the July 1 increases.

A spokesman for the Durban Housing Action Committee (DHAC), Trevor Bonhomme, said his organisation

believed hundreds of tenants could eventually face eviction and be forced to live like squatters.

"We are also extremely concerned about families now living in darkness," Mr Bonhomme said.

"People are having to rely on neighbours for hot water, they cannot cook and children are having to study at the homes of friends and neighbours."

"15 DHAC leaders are planning to show solidarity with the tenants who can't afford their new rents or electricity by asking the Durban City Council to also disconnect our lights," Trevor Bonhomme said.

"If they are not cut by the end of the month we won't pay our light accounts and will live under the same conditions as other tenants, who are suffering."



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# grassroots SPORT



## "The coming season will be my last"

- says sprint queen Suzette Arendse



It is every athlete's dream to compete in the Olympic Games. Not so for Suzette Arendse who competes merely for the love of the sport. She jokingly remarks, "Ek is mos plat, I don't have big dreams. I check the Olympic times, learn the techniques and see how I can improve, but otherwise I would rather be out on the road jogging or just doing my thing."

Suzette was born in Vredenburg on the West Coast and has been running since the age of six. At the age of twelve, the family moved to Franchhoek in the Boland. At highschool she really became the Boland star, setting records in the 100m and 200m events. She later went to Hewat Training College where she also set records in the 100m, 200m and Long Jump. At the end of 1983 she was crowned as the Hewat sportsperson of the year.

She started her amateur athletics career the following year and is currently the holder of the S.A. Womens' 100m, 200m and Long Jump records. Her most memorable achievement she says was last year, midway through the season at a prestige meeting when, "I ran the 100m in 11,7 seconds, the first woman in the non-racial fold to run the 100m in under 12 seconds" On that same day she recorded under 25 seconds in the 200m and cleared 6,21 in the Long Jump.

Her other sporting interest is Netball in which she has also excelled. She repre-

sented Boland Senior Schools, Western Province Netball Union, the Colleges side and was elected for the SACOS side at the beginning of this year.

Asked why she has not defected to multi-racial sport, like so many others, she replied: "For them its more the winning, the fame and the glory. I run because I enjoy it and I feel my achievements can motivate and inspire other people to do better."

Comparing the standards, she felt that there was a big gap in the times and achievements between on-racial and multi-racial sport "They have all the facilities, one coach per athlete, and they specialise in events. They have better techniques and better ideas, but are very individualistic.

We have so few athletes really interested, but those who are, are really good. We are not that far behind. Despite the poor facilities, our strength lies in our sportsmanship and our preparedness to help one another."

She has great admiration for Shawn Vester. "He is such a natural athlete," she says, "when the gun goes, he goes like a bullet." Another athlete that impresses her is Sandra Petersen, a Mondale student.

The modest 26 year old primary school teacher says that other than sport, she enjoys reading and helping other athletes.

Suzette intends to make the coming season her last. She is prepared to quit in order to help others excel. She is currently working with primary school athletes. "That is where I'm prepared to work my heart out," she says. "Motivating and moulding young athletes, sacrificing all my time and energy improving our standards."

Suzette feels there is not enough encouragement and enthusiasm among women athletes: "You find such good athletes at primary school, but as soon as they reach highschool, they lose interest. I would suggest that they join clubs early."

The 'Boland Express' believes that there is an abundance of talent. Her advice to other athletes: - "they must train, be motivated and dedicated. They must stick to a programme for the season and off-season. But most of all they must want to do it and enjoy their sport."

For as long as there are athletes like Suzette Arendse gracing our sportsfields, non-racial sport will continue to grow and become more popular.

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## Brian Stein injured



South African born Brian Stein injured his leg in his first match in France for his new club, CAEN. He is expected to be out of action for at least three months. Stein was given a free transfer to LUTON in gratitude for services rendered.

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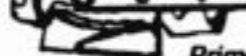
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