



Grassroots — a new community newsletter for the Western Cape — is the paper about **YOU**.

We write about what is happening in the area where you work and the place where you live as well as the problems and successes of other communities.

Grassroots tells you about budding artists and up-and-coming sportsmen in your area and other areas.

You can read the news behind the news and an analysis of important civic developments.

On our advice page our panel of experts answer all your queries from babies teething to working overtime.

You can also have your say by stating your views in our letters' page.

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Victory for Woodlands residents

BACK DOWN ON RENTS

THE Department of Community Development has backed down on a controversial rent increase in Woodlands, Mitchell's Plain, and is revising its system for determining rents in the area.

Confirming this, Mrs Theresa Solomon, an executive member of Woodlands Ratepayers and Tenants Association, said the increases would be reduced by as much as 90 per cent.

This announcement follows recent discussions between the department, the Divisional Council of the Cape, the Woodlands Ratepayers' and Tenants Association and the Cape Town City Council.

The department, confronted with the people's protest and resistance to the increases, has now promised to financially assist' residents when fixing rents.

This indicates a victory for the people of Woodlands who have resolutely refused to pay increases imposed by the department in January.

The Woodlands rents battle was sparked off by notices sent to residents by the Divisional Council on December 12 last year advising them of rent increases averaging between 2 and R10.

The increased rents, which surprised most householders, was payable on the last day of December.

But the residents, already hard-hit by the rising cost of living, decided to protest.

On December 31, a crowd of at least 500 marched through the streets of Woodlands to the local rent office and demanded to see the official to put their grievances.

Police arrived on the scene, but kept a low profile as residents gave lack power salutes and chanted 'We won't pay the increases. Bring the rents down'.

A council official contacted his head office in Cape Town and the office was closed.

The residents, who complained of the Divisional Council's general neglect of Woodlands, said the protest march had been a community response to the increases and had

nothing to do with local community leaders.

Ten days later, the Woodlands Ratepayers and Tenants' Association called for an immediate meeting with the Department of Community Development to discuss the increases. The rents in Woodlands are fixed by the Department of Community Development, but administered by the Divisional Council of the Cape.

The association proposed a mass meeting and invited the chairman and secretary of the Divisional Council to attend. Previously, the association had called for a moratorium on rent increases until the council had met with the secretary of the Department of Community Development.

At a meeting on January 17, residents passed a resolution 'deploring' the increases.

The resolution said: 'We demand that our recent and old increases be abolished, that the rent in principle should not exceed 15 per cent of the breadwinner's income and that people on a welfare grant should have a special dispensation'.

Mr Eddie Kai, the newly-elected vice-chairman of the association, said Mr Fouche had given an undertaking that the 'bulk' of the increases would be set aside.

He said the Divisional Council had been instructed to adjust the rents immediately and inform the tenants by special notice.

All tenants who paid the increases would have their accounts credited, he said.

'The pressure the Woodlands residents brought to bear through the protest march and the protest meeting played a vital part in the outcome', Mr Kai said.



This is the protest that started it all. Woodlands residents outside the rent office demonstrating against the rent increases.

Widespread protests are planned in Grassy Park, Lotus River and Belhar against new property valuations which in many instances may mean a 100 percent increase in rates.

Last month many residents in these areas received notices from the Divisional Council of the Cape about new valuations which are based on the market values and building costs of 1974.

A protest meeting against the new valuations in Belhar recently drew more than 500 people.

Lotus River held its first protest meeting this

Mass protest at huge rates increase

week and a series of other meetings, which will also involve the tenants of council houses, are being planned for Grassy Park.

Grassroots has been informed that a mass protest by residents, in the form of objections, will be made when the valuation court sits in May.

It is also believed that

joint action by the three affected areas is being planned against the property valuations.

'We hope to protest with one voice on this issue', a spokesman for one of the civic associations said.

A surprised property owner in Grassy Park found

his property's valuation had been increased ninefold.

A Lotus River plot-holder was told that the valuation of his empty stand had been increased by 380 percent.

Mr I J Abel, of Willow Road, Lotus River, said Grassy Park and Lotus River residents were among those who paid the highest rates in the entire Divisional Council area.

'Rates is a very sore point in Grassy Park and in spite of paying the highest rates very little development is taking place in this area.

'I don't even have a road in front of my house', he said.

A paper for YOU that fills the void

We are proud to present to you our first edition of Grassroots, a new community newsletter which has been launched in the Western Cape.

This newsletter has been born out of the tremendous need for a communications media for community organisations in the Western Cape.

Civic and community news items are increasingly being squeezed out of major newspapers. We are told the reasons is 'lack of space'. We concede that newspapers have shrunk in size over the past two years having lost advertising to television - but we know that these newspapers have never really shown an interest or concern for civic and community matters, especially in areas where the disenfranchised live.

When civic and community news items are highlighted, these are in most cases restricted to separate 'extra' editions. Even then preference is shown for sensational news or the activities of ethnic bodies working within separate development institutions.

There are exceptions, of course. We are talking of the 'rule'.

We, therefore, believe that a vacuum exists in the publication of community news and hope that Grassroots will to a certain extent fill the void.

Not that this is the first attempt to do so. Nor should it seem that we are putting up Grassroots as a pioneering effort.

Attempts have been made in the past by social work agencies and student groups to fill this gap.

Many communities and groups are working towards publishing newsletters in their areas. Some have already done so, the latest being Ken-Facts, a bulletin for Kensington and Facreton residents, published by the Kensington Society of Journalists, and the Foundation for Social Developments' newsletter called Community Action.

In addition, a group of professional community workers is planning a journal which they hope will place the entire concept of social and community work under an analytical searchlight while another group wants to publish a children's paper called Molo Songololo.

We commend these praiseworthy efforts and urge these organisations and groups to continue with their good work. We only see good coming from these publications.

If we are called upon to help or work together with organisations or groups with similar aims to ours, we will most certainly do so.

In fact, we have already initiated discussions with another group to co-ordinate our publication efforts.

Grassroots, however, hopes to be a more broadly based publication collating and publishing news items from communities all over the Western Cape.

And, as we have tried to do in this edition, we hope by informing Guguletu what is happening in Ocean View, and telling Schotsche Kloof what is taking place in Scottsdene, we will fulfil another important task - that of co-ordination.

After all, we have basically the same problems, the same aspirations and many community projects started in different areas are similar. So why should we not try to co-ordinate our efforts?

But we want to go further than this. Besides writing about what is happening in the areas where we live, we also want to write about that other area where so many of us spend so much time - the place where we work.

In this way we hope to make this publication truly the paper about YOU.

We have no intention of making this an academic, elitist or intellectual publication.

Even when we interpret or analyse important civic developments affecting the people - as we do in this edition on our News Background page - we will simplify it for everyone to understand.

But our main role remains to write about the bread-and-butter issues affecting the man in the street in his day-to-day life.

Our presentation itself will be simple and straightforward.

In the same spirit of trying to reflect the peoples' views, we first consulted with as many organisations as possible before launching this publication.

We made contact with more than 50 community organisations, civic associations, workers' organisations and social service agencies. In most cases we went personally to meet the officials and executives of these organisations and the reception we received was a great source of encouragement and inspiration to us.

The reaction of most organisations was the same, 'the newsletter is long overdue'. Only two organisations decided to adopt a wait-and-see attitude.

However, if there are organisations who would like to meet or hold discussions with us, we ask them please not to hesitate to contact us.

Grassroots is managed and controlled by a Board of Trust consisting of community leaders, community workers, academics and journalists. The Trustees also constitute the Editorial Board.

They were invited to form the Trust by the Writers Association of South Africa (Wasa) who had been approached by some community organisations to assist in starting a newsletter.

Being a trade union, Wasa felt it would be more appropriate if such a project were undertaken by an independent Trust made up of community leaders as well as journalists with the necessary technical knowhow.

Thus Grassroots Publications was formed, a Trust completely independent from Wasa.

This first edition has, however, been made possible by a grant from Wasa.

But we are now on our own and are committed to making this newsletter self-sufficient through advertising and subscription revenue.

We, the Trustees, have no intention of maintaining control of this newsletter. We want the community organisations to eventually take over the running of Grassroots.

And with the view to developing writers in the communities, we have encouraged the organisations to write their own stories and many reports in this edition are in fact the work of community organisations.

Grassroots policies and principles are much the same as those of most of the community organisations and civic associations.

We reject separate development institutions like management committees, community councils, CRCs (or its latest stepchild the CPC), Indian Councils and Bantustans. We are also against taking part in these bodies for whatever reasons.

In our gathering of news, selling of advertising and distribution of the newsletter, we will be guided by the above policy directives.



Chance
to prove
that
spark . . .

TIME FOR THE PEOPLE TO DECIDE THEMSELVES

Sir,
I wish to express my sincere congratulations and appreciation of the services your new venture will offer.

I have for a very long time publicly expressed the view that too much emphasis is being placed on the negative results of laws such as the Group Areas Act and others and their effect on the community they have tried to destroy.

Newspapers have only spotlighted the social ills which followed the uprootment and destruction of communities.

Now, I am sure, Grassroots will try and prove that the spark of humanity, which is in each of us, is still there and fighting back against almost impossible odds to retain our human dignity and respectability.

The time is long overdue when the sacrifices made by parents to have their children educated; the social events staged for the upliftment of a community; the collective civic action against the spiteful and malicious acts of officials are highlighted.

If Grassroots can do this it will provide an invaluable service to the community which can only benefit all of us.

Hassan Howa
Station Rd
Heathfield.

Sir,
I would like to congratulate the staff and trustees of Grassroots Publications on their first publication. I wholeheartedly support the launching of this project.

Over the last three years there has been an increase in community projects in the Western Cape. In reviewing the community projects, there are many unresolved issues.

One of those that particularly concern me is the question of motivation behind community programmes. So often it is claimed that the basic interest is to uplift our people, but this is questionable.

The main question that should be posed is: Who sponsors what and for which reasons? Major business corporations are sponsoring community programmes.

It is my feeling that this is being done not so much to uplift the quality of life of our people, but to use their sponsorship to defend themselves against their critics.

The question of the policy of welfare organisations should also receive attention. If a community worker is to respond to the felt needs of a community, he or she will undoubtedly find him or herself in conflict with agency policy.

Welfare organisations usually consider their roles to be apolitical. A community worker who responds to felt needs of the community often finds that

the agency orders the project to be shelved due to fears by the board of management of reprisals eg. the loss of government subsidies, and fear of the loss of public financial support.

This means that the community worker is often forced to be dishonest with the community. The challenge facing the com-

munity worker is whether he or she takes back the true facts to the community in order for the community to be the judge.

Surely the time has come where it is the right of our people to decide who should be allowed to build better societies, instead of it being subtly forced down their throats.

Edna van Harte
50 Heide Road
Belhar

IMPORTANT FOR CIVIC GROUPS TO BE AWARE

Sir,
The Schotschekloof Civic Association wishes to extend to you its heartfelt congratulations on the inauguration of a community newsletter.

It is important for community organisations and civic groups to be aware and informed of each others activities.

This could only lead to an improvement in services rendered by organisations and in the quality of life of the members of the communities they serve.

At the same time it would publicise the successful attempts of civic associations in changing the adverse conditions affecting their communities.

Our association is convinced that Grassroots will fill a void that exists in the reporting of the activities of the various de-

pressed communities. We also believe that it would promote a greater co-ordination of community activities.

May your publication prosper and for many years provide the kind of insight into community action which your publication envisages.

Yours sincerely,
Achmat Davids
(Public Relations Officer)

Letters to Grassroots Editorial Board are welcomed and should be sent to P O Box 181 Athlone 7760. Letters should be original and should not have appeared elsewhere. Sign your name clearly and give your full address, even if a pseudonym is used.

MEET MAGGIE – CAPE TOWN'S IRON LADY



SHE'S A GUSTY WOMAN WHO KNOWS THE PROBLEMS OF THE DOMESTIC WORKER

They call her the Iron Lady of her Cape Town. This is Maggie Oewies, a gusty woman with a steely approach to madams who mistreat or underpay their domestic workers.

And she certainly knows the problems of domestic workers having been one herself for 22 years. She started working when she was only nine years old!

Since she helped set up her Domestic Workers Association, Ms Oewies has abandoned the ironing boards and has instead been working with a will of iron to help domestic workers offering advice, guidance, and, where necessary, taking action.

One of Ms Oewies's lifelong dreams is soon to come true. A booklet, outlining qualifications and skills for domestic workers, and the salaries they can

demand, will soon be available.

COMMUNICATIONS

The booklet, by Ms Oewies and Ms Florence de Villiers, is still to be titled. It aims to build communications between employers and employees, and will offer invaluable advice to domestic workers.

Said Ms Oewies: 'Many domestic workers have never been taught how to use banks – not that they ever have any money, if you consider the salaries they are paid.'

'But the booklet will teach them how to approach banks and work out their budgets.'

SECOND HOME

The white-painted offices of the DWA in

Church Street, Cape Town, have become a second home for many domestic workers. Not only do they bring their problems, they also come to learn.

Ms Oewies and the Association runs several educational programmes at the offices. The adult education classes, formerly from Stds 4 to 7, have been expanded to offer Std 8 as well and there are plans for further expansions.

With the belief that domestic workers need to know the rudiments of first aid, home nursing, business management and the technical mechanics of modern home appliances, the DWA association offers weekly classes in these subjects.

One failing of business houses said Ms Oewies, is that they do not explain how these appliances work.

The "madam" gives a brief demonstration and then expects the domestic to understand everything. The moment something goes wrong the "stupid girl" is blamed.

A dress designing and sewing course is also held and domestic workers can be seen at the machines every afternoon. They don't have much free time and their jobs are never very secure, but they try their best to be here as often as possible, said Ms Oewies.

A child care course has been started not only to help domestic workers cope with their employers' children, but also to teach them how to look after their own.

'They very seldom see their own children,' said Ms Oewies. 'The only communication is often the R30 or R40 they send home every month.'

THE Cape Flats Distress Association (Cafda) has suspended its community work programmes – a move which might have serious repercussions for social work in the Western Cape.

This follows a critical evaluation of Cafda's community work programmes by a visiting English social worker, Mr P J Hancock, who has worked in Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Mr Hancock worked as Cafda's senior supervisor of welfare work for six months.

Shortly before he departed for Britain, Mr Hancock conducted a seminar to discuss his analysis.

The seminar, held in Claremont last month, was attended by many social and community workers from all over the Western Cape.

A community worker who attended the seminar, Miss Shelley Hill-Squire, said Mr Hancock's paper took a 'realistic and non-emotional look at our harsh society with its system of very rich and very poor groups'.

'The papers rightly criticise social workers who are actually co-operating with the system by teaching people how to cope with it instead of looking at the structural problem,' she said.

In an interview with Grassroots before he left, Mr Hancock said the paper was intended to question 'redundant' community work concepts 'which had become the sacred cows of welfare work in the Penin-

sula'.

'In an investigation, I found only four of the almost 30 groups Cafda was working with were doing valid work.'

'And in discussions with Cafda's community workers

it became evident that they were not entirely convinced of the usefulness of the social recreational work they were doing', he said.

Mr Hancock said he was astounded to find no precise information on the

population among whom the work was being undertaken.

'In most of the projects the social worker played a central and leadership role which negated the idea of developing self-management skills.'

'It resulted in a number of groups relying heavily on the efforts of the community worker', he said.

Mr Hancock said a great deal of emphasis had been placed by community workers on the need to get their theory correct as a foundation for practicing community work.

'A non-critical belief in theory appears to have established a rather doctrinaire approach to the work instead of looking at reality to obtain an accurate picture of what is happening on the ground', he said.

A social worker at Cafda, Mr Archie van Biljon, confirmed that the community development projects such as sewing classes had been suspended as a result of the paper drawn up by Mr Hancock.

'We are busy with a re-evaluation at the moment and are still unclear about the future of our projects', he said.

Wynberg 'madam' paid her R175 for seven year's work

THE Domestic Workers Association has successfully fought the case of a 21-year-old domestic worker who was paid a pittance of R175 for seven years' work for a Wynberg 'madam'.

The association threatened the employer with court action.

Before they actually made it to court, though, the matter was settled and she received back pay and costs of over R1 200.

She was originally sent from a Transkei orphanage to the Dominican Convent in Wynberg. She and a number of other girls were then taken in by families who agreed to feed, clothe and educate them.

But she was not sent to school. For her it was work, sometimes until late at night. 'I started out by sleeping in the garage', she said, 'and eventually when somebody tried to force his way in I moved inside where I slept on the floor'.

When she left after seven years in early 1979, all she had to show for her work was R175, which

was far short of the R15 a month which, she said the 'madam' had agreed to pay her.

The madam denied the claims, saying that there had been no mention of employment. She said that all she had been required to do was feed and clothe the girl. She agreed, though, that the girl had not been educated.

The woman has now found a job in Sea Point. 'It doesn't pay much – only R30 a month – but at least it's something. With this wage and my back pay I'll be able to take part-time classes to catch up on my education'.

Ms Maggie Oewies of the Domestic Workers' Association said she knew of similar cases and would be investigating them.

'It's time this sort of thing was eradicated', she said. 'I don't understand how people who appear to be so pious and righteous in public can change when it comes to their own homes.'

'It's reverting to the days of slavery'.

British social worker questions 'validity'.

CAFDA SHUTS DOWN ITS COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAMMES

JOIN THE FUN OF THE FAIR AND HELP TO BUILD A CRECHE FOR LOURDES FARM

Sarah Klaasens, chairlady, Lourdes Farm PTA

A COMMUNITY fair to raise money for a creche in Lourdes Farm will be held at the camp in Philippi on March 29.

The fair, which will start at about 9 am, will be organised by the Lourdes Farm Residents Association and the creche PTA.

A march past by drum-majorettes, a live rock band and a noon-braai are a few of the attractions.

The highlight will be the Miss Lourdes Farm competition.

One of the organisers said 'If last year's competition is anything to go by, choosing the winner will require the wisdom of Solomon!'

She said the day's festivities would be ended with a curry and rice dinner dance with the music strictly 'lang arm'.

All this is part of the self-help philosophy of the residents of Lourdes Farm.

Money raised will go towards the creche which needs children's aprons, uniforms, new place mats and other much needed utensils,' she said.

Everybody is welcome.

MAGGIE WINS IT OUT OF COURT

IT'S AN EXODUS – TO CARDOS LOAD

HOUT BAY'S FISHER FOLK ARE TAKING TO THE HILLS



Workers from Hout Bay's thriving fishing industry are taking to the mountains to live with their families rather than stay in overcrowded single-sex hostels.

The exodus has led to the establishment of a spreadout shanty settlement amid the Port Jackson bushes on the sand dunes.

The area is known by the residents as Cardos Load and houses several hundred people, some living without shelter in the bushes.

This emerged after an indepth investigation of the housing situation in the Hout Bay valley.

FACTORIES

While most of the contract workers who run the Hout Bay fishing factories still live in the harbour compound, more and more are heading for a shack settlement in the sand dunes opposite the harbour.

The only accommodation provided for African workers in Hout Bay is a compound in the harbour housing between 200 and 300 workers. The compound is owned by South African

Sea Products – the largest Hout Bay fish factory.

Sea Products in turn rents out dormitories to other firms such as Chapman's Peak Fisheries, Atlantic Trawling, Snoekies Smokeries and Da

Gama Fisheries.

DRAB

The compound consists of several drab double-storey blocks with crowded 10 bed and 14 bed dormitories.

Each worker is given one berth on a steel frame double bunk and has no privacy.

No women are allowed in the compound so men who want to live with their wives and children are forced to move to settlements like Cardos Load or other less accessible bush settlements which have sprung up in the mountains surrounding the Hout Bay valley.

BACKBONE

African shack-dwellers have no hope of getting a house in Hout Bay even though they form the backbone of the prosperous fishing industry.

One man interviewed by Grassroots lives in the harbour compound during the week and at the weekend returns to Crossroads where his family lives.

DOMESTICS

Some of the men's wives work as domestics in Hout Bay, others stay at home to look after the children.

There are no schools or facilities for Africans in Hout Bay.



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MANNENBERG TENANTS STAND FIRM

ABOUT 600 people recently left a protest meeting against the latest rent increases in Manenberg satisfied that something important had been achieved—the formation of the first tenants' association for the area.

The area now has a voice — the Duinefontein Tenants Association (DTA). Issues like broken toilets and the painting of homes will be handled by the association if the council does not give these matters attention.

The association was initiated by community workers at the Shawco Community Centre at Manenberg which is headed by Rushdi Majiet.

The DTA will have a working committee of 12 members elected by the residents.

All grievances will be channelled through them.

'The need for this association is long overdue', said Majiet.

'For years people have fought with the authorities for better facilities and amenities but nothing was done.

'The immediate battle is to fight the latest rent increases and a petition has already been drawn up to ask the council for a re-think', he said.

Mr Majiet said he and a few community workers went to the community to find out their needs.

'We discovered a lack of organisation. The people had no means through which they could channel their complaints.

ACHIEVE MORE

'We talked to people and formed groups. We found people felt they could achieve more if they had an organisation through which they could work', Mr Majiet said.

There had been a residents movement in the area but this had been defunct since 1976.

'The tenants have responded well to the call for a "mouthpiece" for their area mainly because they can see its uses'.

'DUMMY BODIES'

At a recent meeting at the Shawco Centre in Manenberg, people rejected working through 'dummy bodies' such as management committees.

Mr. Majiet said this opinion was not his but of the people.

The association has elected a steering executive, consisting of Mr Frank Gatuza, a director of the Silvertree Centre, and Mr Majiet as secretary.

Betsy Court parents unite against crime.

THE parents of Betsy Court in Heideveld, determined to keep their children off the streets, have formed the Dolphin Parents' Association and have found they have succeeded beyond their wildest dreams.

'We have combatted crime because we have no gangsters living in our flats,' said Mrs L Adams, a former secretary of the DPA. 'The DPA has made us one family.'

The parents started the DPA last year, even before this, the children of Betsy Court had a hugely successful youth club, which still meets every fortnight in the local Anglican Church.

Miss Anne Tomlinson, a community worker who lives in Betsy Court said, 'the whole block is involved;

'We have had inquiries from other people who want to join our association.

'We intend to branch out and form one assoc-

iation for Heideveld,' she said.

The youth club regularly invites speakers to make the youngsters aware of current events.

Miss Tomlinson and her fellow community worker Mrs Gloria Madden, of Heideveld, help the juniors with homework and study problems every Monday and Tuesday afternoon at the Anglican Church.

'There has been a remarkable improvement in the children's school results. The parents of Betsy Court are proud of the study classes,' said Mrs. Adams.

Two aims of the club are a soccer team and music.

The boys want to start a soccer club to play "friendlies." 'They say they don't want to be affiliated to any union', Mrs Adams explained.

All the youngsters are keen to play musical instruments, and the club needs musicians prepared to assist.

At present, Hyton Davis, one of the club members, is teaching his mates to play the drums.

STITCHES

The Association's finest achievement was at the end of last year when they had a festival in the court. All the residents took part and the children were responsible for the programme. The items included folk dancing, music, drum majorettes and acting.

The children performed two scenes, a ghost story and a hawking scene. These had the audience in stitches, Mrs. Adams said.

The highlight of the day was when the people of Betsy Court saw themselves on television! Miss Tomlinson had a video camera and recorded the days proceedings. After the festival the film was shown in the courtyard.

Lourdes Farm creche will move as well . . .

WITH the desperate scarcity of day care centres in many parts of the Peninsula, there is a remarkable little creche in the Lourdes Farm squatter camp, in Philippi.

But the camp is 'dying' and a plan is afoot to transport the community centre, in which the school is housed, to Mitchell's Plain where most of the residents are being resettled.

'The centre will be moved lock, stock and barrel to Mitchell's Plain where it's urgently needed by the former residents of the camp who used to send their kids here,' said Mrs Shariefa Khan, the 'principal' of the school.

The wooden structure was moved from the Wynberg military compound to its present site at the camp in 1974.

The structure was dismantled and brought to Lourdes Farm with assistance from construction firms which provided transport and materials.

With the help of women from the camp the men were able to complete the rebuilding in a few weeks with additional extensions to the building.

BREADWINNERS

Mrs Khan said the creche played an important role in the community because many

women were breadwinners or had to work to supplement the family income.

'At the moment we have 32 children from toddlers to six-year-olds who each get breakfast and a healthy meal at lunchtime for only R2 a week.

'We have one teacher, with an assistant, whose salary is paid by a welfare agency,' she said.

DWINDLING

The number of residents in the camp, however, was dwindling and many families had been resettled in Mitchell's Plain, Mrs Khan said.

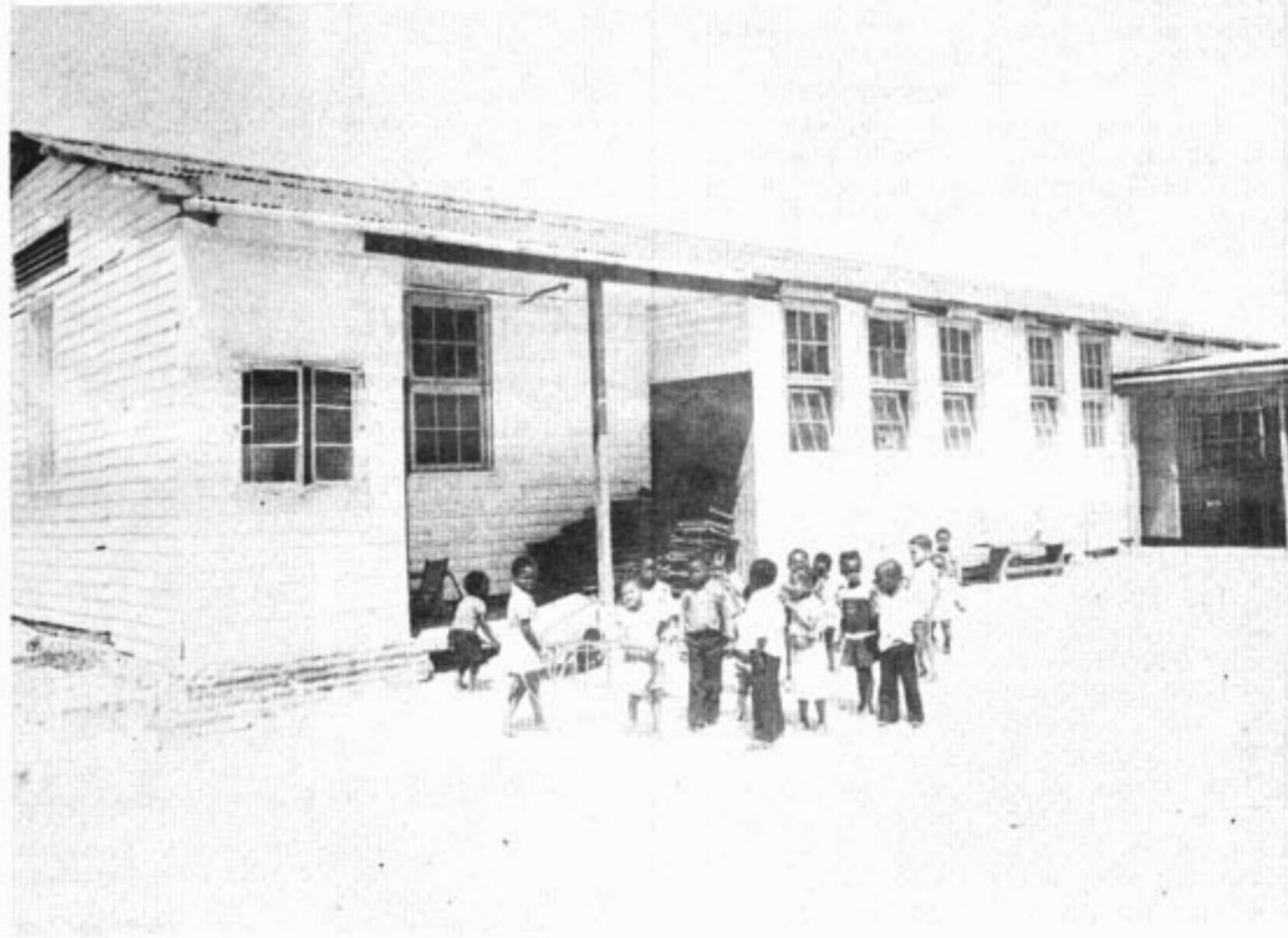
'The suggestion that the centre be moved to Mitchell's Plain came from families who had moved there.

'They desperately need a day care centre for their children because this is not available in their area,' she said.

KEEN

Mrs Khan said the former Lourdes Farm residents had been keen to 'bus' their children to school from Mitchell's Plain, but the cost was prohibitive.

'We haven't approached the authorities about the idea, but if Lourdes Farm disappears the only solution will be to move the centre to Mitchell's Plain,' Mrs Khan said.



When Lourdes Farm people in Philippi move to Mitchell's Plain they may take this community centre with them because of the acute lack of creches in the Plain.

Continued from Page 1

RATES PROTEST

Mr Abel said he could not understand how the council calculated the value of his property because he had done no improvements since he moved into the house.

The valuation of Mr Abel's property shot up from R5 300 to R11 890. Mr R Manie, of First Avenue, Lotus River, said his vacant plot had increased in value by almost 380 percent.

'If this increase is for a vacant plot, I feel sorry for the people with houses on their property', he said. Mr Y Allie of Belhar, whose property valuation doubled said: "I will hardly be able to afford such an increase in my rates next year".

'It seems to me the council is using a devious way to get money out of us', he said.

The assistant secretary of the Divisional Council, Mr D L Graythorne, said dissatisfied residents could lodge their objections in writing to the valuation court.

'The council, however,

does not determine valuations but the Provincial Administration'.

He said those who wish to object have until March 21 to lodge their complaints.

The valuation court sits

of May 5 to consider objections from Grassy Park and on May 6 from Belhar.

At the Belhar protest meeting a committee was appointed to investigate the new valuations.

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NEWS

Dumped!

THE FINAL STRAW FOR THE 300 CONTRACT WORKERS FROM SALDANHA

TWO residents from Nyanga and Guguletu made an application in the Supreme Court, Cape Town, last month to have nearly 100 percent service charge increases in the two townships declared invalid.

The application was brought by Mr Moffat Phuthago, an executive member of the Nyanga Residents Action Committee and Mr Barnett Velile Nysodo of Guguletu.

Respondents are the former Deputy Minister of Plural Relations and Development, Mr W A Cruywagen, and the former Administrator of the Cape, Dr L A P A Munnik.

In an affidavit, Mr Phuthago said that about April 1977 the residents of Nyanga were informed that a rent increase was being considered.

The committee decided to request a meeting with the Department of Plural Relations and a meeting was held with Mr Cruywagen.

Mr Phuthago claimed that Mr Cruywagen gave the delegation an assurance that he would not increase the rent and service charges until he had come back to them.

After the meeting the committee sent Mr Cruywagen a summary of the points raised at the meeting. It never received a reply.

On March 10, 1978, by proclamation in a Government Gazette, rents and service charges were increased by nearly 100 percent.

Bid to block service charge hike

Mr Phuthago claimed that the increases should be made invalid because Mr Cruywagen never came back to the committee as he assured them he would.

The Bantu Affairs Administration Act took away the powers of local authorities to deal with township matters and gave them to the Minister.

Included in the Act was the clause that any decision such as rent increases should be referred to the Administrator.

In a replying affidavit Mr Cruywagen denied that he had given the committee the assurance that he would refer back to them before making any increases in rents and service charges.

He admitted that the contents of the letter written by the committee following their meeting was a fair reflection of what had been discussed, apart from the paragraph relating to the assurance he was supposed to have given to the committee.

Judgement was reserved.

BEING dumped on Cape Town station for nearly 24 hours was the final straw for about 300 contract workers from Saldanha Bay site of CMGM, a firm of civil engineering contractors.

In spite of the grim prospect of unemployment in Transkei or Ciskei, they rejected last-minute attempts by management to meet their demands.

The CMGM dispute began on Monday, February 4 when the company dismissed Mr M Sodladla, an active member of the Western Province General Workers' Union.

ACTIVITIES

The managing director of CMGM (Cape), Mr Paul Hodge, said later that Mr Sodladla had been dismissed by a foreman for refusing to work. Workers believed, however, he was dismissed because of his union activities.

The union had been organising the workers for five months and had about 175 signed up members out of a work force of some 800.

Seven union members in the same section as Mr Sodladla were sacked when they demanded that he be taken back.

COMMITTEE

The next day about 500 men refused to work unless the eight workers were reinstated and management agreed to recognise a committee elected by the workers.

Management said the workers could elect a committee, but Mr Sodladla would not be re-employed. This was not acceptable to the workers, who felt any future leaders could go the same way as Mr Sodladla.

CMGM bosses then called in riot police with guns and dogs.

About 300 workers were paid off and put on buses which dropped them at Cape Town station about 9pm. No train had



Others sat among their goods, and waited.

been organised to take the workers home and they sat on the station the whole Tuesday night and most of Wednesday.

NEW OFFER

Meanwhile, the bosses began to have second thoughts. They offered to take back Mr Sodladla, although not at the Saldanha Bay site.

The union and an elected committee urged the acceptance of this offer, but a mass meeting of the workers rejected it. They had had enough and they left Cape Town by train that evening.

Apart from CMGM's handling of the dispute, the workers complained of low wages and their treatment on site and in their guarded compound.

They received 51 cents an hour, giving them basic earnings of about R23 a week. They said food was poor, although the deduction for food had increased from R3,20 to R4 a fortnight.

COMPLAINTS

There were no channels to air complaints. Workers said management had scrapped a liaison committee last year and anyone who took a complaint straight to the bosses was likely to be fired.

A WPGWU spokesman said there were important lessons to be learnt from this dispute.

'It is important that all the workers have contact with the union and are clear about how they are going to take up their demands one by one.

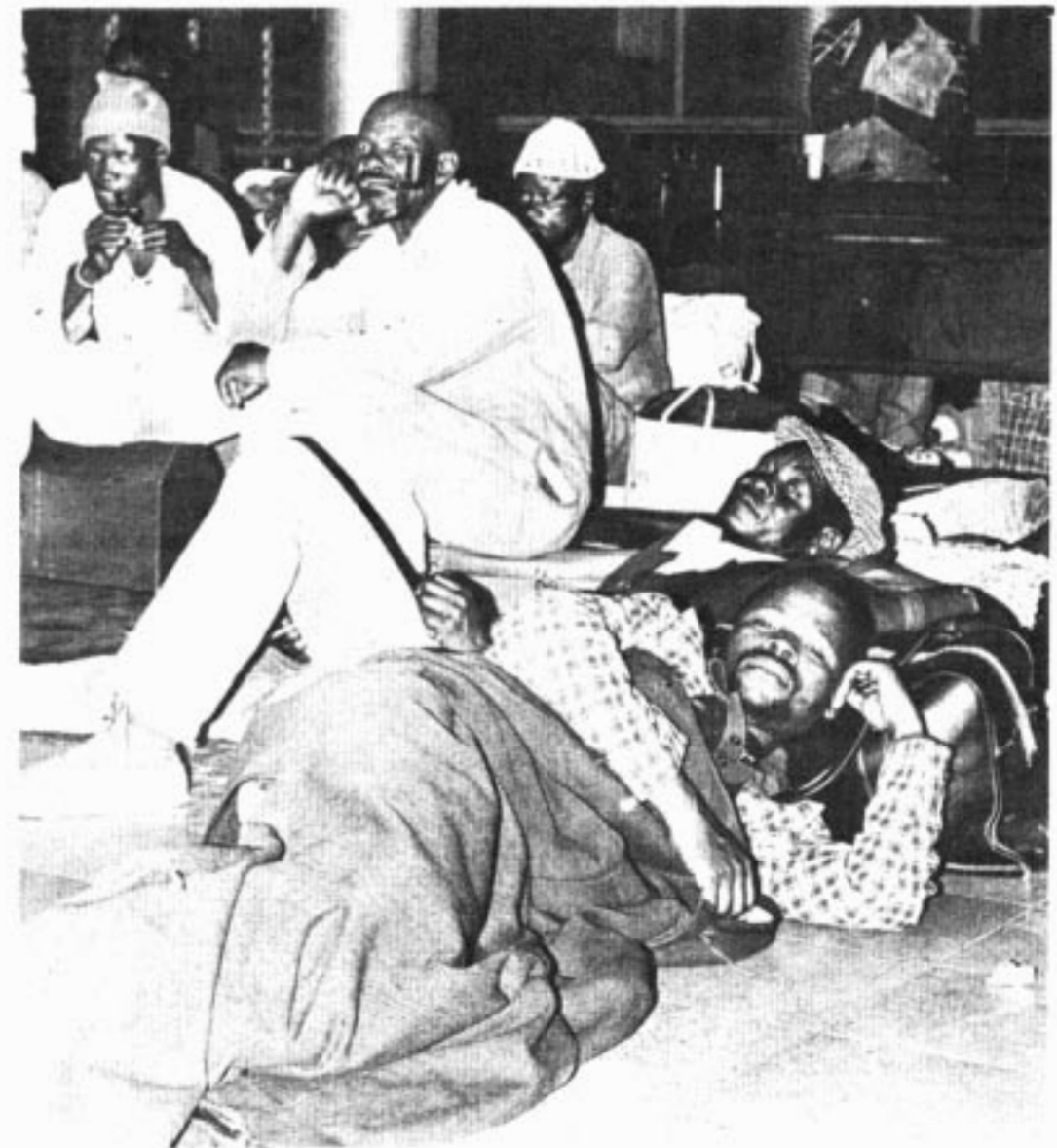
'The struggle between

workers and management does not start and end with each small dispute. It is a continuing struggle with each small victory being used to build up more organisation and strength on which to base other demands.

STRENGTH

'The committee realised they could gain something by accepting management's final offer. They saw that management was recognising the strength and unity of the workers.

'By leaving, the workers have not changed conditions at the firm. They are likely to find the same bad conditions at any firm they go to and will have to start organising all over again to change them.'



The floor of Cape Town station is not the most comfortable bed in the world. But some of the CMGM workers dumped there overnight made the best of it.

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NEWS

THEY FACED THE HEAT

CERES
FRUIT
WORKERS
PROVE
THEIR
POINT

The general secretary of the Food and Canning Workers Union, Mr Jan Theron, addresses the victorious Ceres Fruit Growers Co-op workers during their recent strike action.

Mid-afternoon in Ceres, with the summer sun blazing down relentlessly, is no time to be outside. Yet 600 striking workers from the town's biggest fruit-packing concern paid no heed to the heat as they gathered to reaffirm their decision to fight on.

That was on February 21, with the strike already a week old and the packing company, Ceres Fruit Growers Co-op virtually at a standstill. A matter of days later the workers were back on the job - smiling. As had happened with Fattis and Monis and CMGM construction in Saldanha Bay, it had come to a showdown between the bosses and the workers - and the workers had proved their point.

What was the background to all this? Why the strike? The factory management insists that it wasn't a strike at all, that the workers were in effect staying away with no real common purpose.

Even workers admit that initially there was no decision to go on strike; it merely 'happened'. What triggered it off was the sacking of Klaas Markus, one of the workers, because, according to the management, he was 'too old'. Coincidentally enough he also happened to be an organiser for the Food and Canning Workers' Union. Somehow one couldn't help thinking back to the Fattis and Monis wrangle; that was also caused by union people being fired. The same with the incidents at CMGM. So without cere-

mony, the workers simply walked off the job, leaving behind a fraction of the workforce.

'If Klaas Markus goes, we go', they said. Talk of replacing older and 'non-productive' workers with others who were more educated drew the response, 'We are the people who built up Ceres Fruit Growers Co-op to what it is today!'

For the many workers living in company-owned houses, entirely dependent on the income from the Co-op, there was the threat

of eviction. For many husbands, seeing their families going without food and being tongue-lashed by their wives for that, there were moments of despair.

But they stood fast.

Something had to give, and in the end the bosses had to admit that without workers there was no production, and without production no money. The freezer rooms were packed to bursting, and the fruit was ripening fast in the orchards instead of in the stores.

A week after that last meeting, held in a church building with the sky as a roof the original one had been blown off the workers, including Klaas Markus, were taken back.

The agreement they had reached with the management wasn't entirely satisfactory: 35 workers, including 28 children and seven pensioners, were laid off. But they had shown that they were no longer willing to accept what they considered to be injustices. They had proved their point.

FOR more than a year, a Schotsche Kloof resident has refused to pay a rent increase on his three-bedroomed council house.

Mr Ismail Achmat of Rose Street pays his rent of R99 a month, but not the R21 increase which was fixed more than a year ago.

And he signs the words 'under protest' on his rent pay slip.

'I pay the R99 "under protest" because I never see how my money is being used', he said.

NOTHING DONE

'I will pay my arrears if amenities are provided. But for the seven years we have lived here, nothing has been done to improve the area'.

He and his family were moved to Schotsche Kloof from District Six in 1972. They have had problems ever since.

Mr Achmat complained of the lack of pavements, stagnant water and rubbish that was not collected.

DIRT

'My sister couldn't open the window of her room for years because of the dirt in the lane. I phoned the council again and again.

ISMAIL'S
PROTEST

He won't pay
the rent increase
until the area
has been improved . . .

It is only recently that they came to clear away the dirt'.

Mr Achmat said he and his neighbours had signed the petition protesting against the latest rent increases.

'We are not satisfied with conditions here. The

council is not playing the game with us'.

Mr Achmat is simply ignoring the arrear rentals which are being added to his rent account each month.

So far the authorities have not threatened or summonsed him.

SCHOTSCHÉ KLOOF DEMAND:
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH OUR
MONEY?

Schotsche Kloof residents, angry at the lack of amenities in the area, have drawn up a petition against rent increases which came into effect on March 1.

'We want to know what the council has been doing with the people's money,' said the secretary of the Schotsche Kloof Civic Association, Mr Nasif Jaffer.

'Rents have gone up by a maximum of R7,50 and there is no improvement in the area.'

RESTORED

In November, the Cape Town City Council accepted a proposal by the residents to develop and sell the restored houses in Schotsche Kloof.

The sale prices will be determined by current market value, but members of the civic association are hoping the council will subsidise prices, and they feel they have a case.



Mr Achmat Davids, Schotsche Kloof Civic Association's public relations officer.

In terms of the Slums Clearance Act of 1934, any profit gained from an area declared a slum has to be pumped back into the area.

A SLUM

'This area was declared a slum in 1936, and since then the council has continued to collect rents,' said Mr Achmat Davids, a member of the civic association.

'My house was slummed in 1936. We bought it for £500 then. I paid a monthly rent of R10 until 1970. Then the council demolished five of the nine rooms in my house - and increased my rent to R100,' Mr Davids said.

There are 54 restored houses and 199 flat units in Schotsche Kloof, and the civic association wants them all put up for sale.

MOLO SONGOLOLO, a magazine written by children and aimed at all children from six to 66, is an exciting venture now in the pipeline.

The magazine - Molo Songololo means 'Good Morning Centipede' - is the brainchild of Nomhle Dywili, Caroline Long, Nomi Tulumane and Barbara Strachen.

The first issue should be on the streets by the middle of this month and will cost 10 cents a copy.

Calling all 'Kids'
here comes your own
Molo Songololo

Initially, the group hoped to compile a history of Crossroads as seen through the eyes of children.

INVOLVING

'We then thought a far more effective way of involving children in their own experiences would be

to produce a magazine', Caroline told Grassroots.

She said the aims of Molo Songololo were to encourage children to express their thoughts, ideas and experiences and to produce a link between all Western Cape children, so enabling them to exchange

ideas, experiences and languages.

The magazine also hopes to encourage in children an awareness of life outside their immediate environment, give them insight into the way others live, and enable children to build contacts with each other.

EDUCATIONAL

Molo Songololo will include an educational section telling stories about the origin of familiar household items - such as the story of bread, from the growing of wheat to the selling of loaves in shops.

We reach the roots of the
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CHILD-CARE CRISIS

MITCHELL'S PLAIN is facing a serious child-care crisis as thousands of mothers — forced to work to supplement family incomes — cannot find creches and nursery schools to leave their children.

Social and community workers this week described the lack of creches as 'Priority No 1' and the 'gravest problem' in the Plain.

These workers have found in their house-to-house visits that it is not the rents, bus fares or hopeless transport that worry the people most — but the creches.

CHILD TREK

'Not that these other problems don't affect them. They certainly do and the people are very much aware of it. But the one thing they all mention is creches,' a community worker said.

A Grassroots survey found:

- A big child trek takes place at the beginning of each week as parents cart hundreds of children from the Plain to friends and family in surrounding areas, seeing them again only at weekends.
- Several 'backyard' creches have mushroomed in the area to cope with the massive demand. In a matter of five minutes, Grassroots found three such creches in the Rocklands area alone.

ILLEGAL

- Most of these creches are 'illegal' because they care for more than six children allowed for in terms of the law.
- In many instances children are taken out of primary or high schools to look after their baby brothers or sisters while mothers work.
- Many parents leave their children with neighbours and pay them to care for their youngsters.
- There are only two big creches at the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches, but the demand is so great that they have already closed their waiting lists for 1981.

PREGNANT

- Mothers are encouraged to enrol their awaited babies as soon as they fall pregnant.
- When parents heard a nursery school was opening in the new community centre in Merrydale Road, Portland, they started queuing before construction work on the centre had been completed.
- The nursery, called the Merrydale Nursery School, was full and started a waiting list before they opened.

CURRENT

This week a senior social worker for Child Life Society, Mrs Joan Mabin, called for a top-level meeting of all community workers and interested parties to discuss the crisis.

She said it was urgent that the establishment of a big creche or nursery school near the new railway line, be discussed.

A site for a creche had been allocated there by the Cape Town City Council.

People from outside the area should also be involved, she said. Day-care centres were the most expensive type of social service that could be provided.

ESSENTIAL

And since most of the Plain's people worked in the city, it was essential that resources not only from the Plain but also from the city be put into such a project.

Mrs Mabin said she agreed that the high living costs in the area were forcing mothers to work.

Because of the serious housing shortage, people who wanted to own homes were forced to go to the Plain, whether they could afford it or not.

Some managed to make ends meet but many could not. Mothers, therefore, went to work.

COUPED UP

Community worker Esme Koert, who initiated the Merrydale Nursery school, said she first surveyed about 50 homes in Portland to find out the needs of the people.

Miss Koert, of the Churches Urban Planning Council (Cupc), said the people were unanimous that their greatest need was a creche.

She said she had come across families who had lived couped up in small backroom flatlet or garage for most of their lives.

When the Mitchell's Plain home-ownership bait was thrown their way, they grabbed it without considering the costs of moving there.

Housewives, who had stayed at home, were now forced to work to keep up with the high rents.

'In spite of the problems, I found some people in Portland were happy but others were frustrated.

'They said if only they knew the situation in the Plain, they would not have moved.

LET DOWN

'They felt let down about the high rents, the possibility of their homes being revalued, the lack of facilities and so on.'

She said there were many cases of parents leaving their children with friends and relatives in places like Grassy Park or Retreat, and visiting them again only at weekends.

'It's ironical that these people have moved here to get their own homes but now find their family is split.

WILLING

'There was no problem speaking to the people or getting their co-operation to start a creche. The need is so great they are all willing to assist.'

She said at a meeting held last month at the Mitchell's Plain Primary

Continued on Page 9

HESTER'S 3-YEAR-BATTLE MEANS 'CARE' IN RETREAT

THE children of Mountview Creche in Military Road, Steenberg, are a happy and healthy group — thanks to the three-year battle waged by Mrs Hester Benjamin and her staff to start a creche in Retreat.

It all started early in 1977. Mrs Benjamin was approached by a field worker, Mrs Lora Bell, from the Churches Urban Planning Commission Cup — who was trying to find out the problems of the Lavender Hill people.

One of the most common problems was that there was nowhere and no one to care for the children. 'Mothers going to work and there was no place to leave their

children. Children were eating out of bins. They were just running', says Mrs Benjamin.

NEEDED

'When I met Mrs Bell I told her we needed a place to care for the children'. Mrs Bell told me most people felt a creche was needed by nobody wanted to start anything. I discussed the matter with her husband and he agreed she could use our flat in Lavender Hill.

'On Monday April 25 1977 we started with seven children', Mrs Benjamin recalled. 'At the end of the week we had 31 children'.

Shortly after this, Mrs Benjamin received a visit from a welfare officer. She felt they would have to get a bigger place.

BY BUS

They then moved to the Dora Falcke Centre, which is owned by Cupc. The children had to be taken to and from the centre by bus every day.

This was a great experience for the children. They were now in a big hall with a big yard and could run around safely. The difference in the children was noticeable.

However, the move meant some problems because parents had to pay R3 instead of R1,50 to cover the travelling costs.

During their stay at Muizenberg they received another visit from a welfare officer who told them to register as a creche. They obtained registration but shortly afterwards had to

leave Dora Falcke and the registration was cancelled.

NO PLACE

On leaving Dora Falcke the staff and children found they had no place to go. They moved back into Mrs Benjamin's flat.

The parents now came together to find a solution. A parent reported that Torrence Home for mentally handicapped children in Military Road was being emptied. The creche committee, with the help of Cafda, applied for the premises. In July last year they moved into Torrence Home.

CHILD CARE

Now the creche committee is planning to have their own building. The committee consists of parents and teachers.

ADAM

SMALL'S

PLEA ON

PRE-SCHOOL

AID

AN urgent need existed for an 'umbrella' body to co-ordinate pre-school child care in the Western Cape, Mr Adam Small, poet, playwright and director of the Western Cape Foundation for Community Work, said this week.

He said it had become necessary to take a 'systematic and hard look' at what could be done about pre-school care and the formation of a broadly-based organisation.

'If we are thinking of helping people in life it appears to be best to start with the child.

ASTOUNDED

'Therefore, I'm astounded that people are so religiously concerned about what happens to children at ages six to seven and only a few people seem to be bothered about the pre-school child', he said.

Mr Small said little was being done on an organised and systematic basis for children in their formative ages.

He said the reason that had been given was that pre-school care was too expensive.

TV SET

'Pre-school care is expensive but the alternative is to doom your own children in a society where both parents are working and away from home when the children are forming.

'Pre-school care must be a priority and communities must decide whether money or a down-payment on a TV set is more important than a child's fees at creche, he said.

Mr Small said there was a number of welfare agencies dealing with pre-school care and a plan was afoot to start a co-ordinating body.





It's lunch at Mrs Fabrik's private creche — one of the many which have jumped to meet the big demand for child-care facilities.



AT MITCHELL'S PLAIN

Continued from Page 8

School No. 13, a committee was chosen by the 30 parents present to run the school.

The committee is Mrs K Ryan, Mrs G Schouw, Mrs H Lawrence, Mr R Briesies and Mr O Lawrence.

'Parents pledged all kinds of contributions and support. Fund-raising for equipment is already underway,' she said.

PRIVATE

Grassroots also interviewed two women running a private creche in the area.

The one woman, Mrs R Fabrik, is a qualified nursery school teacher. She received her training in kindergarden at Zonnebloem Training College, the University of Western Cape and the Early Learning Centre in Athlone.

She said she was a nursery school teacher for the National War Memorial's health foundation in Matroosfontein when she was approached by several Plain families to look after their children.

KEPT ON

'I refused but they kept on. I told them it won't be legal but they wouldn't listen. They tried all kinds of things. Told me why should I spend so much travelling to Matroosfontein when I could earn the same starting my own creche here.

'I finally gave in. The demand was shocking. We had to turn away hundreds of parents. They still come everyday, from morning until late at night trying to enrol their children.

'The story was the same with all — they must work to help their husbands.'

A very familiar sight in Mitchell's Plain. Mothers

'pramming' their children to neighbours, friends or relatives.

Mrs Fabrik said they opened early in the morning at 6 when the first two children arrived. Most of the others came at 6.30 am. They cared for the children until 5 pm when the mothers came from work.

The children were given breakfast and lunch, taught music, recitations and handiwork, and given lessons in health and tidiness. Parents had to pay R3 a week for each child. They only took children aged 2 to 6.

In the yard, they had put up a tent in which the children could play, she said.

OVERLOOKED

Mrs G Bachelor, nursery school teacher at the Anglican Church in Westridge, told Grassroots the demand for day-care centres was so great that the whole question of a community-based approach — getting at the parents through the child — was being largely overlooked.

Everyday she saw some children enacting family problems when they played 'house-house' or other games.

She tried to follow-up as many of the problems as possible. But, she said, she could imagine how many others were going unattended all over the Plain.

TOO BIG

At her creche, the waiting list for 1981 is 195. The list was closed recently because it was growing too big. Children who applied in 1978 were admitted only this year.

Although run in the church, no preference was given to parishioners. It was first come first served. All were welcome, she said.

The creche, which is very well equipped and has much space for children to play, opens until 2.30 pm. The children are given breakfast and lunch and pay R3,50 a week.



NEWS

People living in shacks on private ground will lose their last vestige of protection when a Bill which was approved in Parliament this month becomes law.

The Prevention of Illegal Squatting Amendment Bill will, when it becomes law, empower the Government for the purpose of demolishing shacks to extend the borders of a local authority to include private ground.

In terms of present law the Government can take action against people who squat on private ground — even with owners consent — as long as it falls within the area of jurisdiction of a local authority whose building regulations forbid

In terms of present law the Government can take action against people who squat on private ground

— even with owner's consent — as long as it falls within the area of jurisdiction of a local authority whose building regulations forbid the erection of informal shelters.

BULLDOZER

However, it appears the Government's bulldozer approach to what it calls 'the squatter problem' has run into trouble in certain areas where anti-Government local authorities exercise control and where shacks have been erected in accordance with the building regulations, if any.

In terms of the amendments, the Government will be able to extend the area of jurisdiction of the nearest municipal authority which has stricter building regulations — and thereby 'illegalise' shacks.

Once it has done so it can send in community development or administration board officials and demolish the structures at

the expense of the local authority concerned.

ARBITRARILY

For instance, if a settlement of shacks is situated on a farm in the Cape Divisional Council area close to Cape Town the

Government could arbitrarily extend the boundaries of the Cape Town City Council to illegalise the shacks and then demolish them.

The Bill was described by Opposition spokesmen as a 'big stick' measure

which represented a gross interference in the internal affairs of a local authority.

But what it represents, primarily, is a further inroad into the basic human right to have a roof over your head.

LANDOWNER

It also interferes with the right of the landowner to be free to house whom he chooses on his property as long as he complies with the requirements of the local authority under which his property falls.

It is understood that the Bill has been introduced to deal specifically with a situation in Vryheid in Natal, where the opposition-controlled local authority has refused to co-operate in demolishing squatter shacks on surrounding farms.

When the Bill becomes law, the Government will be able to extend the borders of the Vryheid municipality and get on with the demolition themselves.

NO ASSURANCE

During debate on the Bill the Deputy Minister of Community Development, Mr S F Kotze,

also refused to write into the Bill an assurance that people's homes would not be demolished until alternative accommodation had been found.

He said to write this into the law would be to invite court actions against the Government on the definition of 'alternative accommodation' causing the Government unnecessary difficulties in its fight against 'the squatter problem'.

It would also be an open invitation to homeland blacks to stream to the Peninsula, set themselves up in a shack and then demand housing, he said.

EVICTIONS

Another Bill pushed through Parliament at the same time makes the Government's job in evicting people under the Group Areas Act more simple.

The Community Development Amendment Bill amends the Act which has already been used to evict shopowner Mr Bawa Khalifey and many families in District Six.

The Bill, when law, would empower officials of the community development board to enter, occupy and in certain cases lock up properties until the occupants are prepared to negotiate.

COMMUNITY WORK:

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

By Lila Patel

COMMUNITY work, community organisation, community development and grassroots participation are words that are used almost daily in our neighbourhoods.

But what is community work? Who is the community worker? What are the aims of community work and what are the beliefs of people about community work?

Mr P J M Hancock, former senior supervisor of community work at Cafda, wrote a paper recently to evaluate Cafda's community development programme.

The paper, entitled *Some Initial Thoughts on a Community Work Programme for Cafda*, gives us some clues to these difficult questions and may help us to examine our projects in the Peninsula.

Mr Hancock has been involved in planning development programmes in Zambia and Zimbabwe. He was the senior social worker at Cafda for six months and has left South Africa to settle in his home town in Cornwall, England.

In evaluating Cafda's community work pro-

gramme, he found the projects were mainly of a social-recreational nature, for example, sports clubs, knitting and sewing groups.

NEGLECTED

One of Cafda's aims is to assist neighbourhoods in the economic and social upliftment of the residents. This arm was neglected, he found.

He says poverty and illiteracy or poor educational skills are the problems in our townships.

The causes of the problems are mainly economic and projects in our neighbourhoods should help us change these economic problems.

He is critical of the self-help approach. In the past self-help has meant that people are personally to blame for their poverty and must help themselves to break out of it.

BLAME

He says problems are economic and we should not blame the victim but look at the causes.

He also tries to say why our projects fail. Besides the economic reasons, he speaks of a 'limited' approach.

If a community feel they need a shop because the shops are too far and the mobile shops charge too much, then the people

will come together to take action to meet this need.

Mr Hancock feels that this approach is limited, and that research (gathering of figures) is a more objective way of finding out what the needs are.

FACTS

Once we have collected the facts and figures, we will define our aims to the last detail.

What do we hope to achieve, what are the obstacles to achieve our aim and how much money and staff we need. This is what he calls the planned management approach.

Although he says the people must learn how to run the programmes, these are usually started by the professional people with training who assist the community in achieving its aims.

TOO SIMPLE

Mr Hancock has something important to say to us when he says that we must look at the causes of the problems in our townships rather than the symptoms.

However, his understanding of our problems is perhaps too simple.

In order to break out of poverty we must raise the educational standards of



Will new Bill mean more bulldozing?

the people and have job training programmes.

The important question is whether people can through education and training improve their wages? For some perhaps, but what about the scarcity of jobs?

SKIN COLOUR

What about job reservations and labour preference areas where certain people by virtue of their skin colour are entitled to certain jobs and not others.

Let us consider for a moment what is community work and who is the community worker.

At a simple level, community work is a process whereby people come to realise that everything is not right in their neighbourhood.

People may be unhappy

about poor street lighting and housing conditions, lack of facilities for adults and children, rising prices and low wages, the list may be endless.

PEOPLE KNOW

People may begin to take action to meet their needs, for example start clubs, take action to bring down rents and bus fares.

We are talking about people who work together to achieve their aims which will benefit every resident in that neighbourhood.

This means that people feel and experience problems in their community daily. The people know what their problems are.

Mr Hancock mentions that the community worker who knows how to collect facts and figures will show what the real problems are.

MEANINGLESS

Could community people not be involved in gathering their own facts and figures if given the know-how?

Facts and figures are meaningless and only have meaning when they say something to people.

This does not mean that facts and figures are useless. It is important to collect such information to make us aware of certain needs, or it may be required to support our request for funds for our club or creche.

PROFESSIONAL

This ties up with the question of who is the community worker? It is clear from Mr Hancock's article that the community worker is a professional person with training who

assists the community in achieving its aims.

It is my belief that every person in a community has the potential and responsibility to become a community worker to serve the entire community. The professional does not 'teach' people, but is also taught by the community.

An example may clarify how different people describe, understand and tackle problems.

NEGLIGENT

The mother whose baby is constantly sick may be considered to be negligent or lazy, a person who does not care or love her children. Others may feel that poor housing, low wages and lack of money to buy nourishing food is the problem.

If the problem is con-
Continued on page 15

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ART

OCEAN VIEW HAS FOUND A CULTURAL OASIS

But the cry is out:

We need an all-purpose centre



Young teaching the young. Jasmine Richards, 17, taking her modern jazz class through their steps.

THE Sea View Cultural Group has been like an oasis to the tiny, isolated township of Ocean View, providing keenly attended classes in ballet, drama, art, leatherwork and table tennis and tennis classes for children.

However, there are few, if any, social facilities for the teenagers of the township.

And, while the children have been using the Kleinberg Primary School and the Ocean View Senior Secondary School for their extra-mural classes, these have been found to be inadequate.

CENTRE NEEDED

What is really needed is an all-purpose centre, where youngsters can paint, sing, dance and act to their hearts' content.

Because the ratepayers' group has been defunct for the past four years, nothing is being done about the R1 000 which has been lying in the bank, intended to be used towards such a centre.



Aspirant Van Goghs and Rembrandts at work in their art class at the Kleinberg Primary School, Ocean View.

The Sea View Cultural Group was formed in March 1979 by a group of Ocean View Primary schoolteachers, who felt the urgent need for children to participate in cultural activities following the frustration, depression and lack of spirit their parents were experiencing in the wake of the forced move.

NO FACILITIES

When families first moved into the township there were no schools, no

transport, no creches, no shops, no postal services — in a nutshell, no facilities.

Aware of the problems of uprooted people, and feeling the crying need for the children to be occupied after school and to receive training in the arts, the schoolteachers put their heads together and formed a committee.

They have been hard at work ever since.

The first venture has been a resounding success.

Ballet classes under Jasmine Richards, a 17-year-old Matric pupil of Ocean View Senior Secondary School and herself a talented dancer, have attracted keen, and in many cases, talented, boys and girls.

Drama classes, on Mondays after school at the Kleinberg Primary School, have been extremely popular, and the children have shown an abundance of natural talent. At least 50 would-be 'film stars' have been clamouring for places in the classes, at a tuition fee of 5c a lesson.

A team of teachers underwent a crash course in the June holidays of 1979, and have been able to pass on their knowledge of improvisation, movement and voice training — all eagerly received by the children. The teachers hope to stage a production by the end of the year.

Then the wellknown artist Peter Clark came to the rescue of the many talented sketchers and painters of the community. Mr Clark takes an art class of 20 on Saturday mornings. Material has been provided until now by the

school, and will be provided until the group becomes self-supporting.

EXHIBITION

The learner 'artists' are more than keen to discuss the work of Mr Clark — who has had a number of exhibitions at the Kleinberg Primary School — and their other beloved 'sirs'.

Making giant strides has been the leatherwork classes, run by Patrick Dowling of the Ocean View Senior Secondary School. The young leatherworkers held their first sale of work at the Mardi Gras last month. The material was at first supplied by Mr Dowling, but now that the children have been paying 5c a lesson, funds have built up and Mr Dowling has been able to buy more leather and some much-needed tools.

There should be many more fantastic watch straps, belts, purses and sandals in future from this enthusiastic and surprisingly skilled group of craftsmen.

SPORTS

In the field of sport, enthusiasts have been learning to wallop aces across the nets in tennis and table tennis, under Donald Jansen and Freddie Paulse.

Other activities on the cards from the Sea View Cultural Group are a music society and a modern jazz dance group.

NEW CULTURAL GROUP FORMED AFTER WALK-OUT

A NEW cultural group, the Western Cape Arts Movement (Wescam) was recently born out of an attempt to start a local branch of the national black cultural movement, Mdali.

A meeting held in January to launch Mdali locally ended abruptly because of the presence of four White artists.

Because Mdali's constitution excludes White participation, three representatives of the Black body's national executive, Mr Zakes Mofokeng, and Mr Vusi Nkumane, and Mr Nsumalo Skosana demanded that the Whites be told to leave the meeting.

Many artists at the meeting, attended by about 150 people, expressed reservations about the exclusion of White artists whom, they felt, were part of the struggle for change in this country.

The Mdali executive members walked out of the meeting. Those left behind read poetry and performed dramatic extracts.

A second meeting was held in the Athlone Civic Centre last month when Eugene Cairncross delivered a paper on the Role of Art in a Stratified Society.

At this meeting it decided to form Wescam.

Mdali's general secretary, Mr Zakes Mofokeng, confirmed that they had walked out of the meeting.

EXPELLED

He said a Western Cape artist on the national executive, Mr Ismail Mohammed, had been expelled from the organisation for a 'flagrant' disregard for Mdali's constitution.

'We had discussions with Mr Mohammed and it appeared he had ideas contrary to the constitution.

'We were not the only ones to walk out of the meeting. Many others who sympathised with our stand also walked out,' Mr Mofokeng said.

US Award for James Matthews

JAMES MATTHEWS, the internationally known Silvertown poet who has three books banned, has been placed on the honours list of an American group, Black Arts Celebration.

Black Arts Celebration is a non-profit arts organisation which believes in education through entertainment.

Mr Matthews said he deeply appreciated the award.

UNKNOWN

'The people in the group are unknown to me. But they must be familiar with my work', he told Grassroots.

Mr Matthews' works which are banned are Cry Rage, Pass me a Meatball and Black Voices Shout.

He was detained during 1976 and has been refused a passport.

SHAKESPEARE AT MITCHELL'S PLAIN

A STAGESTRUCK couple has decided to form a drama group, Impact, and the first project will bring Shakespeare to Mitchell's Plain.

Denise Newman, 25, and Clive Newman, 23 — no relations — were bitten by the stage bug while still at school.

Denise, of Vanguard Estate, trod the boards while still at high school, moving on to drama groups. She does administrative work at The People's Space and has appeared in two Space productions, In Two Minds and Political Jokes.

CLASSICAL

Clive, of Heideveld, is no stranger to classical roles. He took the part of Thesius in Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream at high school, and had a role in Antigone.

They were approached by Mr Fred de Villiers, a member of Westridge Ratepayers' Association, to bring plays to Mitchell's Plain, where a production of Political Joke was successfully presented.

The two co-directors of Impact told Grassroots the reason why they did not choose a contemporary play for their opening

production was that Twelfth Night was the setwork piece for matriculants this year.

INSIGHT

'We thought Twelfth Night was the obvious choice as matriculants would have a better insight of the play after witnessing a staged production', they said.

Impact will be available to all those interested in drama and rehearsals will be held at the Community Arts Project, Main Road, Mowbray



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ART



Ganief Jaffer.

He wants a chance to prove himself

GANIEF JAFFER is a tall, slim young man. He does not talk much, yet one can sense a burning ambition. He has but one dream to be an artist.

Ganief, 18, is the second eldest son of Abdul and Umrah Jaffer of Ocean View.

Born in Simonstown, he did his early schooling at the Mariwe Primary School in Ocean View where his family had moved under the Group Areas Act.

Coming from a culturally-aware family - he is the nephew of dancer Dickie Jaffer - he developed an early interest in art.

But it was at school that his talents were first noticed and he was encouraged and influenced by his art teacher Mrs. Sharifa Adams.

Because of his keen interest in painting and drawing, he dropped out of school.

His only art training was at primary school, yet it is remarkable to see how much talent this relatively 'untrained' young man has.

Another primary school

in the area, Kleinberg, recently honoured him by arranging a special exhibition of his works.

The organiser of the exhibition, Mr Charles van Wyk, an arts teacher, says all were highly impressed with Ganief's flair.

A special guest at the exhibition was the art enthusiast Professor Bronkhorst, who has taken a special interest in this artist, but has been unable to find him a job to suit his talents and unique natural sense of colour.

'I become very depressed at times', said Ganief. 'I have been unsuccessful at every turn.'

'I just want a chance to prove myself', he sighed.

While waiting for someone to recognise his gift and employ him, Ganief has designed posters for charities and schools, and has helped teachers with apparatus.

He has also done some work at the Community Arts Project, which, however, he was forced to give up because of transport difficulties.

And he dreams . . . and hopes . . . for a tomorrow holding promise and creativity.

GANIEF JAFFER - AN ARTIST'S DREAM

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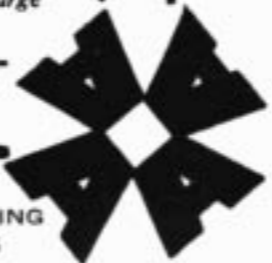
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ADVICE BUREAU

WORRIED ABOUT BABY'S TEETH

Dear Grassroots,
My child is cutting teeth with a running stomach. My neighbour says this is normal but I still worry about my child's health. Is it normal or should I take my child to a doctor?

Mrs F Adams

unfortunate tragedies have occurred because mothers thinking their children were teething failed to take them to a doctor in time.

Many mothers often confuse serious illnesses with teething. If the gums show no signs of soreness, the illness is due to some other cause.

The signs to watch for are a high fever, difficulty in breathing, dia-

rrhoea and vomiting, 'running ears', and an appearance of being generally ill.

Many mothers unnecessarily expect their children to have a difficult time during teething. Healthy babies cut their teeth with little trouble.

Although the first tooth is cut about six months of age, this is not the case with all babies. Some normal babies may cut the

first tooth at only 10 months of age.

A lot of illnesses are thought to be caused by teething but most have other causes. Teething can upset the baby when the gum becomes inflamed. Sometimes a gum boil can appear over the tooth which is just coming out.

Before cutting a tooth, a baby may be restless, cry often, bite his fists,

or rub his gums. During this period, the baby will need extra comfort.

Biting a hard object, seems to bring some relief, and teething rings or hard rusks could be given to the child.

The rings do not help the teeth coming through but, as babies enjoy them, it should be given to them, provided they are clean.

Cutting teeth with a running stomach is not normal. In fact, some

Must I work all this overtime?

Dear Grassroots,

My boss wants us to work a lot of overtime. Sometimes I have to work overtime every weekday and a full day on Saturdays and Sundays. Is my boss allowed to make us work so much overtime? What can I do to work less overtime?

Mr Nobuhle Nyanga East

more than 10 hours overtime a week for each worker. You should find out if there is such an agreement.

If not, it is best that all the workers affected complain as a group rather than you doing so on your own.

You should remember that your boss may be breaking the law and will not take too kindly to you reporting him.

But if all the workers stand together and complain to the Labour Department, it will not be easy for your boss to act against all of you.

You have not stated

the type of factory you are working in, but if you have a trade union you could complain to them. One of the other unions may also be prepared to help you, why not approach them?

You should also bear in mind that some bosses, instead of paying their workers a proper basic wage, make them work much overtime to earn extra money.

If you cannot come out on your basic wage, is this not your problem?

So, should you not be demanding a better basic wage instead of trying to lessen your overtime?



ADVICE

GRASSROOTS has started a special advice bureau to answer all your queries on health, education, legal and labour matters.

If you want any advice, please write to our panel of experts at P O Box 181, Athlone, 7760.

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I am struggling to survive on his pension.

Dear Grassroots,

My husband was still working when he became very ill one day and died the next. I am getting some pension money from his firm but am struggling to come out on the money.

Mrs. M Daniels Mitchell's Plain

If your husband was contributing to the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) at his job, then you are entitled to its benefits.

You should take your husband's UIF card and marriage certificate to your nearest Labour Department or Chief Commissioner's office in Observatory.

If you do not have these documents get your husband's last employers to apply for a UIF card and get a sworn statement saying you were married.

At these offices you fill in form UIF 126 and hand it in together with your UIF card and marriage certificate. You will receive, whatever was due to your husband, in one lump sum.

Many people believe the UIF exists to pay out people who have become temporarily unemployed.

However, UIF also pays out illness allowances to contributors who are unemployed or employed at less than a third of their normal pay as a result of illness.

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ADVICE BUREAU

HOW DO I STOP BABY FROM HAVING DIARRHOEA?

Dear Grassroots,

My baby got ill with a severe running tummy when she was only three months old. I took her to hospital and was told she had diarrhoea. The same thing happened two months later and now I am very worried that it will happen again. Is there anything I can do to prevent this from happening again?

Mrs Lorna Cloete
Sarepta

Diarrhoea is a common problem and affects many babies.

For the information of other mothers, it is a watery, running stomach which may often be accompanied by vomiting.

The most important part of treatment is the replacement of the water lost through the mouth, or if this is not possible, through a vein, commonly called the drip.

The most common cause of diarrhoea is malnutrition. When a child's diet lacks healthy foods, not only is the child unable to digest this food, but the wall of his stomach becomes weak, the food cannot be absorbed and is excreted in diarrhoea stools.



Germs grow in undigested foods causing an infection which worsens the

diarrhoea.

There are other causes but malnutrition and in-

fection are the most common.

Diarrhoea can be prevented by breast-feeding instead of bottle-feeding, boiling of all drinking water for the child and preventing flies from contaminating the child's food.

Milk from the breast is clean and contains substances which kill harmful germs. A feeding bottle on the other hand, may not have been cleaned properly and may contain many germs.

The cost of nutritional milk feeds may also be so high that you are unable to buy enough for your baby.

Your child need not land in hospital if the diarrhoea is recognised and treated early.

The most important treatment is 'replacing' water and when you next go to your clinic, ask the sister how to prepare a 'replacing' fluid.

But if the baby will not drink, vomits a lot, has blood in his stools, passes no urine for more than six hours, take him to a doctor or hospital.



Mb.

I GAVE THE MAN R10 - AND HE NEVER RETURNED

Dear Grassroots

A man came to our house and said he was from a furniture store. I told him I needed a stove. He asked what deposit I had and I told him I had R10. He said the store would not accept such a big account with such a small deposit. He suggested I first buy something small like bedding and I agreed. I gave him R10 as part payment and undertook to pay the balance the following week. When he left, I realised he had taken

the receipt he had written out for my payment. He never returned. What must I do?

Miss Salie of Hanover Park.

You must first find out whether the man works for the furniture store. If he does, you must lodge a complaint with the manager. If he did write out an official receipt and he was authorised to do so, the furniture store has to supply you with the bedding or refund the R10.

If he works for the furniture store and did not

write out an official receipt, it is likely the store will reject your claim. If you can prove you paid the man as an agent of the store, you can still hold the furniture store liable. If, on the other hand, the man does not work for the furniture store, then he is a confident trickster and you must lay a charge of fraud or theft against him.

Your only problem however, would be to prove you paid him the R10 and for the police to trace him.

Do I pay the account if my husband is dead?

Dear Grassroots,

I have a legal problem I hope you can solve. My husband bought a dining-room suite from a furniture store last year. There is still a large amount owing. My husband died a few weeks ago, and I have received a demand for payment. Must I pay the account?

Mrs Adams
Manenberg

Some furniture stores take out insurance to cover the death and/or disability of a customer. The premium of the insurance is added to the customer's account. The first thing you must do, is to find out whether such insurance was taken out by the furniture store for your husband. If it was taken out, you must give your husband's death certificate to the store which will claim the amount owing on

the account from the insurance company. In that case, you will not have to pay the account.

If no insurance was taken out, your husband's estate is liable for the account or if you were married in community of property - that is, what belongs to you, belongs to your husband and what belongs to your husband belongs to you - your joint estate is liable for payment.

In the latter event you will have to approach the Master of the Supreme Court to appoint an executor i.e. a person to represent the estate. Once he is appointed by the Master, he takes charge of all the assets of the estate and is liable to pay

all the debts of the estate from assets. If there is not sufficient cash to pay the account of the furniture, he can arrange with the furniture store for you to take over the account in which case you will personally be liable to pay and you will be entitled to keep the diningroom suite.

If on the other hand, the account is not paid by the estate and you do not make arrangements to pay, the furniture store can repossess the diningroom suite or have the furniture sold by the Messenger of the Court.

Remember, the furniture store cannot take the diningroom suite without the consent of the executor or the authority of the court.

WHY YOU PAY AN INSURANCE WITH RENT

Dear Grassroots,

I stay in Mitchell's Plain, and I pay an insurance fee with my rent every month. Can you tell me what the insurance is for?

Mr Hendricks
Mitchells Plain

In terms of the deed of sale between the City Council and you, the council has the right to take out an insurance policy which is commonly known as a comprehensive houseowners insurance policy.

This policy covers damage to the property only and does not cover the contents of the house. Damage to the property by fire, storm riot, civil commotion, burglary, accident are covered by this type of insurance.

The policy is issued jointly to the city council and the owner. The council pays the insurance premium to the insurance company and recovers this from the owner in monthly instalments. The insurance fee you pay with your rent every month therefore represents this instalment.

Normally when you claim on an insurance policy of this kind, you pay the excess - that is the first R10 or R20 or more as provided for in the policy and the insurance company pays the balance of the claim.

Dear Grassroots,

My two-year-old son had a fit last week. Before this he was always a healthy child. We rushed him to the nearest hospital. The doctor said the fit was caused by a high fever. My son is well again but I still worry about him. Will he get another fit? If he does get one, is there anything I can do until we find a doctor?

Mrs E Fredericks
Manenberg

You did the right thing to take your son to the hospital immediately. A fit must always be investigated immediately because it could cause damage to the brain.

Fits caused by a high fever or high temperature, as was the case with your child, often occur in children under the age of four.

The fever itself is not a disease but is usually the first warning sign or symptom of a disease, such as a sore throat, a chest infection or even an abscess on any part of the body.

So your son does run the risk of getting another fit if he becomes feverish again.

As soon as he feels hot or feverish, you should sponge him with lukewarm water.

Dry him well and dress him very lightly. Then give

WHAT DO I DO IF MY SON HAS A FIT?



him a dose of the medicine the doctor prescribed to bring his fever down. If you do not have any of the doctor's medicine available, give him an aspirin.

Encourage him to drink a lot of fluids like water, milk or orange juice.

If he still remains feverish, take him to the doctor.

Some people believe that a fever must be 'sweated out'. So they cover the feverish person with many blankets. This is wrong and must not be done.

Many blankets and jerseys will only make the child more feverish and may cause another fit.

I AM NOT GIVEN CAPS, BOOTS

Dear Grassroots, I work for a construction firm in Cape Town. I work in wet and dusty conditions but I'm not given any caps or boots. What can I do?

Mr E Taliop
Hanover Park

The law states that the bosses must give workers, who are likely to get wet or full of dust, caps and

boots free of charge. To curb costs many bosses do not give their workers protective clothing or if they do, they make the workers pay.

As he is committing a criminal offence by not giving you protective clothing, you can complain to the Labour Department or the Industrial Council for the Building Industry.

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Sport

GUGULETU AA DOES PROUD

THE Guguletu Amateur Athletics club has done itself proud this season.

The strongest club in the Western Province Athletic Union, the club took the senior and junior inter-club competitions.

Support for the club remains huge. An athletic meeting staged at the Athlone Stadium on Feb-

ruary 23 by the club drew a crowd of 3 000.

Yet the daily papers were full of praise for a recent meeting of another Guguletu club affiliated to the white Western Province Amateur Athletics Association which drew only 300 spectators.

The Guguletu Amateur Athletics Club would probably have drawn double

the crowd they had at Athlone had the event been staged at Guguletu.

Excellent performances by schoolboy athletes marked the meeting at the Athlone Stadium.

George van den Berg, the 17-year-old star of Spartans Athletic Club, won the senior men's 200m (23,2 sec), the 400m (51,4 sec) and the long jump

(6,65m).

PETERSEN

Leon Petersen of Sinton recorded 51,0 sec in the under-19 400m, and Isaac Arendse of Parkwood ran a fleet-footed 200m in the under-19 section in 22,2 sec.

And Mzoli Edward Nganzole had the crowds roaring approval when he easily won the 5 000m in 15 min, 5,4 sec.



What makes 600 people give up their Saturday afternoon to join in a Big Walk to raise funds for a man most of them don't even know?

The man is Paul Patience who led the Supreme Court battle of the Combined Mitchell's Plain Residents Association (Comprá) against Mitchell's Plain Bus Service's fares increases.

Instead of getting the fares cut, Comprá found itself with a R12 000 bill for legal costs.

They came from all over to give assistance. From Mitchell's Plain came ratepayers' and tenants' associations representing Rocklands, Strandfontein, Westridge, Portland and Woodlands.

IMPRESSIVE

Other groups came from Belhar, Crossroads, Guguletu, Lotus River

BIG WALK — A BIG HELP FOR COMPRA

and Nyanga Residents Associations.

That Big Walk was quite an impressive turnout, and something of a triumph for community co-operation.

As Comprá secretary Eddie Kai said: 'This first combined inter-community effort taught us a great deal about how similar things should be organised in future.

SUCCESS

The Big Walk was an unqualified success. The walk

will probably have raised several thousand rands for us, said Mr Kai 'But the real value of this effort was that it could be used as a peg on which to hang our pleas for further major donations'.

And major donations there have been, too. For example Pep Stores gave R1 000 and also paid for advertising costs.

THE BULK

Just how much did the walk contribute towards writing off that whopping

R12 000 legal costs bill? 'I wouldn't like to be specific at this stage, but I can say we have already paid the bulk of the total account,' Mr Kai told Grassroots.

Naturally the fund-raising doesn't stop there. Mitchell's Plain civic associations have been busy, concerts, stage shows and other functions.

Comprá has lodged an appeal with the National Transportation Commission against the new wave of bus fare increases. The hearing is scheduled to come up in a few months.

Looking at the Root Causes

Continued from page 10

sidered to be negligence by the mother, she will most likely be helped to care for her children properly.

But if the problem is understood to be low wages and poor housing, no matter how much this mother is helped to care for her children, they will still be sick and hungry.

If this is not the problem of one mother

but of many mothers, then one has to look to the root causes of the problem and not simply what meets the eye.

Some community workers may bring a group of mothers together to educate them about healthy foods, while another community worker sees this as a short-term aim, and assists the community in striving for better housing and higher wages.

What does this mean for our projects in the Peninsula? This may help us to be more critical of our projects.

IMPACT

An understanding of the causes of our problems and why they exist may be useful as a guide to decide on the projects which may make the greatest impact on the lives of the people.

If community people could take collective action based upon this understanding through the building of strong community organisations representing the interests of the communities, then there may be a case for the existence of community work in our neighbourhoods.

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Sport

THE South African Soccer Federation is facing the most testing period of its 27 years.

Federations' reaction to their expulsion from the South African Council of Sport could have a crucial bearing on the course of non-racial soccer in this country.

Should they decide to go it alone, a new Sacos-backed national body will be inevitable.

SCHOOLBOYS

The Federation has much to lose if such a body is formed. For a start they will almost certainly lose the most of their schoolboy players to the new organisation.

The country's schoolboy soccer players will play a crucial role in the dispute between Sacos and the Federation.

Sacos has been accused - notably by Labour Party members - of hiding behind schoolboys.

MOOD

The Labour Party - an ethnic group which works in Government-created bodies - may well find out in the next week or two that they have grossly misread the mood of the schoolboys.

Students' representative councils at a number of schools are to meet soon to discuss the expulsion and it is expected they will give overwhelming support to the Sacos decision.

The man in the middle of the Sacos-Federation controversy is Norman Middleton. For years, he has balanced on a tight-rope between the Coloured Representative Council (of which he is an executive member) and the South African Soccer Federation (of which he is president).

FEDERATION

Middleton
is the man
in the middle

FACES CRUCIAL TEST

they decided to expel all members belonging to ethnic management committees.

'Taken to its logical conclusion, this means that we would support any move to oust Middleton', said Sydney Philander, president of the Griqualand union.

SIGNIFICANT

The Griqualand West decision is significant because it represents a clear about-turn from a union which was once one of Middleton's staunchest supporters.

The Eastern Province Soccer Board and the Southern Natal Soccer Board have also said that they intend implementing the resolution.

INTERESTS

A much clearer picture should emerge in the next few weeks.

But one thing is clear: Sooner or later Middleton will have to ask himself whether he is serving the best interests of soccer by remaining president of the Federation.

When he does, there can only be one answer 'Get out'.

New soccer board for Western Cape?

Five Western Cape soccer unions, opposed to the South African Soccer Federation's refusal to implement the double standards policy of Sacos, may form a new soccer board here.

This follows the expulsion of the federation from the S.A. Council for Sport (Sacos) last month and which has caused an entirely new 'ball game' on the South African soccer scene.

The breakaway unions which have formed an ad hoc committee are the Cape District Soccer Union, Guguletu Soccer Union, Mitchell's Plain Soccer Union, Central Soccer Union and the Peninsula Soccer Union.

Mr Barney Leendretz, a spokesman for the Central Soccer Union, said that his association withdrew from the WPSB in 1979 because they could not understand why some players played normal cricket in summer

and non-racial soccer in winter. 'Central was not satisfied with WPSB's claim that it cannot tell the players what to do in summer,' he said.

'The players felt that matters could not continue in this fashion and that we should take a stand. We took a unanimous decision to withdraw from the board,' Mr Leendretz said.

'We hope that the board will come to its senses, but it is sad to say there's a lack of leadership in the board,' he said.

Cape District withdrew from the board in 1977 because the board did not vote in favour of the double standards code. Since then District had their own inter-club games and did not participate in any of the board's competitions. Mr S Dublin, District's chairman, declined to comment on the issue this week

STANDARDS

Before looking at Middleton's position in non-racial soccer, a study of the Sacos double standards resolution would not be out of place.

The resolution states briefly, that no player, administrator or spectator, committed to the non-racial principle in sport, may participate in or be associated with any code of sport which practices, perpetuates or condones racialism or multinationalism.

Players disregarding the essence of this principle will be guilty of double standards and cannot therefore be members of any organisation affiliated to Sacos.

CRC

This resolution was later amended to include people serving on government-created institutions such as the CRC. Middleton thus could no longer be allowed to remain a member of Sacos.

In June last year, Federation was expelled from Sacos for the first time. In September, they

were readmitted after promising to implement the resolution.

But Federation had problems. Most affiliates were not prepared to ditch a president who had served them for 14 years.

AFFILIATES

In addition, the Western Province Football Board, one of Federation's largest affiliates, made it

clear they were not prepared to expel any of their players who contravened the double standards resolution.

Inevitably, Federation was again expelled at the Sacos meeting in Kimberley.

Since then things have developed at a rapid pace. Middleton has refused to resign. 'I'll stay presi-

dent as long as the Federation wants me', he said.

SECOND THOUGHTS

However, a number of affiliates appear to have had second thoughts about his continued presidency.

The Griqualand West Soccer Union decided to implement the resolution immediately. At their annual meeting recently

Vygiekraal track sparks anger over poor Cape flats facilities

INCENSED sports administrators and civic leaders have launched a campaign to protest the inadequate sports facilities of the Cape Flats.

Their anger has been spurred by what has been dubbed the Vygiekraal caper.

The Vygiekraal stadium has been built at a pace which could hardly be called athletic.

Started in 1975, it is now only a tartan track, and leaders have vowed to boycott the complex until it is completed to their satisfaction.

Spearheading the campaign is Gleemore and Cape Flats Civic Associations.



Mr Frank van der Horst

Mr Wally Hammond, chairman of "Our Children" Association, said Vygiekraal had become a burning issue 'because it is our children who will have to play there.'

Speaking at a protest meeting in Athlone recently, he said: 'Our problem has been that in the past we have always been prepared to expect half measures. We should demand nothing but the best for our children.'

'We pay the same rates and are entitled to the best', he said.

Mr Ivan Williams, spokesman on sport for the association, said the Vygiekraal 'caper' would be used as the start of a protest campaign against the inadequate sporting facilities on the Cape Flats.

DISGUSTED

'We are disgusted at the progress made at the stadium. The track is completed but we can't use it if there are no toilets and other facilities'.

Mr Frank van der Horst,

president of the Western Province Council of Sport said the Cape Town City Council was treating black sportsmen with contempt.

'Every bureaucratic trick has been used to block development of the stadium. We should demand that Vygiekraal complies with the best international standards.'

MONEY

'The council is finding it very difficult to get money to complete the stadium, yet when it comes to things like the Good Hope Centre, money appears to be no problem.'

'We are expected to use inferior sporting facilities. For instance, at Athlone stadium conditions are in no way conducive to good results or track records.'

'At the moment we are forced to make use of

Athlone stadium. Often there are more than 10 000 people at the stadium, which can only accommodate about 6 000.'

GRASS IS WET

'The grass track causes many injuries because it is often wet,' Mr van der Horst said.

'We do not need Vygiekraal, which will probably take years to complete.' Mr van der Horst called on sportsmen to stand together in the struggle for a better deal.

Meanwhile, students from high schools are being forced to use a grass track at the Athlone Stadium for their inter-school sports and in some areas students have had to mark off roads to practice.

All this is happening while a tartan track is fast becoming a white elephant.

HE'S A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH



MZOLI IS KING OF THE TRACK

MZOLI EDWARD NCGANZELE, the king of middle-distance running, is the man everyone would like to beat.

Last month at the Guguletu Amateur Athletics club meeting at Athlone Stadium 3000 people yelled encouragement as Mzoli made an attempt to break the four-minute mile barrier.

He failed by 17 seconds, but his time was incredible considering the slow grass track.

Mzoli, who was instrumental in forming the Guguletu Amateur Athletics Club, entered the running scene when middle-distance events were dominated by Christy Davids of Spartans (now of VOB), Norman Joseph (SP) and other athletic stars.

It did not take him long to establish himself as a force to be reckoned with.

DEFEATED

In his second season, he defeated the highly-rated Davids.

From then on, Mzoli had every title in the palm of his hand. He took the WP 1 500m and 5 000m titles, and went on to win the same events at the South African Championships.

The cross-country season saw him at his brilliant best as he took first the WP title, then the Boland title, and finally left the field behind as he claimed the honours at the South African Championships.

TITLES

He was rightly named Athlete of the Year and the Western Province Amateur Athletics Union named him Sportsman of the Year.

And he has not disappointed the fans this season. He is running better than he was at the same time last year. Many more outstanding performances can be expected from him.

Mzoli, in spite of his gruelling training programme, is also an excellent club member, and has proved time and again his devotion to his club is as strong as his dedication to running.

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