

grassroots

THE PAPER ABOUT YOU

APRIL 1980 5c

PAGE ONE COMMENT CONCERNS OF A MOTHER

Dear Grassroots

As a parent I am very worried about my child who is boycotting about the conditions at school.

My son tells me that they have no books, that the classrooms are cold, that they are being trained for a cheap labour market.

What is all this about?

I am very tired when I get home at night, there is so much to do and then I must still go to the mass meeting.

What do these children know about suffering? So many people have tried to change things before but nothing has happened.

What if they get shot or are put in jail? I work hard to give them their schooling, that is all that I can give them.

My son says that if we had tried in the past to change the conditions in our country, they would not be doing so today. I feel guilty about this, perhaps we did not try hard enough.

He says that we must sacrifice, they sing 'Freedom isn't free' at the meeting.

My son gets up, he is only in Standard 8 and he speaks to hundreds of people at the meeting, he is so confident of himself. I see him through tears in my eyes telling the audience about the problems at school, how education is not separate from the struggle for freedom.

That we do not have political rights and that our bosses under pay us and treat us badly, I begin to understand what he is talking about.

They say that we must stand together in our communities, that a people united will not be defeated, that we should organize ourselves to change things and that we should talk to other people about these things.

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SOLIDARITY

Communities back students on boycott

Western Cape communities from Schotsche Kloof to Stellenbosch, and Guguletu to Ocean View, have shown unprecedented solidarity in support of students boycotting classes in protest against racial education.

Meetings were held throughout the peninsula and as far afield as Stellenbosch and Paarl.

Thousands of people attended the meetings organised by students, local churches, civic associations, youth groups and other organisations.

At all the meetings support was expressed for the protest of the students. They reported on their grievances which included the discriminatory practices in education and the inequality in Government expenditure on education for the different 'racial groups'. In some instances, parent-student associations were formed to co-ordinate support for the students and to serve as a communication channel between students, parents, teachers and the community.

Specific concerns and fears were expressed by parents at these meetings. Some parents were supportive while others felt that the students had made their point and should return to school.

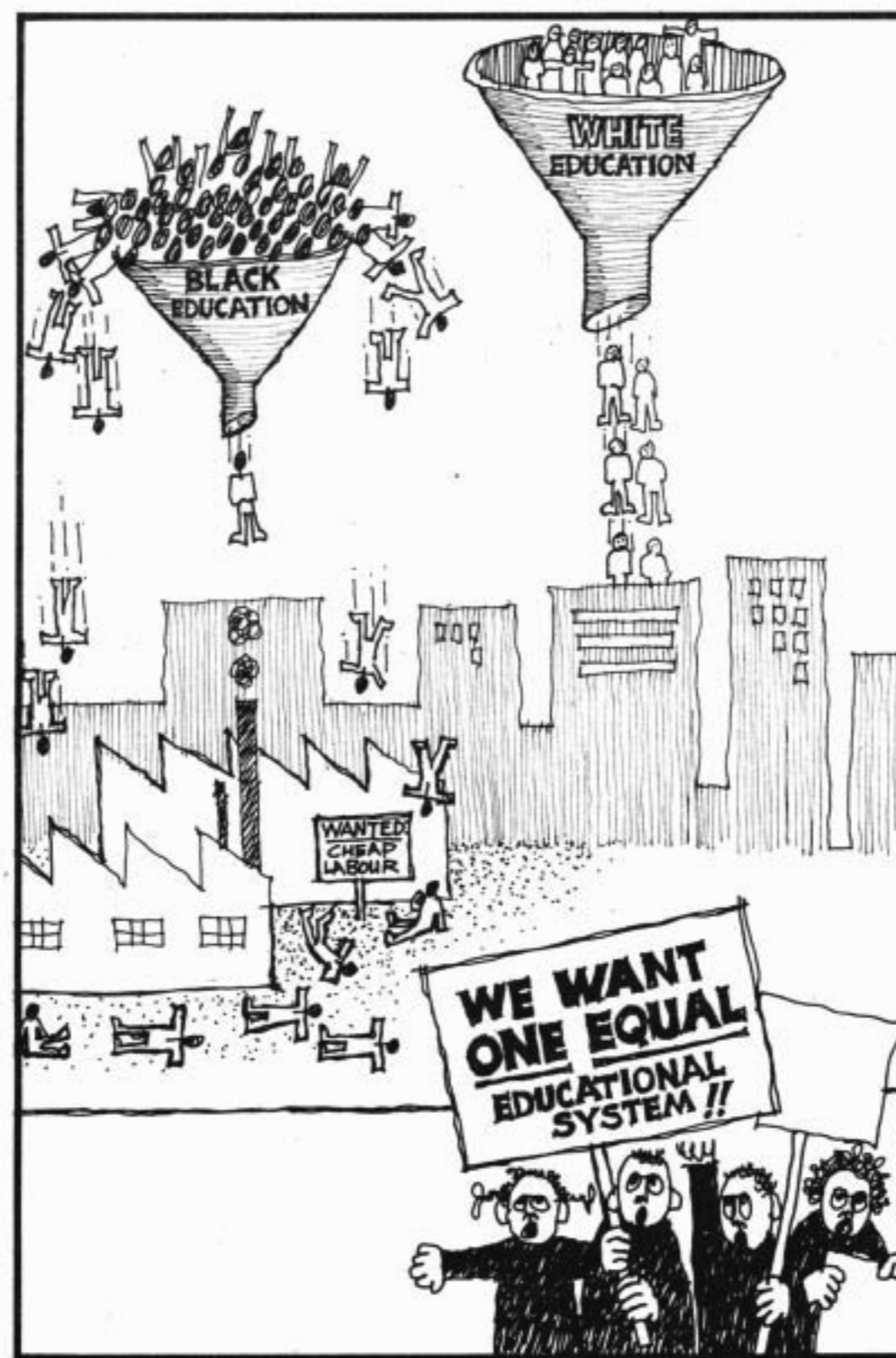
The feelings at the meetings were intense and at times, emotional. In some instances, the resolutions which were passed praised students for the orderly and non-violent nature of their protest.

The following is an account of some of the meetings:

LOTUS RIVER

• A meeting was held at the Catholic Hall in Lotus River on April 20. It was attended by 700 parents and members of the community.

This was one of the first community meetings held in the peninsula. A resolution was passed supporting the



boycott of students and their call for a non-racial educational system.

A resident who attended the meeting said: 'We will only be able to obtain an equal education in a democratic society'. They also called on other communities to support the call of the students.

Three other meetings were held in the area at which student-parent associations were formed. These associations will focus on the grievances of the students and will plan 'awareness' campaigns in the area.

A number of residents related their frustrations in their work

situations and linked this to the problems of the students.

MITCHELL'S PLAIN

• At a meeting attended by 1 000 people at Westridge Civic Centre on April 14, the people pledged their support for the students.

One resident said he 'admired the young 16 and 17 year old pupils who addressed the meeting so confidently, explaining the problems at their schools to the parents, it's a whole new generation'.

In trying to make the link between the students' grievances and that of the people in the community, a resident said, 'the people

of Mitchell's Plain think that they have everything, but in fact they have nothing'.

At a subsequent meeting at the Lentegeur Civic Centre on May 1, an ad hoc parent-student committee was formed.

Many workers at this meeting expressed their understanding of the problems confronting the students in the light of their daily experiences at their place of work.

Parents were called upon to stand with their children and not 'behind them'.

OCEAN VIEW

• Six-hundred people attended a meeting at

the Anglican Church Hall in Ocean View on April 24. A 13-year-old pupil addressed the meeting.

The meeting was livened up by students who played guitars, sang folk songs and read poetry.

At first the parents were sceptical, but they were won over by the organisation and skill with which the students were conducting the boycott.

They were assured, however, by the students that the protest was orderly and non-violent. They pledged their support unambiguously. No committee was elected but a follow-up meeting is planned.

SILVERTON

• On April 24 300 people attended a meeting at the Anglican Church in Silvertown.

This meeting took place the day after a march by pupils in the area when the riot police used teargas to disperse the crowd. The parents were concerned about their children taking to the streets and feared they would be shot again.

A parent asked that an interview be arranged with the Minister of Coloured Relations to talk to him about the grievances of the students. It was said, however, that this method had been used with no results in the past.

A student responded by saying that 'we do not want to wait until we are greyhaired before we have change.'

FACTRETON

• Eight-hundred people attended a meeting at the Catholic Hall in Factreton on April 17. Support for the students was expressed. A resolution was also passed calling for the rejection of management committees and so-called 'dummy institutions'.

A 14-year-old student related the grievances to the meeting and asked parents 'how they could expect their children to learn under such inhuman conditions'.

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A general meeting of about 1 471 members of the Cape Town Municipal Workers' Association held on March 16 this year accepted a 12 percent wage rise offered by the Cape Town City Council.

The City Hall was packed to capacity.

The atmosphere was tense and it was obvious that all members were concerned about higher wages.

A feature of the meeting was the predominance of the lower paid workers.

There are close to 11 000 Blacks working for the city council, most of whom are married and have children to support.

All in all the wage question affects between 35 000 and 40 000 men, women and children.

The mood of the workers reflected a deep concern at the

prospect of a further deterioration in the conditions under which they and their families were forced to live.

The association's executive told the meeting that in terms of its mandate a wage demand was submitted to the council in October last year.

In a memorandum the association had called for a four-notch increase - about 25 percent - from January 1980 to offset a rapid rise in the cost of living.

It pointed out the position of thousands of lower paid workers had rapidly deteriorated due to higher rents, higher cost of transport, higher cost of food and clothing.

In addition to higher wages, the association in its memorandum asked for:

- The key scales to be amended because they placed the hourly and weekly workers at a disadvantage.
- A number of groups to be regrouped and upscaled because the existing (and lower) grouping of these posts had the effect of causing underpayment instead of the rate for the job.
- A redesignation of certain posts for the same reasons, and
- A better salary advancement because in some cases promotion failed to bring with it any

financial advancement.

The city council turned down the demands of the association and the offer made by the council was unacceptable to the association.

After further discussion, the council made its final offer:

- To raise wages and salaries by two notches from January 1980;
- To amend the existing key scales to ensure that no employee receives less than 10 percent increase in remuneration;
- To increase the Municipal Service Emolument (Long Service Allowance);
- To increase the holi-

indicated they would like to buy.

But said Mr Achmat Davids, of the area's civic body, people are still waiting for an 'indication' from the council as to when they would be able to buy.

The delay over the years he said has resulted in many of the homes falling into a state of disrepair.

If the people knew the homes would be theirs he said, they would have renovated their homes years ago.

The council favoured the pilot scheme in Heideveld because:

- It would enable council to gauge the response of tenants to opportunities to buy the homes they live in.
- It would show whether home-ownership would lead to improved upkeep.
- It would relieve council of the obligation to maintain the homes.
- It could lead to more rapid repayment of the capital investment of the homes.
- There was strong pressure for the sale of homes to tenants, initially, at least, on an experimental basis, and the council felt it should be seen to be responding to this pressure.

Residents ask: Should we buy our rented homes

TENANTS in subeconomic areas in the Peninsula are facing a burning question: Should they buy the houses they live in if they become available for sale?

This follows a recent decision by the Cape Town City Council.

Whether tenants in council areas will be able to buy homes depends on the success or failure of a pilot scheme in Heideveld to sell 220 homes to tenants.

Residents are already hard at work conducting surveys to find out what residents think.

OCEAN VIEW

In Ocean View, where the Divisional Council has 'indicated' tenants may buy their homes, residents have formed street committees to go from door to door to find answers.

And the response of residents included:

- If I buy, will the council fix the cracked walls, the inadequate gutters and other

defects they have not fixed for 11 years?

• If I do not buy, will I be evicted?

• It is unfair that after paying rent for 11 years not a cent of that money would be regarded as down payment on the house.

To try and find answers to these and other questions, residents in each street have elected three representatives to serve on a committee.

That there are many unanswered questions and that the people have not heard from the Divisional Council since November shows that the people were not consulted about this matter, say residents;

HEIDEVELD

In Heideveld, plans to conduct street surveys have been hindered because the council has not yet 'indicated' which 220 houses will be sold.

In Ocean View and other areas, the ques-

tions are the same. The Heideveld and Vanguard Civic Association says:

'Tenants are being approached by the council to purchase their homes at astronomical prices - some as high as R14 000 and R15 000.'

In many instances these tenants have been paying rents for more than 10 years and they feel this should be part of the down payment.

KENSINGTON

In Kensington, the same questions are being asked as residents go from street to street to find out: Do we buy or not?

But news from Kensington is that the indications are very strong, very positive: people want to buy.

SCHOTSCHIE KLOOF

In Schotschie Kloof where the council has indicated that people would become home-owners, a survey was done in 1976 already and at that time about 80 percent of residents

MUNICIPAL WORKERS UNHAPPY

day bonus; and

• To increase Council's contribution to the Municipal Pension Fund by .5 percent.

A condition of the offer was that no further wage demand be submitted by either of the Staff Associations for 15 months from January 1980.

Members expressed dissatisfaction and many expressed grave reservations. The meeting discussed rejecting council's offer and taking the matter to arbitration.

After lengthy discussion it was decided not to go to arbitration but the feeling was unanimous that the association will have to prepare and brace itself for such an eventuality

early next year.

It was the unanimous feeling of the meeting that the present grading schedule should be drastically amended after a proper evaluation of posts. The association will have to prepare itself to submit concrete proposals properly motivated in due course.

Because of the pressing need for relief, it was felt that council's offer should not be rejected at this stage.

The meeting passed a resolution saying that the living conditions of council employees had worsened because their wages had not kept pace with the rise in the cost of living.

'The real wages of workers has decreased.

The buying power of their pay packets is considerably less than four or five years ago

'The result is that more and more families of council employee are driven to live near and even below the bread line', reads the resolution.

'The general conditions of a large part of the council's workforce is deteriorating. Wives and children (who should be a school) are driven onto the labour market to augment the meagre income of the bread winner, thereby causing the cultural, educational and social level of the various communities to suffer.

'A further serious result of the plight of the workers is the increase in crime, alcoholism and other anti-social behaviour'.

BLACK NURSES ACT ON POOR WORK CONDITIONS

Peninsula nurses held a series of meetings recently about their 'poor' working conditions which made it impossible for them to take proper care of their patients.

In interviews with nurses many of their problems were highlighted. These included:

- Working under tremendous pressure while people's lives depended on them.
- Working 44 hours a week and also 12-hour shifts when on night duty.
- Often having to work overtime without pay.
- The shortage of staff which increased the work load.
- The lack of incentive to study - an advance certificate means a R10 increase on a monthly salary.
- The poor working conditions had discouraged people from joining the nursing profession and many married women had left to

find other jobs, the nurses said.

They said travelling presented a serious problem for all those who did not live on hospital premises and many nurses had to travel long distances early in the morning and late at night.

The basic monthly salary scales at the end of 1976 for student female nurses were R140 for whites, R112 for Coloured nurses and Indians and R70 for Africans.

The scales for nursing sisters were R250 for Whites, R195 for Coloured sisters and Indians and R145 for Africans.

'Other discriminatory practices are that the salary is not related to work performance and nurses are only allowed to care for patients of the same race', one nurse said.

She said a nurse had an important role to play because sick people were totally dependent

on them.

'The nurse is the one who provides some kind of link between the patient and the outside world but we cannot properly fulfill this role if we are dissatisfied.

'I'm committed to nursing and serving the community but conditions make it impossible for me to care properly for a patient', she said.

'We were led to believe there would be substantial increases in pay following the budget promises and we were very disappointed when we received our pay packets to find the increase was minimal.

Following the meetings the nurses are now bringing their grievances to the attention of the nursing council.

The secretary of the Nursing Association of SA, Miss R. du Plessis, refused to divulge 1980 salary scales.

Strikers get help

After the striking workers were evicted from the factory hostels in Bot River by the police the local community immediately responded by housing them.

At a mass meeting attended by more than 2 000 residents at the Gerald Wright Memorial Hall in Grabouw on May 1 it was decided to give support to the striking workers.

A disco dance was held the following Saturday to raise money for the workers and blankets and food were donated by the residents.

The 800 striking

workers are employed by Kromco Apple Packing Factory (Kromco) near Grabouw.

The Food and Canning Workers Union, which has been organising the workers at Kromco since the beginning of this year, said in a statement, that there was no minimum wage at Kromco and many workers earned R15 a week or less.

After lengthy negotiations between the union and the management a satisfactory settlement was reached giving the workers a substantial increase in wages.

The union was negotiating with Kromco management to reach a satisfactory agreement.

The workers, who went on strike on April 25, met every day at a hall in Grabouw to get a report on the negotiations which started on May 2.

Immediately after negotiations started the management of Kromco recruited workers from outlying areas as strike breakers. It was felt that the recruitment of the strike breakers was undermining the current negotiations.

Social workers back protests

A group of Peninsula social and community workers held an urgent meeting recently to discuss the schools' boycott and pledged 'solidarity and support' for the boycott action of the students.

About 50 social service workers attended the meeting and issued the following statement:

'As social service workers we see the struggle for non-racial education and social justice as a struggle in which we are all involved. We see a parallel between the students' grievances

about inferior education and our position in a structure of social services which is similarly based on discriminatory practices which are immoral and in conflict with social work principles and values.

'We commend the students for the degree of organisation shown throughout the boycott. We pledge our solidarity with the students' cause and express our willingness to support also in tangible ways,' the statement says.

A number of people at the meeting said the present school crisis affected all social service

workers, and they remained 'in the background' on controversial issues. One said traditional social work was at a crossroads, and there was a need to take a hard look at the profession and decide on how social work could be more relevant to problems in South Africa today. 'The students have pointed out the difference in the amount of money spent by the Government in education according to race'

In welfare, there is similar discrimination. For instance, in old age

pensions, from October 1979 Whites receive R97 a month, Coloured and Indian people get R54 a month, and Africans get R27,50 every TWO months.

There is also salary discrimination in State welfare departments and some welfare organisations on a racial basis,' he said.

Those present felt that there were many lessons to be learnt from the students' action. Another meeting was planned to discuss these issues and to decide what action to take.

MBEKWENI RESIDENTS UNITE AGAINST EVICTION

MBEKWENI residents have tirelessly watched over the home of the Mbobosi family, making it impossible for the authorities to evict the couple.

The drama started when Mrs Angelina Mbobosi went to pay her rent in April. It was refused and she was informed that her house had been given to another resident.

'Rent not to be accepted' was scrawled across her rent file, and she was given no explanation for not being consulted on the matter.

Officials then dumped her furniture and belongings outside and secured the door with padlocks.

They then demanded her pass and arrested her when she refused to produce one. At the time, her husband was not with her and her child was living with a relative in another area.

She was jailed for the night. By the morning, residents heard of her plight and a big group demanded her release at the police station.

'There was much tension in the air and they released her into our care then' a resident said.

After a vain bid to see the officer-in-charge at the Administration Board offices, the residents went to the Mbobosi home. The padlocks did not deter



Residents of Mbekweni guard against a further eviction of Mrs. Angelina Mbobosi.

the people and within less than an hour, Mrs Mbobosi and all her belongings were back inside. By this time, her husband had returned from work. Later two police vans arrived but left when residents refused to say who the owner of the house was.

An hour later, five vans arrived demanding to know who had broken the locks. Those present refused to comment. The men told Mr Mbobosi to accompany them to the police station, which he did.

By late that night, he had not returned and residents were told that he would be held

until he told them who had broken the locks. The next morning they were told that he would be released as soon as somebody paid for the locks.

The people left the police station and accompanied Mrs Mbobosi to her place of work.

On the way there she told them she had paid a clerk at the administration's offices R40 to obtain her house. This type of payment had twice achieved results for her.

She claimed that many people in the area had been forced to resort to this action because of the shortage of

houses.

'When we heard of her experience, we immediately returned to the administration office where we were advised to lay a charge against the clerk', a resident said.

Soon afterwards, Mr Mbobosi was released without being charged.

'The people were angry here and are determined that there shall be no more evictions,' said a number of residents gathered around the house.

'Every day when Mrs Mbobosi goes to work, some of us keep a watch on the house and as soon as the vans pass,

we gather around,' they said.

Nobody in Mbekweni is too young or too old to do their bit. Gathered around the house when Grassroots visited the area were men, women and children — young and old — all united.

'There are not enough houses and men are not given permission to have their wives with them permanently.'

'Some of us have worked in the Paarl factories for longer than twenty years and still we are told that our families do not qualify to remain in the area,' they said.



Mrs Mbobosi — locked out.

Ice-cream sellers in shocking position — survey

A SURVEY conducted by a group of University of Cape Town students has highlighted the shocking position of contract ice cream vendors.

The students interviewed ice cream vendors, and tried to talk to depot supervisors and managers, but found this difficult because most were not keen to provide information.

The students chose ice cream vendors for their survey because they appeared to be in a very vulnerable position. They are responsible for only 20 percent of ice cream sales in Cape Town, and are therefore not necessary to the ice cream firms profits.

It is also difficult for vendors to organise to make effective demands to management because they work independently.

Most of the full-time ice cream vendors

are contract workers. The contracts closely resemble prison documents, containing the names and fingerprints of as many as 10 workers. Also stated are the name of the firm and a few job details.

Very rarely are workers given a copy of the contract; sometimes they do not even read it.

The alternative way for a homeland resident to earn a living is to live and work 'illegally' in an urban area. Some employers prefer to hire this type of labour because it has less bargaining power and is therefore cheaper and more exploitable.

Some ice cream vendors told the students their employers consistently refused to give them contracts for this reason.

At the time of the investigation there were three firms employing

ice cream vendors: Clover, Walls and Dairymaid.

Walls has subsequently closed.

The wage of the Dairymaid vendors spoken to ranged from R13 to R16,50 a week with 20 percent commission after R50 had been sold. All the Clover vendors got R6 a week with 20 percent commission. The Walls vendors got R15 to R18 a week with 20 to 25 percent commission on more than R50 sold.

The working hours for all vendors is 8am to 5pm six days a week including Saturdays and Sundays. Lunch and tea breaks are at the vendor's expense.

The contract usually ends in mid-winter when the worker has to return 'home' for one or two months. Most vendors are re-employed by the same firm for many

years on annual contracts.

One vendor the students spoke to had been working for Clover for 5 years without receiving a raise.

In many cases wage deductions were made for:

- Transport to and from the homeland — R20 to R24 a year.
- Tax — four percent of the commission.
- Rent for accommodation in a company hostel — about R1,50 a week.
- Stamps — Money deducted each week in return for which the worker receives a stamp. He can change the stamps for money at the end of the contract period. He has no choice as to whether he wants stamps or not and if the stamps are lost he cannot claim the money.

Ice cream vendors are at a serious disadvantage when competing with other retail outlets.

Firstly, what happens in winter when it is cold and nobody wants ice cream? One vendor said he sometimes worked for a week without selling one ice cream.

Secondly, the ice creams sold by vendors are, in some cases, more expensive than those sold in shops, thus decreasing consumer demand.

Thirdly, there is no co-ordinated plan for where each vendor will go. This increases the chances that the same areas will be covered by two or more vendors in a short time or that some areas will not be covered at all.

Vendors suffer a high accident risk. Minimal attempts are made to advise them on riding techniques or road safety. The bicycles are difficult and heavy to ride and many of the vendors said they had had accidents. Some said they received compensation but most refuted this.

Community work book 'encouraging'

FRANCIE LUND and Edna Van Harte have just published a book entitled Community Work for Development and Change.

Community workers in this country have had to borrow knowledge and skills from foreign countries which have been totally unsuited to our social, economic and political conditions. More often than not, these models were a direct imitation of British and American ideas. This has been the case because we lack indigenous knowledge and skills based on our specific conditions.

In this book the writers attempt to record different approaches used by com-

munity workers in their day-to-day activities, as well as their successes and failures.

Specific problem areas are also mentioned such as, political dilemmas, funding of projects and 'White/Black worker in Black/White communities'.

Useful guidelines are listed for those persons interested in the training of community workers.

This type of publication should be encouraged.

It is hoped that community workers will continue to make their contributions toward social change and the development of our own knowledge and skills in this field.

Meat workers pledge solidarity with strikers

The solidarity and determination of workers in the Cape Town meat industry was shown during the one week strike by 59 Karoo Meat Exchange workers last month.

Workers from 15 Cape Town meat factories gathered several times during the strike to show their support for the Karoo workers. And had the workers demands not been met when they were it was likely workers throughout the industry would have gone on strike just before the Easter weekend when the demand for meat is particularly high.

The Karoo strike began on Monday March 24, after management allegedly dismissed an unregistered worker without first consulting the workers' committee.

The workers' committee was elected by the workers. Its constitution was accepted by management.

Management had agreed to consult the committee on the hiring and firing of workers. This broken undertaking caused the 59 workers to strike.

There are 80 workers at Karoo Meat. The 20 so-called Coloured workers did not support the strike of their fellow African workers.

On the Friday after the strike started, the workers agreed to return to work if all were unconditionally reinstated in their former positions.

On the previous Wednesday night, more than 100 representatives from 11 meat firms gathered at the offices of the union representing the workers, the Western Province General Workers' Union, to express their solidarity with the Karoo workers.

They drafted a letter to the general manager of Karoo Meats, Mr Johan Louw, demanding the unconditional re-instatement of all the workers.

They said the strike had come when workers in the meat industry were particularly angry about their wages and working conditions. A copy of the letter was sent to bosses of the 11 meat firms represented at the meeting.

The workers gathered at Karoo Meats' Maitland offices on Friday March 28. At about

8.30 a.m., members of the workers' committee were called into the office. Mr Louw told them all the workers would have to fill in application forms and that the firm would decide at the weekend which workers they would re-employ.

This was rejected by the workers, who said they would not return to work until all were unconditionally re-instated - 'not through application forms and not one by one.'

The next day, a mass meeting of about 250 meat workers was held in Langa to discuss the Karoo strike. Support for the Karoo workers was re-affirmed and Karoo management was urged to accede to the workers' non-negotiable demands.

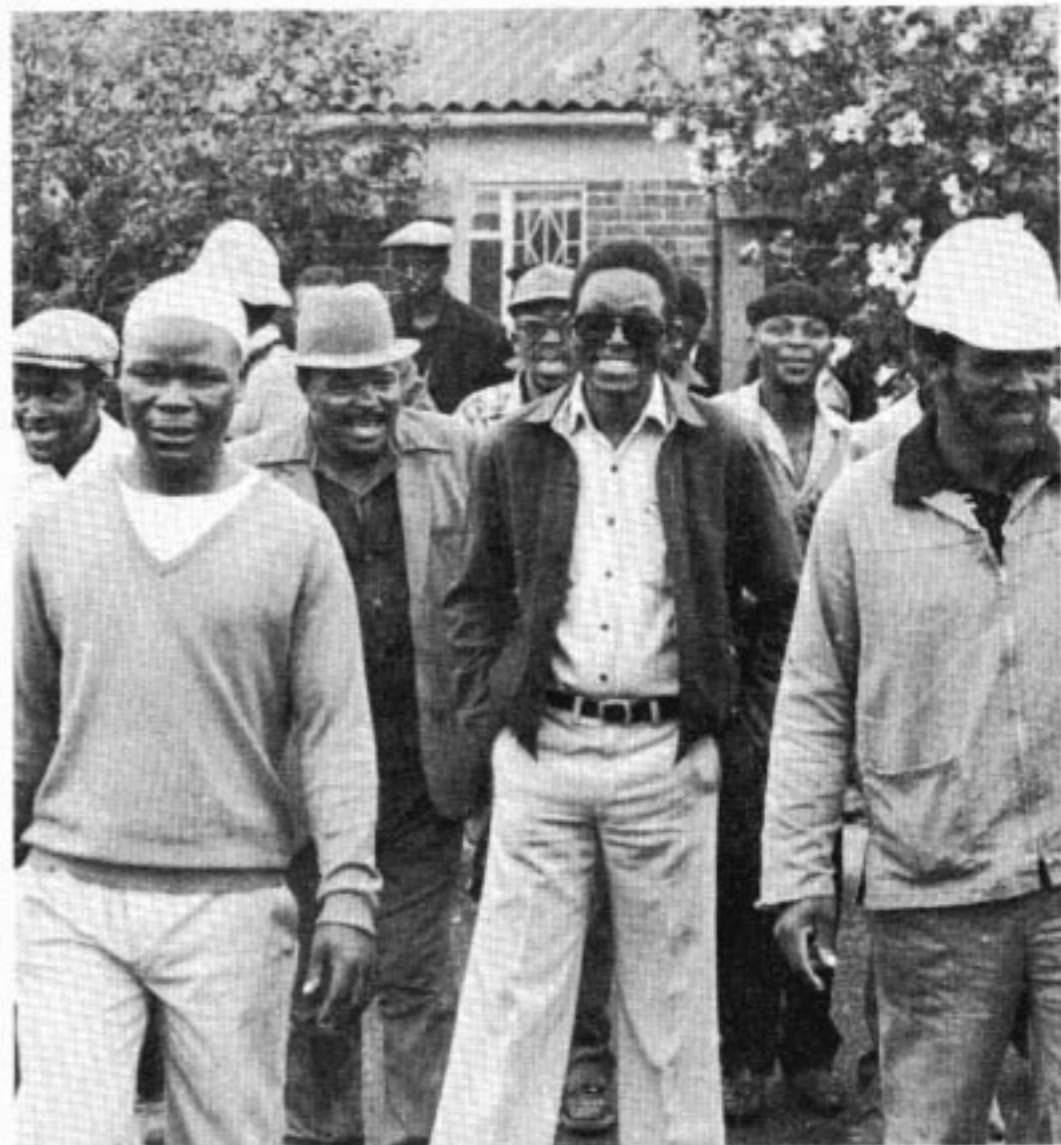
One representative was elected by workers of each of the 15 firms represented at the meeting. It was decided that each representative should see his boss at 7 a.m. on Monday for permission to attend a meeting between Karoo workers and management which was to be held at 8 a.m. on Monday.

At 7 a.m. on Monday March 30, all the Karoo workers, union officials, and the press gathered at the factory. In the next half hour, workers from 11 meat factories arrived. About 7.30 a.m. the workers were called into the office. Union officials, the Press and the workers from the other factories were excluded from the negotiations.

Two hours later, the workers emerged. They had won an outright victory. They had rejected management's request that each fill out an application form and insisted on unconditional re-instatement.

This was eventually agreed to by management who further agreed to pay workers a week's wages and to in future consult the workers' committee on all issues affecting the workers.

The strike, which lasted a week, confirmed the workers' right to be consulted on every issue affecting them. It also demonstrated to all workers in the meat industry that they could rely on support from other workers in their industry.



Karoo Meat Exchange workers emerge victorious from their meeting with management which ended their week-long strike.

The workers won an assurance that their elected committee would in future be consulted on dismissals, as its recognised constitution requires.

Their solidarity also enabled them to win a week's wages for the time they were on strike.

Security checks on workers

THE owners of Bordeaux, a posh block of flats in Sea Point, have ordered security staff to make late night checks on rooms occupied by 250 domestic workers, and to call the police to deal with what is described as 'the problem' of 'the illegal influx of non-Europeans into Bordeaux.'

One of the tenants of the beachfront block is a Cabinet Minister.

But while the tenants live in luxurious, spacious flats, domestic workers live in 2 x 2,3m cells, under conditions described by Ms Maggie Oewies of the Domestic Workers' Union the 'most horrible form of isolation anyone can go through.'

Grassroots has a copy of a letter the owners sent to all Bordeaux tenants. The letter deals with 'complaints regarding the illegal influx of non-Europeans into Bordeaux,' and says 'the problem appears to be the unlawful occupation and sharing of domestic servants' rooms by persons not employed in the building.'

Tenants are reminded of a paragraph, domestic workers may not have visitors, and the tenant 'shall be responsible for the behaviour of his servant' and has to prevent the worker 'loitering' in the building or nearby.

The landlord has the sole discretion to decide if the worker is a 'nuisance,' and has the power to order the madams and masters to fire the worker, after which the lease on the

workers' room can be cancelled.

Dismissed servants can never be re-employed at Bordeaux, according to the letter.

An investigation by Grassroots disclosed the misery of the 250 domestic workers, who exist to be available to their madams at all hours of the day and night.

The link between the workers and madams is a bell above the 'cell' doors. When it rings - day or night - the workers are needed.

The Domestic Workers' Union has taken up the fight for the workers, and the Sea Point region members are conducting a survey to decide what action to take.

Ms Oewies said she had in the past been ordered by the security guards to use the 'stinky and smelly... handymen's lift.'

Workers' poky rooms have only a globe, but no plugs for heaters. The cold, said a worker interviewed by Grassroots, 'gets into your bones and makes your feet feel like blocks of ice.'

Workers cannot have stoves in their rooms, and rely on their madams for food. A few have keys to their employers' flats, but can get hot water only during what madams consider 'reasonable hours.'

Some workers have no option but to wash clothes after midnight. This is because there is only one bathroom on each floor and it also serves as a workroom.

MANENBERG'S ON THE MOVE

The recently-formed Duinefontein Tenants Association (DTA) is not the first attempt by the people of Manenberg to organise themselves. 'And it won't be the last', said Mr Rushdi Majiet, a Shawco-based community worker. 'Already efforts are underway to set up a tenants association for the whole of Manenberg.'

Manenberg has a history of community action. Its first organization, The Manenberg and The Downs Tenants' Association, took up many basic issues during its short life.

Then in October 1973, the vigilante groups, better known as the 'Peacemakers' were formed in response to the serious crime problem at the time, when Manenberg was labelled the 'gangland' of Cape Town.

The initiative came from residents in Dorothy Court, and vigilante groups soon patrolled all of Manenberg. By 1974 there were about 50 vigilante groups, each with an average membership of 20. Their tasks were essentially to patrol streets or blocks at night, and the men were actively supported by women and children.

The peacemakers served as a stimulus to the formation of similar groups in other parts of Cape Town.

Mr Phillip Davids, former resident, actively involved in the peacemakers at one stage, summed up developments:

'The collective action of the people succeeded in containing the crime problem. However, matters did not end there. There was a growing awareness among residents that their tasks were greater than fighting crime, that crime was the result of social, political and economic factors - such as unemployment, the lack of amenities, education and so on. People saw the need for examining the broader problems of the community, the root causes of crime, and tackling them.'

It was in this climate that the Manenberg Residents' Movement, growing out of the vigilante groups, was formed in April 1974.

Its initial function was to co-ordinate and supervise the activities of the vigilante groups. 'Its role never really grew beyond this and a detailed plan of action drawn up for the movement was not well accepted by the people

and did not achieve fruition' said Mr Davids. 'In 1976 we saw the beginning of a decline in community activity in Manenberg. Interest and participation in the vigilante groups fell as a result of internal problems such as lack of control and police harassment.'

The need for a representative body remained. This emerged in a survey on a home creche conducted in Duinefontein by students from the Universities of Cape Town and the Western Cape.

'The survey uncovered other critical needs. Overcrowded and inadequate housing, with shared outside toilet facilities and no kitchen sinks, the fact that many houses had not been painted by the authorities for 15 years, inadequate pavements and street lighting, the absence of an adult library and the poor response by local authorities to our demands were just some of the problems', said Mrs Ellvera van Rensburg, a housewife and chairwoman of the DTA.

'In April 1979, Mr Majiet and other residents, including myself, began setting up little sub-committees or street committees,

which covered seven streets and 300 houses. Today there are 14 committees, some of them covering two streets' Mrs. van Rensburg said.

According to Mr Majiet, a major obstacle was the lack of organisational skill. A training programme was started to develop leadership skills and organisational ability. The people responded enthusiastically.'

In response to a general rent increase announced in March, 600 residents at a public meeting decided to act against the rent increases, and more important, the DTA was formally instated with the selection of executive members at the meeting.

The DTA operates on the basis of street committees, each represented at DTA monthly meetings by one leader.

Mr Majiet said residents realised the need to tackle individual problems in a communal way, and emphasis is being placed on this aspect. 'One of the functions of community organization is its educative role, hence the need to involve people in training programmes. The main task is to assist people in the area, these are

the basic guidelines by which the workers in DTA are directed.'

Mrs Joyce, the assistant chairwoman of the DTA, referred to the enthusiastic and encouraging response with which people received them. 'Street committee meetings are well attended. There is a lot of discussion, although I must admit conversation is not only confined to tenant issues. There is a lot to be learnt before setting up my street committee. I would run along to other meetings to see how things were done.'

Mrs Joyce, a widowed housewife with five school-going children to support, perhaps adequately sums up the spirit.

'I enjoy doing this kind of work and find fulfillment in helping others. It's about time people's eyes were opened and they stopped just accepting things lying down as they have been doing all these years. Take the schools boycott for instance, parents don't understand what's going on, they either discourage it or do nothing. People must be made aware. I would rather do this work for nothing than work for a boss.'

Theatre unused

A R16 000 amphitheatre - fitted with lighting and sound control boxes, sound reflecting ponds and a re-inforced grass stage - stands idle in Mitchell's Plain because there are

no change room or toilet facilities.

Students at some schools in the area have vowed not to use it until facilities are provided.

800 LAUNCH PLAIN'S FIFTH CIVIC ASSOCIATION

MORE than 800 residents in Lentegeur stood up in solidarity at a meeting last month to launch the fifth residents association in Mitchell's Plain.

Mothers cradling babies and men straight from work crowded the civic centre in the area to form the Lentegeur Ratepayers, Civic and Welfare Association.

The meeting, held on March 17, started off with residents citing their grievances and discussing problems in the area.

These included:

- The numerous shebeens in the area;
- The City Council's plan to rent homes;
- High rates;
- The drabness and bad construction of the houses; and
- The inadequate bus service.

The meeting decided

that the new association should immediately work towards improving conditions in the area.

One resident summed up the mood of the meeting when she said: 'We have moved from our shanties, council homes and rented rooms to build a better life in Mitchell's Plain and give our children a better future.'

'But we have failed to find it here'.

Residents said they had moved from the townships to get away from the 'unhealthy social environment' but had found that in Lentegeur conditions were not much different.

Shebeens were a major social problem in the area, they said.

A woman said she had moved to Lentegeur from Woodlands to own a house but now she was con-

sidering moving again because the council wanted to rent the houses in the area where she was staying.

One resident said he was late for work every morning and his employer had already threatened him with dismissal because of the hopeless bus service.

'How can I be punctual when the first busses arrive only at 7.10 in the morning', he said.

Another resident said a bus service to Lentegeur was urgently needed. 'Why must I walk to other suburbs to catch a bus', he said.

Another resident said she was shocked when she received a rate account of R111 after living in Lentegeur for less than a year. She said her rent

was R64 a month. 'I struggle to survive, sometimes there is not enough food to feed the family', she said.

A woman spoke out strongly against the drabness of the houses. 'Most of the houses resemble shanties. I can hear my neighbours when they're in their toilets', she said.

The huge turnout at the meeting was a result of intensive canvassing among residents by a steering committee headed by Mr. Neville Pake.

Mr. Pake was elected chairman, Mr. Nicky Peters, vice-chairman, Mrs. J. Pake, secretary, Mr. A. Fortune, treasurer and Mr. Christy van der Ross, assistant secretary.

Shocked Bridgetown residents were told at a meeting last month that houses at the proposed Golf Course housing scheme would not be made available to sub-tenants in the area.

They were also told the houses would not be for sale.

Present at the meeting, attended by about 300 people, were three city council officials and Mrs E Stott, chairman of council's housing committee.

About 774 economic and sub-economic houses, with rents at about R60 and R30 respectively, are to be built at the Golf Course.

Several residents at the meeting raised the problem of sub-tenants but were told that they would have to place their names on the existing waiting list for council houses or buy houses in other areas such as Mitchell's Plain.

Spokesman at the meeting said sub-tenants were mainly the married daughters and sons of

Golf course homes not for sale

Bridgetown residents who wanted to remain in the area and who could not afford to buy houses elsewhere.

Residents also raised the question about the sale of council houses in Bridgetown.

Mrs Stott said she was opposed to sale of houses which was intended to provide housing for the poor.

Those who could afford it could buy houses in Mitchell's Plain, she said.

A resident, however, said the people of Bridgetown had over the last 20 years paid

twice the original cost of the houses in rents. Why should they now buy at the Plain?

They rejected a claim by Mrs Stott that if the houses were sold to tenants it would be at prevailing market prices.

They said housing material and labour costs were much cheaper at the time of the construction of the houses.

Mrs Stott confirmed that council residents were paying for the maintenance of houses because the council could not afford it.

Heideveld body to fight 'infill' scheme

The newly-formed Heideveld and Vanguard Civic Association is to fight Cape Town City Council plans to build 'infill' homes in Heideveld.

The council has been enticing residents living in cramped accommodation to accept an infill scheme for the area.

The first public meeting of the association, on March 17 at the Heideveld Community Centre, heard that the city council was approaching tenants living in crowded conditions for permission to implement the infill scheme.

It was highly likely these tenants in need of additional accommodation would, in desperation, give their approval for the city council's scheme, residents said.

The infill scheme is the city council's way of dealing with the chronic shortage of accommodation. By this scheme, the city council hopes to build on any piece of vacant land between and around existing houses, or on top of existing homes.

The association set out its policy and aims at the meeting.

The basic policy is one of non-collaboration with people or associations which foster or promote segregation or discrimination based on race, colour, class or creed.

It aims to get the best muni-

cipal and sports facilities for the area, to promote through discussion a better understanding of the functioning of municipal and government departments, and to improve the quality of education in Heideveld and Vanguard.

The Association hopes to unify and strengthen the struggle to achieve municipal representation on a democratic basis, and will co-operate with any organisations with similar aims and interests.

The meeting which was not well attended adopted the Association's constitution.

One of the residents at the meeting, said police reservists patrolling at weekends were harassing innocent people.

He said one of his friends had been 'picked up' on a Saturday afternoon for no apparent reason, and was only released late that night.

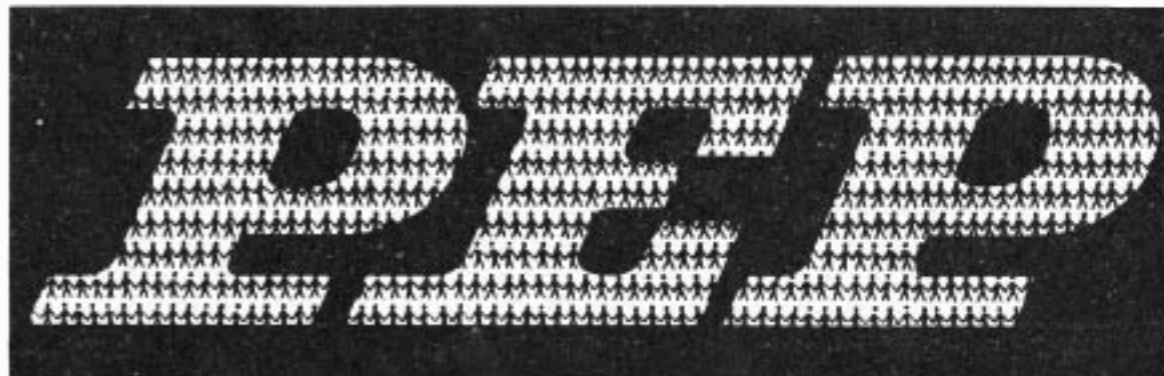
This seemed to be a frequent occurrence, he said.

Residents said some reservists had been drinking liquor on duty, and could not expect to enjoy the confidence of the public in the circumstances.

The association noted after the meeting that there were many important problems to be tackled immediately, but that participation from all the community was essential for any success.

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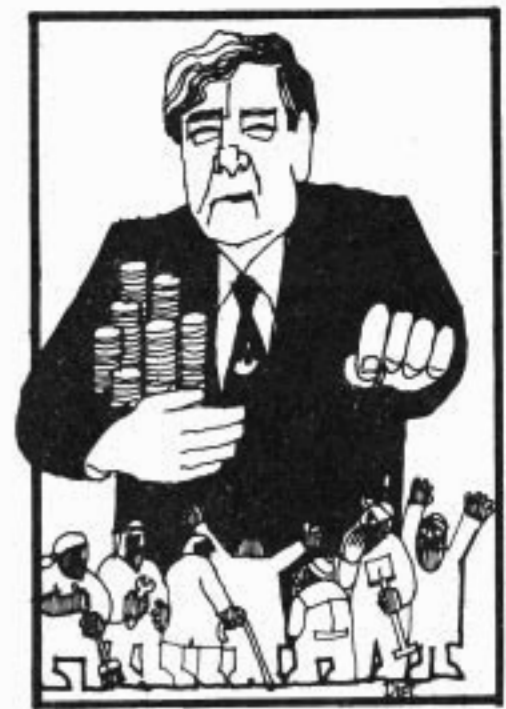


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The Budget - a big slap in the face



THE Minister of Finance, Senator Owen Horwood, said in his 'historic' Budget speech that there would be more money available for all people in the coming year.

The news of the Budget was received with mixed feelings, some people thought that it was a step in the right direction while others expected more benefits.

Many promises were made and people have been led to believe that their financial positions would improve.

What does the Budget mean for the average working class family and individuals? Will it improve your present conditions?

Let us first consider what a Government Budget is. All people have to budget their money, they have to live within their means. If you do not live within your means, you will be in financial difficulty. Your expenses on basic needs such as rent, food and clothing must not exceed your income.

A Government Budget operates on the same principle. A more important function of a Government's Budget is to strive for low levels of unemployment, inflation (meaning lower levels of price increases) and higher economic growth rates (meaning improving

the standard of living of the people.)

Just as you depend on your wages for income, a Government depends on taxation as a major means of income. For example, taxing businesses, individuals (pay-as-you-earn or PAYE deductions), sales tax and so on.

The income obtained is set aside to the different areas in the economy such as, defence and military expenses, stimulating the growth of businesses, education and housing.

Let us now turn to some specific areas of the Budget and how you will be affected by it. The following promises were made:

- Lower taxes. Your July take-home pay will be more.
- Pensions will increase. In October, so-called Whites will receive R12 more, R8 in the case of so-called Coloureds and Indians and R5 more in the case of Africans. In May there will be a bonus for pensioners. R30 for Whites; R24 for Coloureds and Indians and R18 for Africans. The Budget does not narrow the gap between the different racial groups.
- More money will be set aside for low-income housing, education and training for those

who are not White (Blacks) and the expansion of health services.

- As businesses are being stimulated, it is hoped that they will create more jobs and thereby lower unemployment.

Some of these promises will be fulfilled in the near future, while others such as, housing, jobs and education are long-term aims.

It is generally believed that the Government is giving with the one hand and taking with the other. While your take-home pay may be more and more jobs may be created, the average working class family will be hard-hit by the rising prices of essential goods.

- As from April 1, white bread will go up 5 cents costing you 31 cents. Brown bread will be up by 4 cents costing 20 cents.
- Railway tariffs or charges will go up and this will lead to rising prices of essential goods. For example, vegetables, meat, clothing and other basic needs.
- The lack of a further Government transport subsidy may lead to increases in travelling costs. For those people who have to travel long distances to work, this means more bus and train

fares.

Many people are unhappy with the Budget for many reasons. They are concerned about all the money which has been set aside for Defence. According to the Minister, this is because of the 'dangerous world in which we live'. The country has to be protected from its enemies.

Many people believe that if it had not been for apartheid and economic inequality in our country, the Defence Budget would not be so great. Basic human needs will have to be sacrificed for a large army.

It is also clear that the differences in social benefits like pensions between Whites and Blacks will remain the same. If there is so much money available in the country, why not close the gap?

Most people believe that it is a 'rich man's Budget' because the major benefits will be felt by the middle and higher income groups.

Most working class families do not earn enough to benefit from the tax cuts.

The extra money that you will be bringing home in July will be swallowed by the higher prices of essential goods like bread, vegetables, transport costs and

other goods.

The thinking behind the Budget is to encourage economic growth and stability. It is believed that as the economy grows, the wealth produced by the workers, will trickle down to the poor. In this way, the gap between the rich and poor will narrow.

But since there are very few benefits in the short-term for the average working class family, whether there is economic growth or not, their standard of living will basically be the same.

The middle and higher income groups will benefit more. In the long run, the gap between the rich and the poor will widen.

IN his paper Some Initial Thoughts on a Community Work Programme, former Cafda supervisor Mr. P J M Hancock said a community worker who knew how to collect facts would show what the real problems in a community were.

In her article in Grassroots last month, Lila Patel questioned whether community people could not collect such facts themselves.

Here another community worker discusses the issue.

Get facts to back your case

If something is wrong in a community and a group comes together to decide what to do about the problem, it is nearly always necessary to first have all the facts.

And when you are dealing with local authorities or other people who make decisions about communities, it is very important to have correct facts.

There are so many examples of groups of people who hastily decide to take action but do not have enough information, or the right information, to help them succeed in their efforts.

But how do community groups get these facts? Fact-finding is usually called research, and it is often believed that only 'the experts', or people with a university education from outside the community can gather these facts properly.

Such people are able to gather facts. But they may get facts about things they think are important, and not what the people in the area think are important.

They may not be available to help when they are needed and, too often, the information they gather is for their own purposes for a further degree, or a book. The facts may not be given back to the people themselves.

It has been shown, in this and other countries, that community people with no previous experience can gather information about themselves - information that they have used to help get better facilities or improve neighbourhood conditions.

One way people can do this is by carrying out a Community Self-survey.

The most important things about a Community Self-survey are that:

(Continued Page 14)

THE NEW WELFARE ACTS: WHAT DO THEY MEAN TO YOU

THE three 'Social Welfare Acts' as they are commonly referred to, the Fund-raising Act No. 107, the National Welfare Act No. 100 of 1978 and the Social and Associated Workers Act No. 110 of 1978, have been in operation since September, 1979. It is important that community organisations understand the new laws as they are directly affected by it.

Are you collecting money for your local club or organisation? If so, you may be breaking the Fund-raising Act and could be fined R1 500 or jailed for 3 years.

The Act states that no person shall collect money or anything that could be exchanged for money, unless you have permission to do so.

If you are collecting money for your organisation or club, that organisation should apply for a certificate from the Director of Fund-raising to raise money.

Your organisation or club, should complete the necessary forms to make such an application. The Director will study the organisation's constitution and aims.

If he is satisfied, among other things, that your aims will not endanger the security of the state, your organisation will then be registered to raise funds.

According to the Act, your organisation should keep a set of books on



its income and expenditures.

If your organisation collects money for reasons other than that which are stated in the constitution, it may lose its fund-raising certificate. For example, if the aims of your organisation are to provide sports facilities and recreation and it decides to raise money to support the workers who are on strike, it may be liable for inspection.

The Act makes allowances for certain exceptions:

- Your organisation is allowed to collect money, like sub-

scriptions, from its members. If your organisation decides not to apply for registration, it should have a large membership because subscriptions may be collected from the members.

- You may collect money for a religious organisation. Money which is collected during church services is legal, provided that it is used for religious aims.
- If any organisation receives money from another organisation to start a project and the two organi-

sations have the same aims, then the Act will not apply. This is because the two organisations made a contract, (there is a legal agreement between the two organisations).

The National Welfare Act provides for the establishment of the South African Welfare Council, Regional Welfare Boards and Committees. The Council, Boards and Committees will assist in starting welfare programmes and register welfare organisations.

The welfare council will advise the Minister on the prevention of problems, improving welfare services and welfare policies or laws. This welfare council will be chosen by the Minister. It is not clear whether this Council will be open to all races. Even if it is open, the Minister will choose persons who are prepared to work with the Government.

The Regional Welfare Boards will serve certain areas. There will be four regional boards in each area, one for each racial group - so-called Whites, Indians, Africans and Coloureds.

The different organisations and training centres for social workers will name persons from each racial group, the Minister will then choose the members of the regional boards from these lists.

The people from the communities will not

be able to choose their representatives. Here again, the Minister makes the decision.

The regional boards will study the problems in the townships, register welfare organisations, co-ordinate services, and report to the Minister. All the regional boards have not been formed.

A welfare organisation will be registered if the regional boards are satisfied, among other things, that the organisation will not be political.

A welfare organisation should also be registered as a fund-raising organisation and is expected to work within its constitution. If it does not do so, its registration certificate may be withdrawn. The organisation will be allowed to appeal.

Note that a fund-raising organisation, like sport and youth clubs, do not have to be registered as a welfare organisation. But a welfare organisation must first register as a fund-raising organisation and then as a welfare organisation.

The Social and Associated Workers Act provides for the formation of a Council for Social and Associated Workers. The council will register social and associated workers and serve to control the profession of social work.

Twelve members will serve on the council. The Minister of Social (Continued Page 14)



LOTUS RIVER field workers, from left, Mrs. Norma Gabriels, Mr. Aggy Peterson, and Mrs. Julie Jaffer, hard at work circulating letters to residents on the campaign against increased valuations.

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'We've had enough

'Lower rates and rents' - 'Lower rates and rents' - The call reverberates through the streets of Lotus River, Grassy Park and Belhar, where residents took mass action against the proposed increased valuations which they feared would lead to higher rates and rents.

More than a thousand residents joined hands on March 21 when a deputation from each area handed in objections to the Secretary of the Valuation Court.

A very worried secretary was left with the formidable task of sending valuations to each of the 1 200 residents to establish whether or not their objections were justified - and this has to happen before the valuation court sits on May 6.

..... and this is what we are doing about it.'

COLLECTIVE action in Lotus River started when the ratepayers and tenants association in the area called eight meetings to discuss the revaluations with the people.

Association's members went from door-to-door to inform residents of the meeting near their homes. Two meetings were held every night for four nights.

Residents filled school and church halls and heard how the association had been formed, what an increase in valuations would mean in the long term and the proposed plan of action.

At each meeting a member of the community spent out what the valuation meant.

After this, another member of the association outlined the action planned by the association.

The valuations had informed residents that they had until March 21 to raise individual objections.

This, the association said, would mean that only those people would have the opportunity to decrease their valuations - possibly as few as ten.

Instead, all residents wanted valuations to be maintained at the present level and the association discussed with the people the two possible courses of action - individual or collective objection.

Without much hesitation, every meeting opted for collective action. 'Wia or loe, we are going into this together' was the resolution at every meeting. And the very young association was given full support to represent all residents of the valuation court.

But there was only one snag. For the association to legally represent all residents, they had to become signed up members. And this was the task after each meeting.

Within a week, hundreds of residents had signed up and many offered to collect objection forms in their own neighbourhood.

The association also manned a garage in the area at a weekend and every night for a week to collect the forms of those who had not been able to attend the meetings.

To each of the forms collected, a list of objections compiled by the association and legally drawn up by the association's attorney, was attached.

Objections included:

- About 85 percent of the area had no proper tarred roads. Existing tarred roads were in poor condition. Gravel roads were potholed and a hazard. Roads were badly designed and often constructed above the floor level of houses.
- Sewers whether water-borne or otherwise, were either not provided or provided in such a way as to be disadvantageous to the owners and occupiers of properties.
- A negligible percentage of the entire local area was provided with storm-water facilities. The stormwater of the area was inadequate and flooding was caused during rainy seasons.
- Only some roads were provided with lighting which was inadequate.
- Disadvantages such as a high water table, constant dampness, seepage, strong winds and general uncleanliness, constantly damaged dwellings and detracted from the value of land and buildings.
- Three canals ran through the local area. These canals were not maintained and were infested with rats, were the breeding grounds for flies and mosquitoes, and were a safety and health hazard.
- A sewerage farm was near the area and exposed property owners and residents to its disadvantage.
- The two sluis - Princess and Zerkoni - exposed people to mosquitoes which bred in the sluis.
- Much undeveloped land was overgrown with weeds and bushes and had become dumping grounds for dirt and rubble.
- Housing scarcity caused by the Group Areas Act had disproportionately increased cost of land and housing.
- Divisional Council dwellings which were poorly constructed, caused problems such as overload on the electricity, water and sewerage systems.
- There was a lack of facilities and amenities such as hospitals, creches, schools, libraries, civic halls, recreation centres and areas, parks, postal services, as well as transport and shopping facilities.

The Belhar Ratepayers and Tenants Association did not adopt a wait and see attitude when their residents started receiving notices of the proposed increase in valuations.

The executive met on February 25 where it was decided to call a public meeting on March 6 and to put up posters informing members of the meeting.

The executive also approached the Cape Provincial Administration and got the chief valuator to explain to them what valuations were all about. This information they took to the public meeting.

At the public meeting - attended by more than 500 people - the association was given the mandate to go ahead and draw up a list of objections on behalf of all the residents of Belhar.

Volunteers at the meeting came forward to form a committee to help the executive establish grounds for the objections.

Two days after the public meeting, the volun-

teers met and divided into small groups, each group concentrating on one section of Belhar.

It was the task of each group to visit residents in their sections to discuss the objections.

All these groups met three days afterwards and pooled their findings.

These findings eventually constituted the list of objections attached to each form presented to the Secretary of the Valuation Court.

The list of objections drawn up by the association was placed in every letter box in Belhar with an explanatory letter calling on people to hand the objection forms they received from the authorities to the association.

The letter advised residents of the venues that had been made available as a collecting point for all forms. For three nights, sweepers of the association made themselves available every evening to collect forms.

On March 21 a Belhar

deputation armed with 500 forms met a Lotus River deputation at the court and together the two presented their objections.

Belhar requested an extension of time to make it possible for them to collect all outstanding forms. This was granted to both associations.

In Belhar, members went through the streets with a public address system informing residents of the extension.

For three nights, members of the association manned the school hall to collect outstanding forms.

By the end of the week the association handed in hundreds of additional forms.

Attached to all objection forms were the following grievances:

• Properties selected as a guide to the value of land in the area were confined to the original area bounded by Sikkorboois and Heide roads when the rest of the area had not been built.

• Houses were erected on 'recovered' land without any reinforcement in foundations causing cracks in walls within the first year.

• Roads were so poorly designed that the transportation company could not establish a bus route.

• Sewers were running between properties and because of local authority regulations which forbid erection over sewers proper utilisation of land is impossible.

• Poor construction of the Cluster Housing Scheme had caused dampness in walls, cold interiors, poor ventilation and internal flooding in winter.

• The frosting of hands for sidewalks and parks had caused loose sand which affected windows, floors, furniture and paint work of houses causing deterioration.

• The Municipal refuse dump was a health hazard which caused

obnoxious smells and brought flies and dirt.

• A R10 million goods yard being built opposite Belhar would increase noise and traffic.

• Proposed roads would cause traffic hazards and increased traffic flow.

• Belhar was situated in the DP Malan zone over the proposed expansion to accommodate Shabelleton, the noise level would increase considerably.

• Cost of erection values for the area when devaluated from 1978 to 1974 was only slightly higher than the valuations for 1966.

• Cost of land in all so-called 'Colonised' areas were artificially high.

Unlike Lotus River, Belhar residents have not decided on asking an attorney to represent all residents. They have yet to decide whether each resident will get an attorney or whether the association would do so.



WHAT THE COUNCIL IS AFTER

WHY does the Provincial Council want to revalue property? This is a question residents in Lotus River, Belhar, Grassy Park and other areas faced with valuation increases, have been asking.

At public meetings the possible reasons were explained. The people were told:

- The valuation of their property was what the Provincial Council thought their property should be worth. It did not affect the amount for which they could sell the property, a buyer would pay what it was worth to him.
- It was a nominal value on which rates were based. The higher the valuation, the more money they would have to pay out annually if the rate per rand remained the same.
- It seemed the highest rate per rand to which the Divisional Council could go was 5 cents in the rand. At 4.46% they were paying close to the maximum, and the second highest of all the local areas.
- Since they could not increase the rate, they were now increasing the valuation to get more money out of the people.
- The residents and their forefathers had paid rates and helped develop areas like Claremont and Day River from which they had been forced to leave under the Group Areas Act.

On how the rate per rand was decided, the people were told:

- The Divisional Council drew up a budget in which they estimated how much money they were going to spend in the area in the next year.
- To make up this money, they worked out a tax based on the total valuation of all properties in the area.
- If all valuations of the area amounted to R100 and the expenditure budget showed R10 was needed in 1980, then they would charge each person 10c in a rand to give them the R10. This 10c per rand is the rate per rand to be applied for the year.
- What most people did not know was that while the total rates received from property owners in 1980 was expected to be about R1.3 million, a further R282 000 was expected to be derived from the letting schemes.

On valuations, the people were told:

- A general valuation of each area had to be done every ten years. This was last done in 1969.
- During a valuation, certain properties

were used as a sample.

To arrive at a value, the valuator considered the building costs as at January 1974, the present cost of land on which houses is built, the market value (the prices people were prepared to pay for similar houses in the area).

The valuator made some allowance for the age of the building, conditions of surroundings and availability of services. He determined a value for the property which was broken down to the value of land, dwelling, stoop, garage and so on. All these sub-costs add up to the final property valuation.

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rates rents rates rents rates

'We've had enough

'Lower rates and rents' - 'Lower rates and rents' - The call reverberates through the streets of Lotus River, Grassy Park and Belhar, where residents took mass action against the proposed increased valuations which they feared would lead to higher rates and rents.

More than a thousand residents joined hands on March 21 when a deputation from each area handed in objections to the Secretary of the Valuation Court.

A very worried secretary was left with the formidable task of sending valuers to each of the 1 200 residents to establish whether or not their objections were justified - and this has to happen before the valuation court sits on May 6.

COLLECTIVE action in Lotus River started when the ratepayers and tenants association in the area called eight meetings to discuss the revaluations with the people.

Association's members went from door-to-door to inform residents of the meeting near their homes. Two meetings were held every night for four nights.

Residents filled school and church halls and heard how the association had been formed, what an increase in valuations would mean in the long term and the proposed plan of action.

At each meeting a member of the community spelt out what the valuation meant.

After this, another member of the association outlined the action planned by the association.

The valuers had informed residents that they had until March 21 to raise individual objections.

This, the association said, would mean that only some people would have the opportunity to decrease their valuations - possibly as few as ten.

Instead, all residents wanted valuations to be maintained at the present level and the association discussed with the people the two possible courses of action - individual or collective objection.

Without much hesitation, every meeting opted for collective action. 'Wia or loe, we are going into this together' was the resolution at every meeting. And the very young association was given full support to represent all residents of the valuation court.

But there was only one snag. For the association to legally represent all residents, they had to become signed up members. And this was the task after each meeting.

Within a week, hundreds of residents had signed up and many offered to collect objection forms in their own neighbourhood.

The association also managed a garage in the area at a weekend and every night for a week to collect the forms of those who had not been able to attend the meetings.

To each of the forms collected, a list of objections compiled by the association and legally drawn up by the association's attorney, was attached.

Objections included:

- About 85 percent of the area had no proper tarred roads. Existing tarred roads were in poor condition. Gravel roads were potholed and a hazard. Roads were badly designed and often constructed above the floor level of houses.

- Sewers whether water-borne or otherwise, were either not provided or provided in such a way as to be disadvantageous to the owners and occupiers of properties.

- A negligible percentage of the entire local area was provided with storm-water facilities. The stormwater of the area was inadequate and flooding was caused during rainy seasons.

- Only some roads were provided with lighting which was inadequate.

- Disadvantages such as a high water table, constant dampness, seepage, strong winds and general uncleanliness, constantly damaged dwellings and detracted from the value of land and buildings.

- Three canals ran through the local area. These canals were not maintained and were infested with rats, were the breeding grounds for flies and mosquitoes, and were a safety and health hazard.

- A sewerage farm was near the area and exposed property owners and residents to its disadvantage.
- The two dams - Princess and Zerkoni - exposed people to mosquitoes which bred in the water.

- Much undeveloped land was overgrown with weeds and bushes and had become dumping grounds for dirt and rubble.

- Housing scarcity caused by the Group Areas Act had disproportionately increased cost of land and housing.

- Divisional Council dwellings which were poorly constructed, caused problems such as overload on the electricity, water and sewerage systems.

- There was a lack of facilities and amenities such as hospitals, creches, schools, libraries, civic halls, recreation centres and areas, parks, postal services, as well as transport and shopping facilities.

The Belhar Ratepayers and Tenants Association did not adopt a wait and see attitude when their residents started receiving notices of the proposed increase in valuations.

The executive met on February 25 where it was decided to call a public meeting on March 6 and to put up posters informing members of the meeting.

The executive also approached the Cape Provincial Administration and got the chief valuator to explain to them what valuations were all about.

This information they took to the public meeting. At the public meeting - attended by more than 500 people - the association was given the mandate to go ahead and draw up a list of objections on behalf of all the residents of Belhar.

Volunteers at the meeting came forward to form a committee to help the executive establish grounds for the objections.

Two days after the public meeting, the volun-

teers met and divided into small groups, each group concentrating on one section of Belhar.

It was the task of each group to visit residents in their sections to discuss the objections.

All these groups met three days afterwards and pooled their findings.

These findings eventually constituted the list of objections attached to each form presented to the Secretary of the Valuation Court.

The list of objections drawn up by the association was placed in every letter box in Belhar with an explanatory letter calling on people to hand the objection forms they received from the authorities to the association.

The letter advised residents of the venues that had been made available as a collecting point for all forms. For three nights, sweepers of the association made themselves available every evening to collect forms.

On March 21 a Belhar

deputation armed with 500 forms met a Lotus River deputation at the court and together the two presented their objections.

Belhar requested an extension of time to make it possible for them to collect all outstanding forms. This was granted to both associations.

In Belhar, members went through the streets with a public address system informing residents of the extension.

For three nights, members of the association canvassed the school hall to collect outstanding forms.

By the end of the week the association handed in hundreds of additional forms.

Attached to all objection forms were the following grievances:

- Properties selected as a guide to the value of land in the area were confined to the original area bounded by Sikkorboon and Heide roads when the rest of the area had not been built.

- Houses were erected on 'recovered' land without any reinforcement in foundations causing cracks in walls within the first year.

- Roads were so poorly designed that the transportation company could not establish a bus route.

- Sewers were running between properties and because of local authority regulations which forbid erection over sewers proper siting of land is impossible.

- Poor construction of the Cluster Housing Scheme had caused dampness in walls, cold interiors, poor ventilation and internal flooding in winter.

- The flooring of hands for sidewalks and paths had caused loose sand which affected windows, doors, furniture and paint work of houses causing deterioration.

- The Municipal refuse dump was a health hazard which caused

- obnoxious smells and brought flies and dirt.

- A R10 million goods yard being built opposite Belhar would increase noise and traffic.

- Proposed roads would cause traffic hazards and increased traffic flow.

- Belhar was situated in the DP Malan zone overripe and with the proposed expansion to accommodate Shalibon, the noise level would increase considerably.

- Cost of erection values for the area when devaluated from 1978 to 1974 was only slightly higher than the valuations for 1966.

- Cost of land in all so-called 'Coloured' areas were artificially high.

- Unlike Lotus River, Belhar residents have not decided on asking an attorney to represent all residents. They have yet to decide whether each resident will get an attorney or whether the association would do so.

- A general valuation of each area had to be done every ten years. This was last done in 1969.

- During a valuation, certain properties



WHAT THE COUNCIL IS AFTER

WHY does the Provincial Council want to revalue property? This is a question residents in Lotus River, Belhar, Grassy Park and other areas faced with valuation increases, have been asking.

At public meetings the possible reasons were explained. The people were told:

- The valuation of their property was what the Provincial Council thought their property should be worth. It did not affect the amount for which they could sell the property, a buyer would pay what it was worth to him.
- It was a nominal value on which rates were based. The higher the valuation, the more money they would have to pay out annually if the rate per rand remained the same.
- It seemed the highest rate per rand to which the Divisional Council could go was 5 cents in the rand. At 4.46% they were paying close to the maximum, and the second highest of all the local areas.
- Since they could not increase the rate, they were now increasing the valuation to get more money out of the people.
- The residents and their forefathers had paid rates and helped develop areas like Claremont and Day River from which they had been forced to leave under the Group Areas Act.

were used as a sample.

- To arrive at a value, the valuator considered the building costs as at January 1974, the present cost of land on which houses is built, the market value (the prices people were prepared to pay for similar houses in the area).

- The valuator made some allowance for the age of the building, conditions of surroundings and availability of services.
- He determined a value for the property which was broken down to the value of land, dwelling, stoop, garage and so on. All these sub-costs add up to the final property valuation.

On how the rate per rand was decided, the people were told:

- The Divisional Council drew up a budget in which they estimated how much money they were going to spend in the area in the next year.

- To make up this money, they worked out a tax based on the total valuation of all properties in the area.

- If all valuations of the area amounted to R100 and the expenditure budget showed R10 was needed in 1980, then they would charge each person 10c in a rand to give them the R10. This 10c per rand is the rate per rand to be applied for the year.

- What most people did not know was that while the total rates received from property owners in 1980 was expected to be about R1.3 million, a further R282 000 was expected to be derived from the letting schemes.

- On valuations, the people were told:

- A general valuation of each area had to be done every ten years. This was last done in 1969.

- During a valuation, certain properties

..... and this is what we are doing about it.'

ADVICE BUREAU

Milk won't help poisoning

Dear Grassroots,
I started work in a battery factory last year. Every morning we get half a liter of milk to drink. I was surprised at this, so I asked the supervisor why we were given this milk. He and some of the other workers said that the milk will stop us getting sick from the work we do in the factory.
Why is the employer so worried the work

making us sick that he gives us milk every day? Now I am worried myself. Can we get sick from this work? Can milk stop us getting sick?
Mr. Mtinkulu
Guguletu

Many employers who own factories where the work is dangerous and can make the workers sick, give them milk daily. Sometimes workers also ask for milk because they think it will stop them getting

sick.
This is not true. Milk is very good food but it will not stop sickness caused by dust or poisons at work.

It is cheaper to give workers milk every day than to check their health from time to time. The main danger in your factory is lead poisoning. It is more expensive to get a doctor to test workers for lead poisoning.

These tests can tell if workers are being

poisoned by taking in too much lead. The tests can tell very early making it possible to take them away from the work that is poisoning them before they get sick.

It is also more expensive for the employers to make sure that workers are not exposed to so much lead at work that they get sick.

No amount of milk will keep you from getting sick if you are getting too much lead in your bodies.



Notice pay a must

Dear Grassroots
Last week I arrived at work an hour late and the boss fired me. He did not give me any notice pay. Is he allowed to do this?
Mrs Brown
Simonstown

In terms of the law a worker who often comes to work late and who has been warned by the boss can be fired but must be given notice.

If your factory is covered by an Industrial Council Act or a Wage Determination, you will find out how much notice you should be given in these laws.

If not then if you were paid monthly you must be given one month's notice. If you were paid weekly but your wages were worked out by the hour then you are only entitled to one days notice.

The bosses can give you money instead of getting you to work out your notice.

So in your case you can claim notice pay from your boss. If he refuses, then you can claim this money by taking him to court.

At the moment there are very few cases where the law says dismissals are illegal. There are also many cases where the bosses do not have to give the workers notice or notice pay. So it is easy for the bosses to avoid giving notice pay, by not giving the real reasons for firing workers.

Only in factories where the workers are well organised and where the factory committee has demanded the right to be consulted when the boss wants to fire a worker, will it be possible for the workers interests to be protected.

Work accidents: fund pays

Dear Grassroots,
I had an accident at work last September. The tops of two of my fingers were cut off by a machine and I was off work for three months. During that time I received only half my wages for the first month and then they said that there was no more money. The doctor who treated me filled in a form. He said it was for accident money but so far I have not received a cent. Is there anything I can do to get my money quickly? Can

you please advise me?
Joan Carelse
Hanover Park

The Workmen's Compensation Insurance Fund covers the medical expenses, the time lost from work and permanent disability that a worker suffers as a result of an accident at work.

It is the duty of the employer to inform the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner of any accident at work. The doctor also sends in his medical report.

It usually takes about three to four months

before a claim is assessed. A cheque is usually sent to the employer.

In your case, the employer advanced some money to you while you were laid off. You should now find out from the firm if your cheque has arrived. Only you are entitled to sign behind the cheque for it to be cashed. Look at the amount that the cheque is for.

The employer usually deducts the money that he advanced to you while you were off from work. Work out for yourself what this amount was. If the cheque is for more than

this amount you must get the balance.

If you do not get a satisfactory answer from your firm you can query the matter yourself. Write to the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner, P O Box 955, Pretoria 0001.

Furnish them with the following information immediately to avoid further delay:-

The name and address of the firm; your name and address; how long you have worked at the firm; your wages (weekly or monthly); to whom you reported the accident at work; the name of the doctor who examined you; how long you were absent from work; the nature of the accident; the nature of your complaint (in your case you have not yet received any money).

Wash hands to avoid worms

Dear Grassroots,
My neighbour says children get worms from eating bread. Is this true? Can you please tell me how to treat children with worms?
Mrs Thomas
Lotus River

worms inside the child's bowel. The worms live on the food that the child eats.

If the sewage is not disposed of properly for example, if the soil is used as a toilet, others may also become infected with worms.

Vegetables grown in that soil may also spread worm eggs if the vegetables are not washed properly.

Children with worms have to be treated with worm syrup which you can get from your local clinic.

The most important thing is clearly prevention which depends on hygiene such as handwashing and proper disposal of sewage. This will prevent the swallowing of the worm eggs.

Many people believe that children get worms from eating bread. This is not true.

Worms hatch from worm eggs that are mostly found in the soil. Children play in the sand and get the worm eggs on their hands.

If a child does not wash his hands before he eats, or sucks on his fingers, he swallows the eggs.

The eggs grow into

Insist on one wage

Dear Grassroots,
Last week I broke some of the products I am involved in making in my factory. Now the manager says he is going to take off my production bonus every week until these products are paid off. If he does this, I will be in trouble because I really need my bonus to come out on my week's money. Can he really do this?
Mrs Gabriels Factreton

By law your employer is quite entitled to penalise you in this way if he wishes. He can even penalise you by taking off from your attendance bonus (even if your attendance has been fine).

Employers are not allowed in terms of the law to make deductions from workers' basic wages. But they can pay out or withhold bonuses as they please.

The only way to

prevent the use of the bonuses to punish workers, is to insist on a single wage which is enough to come out on and which cannot be reduced or taken away.

In most factories the decisions about wages rest completely with the employers, and workers who protest about individual unfairnesses can be ignored or dismissed.

The only way in which workers can have a say in these matters is to be organised.

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ADVICE BUREAU

Cement workers must get checks

Dear Grassroots,
My chest is bad. I cough especially when I work. I have been employed for 5 years in a cement factory. When I go to the hospital the doctor says I have bronchitis and gives me pills. They don't help. What can I do?
Mr. Samuels
Netreg

Your workplace is most probably dusty. This dust is probably damaging your lungs. It seems that the workers' health is not checked by doctors at your factory.

The doctors at the hospital see you as a patient, not a cement worker. They don't see your work causing your cough. They treat you for the common chest complaints people get like bronchitis, pneumonia or tuberculosis (TB).

If they know the work causes your bad chest they will most probably not tell you, nor take up the matter with your employer.

Cement making is a specified activity under the Factories Act. This means workers must have health checks before starting the job. They can also be examined from time to time when the Chief Factory Inspector thinks it necessary. The em-

ployer must pay for these examinations.

In many cases these health checks are not done. If you go along to the Labour Department to complain or ask for examinations which the law says you can have, you may be ignored.

Many of the older workers and those who have worked a long time probably have the same problem. If all the workers in the factory ask for these

health checks together it will be more difficult for the Labour Department or your employer to ignore you.

If there is also a union in your industry it may be possible for you to talk about your experiences with workers from other factories.

Through the union it may be possible to get better working conditions at work, including health checks and less dusty working conditions.

Take your leave when it is due

Dear Grassroots,

I have been working as a domestic worker for the past four years without any leave besides getting off on Christmas, Boxing Day and New Year. I have now approached my boss to compensate me for the holidays and leave that I did not get. My employer was adamant that she does not owe me any money for leave. Please tell me what are my rights and what I can do to get my money?

Miss Claasens
Sea Point

Leave pay is calculated on the period

of leave as agreed to mutually between the boss and worker when the boss enters a contract with the worker.

In the case of domestic workers this type of contract is mostly done verbally.

It is important for the worker to make sure that at the end of one year's work that she takes her leave.

If the boss starts your leave on March 1st 1980 and you resume work duties on March 15th you should receive a full month's salary at the end of March.

The employer does not have to pay the worker any other money

If he had no blood relatives the estate will go to the Guardians Fund which is administered by the Master of the Supreme Court.

In your case, since your children are still minors, you are entitled to claim maintenance for them against your husband's estate.

You must draw up a claim for maintenance until the children reach the age of at least 18 years and put a claim for maintenance for each child for the total period.

Wills are important for Muslim couples

Dear Grassroots,
I was married to my husband by Muslim rites. He died three months ago without making a will. We have three minor children. All are at school. I have now been told the 'Master' will claim the house in which we are staying. I'm very worried. Can you advise me?
Mrs Behardien
Hanover Park

It is very important that when a couple marry by Muslim rites or by any other religious rites the husband makes a will or the couple marry in court.

In the eyes of the law the children born of such a religious union are regarded as 'illegitimate' and they do not inherit from the father unless he makes a will in which he appoints his children as heirs.

The wife also does not inherit from her husband except through his will.

Unfortunately, in your case neither you

nor your children will inherit from your husband's estate. Your late husband's parents, if they are still alive, will inherit provided they are legally married.

If not, then only his mother will inherit. If he had no parents, his brothers and sisters will inherit.

If he had no brothers and sisters, his nearest blood relatives will inherit.



How to say No to second helpings

besides the full months pay. Other money given is considered a bonus or gratis payment.

Many workers believe that if they work for two or three years without taking leave, they can take accumulative leave for the two or three years, or demand compensation in money.

This is not so unless agreed on by both parties.

You forfeit all benefits for not taking leave when your leave was due.

Send in your query

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.

Extra weight bad for heart

Dear Grassroots,
Last week I felt dizzy and was sent home from work. My doctor says I have high blood pressure and he wants me to lose 20 kilograms. Can you recommend a diet that I will be able to afford?

Mr A Allie
Bonteheuvel

It is very important for you to lose weight because extra weight means an added burden to your heart. You will need will-power to change some of your eating habits.

Dieting does not mean extra cost. In fact, you should be able to save money by cutting down on luxury foods.

Try and keep to these simple rules:

- Eat less. Learn to say no to second helpings.
- Eat three meals a day. Breakfast is important to prevent a hungry feeling at

mid-morning.
• Cut out sweet foods such as sugar, jam, sweets, cakes, deserts, cold drinks and condensed milk.

• Cut out fatty foods. Fat known as cholesterol forms a coating inside your veins. This may push your blood pressure up even higher.

• Eat less starchy foods. You are allowed one portion of starch at each meal. One slice of brown bread, or half cup of cereal or half cup of cooked rice or one medium potato.

• Eat as much raw or cooked vegetables as you want to.

• Try to have at least one of the following protein foods at each meal: cheese, lean meat, poultry or fish, beans, peas or lentils, skim milk. You may have 2 to 3 eggs a week.

Good luck with your slimming!

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ADVICE BUREAU

See your doctor about breast lumps

Dear Grassroots

Last night I felt a swelling in my breast. I am very worried but I am too scared to go to the doctor. Can this be cancer? Can you please tell me what I should do?

Mrs Bowa
Rylands Estate

I can understand that you are worried because breast lumps are not normal.

Not all breast lumps are cancer, though there are many other causes. These include harmless growths such as cysts, fat lumps and so on.

That is why you should go to your doctor as soon as possible. He will examine you and send you for special tests.

Only a doctor can tell what the cause of your lump is. Don't

be fooled by those who claim they can cure your breast lump with medicines, ointments or magic - there are no such cures.

Whatever the cause of your lump is, only the doctor can treat you.

A lump in the breast is easy to feel and diagnosis can be made early and treatment

started.

So a lump should not be ignored. In fact, even healthy women should make it a habit to feel their breasts regularly, or go to their doctor at least once a year for a complete check-up.

Don't hesitate any longer - the sooner you go for the examination the better.



How to feel for lumps

Dear Grassroots,

My husband has been jailed for 12 months on a charge of theft. He has served four months and I want to get him out on parole. How do I go about getting him out?

Mrs G Quba
Guguletu

A prisoner is usually entitled to a remission of sentence on good conduct and behaviour

How to apply for parole

for certain types of offences which include theft.

The remission is normally one-third of his term of imprisonment. In addition he can be released on parole after he has served half his imprisonment.

However, if his im-

prisonment is less than four months, he can be released on parole immediately, except in cases of certain crimes such as escaping from custody.

A prisoner will be released on parole only if he can be placed in employment im-

mediately.

In your husband's case, he can be released on parole after serving six months of his sentence.

But you can start now with the application for your husband's release on parole.

You should contact Nicro at Zonnebloem Cottage, Cambridge Street, Woodstock. They will assist you.

Law has changed divorce

Dear Grassroots,

My husband and I are now married for 15 years. We always argue. I cannot stand it anymore. I would like to go in for legal separation. How do I go about it?

Mrs Hendricks
Bonteheuwel

The whole question of divorce and judicial separation has been changed. The law has now done away with judicial separation and you therefore cannot

obtain a legal separation.

There is, however, nothing preventing you and your husband agreeing to a separation.

The question of divorce has also been changed substantially.

Before the new Divorce Act came into operation, the main grounds for a divorce were desertion and adultery.

It is no longer the case. Now the main ground is the complete break-down of the marriage.

In other words, the marriage has to reach such a state that there is no prospect of reconciliation.

The court will accept that the marriage has broken down if the parties have lived apart for at least a year or one of the parties has committed adultery or been declared a habitual criminal.

The other ground is mental illness where a party has been committed to a mental institution and has been in an institution for

at least two years.

Previously only the innocent party could approach the court for a divorce. It is no longer the case.

Now any party can approach the court whether he or she is the cause of the break-down of the marriage or not, except in the case of adultery or where a person has been declared a habitual criminal, in which case only the innocent party can approach the court for a divorce.

ART

Shy genius Bongani

BONGANI SHANGE, resident artist at the Community Arts Project, Mowbray, is a very private person. One is almost surprised that a slim and broad-shouldered ebony giant of six-foot-four could be so shy, almost to the point of diffidence. It's only when you mention the word 'art' that he opens up and words

flow softly. Now and then he raises his voice to stress a point.

Art is his whole being and he is wrapped up in its creation. Music of all sorts he finds a necessary ingredient. It inspires him to create on paper what he sees around him, and invariably his subjects are people.

Bongani might not

readily open up towards adults but he displays complete empathy with children who gathered around him while the interview was done.

He did not attend formal art classes as art is not a subject taught at African schools but he was always obsessed with creating pictures.

Luckily for Bongani, he has an uncle who is an artist whose fame has spread beyond the borders of South Africa. Sydney Khumalo is a sculpture of distinction as well as painter whose works are sought all over. He was the main inspiration for a youthful Bongani.

Showing his proficiency in graphic works, Bongani has now moved into sculpture.

He has exhibited his works in group showings in Durban and Pretoria, and had a one-man show in Cape Town.

Rylac out to promote art

RAVENSMEAD youth is on the move. A new dynamic Youth Movement, Ravensmead Youth Library Action Committee (Rylac), was formed last year to stimulate cultural activities in the area.

The committee's aim is to encourage art through the formation of workshops and to cater for the cultural needs of the youth.

Since the formation of Rylac, five workshops have been formed. They are the Debating Society organised by Mr Charles Wilson, Children's Drama Group under the guidance of Jeannie Baatjies, Modern Jazz Group under Bonita Steinberg, Creative Dance and Movement headed by Marinda Rhoda, and the People's Theatre Group under Leonard Koza.

Rylac first went public in February at Florida Park when the sports board held a fun fair.

The modern jazz group put up a special performance and the people's theatre group staged a play, - *Ou Twaalf Hulle* - written by Leonard Koza and co-directed by Jeannie Baatjies.

Workshops in music, photography, filming, and creating writing are planned.

BUILDING A COMMUNITY THEATRE

EVERY Saturday morning, enthusiastic schoolgirls from Salt River, Langa, Rosebank, Ottery, Lotus River, Steenberg, Crawford, Silvertown and Penate Estate travel to Mowbray by bus and train, by car and on foot.

They converge on the Community Arts Project Centre for the weekly drama group sessions, where they act out sketches of real life situations.

That they are prepared to travel such vast distances to the sessions shows the vitality of the drama group. It also shows how desperately young people need social facilities nearer their homes.

Guided by their teacher, who selects a

theme from everyday experience, the budding actresses, aged between six and 15, chose their parts and work out their lines on their own.

These girls are building community theatre and the experience is valuable both to themselves and the community.

As they told Grassroots after recently acting out sketches on the theme of stealing: 'We learn to work together. We learn to communicate and express our feelings. We learn to listen and to concentrate. We learn to imagine.'

And what they learnt after acting out the stealing sketches: 'Speak the truth, because it will come out.'

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A relevant journal

LITSOC, the Literary Society of the University of the Western Cape, has produced this year's first issue of *Grondstof*, a quarterly literary journal.

The journal's editorial reflects relevant issues such as the pass system, strike action, and relates that 'today the task of the artist is to build a society free of exploitation,

discrimination and oppression'.

The issue contains book reviews, an article by Professor Ngugi wa Thiongo on the problem of the African writer. Professor Ngugi insists on writing his works in the language of his country instead of English.

This is because such works would then be more readily accepted

by the writer's countrymen whereas the works written in English would only find favour in an elitist group.

The poems and story by students show that they are committed writers and aware of the ills in their society. They don't see themselves as artists engaged in producing art for art's sake. The ivory tower is not their domain.

Crossroads concerned about future

THE people of Crossroads are becoming increasingly concerned about the implications of 'reprieve' granted to them by the Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof, in April last year.

The only results they have seen so far are the take-over of the squatter camp by the Western Cape Administration Board, the proclamation of Crossroads as an urban township and endless meetings with the Board, where, they claim, they are treated like 'children' and their objections and queries brushed aside.

At a general meeting held in Crossroads at the end of March, the people expressed their extreme dissatisfaction with the Administration Board and requested a meeting with Dr Koornhof so that they could present their grievances to him.

The tension between the Administration Board and the Crossroads Executive became clear at a meeting on April 9 when the Executive walked out after a dispute over where residents should pay their site rentals. From the start of the meeting, members of the Executive made it clear that they had had enough of the Administration Board taking decisions about Crossroads and informing them about it afterwards.

It seems that they chose the issue of where rentals should be paid to confront the Board because it was an issue which affected every resident. It was a controversial issue because residents have always paid their rents at the Divisional Council offices right across the road from the squatter camp. However, a notice was distributed

in Crossroads telling them that as from April 3, the date when it was proclaimed a township and the Administration Board took control, they would have to pay their rents at the Board offices in Nyanga East.

This issue has still not been resolved. Board Officials have promised to investigate the possibility of putting up an office in Crossroads and it seems very unlikely that the Executive will agree to any compromise.

Members of the Executive have expressed the view that to retain any bargaining power in their fight to remain in the Western Cape, they should remain where they are, at the present Crossroads. Once they have split up and some granted houses in the new township, they will have lost the unity and solidarity which has always been their strength.



Digging in — but what does the future hold?

Workers treated harshly

HARSH and spiteful treatment of workers by their bosses was common to two labour disputes — at a Woodstock samoosa factory and a Golden Acre restaurant.

Another similarity, if the bosses are to be believed, was the active part taken against the workers by the local Department of Manpower Utilisation.

At the Colonial Halaal samoosa factory, three young women recruited from the country claimed they worked 76 hours a week for about R10. They lived with a fourth woman in one room at the home of their employers, Mr and Mrs M. Ahmed.

They left after one of them, struggling to support her four children in Calvinia on R50 a month, was refused an increase.

The Food and Canning Workers' Union took up the women's cause and Mr Ahmed signed an agreement to pay R906, shared among them according to length of service.

First instalment of R100 for each woman was due at the end of last month, but Mr Ahmed failed to pay because, he says, he was advised against it by the Department of Manpower.

Exposure in the Press helped him to overcome his respect for this advice. But although he has paid

the first instalment, the Ahmed family is unrepentant.

'There was no slave-driving. We never exploited anyone. The girls were happy here', they say.

And they have already taken on another three girls from Calvinia — this time at R70 a month, less board and lodging.

However, in terms of the Industrial Council agreement for the bakery and confectionary industry, now being enforced on samoosa factories, Mr Ahmed will have to pay his samoosa makers R54,50 a week.

At Peckers Restaurant in the Golden Acre, 19 women from Nyanga and Guguletu walked out of their jobs when management told them they could no longer have two meals a day.

Workers were warned that anyone having two meals would be reported to the police for theft.

Free meals were a condition of employment of the women, however, and they walked out to complain to the Department of Manpower Utilisation. On their return, they were sacked.

The women got no opportunity to work a week's notice but management deducted a week's pay in lieu of notice and R1,30 for food from final pay packets — handed to the women at Caledon Square police station.

Managing director, Miss Pat Pryce-Fitchen said the deductions had been made on the advice of the Department of Manpower. Legal action, financed by the Western Province branch of the Federation of South African Trade Unions (Fosatu), is underway to recover the money from Peckers.

Owners of Colonial Halaal and the management of Peckers confessed ignorance of the regulations governing the employment of their workers.

Officials of the department denied advising Mr Ahmed not to pay his ex-employees and declined to comment on the Peckers dispute.

The Kensington and Facticeon Ratepayers' and Tenants' Association has expelled members of the Kensington Management Committee who agreed to a rates increase and promoted an infill scheme for the area.

It was also discovered that the committee had agreed to the scheme for an additional 231 rented dwellings to be built in the area.

The meeting felt these decisions went against the wishes of residents. Also, residents at the meeting pointed out that although members of the management committee claimed to attend meetings of the association in their capacity as ratepayers, their being on the committee was contrary to the aims of the association.

The association's constitution states that any member directly involved in municipal affairs has to be guided by the association.

Kensington kicks out 'stooge' body

This has not been the case over the years — with the rates increase, the infill scheme and proposals for a rented scheme — no guidance was sought from the association and the residents which the association represented.

Without consulting the residents, the management committee had agreed to 12½ percent increase in rates.

"We agreed under protest," was the comment of a member, Mr C Brittain, when the meeting demanded an explanation.

Ninety-six percent of householders in

Facticeon last year petitioned against the proposed infill scheme. Residents rejected the scheme. They believed amenities in the area were already insufficient, and that an influx of people without the additional amenities would increase crime. The density of the area was already much higher than originally intended, they believed.

Residents claimed members of the management committee had told them of the advantages of the infill scheme. When management committee member, Mr Apollis

was questioned about this, he walked out of the Ratepayers' meeting.

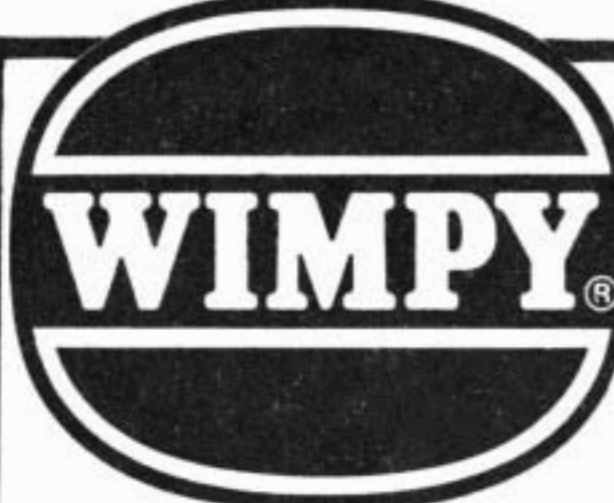
There is a strong desire in Facticeon for the council to sell the rented dwellings to tenants.

The association brought this to the attention of the council's housing committee and urged the council to develop 71 plots in the area for home ownership.

But the management committee advised the council to build 231 rented dwellings on the 71 plots. This once again went against the wishes of residents.

All these acts have shown the extent to which the management committee will work against our interests, said a resident after the meeting.

With the management committee out of way, the association is fighting for improved conditions for the area. The work goes on.



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District Six advice office helps 100 evicted families

THE District Six Advice Office has dealt with more than 100 eviction cases since its inception in October last year.

The advice office is run on a voluntary basis by a city lawyer assisted by a qualified social worker, members of the Black Sash, and the local community.

Sessions are held every Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Holy Cross Centre, Nile Street.

The advice office is essentially a self-help venture which aims to inform people of their rights when they are served with eviction orders or told to get out of their houses by Government officials.

The director of the advice office, Mr Lawrence Nowosenetz, said that one of the main functions of the counselling was to ensure that people were provided with reason-

able alternative housing before they were evicted.

But an equally important part of our counselling is to build up the morale of the people and restore their will to want to help themselves.

The people have been completely stripped of their rights. They are a dejected people and have an abject fear for the authorities.

'Psychological counselling aimed at restoring their human dignity is an important part of our work,' he said.

• Residents wanting to get in touch with the advice office can telephone 22-0341.

Dock workers: new wage

THE recently recognised workers' committee representing Cape Town's stevedores this month negotiated a new wage agreement with their bosses.

Final acceptance depends on the outcome of current negotiations on disciplinary and re-trenchment procedures.

'The new guaranteed minimum wage of R48,20 for four days' work represents a substantial increase during

the slack season', said a spokesman for the Western Province General Workers' Union.

'But it would obviously be undermined by large-scale retrenchments in that period'.

The new wage deal, effective from April 1 to the end of the year, also includes an increase in the daily cargo allowance, a nine percent increase in shift allowance to R5, and a 50 percent increase in

holiday pay to R96,40.

It is the first recognition, the workers won after a day's work stoppage in December ended management's stubborn refusal to have anything to do with the unregistered union.

In March the constitution of the stevedore's committee was accepted by the local and national employers' bodies - the Cape Town Stevedores' Association and the South

African Stevedoring Council.

The constitution allows the union to attend meetings with management and gives the union control of all committee training programmes and facilities.

A union spokesman hailed the agreement as a breakthrough, considering the opposition of the Wiehahn Commission to the unregistered trade union.

Welfare Acts

(From Page 7)

Welfare and Pensions will choose three members, the others will be elected by the social workers. This body is open to all races. It has already been formed. The council must still decide who the associated worker will be.

What does all this mean for our work in communities? We have been told that the intentions of the Acts are to improve social work services, but is also clear that the Acts are there to control communities, organisations, individuals and social workers to ensure that they remain apolitical.

It is no accident that the Acts were introduced and passed following the riots of 1976. Control of the welfare field is but one aspect of the total strategy of control.

In the Parliamentary debate in 1977 on the Welfare Bills, the Minister was quoted as

saying that organisations have nothing to fear if they are 'orderly'.

He also said that if an organisation, community or individual threatened the security of the State, steps would be taken against them.

The National Welfare Act is a good example of the Government's apartheid laws. The formation of Regional Welfare Boards for the different racial groups is in keeping with its policy that each 'racial community' should accept responsibility for its own people.

The different regional boards and committees will not have any power to change the conditions in the townships, they are there to give advice. The Minister will decide.

A very important question has not been answered. What is welfare, and what are its aims?

Welfare is generally described as all Govern-

ment activities except military activities, to bring about human well-being and to improve the people's lives. For example, social services, health, education, housing and so on.

Some people believe that welfare was started to bring about greater economic equality between people.

Others believe that the aims of welfare are to make life easier and to keep people satisfied. They argue that a society is divided between those who have everything, the 'haves' and those who have nothing, the 'have-nots'. In this way, welfare is an important arm of government and the 'haves' cannot bring about equality.

It is for this reason that 'welfare' will be allowed as long as it keeps the worker satisfied and productive. But if welfare is used as a means of change, it will be met with force and control.

HIGH ELECTRICITY ACCOUNTS ANGERS LOTUS RIVER RESIDENTS

LOTUS RIVER residents have accused the Cape Divisional Council of 'irregularities' in their electricity accounts.

And to prove their case, they did a comprehensive survey of a number of households to show, among other things, that some people's accounts were too high while others were charged although they had no lights.

After the survey, a memorandum was drawn up and 50 residents, some with their children, marched on the Divisional Council's head office in town to present it on behalf of all the residents in sub-economic and economic areas.

The Divisional Council assured the residents that their grievances would be investigated.

The survey was done between November 1979 and February this year and followed complaints to the Lotus River

Ratepayers and Tenants Association of high electricity accounts.

House meetings were held in different blocks of flats at which residents decided that information be gathered in a survey.

Four households in every block of flats were interviewed. Details taken included the current account and arrears total for each month of last year, and also the number and type of appliances used.

Only last year's accounts were surveyed since previous accounts had already been studied by the Grassy Park District Ratepayers and Tenants Association.

Council had said at the time that 'those problems were related to a period when the electricity accounts section was under-staffed and when the work was in arrears'. They gave the assurance that the position would be corrected.

Residents felt otherwise and decided on a new survey.

Many came forward eagerly to give information when they were assured no names would be mentioned.

After the survey was completed, it was submitted to the people for approval at several house meetings. Adjustments were made according to the wishes of the people.

Irregularities listed included monthly accounts being high as R40 in some cases; double service charges being paid on one account, tenants being charged consumption even after lights had been disconnected; re-connection fees differing from R3 to R5 to R9.

The memorandum also commented on Clause 6 of the Lease which empowered the secretary of the Divisional Council to re-direct rent money to electricity arrears.

This often led to the eviction of tenants. Residents blamed council's inefficiency, in disconnecting electricity supplies once tenants fell into arrears, for the very high elec-

tricity arrears.

The memorandum stated that tenants have to bear the brunt of this maladministration by having monies paid towards rent re-directed towards electricity arrears.

It was recommended that tenants only be made liable for electricity consumed up to 10 days after the due date. Any electricity used after ten days from due date should not be charged to the tenant as this was not the tenant's responsibility.

Also, if Clause 6 of the Lease were to apply, it must then only apply to the ten day period after due date. Tenants were not to be held financially liable for councils inefficiency.

Five Divisional Council officials rushed down from the tenth floor of the head office when they heard that protesting residents had filled the entrance.

They were given the assurance that their problems 'would be investigated immediately'.

Community self-survey

(From Page 7)

- The people in a community gather facts themselves;
- Because of this, they decide on what the important problems are that need attention;
- The people, because they got the facts, can control them and decide how they should be used;
- The people involved learn some useful skills which they can use in other situations in future; and
- Through doing the survey, people in an area get to meet and know one another better, and can start organising on common problems.

Although a self-survey can be very useful in tackling a local problem, it is very important to realise that:

- It is only one stage in solving the problem. It is not a solution in itself;
 - A self-survey cannot solve the big social problems such as unemployment, low wages, poor education and so on. It can be useful mainly at a local neighbourhood level, in putting pressure on bodies responsible for local community conditions;
 - Although it is a fairly simple process, it means a lot of hard work for those involved.
- Here are some examples of how the self-survey has been used to help improve peoples' lives.

In a housing estate in Cape Town, residents with the help of a community worker did a

self-survey to gather facts about the shocking conditions of their roofs, walls and doors which leaked in winter.

The authorities controlling the area were supposed to do these repairs for the people.

But until they were presented with facts and figures as to how many houses were really affected, and exactly which homes needed attention, they had more or less ignored the complaints of the tenants. Some of the demands are now being attended to.

Residents in a small Canadian village wanted a park for their children and old people. They sent representatives to find out from the local authorities whether a site was available, how much it would cost and so on.

But they also did a self-survey to find out how strongly residents wanted it, what equipment should be included, and whether there were volunteers who would help with it.

In Belfast, Ireland, people were very worried about the high unemployment rate. The self-survey they did proved that there were many more unemployed people in their area than the national figures showed.

They used their facts to form a local employment exchange, and to question government figures.

• See above on how the Lotus River Ratepayers and Tenants Association collected facts on electricity accounts in their area to fight their case at the Divisional Council of the Cape.

Deep roots

(From Page 6)

The community worker's task is to help the community (the group, the neighbourhood, the class or whatever) to decide for itself about the needs to be met, projects for meeting the needs and so on.

That is why we prefer the term 'self-reliance' to 'self-help'.

Also the community workers must be aware that different communities are at different levels of awareness and organisation when the professional agency intervenes in their problems.

Therefore, if a shop, for example, seems to be the immediate answer to the immediately felt need for a particular community, the intelligent community worker assists them to form and operate such a

shop. This would in a sense be the short-term tangible goal.

It is, however, necessary for the community worker to be fully aware of the real root causes of the problem - not only that low wages, cost of living and high rents (economics) are behind the problem, but, deeper still, that the roots lie in the exploitative and oppressive economic and political system.

This will enable the community worker to keep a long-term aim - the deeper awareness of the community group.

This additional task of the community worker or agency, is to build into the project or educational factor.

In this way the community group is constantly urged to look

deeper into its problems and progress,

The shop's success could become part of a co-operative venture with other groups or it could become an action group to approach and, if necessary, to pressure the relevant authority or to change its housing policy, and so on to involvement in a movement for change in the total community structures.

We would agree that every person in a community has the potential and responsibility to become a community worker. This would become a reality as individuals in the community become increasingly aware of the root causes and are encouraged to acquire various techniques which would enhance this.

CUPC
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STUDENTS FACE DILEMMA: TO BOYCOTT OR NOT TO BOYCOTT

FEW schools have remained untouched by protests against 'racist education' in the Peninsula.

To give life to their demands, they debated a possible plan of action which would ensure that their demands be met.

'To boycott or not to boycott' was central to this debate.

To boycott . . .

The boycott call was made when pupils realised how widespread their grievances were. They all had experience of broken windows, dis-repaired buildings, the shortage of textbooks, the lack of representation.

More generally, they were also aware that their education was inferior and racist, that

the State spent R650 on education for a so-called White child, R190 for a so-called Coloured child, R250 for an Indian child and R59 for an African child, and that their teachers were also paid unequally.

'Why has the system been allowed to deteriorate to a point where we are deep into the second term and many of us are still without textbooks?' a pupil said.

'Are we to stand by and allow this situation to carry on without standing up and making ourselves heard on these very relevant issues?' she said.

'In a few more years, our brothers and sisters will have to suffer under far more deplorable conditions if we don't do something to-

day', she said.

Faced with these problems, some pupils called for a boycott. They emphasised that there should be no stay-away from schools but from classes.

The time should be spent on activities such as lectures and discussions organised by individual schools. The boycott should be used as a period of intense educational activity.

'We must boycott until unconditional and meaningful changes are made,' said one pupil. 'We must not be satisfied with the cosmetic assurances given by the relevant minister,' said another.

'The assurances have come too late,' he said.

Or not to boycott

A boycott by pupils

will not bring about any meaningful change because education is an integral part of the whole political-economic system in this country.

This formed the basis of the argument against the boycott.

'The State, through various institutions like education has entrenched a system of racial domination and economic exploitation,' said one pupil.

'The schooling system ensures a constant supply of literate labour for commerce and industry,' he said.

'We must see how the whole educational system against which we are rebelling stems from the fact that we are denied basic political rights and thus political power,' he said.

'It would be unrealistic therefore to boycott schools and demand that the State change the schooling system.'

'We must remain at school and learn as much as we can so that one day we can make a meaningful contribution to the struggle,' he said.

From these two views there eventually emerged an understanding that a distinction had to be drawn between short-term and long-term demands.

Short-term demands stem from issues which directly affect pupils and students. These would include problems such as broken windows and the shortage of textbooks.

Long-term demands include the complete abolition of separate

education - a demand for non-racial education instead - no disparity in teacher salaries and an end to all forms of discrimination.

'A boycott will not be effective in ensuring long-term demands.'

'A boycott is a tactic of struggle designed to achieve short-term victories. It is not an end in itself,' they said.

'It achieves victories within a given space of time and as such raises the general consciousness of pupils and students.'

The victories are important and teach us basic lessons of organisation through practical experience,' they said.

But what has been emphasised was that there should be a united decision to boycott, and that the reasons to boycott should be thoroughly discussed.

'If there is no thorough discussion by all students in a school, then students will not understand why they

should participate in a particular line of action,' they said.

'Also there should only be a boycott for a defined space of time. An extended boycott could become a problem. A short boycott will have maximum success if a reasonable programme can be worked out for the duration of the boycott. Enough events should cover the period to cater for the political needs of pupils and students,' they said.

Without these very important considerations being met, a boycott would be doomed to failure from the beginning and result in disillusionment.

Mother's Concern

(From Page 1)

I can understand it all, but I feel scared. My neighbour did not want to come tonight. The people are clapping, they are calling for nominations for a parent-student committee. I want to volunteer, I feel that I should. I see my son's big black eyes looking at me, he is trying to tell me to put up my hand. I find my hand being raised slowly, his face lights up into a broad smile, the people are clapping.

grassroots

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Communities come out in support of protests

(From Page 1)

Parents, teachers and workers called for a united stand and said they must 'erase the lie that communities cannot stand together'.

Three subsequent meetings were held and parent-student committees formed.

KENSINGTON

At the Kensington meeting, on the platform were four speakers representing Kensington High School, Windermere Senior Secondary, Kensington Higher Primary and the University of the Western Cape.

The speakers outlined firstly how the boycott had started - events at Hanover Park Schools had prompted pupils to take mass action: then, the list of grievances were aired.

A young standard seven pupil very capably drew for residents a picture of his life at school.

'At Windermere, the sports fields look like the semi-Sahara while at our school, they are more like the Sahara desert. And thorns cover the fields instead of grass,' he said.

While his comparisons stimulated laughter, there could be no doubt that all were in agreement with his descriptions.

'We have to make do with poor facilities while schools for the rich have beautiful playing fields with cloakrooms and well-kept grass,' said another pupil.

After grievances were aired, another speaker outlined the way in which pupils had attempted to

follow an awareness programme at various schools.

Although some time was spent in marching around the school grounds singing freedom songs and brandishing placards, the greater part of the school day was spent in discussion.

After early morning mass meetings, students divided up into groups and discussed 'problems facing them in this country'.

BISHOP LAVIS

A meeting was also held at the Roman Cath Catholic Hall in Bishop Lavis which was attended by 800 people. The meeting was tense but real interest was shown by the audience which actively participated in the discussions.

Members expressed strong opposition to what they called the 'Judases among our own people'.

HANOVER PARK

Four meetings were held in the Hanover

Park area over the last few weeks.

The parent-student association is already functioning. The residents are concerned about the lack of support in the area and they felt that it could be due to meetings being held when there were popular programmes on television.

To solve this problem, they started a 'door-to-door' campaign with which they hoped to motivate residents to attend the meetings and become involved. The residents have also decided to give assistance in 'cash and kind' to the relatives of the two detainees in the area.

RETREAT

A meeting held at the Civic Centre in Retreat on April 18 was attended by 2 000 people. The meeting was described as being 'very intense' and difficult to control at times. Support for the students was expressed.

It was the feeling of some of the members that the civic associations should not only be concerned with prob-

lems of street lights and roads in the area, but that it should also be involved in 'controversial issues' such as the present school crisis.

There was also a call for the boycott of the Lions tour.

LANSDOWNE

On April 29 a meeting was held in Lansdowne which was attended by about 700 people.

Solidarity was expressed with the protest of the pupils. The resolution called for 'parents and teachers throughout the country to unite in a struggle to free, compulsory, non-racial education with full citizenship rights for all in a democratic South Africa.'

WYNBERG

On April 30 1 000 people attended a meeting in Wynberg which was called by the three high schools in the area. Support was expressed

with the stand of the teachers and students.

A committee was also formed. Parents were concerned about the problem of boredom among the pupils and the need for organised programmes to overcome this.

BELLVILLE

A number of meetings were held in the Bellville area. The students and the parent-student committees were actively involved in a discussion of alternative education. The rallying call was 'education for democracy and change'.

STELLENBOSCH

More than 3 000 people attended a mass meeting at Cloeteville and Idas Valley in Stellenbosch. Parent-student committees were formed. Here too, alternative education was discussed.

On April 28, 1 200 teachers attended a

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THE DIARY OF PROTESTS

February 12: More than 100 pupils at the Mount View Senior Secondary School boycott lessons against the lack of stationery and poor conditions at school.

February 13: The chief inspector of the Cape gives his assurance that immediate steps would be taken to settle student grievances at Mount View. Pupils return to school.

February 15: Pupils at Fezeka High in Guguletu boycott classes against shortage of textbooks, enforced 'prep' and the non-recognition of a SRC. The pupils return about a week later after discussions with the principal and school committee and are promised that their grievances will be investigated.

While the meeting is in progress the police keep it under surveillance and a man in a 'neat light grey suit' notes the registration numbers of cars parked outside.

March 14: At a meeting of about 300 pupils and parents, two ad hoc committees are formed to investigate grievances and conditions at schools. A mass boycott of schools is threatened.

March 17: Students at Uitenhage High School stage a mass walk-out against conditions at school. The next day they are given the assurance by the authorities that their grievances would be investigated.

March 18: Nearly 5 000 pamphlets calling for solidarity among pupils, workers and parents distributed in Peninsula.

March 20: At a meeting in Hanover Park students called for the dismissal of principals and teachers at Crystal High and Mount View. The meeting attended by about 600 parents and students form a deputation to confront the authorities with grievances.

March 22: Pupils at Newell High School and New Brighton High School in Port Elizabeth walked out of classes in protest against conditions at the school. They are warned in their playground by police.

March 28: Three teachers from Crystal Senior Secondary are dismissed. No reasons are given for their dismissal.

March 29: The boycott at Uitenhage High forces the school authorities to grant the students' demand for a SRC. The pupils still demand the removal of the principal.

March 31: Students at Crystal High decide on a possible boycott to protest against the

dismissal of three teachers and ask for their reinstatement. The principal of Mount View, Mr M Anyster, is transferred to Mitchell's Plain following a call for his dismissal by pupils.

April 9: Another school principal, Mr C I R Fortein, is transferred from Crystal High to work on a research project. The three dismissed teachers lodge complaints with the Director of Education about their dismissal.

April 12: Representatives from 20 high schools in the Peninsula give the administration until the end of April to meet their demands.

April 14: Students at Hewat Training College hold a mass meeting at the start of lectures to discuss conditions at schools and a proposed boycott against 'inferior education.'

Thousands of pupils join the boycott. At Parkwood High there is a complete stay away. Many other high schools including Bridgetown, Spes Bona, Wynberg and Fezeka decide to boycott.

April 16: Boycott at schools continue. More schools join the boycott. Marais Steyn says positive consideration would be given to the situation at schools.

April 17: The boycott continues. Colin Eglin PFP spokesman warns that a 'powder-keg' situation reminiscent of Soweto was developing and warns the government. At some schools students return to their classes.

April 17: Curtis Nkondo former leader of AZAPO addresses a meeting at University of Western Cape. A further meeting in Athlone is cancelled as a result of police surveillance. He gives a message from Soweto students who express their solidarity.

April 18: The Minister of Coloured Relations, Mr Marais Steyn, says in Parliament that what is happening at schools is not a problem of education but a problem of children being influenced by 'propaganda and agitators.' About 2000 pupils from Bosmont, Coronation and the Westbury high schools in Johannesburg stage a protest march against inferior education. They are dispersed by the police. The boycott at Cape schools continue.

April 19: Student representatives from 61 schools in the Peninsula meet in Athlone and decide to continue the boycott for a week.

April 20: At the first parents-students meeting in the Cape more than 700 parents in the Lotus River area give their support for



the boycott.

April 22: About 8 000 students take part in a peaceful protest march in Athlone. They march to other schools which also join them. At Cathkin High in Athlone they are told by the police to disperse. About 100 riot policemen follow the students to the Gatesville Shopping Centre. They use tear-gas to disperse the students. Students are given lifts to their respective schools by motorists, teachers and parents.

April 23: The boycott continues throughout the country. There are indications of another march but stu-

dents are urged not to march by their committee. Police patrol the schools and a helicopter circles schools in Athlone.

April 23: Mr. Steyn is criticised for his threat to close the schools and there are warnings that it may be taken up as a challenge by students.

April 24: Police detain two more people. They also stop a march in Durban by manning gates at two Wentworth schools. About 4 000 students of the University of Durban-Westville decide at a meeting to continue their boycott.

April 26: Representatives from 80 educational institutions in the Cape meet in Athlone and decide to continue the boycott for another week. They also call on the teachers, lecturers and heads of departments to form a representative body and join the boycott. The representatives also called upon parents to keep their children who attend primary schools at home on Thursday May 1.

April 28: About 100 students are arrested in Kokstad after parts of the local high school's ground had been set on fire and some windows were

broken. Principals and teachers in Elsie's River release a statement giving their support to the students. Teachers at Battswood Training College tell students at a meeting they 'wholeheartedly' support them.

April 29: Police baton-charge pupils who had gathered at Westbury High in Johannesburg. 763 pupils appear in court under the Riotous Assembly Act. About 1 000 teachers and lecturers from 80 Peninsula schools give their full support to the nationwide boycott of classes at a meeting at the Hewat Training College

in Athlone. About 3 000 students of the University of Cape Town decide at a meeting to boycott lectures for the rest of the week.

April 30: Thousands of pupils and students carrying placards and singing freedom songs rally at schools in the Peninsula. Fifty percent of the placards are for the release of the detainees and the other half against inferior education. Marais Steyn meets principals to try and get them to use their influence to end the boycott.

May 1: Thousands of primary schoolchildren in the Peninsula stay away from classes in a token one-day protest against the education system. About 20 members of the committee of 61 are rounded up by security policemen and driven to a hall in Athlone where they are told the Minister of Police Mr Le Grange, wishes to see them.

May 2: A further four people are detained. About 1000 teacher representatives meet in Athlone and decide to down tools in support of boycotting students.

May 3: The Committee of 61 which has been regulating the boycotts decide to continue the boycott. They reject the invitation to have a meeting with the Minister of Police.