

1. INTRODUCTION

Here is another bloody report on youth. We're very sorry but there's really so much happening in different areas and so much thinking going on in the Youth Committee that a written report seemed the most efficient way of reporting back to E.C.C. (Also, we just love writing reports).

2. REPORT BACKS

2.1 IYY, Western Cape

- a) Laurie reported back on the IYY Co-ordinating committee meeting last Monday. Organisations present: NUSAS, COSAS, AZASO, CAYCO, YCS and ECC (Laurie, Chippy and Andre); ICY invited but not present; all organisations to send three representatives but to have only one vote.

The committee was formed as a result of the formation of a national IYY co-ordinating committee. National committee discussed both IYY nationally and also the possible formation of a national youth structure in the future. The national committee is not associated with UDF but will use UDF links to UN; this was a controversial and heavily debated discussion and decision and requires further elaboration.

National calendar of suggested dates: June 16 to 26 national youth week focussing on Freedom Charter, with last weekend a national youth festival; other commemorative dates like Sharpeville and International Women's Day; December 15 and 16 national cultural festival.

E.C.C. to propose people to represent Western Cape on national committee.

WC Committee plans to organise workshop for participating youth organisations on Sunday 24th February. Each organisation to send maximum of ten representatives. Aim of workshop: to inform youth activists of significance and international aspect of IYY; to discuss applicability of IYY and UN themes to S.A.; to consider how IYY regional structure and participating organisations can take up IYY this year; to discuss national questions like logo, slogans and colours, and the national programme; to work through regional questions like resources, finances, structures and programme of activities in the WC.

Proposed regional launch of IYY on 29/30 March. A few people present were mandated to discuss programme and planning for the launch and report back to committee next week. Andre representing ECC on this group.

- b) Vaun reported back on first meeting of this launch planning group; Vaun, Justin and Andre were present from ECC. Launch scheduled for end of March, over weekend. Press conference on Friday; public meeting



with explicit political content aimed at organised youth on Friday night; cultural festival aimed at unorganised youth on Saturday afternoon and night. Festival will include cultural numbers, so-called listening music, disco etc; organisations running stalls; seen as jorl; but hope to raise funds; in Samaj Centre; food; bussing rural youth in.

ECC asked to prepare cultural/ dramatic presentation for 30 minutes. Proposal that group be expanded to five reps from each organisation.

2.2 Grassroots Media/ Cultural Festival

Chippy and Mike R. from ECC media met with Bridget Pitt to discuss Grassroots/ Media/ Cultural Festival. Laurie, Andre and Mike R attended planning meeting called by Grassroots to discuss the festival.

Festival aimed at youth, and particularly at school students. Two phases to festival. Phase 1 (Feb-April) the build up which will consist of a series of competitions for poster designs, poetry, photography, short stories, plays, banners etc. Themes of competition those of IYY: unemployment, conscription, education etc. Competitions will be launched on a fairly broad scale, with lots of publicity and attractive prizes.

Phase 11 (May) a festival. Culmination of competition. Programme: presentation of prizes; display of entries, plays and cultural activities; concert. Festival over two days but plans still flexible.

2.3 Concert and media groups report back

a) Media: statement poster being worked on; for mass display, to establish ECC profile. Posters coincide with mass ("and by mass I mean MASS") distribution of comics in schools. Comic has been fully conceptualised and should be finished in 2-3 weeks. Comic to advertise some public event to encourage further participation of school kids (kids? ed.) Copies to be sent to other ECC's. We need to look at other ways of raising ECC profile at this time E.G. NUSAS Student Viewpoint in Cape Times; letter writing to newspapers, press coverage of comic etc.

b) concert: to follow comic distribution with concert aimed at white youth and school kids in particular.



3. THINKING ALOUD

The Youth Committee was quite taken aback by all these goings on. We were tremendously excited by our participation in the Grassroots Festival and IYY committees, by the activities planned by Grassroots and IYY, and by the opportunities that these activities present for E.C.C. work. We are already accomplishing one of our tasks - maintaining contact around IYY with other youth and student organisations in the Western Cape - and E.C.C. will soon be able to put into practise its commitment to working non-racially.

Before working out our practical involvement in Grassroots and IYY however, we needed first to conceptualise the nature of our work amongst black youth and its relationship to our work amongst white youth, and to sophisticate our strategy on working in the white schools.

After much scratching of heads, we reached the following tentative conclusions for discussion in E.C.C. as a whole:

- \* E.C.C. should work amongst <sup>white</sup> and black youth in different ways. The former is ~~work~~ <sup>campaign</sup> for which E.C.C. is primarily responsible; the latter involves E.C.C. slotting into campaigns for which other youth organisations (Cayco, Cosas, Asaso) are primarily responsible. (An obvious exception to this approach is our work in the C.I.Y.Y.C.C.)
- \* Our aims in slotting into campaigns directed at black youth are a) to contribute to the politicization of youth around conscription and militarization, both through E.C.C. and through the other youth organisations; b) to establish an E.C.C. profile and presence through E.C.C. speakers and media.
- \* Our aim is not to draw white youth and schoolchildren in large numbers into the activities directed at black youth, given the very different approaches to working with them.
- \* It may however be possible to involve white school kids in limited numbers in campaigns like the Grassroots Festival and IY.Y. But we must first sophisticate our understanding of the different 'types' of white school kids and how best to approach them.
- \* This does not mean that we do nothing in the white schools until our understanding and strategy is more developed. Our plans for the schools - the comic, concert etc in March - should go ahead.
- \* What does seem clear at this stage is that a) our work amongst schoolkids is not separate from, but rather be <sup>must</sup> integrated into our work amongst white youth more broadly; b) our work amongst schoolkids will not involve ECC going into the schools themselves but rather drawing the kids into activities outside of the schools.



- \* We need to work out carefully how we want to present IYY to the schoolkids.
- \* We need feedback from the CIYYCC to plan our contribution to its campaign.

4. ACTION ! ACTION !

IYY Launch : E.C.C. must send five reps to planning committee; cultural road show to prepare input for Festival on the 30 March; E.C.C. statement at political rally? E.C.C. media/pamphlet for rally and/or for Festival? E.C.C. banner at Festival?

Grassroots festival : E.C.C. to wait for further clarity on competitions before deciding how to participate.

School Programme (?): concert around start of school holidays (28th March); concert preceded by distribution of comic; comic preceded by series of statement posters on IYY to go up around schools; concert followed by workshop for school kids on E.C.C. and their involvement!; comic to advertise concert and workshop; workshop to be an on-going activity !!

July Call-Up : call-up pamphleteering followed by anti-war film festival?

Namibia: Namibia focus to coincide with Multi-Party Conference elections?

Republic Day Action:??

Sharpsville Action : ??

E.C.C. Profile Activity: student viewpoint, letters to the Times, press statements; symbolic action.

S.R.C. Concert: E.C.C.  
E.C.C. has been given an hour slot.

5. CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

February

- 14 E.C.C. Meeting
- 24 IYY Workshop - E.C.C. Participation

March

- 1 S.R.C. Concert - E.C.C. Hour Slot
- 21 Anniversary of Sharpsville - IYY National Focus
- 25 E.C.C. comic distribution in schools
- 28 School term ends - E.C.C. Concert (?)
- 29-30 IYY Launch - E.C.C. involvement

April

5-8 Easter  
5-10 School Holidays - E.C.C. workshop for schoolkids (?)  
27 CIYYCC focus: 'apartheid is a heresy'  
31 Entries for Grassroots competition closing date

May

1 May Day  
15-16 Grassroots Festival  
31 Republic Day - E.C.C. National Focus

June

16 Anniversary of Soweto  
26 Freedom Day (Anniversary of the Freedom Charter)  
16-26 National IYY Youth Focus  
25-26 National IYY Festival  
end E.C.C. National Focus of Call-Up : E.C.C. Film Festival(?)

July

1-7 CIYYCC National Focus on Conscription  
19-21 National Cosg Conference

August

9 National Womens Day  
26 Namibia Solidarity Day  
31 CIYYCC Resettlement Focus

August

9 ~~National Womens Day~~  
26 ~~Namibia Solidarity Day~~  
31 ~~CIYYCC Resettlement Focus~~

September

3 E.C.C. National Focus on Sebokeng

October

- UN General Assembly focus on IYY

December

15-16 Heroes Day - National IYY Focus

Other possible important dates

Defence budget debate in Parliament  
Anniversary of the introduction of conscription  
E.C.C.'s birthday  
Multi Party Conference election in Namibia

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**END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

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