

88-4-19

Report from Cape Town

Subcommittee reports

**Culture:** They were working well together and have done a lot of work. They took on two projects in WINCLCAJP, the multi media evening and the film festival. They are quite a tight grouping and probably a little alienating to new members. Morale has dropped recently as they have not met for a month because most of the members are students. Lots of the members do not see ECC as their priority but are involved with other organisations or studying etc. Culture have good links with sympathetic 'types' and use individuals from outside of ECC to help with particular projects.

**Parents:** Nominally they have a membership of 20 - 24. Many of the people have time problems and are not very committed to ECC. They have a core of 8 - 10. The others drop in. The group gets on well together. Projects they are working on are a brochure on conscripts rights and cant-afford-to-miss house meeting for all of the people that are connected to the parents group. This was felt to be a good way of keeping in touch with interested members who did not have the time or the commitment to come to every meeting, and interesting house-meetings will be arranged every couple of months.

**Churches:** They have a membership of about 12, with 8 attending any one meeting. All members are quite involved in other activities, particularly in their own churches and this limits the time they can give to ECC. Their projects involve visiting house churches and youth groups and SCA's at schools. Recently churches had a youth group meeting with approximately 60 people and from that they were invited to Wynberg Boys high. They are also working with the christian groups at UCT. They are planning to bring out a pamphlet similar to the Durban pamphlet and will be visiting church hierarchy to get their support.

**Schools:** (report from the subcomm). This year Schools Group has focussed on Drum Majorettes in schools. Because the squadrons are using more and more military symbols and their uniforms and movements increasingly militarized, we felt it demanded our attention. In one instance where a squadron was carrying rifles as a prop, PAAG pupils drew up a petition protesting against the drum majorettes and normalizing and glamorising of war in their school. Schools group felt that it should leap in and thus several members attended a National Prestige Competition for Drum Majorettes. Photographs were taken of the various squadrons participating in the competition. One of the many stunning photographs was published in the Cape Times with the caption 'Present Arms' and comments from ECC and EDASA. At present we are working on a two part booklet on Militarisation in white schools. The first part looks at militarisation in SA, How militarisation affects women and drummies. The second part looks at Youth Preparedness, Cadets and CNE. In addition schools group has been working with the following organisations; PAAG, EDASA, Nusas, Black SaSH and PFP Youth all of whom are concerned about pupils in white schools. We have formed a loose grouping which at present is called Schools Forum. Together we are planning to organise a symposium during the September holidays which is expected to last 3-4 days. The opening of the symposium will be organised by ECC Schools group. We aim to recruit pupils from the schools by offering training in cultural activities such as Art; Music, Drama. We plan to organise the workshops in such a way that the outcome will be an art display, an improvised play (based on a scenario worked out by ECC) and a musical recital.

We continue to have weekly meetings, regular socials - numbers are increasing, pupils clamouring to join our group and our morale is high. Viva schools.

**Publicity:** This subcommittee is different from the others in that it is not constituency oriented. There are seven people who attend the two weekly publicity meetings. It is a very cohesive group, very committed to ECC and in touch with ECC activity. They were planning a drive in Sea Point to raise ECC's profile

but this did not go ahead for financial reasons. Out of Step a subgroup of Publicity will be coming out soon, again a hold has been put on printing for financial reasons. The press group is back in action, after a difficult period recently and they have a programme worked out for the next month.

In discussion the exec felt that with the new focus on conscripts in CT ECC we have to make Out of Step a publication that no conscript can afford to miss, and the schools group also becomes increasingly important. Exec felt that subcomms need to take more initiative with recruitment. They also need to follow up members who don't come to a few meetings.

Ad Hoc Groups

**Outreach:** consists of about five people and aims to take on recruitment, house-meetings and associate membership. The recruitment has been going well, with an invitation sent out to the 150 people who put down their names for the mailing list during WINCLCAJP. The 150 were invited to come to a housemeeting if they were interested in joining ECC and 17 responded. 9 came to the first meeting which focussed on ECC's aims and objectives and history, and also on democracy. The second meeting was attended by about 14 people and it looked at subcomms and question and answer session about ECC. From the second meeting people will have decided which subcomm they wish to belong to. We requested the right for referees or an interview with all new members. Outreach has tried some pilot housemeetings, these recruitment ones were a success, however there have been failures. We put out 1500 invitations to a housemeeting in letter boxes and 4 people arrived. We are still developing the associate membership idea and will probably start quite soon.

Public Work

Some very good activities in the WINCLCAJP campaign, a fair and multimedia that were well attended and good. Bad public meeting. Then a build up to a campaign around Ivan which never happened, a build up to a campaign around Janet which never happened, and a small call-up response (pickets and stickers). Plans for a Southern Africa focus week in the form of a three part lecture series, a booklet and advertising. Much of our focus has been internal, sorting out the commission of inquiry and coping with the varsity vac.

Overview of ECC CT

**Morale:** picking up. Been a bit low with the aftermath of a bad campaign, lack of direction etc. but the weekend away seems to have put us onto a different footing. **Security:** getting slacker, but security relates to context. Need to be careful with the new conscript focus. **Education and Training:** an improvement with the education sessions (we have just started a three part series on NDS). Training of leadership bad, not turnover of leadership and this needs to be discussed at the next exec meeting. **General:** feel that we have had a difficult time, but are on the way out and the sense of confidence, ambition and reclaiming the initiative are starting to return.

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