



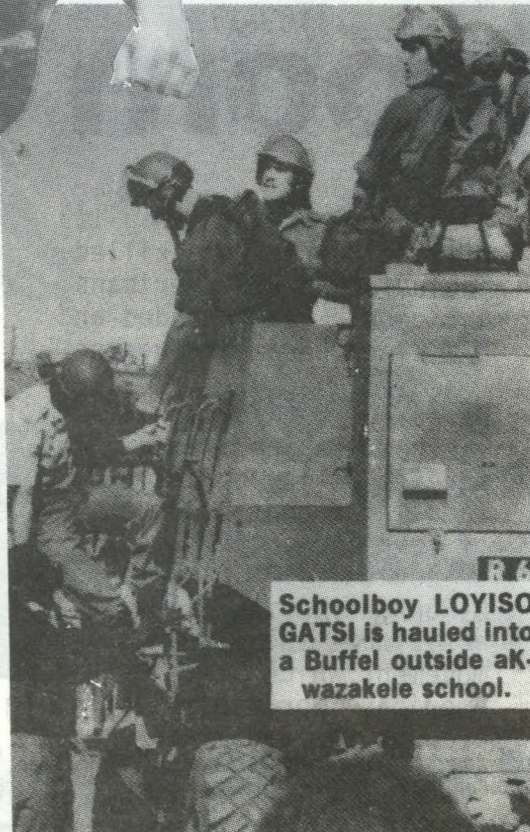
# ECC Meeting invaded



ECC's are springing up all over the country. The PE ECC has recently been launched (invasions and all!) and now Pietermaritzburg is planning to launch an ECC.

ON THE 15th APRIL, SIXTY UNIVERSITY OF PORT ELIZABETH (UPE) STUDENTS STOPPED THE INAGURAL MEETING OF THE PE END CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEE.

Invitations had been sent to a large number of organisations to send representatives. Although the UPE SRC had been invited, no answer was received. The meeting started without the UPE SRC being represented. After half an hour, it was overrun by UPE students. They heckled the speakers, tore up posters and generally behaved in a disruptive manner. After a long and furious argument (not without its racist moments), the students called for a vote on whether PE needed an ECC. The vote was 60-30 in the students favour. They then left (probably after their lock-up time).



Schoolboy LOYISO GATSI is hauled into a Buffel outside aK-wazakele school.

The vote is not binding on the ECC and subsequent meetings have been very productive. The ECC executive (Janet Cherry, ex-UCT SRC, as chairperson, Rev Graham Huxtable and Sandy Stewart) have sent a strongly-worded letter of complaint to the UPE SRC.

The ECC have challenged UPE to debate them publicly on conscription.





Crowd of 750 000 demonstrates against the draft - Nov 15, 1969.

# Hell No, We Won't

"Ten years have passed since Saigon fell to the advancing North Vietnamese army- an event which marked the humiliating finale to the American effort to hold the line in Vietnam." (Newsweek April 15)

The fall of Saigon heralded the end of the American occupation of Vietnam. An occupation which had been marked by fifteen years of intense military conflict. During America's involvement in the war, U.S fliers dropped 7 million tons of bombs. This is more than the combined total of all the

bombs dropped in World War 2 and Korea. More than 1,9 million people were killed, including 58 022 Americans; 4,5 people were wounded and 9 million became refugees.

Defeat of U.S forces in Vietnam was inevitable. The foreign policy of the U.S was (and is) dependent on the use of force to succeed in its objectives. The Johnston and Nixon administration did not anticipate the massive peace movement which arose within America. Nor did it take into account the indomitable will of the Vietnamese people.

A North Vietnamese colonel later said that America's military power was "ultimately irrelevant." North Vietnam absorbed incredible losses, and fought on to final victory in 1975.

Over the last 2000 years Vietnam has been continually invaded with no lasting success. The French managed to stay in Vietnam from 1858 until the signing of the Geneva agreement in July 1954. They attempted to systematically destroy the national culture of the vietnamese. The best land was taken for coffee, rice and



rubber plantations and unpaid forced labour was enforced in the name of "preserving local customs."

New and crippling forms of taxation were introduced. This included taxes on opium and alcohol which the French then forced the people to consume.

When the French left, American forces moved in and set up home in Saigon, South Vietnam. Although this happened in 1961, was only in 1964 that the war took off with the notorious Tonkin Gulf affair.

In a staged incident, two American destroyers were allegedly fired upon by North Vietnamese torpedo boats. This has never been proved. It provided the necessary excuse for massive military escalations by the U.S. over the following years.

To provide the necessary manpower the draft (selective conscription) was introduced inside America. This was a powerful stim-

ulus to the already developing peace movement. In 1965 the first international day of protest was held. Over 100,000 people from around the country participated. In comparison to what happened later it was only a murmur.

In April 1967 a massive demonstration was organised in New York.. People marched from central park to the UN buildings. 400,000 people arrived and many men burnt their draft cards. On the same day a crowd of 75,000 demonstrated in San Francisco. This marked the beginning of widespread resistance to the draft.

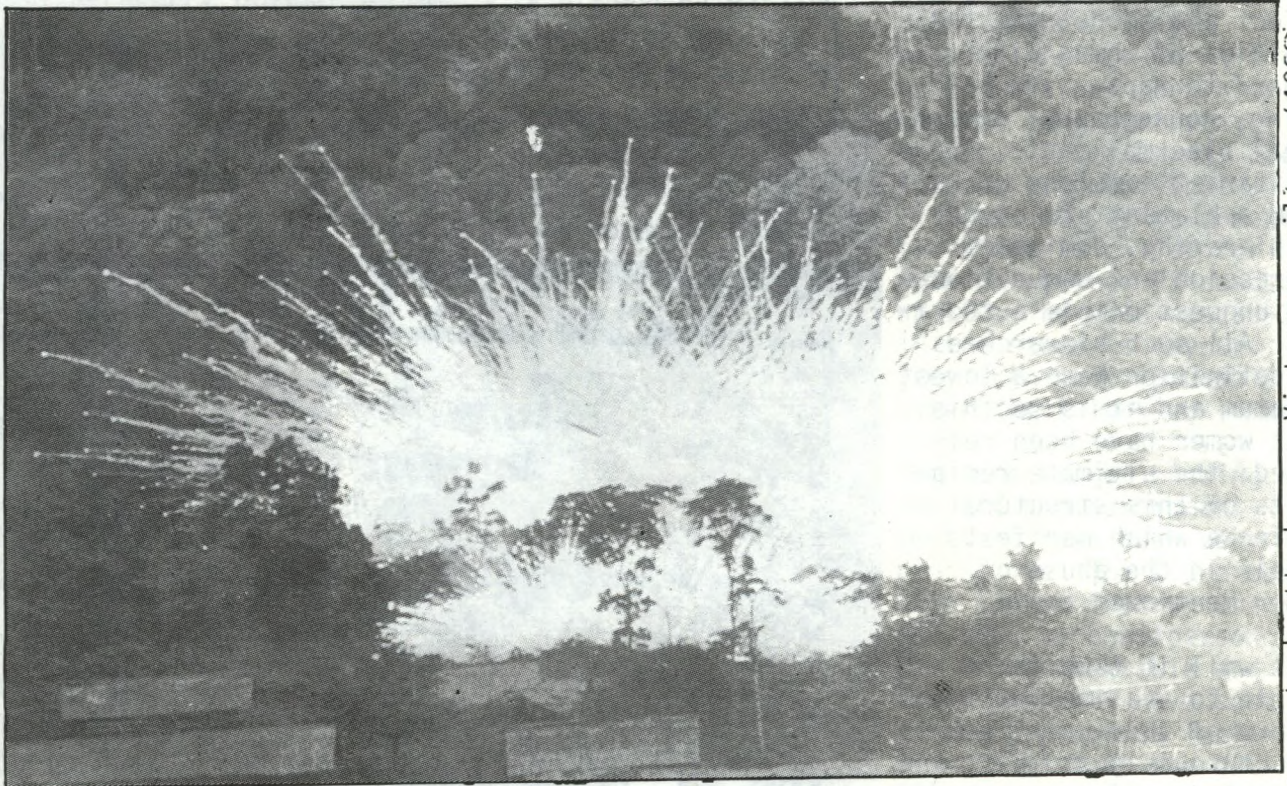
Ceremonial burning of draft

cards became a feature of mass demonstrations. Slogans like "Hell no we won't go" were coined.

The anti war movement rapidly gained momentum. Violent confrontations between police and demonstrators became common.

Internal resistance combined with military defeats made it impossible for U.S. troops to remain in Vietnam. Withdrawal of marines began in 1973 and the last military personnel left Saigon in 1975.

The parallels to SADF involvement beyond the borders of South Africa, particularly in Namibia, are striking. The SADF is an illegal occupying force in Namibia. White male conscripts are forced to fight in a war which can never be won.



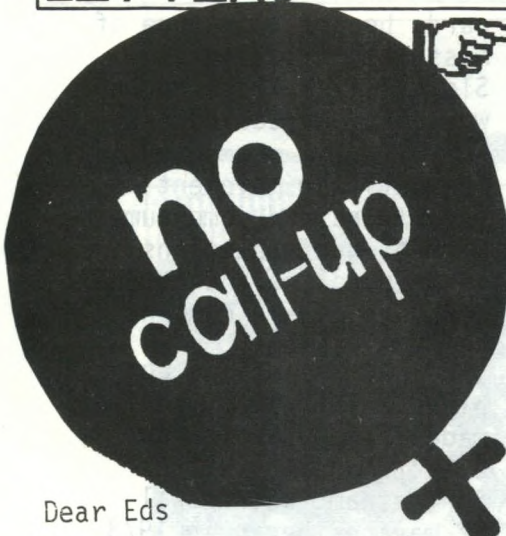
A white phosphorous bomb attack on a Vietnamese village (1966) It is alleged that phosphorous is used in Namibia, by the SADF.

GO

# Namibia - South Africa's Vietnam?



# LETTERS



Dear Eds

Current proposals for the role of conscription in women's lives (and vice versa), reinforce sexist stereotypes that women have identity only in relation to a specific man in their lives until he is superseded by another man.

This not only reinforces the domestic stereotype, but also fails to challenge how the military and its ideology, ie. power, both affect and perpetuate the position of women with regard to rape, wife battering, pornography, emotional blackmail, etc. Militarist ideology works from a blatant structure of hierarchy, dominance, aggression and unquestioned and unquestionable authority. All such hierarchies by definition have a lowest stratum and it is to this, that women have been relegated: the ultimate recipients of this structural violence which manifests itself in the abuse of women mentioned above.

What will it take for people to realise that reform of this patriarchal structure is just that, and that alternatives, such as feminism provides, must be given more attention?

Members of the Women's Movement

Dear Sir/Madam

Noting that the SADF and the SAP are being increasingly used to counter township unrest and that the individual policemen and soldiers have to work extremely long hours, especially in the Eastern Cape, I believe that we should look at the SADF's recent alleged withdrawal from Angola in a different light.

Are these troops being withdrawn tactically to bolster a manpower shortage in a new Operational Area, the townships? Do the Nationalists, therefore, see the internal unrest as a greater threat to their continued dominance than the Russian Bear that previously lurked behind every Angolan bush.

Yours etc.  
Worried Ex-NSM

*note: letters to the conscript should be sent to the SRC offices. Anyone who would like to find out more about the Conscription Action Group should contact Paula at the SRC offices.*

## how come...

- ...the MSM have refused to debate CAG on conscription. Haven't you got anything to say, Mark, or haven't you got anyone to say it?
- ...for every national serviceman killed, it costs the taxpayer over one million rand?
- ...University administration gave a students address to the SADF? The SADF should do its own dirty work!
- ...the Railway Police, SAP and SADF co-operated in a joint operation to "close off" the peninsula last Wednesday?
- ...In an enormous "show of strength" a 2km convoy of SADF troops and vehicle drove through New Brighton in Port Elizabeth last Tuesday?
- ...on the same day, national servicemen tear-gassed workers on Port Elizabeth station, and then ran away?

IT'S A LONG STORY...

PROPAGANDA, J.K.J.] =

## Conscripted for Civil War?

## Conscription Action Group Focus Week



# Ag Pleez Daddy *wont you take us to the township*

Grahamstown, 1985 - Sunday supper has always been a family meal but now (oh dear) it can't be eaten around the laden dining table. No! no! no! - the times they are achanging - Mum and kids dash off with a picnic basket to join Dad at the 1820 Settler Monument. Dad is doing night duty. He is shining a spotlight onto Fingo Village...someone has to defend apartheid, you know.

Soon we may be picnicking with our parents somewhere near Crossroads or Khayelitsha.

In 1982, General Constand Viljoen said: "They (the ANC) apparently do not have a border war in mind. They are going to fight an area war...we are going to deal with it by using area defence...People living in an area must be organised to defend themselves. They must be our first line of defence. Our full-time force must be a reaction force."

The "area War" strategy reflects the SADF's recognition of the war as a civil war, and the expansion of Dad's Army is indicative of the increasing conflict in SA.

The End Conscription Committee (ECC) states: "The ECC expresses deep concern at the decision of the SADF to call up all white males in the Stellenbosch, Strand and Somerset-West areas for commando training. Not only young men, but older men as well will be required to participate in an army which is defending apartheid."



Last month males up to the age of 55 in Stellenbosch, Strand and Somerset-west were going to have to register. This call-up was mysteriously dropped, to be reconsidered

## ✈...a mandate to kill...✈

"Torture has become the rule rather than the exception. There is no doubt in my mind that the use of torture in Namibia has become policy." - Father Heinrich Henning, Roman Catholic Vicar General of Namibia.

Atrocities in Namibia have been attributed largely to Koevoet, a unit of the South African Police. Koevoet (meaning "crowbar") is similar to the Selous Scouts, the killing machine of the Rhodesian Army in the 1970s. It is allegedly responsible for 80% of all violent deaths in Namibia. Koevoet's functions are said to include the systematic killing of SWAPO members. Its members often pose as guerillas in order to get into the villages.

The Bar Council of South West Africa has asked: "What are the rights of security forces such as Koevoet to kill and bury

citizens of Ovambo without informing the relatives, without an open inquiry or inquest and in their unfettered discretion? Where are the graves of people so killed and buried? Who controls Koevoet and what are these controls? What has happened to prisoners arrested or detained by Koevoet and other units of the security forces?"

The Bar Council demanded that the security forces put an end to "those special units with a mandate to kill rather than to arrest and charge before the Courts of Law."

It is inevitable that the SADF will be forced to leave Namibia. The South African government has indicated that Koevoet should remain behind as a police unit. It is clear, however, that Koevoet must be the first to be disbanded in a future free and democratic Namibia.



# END CONSCRIPTION

A further highpoint of the Festival promises to be the discussion by a panel of conscientious objectors. They will speak of their motivations and experiences as objectors.

At present, ECCs throughout the country are raising and consolidating plans and ideas for the Festival. While the overall direction of the Festival will be informed by the spirit of a future peace, it will at the same time present a valuable overview of conscription, militarisation and civil war in South Africa today.

The festival, to be held over two days and three nights, looks set to be jam-packed with exciting events and inputs. Activities will focus on the role that the SADF plays in South African life, and that in Namibia. This will include aspects such as incursions of the SADF into townships around the country, the effect of the military on the general militarisation of life in the South African region. There will also be a concentration on opposition to the SADF and conscription, and a review of the growing peace movement in our country.

In this light the ECC sees its forthcoming Peace Festival as being of major significance. At its January National Conference near Durban, it decided to hold a National Festival from 28 to 30 June this year. The proposed theme of the festival is "Stop the Call-Up: ECC Peace Festival".

"This should significantly advance the development of the growing movement for peace in South Africa."

In the context of the July call-up and the ongoing activities of the SADF in African townships, the Festival is set to have a considerable impact. With strong public support, the Festival is bound to advance the cause of a just peace in South Africa.

Activities will take the form of speeches, panel discussions, seminars, action-orientated workshops, film, music and drama. Keynote addresses will be delivered by, amongst others, Nobel Laureate Bishop Tutu, SACC General Secretary Beyers Naude, as well as representatives of the Namibian Council of Churches, the UDF and the ECC. An invitation has been accepted by Cardinal Arns of Brazil, and Monsignor Brue Kent of the British Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament has been invited. According to ECC National organiser, Laurie Nathan, it is hoped that the festival will make a considerable impact on the public in "reinforcing its anticipation and desire for a peaceful future for all in South Africa."

## JULY PEACE FESTIVAL



FESTIVAL FOR PEACE



**ECC**



# The Conscript

VOL. 2 NO. 3

## GUGULETU... THE BORDER?

Although the Western Cape has not been declared a state of emergency area, the undeclared civil war is now beginning to reach this area as well.

At the funeral of Sithembele Matiso in Guguletu, the SAP and the SADF moved into the township. Over twenty-five casspirs were seen parading the streets of Guguletu. Entrances to the township were sealed, only residents were allowed in and nobody was allowed out.

Community leaders allege that the SADF's presence is now routine.

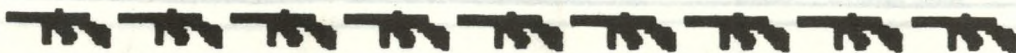
A number of students have expressed concern that they could be called on to quell township unrest. Many of them are unwilling to blatantly defend apartheid by waging a war on South Africa's people. Recently Alan Dodson, while serving a one-month camp, refused to go into a township. He was court martialled and fined R600 (the maximum sentence.)



*Troops in Gugs - a common and unwelcome sight*

Call-ups for "die bekamping van onluste" have been received by some UCT students. They have been told that they will be seconded to police units in the Eastern Cape.

The End Conscription Committee's proposal that conscripts are given the right to choose whether they want to serve in the townships or in Namibia, becomes particularly pertinent in this context.





# OBJECTORS WORLD WIDE



INTERNATIONAL

## CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION IN THE MEMBER STATES

Member State	Conscription?	Length of military service	C.O. permitted	Permitted grounds for CO	Recognition test
1) Belgium	Yes	10 months in Belgium; 8 months if stationed in West Germany	Yes	All serious reasons of conscience	Test of conscience by a three-member commission
2) West Germany	Yes	15 months	Yes	All reasons of conscience	Test of conscience by a four-member commission
3) Denmark	Yes	9 months	Yes	All reasons of conscience	No test of conscience, only checking of the application for formal omissions
4) France	Yes	12 months	Yes	Religious and philosophical convictions against the use of weapons under all circumstances	Strict test of conscience by a 7-member commission, of whom 3 are military
5) Greece	Yes	24-33 months	Yes	Religious grounds only	None
6) Britain	No				<i>During the World War II non-combatancy, nonmilitary alternative service and outright exemption were provided for. Religious and nonreligious motives were admitted. Explicitly political reasons were admitted eg. communists were recognized as conscientious objectors.</i>
7) Italy	Yes	12 months in Army and Airforce 18 months in Navy	Yes	Insuperable reasons of conscience against the use of weapons, based upon deep religious, philosophical or moral convictions	Decision by the ministry of defence after a hearing by a 5-member committee
8) Ireland	No				
9) Iceland	No				
10) Liechtenstein	No				
11) Luxemburg	No				
12) Malta	No				
13) Netherlands	Yes	14 months in Army 14-17 months in Navy and Air Force	Yes	All insuperable convictions against the performance of military service	Decision by the ministry of defence after an expert opinion or after a hearing by a committee
14) Norway	Yes	12 months in Army 15 months in Navy and Air Force	Yes	All serious reasons of conscience against military service	Decision by the ministry of justice on the strength of submission by the military and police authorities
15) Austria	Yes	6 months basic military service and 2 months of camps	Yes	All serious reasons of conscience	Testing of conscience by a civil service commission appointed by the ministry of the interior.
16) Portugal	Yes	16 months in Army 21-24 months in Air Force 24 months in Navy	Yes	All reasons of conscience	Test of conscience in a simplified hearing by the court in the objectors area of residence
17) Sweden	Yes	7½-15 months in Army and Navy 8-12 months in the Air Force	Yes	All deep personal convictions against armed military service	An easy recognition process by a 7-member committee, which only turns down an application in the case of obvious misuse of the law
18) Switzerland	Yes	49 weeks	Yes	Ethical and religious reasons of conscience against military service, the breach of which would cause the objector extreme distress	Test of conscience by the recruiting commission of the Defence Force
19) Spain	Yes	15 months	Yes	Serious reasons of conscience, which are based on deep religious or ethical convictions	Test of conscience by a national commission for conscientious objection
20) Turkey	No				
21) Cyprus	No				

## OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Alternative service?	Length of alternative service	Areas of service
Yes	(a) noncombatancy 8-10 months (b) civil defence and health services 15 months (c) social services and cultural institutions 20 months	Noncombatant military service, civil defence public health care, care for the elderly and disabled, service in private and public institutions of a social or cultural kind.
Yes	16 months	Tasks that serve the general good, especially in the social area. No noncombatant military training. Civil defence service and work in emergency services only by the objector's choice. Development service abroad.
Yes	11 months	Forestry; work in social and cultural services. Civil defence and civil protection only by the objector's choice.
Yes	24 months	Noncombatant military service or alternative service the first year of alternative service is done in forestry, the second in the agricultural, social or cultural sector. Only noncombatant military service.
Yes	Double military service	
Yes	20 months	Noncombatant military service, civil protection, forestry, social services, teaching, youth work, development service overseas.
Yes	19 months	Service in the public and private sector, in hospitals, psychiatric institutions, old age homes, institutions for the disabled, teaching, museums, youth work. No non-combatant military service and no obligation to engage in civil protection.
Yes	16 months	Areas of importance for society, in particular, health and social services, and cultural services as well. No non-combatant military service and no civil protection service. Alternative service must have no connections with military institutions.
Yes	8 months	Tasks which serve the general good, especially social services, forestry, protection of the environment; civil protection and emergency service. No non-combatant military service.
Planned	Same as military service	Non-combatant military service and non-military alternative service.
Yes	420 days	Tasks that serve the general well-being. Civil defence, emergency service, rescue service, social services, protection of the environment and teaching.
Yes	Same length as combatant military service	Only non-combatant military service in the medical corps.
Planned	Double the length of military service (planned)	Service in the public interest, especially in the area of emergency services, of environmental protection service and in health and social services (planned).

Based on "Kriegsdienstverweigerung in den Mitgliedstaaten des Europarats", in Klaus Polatzky, ed., *Zivildienst-Friedensarbeit in Inneren* (Hamburg: Rowohlt, 1983)



# Vote

Its August again and that means SRC elections. CAG urges its readers to go along and listen to what the candidates have to say.

There are two candidates standing on STOP THE CALL UP tickets. Kim and Dave have both been working in CAG this year and they have our full support. We are confident that if they are voted onto the SRC they will do a great job as student representatives.

We feel that since conscription affects all students SRC members should be able to offer advice, speak to admin. about information which the SADF may have access to through the university, and should be taking up the campaign to end conscription.

If you want any information about CAG, ECC or the Advice Bureau speak to SRC member Paula Hathorn or SRC candidates Kim and Dave.



Kim van Deventer



Dave Sheldon

### ADVICE BUREAU ON MILITARY CONSCRIPTION



If you are worried about your call-up, contact us for advice and information on alternatives.

CAPE TOWN SUE 470519  
Paula 698531 x 352 Anton 476274

# STOP the CALL-UP



# ECC and call-up reform

*CAG have heard about the Geldenhuys Committee. What is the Geldenhuys Committee and in what manner is ECC connected with them?*

The committee was set-up at the end of 1984 under the chairpersonship of Lt. Gen. J C Geldenhuys (newly appointed head of SADF). It is a military committee directly under SADF, therefore, the findings won't be debated in parliament. Apart from Geldenhuys, the committee has two more officers from the SADF, plus a representative from ARMSCOR.

The committee will look at:

- (i) the structure of the military;
- (ii) the question of officer imbalance - too many commissioned against non-commissioned;
- (iii) conscription - the committee has been very open to all people presenting evidence and ECC will be presenting evidence towards mid-August.

*What are the aims of the ECC in presenting evidence? The demand to end conscription seems unrealistic. Does ECC think that the Geldenhuys Committee will listen to such a demand? On the one hand the military is clearly antagonistic towards ECC. Malan, himself, has linked ECC to the UDF, ANC and SACP as enemies of the state; also, individual national servicemen have been warned about the "dangers" of the ECC.*



Michael Evans - ECC chairperson

The campaign is essentially calling for a change in legislation and therefore ECC felt it correct to present evidence to a committee concerned with legislation dealing with conscription. ECC represents a broad group of organisations and people opposing conscription and this military committee needs to be aware of the extent of support for the call to end conscription.

The ECC thinks the SADF is having to seriously think about conscription; the 7 589 conscripts who failed to report for military service this January is certainly worrying for the military. Also, an increasing number of conscripts are unhappy about the role they have to play in the SADF. The extent of support for a call to end conscription is something authorities cannot ignore.

ECC is also presenting interim proposals which we hope could be implemented in event of conscription remaining present.

Though our ultimate demand is an end to conscription based on the right of individuals to choose, we acknowledge that conscription is likely to exist for the near future. So with this in mind, the following proposals will be presented to the committee as well:

- (i) we propose that all objectors, whatever the reason for their objection, have open to them the option of community service;
  - this service should be no longer than the period served by normal conscripts, ie. no longer than four years. We believe a person recognised as a objector shouldn't be penalised for his beliefs;



- objectors shouldn't necessarily be required to do this service in government departments;  
 (ii) we propose that conscripts currently doing their national service should be able to choose not to serve in Namibia or the townships. The ECC as a broad front does not have a fixed line on the question of participation in the SADF. We recognise the extreme pressures placed on conscripts, many of whom go into the SADF after 12 years of "Christian national education", with little knowledge of "alternative options" such as the Board for Religious Objectors. As much as ECC feels that the individual

has the right to choose to go into the SADF, so ECC feels that national servicemen should have the freedom to decide not to go into Namibia or the South African townships. South Africa's occupation of Namibia is widely regarded internationally as being illegal and has been declared as such by the International Court of Justice. We believe it is wrong to force conscripts to assist in the continued occupation of Namibia.

An aspect of ECC's work is the call for the removal of troops from the townships. ECC have met many conscripts who dread the possibility of being

forced to assist in the quelling of internal resistance. This is particularly pertinent with the declaration of a state of emergency, under which conscripts can be required to play the role of security police in the townships.

*Does ECC intend to publish their own evidence?*

Yes. We believe that the general public should be aware of the demands ECC is presenting to the committee. In this light, we are considering publishing the evidence in booklet form. Hopefully, this will assist in spreading and encouraging support for the campaign.

# Did you hear...

...that this year's intake of "national servicemen" will still be liable for military duties up to the year 2022?

...that pacifism represents a world-wide threat to the balance of power and thus to world peace (sic) according to NSF-Resolution 5/85 as proposed by Mark Heaton?

...that military intelligence is a contradiction in terms?

...that "coloured" SADF members off-duty are not allowed to travel in uniform anymore?

...that a CAG member's military unit sent a letter asking all ex-servicemen for financial assistance? It appears as if the already huge military budget of 4 billion rand still is not sufficient.

...that the PFP is deeply divided about the issue of conscription: while particularly Western and Eastern Cape members call for an immediate end to conscription, Transvaal members are opposed to this. The matter will be resolved at this year's national council in August.

...that UCT students having completed their "national service" have been called up to serve in Eastern Cape townships?





# Record Reviews

With the local protest music scene hitherto as dry as a Freestate fence, these two albums certainly blacken the sky somewhat. They are "Own Affairs" by Kalahari Surfers and "Wie Is Bernoldus Niemand" by Bernoldus Niemand.

*Bernoldus's younger brother*

A rare appearance of



## Bernoldus Wie?

Nogal n paar "cool vibes" hier van Noldus en sy tjoms eksê. However, this album is not as flippant as it may appear on first hearing. In fact, I'm still unsure just how seriously Bernoldus (James Phillips) Niemand intends being taken. Amongst a pile of silly lyrics about "ford snortina's" etc. is the chant "Stap...Slaap... Drink...Eet...Dink...Raak...Ma!". The humour blackens on. The "dronk" paranoia of "East Rand Blues" and some hot Afrikaans reggae ("maak n pyp exe exe exe") laced with dub recording tricks, are highlights too. Musically it's a fairly tight (if simple) affair. Nice work from the "Horing Sexy" and "Kitaar". Top marks for originality too maar ek het net een kwessie; Bernoldus waarheen?

## Kalahari Surfers

It seems as if a lot of people helped put his album together, notably Pik Botha, Chaplain William Downey (Enola Gaye), Patrick Mpephu, and anonymous "Durban species" lifeguard and some "Kalahari surfers".

My only complaint was that the lyrics are sometimes indistinct, but a lyric sheet is provided. Basically, the album takes an uncompromising swipe at SA society. This is not hidden or kept at a jive-able distance.

Musically, the album jars with purpose (note the leadbreak on "Prayer For Civilisation") and hops with an irreverence sure to infuriate or inspire, depending on where you stand. Now go and listen to it yourself.

## ECC news ~ Troops Out

End Conscription Committees around the country are still riding the Peace Festival wave. ECC seems to be entering a new phase of activity. The Festival put ECC on the map- both nationally and internationally, and the task is to ensure that it stays there.

The massive Troops out of the Townships Campaign is likely to do just that. It is planned to coincide with the anniversary of SADF troops first entering the townships in Soweto and Sebokeng in October last year.

The fact that troops are constantly deployed in townships right across South Africa, hardly warrants a mention in the daily newspapers.

The Troops Out Campaign will hopefully raise the implications of the military being used in this way and address the dilemma which young white South African men face, knowing that they might be called on to serve in an operational area now inside South Africa and perhaps only a short distance away from their own homes.

The Pietermaritzburg Ecc was launched last weekend. Already over 50 people have been working in the committee. The state of emergency has made it difficult to get ECC news from the affected areas.





# National Servicemen's rights

As a "national serviceman" your initial commitment is 24 months. You are then transferred to either the Commandos, with 1 000 days service in 20 years or to the Citizen Force with 720 days service spread over 12 years. If you are not called up in a particular time period, the time you would have served is automatically deducted unless you were granted deferment.

## Debts

The national serviceman (NSM) often does not realise the full extent of his rights. For example, he is placed in a favourable position regarding the payments of debts and repayment of study loans. The Moratorium Act of 1963 provides that any contractual debt incurred by him before commencing continuous service, but payable after he has started the service, will be suspended by the length of that service plus one additional month. There are, however, instances where the serviceman's obligation to pay is not suspended, one of which occurs where the serviceman's employer is making up his wages.

## Employers

The Defence Act of 1957 protects the NSM in his civilian employment. It is an offence for an employer to dismiss a serviceman, reduce his salary or alter his position in any disadvantageous way, because of his service obligations.

Only if the serviceman is not kept informed or the problem is not resolved, may he approach a higher authority. While the NSM has to use the recognised channels, his parents or relatives can write to the:

Defence Force Complaints Office  
Private Bag X159  
Pretoria 0001

or, phone (012) 21-4611

if they believe he has been treated unfairly.

## Military Law

The Military Disciplinary Code regulates disciplinary matters in the SADF. It prescribes trial procedures and restrictions on sentences passed by the various judicial officers. The Code provides for a wide range of offences of a military nature such as AWOL. Servicemen are prohibited from assaulting superior officers and the officers from assaulting or ill-treating their subordinates.

In this article we have emphasised a number of rights that the serviceman does have. This compilation is by no means comprehensive. If you have any questions regarding national service, contact CAG on Green Level or the Advice Bureau.

CAG would like to know about you personal experiences with military law, ie. fairness of trial procedures, punishment etc.

## Leave

After three months of uninterrupted service, the NSM is entitled to seven days leave with pay. He is given a free rail warrant which can be used in part payment for a plane ticket. Travelling time is not counted as part of the leave. During the second year, 14 days uninterrupted leave is allowed, again with travelling time.

A maximum of 10 days compassionate leave can be applied for in the event of the death or serious illness of a close relative. During the two years, a total of 28 days special leave is available to sportsmen who represent their province or country. The unit commander is also allowed to grant up to 20 days leave in deserving cases.

## Complaints

Any serviceman who feels he has been wronged by another member of the "defence force" can complain in writing to his commanding officer, initially this would be his platoon commander. If the officer cannot settle the complaint himself, he must pass it up to a higher authority. This process continues until the complaint reaches a level where it can be resolved. It is advisable to retain a copy of the complaint. The officer who refers the complaint to a higher authority, must inform the NSM that he has done so.



# END CONSCRIPTION

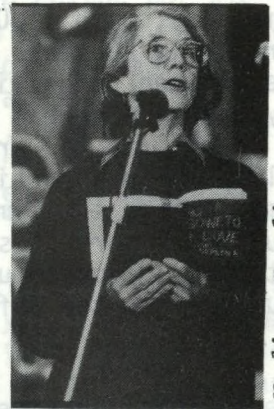


## peace festival

More than 1 500 people from all walks of life attended the End Conscription Campaign Peace Festival at Wits this vac.

Addressing the opening of the festival, Dr Beyers Naude said that apartheid was crumbling and cracking and those in power were trying desperately to maintain it by using the talent and strength of the young.

Monsignor Bruce Kent, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament leader, was unable to attend but said in a recorded message that it is a basic human right to be free from being trained to kill.



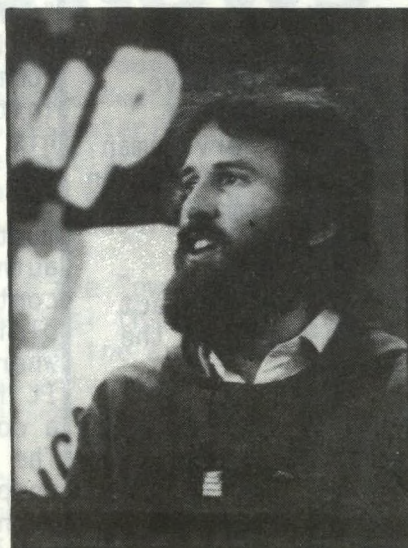
*Nadine Gordimer*



*Molly Blackburn*

These words captured the spirit of a festival which brought together people committed to a just peace in South Africa.

The festival offered a packed and diverse programme. Plays, poetry, music and art, a schools debate, as well as more high powered input on civil war, Namibia, the international struggle for peace, South Africa's nuclear capacity - and much more.



*Richard Steele*



# The Conscript



## GELDENHUYS : NOTHING NEW

In mid-April this year some findings of the "Geldenhuys Committee of Investigation into the Future Planning of the SADF and Related Armscor Matters" were presented to parliament. The report deals with various SADF-related matters including hot issues such as the troops-in-the-townships and conscientious objection.

Amongst other organisations, ECC submitted evidence to the Committee in a bid to have legislation surrounding conscientious objection (CO) altered.

At present, religious CO's refusing to serve in the SADF have the prospect of six years of alternative service in a government department. Any other objectors or so-called political objectors face six years in jail plus a criminal record.

However, the Committee found that present legislation "functions satisfactorily and efficiently" and that there is no need for any change. On the contrary, any change might encourage "an avoidance of military service".

Even religious objectors will not get a

better deal. The Committee concluded that "the objection of churches to national service will result in the Defence Force being reduced to inefficiency". According to the Committee, the SADF "takes pride in its image as a defence force of the people, in which everyone fights side by side for the preservation of a democratic way of life." Why then should "increased efforts be made to counter the anti-national service campaign? Presumably because it threatens the "democratic" nature of the SADF.

Many observers have noted that the report has not moved one inch from the "Total Onslaught Ideology" created in the 1970s. The onslaught, as we all are supposed to know, is "communist-inspired, communist planned and communist supported. The enemy employs a wide range of measures in the political, diplomatic, religious, psychological, cultural, social and sports spheres" (Magnus Malan, 1981).

The Committee, describing resistance to apartheid, states: "In this process of mobilizing the local population, real, but especially imagined political, social and economic grievances are exploited to

incite the population to participate in resistance activities."

Naturally, the "defence force of the people" has to play a "significant role in combating the revolutionary onslaught against the RSA", according to the report. This includes the deployment of troops in the townships and the co-operation between SAP and SADF. Is this the SADF as a "neutral shield" behind which solutions are found as it is presented elsewhere in the report? The report states clearly that "army actions are aimed at averting the occurrence of unrest situations, preventing them from spreading or escalating". Facts and figures however show that since the army has been deployed in the townships, the level of violence has increased.

The report also recommends that "it would be preferable if military service were made compulsory before tertiary training".

Clearly this is a further infringement on the already limited rights of conscripts. Is the military machine threatened by the crucial thinking and the political awareness of the English-speaking university graduates? As a VARSITY headline put it "The blood gets younger".



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