

ECC Annual Report and Evaluation, Johannesburg, 12/1/86.

iv) The Impact of ECC on Affiliates.

- ECC gained the awareness of working with affiliates through the June Festival.
- Experienced difficulty with the involvement of affiliates during the Troops Out Campaign.
- Made a move towards being an organization.
- Made a big impact on campus. Resulted in development of CAG;
- Reps are working more as individuals rather than taking back a programme of work to their member orgs.

vi) Initiated a protest meeting in the white areas soon after the Emergency was declared.

- The mothers action was a spin-off from the Troops Out camp.
- It's difficult to assess whether the issue of militarization or the work of ECC has stimulated interest in the affiliates.
- WAP has reported that it feels good to be a part of a larger body and that big ECC events can be supported by WAP.
- JODAC has dropped their mil. group because of the work of ECC.

The Impact of ECC on the Public and Press.

- The Weekly Mail has given ECC excellent coverage.
- Both international and local press continues to seek comment from ECC on various issues.
- The student press has given poor coverage but towards the end of 85 began to look for mil. issues on which to comment.
- Different individuals have been reached through our varying approach eg: the women's page, front page, letters, Editorial.
- Query if the Right wing press will take a harder line on ECC in '86?
- Need to monitor the press carefully.

The Impact of ECC on our Constituency.

i) Afrikaans Community.

- RAU has shown some interest with an article in their student newspaper.
- Evidence of anti-war writing, plays, poems, etc being popular.
- Some present at the Festival.
- Have not made a concerted effort in this community.

ii) Students.

- Not that much impact on Wits campus .
- formation of CAG.
- Medical School also to create some structures to deal with the mil. issue.

iii) Churches.

- Church leadership has been quite supportive.
- There have been sporadic attempts to reach the churches but the follow-up



has been poor, and there has not been sufficient contact with the membership.

iv) Cultural.

- The bands and the music world are very excited about ECC.
- More graffiti is appearing re: the mil. issue.
- Not very extensive impact on the "arty, class, Market" type people.

v) Liberals and Structure.

- Important impact on the mothers.
- Unsure of our impact on the Concerned Citizens Group.
- Black Sash is much more supportive.

vi) School Children.

- The impact has been more on that of the broader community than specifically school youth.
- The Festival's School Debate was effective.
- Approached to do workshops at CJB and Woodmead Schools.

vii) Conscripts.

- We made people think more about their role in the SADF.
- More conscripts questioning their participation.

The Extension and Growth of ECC.

Overview.

ECC in Jhb. has grown to the extent that there are many new people and resultantly new energy. There has been an extension to the non-student population, especially women. There has been very little student membership.

The issue of ECC being comprised mainly of women was discussed. It was felt that women are not as threatened by conscription as men are: men have the danger of exposing themselves as objectors. This can also be attributed to many men leaving the country. It remains an issue, however, as many feel it is much better to have men involved on a public level. It is also difficult for conscripts themselves to be or get involved in ECC. We must discuss the emphasis in ECC of the acceptance towards conscripts in the general body.

It is difficult to judge the integration of new people into ECC, due to its receptivity, but it does look positive at the moment.

Internal Education.

Q. Does education happen within the ECC body or in the affiliate orgs?

The reps generally are 'educated' politically, but ECC has lacked in this regard during the year.

There were short inputs at meetings, newsletter, talk sessions, videos, Festival and Campaigns.

The involvement of the people in issues such as PFP affiliation, TV debate and sub-group discussions helps their political thinking.

Internal education and cultural emphasis is important

The involvement of individuals happened in a way which was not problematic,



but there are gaps which need to be covered.

The involvement of people has not been full consolidated as there are still only a few who do all the tasks.

ECC is refreshing as discussion can happen with no ideological arguments stalling the process as such. Everyone feels free to contribute.

#### Subcommittees and Structure.

We examined why the original sub-groups fell apart.

- There were too few people in any of the sub-groups and not sufficient co-ordination. The sub-groups were also expected to define their own tasks and produce; this was especially true of the media group.
- It was not clear what we were trying to do with ECC, with the 'front' vs. 'organization' debate still unresolved. There are now more creative ideas.
- Momentum was gained from the Cape Town ECC at National Conf, but some of the influence and ideas taken from CT was not always appropriate to our own context. (Outburst of rampant regionalism!!!) Our sense of needing to emulate CT was sometimes problematic. However the argument was put forward that CT helped in giving some direction and that the process was a healthy one.
- The Festival and the Emergency were very important, in that they helped Jhb. develop a sense of doing things well. The Jhb. people became more confident as we began to see that we were coping well under the difficult situation and conditions of the Emergency.
- We continue to learn from our national contacts but have developed into our own entity.
- The development from the Festival and the failure of the sub-groups led to a serious reassessment of our structures. With new people coming in from the 'Troops Out' campaign it was possible to staff the subcommittees more adequately.
- There may still be some co-ordination problems with the subcomms. but we feel it is the best forum through which to get people working and involved. It is better than a broad forum for taking up issues. Subcomms. are also more accessible to new people.

#### Executive.

The Exec. developed out of the Namibia Campaign. Prior to that there was some resistance to a hierarchy structure, but the Campaign showed that there was a need for more co-ordination and so an Exec was formed.

The Exec was responsible for co-ordination, political discussion, and national contact.

Some of this has now changed for there is a greater awareness of political discussion needing to happen within the general body.

It was felt that initially the Exec. withheld information and decision making, but this has changed since the Festival.



## Campaigns.

- Different methods were used for the two major events in '85. For the Festival the ideas were generated from a small working group, who ended up doing most of the work. For the 'Troops Out' campaign, decisions were taken from a broader forum and tasks delegated a little more.
- Our creativity has expanded since the Festival.
- The ASC grew out of the 'Troops Out'.
- The Festival defined our national profile.
- It was felt that we are responding more to issues and making campaigns around those issues. The 'Troops Out' was more specific and politically appropriate.
- Our recruiting has not been too successful as the organization has not been structured well enough to incorporate new people.
- The Emergency caused a certain amount of stagnation, with not enough follow up after the Festival.
- We have broadened our understanding of what can be done in a campaign, such as consolidating people's participation.

## Assessment of the Emergency. by WAP.

- There was slight paranoia but initiatives were taken by ECC. It was felt that perhaps the more experienced members have been more disciplined in possibly taking risks. However our general reaction to the Emergency was good.
- We needed to examine the structure of our body ie: democratic functioning. We needed to deal with the real possibility of leadership being taken away and what that would mean for our continued existence. There were sufficient members to maintain continuity but important contacts were not always possible to maintain, such as some spheres in the townships.
- The situation did a lot for internal solidarity and support.
- The house meetings were good innovations, helped us adapt and maintain continuity. There was a good spirit!

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### ii) Students.

- Not that much impact on Wits campus.
- Formation of EAG.
- Medical School also to create some structures to deal with the anti-war issue.

### iii) Churches.

- Church leadership has been quite supportive.
- There have been sporadic attempts to reach the churches but not too many.

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## **END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

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