

ally

JOHANNESBURG REGIONAL REPORT

ECC JHB is divided into 4 groups and an exec. The exec is composed of 40 people (quite big). There is an average of 25-30 active members, most of whom have full time jobs. There is a fortune to be done by few people at night.

ACTIVITIES

We have been in a bit of a lull since Conference. The good news is that phase is passing now. We have generally been involved in low profile activities eg House-meetings, newsletter production and consolidation of our active and associate members.

Publicity has been hard at work on a set of media production and distribution guidelines. (These are available for other regions to use) They are hopefully going to make the whole process more economic and efficient. Creative action has been involved in more think work than action but has a few exciting things planned, eg. a mini anti-war film festival. Their energies have been directed largely on the international record.

Churches group is the most consistently working group. They are involved in both low (house-meetings and information collecting) and high profile activities. The Ivan Toms vigil was well attended and really creatively presented. Good work was done here in including the Anglican church and COSG.

Contact has regained lots of enthusiasm and new members. They are going full out into the membership drive and looking at the possibility of a conscripts group.

On the whole our energies have been focussed on the Booklet. Ivan's trial ^{injected} ~~created~~ more enthusiasm into the group, and work in this area will be continued by the Churches group and with COSG and the Anglican Church.

We are finally seeing the Campaign for alternative service (CAS) more clearly now. Structures will be set up soon to facilitate a clear direction and an action orientated campaign.

The exec had a good thorough look at itself and have rectified a lot of teething and motivational problems. We still have meetings that are too long and we are attempting to find ways of including our Chair into the general running of ECC regionally.

MORALE

Post Conference blues hit JHB in a bad way. This was possibly due to the fact that our immediate activity was not "action orientated". We had no clear plans for the CAS. We were still chewing on the chunk that we had bitten into at Conference. Ivan's service gave us a bit of a boost, even though there was the repressive element around. Now that we are coming out of our lull people seem to be thinking quite constructively at new and

different ways of reaching people. Each sub-group has its own dynamic. Now there is a generally positive feeling that we're getting back on the road again and we're KEEN. We may face a burn-out problem with too few activists doing too much.

SECURITY

At the moment we are being security conscious but have taken no extra special precautions. Our assesment of the situation was that no massive clampdown was foreseeable, rather a funding restriction was expected. Generally there has been no increase in our members security consciousness development.

FRONT

Presently we have a very vague working relationship with the front orgs. They are Black Sash, COSG, WAP, JODAC and PFP Youth. Plans have been made to work with them in the CAS if each grouping is able to gain politically. JHB is about to have a thorough assessment of the front and ^{too see} if it is really workable in our Region.

NATIONAL CONTACT

This has been really positive in JHB due to the Nat. Sec, being based here. Gary was used more constructively in this last visit. Liason with Pretoria has been very poor, hopefully that will be rectified soon. Publicity group has suggested a structured monthly media swap around, that could be facilitated by the Nat. Sec. and aided by the other national workers.

REPRESSION

The only repression that this region has experienced was at the vigil, in which two of our activists were involved. They are now facing charges in court.

International Record

The international record was proposed by ECC in Durban and because of this it might have been a good idea to have someone from Durban put the idea across to JHB creative action group.

Cape Town has already proposed and contacted Steve Gordon to handle the feasibility study overseas, as he has a number of music contacts and knows about problems with culture boycott etc.

So far we have not as yet contacted him, but now have an overseas number for him.

Crag has decided that in order for the record to get off the ground we are going to have to contact record companies locally and feel out things from this end.

We have a number (many) ideas for bands which may participate such as Latin Quarter, U2, Suzanne Vega etc.

At the moment we are not too sure about how to handle the project but perhaps once we have made contact with the elusive Gordon things will get clearer.

The publicity group's media production guidelines.

1/ Definition of pub groups role.

- a. This group sets out to propagandise ECC through the production of media.
- b. The group also acts as a service group to other groups in ECC and produces the media they may need for their projects.

2/ Process by which media production takes place within pub group.

- a. The concept for a media item is developed within the group. The form which it will take is discussed and a rough mock-up probably made. At this stage the cost will also be discussed.
- b. The idea at this stage of development is referred to exec for discussion, comment and a decision whether to go ahead or not. Exec's chief considerations will be whether the concept of the item falls within current ECC direction and its legal and financial viability.
- c. The approved item will then be developed by group members with constant reference to the group as a whole. After final approval by the group as to the effectiveness of the item, it will then be prepared for printing or publication.

From the above it is clear that consultation is an important process in the production of ECC media. There are 3 stages in this process.

The 1st is creative/critical.

The 2nd is one of sanctioning the viability of the concept.

The 3rd, creative/critical again.

Each stage involves group appraisal.

Publicity sees the creative/critical process as being essential in the production of effective media.

3/ Media generated by other sub-groups or by individuals within other sub-groups.

- a. Media that is for general distribution to the public.

Given the importance placed on the creative/critical process, and considering that this process is well practised within the pub group, the group feels that media of this nature, whether generated by publicity or within another sub-group, must be subject to that same process and that the process must take place within the pub group.

Publicity suggests that if a sub-group has itself conceptualised an item, it is then that group's responsibility to see that the sanctioning process takes place within the exec.

The approved item must then be brought to the pub group to undergo the creative/critical process in its production. The production of the item will take place within the pub group.

If a member or members of the group from which the item was conceptualised wishes to be involved in the continuing production process then their involvement and contributions will take place in the pub group.

If the item, after exec approval, is merely handed over to pub to produce, then pub will assume full control over the item and will produce it without further consultation outside the group.

b. Media that is not for general public consumption, but for a sector of the public that falls within the sphere of a groups' work. i.e. The churches' Ivan poster.

If a group decides that it wishes to carry out its own production of such an item, the pub group would nevertheless recommend that it does so with some consultation with pub.

4/ Media produced by pub on request from other groups.

When an ad-hoc or standing sub-group is working on a project and wishes pub to produce specific media, then the following procedure is suggested.

The group, at an early stage of planning its project, assesses what media it might require. This might be facilitated if one person in the group is made responsible for media considerations. The specific requirements be communicated to pub via the sub-group reps. A period of 3 weeks before production deadline is, if possible, advised.

Pub will then proceed with the process described.

(Please note that one person is responsible for negotiating with our printers and that all material for printing needs to go through that person.)

Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

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