

Cape Town
Subcommittee
reports to Nat. conf.

CAPE TOWN KULCHA COMMITTEE REPORT

Kulcha Committee has about twenty members and meets on a weekly basis. It aims to raise the issue of conscription through various cultural channels. This is a relatively new and underexplored area of political activity but one which we feel has tremendous potential not only in terms of spreading the E.C.C. message to the public but also as an exciting and stimulating platform from which activists can work.

In the following Section A paragraphs this report highlights cultural activity done in 1985. Section B looks at cultural events planned for 1986.

A. 1. CONCERTS

Three concerts were held, two on campus and one in Observatory. Average attendance was about 450 or so. We found it useful to include short drama pieces in the programme since the E.C.C. message could be more clearly put across in this form. T-shirt and media stalls proved very popular as did an anti war poster exhibition. At our last concert we showed progressive videos which people watched during band change overs. Refreshment tables worked well and often made a healthy profit.

Forward planning normally started two months before the event and special attention was given to the venue of the concerts and good media coverage.

2. T-SHIRTS, BUTTONS

About seven t-shirts and many buttons were designed and sales exceeded all expectations. Some of the shirts were professionally made up and printed in large quantities, while some designs were screened ourselves. The shirts and buttons proved popular both in the townships and amongst ECC supporters from the suburbs.

Popular selling spots included night clubs, concerts, political meetings, progressive shops ect. However, our national distribution was bad and hopefully we can resolve this at the Conference.

3. ART AND POSTER EXHIBITION

The Festival poster exhibition continues to be used at E.C.C. events and people still seem to enjoy it. However, our real coup was the Art for Peace exhibition at the Baxter. Approximately twenty four artists exhibited works at the Baxter during the Troops Out campaign. We had an official Cheese and Wine type opening which was attended by about 300 people. The success of the exhibition was that it mobilized a fairly apolitical Cape Town art world, while at the same time it provided a very accessible means of pushing E.C.C. By this it is meant that a wide range of people were exposed to the art works, who might never come to a political meeting for example.

Forward planning took about four months and it was hard work. Mistakes were made in this our first encounter with the fine art world which we hope to rectify at future exhibitions.

4. DRAMA

We brought out a night of 'Walking Wounded' and sold most of the seats. While the content of the play wasn't exactly the E.C.C. line we felt it important to support drama groups dealing with the issue.

Kulcha Committee put on a play with local township youth organisation CAYCO. It was presented at a night club and seemed to go down very well.

This is an area in which we hope to establish more contacts during 1986. It is a very powerful medium and the potential is there.

5. BUILDING NON RACIALISM

Several Kulcha Committee members attended funerals and candlelight vigils in the townships. Three of them spent two weeks in jail for being at the vigil. Contacts with CAYCO and a "schools boycott" band were also made. This is an area which we feel should be systematically approached by E.C.C. as a whole.

B. EVENTS PLANNED FOR 1986

1. THE FILM FESTIVAL

We have been working on this for four months already and things look very exciting at this stage. The position is that we will be controlling the content of a component of the Film Education Unit's 1986 Film Festival. Part of the E.C.C. component will be shown for free (three films and a seven part documentary series on War). Four films are being imported and they will not be for free. Altogether we should have about fifteen screenings at the festival.

2. CULTURAL EVENING AT THE BAXTER

This is being organised for the last night of the Film Festival.

3. ART / PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

The idea is to have such an exhibition on at the same time as the Film Festival. André Brink is being invited to open the exhibition.

4. T-SHIRTS AND MORE T-SHIRTS

Some old, some new.

5. FORCES FAVOURITES RECORD LAUNCH

6. VIDEO EVENING

7. CULTURAL EVENING FOR SCHOOL PEOPLE

As part of the cadets out campaign.

8. FANZINE

A fanzine specifically aimed at teenagers is being printed. The fancine folds out to become a poster as well. It attempts to explain our opposition to the call up in teenager terms.

CAPE TOWN SCHOOLS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

At the beginning of 1985, the Western Cape Region of the ECC formed a subcommittee whose mandate it was to focus on taking the campaign to youth. This was seen as especially relevant within the context of International Youth Year.

This Youth sub-committee experienced several problems in particularizing its task as obviously youth as such was ECC's major constituency. It therefore seemed appropriate to disband the youth subcommittee and form a schools subcommittee. It is obvious that the educational system is a crucial institution in the creation of a militarized ethos amongst future conscripts.

The schools group sought to create an awareness of the role of the military and of conscription amongst school students. This primarily involved a media campaign of pamphlets at fairly regular intervals. Contact numbers always appeared on the pamphlets and there were instances where this led to meetings with school students to explain the campaign in more depth. Also a number of workshops were organized which were less successful and emphasised for us the difficulties of reaching this constituency. However, the recent formation of the Pupil Awareness Action Group and of the Education for an Aware South Africa (PAAG and EDASA), pupil and teacher organizations respectively, have facilitated greater close contact, as good relationships have been developed with these organizations.

The schools committee is presently engaged in our most ambitious project - a "Cadets Campaign"- which is emphasising the non-compulsory aspect of cadets, as well as the role that cadets plays in preparation for the SADF - Schoolyards today - Townships tomorrow. Activities include pickets, 2 pamphlets, stickers, a time-table, and a cultural evening.

Recent months have seen the extension and consolidation of the membership of the schools group. Overall the response of school pupils to our media has been positive. Much groundwork has been done and we look forward to a busy year.

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MEDIA COMM: Brief report of approx last 6 months.

No of members: ± 12

PROJECTS:

- POSTERS

UNIDP

Where's the border now?

Troops Out the townships

Emergency poster

Conscripts with no right to Choose

Advertisements for public meetings

T.O. Campaign launch

Sebokeng meeting

Peace Rally

23 orgs Meeting initiative

- STICKERS:

Reprint of Troops Out

Casspir sticker

fast sticker

Emergency handprinted stickers

Schools sticker (Schoolyard today, townships tomorrow)

Conscripts with no right to choose

- BANNERS:

Troops Out Banner

fast Banner

Cadets Banner

- T SHIRTS (Conjunction Culture, Lag)
Troops out Townships

CRITIQUE OF MEDIA :

- Strong street presence
- Diversity of media put out

Posters:

- Format seen to be important. Large posters tended to get ripped down which led to the use of A4, with noticeable advantages! A way of increasing space with this format could be to put the graphic on one A4 poster & the slogan on another, and pasting them side by side. Concepts & design often not fully realized through lack of adequate skills, and time pressure.
- Tend to be conservative with colour and lettering (limited to Helvetica Bold + Med !!) exciting potential for exploration.

Stickers:

- Highly successful; stay up, can be put in strange places (i.e. toilets)
- Popular Casspir stickers suggests future wisdom in using satire and cartoons.
- Troops out sticker also successful perhaps due to slick, 'conservative' layout.
- ∴ different stickers appropriate for different

constituencies and campaigns.

- stickers could be usefully tied up with posters, T shirts carrying similar themes e.g. conscripts with no right to choose followed design of poster.
- Quality of paper essential to success of medium (i.e. IT SHOULD STICK) As stickers can be used to effectively perhaps it's worth it to use good, expensive paper.

Banners:

- Design of banner just as NB as good design of other media. Often quite shoddy. Exception was "fast" banner.
- Colour very important. Can be EXCITING!
- Perhaps smaller banners should be used more to facilitate easier hanging.
- Proposed collapsible frames (schools banner) to make for slick, movable banner - typo - murals. (stickiness of hung, stretched banner makes for banner as large painting/poster, rather than 3rd world decoration)

General Problems:

- Lack of media skills!
- Need to explore alternative media forms due to state repression. Street presence important - potentially monotonous plucking of old ECC posters?
- Tend to get loaded with campaign work, with little time to devote to own

affairs" projects.

- Much important ECC work done by small, overstretched group.
- Sometime lack of initiative from media groups.

Solutions:

- Media skills + layout workshops on the cards. Exploration of alternative media forms in this brainstorming period.
- Liaison with other subcommms (i.e. Culture to avoid overlap)
- Build up of media resources - file of good design images to draw on when under pressure.

Strengths of Illustrations Tinchy Media Comm

- Homogeneous group with loads of commitment & good participation
- Participation in pamphlet, pickets, campaign work + creative action excellent.
- Good relations with LAG, PAAG, CAP and everyone.
- Imaginative!

Proposed Projects (after ASP?)

- Poetry anthology of anti war ballads.
- Comic
- postcards, wrapping paper, stamps.
- Info pack as intro to ecc with stickers etc.

- catender
- possible (snuk, schuk.) film made by Media with C. T. film + Video school
- Media workshops for other ecc subcomm.
- LANKASWORK.

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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