

EDUCATION '87

INTERNAL

Reading Groups

Reading material available. Decision not to have formalised reading groups but to try to educate in other ways. Only one group started by personal incentive.

Seminars

Attempt at organising conceptual discussion on ECC's role and direction.

Discussions did not help.

Seminars on ECC too vague. Other seminars organised on specific issues and targeted at a specific group, eg P.E.G. Seminar. Has enormous potential.

Pamphlets

All pamphlets produced by ECC were done by the Education Group. Pamphlets tried to target specific areas, eg destabilisation, education and the military, etc., but tended to be too long and too far between to have any effect.

Layout skills only developed by those who already had, and those who became actively involved.

Intro Booklet

Produced and laid out but censored by the lawyers to the extent that it could not be distributed onto campus.

OTHER AREAS OF WORK:

News Broadcasts

Occasional broadcasts on V.O.W. , potential exists but was not properly utilised.

Wits Student

Again occasionally used but not to its full potential.

Organisational Comment

Focus

Uncertainty as to the role of the internal education. In '87 we spent more time pushing out media onto campus that educates ourselves.

The Education Group was seen as being solely responsible for educating campus as well. This was impractical and organisationally incorrect. Otherwise, no specific outline of activities mapped out, many good ideas, but tended to concentrate on one at a time to the detriment of others.

Activists

Too few committed activists to handle the workload - those that participated were experienced. Too many other responsibilities posted on to the Education Group as well, with the result that we were over extended.

Skills Workshops

Seldom organised, as we felt that skills would be acquired by people as they worked. Occasional workshops organised by Johannesburg EEC and Media Group.

Education Sub-Committee in '88

We have spent much time assessing last year's mistakes and shortcomings. On this basis we have planned the form and structure of the Education Sub-Committee for this year.

Education Group is seen as being responsible for passing on two types of skills:

- 1) Practical skills: Media and organisational skills, design, layout, different aspects of organisational democracy. The media aspect of things will be worked on in conjunction with the Media Group.
- 2) Political Skills: Internal education in the form of seminars reading packs, discussion within organisation. Internal education will also incorporate our affiliates, i.e. joint seminars with NUSAS, SAUJS, the Progressive Engineers Group (P.E.G.) etc., In this way our relationship with affiliates is built and contact is ensured.

As far as ECC's new direction is concerned, we have noted the need for a more professional approach. For us this means a more solid internal education on a variety of conscript related issues, i.e. conscripts rights, options, destabilisation, militarisation and the question of women and the military etc. It is the Education Sub-Committee's responsibility to ensure EEC is seen as a reference point to the conscript and campus in general. We are looking forward to an exciting year.

Dear ECC member,

This is the second letter that you will have received from us this year. It will hopefully detail for you what Wits ECC will be doing this term.

On the weekend of the 22nd of April, many ECC members went to the "Willowvale Guest Farm", and spent a weekend of "heary", "intense" discussion. The first evening and the morning of the second day were spent discussing the history of opposition to Apartheid and, that of war resistance in South Africa from 1945 to the present day. This was followed by an assessment of our work in the first term. The suggestions that came out of this assessment were then used to help us with the planning of our actions for this term.

All in all, it was a fantastic weekend and everyone who was there thoroughly enjoyed it. What follows now is a list of the actions we will be undertaking this term. If you would like to become involved with any of them, come to a General Body Meeting - every Tuesday at 12.35pm in the ECC office (2nd Floor, Students Union).

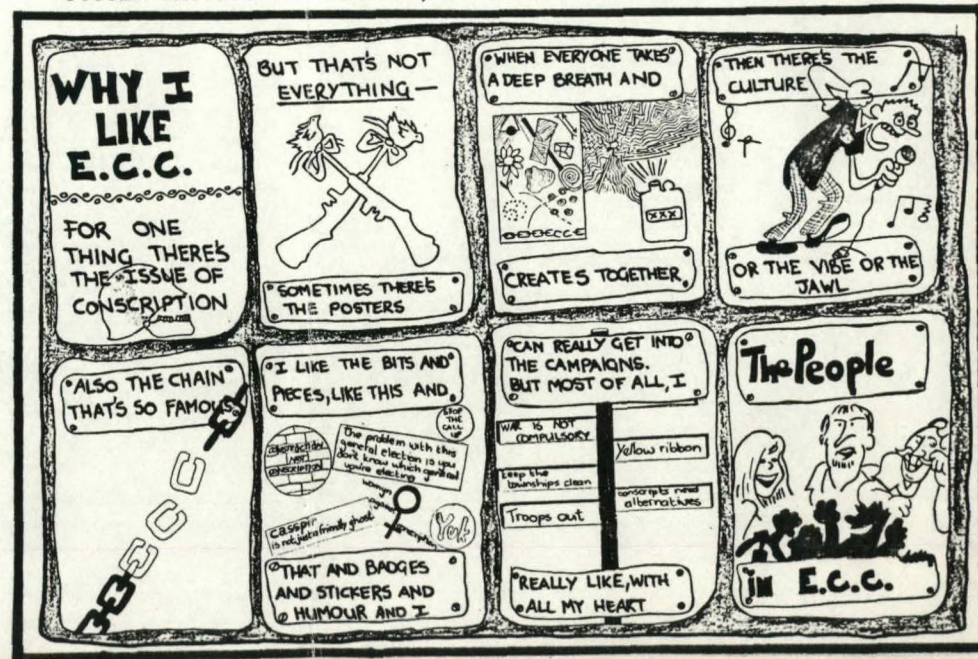
Before I can tell you about our plans, I must quickly outline the goals that we are aiming towards with our actions:

- Long term: Raising the awareness of the issue of conscription with the campus constituency. Popularising and making acceptable ECC's interim demands. Highlighting the August call-up.
- Short term: Mobilisation: Highlighting alternative national service and conscientious objection. Internal: Consolidation and Education. Delegation of responsibilities and passing on skills. Affiliates: Contacting "new" clubs and societies. Profile: ECC making a political mark on campus. Media: Having a specific style for the campaign.

The programme goes as follows:

- (1) Seminars in different faculties dealing with how the SADF affects their particular area of work. This term, seminars will be held in the engineering, law, commerce and medical faculties.
- (2) A Conscripts Group will be set up where people who have been to the army and those who are still to go can get together and discuss experiences, fears and issues that they would like to take up.
- (3) The Advice Bureau, with the assistance of the Counselling and Careers unit, will be advertised and start operating.
- (4) A pamphlet will be released containing conscripts experiences. This will advertise both the conscripts group and Advice Bureau.
- (5) In conjunction with SAVS (South African Volunteer Service), an Alternative Service Project in the Northern Transvaal will be investigated and hopefully take place during the July holidays.
- (6) Pickets will be held protesting the imprisonment of Ivan Toms and Dave Bruce.
- (7) An Art Exhibition is in the process of being organised and will happen sometime this year.
- (8) Tables will be set up every week at different venues on campus, selling ECC media and inviting discussion on conscription issues.

We hope that these actions will interest you and that you will become involved in some way in some or all of these actions!



Dear ECC Member,

Hello again! Since we last spoke to you, many new and exciting things have happened. These include the Alternative Service Project that Wits ECC has organised with SAVS in the July vac, the imminent launch of a conscripts "Know Your Rights" booklet, the meeting held between representatives from ECC and the SADF on the issue of Alternative Service, the brave stand that fellow Witsie Dave Bruce has taken against doing his National Service, and the interdict obtained by ECC inhibiting the SADF from defaming us in any way.

Unfortunately, behind these exciting developments lie the increased build-up of South African troops in Namibia and call-up of Citizen force members, the renewal of the State of Emergency, and, the continued plight of conscripts who have to face the prospect of doing their Military Service - some as soon as August. These issues are all facts, and, due to the restrictions that exist, you probably know as much as we do about them. BUT, we can definitely tell you more about what's been happening in the ECC, both nationally and here at Wits.

In Cape Town, the ECC branch has held several very successful "Know Your Rights" meetings in different suburbs where people can ask a panel of experts (usually lawyers and ex-SADF members) any questions about the army - what it does, how to deal with military service what the alternatives are, etc. Other than that, they have held surveys in

different areas about the issue of military service and are in the process of analysing the information that they obtained. The Cape Town conscripts group has also grown in strength. At UCT, a highlight in the ECC calendar was the debate that they held against their local NSF branch. The debate was attended by 300-400 people who at the end, overwhelmingly came out in support of ECC.

NEWS FLASH: Ivan Toms is adjusting very well to prison conditions. According to his friends he has lost weight and is studying hard while he waits for his case to be heard in the appeal court. Letters of support are still pouring in to his support group who are very thankful for them.

ECC news

In the Eastern Cape (Grahamstown, Port Elizabeth and East London) things seem to be improving as organisations start re-grouping after the harsh clampdowns that have occurred there. Our Eastern Cape organiser, Paula, is optimistic about ECC's future there.

In Natal, ECC has faced a bit of a rocky patch, but the Durban region and Durban campus branches are now working closely together and have just published a fantastic new "AT EASE" (available in the Wits ECC office). Pietermaritzburg campus (one of our new branches) is growing steadily and raising a lot of support for themselves.

In the Transvaal, our quiet but hardworking Jo'burg branch has written, designed and is about to market the KNOW YOUR RIGHTS booklet. They have also had several education forums and have produced yet another batch of fantastic posters due for distribution soon! Pretoria ECC sends greetings to all of us at Wits. They have been working in town and, with support from campus people are enthusiastic about the growth of ECC in Pretoria.

At Wits, after a slow start to the term, we have produced posters, stickers and a pamphlet about David Bruce; taken part in numerous pickets about alternative service and detentions; organised the Advice Bureau on Conscription to start at the begging of next term; painted Muldersdrift clinic; organised an Alternative Service Project and started up a West Campus group as well as a conscripts group. The 3 Transvaal branches have also developed closer links and it looks like we will be embarking on many group projects to publicise our call.

Each branch of ECC has been organising an Alternative Service Project (ASP) where ECC members will go and do community work to show a constructive alternative to military service. The start of most of these projects will coincide with the August call-up. At Wits, we have organised to take part in a project with SAVS (The South African Volunteer Service). From the 7-16 of July, we will be going into Lebowa and building four classrooms for a community where education facilities are sorely missing. Although it is too late to join the group that is going, you can take part in Alternative Service by writing letters to newspapers in support of it and discussing the issue with your friends. You will all see the results of this project on campus next term when a display will be mounted about it.

ECC news

The "Know Your Rights" booklet has been devised by ECC to inform conscripts and their families about their rights with regard to the SADF and help to prepare them for their army service. It is being launched nationally in bookstores and shops on July the 11th. This booklet forms part of our advice service to conscripts. It is an exciting and innovative publication and we urge you to "get one soon!"

HOW'S THIS FOR UNUSUAL

On the 15th of June 1988, a grouping from the End Conscription Campaign including the Chairperson of Wits ECC, the ECC National Secretary, one of ECC's National Organisers, the acting Chairperson of Johannesburg ECC and a representative from Pretoria ECC, met with two SADF Colonels. Although a press conference was to be held after the meeting by the ECC, the SADF were not too enthusiastic about it. The result was a JOINT ECC/SADF statement which stated that news would be divulged after the minister (ie. Magnus Malan) has seen and commented on the proposals coming out of the meeting. According to our representatives, the discussion centered around the issue of Alternative service and it seems that the army might be considering some changes in the law. The atmosphere of the meeting was cordial and it is likely that other meetings will follow.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION:

David Bruce, an ex-Wits student who finished his BA last year, has refused to do his compulsory military service and faces a possible 6 years in prison. Dave's stand is for moral and political reasons.

You can find more information about Dave in the pamphlet included in this package. His case comes before court on Tuesday, July 19th at 8.30am in court 8 at the Magistrates courts. We at Wits ECC wish him lots and lots of luck!

The ECC National Organisers, Clare and Gary, and the National Secretary, Alistair, send their hallo's to everyone. They hope to see you soon at up-coming Ecc activities.

Monday the 18th of July is the Wits ECC planning day. We are meeting at 9:00am at the graffitti wall on East Campus. The day will include reports from the last National committee meeting, and, detailed planning for the 3rd term. Your suggestions will be greatly appreciated, so come along and participate! Ideas for next term already include a large meeting around the call-up in August, ways to launch the Know Your Rights booklet, a concert with Jo'burg ECC, the publicising of the Advice Bureau and, ways to hold Know Your Rights forums on campus.

CONTACTS

CONSCRIPTION ADVICE SERVICE: Open every Tuesday 4:30pm-7:00pm.
3rd floor Methodist Church building,
79 Pritchard street, Johannesburg.
Tel: 337-5938

OR, contact the Careers and Councelling Unit
Wits.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS SUPPORT GROUP: (Jhb) Tel: 614-7458
614-8106

WITS ECC: 2nd floor Students union, Office no. 212
* Wits CONSCRIPS GROUP: Dave at 643-4689
* Wits WEST CAMPUS GROUP: John at 642-2930

NNB: COMING SOON: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS BOOKLETS

ECC POSTERS T-SHIRTS

AVAILIABLE FROM THE ECC OFFICE NEXT TERM!!!

WITS ECC - ACTIONS AROUND ANGOLA

The question of the Angolan and Namibian conflict and the SADF's role in it, both directly and through UNITA, is an issue of international importance. Wits ECC, together with NUSAS, responded to the issue on Wits campus in the second week of August, with a high profile campaign which dealt with the issues of the conscripts role, militarisation, the fiscal cost of the war, and the effect of the war on women. Our joint response was an important one which raised questions on Wits campus of the SADF's role in the conflict in the form of Nusas and ECC pamphlets. It culminated in a well attended meeting on campus which was billed as an "information meeting".

The response was by and large fairly positive. The week was one which saw an interest in the Angolan war being created by democrats on campus.

Our response however, was problematic in some ways. Firstly the Angolan issue was one which has been ongoing, yet our response was not. The recent escalation in the Angolan conflict began in September '87 yet our response took almost a year to materialize in a high profile manner. The forms in which it had been raised previously, were through the ECC combat comic, and one pamphlet in February 1988.

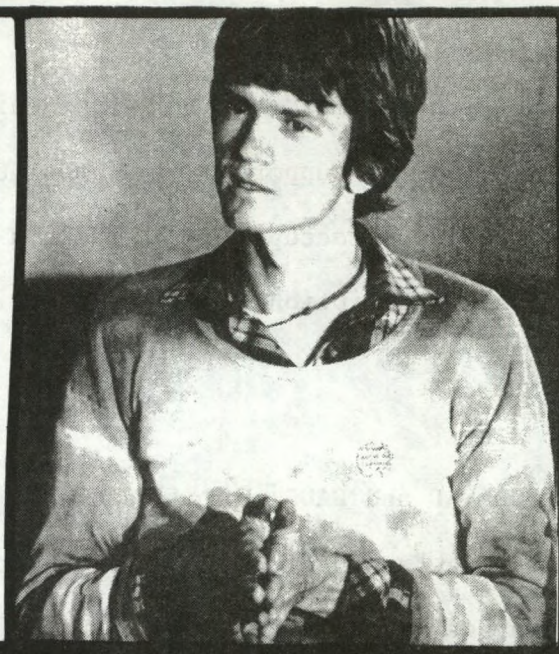
Secondly, ECC on Wits campus would not have been capable of responding to the war without NUSA's help.

In fact we were junior partners in an issue which affected thousands of conscripts and Wits students themselves (4 Wits students died in the Angolan conflict).

I think it highlights the need for a more systematic national distribution of media and other resources and national co-ordinated response would have raised the issue considerably and done justice to the issue itself. Our response fell short on both counts.

"ECC NATIONAL FAST

"We call on all those who oppose the Call-up to fast from sunset on October the 6 to sunset on October the 7."



Statement by Harold Winkler:

"I have decided to fast for three weeks to support the End Conscription Campaign calling for "Troops Out Of The Townships". I face the dilemma of going into the townships myself-I was called for the Thirteenth of January next year. I do not believe that I can go to the army and remain sincere to my Christian faith. I am therefore objecting to my military service on religious grounds.

Fasting for three weeks will bring home to me that I am affected by all that goes on around me. The person on top of the casspir could be my brother, or my friend, or me. And the one being sjambokked, teargassed or shot could be my fellow-student from Wits. I feel that to put myself into such a situation, or to support it, simply be wrong.

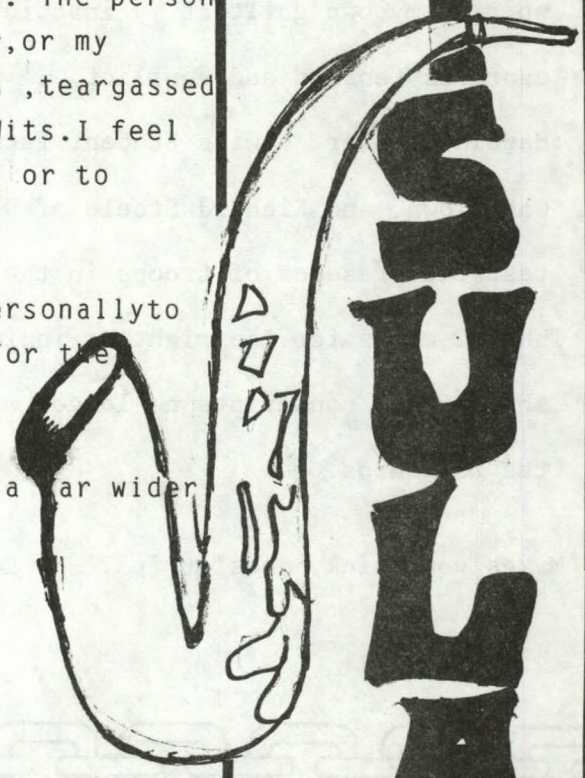
I believe that the fast will also help me personally to reflect on my faith and what that means for the situation in this country.

I hope that the fast will have effects on a far wider group of people.

DATE: 2 October
VENUE: Amphitheatre
TIME: 12:30

Five for Justice

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Did you know ?

:Pik Botha admitted supporting the MNR, after having denied doing so in parliament.

:Magnus Malan admitted the SADF is supporting the rebel UNITA movement in Angola.

:The UN has declared South Africa's occupation of Namibia illegal.

The ECC calls for an end to conscription, because conscripts are used to fight unjust foreign wars.

Did you know ?

:On 25 November 1984, 7000 SAP and SADF raided Sebokeng, arresting 350 residents, mainly under pass laws. The Rand Daily Mail reported that the search had been aimed mainly at 'revolutionaries', none were found.

:Since then, most townships have been constantly occupied by the SAP and SADF.

Hundreds of residents have died, with many more injured.

The ECC calls for troops to be withdrawn from the townships, because conscripts are used to uphold Apartheid's injustices, by occupying the townships.

Did you know ?

:7000 conscriptees did not answer their call-up in 1985, compared to 1500 in 1984.

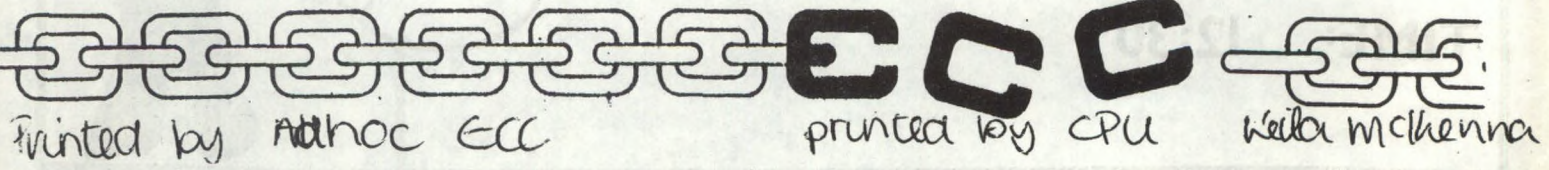
:One troubled serviceman confided 'We were called out, and began doing patrols with the SAP in the Black townships, I will not forget my first patrol in a casp...my own guilt at my inaction in the face of this brutality, created an enormous tension and conflict...'

:Harold Winkler, a Wits Student facing the call-up in January, Dr Ivor Thoms of Cape Town, and Richard Steele of Durban, are all fasting for three weeks to protest the presence of troops in the townships, and against conscription.

The ECC calls for the right of individual conscripts refuse duty in the townships, many conscripts no longer want to be part of the unjust occupation of the townships.

'Makes you think, does'nt it ?' ECC -A Call to Conscience.

Issued by the Adhoc ECC and published by the SRC(WITS) each of 1 Jan Smit Ave, Johannesburg 2000. Printed by the Central Printing Unit of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. The views and opinions expressed do not necessarily purport to be those of the Council, or of the Students Representative Council of the University of the Witwatersrand



Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

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