

Cape Town Motivation for Paula Hathorn as ECC National Organiser

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Paula has been chairperson of ECC in Cape Town for the past year. Before that she was the Cape Town ECC Press Officer (1986) and Secretary (1985), and on the UCT Students Representative Council in 1984/5.

We feel that Paula has all the skills needed in a National Organiser. She:

- \* has played the key leadership role in Cape Town during an extremely difficult period, inspiring and motivating our activists without ever being domineering or running the show;
- \* works well with the range of different types of people in ECC, and is loved by the 'nobs';
- \* is able to deal with personal conflict where it arises in ECC and, remarkably for an ECC Chair in Cape Town, is never herself the cause of such conflict;
- \* is a very good and experienced public speaker
- \* has an excellent national feel for ECC, having participated in National Committee this year and been involved in war resistance for four years;
- \* also has a good understanding of national political dynamics;
- \* has the skills needed to assist in the organisational development of ECC branches
- \* is efficient!

One reservation expressed was that, in the light of ECC's new focus on the conscript, we should think carefully about having three women as national employees or two women as national organisers. Sy kan ook nie Afrikaans goed praat nie. Sy kom van Natal af, jy weet.

NOMINATION FOR POSITION OF ECC NATIONAL ORGANISER FROM CAPE TOWN ECC:

PAULA HATHORN.

Paula is one of the few current members of ECC who has been involved since the organisation's inception and the understanding and sense of ECC's history which this provides her, is often invaluable.

In 1983, when Paula's brother Pete was imprisoned for conscientious objection, Paula became an active part of the ad hoc Pete Hathorn Support Group. She also became a member of the Conscientious Objectors Support Group (COSG). She attended the Annual COSG Conferences in 1983 and 1984 and played a valuable part in discussions around the idea of an anti conscription front.

Paula has a history of involvement in student organisation at UCT as an active member of NUSAS. She was involved in the setting up of the Conscription Action Group (CAG) at UCT, the first one of its kind to take up the issue of conscription and the military in SA. Despite reservations from some quarters as to its potential to succeed, people like Paula's commitment and belief in the crucial importance of the issue led to the formation of CAG and its success.

In 1984, Paula was elected to the UCT SRC coming second in the polls on a 'Unite Against Conscription' ticket. She co-ordinated CAG throughout her term of office, succeeding in broadening the organisation's membership to include general students on campus and ensuring that the campaign was taken forward creatively and successfully at UCT.

In addition to her SRC and NUSAS work, her CAG activity and final year BA, Paula was UCT SRC representative on the ECC W. Cape Executive holding the portfolio of Secretary. She managed to fulfill this position with admirable efficiency despite her many other areas of work.

Paula was also a central part of the Advice Bureau on Military Conscription attending to endless requests from conscripts and parents for advice and always being willing to give her time to listening to their problems.

In August 1985, after completing her term of office on the SRC, she continued to work in CAG passing on her skills to the new co-ordinator, while completing her BA Honours in Linguistics. She began working in ECC off campus more broadly from then on and at the end of 1985 was reelected to the ECC W. Cape Executive, this time as Press Officer. At the beginning of 1986, Paula was appointed ECC Office Worker and was responsible for setting up the new office from scratch.

Throughout this year Paula has played a crucial role in ECC Cape Town. Her role has been vast and wide ranging and she has handled all aspects capably and efficiently.

Paula has played a key role on the Executive and was central in ensuring ECC's continued coherence during the first months of the State of Emergency. She also provides ECC with useful and insightful direction which is invaluable. As Press Officer, she is a member of the Contact Sub-Committee helping to ensure good contact with sympathetic organisations and individuals for ECC. She has developed solid relations with the press and has succeeded in obtaining as much press coverage and profile for ECC as possible despite the difficult press regulations.

Through her portfolio as Press Officer and job as Office Worker, Paula has developed a valuable sense of ECC nationally through her ongoing national contact. In attending many COSG, NUSAS and ECC National gatherings, Paula has come to know many ECC activists around the country which would be useful in a position of National Organiser.

During her years in NUSAS, Paula's contact with the campuses in the smaller regions gave her an understanding of their particular problems and this would be useful in the role of N.O.

Paula has also gained much bureaucratic skill through her job as ECC office worker and has been provided with a thorough understanding of exactly how the organisation works.

She is easy to work with, well liked and highly respected by ECC Cape Town. She is dedicated and hard working to the extreme. She works well with people and would be very capable of helping to build and develop ECC's around the country and stimulate our growth. We would have no hesitation in putting Paula forward for the position of National Organiser - no hesitation except we would rather have her in Cape Town ECC.

MOTIVATION FOR PAULA FOR NATIONAL ORGANISER :

UCT ECC would like to nominate Paula for this position because we believe the skills and experience she has through being on the Cape Town exec for two years as well as the Co-ordinator of the Conscript Action Group at UCT, fully equip her for this position.

In addition :

- \* She has been a competent and vigorous activist committed to fulfilling the demands placed on her as chair
- \* She is highly efficient and hardworking
- \* She manages to remain calm and level-headed throughout periods of pressure
- \* She is approachable (and has been supportive, particularly towards UCT ECC Exec members who have often asked her for guidance and advice in the course of establishing a ECC branch at UCT)
- \* She chairs meetings extremely well (UCT ECC members have learnt a lot through attending Cape Town GB's)
- \* She is an excellent public speaker
- \* She has a good understanding of ECC Nationally as well as the particular dynamics of campus politics
- \* She is totally "un-alienating"

Perhaps a point not in favour of Paula is the fact that it would mean a second woman N.O. With ECC's closer focus on the conscript, it might be appropriate to have a man in the position.

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Use this as nat. sec. motivation  
as well.

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Annexure

Here are

- ① Motivations from C.T. to use as a guide.
- ② Letter from English Magistrate

Hope you're feeling better  
love

David



Motivation from CT for Vaun Cornell in the positions of either National Organiser or National Secretary

Vaun has broad experience of work in ECC; she was one of the key members in Cape Town's first Media / Culture subcommittee, and subsequently in the Contact committee. She has worked energetically on the Peace Festival on all campaigns and is currently Secretary-General on our executive.

Vaun's work during 1985 (she was responsible for International contact) and her subsequent work in Contact committee, has given her a thorough knowledge of press requirements. During WJP she was responsible for project co-ordination, and proved herself efficient and far sighted, as well as capable of initiative and excellent public relations work.

She has a good knowledge of ECC nationally and of general political issues Vaun possesses all the required administrative skills (being one of the most fast working, efficient and reliable activists in existence) for the job of national secretary. She also has skills that would ably equip her for the national organiser position.

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**END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

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