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GRIQUALAND WEST COUNCIL ON SPORT

The G.W. Council on Sport has been in existence for approximately 1½ years, and although we cannot claim to have the support of all sportsmen/woman in the Kimberley area, we have been able to convert a large section of the community to the principle of non-racialism. The major obstacle facing us at the moment is the lack of adequate, and in some cases the non-existence of, suitable sports facilities. The G.W.C.O.S. has managed to gain control of the Central Sports Board of Control, the only organisation the Kimberley City Council is prepared to negotiate with for the development of suitable facilities. After a stalemate in the negotiations with the City Council it now appears as if a break-through is imminent and that these much needed facilities will be provided in the near future.

ACTIVITIES

The G.W.C.O.S. has conducted a very successful campaign against the Lions' Tour. Copies of the pamphlets which were distributed are attached.

INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE(Soccer)

This League has been successfully stifled by discussions and the distribution of pamphlets aimed at exposing the true intentions of the people responsible for the organisation and promotion of this League. A copy of a pamphlet is attached hereto. The rank and file soccer player has shown himself to be very responsive to this campaign, however, a close watch is being maintained.

ETHNIC INSTITUTIONS

The G.W.C.O.S. was instrumental in bringing about the resignations of a number of individuals from ethnic institutions such as the Indian and Coloured Management Committees. As a result of these resignations these ethnic institutions have lost any credibility they may have had.

SPORTS PERSONALITY COMPETITION

This competition which was organised by the G.W.C.O.S. was held on the 16 August 1980. Contestants were not only judged on their playing ability but on their commitment to the struggle for non-racialism in sport, as well.

By way of progress we wish to report as follows:

CHESS

The G.W.C.O.S. has addressed a meeting of the Galashewe Chess Club. They have indicated that they are keen to form a non-racial chess union. There are two other clubs, namely, St. Boniface and Perseverance Teachers' Training College. We have met with the Students Representative Council of the college and they too have shown great enthusiasm towards the principles and policies of Sacos. Circulars have been sent to all schools informing them of the intention to form a chess union.

ARCHERY and SQUASH

Non-racial archery and squash is non-existent in Kimberley. This can be attributed to the fact that there are no facilities available to the non-racial sportsmen/woman interested in these two sports. Racial squash is being played on a competitive basis.

Diamond Park Country Club, which enjoys a fairly good relationship with the G.W.C.C.S. is at present considering including archery and squash facilities in the future development of their sports complex.

Bowls

There is at present only one non-racial Bowls Club, the Diamond Park Bowls Club, in Kimberley. This club is, however, very active and has organised a number of competitions amongst its members.

GYMNASTICS and PARAPLEGICS

We are awaiting a report from the Senior Schools on these two sports.

KARATE

There are a few Karate Clubs in Kimberley but all of these play under the "Normal Sport" banner.

CYCLING

There appears to be an increase in the number of people interested in this sport and we believe that the hosting of a national tournament will greatly facilitate the formation of a non-racial cycling union, in Kimberley.

Baseball and Softball

Baseball and Softball have been revived in Kimberley. At present there are ten softball clubs and three baseball clubs with the possibility of four more baseball clubs joining the union.

DARTS

Since the expulsion of the Griqualand West Darts Union from SADBOD there has been no reaction from the darts players. There has been no contact with any rival organisation yet. Administration wise the Darts Union appears to be strong and competitions are still being played between clubs. In an informal discussion with the President of the G.W. Darts Union, he informed us that he would be prepared to allow the G.W.C.C.S. to address a meeting of the Darts Union.

There is not much to report on rugby, soccer, swimming, Mens' and Ladies' hockey except that they are continuing the noble struggle. Cricket which did not have a very good season last year has started the present season very well. Tennis is at present dormant because of the lack of facilities. There are nine clubs and only two courts which are barely playable.

THE LIONS TOUR: OUR STRATEGY

In our previous articles, namely, "Boycott the Lions Tour" and "The Retrogressive Lions Tour", we have endeavoured to enlighten the public of the many reasons why the present British Lions Tour is not acceptable to the disenfranchised sports-persons of this country. We therefore assume, that the majority of the people in Kimberley, because of the fact that the majority is oppressed, agree that the present tour and all it stands for and hopes to achieve, is not and can never be acceptable to people whose talents have been suppressed by a host of discriminatory legislature. How can we then, go about showing this non-acceptance.

Avenues of Redress Open to Us

The disenfranchised people, are, so we are told, represented by Community Councils, Management Committees and, on the national level, by Representative Councils. Experience has taught us that these so called "representative bodies" are nothing more than puppets of the Nationalist Government, whose main function is to appease the masses by accepting irrelevant concessions on behalf, or so they claim, of the masses. We therefore cannot consider these organisations to be viable channels through which to make our grievances known. On top of this quite obvious deception of representation, we have no member of parliament, neither do we have city councillors. The government has deprived us of one of the basic rights of any humane society.

In the past protest marches have been used to show open rejection for the present system, but as was seen, the victories won were not always worth the casualties suffered.

Oppressed people in South Africa have but one safe, legal and, above all, effective means of voicing their grievances, and that is the complete and total boycott of that which they find unacceptable.

BOYCOTT: Passive or Active

To many people the boycott of the Lions Tour is a passive protest. After all what you are really doing is nothing more than staying away from a rugby match. However, a boycott will entail more than just staying away. Any individual who supports such a boycott must seek to enlighten himself and then others, as to the reasons and objects behind the boycott. Only then will something be achieved.

BOYCOTT: What do we hope to achieve

Firstly it serves to unite the masses by making them aware that they have a common goal and also that they will only achieve that goal by standing as one. Secondly the success of the boycott will serve as an indication of the level and areas of enlightenment of the masses. It will bring to the fore all the underlying grievances of the oppressed and will lay bare the lies told to the international sports fraternity about the "normality" of sport in South Africa, thus pressurising the government into bringing about relevant change.

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NO BOYCOTT: What do we Achieve

Towards truly non-racial intergrated sport we will achieve absolutely nothing by supporting the Lions Match to be played in Kimberley. Towards helping the racist sports-persons maintain the status quo, we will have done a great deal. Not only will the racist sport benefit from the financial support, but by supporting this match we will show our acceptance of the government's "multi-national" sports policy and by so doing entrench racialism in sport and society and in the process lose whatever pride and dignity we have left.

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THE TRUE COLOURS OF SPRINGBOK RUGBY

The South African Rugby Association (Blacks) and the South African Rugby Federation (Coloured's) are affiliated as provincial units to the national White South African Rugby Board (SARB) which now consists of 24 affiliates-- 22 white provincial unions and two national Black bodies. This move was intended to further fortify apartheid rugby, while the affiliation of the two Black bodies would give White rugby international creditability.

The SARA and SARF are not allowed to enter teams in the inter-provincial Currie Cup competition because their players are not "good enough" for this premier league, but these very same players "become" good enough when a team is selected to tour overseas or when South Africa entertains an international side.

The racial policy of the SARB is highlighted by the recent Quagga Barbarians Team which was obviously selected on the basis of colour and not merit. A Quagga, related to the Zebra family, is an animal with an equal number of black, brown and white stripes. This was the criterion used for the selection of the Quagga Barbarian team i.e. 8 "Blacks" 8 "Whites and 8 "Coloureds".

The Craven Rugby Week is to include an invitation "Coloured" team on this year's programme. This team will only be allowed to participate on a friendly basis and the SARB's other affiliate, the South African Rugby Association, is conspicuously left out of this competition. A boycott by some white schools against the inclusion of these "Coloured" players, is already on the cards.

Recently one of the SARB's oldest clubs, namely Swifts of Uitenhage, have decided to keep their membership closed to all people of colour. The SARB, which claims to be non-racial has taken no action against this club.

Only the terribly naive or the extremely dishonest can conclude that the South African Rugby Board plays "non-racial" rugby". Sam Ramsamy.

"NORMAL SPORT CANNOT BE PLAYED IN AN ABNORMAL SOCIETY"

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THE RETROGRESSIVE LIONS TOUR

Success of Isolation

"White" South Africa remains almost totally isolated from the international sports arena. We have witnessed recently, the cancellation of the Springbok rugby tour of France, the banning of the Springbok Paraplegic team from the Para-Olympics in Holland, the banning of the South African yachting team and bowling team from Australia, the banning of the Springbok team from the World Surfing Championships in France, etc. This isolation has pressurised the "white" sportsmen and their government into making certain changes. Cosmetic, they most definitely are, but these "changes" have a special significance for the non-racial sportsmen. It proves that isolation is working.

Work Done

There has been a tremendous amount of work done by anti-apartheid organisations, such as the Irish anti-Apartheid Movement, the South African Non-racial Olympic Committee etc. throughout the world. These organisations have once again shown their solidarity with the international struggle for non-racial sport in South Africa, being waged by the South African Council on Sport and its affiliates, by openly rejecting the present British Lions Tour of South Africa. They totally reject the abhorable system of Apartheid not because they are directly affected by this system, but because they feel they have a moral obligation towards any oppressed fellow human being.

The Excuse for the Tour

The tour has however, gone ahead, and the few opportunists who support this tour use the ridiculous excuse that there has been a marked softening of the Apartheid policy of the Nationalist Government, and renewed contact with racist South Africa will encourage this softening. If the intentions of the British Lions is to encourage the softening of Apartheid, we suggest that they identify with the present school boycott and specifically with the on going struggle for non-racialism in sport and society, by terminating their present tour immediately.

So too, those of us who claim to support the students' rejection of Apartheid and all its manifestations, whether it may be in education, employment or sport, are duty bound to totally boycott the present British Lions Tour. Lest we be branded HYPOCRITES.

THE SOONER WE REJECT RACIAL SPORT, THE SOONER RACIAL SPORT WILL DIE

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INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE

A number of friendly soccer matches have been played amongst the employees of the various companies and businesses in Kimberley. The majority of these employees being black. What is interesting to note is that these lunch time - afterwork matches have been greatly encouraged by the employers concerned. In fact they have encouraged these matches to such an extent that some of these firms have actually provided soccer pitches on their premises and have bought or intend to buy, jerseys for their employees who participate in these friendlies

One wonders if there are any strings attached to this sudden interest shown on the part of the employers, in the recreational activities of their employees. Could it be that they are sincere in their efforts to make their employees as happy as possible, by way of spending money on their leisure activities? Have these employers finally woken up to the need of realising the aspirations of their employees, both workwise and sportwise? There are those amongst us who would not hesitate to answer yes to these questions. Indeed if the answer is yes, it would be quite a change from the usual trend of exploiting the black masses. Fortunately there are those of us, who have learnt from experience, to regard any concession or promise made by the white man, with suspicion.

There is one obvious question that springs to mind. What does the employer, as a business man, hope to get out of these matches. Surely any business man will first consider how profitable a venture will be to him before he invests any money. Perhaps he hopes that by providing his employees with an opportunity of participating in these matches, he will be creating an incentive for them to work harder and thus increase his profits. This could certainly be one reason for his interest in these matches.

A more likely reason, however, bearing in mind what happened when previous concessions were accepted and promises believed, is to make inroads into non-racial soccer, thereby weakening it, and at the same time, through the formation of an industrial league, promote the concept of racial sport. Big business and sport are two separate things at the moment, but connected to each other through sponsorships etc. What better way is there for big business to become directly involved in sport, than by organising their employees into an industrial league, thereby giving them a say in the administration of sport and eventually, because of their economic and financial power, control over sporting organisations. A control that will be used to force non-racial organisations to adopt a racial policy.

If this is the ulterior motive and if we allow it to come about then our non-racial struggle will have suffered a great defeat.

The white sports administrator has misled us in the past with his concessions and promises. Let us bear this in mind when we consider the concessions and promises he will make in the future. In the face of international isolation he has become increasingly desperate and will use any means in his power to entrench his apartheid policy. We must be careful that we do not participate in something which begins innocently and find ourselves once again being used to sell that which we find degrading and obnoxious, APARTHEID.

The ripples have begun and have been felt. It is up to the non-racial sportsman to prevent those ripples from growing into waves.