

United Peoples Movement,
C/- 15 Ponsonby Road,
Ponsonby,
AUCKLAND.

Just thought we'd send you this as an explanation
of our group, its aims & methods.

THE U.P.M. FULLY SUPPORTS THE STAND OF HE TAUA
IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO COMBAT RACISM

Kia ora ano tatou e rau rangatira ma kua whiriwhiri mai ra i te hui o Nga Tapuwae. I reira, kua ngamuri, kua moe, kua kai, a kua huitahi a tatou. I te mutunga o te ra tuatahi, ka patipati tatou, a kua hinga i nga "barriers". Mai i tera wa, ka akona, ka whakatipu kotahi tatou ki a tatou. Kihai i wareware matou i a koutou.

No reira, tena koutou, tena koutou, tena tatou katoa.

Because it is easier for us to write and hopefully easier for you to understand, we thought we would break-down into points our groups activities since its beginning, and from there we hope you can benefit from what we have to offer.

March to Waitangi:

Our group grew from the solidarity we gained while marching from Whangarei to Waitangi to protest against the treaty. Our protest was based on the belief that the treaty was a big lie from the start and was always intended to be; that it was just a stop-gap measure to keep Maori people content until the British Imperialists had enough soldiers to force a war they knew they could not lose. From this experience we gained a strength of mind and a unity on which to base our fight against all forms of oppression.

Aims:

We intend to fight all three fronts against:

1. RACISM: the oppression of one race by another.
(e.g. the pakehas oppressing Maoris)
2. SEXISM: the oppression of one sex by another.
(i.e. men oppressing women)
3. CAPITALISM: the oppression of the majority of the people, (the working class) by a minority of people, (the boss class - those who control the means of production.)

Because we don't want to bog you down right now we hope to explain these concepts in future letters.

Past Activities:

FAR-Q NOTES:

There are 2 editions enclosed and because of the large numbers in our group, we hope to distribute at least 10,000 every fortnight. However, we are having problems getting a source of paper and also printing facilities. Because of the content of our NOTES, we are being constantly harrassed by the police.

DISCO PATROLS:

We have been making kids aware of how they are being ripped off by people who are only in the business for personal gain. At the same time, we are trying to help kids realise that they can run their own discos. While doing this, certain members of our group were beaten up, arrested and tortured in the prison cells.

COURT APPEARANCES:

As a follow-up to this incident, our members defended their own cases and won simply because the police do not expect Blacks to be able to fight back.

"J" TEAMS:

Each team includes a policeman, a Minister of Religion and a Social Worker whose job it is to; liase between the disco kids and the police; prevent situations of potential violence. We found that the disco kids thought the "J" Teams were ineffective, so we checked them out. Their hearts are in the right place, but their hands are tied because of the regulations governing their jobs.

KARA PUKETA PU:

Whenever we feel that Kara Puketapu has side-stepped vital issues, we will bring this to his attention. For example, he double-talked his way out of having to give definite answers to any of our proposals that were presented to him after the Nga Tapuwae Hui. After researching his correspondence, we intend to confront him and demand that positive steps be taken towards implementing those proposals.

REGIONAL TU-TANGAT HUI:

We have already run one in Mangere and are in the process of organising others. Instead of waiting for Maori Affairs, we have taken the initiative to commence our own. We hope that you will contact us when you intend to hold your own Huis, and perhaps send an invitation for one of our members to attend.

WORKSHOPS:

We intend to continue our work-shops through our sub-committee with the ultimate aim of collating and distributing this important information.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD:

We are involved in this, as we wish to ensure that the children who most need to benefit from this campaign do so. Vast funds will become available through Telethon etc, and a majority of this money should be used to fund projects that will up-grade the standard of Maori childrens' education, health and general prospects for the future.

COURT WORKER:

The courts are bad news for our people! Their power is so heavily stacked against us, that it is of the utmost necessity that we have court workers who will truly fight for our rights. Duty Solicitors are paid by the case, so guilty pleas are the fastest way for them to get rich - and lawyers are too expensive!

PROPOSALS TO KARA PUKETAPU:

We presented a list of proposals to Kara as to what we thought Maori Affairs should be doing, but because of his position as a Government Servant, he could not give us the help we really needed. We believe that he is still a valuable source worth tapping for future needs.

MAORI LAND COURTS:

We went to one of their sittings, and were disgusted to find that Maori people had to crawl to a pakeha Judge to solve Maori Land Issues! We protested about this and the pakeha Judge called the police to have us removed. When they arrived however, the Maori clerk got them to leave because calling the police to deal with a disagreement is not the Maori way.

Meeting Church Groups:

We ran into a brick wall here, because of their almost total dependence on a pakeha god, as the only answer to our problems. As well as a pakeha god, they also had a pakeha expert on Maori issues who ran the whole show.

We attended a week-long seminar run by the Tu-Tangata group of the Maori churches.

Present Activities:

At present, our group has organised itself into sub-committees of six to deal with specific problems that are affecting our people.

These are:

HEALTH:

Because of the conditions Maori people are forced to live under, we are more susceptible to almost every disease going. Despite this we know very little about the diseases and their cures. Our aim is to educate ourselves and our people in this area.

ALCOHOL:

Abuse of alcohol results in the killing, maiming and imprisoning of more Polynesian people than everything else.

SMOKING: The hazards of this are well documented.

TENANTS PROTECTION:

Landlords are some of the biggest rip-off artists in the cities. High rents and poor conditions are their stock-in-trade. Whenever there is an unfair eviction, we expose the landlord and try to prevent the eviction, by any means possible e.g. Blockades, picket lines, occupation.

CONTRACEPTION:

Because of the stupidity of the law, women and girls are forced into unwanted pregnancies, because those involved have little or no knowledge of the contraceptive options available.

STREET WORK:

We keep in contact with what's happening on the street by patrolling Discos at night, talking to kids and "J" Teams, watching the pigs and trying to keep in contact with the gangs.

Far-Q Notes:

We distribute these notes (about discrimination and victimisation) to raise the awareness of people in relation to these problems. We also attempt to show them avenues through which they can attack them.

Future Activities:

DISTRICT MAORI COMMITTEES:

It is our intention to either join or create such committees, so that we may have the chance to vote in full Maori Council Meetings, in order to influence policies that directly affect Maori youth (who happen to be 75% of the Maori population.)

Occupational Hazards:

1. Another of our big problems is the lack of finance. We are honestly on the bones of our arses, just keeping the struggle going. Established groups find some excuse not to help us, and we are always falling back on our own personal incomes to finance our various projects. To date we are in debt to the tune of \$650.00, and although we have applied to Maori Affairs, their response has been a big NO. This lack of finance is severely straining family relationships, and the only thing keeping us together and moving ahead is our dedication.
2. We must also stress the pressure of time. Most of us work and all the programmes we are involved in must be fitted in and around our work schedules e.g. spending our nights patrolling the discos; attending meetings; and even the formulating of this newsletter meant staying up till 7.00 a.m., to ensure that we'd covered all that we believed was necessary. This also results in the increase of tensions between members of the group, especially married couples.
3. You must all know by now how much our group hates the media. This was made obvious by the stupid report in The Star, that completely negated the real strengths of the hui at Nga Tapuwae. We particularly oppose interviews with the media, because they highlight the actions of a few of our members, and ignore the unity and purpose the group as a whole has to offer.
4. Whenever we step out on the streets to politicize our people we are either harrassed, arrested or beaten up. Sometimes, when people don't like us in meetings, courts or offices, they get the police to deal with us.
5. Personal hassles involved in committing ourselves to the struggle. It all but demolishes family life at times and sometimes alienates us from our friends, relatives and other people. In the group itself learning to work together, progress together and stand together and stand together at all levels is incredibly hard and personality clashes often occur.
6. Established groups such as Elders, the N.Z.M.C., Department of Maori Affairs, M.N.W.L. and church groups often see us as trouble-making radicals with nothing to offer. Other times they see us as a threat because we do the things they know they should be doing, but have become scared to. We very rarely receive support from anybody else who has our peoples welfare at heart.

We have tried to cover as much as possible. If you have any questions please send them to the address at the top of this letter.

We are holding a social at the Newmarket Railway Hall, on Saturday the 21st of April, to cover the outstanding debts from our march to Waitangi. Tickets are \$6.00. If you are in Auckland, please drop in and lend us your support.

Hēoi ano, na reira i o matou tini hoa, tena koutou, tena koutou, tena tatou ano!

Na o koutou hoa i roto i te,
"United Peoples Movement"

