

EDITORIAL

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

"It is not to judge the focus on the politics of production, but rather to open up the underbelly of industrial experience

that the cultural and psychological dimensions of workers' experiences and consciousness need to be studied as well,"

writes Grahame Hayes in his introduction to *The childhood of industrial experience* by Ari Sitas. With its emphasis on the ideological determinants of "the class of '76", Sitas

explores the neglected relationship between childhood and the formation of a working-class consciousness, using oral history material gathered from young workers in the Transvaal metal industry, radicalized by the experiences of 1976.

Next, G. Bruce Irvine's article *Alienation and unemployment - work in progress*, reviews current theories and definitions of alienation, concluding with an analysis of its relationship with unemployment. Discussing the psychological treatment of the effects of unemployment, Irvine cogently quotes Bandura's opinion, stating that "if psychologists are to have a significant impact, they must apply their corrective measures to detrimental societal practices, rather than limit themselves to treating casualties of these practices."

The third article *The 1981 rent boycott in Durban* by David Basckin, systematically reviews the history of the rent boycott that took place in a number of sub-economic housing estates administered by the Durban City Council. Basckin concludes his piece with a discussion of the tactical and community organization errors that were made, and relates this to a community psychology intervention that developed as a direct consequence.

Next, Briefings: and in this section of the journal we begin with *Objective measures of alienation*, by R.D. Bedford and M.J. Cassidy. In the course of a project-evaluation they conducted, the authors develop an operationalized measure of alienation that distances itself from a positivist approach. Instead, the Bedford-Cassidy definition clearly contextualizes itself within capitalist political economy, manifested "within the workplace ... the world in general, the community, the family and the individual."

Debbie Gould's *Gender-based alienation: a feminist/materialist theory of rape* follows. In this analysis, the writer argues that "The act of rape is inherent in social definitions of masculinity and femininity. As such it is an ideological and behavioural consequence of gender-based alienation - men are considered legitimate aggressors and women legitimate victims, and each is structured for the role."

Briefings ends with *The debate on child abuse within South African childrens' homes: the alienation of the childcare workers* by David Basckin. In this short piece, Basckin asserts the nudity of the emperor by unambiguously stating the manifest discontents shared by many childcare workers, concluding with two proposed solutions to the crisis.

Then Reviews, with two books reviewed by Gillian Eagle and Bonginkosi Nzimande.

Finally, readers are asked to note that in future each centre (Durban, Capetown, Johannesburg) will produce one number of the journal each year, with Capetown undertaking the next issue. This - like the variety of typefaces that adorn these pages - is the inevitable consequence of our independence which has meant zero access to the generous funding available to collaborationist journals.