

CROSSROADS

I live where I like



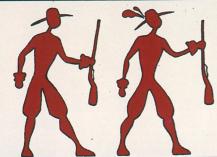
Koni Benson

André Trantraal

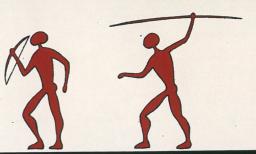
Nathan Trantraal



IT TOOK TWO CENTURIES-FROM THE 1650'S TO THE 1850'S-FOR WHITE SETTLERS TO GAIN POWER AND CONTROL OVER BLACK PEOPLE. THEREAFTER CITIES STILL NEEDED TO BE CONTROLLED IN ORDER TO KEEP BLACKS IN SUBSERVIENT ROLES. SQUATTING CAN BE SEEN AS ONE OF THE MOST VISIBLE FORMS OF REJECTING THE IDEAS BEHIND THE POLICIES AND PRACTICES THAT STOLE LAND AND FREEDOM IN SOUTH AFRICA.



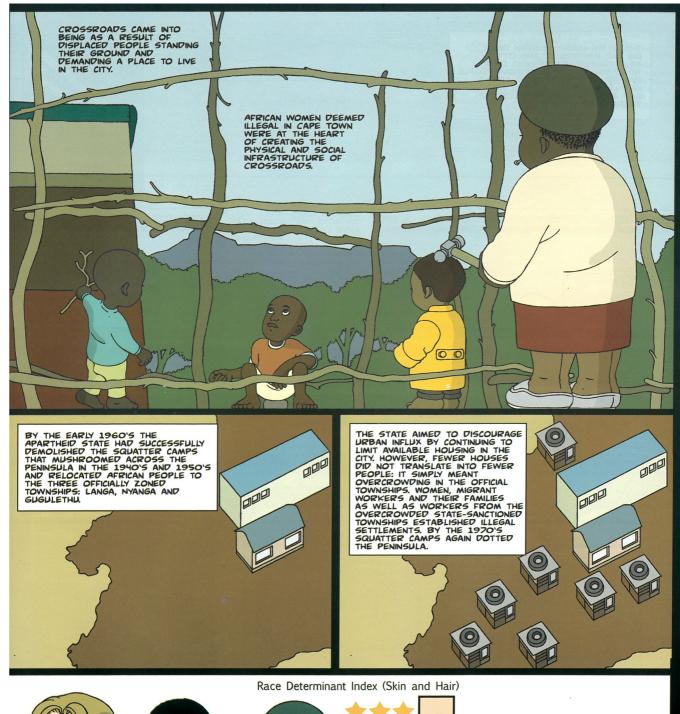
INCIDENTS OF SQUATTING AND ISSUES OVER WHO WAS SETTLING ON WHOSE LAND WERE REPORTED AS EARLY AS THE APPEARANCE OF THE FIRST SETTLERS.





WITHIN A FEW YEARS THE SALT AND LIESBEEK RIVERS WERE MARKED AS THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN KHOI, EX-SLAVE AND SETTLER TERRITORIES.







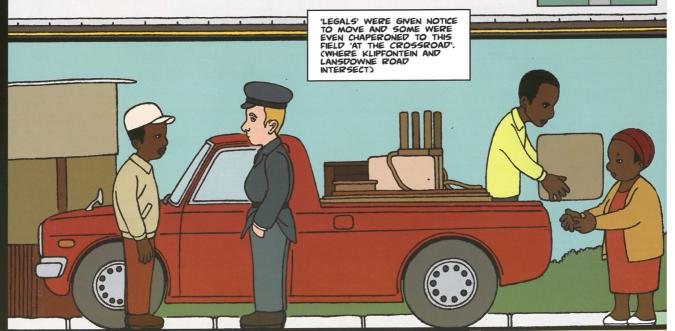


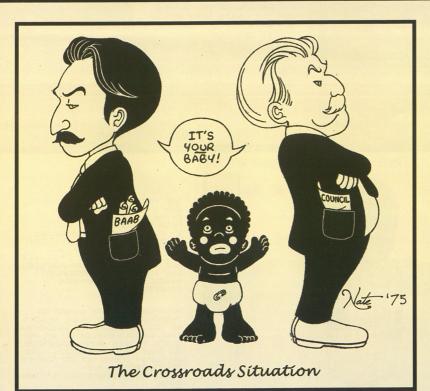
THE APARTHEID STATE SOUGHT NOT ONLY TO DIVIDE BLACK FROM WHITE BUT AFRICAN FROM COLOURED.
IT FURTHER DIVIDED AFRICANS IN TERMS OF LEGAL AND ILLEGAL WHERE URBAN RIGHTS LIKE ACCOMMODATION WAS CONCERNED, AND PERMANENT (CAPE-BORNER) AND MIGRANT (AMAGODUKA) WHERE EMPLOYMENT WAS CONCERNED.

APARTHEID WAS DESIGNED TO DISORGANIZE AND DIVIDE BLACKS TO CREATE COMPETING MINORITIES THAT WERE SEGREGATED, MAKING BLACK PEOPLE MORE VIJLNERABLE TO CONSTANT OPPRESSION THAN A MAJORITY COGNIZANT OF SHARED DISPOSSESSION AND DISENFRANCHISEMENT WOULD HAVE REEN

THE STATE USED AN OPEN FIELD ON THE MARGINS OF THE CITY AS A TEMPORARY TRANSIT CAMP TO DETERMINE WHICH AFRICAN PEOPLE EVICTED FROM COLOURED AREAS HAD LEGAL RIGHTS TO THE CITY AND WHICH WOULD BE DEPORTED TO THE BANTUSTANS.

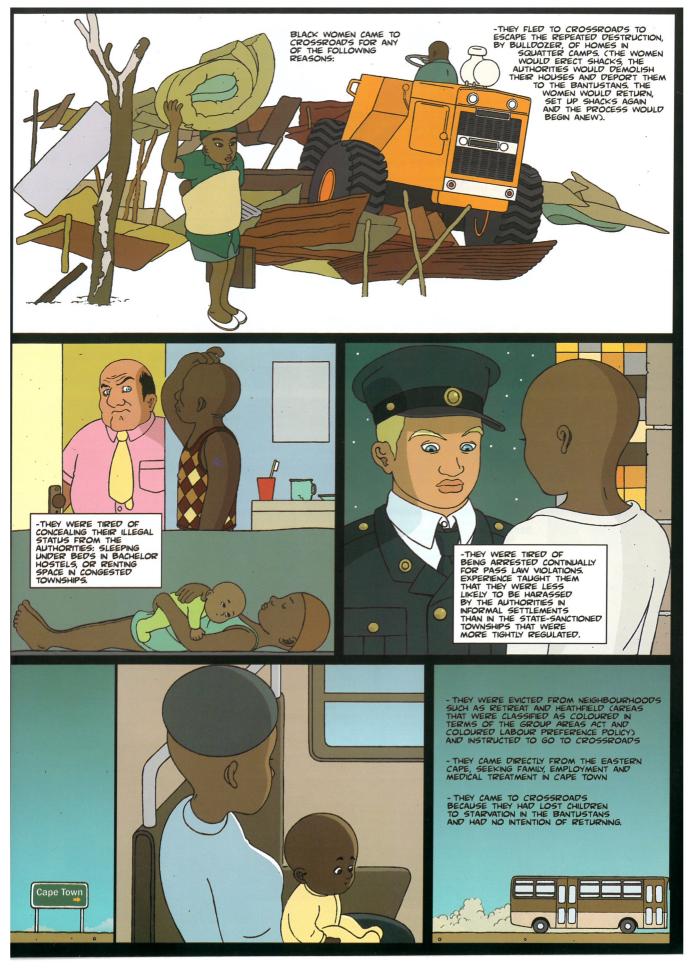






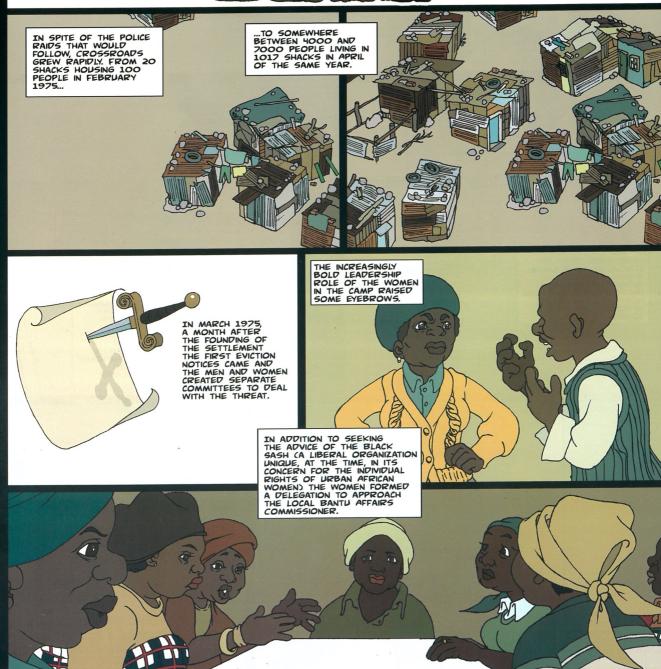
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UNCERTAINTY EXISTED OVER WHICH STATE BODY WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SHORT-SIGHTEDLY CONCEIVED CAMP, NEITHER THE BANTU AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION BOARD OR THE DIVISIONAL COUNCIL WANTED THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CROSSROADS, TECHNICALLY, WAS ON DIVISIONAL COUNCIL LAND BUT BEYOND THE EISELEN LINE THAT SEPARATED COLOURED FROM BLACK AREAS.



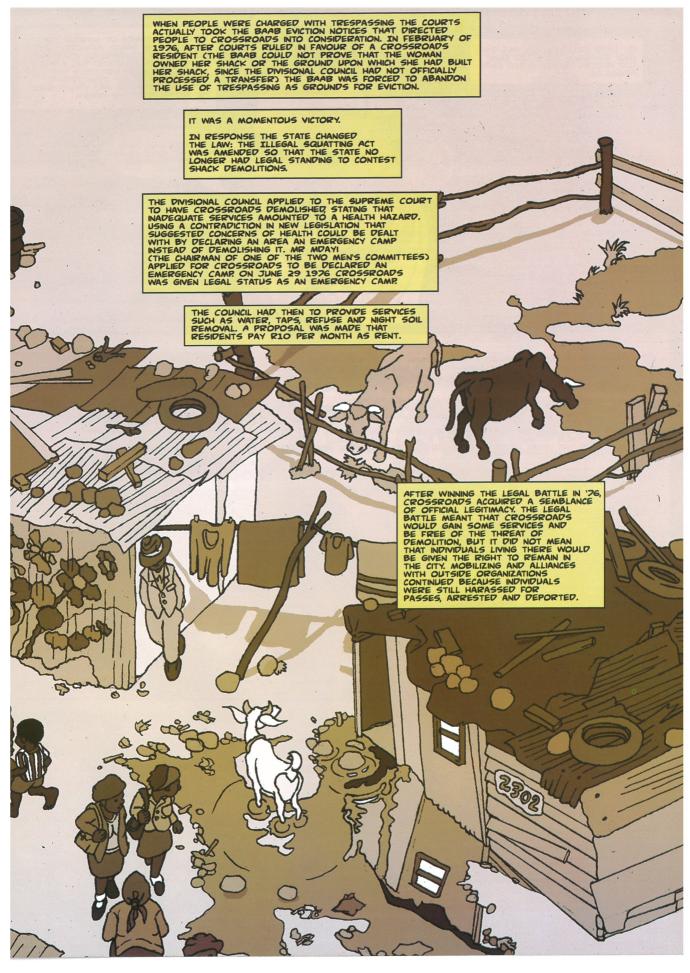
CROSSROADS BECAME KNOWN AS A PLACE FULL OF TRANSKEI WOMEN. THIS WAS BECAUSE WOMEN WERE IN CHARGE OF THE MAJORITY OF THE HOUSEHOLDS IN THE CAMP. APDITIONALLY, MEN WORKING IN THE CITY HEARD THAT THERE WAS A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE COULD LIVE AS FAMILIES.

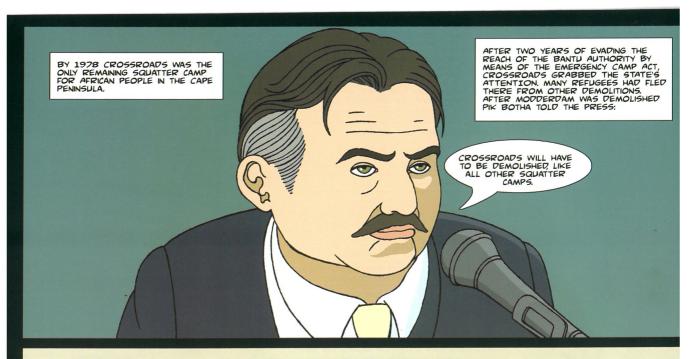








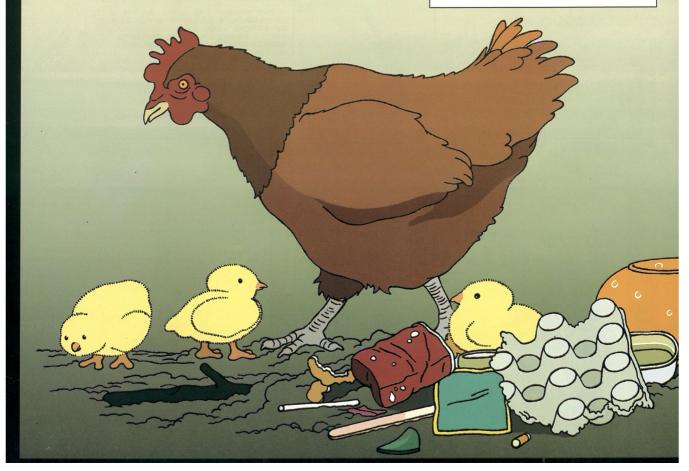




IN THE FACE OF THIS INTENSIFIED STATE CAMPAIGN TO DESTROY THEIR HOMES AND COMMUNITY (WHICH CULMINATED IN A MASSIVE POLICE RAID ON SEPTEMBER 14 1978), THE WOMEN'S COMMITTEE TOOK THE LEAD TO ORGANIZE A POWERFUL MOVEMENT TO DERY THE APARTHEID REGIME AND DEFEND CROSSFOADS. IN THE EARLY YEARS THEY PUSHED BOUNDARIES: FROM INDIVIDUAL RESISTANCE IN THE 1960'S TO BEING ORGANIZED AS A COLLECTIVE IN THE EARLY 1970'S, AFTER 1978 THEIR PROTESTS WOULD BECOME OVERTLY POLITICAL AND HIGHLY PUBLICIZED.

WOMEN DECIDED THAT THE BEST WAY TO WITHSTAND REMOVAL WAS TO EXTEND THEIR ALLIANCES AND ORGANIZE A HIGHLY VISIBLE PUBLIC CAMPAIGN AT THE LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL THE AIM WAS TO CALL ATTENTION TO THEIR PLIGHT.

THEIR SOLIDARITY NETWORK WAS BUILT ON EARLIER RELATIONSHIPS WITH ANTIAPARTHEID ACTIVISTS AND ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE BLACK SASH, CHURCHES, UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, LAWYERS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATIONS. THEIR MANY PROTEST ACTIONS CAPTURED THE ATTENTION OF POWERFUL FORCES WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA: FROM THE STATE TO BUSINESS, TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, WHICH WAS THREATENING THE COUNTRY WITH SANCTIONS.

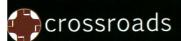








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History Koni Benson

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