"Eight years too short" — SADF

The De Lange Report has been overwhelmingly rejected by the 1600 delegates to the Afrikaans education 'Volkskongres'.

The report recommended the promotion of a single education ministry and the reduction of apartheid at school level. More than 96% of the Volkskongres' delegates voted to retain white education firmly in the hands of whites. Other motions passed include:

- the establishment of a national parent 'watchdog' organisation to monitor the quality of Afrikaans schooling;
- the standard of white education may not, under any circumstances, be sacrificed.

The congress was dominated by Prof Carel Boshoff, chief of the Broederbond, representing Sabra (the SA Bureau for Racial Affairs) and Dr Chris Jooste, director of Sabra. There were scores of the 'ultra-conservative' dominium of the 3 Afrikaans churches. This extreme rightwing stand is expected by observers to throw up Don Marshall wrote the new Bill as an attempt at reform, no matter how superficial.

The 'Volk' rejects De Lange

The army is unhappy about what they call the 'relatively short service period of only 8 years for Citizen Force members.' The proposals contained in the Bill are that there is an initial service period of only 8 years for Citizen Force members.

When the army is unhappy, conscripts will be placed in the Active Citizen Force Reserve. Here they are called up as the government's total strategy as the underlying cause. A massively expanded commando-force is needed to cope with internal resistance, and the threat of insurrections. There is in addition talk in military circles of a conventional attack on South Africa. According to an SADF officer 'it is foreseen that an attempt at a final kill will be made through a conventional attack against South Africa.'

In exploring the build-up Don Marshall wrote in the RDM 'a planned increase in SA's military presence in SWA over the next three years.' He sees the new Bill as acknowledgment that SA will not reach a settlement in Namibia.

News Shorts

Power & Conflict at Kathberg

This year's Nuusas introductory seminar takes place at Kathberg from 15-19 April. A wide range of issues based on a central theme of Power and Conflict will be covered. Issues will include education, student movements, socialisation, sexism and labour.

The seminar will provide an excellent opportunity for intercampus contact. Numbers are limited to 100 people and the price will be in the region of R30.

Interested people should speak to Ellen at the SRC offices.

Focus on SASPU

Saspu has launched an exciting new publication called 'Saspu Focus'. 'Saspu Focus' is a magazine dealing with features written by students and academics. It is dedicated to understanding of the issues confronting them today; said John Lazur, Saspu president and the editor of 'Focus'.

The magazine will be circulated to all Saspu affiliated campuses, four or five times a year. The first edition contains only four features, one by David Webster, a lecturer in the Social Anthropology Department. More features will be added to future editions depending on the response it gets from students and academics.

Technologists move

The Technology Study Group (TSG) is on the move again. The election of a new executive took place at the AGM on Wednesday, 24 March 1982. Alexis Bredel is the new chairperson, Steve Duchen the vice-chair and Bruce Gillespie the secretary. The group has also organised a planning meeting.

At their first meeting the 'focus will be on political, social and economic issues of technology.' The meeting will be held on Thursday
Seven released from detention

Joyful scenes on Saturday greeted seven detainees released by the security branch on Friday.

They met members of the Detainees' Parent Support Committee and friends at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Some of them met friends and fellow-detainees for the first time since their imprisonment, which in some cases took place more than five months ago.

In a joint statement released on Saturday, the seven said their incarceration had not affected their opposition to the current security legislation, especially the use of solitary confinement.

Their 'jubilation' at being released was 'soured by the fact of the continued detention of our friends and in particular Neil Aggett's tragic death.'

They still believe 'in the creation of a free and democratic South Africa'.

Although the seven all seemed in good physical shape, two of them — Mr Nicholas 'Fink' Haysom and Mr Colive van Heerden — have lost much weight while in detention.

Mr van Heerden's brother, Auret is still being held under Section 6 of the Terrorism Act. He is a former president of the National Union of South African students (Nusas).

Those who were released on Friday are:

- Mr Keith Coleman and Mr Clive van Heerden, both fulltime Wits students working as journalists with the SA Students Press Union (SASPU).
- Mr Morris Smithers (detained 3.11.81) of the Environmental Development Agency.
- Doctor Liz Floyd (26.11.81), a medical doctor and girlfriend of Mr Clive van Heerden who was found hanged in his cell in February.
- Mr Nicholas Haysom (26.11.81), employed by the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at Wits University and former UCT SRC and Nusas president.
- Mr Colin Purkey (26.11.81), a Unisa student.
- Miss Debbie Elkon (26.11.81).

All seven were held in solitary confinement for most of the period of their detention.

An eighth detainee, SA Institute of Race Relations project worker, Miss René Roux, was due to be discharged from the Johannesburg Hospital on Saturday afternoon.

She was taken to hospital suffering from a potassium deficiency.

In a separate statement, the DPSC said they were concerned 'not with individual detainees or their relatives, but with all detainees. As such, we cannot rejoice until all detainees are set free.'

While we are naturally pleased for those who have been released, we feel angry at the senseless waste of months and months of their lives and concern about the scars left by their brutal ordeal of solitary confinement and interrogation.'

The committee's thoughts were 'sparked by the accused in security trials presently under way' and with those still languishing in detention and their families.'

Three of those presently being held by the security police — Miss Barbara Hogan, Mr Alan Fine and Mr Cedric Maysom — appeared briefly in the Johannesburg Regional Court on Friday.

They have been charged under Section 2(1a) of the Terrorism Act, although no details of the charges were available.

A spokesman for the DPSC said yesterday that as far as the committee knew, about 180 people in South Africa and the homelands were still detained in terms of security legislation.

He said that from the most recent figures available, 773 people were detained in 1981.

Seven months tension

'Tension becomes part of your make up,' said Les Lax after 7 months in detention.

Les Lax was detained with three others on 11 August 1981. They were Ben Greyling, Michael O'Donovan and Elaine Mohamed.

The 360 days, of which 350 were suspended for 5 years, he was freed on Friday 19 March 1982.

His ten days in jail were 'the longest he had lived through' and it is now 'lekker to be out'. The warm welcome was really amazing, 'the kind of thing I needed ... it's looking forward to living, seeing grass ... people.'

Surprisingly, Les stated, he feels no bitterness or resentment and had not even thought about leaving SA, but is now concentrating on completing his Froneman 111.

will exhaust yourself — you have to live with it.'

A further 12 Terrorism Act detainees have said they had been assaulted during the last 6 months of 1981. The Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetse, said that 'two cases were referred to the Attorney-General who declined to prosecute'. The other cases are either still being investigated or are being prepared for consideration.

Dr Paul, executive member of the National Indian Congress has been transferred to a Durban psychiatric ward about a week ago. This brings the official total of detainees to be held for more than six months.
A man was shot by a student and severely injured outside one of the residences of the University of Pietermaritzburg.

The incident occurred on Tuesday 16 March at Dennyson House. According to a spokesman for the men's res, a 'suspicious-looking black man' was seen in a 'closed off' area of the res and spotted by a male resident who subsequently pursued the man.

This 'pursuit' was a result of tension created after 26 bicycles had been stolen from the res in the past 9 months. These thefts were alleged to be part of a 'professional job'.

When approached and questioned, the man claimed that he was a security guard and after further questioning fled into a field adjacent to the residence.

The student in pursuit called for assistance and with a group of men from the res cornered the 'intruder' in the field. He then pulled out a knife and stabbed at the crowd, said an eyewitness.

A student who was not aware of the fact that he was armed, attacked him. He was subsequently attacked, sustaining superficial injuries.

The 'intruder', still cornered, 'tried to cut himself out of the crowd' and was threatened with a firearm, held by one of the residents in the crowd.

When the man persisted in trying to escape, he was shot at, sustaining serious injuries to his kidneys. He is presently in a critical condition.

The firearm, identified as a 357 rifle, was kept in residence to be 'used for sporting purposes.'

A spokesman said that firearms were not allowed in residence, but it was early in the year and people had not 'got round to handing them in'.

No further information as to whether disciplinary action has been taken or as to whether the police are involved could be obtained.

It appears that attempts are being made to 'hush up the incident. The vice-principal of PMB and the dean of residence were not available for comment.

**Tuks fights sex restrictions**

Red-blooded Tukkies are demanding an outlet for their sexual frustrations.

The Tukkies SRC has confronted the university's executive and insisted on a hearing. They have demanded that stringent sex rules be relaxed.

A call for the freedom of movement for both sexes in res rooms has been made. The Tukkies SRC has approached the rector to allow members of both sexes into each other's rooms between 2pm and 4pm on Sundays.

Deadlines have also been attacked. Deadlines in Tukkies residences are among the strictest in the country. A first year student must be in his room by 8pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, while on Wednesdays they can stay as late as 9.30pm. The rules for weekends are slightly more lenient: 'What bothers me most', said one student, 'is that no-one asked if the rules would be inconvenient for us.' In fact, the rules are largely applied by the TED with the rest arising from an agreement between parents and the University. The students have no say whatsoever in the drawing up of these rules or in their implementation.

Another thorny issue, that of sexual discrimination, has reared its ugly head. Senior male students have no deadline restrictions at all. Their female counterparts are restricted in the same way as 1st years. These rules have been denounced as 'ridiculous' and 'discriminatory'. Students feel that these rules are arbitrarily imposed upon without their having a say in the matter.

Most students interviewed said that something should be done about the situation although few were more specific. The general feeling among students is that students want more say in matters that directly concern them.

**Canteen — a white elephant**

The new canteen, hallowed as the largest on campus, seems likely to turn out to be the largest white elephant on campus.

Certain fundamental oversights in the design of the building sadly detract from its appeal.

Inside the serving area, for instance, there is a stairwell and an elevator, not to mention a door leading into the foyer. These opportunities for students to whom the idea of paying for their food does not appeal.

Wits Security was reluctant to voice an opinion, but conceded that the door to the foyer had to be closed off for security reasons.

Toilet facilities are also limited. The entire complex boasts two toilets to serve the expected clientele of around 2000 people. Students approached on this voiced various opinions which were mostly unprintable.

It is painless obvious that Wits took the trouble to consult students beforehand. The architect of the building could unfortunately not be reached, so this remains a moot point, but how else does one explain a hypermodern building enveloped in robust smoked-glass that shatters at the lightest touch, lighting that maintains a perpetual gloom, especially on cloudy days, and a chance of one in a thousand of reaching the toilets in time?

**Dup would serve under Mandela**

'I will serve as Vice-chancellor under the new Chancellor, whoever he or she may be,' said Prof du Plessis last week.

This followed the reopening of nominations for Chancellor after the nominations were invalidated as a result of a technical irregularity.

All the nominees involved in the invalidated nominations will have to be re-nominated (to be valid for the election).

Nelson Mandela, one of the previous nominees could not accept nomination in writing. This was part of the cause of the irregularity. Mr Ken Standenmacher, academic and administrative registrar said that it is up to Mr Mandela's nominators to get his written acceptance.

Helen Suzman, MP for Houghton and Dr Alan Rosenthal, chairman of Barlow Rand, are expected to be renominated as well.

The closing date for voting papers is 23 June. Nominations for candidates must be in at least 7 weeks before this date.

**ISMEL ... LET'S GO!!**

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Contact: SAUJS
Telephone 37-3000
Glen Lambert, newly elected CSC president, has declared his own election null and void.

Amid controversy at last Thursday's SRC meeting, Mr. Lambert voted in favour of a motion which called on him to declare the election null and void. He had previously admitted that the elections had been unconstitutional.

Wits Student established before the SRC meeting that Keith Feldman, also a new exec member, knew the election had been unconstitutional at the last meeting but did not intervene.

Lambert himself was elected to the position of president after being unopposed. Michael Henegan was the only nominee for the position of vice president. In a move described by David Ovenden, constitutions officer, as 'an attempt to handpick his lieutenants', Lambert made a ruling from the chair blocking Henegan's election.

Lambert ruled that unopposed candidates would need a two thirds majority vote before being elected. Ovenden pointed out that this move was highly irregular and added why 'Mr Lambert had not applied the confidence vote to himself'.

Michael Henegan failed to receive the required number of votes after a substantial number of abstentions. Nominations were reopened. Adrian Jooste was nominated by Glen Lambert. He was elected to the position of vice president.

Henegan was then elected to the position of deputy vice president. Wits Student tried to reach Henegan for comment but he could not be contacted.

Glen Lambert told Wits Student that 'Henegan couldn't have done the job anyway' and he was 'lucky to get on as deputy vice'.

The SRC election will be held over until a new constitution has been ratified by the SRC. David Ovenden told the SRC that he had looked through the new constitution and that it was a vast improvement on the old.

Ovenden also told Wits Student after the SRC meeting, that it was 'a pity that commerce students had to suffer because of the shoddy way in which Glen ran that meeting.'

The SRC has chosen its new leadership. Three vacancies on the exec have been filled.

David Ferreira is the new deputy vice-president. Daryl Glaser, the new further vice president and Damon Bizos is the new executive secretary.

The positions were filled at the SRC meeting on Thursday 23 March. The vacancies arose after Judy Maller, Mina Coelho and Ruth Becker resigned from the executive. They however still remain on the SRC.

All three executive positions were contested by John Abramson.

David Ferreira was this year's Orientation chairperson and had as an SRC member covered the groundwork necessary to work closely with the administration in the record of experience on the SRC. Bizos has previously served on the executive. Glaser is a newcomer to the SRC.

Glen Lambert told SRC president, Jeremy Clark, announced that he had received and accepted a letter of resignation from Bruce Fordyce. Fordyce is no longer eligible to be on the SRC as he has become an academic staff member of the university.

Clark also made it clear to the SRC that it was not the intention of the SRC to ban sporting contact with Afrikaans campuses. The SRC exec recently met with the All Sports Council, Faculty Council reps and the Black Students Society. During the discussion Clark made it clear 'that the SRC will not take any unilateral decision on sport'.

 SRC elects three new leaders

The SRC has a film star amongst its ranks: newly elected Mr Abe Allison.

On Tuesday 23 March Mr Allison was elected to serve on a public body. This was just two weeks after his public appearance before a full civic theatre.

Mr Jamie Uys, well known film maker (Funny People etc) has previously approached the university for a student to appear at the Civic Theatre. Mr Allison got the job. He had to introduce a prominent international celebrity to a Civic Theatre audience. For this he would be paid R20.

Unfortunately for Abe, it only went well until he had finished his speech. Followed from side to side by a spotlight, he found the curtain impenetrable. It had miraculously sealed itself.

By this stage the audience was tittering. By the time he had leapt off the stage, they were laughing. When Jamie Uys apologised and explained to Abe he was to be on film, they were in hysterics.

Mr Allison thought that his ‘night of shame’ could remain a secret. However as a member of the SRC he will find it more difficult to escape the public eye.
Solidarity — the d

'An act in blatant contradiction with the very essence of socialism,' raged Santiago Carillo, leader of Spain's 140000
member Communist Party.

When Poland's military leaders declared martial law in
December last year, the most vocal foreign outcry came not
from conservative Western leaders, but from the Communist
Parties of Spain and Britain.

Italy's Communist Party (1.7 million members) issued a
resolution which argued that 'when one is no longer able to
face the protests of the working class and the people with
political means, and resorts to military force, this represents a
blow to the very cause of socialism.'

Solidarity

More than a million members
of the Polish Communist Party
quit during the prolonged
confrontation between the
independent trade union
Solidarity and the Polish
government.

One Central Committee
member complained: 'Mostly it
is workers who are leaving the
Party... There is something
wrong in our whole apparatus,
in our entire structure.'

For many Socialists and
Marxists throughout the world,
the crushing of Solidarity was
seen as the extinguishing of a
hope-inspiring experiment in
democratic worker organisation
under Socialism. What is the
history that lies behind the
spectacle of a 'Marxist-Leninist
government' opening fire on the
working class?

Poland, in contrast to Russia,
Yugoslavia, Cuba or Mozam-
bique, never underwent a
socialist revolution. The
revolution was imposed 'from above' by Joseph Stalin's post-
government. The Soviet
Union was determined to ensure
that Poland would never again
be used as a staging ground for
attacks on Russia.

Progress

Under Communist leadership,
Poland, an agrarian backwater,
made considerable progress in
some areas. The country
underwent massive industriali-
sation, and today only 40% of
the people work in agriculture.
Most live in the towns, own
plots of land; no forced
collectivisation was undertaken.
Literacy, health and education
were expanded.

But rapid industrialisation,
food shortages and price hikes
generated worker riots on
several occasions, most notably
in 1956 and 1970. After the latter
uprising, in which a number of
workers died in Gdansk, the new
Communist Party leader,
Edward Gierek, decided to
launch massive expansion
programme to raise the Polish
standard of living.

Gierek', writes Thomas Sanc-
ton, 'had the instincts of a
high-rolling capitalist.' His
government borrowed heavily
from Western financiers and
used the loan capital to finance
the construction of factories by
multi-national companies like
Massey-Ferguson, RCA
Corporation and Corning Glass
Works.

European and American
capitalists made handsome
profits while Poland's debt to the
West grew.

Gierek's policy of integrating
Poland into the international
capitalist economy was to have
disastrous consequences.

Erosion

To pay off foreign loans and
to maintain subsidies on food
prices, the government relied on
revenue earned through exports
to the West. But the 1973-4
recession in the capitalist world
eroded Poland's export drive.

So the government had to
borrow more and more from the
West. Repaying interests on
loans to 501 Western banks and
15 governments now consumes
all of Poland's hard currency
export earnings ($6.5 billion in

The only route of escape for
the government was to reduce
state expenditure by cutting
back food price subsidies. This
generated riots in 1976 and, in
the middle months of 1980, it
gave birth to the independent
trade union, Solidarity.

What exactly was Solidarity?
It was a spontaneously formed
organisation — part mass
movement and part trade union
— which emerged as a focal
point of opposition to the
Communist Party regime in
Poland.

Its 9.5 million members saw
the movement as a vehicle for
expressing discontent over the
government's mismanagement
and authoritarianism, and the
Party's position of privilege in a
society that was supposed to
have done away with gross
inequalities of material and
political power.

Its members called for
'socialist renewal' — the creation
of a society which recognised
democratic freedoms.

It is difficult to generalise
about it that is conservative, and
much that is progressive.

Solidarity's leadership and
members were mostly devout
Catholics who, in years past, had
looked to the Church as an
alternative to the authority of
Party and state.

Disaffection

Disaffection with the
Communist regime and
resentment of Russia's
Imperialist sway over Poland
ensured that religion and
nationalism survived as major
forces which the Communist
Party was forced to tolerate.

On the progressive side,
Solidarity voiced demands for
worker power and political
liberty. It demanded working
class control of production and
distribution throughout the
economy; it demanded higher
wages, shorter working hours
and the ended subsidisation of
food prices.

Its demands were incompl-
ent both with the existing
dis
Solidarity's membership climbed rapidly to nearly 10 million after it was formed in August 1980. Born in euphoria, Solidarity lacked clear focus; in the end it was easily crushed.

Solidarity's membership climbed rapidly to nearly 10 million after it was formed in August 1980. Born in euphoria, Solidarity lacked clear focus; in the end it was easily crushed.

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was calling for radical democracy.
Solidarity itself was unfocused, a spontaneous movement born in an atmosphere of euphoria. It was not a trade union as such and lacked adequate shop-floor organisation.

Solidarity evolved into two broad factions. The one was the central leadership under Lech Walesa, which sought to moderate Solidarity's demands and to form a durable alliance with the Church, Party and State.

The other faction was the more radical and militant. Time and again it ignored the exhortations of the Church and Walesa to behave with moderation. It demanded political power and nothing less.

At Solidarity's first Congress Walesa was attacked in speech after speech for entering into discussions with the government and Church without consulting the rank-and-file. It nearly ousted Walesa as Solidarity leader (he squeaked home with 55.2% of the vote). The Congress demonstrated the vigorously democratic character of the movement.

Reforms

Solidarity achieved major reforms in its heyday. Freedom of press and travel were won; large numbers of corrupt state and Party officials were removed from their positions; religious freedom was extended.

Perhaps the most significant change of all occurred in the Polish Communist Party itself. Far from being impervious to change, hundreds of thousands of members began to demand the Party's democratisation.

So what went wrong? Large numbers of technocrats and Party officials who enjoyed positions of prestige and authority under the old dispensation felt deeply threatened by calls for grassroots control of the economy and Party.

Soviet backing

With Soviet backing (including showy military manoeuvres on Poland's borders), they struggled to retain control. The drastically deteriorating economy, and Solidarity's increasing political demands, gave them the pretext for action.

If the Party itself could not rely upon to demand a restoration of order, they would have to go outside the Party. They did.

In late December the Polish army backed by Russia and the Communist faction launched a coup against the Communist Party and proceeded to crush Solidarity. A dream ended in tragedy.

Far from demonstrating that socialism is incompatible with democracy, the Polish crisis showed the Communists fighting for democracy in their own ranks.

To those who favoured old-style bureaucratic socialism this was intolerable.
In this edition of Wits Student we focus on the workers struggle in Poland. Democratic students should support democratic worker movements around the world. The right to organise freely is fundamental to a democratic society.

Eight young South Africans have been released after up to 6 months of incarceration in detention cells. Our joy at their release is tempered by sadness and anger that so many of our fellow South Africans still languish in the interrogation cells of John Vorster Square and elsewhere.

We reiterate our call for the unconditional release of all political prisoners.

A letter on this page calls for the SRC to lead students into a boycott of the University’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

While we agree with the writer that the University is indeed an undemocratic and hierarchical institution, we believe that in this instance many gains can be made through negotiation.

We have already seen the University take a strong stand against detentions. Students and staff have called for the unconditional release of all detainees.

What is important, however, is that the University authorities are made aware that students do not wholly accept the concept of the Diamond Jubilee. We should rather use the sixty years of Wits’ history as a barometer of its progress.

What has Wits achieved in sixty years? On the one hand it has educated thousands who are quickly co-opted into the establishment. But many others have gained a critical understanding of their society at this institution.

These people, and the many politically active students at Wits today, have and will play an important role in the struggle for a just and democratic society.

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Contributors:
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Letters:
Letters to the Editor should be accompanied by names and addresses. These are not necessarily for publication and pseudonyms will be allowed. They are merely for the purposes of identification. Letters should be lodged with the SRC secretary.

The Editor reserves the right to shorten letters should they be longer than 200 words.
Back on the Track (We Hope)

Here Wits Student Editor, Ross Hutton, examines the recent crisis in the Students Representative Council.

The top floor of the Students Union Building is usually a hive of activity. This is the workplace of student leadership at Wits.

But three weeks ago the activity ground to a near halt. The corridors of power were deserted. Behind closed doors whispered consultations.

Behind all this lay personal confrontation. In a nutshell, David Ferreira lost the vice-presidency to Sam Cohen. Several left-wing members of the SRC voted against Ferreira, a left winger. Their reasons: personal differences.

The SRC meeting of Monday 8 March ended in disarray. It was adjourned shortly after Cohen's election.

President, Jeremy Clark, said that certain members of the SRC should reconsider their positions with respect to the election of Cohen to the vice-presidency.

The SRC, under its new leadership, is faced with the task of regaining credibility in the eyes of the student body. They have to prove their efficiency; they must prove their commitment to the interests of students.

Student government cannot afford to be split and factionalised. We do not elect candidates to the SRC so that they have a forum to air their personal differences.

Let us see more representation and less in-fighting.

Sports People React to SRC Sports Motion

Sportspeople on campus have reacted strongly to suggestions that the SRC might cut off sporting links with Afrikaans universities.

The reaction is the result of a strongly worded resolution which the SRC adopted last year. The resolution did not call for the breaking of contact. What it called for was a meeting between BSS, SRC, ASC, Admin and the Faculty Councils.

There organisations met recently in what has been described as a constructive meeting with little or no conflict. The grievances of a sector of the student population about sporting contacts with Afrikaans campuses were heard. These were discussed and a second meeting has been planned.

Jeremy Clark, SRC president, told the SRC that no unilateral decision has or would be made on the sports issue.

SRC Report Back

- Hear what they have done
- Listen to what they plan to do
- Ask questions

You elected them — make sure they are looking after your interests

Thursday
12:30 pm
SS1
Alternative music hampered by apathy

Certain constraints hamper the growth of 'alternative' bands in South Africa: the difficulty of making international releases is coupled with local apathy.

SA record companies are reluctant to boost alternative sounds on the grounds of limited market and appeal — and thus negligible profit.

Where exactly does this leave SA contemporary music? Well... usually either at GR Bozzoli or Club DV8 — that’s it for the club scene.

With the closure of ‘Chelsea’ and ‘Le Chaim’, muso bands such as Ballyhoo and Morocco get the upper hand in clubs like ‘Plumb Crazy’, ‘Ciro’s’ and ‘Bella Napoli’. Even within the alternative music scene, bands compete — Wits Great Hall was a fantastic venue until Aslan Kicks closed it down. Status?! — one wonders how far they will get with such an act in Britain.

On a more positive note, Flash Harry has just released a new single, ‘Shame on You’ — which has a touch of rock and a dash of white reggae. Their single can be heard in between the odd Genesis numbers, or on request in the bottom canteen. The Insistors are trying to get WEA to distribute their single — telephone WEA to agitate!

Peach unfortunately isn’t an alternative band and it is a pity that Angie (lead vocalist) is wasting her talent.

Dog Detachment have a single in the pipeline, and played at a gig on Friday 19 March at Bozzoli. The Gay Marines, Nabecles and Pet Frog also featured on the bill.

The hope that up and coming bands such as ‘Empty Set’ and ‘Boys on Heat’ strike out for alternative sounds in SA.

Pula brings township to campus

You still have time to see a dynamic new play being presented by a group of young Sowetan actors at The Nunnery this week — before they embark on a nation-wide tour.

The play ‘Pula’, deals with the ancient fertility sterility myth. Here it takes the form of a modern plea for rain — a relief from the spiritual wasteland that forms an integral part of modern black South African existence.

The action of the play alternates between beautiful sculpted poetic chanting, in the first and last scenes, and an exciting improvisation patter in the central Shebeen scene.

The play aims to involve the audience not only in the theatrical process, but also to encourage them to question their present positions in South African society, and further to act upon their findings. It promises hope in a dismal search for a new ‘tomorrow’.

The essence of the production is its total flexibility: The group of four travel country-wide performing in community halls, open yards and any other venue that will accommodate an audience. The opening performance in Soweto on a Friday night, where the audience were not only spectators to a spectacle, but were indeed the Shebeen revellers, the ghetto dwellers, the tribal community, will be a far cry from the more controlled, academic environment of The Nunnery.

If you are at all interested in experiencing a vital, pulsating reflection of South Africa life, unlike the popular box-office packages that get presented to us by the regular bastions of ‘alternative’ theatre, you mustn’t miss ‘Pula’.

‘Pula’ will be playing at The Nunnery from Monday to Thursday this week (March 29 — April 1) at 12.30 and at 8.00 from Friday April 2 to Sunday April 4.

Alternative music for deviants

‘Elitist music for the people’ ‘Metal Beat’ that dingy scumhole perched above a four-floor fire-escape, has moved, to lurk in the basement of 18 Twist Street.

But little has changed. Ludicrous compulsory membership ensures a barrage of often exciting sound — but who can afford to go? Elitist music for the people!

Under the name of DV8 — is that deviant?

With help from ‘Scratch’ leadership, the club promises alternative music; and commercial greed aside, should prove to be one of the best live venues around.

Terror of solitary

In response to an appeal by the Detainee’s Parent Support Committee, ‘Four paces by Two’ was written and is currently being performed at the Laager in The Market Theatre.

It perfectly portrays the utter terror of solitary confinement — that which political detainees are forced to endure, enjoying a minimum of basic comforts.

Sentimentality or gimmickry.

It is necessary to bear in mind though, that the prisoner in the said production is there for political reasons, as this is an element of the play which may be forgotten as it proceeds.

It’s a play that should be seen by every student as it involves us all.

‘Four paces by Two’ was written by Maggie Coetse and...
Music in the Mix is the story of South African popular music — of the music, of the people, of their songs, and of our society.

"South Africa has sponsored many types of music — vastrap, mbanganga, mbube, kwela, tickle draai — the list is endless, but all the forms that have emerged have in common a struggle to rise above the imposed economic and political conditions."

This book attempts to trace the contemporary music scene in this country from its origins in black indigenous and white imported music. It discusses the problems facing musicians — apart from factors like record company exploitations, which is world-wide, that are unique to South Africa.

Musicians here have no union to protect them; they are often directly troubled by the security police if their music becomes too political; they are forced to perform to segregated audiences on most occasions, and when they do play at non-racial venues they are subjected to pressures exerted by baton-wielding police and snarling dogs.

Most of all, professional musicians are in the strangle hold of one of the most repressive tools of the state SABC Radio and TV.

There is much to be said about the musical coverage on SABC TV. Music commands about 4% of the programme schedule, and more than 7/8 of that time goes to classical music.

The lighter music is predominantly performed by SA cabaret artists, like the likes of Richard Loring and those Warblers Goosen and Herholdt.

The youth has to content with our freedom songs!

Music in the Mix devotes a greater part of its attentions to music as propaganda: an instrument of apartheid where the 'natural rhythm' of you know who is exploited as a political defence — 'they're happy - see how they dance...'

As David Kramer says in an interview with Anderson: 'South African musicians bug the life out of me. It's totally ridiculous the way everyone is ripping off and imitating what is happening overseas.

'There's nothing wrong with learning from overseas new wave, say, or country and western. But it should be interpreted and applied to the South African experience.'

"If a South African new wave band was to express their new wave experience, then I'd say it was valid, but unfortunately it doesn't seem to happen.

New wave in South Africa came as quite a surprise for everyone. It wasn't started here by the working classes. There are no new wave bands in Soweto or Mamelodi or Guguletu.

Here it was started by frustrated middle-class white youths who'd been reading their copies of NME and Melody Maker religiously and listening to imported copies of The Clash.

As a popular alternative to the disc-dominated music scene in South Africa, the new wave here was concerned about the music industry and the toughness of life in the Southern Suburbs.

Wild youth brought out 'Record Companies, a tirade against all the companies that refused to sign them. A few groups wrote songs that were about life inside the nationalist regime, like Corporal Punishment's 'Brain Damage'.

But, by and large, the conservative sounds of Radio 5 reign supreme. For an alternative view into real music, read this book!

Music in the Mix by Muff Anderson published by Raven Press and available at Exclusive, etc.
Canoeists paddle to glory

Some excellent results were recorded by paddlers during the 1981/2 long distance season which is now drawing to a close.

After a string of successes on the Springbok tour to Spain, Niels Verkerk added a 2nd position in the Vaal River Marathon, 5th position in the Duzi Marathon and 3rd positions in the Umkomaas River Marathon to his long list of successes.

Other notable achievements include his selection for the Transvaal K1 team together with fellow Witsie, David Cross, for the Transvaal K4 team.

In team events, Wits excelled by being placed 3rd in both the 1981 inter-club relay on the Vaal River and the 1982 8-hour enduro.

Wits was well represented at every event on the calendar and a large contingent of Witsies completed this year’s Duzi Marathon.

For any information regarding the canoe club, contact Robin Berry, EOH residence.

I'm only worried, hey.

Last week I wrote about how much the SAB are paying cricketers, and now over 500 SAB workers have gone on strike. They want their minimum wage increased from R67 to R95 a week. I hope I didn't cause it. Anyway, I suggest the workers take up cricket instead.

Or boxing. Take our Charlie (Michells says she'll take him any day. She just loves the white patch in his hair — what does she know about boxing anyway?) who's going to be worth quite a bit if he beats Davey Moure.

Sol Kerzner is the man with the money behind the fight, but I tell you, he's being bloody careful with it. He won't fork out an extra few thousand for Charlie to have decent sparring partners flown in. So if Charlie loses, he doesn't have to cut Anneline's record allowance (record-making, that is, not record-buying), but if the Silver Arsehole . . . shit, I meant Silver Assassin . . . if he wins, he's worth millions to Sol.

I hope Charlie wins, though, then Gerrie will have even more to fight for. Imagine that — two great white hopes!

The fight's at Ellis Park, which confuses me a bit, cos if it's black versus white. Now if this was soccer . . . but I guess Davey is 'international', so it's all right. Luckily he's not a trampoliner, or else they'd only let him practice when the whites weren't around (there's this black trampolinist guy who just got his Springbok colours but can't use the local gym if whites are there.)

All in all, it looks like a whole lot of people are going to lose out somewhere along the line, but I don't mind as long as Charlie wins.

Jock Mendelowitz

Plaatjes leaves defiant message

Suspended SA Marathon Champion, Mark Plaatjes, had a message of defiance for the Transvaal Road Runner Association as he jetted out of South Africa last week.

‘For my part, they can all take a dive, because they don’t know what’s going on,’ he said.

Mark was speaking to Wits Student in his latest interview before flying to the United States, where he is taking up an athletics scholarship.

Plaatjes and fellow-runner, Hosea Tjale, were suspended after failing to appear before a disciplinary committee.

Their original crime? They had refused to accept their prizes at the Benoni Flight Marathon a few weeks earlier. Plaatjes alleged at the time that the organisers had made a marge profit from the race and that the nominal sum given as prize money was exploitation.

The TRRA took exception and summoned the two before a disciplinary board (winner Vincent Rakabele, who had also given back his prize, was not required to appear).

Mark told Wits Student that he had appeared before the committee once, but that they had nothing to say to him. A new date for a hearing was set, but it coincided with preparations for a race in the Cape, and he ‘just forgot about it’.

Ivor Lazerson, TRRA chairman who announced the suspension, said that it would stand until the runners appeared before his committee.

‘I don’t intend to appear,’ Mark said emphatically. They’ve got no right to suspend me without appearing.’ He has particularly harsh words for Lazerson:

‘Lazerson was the guy who was so behind opening up running, but he’s the only one who wants to suspend me — the rest of the committee is against it. He is totally hypocritical.’

And anyway, he told the press, even before my appearance what he wanted to do without first hearing my side of the story. It was a biased opinion.

Only one person ‘knows what he’s doing’ according to Mark: Verne Hartman, president of the SA Road Runners Association.

‘He has to OK the suspension, so I’m not even going to bother about it. He is behind the runners.’

The Wits champ sees a rosy future for running here only is people like Hartman succeed in what they are attempting. ‘He’s consulting top athletes about benefits, increased prize money and trust funds.

‘But if guys like Ivor Lazerson take over, we can forget about it. He’s just throwing a spanner in the works.’

Is Mark taking the matter any further? ‘I’m not even going to write a letter of apology.’

Mark has mixed feelings about leaving South Africa. ‘I don’t really feel like going. I just want to establish myself and now I’ve got to go to America and start again.

When I come there I’m nothing.

‘But I think it’s worth it.’

Mark will be teaming up with fellow ex-Witsie Sean Nicholl at the Athens State University in Georgia.

Mark will be completing