Central America

Liberation Mañana?

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Campuses gather for Nusas Katberg Seminar

More than 100 delegates from 5 campuses met at Katberg from April 15 to April 19.

The Katberg Seminar is held annually by NUSAS and is the first national meeting of the year.

The 22 delegates from Wits had the opportunity to meet students from UCT, Rhodes, Durban and Pietermaritzburg and discuss issues relevant to students on a personal level as well as in groups. The atmosphere was congenial and relaxed and many links were forged between the campuses.

The Katberg seminar aims to inform those new to the student movement.

Papers presented focused on issues such as Socialization and Sexism, Land and Labour, Propaganda and Culture, Education and also a history of the student movement.

The theme of the Wits delegation's presentation was Resistance. Topics covered included the Freedom Charter, the Rivonia Trials, and recent incidents of resistance such as the Republic Day boycott. Wilson-Rowntree's strike and the South African Indian Council campaign.

Wits also presented a slide and tape show on Neil Aggett's funeral.

Darwin's theories of Evolution and the Descent of Man have particular relevance to Southern Africa, as it was here that the first 'missing link' and many subsequent discoveries that substantiate Darwin's theories, were found.

Wits University has a direct link with this field through Sterkfontein Caves.

To mark the Darwin centenary, the University held a commemoration evening on 15 April at which Darwin and his theories were discussed by Prof Tobias, Prof Paterson and Dr Urba.

In conjunction with this, Wits Drama Department staged 'Inherit the Wind' which highlights the theological vs scientific conflict which has ravaged since the theories were first published. It is based on the 'Monkey Trial' of 1925 in which a young teacher was fined for teaching evolution.

Ironically, in South Africa, where evidence was found to substantiate Darwin's theories, at where audiences could laugh at the stupidity of the 'Monkey Trial', evolutionary theory is still banned from school classrooms.

New Info Sheet for exams

This year students sitting formal exams and class tests (not informal class tests) will see a new top sheet on their question papers. This will appear as the top sheet of every question paper for all courses.

The aim of this sheet is to present information relevant to the exam more clearly and explicitly. This should ensure that every student is presented with the correct exam paper and so eliminate the possibility of any confusion at the start of an exam.

Most of the information involves no change from previous years. The 'Time Allowance' box will include the time allowed for students of different courses sitting the same exam. The 'Instructions to Students' box will contain information such as the number of questions to be answered from different sections of the exam paper.

In an article entitled 'Business School loses its head' in Wits Student Vol 34 No 7, several inaccuracies appeared.

The article was based on a report in the Sunday Times who have since retracted their original story.

The University has expressed indignation at the report which it has termed 'erroneous' and 'unresearched'.

The University has issued the following statement on the report:

'The University of the Western Cape is extremely concerned at the report in the Sunday Times which appeared under the heading 'Business School loses its head'.

This sheet will face you in future exams

Stay wide awake with Regmakers

Night work one big yawn?

Stay wide awake and mentally alert with Regmakers . . . the mild mental stimulant

Regmakers
Each tablet contains: Caffeine 150 mg.

Business School report inaccurate
Four detainees released by SP

A further 4 detainees were released last week after months of solitary confinement under Section 6 of the Terrorism Act.

They are Mr Yunus Mohamed, Ms Merie Favis, Mr Ishmael Momoniat and Mr Firoz Cachalia. All four were warned of the possibility of being called as witnesses at the trial of Miss Barbara Hogan, a worker for the Environmental Agency, Mr Allan Fine, a trade unionist and Mr Cedric Mayson.

Although the families of the released detainees were overjoyed at the freeing of their children, the jubilant atmosphere was tempered by the reality that at least 150 other South Africans are still in detention.

The editor of SA Labour Bulletin, Ms Favis and Mr Mohamed, a lawyer, are both from Durban but were transferred to the Reef three weeks ago. Both were detained on November 27 last year.

Mr Cachalia, a banned Wits student was also held on this day. Mr Momoniat, a maths tutor at Wits and secretary of the Transvaal Anti-SAIC committee was detained on January 20.

Firoz Cachalia, Ishmael Momoniat and Yunus Mohamed - shortly after their release

Banned BPC man to study at Wits

Thirteen months after his first application a banned black educationist, Mr Fanyana Mazibuko has been granted permission to study at Wits.

Mr Mazibuko — a former leading member of the banned black consciousness organisation, the Black People's Convention (BPC) — is to start his second year of study for a Bachelor of Science Degree.

Also secretary of the Soweto Teachers' Action Committee and a teacher at Soweto's Morris Isaacson High School, Mr Mazibuko was in October 1977 held under Section 10 of the Internal Security Act for nearly a year.

In 1980 he helped to found the non-racial National Education Union of South Africa (NEUSA).

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Fosatu wins strike at Henkel

The Henkel chemical company has reinstated striking workers after reaching an agreement with the Chemical Workers' Industrial Union (CWIU).

The CWIU, a Federation of South African Trade Unions (Fostatu) affiliate, had called a consumer boycott of Henkel products. The call was supported by Fostatu and international trade union groups.

This is the second time that a company has settled with a Fostatu union in the face of a planned consumer boycott. Last year Colgate Palmolive settled a dispute after a boycott of its products was called.

A Fostatu spokes-person said the federation had made 'extensive preparations' for the Henkel boycott.

Another Fostatu union, the Metal and Allied Workers Union (MAWU) is currently involved in a strike at an East Rand company. 130 workers downed tools at Fry Metal, a Wadeville company, after a demand for a R1.50 an hour pay increase was refused.

No beer after SAB strike

Fosatu wins strike at Henkel

The Edward Roux Memorial Scholarship has been awarded by the SRC.

Lianne Bush, a BSc (Hons) student specialising in agricultural and systemsatics is the recipient.

The SRC has announced that applications for another SRC administered bursary, the Ganni Rech bursary, are still open.

Application forms can be obtained from the SRC president's office in the face of a planned consumer boycott. Last year Colgate Palmolive settled a dispute after a boycott of its products was called.

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On 24 March over 700 UCT students passed a motion opposing the new Defence Bill, and condemning the increasing militarization of SA society.

At the most crowded and fiery meeting held at UCT this year, students expressed their anger at the proposals for increased military call ups.

The meeting was organized by the SRC, with the support of Christian groups on campus. The first speaker was Zunaid Hassan, Vice-President of Durban-Westville SRC. He situated the bill within the general context of militarization in SA, and the failure of the government's 'Total Strategy'.

The government therefore responded to what it called the "total onslaught" with "total militarization", he said.

The next speaker, Andy Paterson, a PhD student at UCT, outlined the legal position concerning discussing issues related to the military and the SADF. He emphasized that much legislation was designed to prevent open and democratic discussion, and urged students to continue to question and look for alternatives.

He saluted Charles Yeats, Mike Viviers and others who had taken the courageous stand of conscientious objection.

The Rev Doug Bax, a minister of the Congregational Church, then asked students six challenging questions, which he said they should answer.

Lambert a 'Jekyll and Hyde' character

'Glen Lambert's statement on the CSC elections is an indication of his Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde character', according to SRC Constitution's chairperson, David Ovenden.

Ovenden was commenting on a statement released by Lambert on the Commerce Students Council election debacle. Lambert claimed in the statement that the SRC had set aside the CSC elections unfairly and that the elections had not been democratic.

Prior to this Lambert had voted in support of a motion by the SRC calling on him to declare the CSC elections void.

'Owen detain a bad reflection on Glen's integrity as a person and his efficacy as the Commerce Faculty representative on the SRC', said Ovenden.

The statement, seen by many as a clear political attack, attempted to show that the election, which were declared null and void by the SRC, to have been manipulation. However, the interests of the SRC in such elections is purely procedural, and this action was taken to preserve the bodies under their control.

The statement also broke one of the Publications by-laws of the university. A person may not print more than 200 copies of any publication in his/her own name, unless a representative of a recognized body. Mr Lambert's statement was clearly personal as no official support, via a full meeting, was given to him.

The election was contradictory to many of the laws laid down to govern such meetings. The irregularities of the CSC election rose out of an arbitrary use of a proposed, but not ratified, constitution in conjunction with "ad hoc" requirements introduced during the meeting.

Work in Progress banned

Work in Progress, an academic journal, has been banned for all future editions.

The ban was gazetted on Friday 23 April, only three weeks after the banning for all future editions of SASPNU National and the two year banning order served on its two editors, Keith Coleman and Clive van Heerden.

WIP was a quarterly publication which set out to explore and present ideas about contempor-
The eight young South Africans banned recently were guilty of one thing only, said Nadine Gordimer in a mass meeting held last Thursday. They were guilty of social responsibility — a crime in South Africa.

'They were looked up like criminals', Ms Gordimer said, 'and when no evidence could be found against them, they were freed, and then sentenced anyway.' She went on to describe the 'striches' who swore their heads from the sand once in a while to mumble that people aren't locked up for nothing, they must have done something. Which indeed they have. They committed the heinous crime of caring for their countrymen,' she said.

The magistrate passed sentence and referred to Mr Koornhof as being a willing co-passenger of the ANC.

She pleaded not guilty to the main count under the Terrorism Act, but pleaded guilty on the alternative, the Internal Security Act.

She travelled to Botswana in April 1981 where she learned an ANC code. She agreed to give the code to Mr Cedric de Beer and take instructions from two alleged members of the African National Congress.

The court heard that Lee Jenkins and Mambaris were put in touch by an unnamed person with Michael Jenkins (brother of Tim) who arranged to meet with Lee Jenkins and Mambaris in a pub out of Town. Mr Jenkins referred to them to S. Nanakbai who drove the 3 escaped detainees to

Mrs Hanchen Elizabeth Fitzgerald (27) nee Koornhof, was sentenced to 21 months imprisonment, with 20 months suspended for a period of 5 years in the Johannesburg Regional Court

The Rand Supreme Court has not been asked to decide on the admissibility of a statement made by Dr Neil Aggett. 14 hours before his death in detention. The presiding magistrate at the Johannesburg Regional Court, Mr Paj Kotze, had ruled that the statement was admissible, but Mr Chabot, who appeared for the Minister of Law and Order, asked for leave to obtain a Supreme Court ruling.

Sheena Duncan

Of the student press, Ms Gordimer said that their journals were the 'texts of change'. These voices in the dark are being stilled one by one by a government 'in line with Fascist and totalitarian regimes'. One of these now silent voices is the Student Press Union newspaper SASPUC National.

John Lazar, SASPU president said that SASPU National played a tremendously important part in bringing the real news to the people. He lamented that the appearance of the commercial press who scarcely took notice of the disappearance of a newspaper with readership of more than 20.000.

'The commercial press, with no interest in what they want to know — policy, are the slaves of SA businesses and of their own financial interests and cannot possibly present an objective view of the world. This must be the task of the student press,' Lazar said.

The president of the Black Sash, Sheena Duncan delved into the secrets of the Information Bill in a hilarious satire, saying 'the only characteristic of this Bill is its total confusion in authorizing that the creator of it must have been led exclusively on a diet of wholedumplings and KGB novels.'

On a more serious note, however, she said that the Bill meant in effect that we are now being cut off from even more information than before. For instance no longer be obliged to disclose information about detainees unless the caller can give the names, addresses, birthdates and birthplaces of the said detainees. She concluded that the Information Bill was 'great cause for alarm.'

Hanc hen sentenced to effective 1 month

Nadine Gordimer

Prema Naidoo

Assistant secretary of the Anti-SAIC Committee, Mr Prema Naidoo (37) was detained during the 'general swoop' of November 27 last year.

Almost 5 months later, April 14, he was tried under the Prisoner's Act, Section 44 and therefore charged with 'harbouring and concealing an escaped convict'.

Mr Naidoo pleaded guilty to all charges made in the statement in terms of Section 112 of the Criminal Procedure Act, admitting to guilt to aid Stephen Lee Tim Jenkins and Alex Mambaris, who all escaped from the Pretoria Central prison.

The court heard that Lee Jenkins and Mambaris were put in touch by an unnamed person with Michael Jenkins (brother of Tim) who arranged to meet with Lee Jenkins and Mambaris in a pub out of Town. Mr Jenkins referred to them to S. Nanakbai who drove the 3 escaped detainees to

Legal team inspects Aggett cell

An informal inspection of the cells and interrogation rooms at John Vorster Square has been finally granted to the legal representatives of the Aggett family, Mr George Bizos, SC, Mr Denis Kup, the instructing attorney, Mr William Lane.

Lawyers representing the Minister of Law and Order, the Senior Public Prosecutor of Johannesburg, Mr De Vries, several members of the Security police and the recently banned, Mr Morris Smithers (30), an environmental development officer, were all present during the visit.

Two applications for a formal in loco Court inspection of the cells and interrogation rooms at John Vorster Square were refused before the informal visit was finally permitted.

The team visited John Vorster Square on Wednesday, April 14, after the inquest hearing had adjourned the previous day.

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Mr Bizos wanted to put the claims made in Dr Aggett's statement to Dr Vernon Kemp, the District Surgeon to establish whether they were consistent with Dr Aggett's injuries. This statement is one of the most important documents that have been placed before the Court,' he said.

Mr Schabot objected and said that the question of whether the deceased was assaulted before his death was of only 'collateral value' in the case. However, just 14 hours before his death, Dr Aggett made a statement alleging he had been assaulted on January 4.

Dr Aggett was found hanged in his cell at 1.30am on February 5. An Inspector of Detainees called at John Vorster Square on the same day that Dr Aggett was allegedly being assaulted on the 10th floor. He was not permitted to see Dr Aggett. This was because Dr Aggett was "out of (his) cell under investigation'.

The inquest was postponed to June 1.
Central America

The conflict in El Salvador has drawn the world’s attention to Central America. What exactly is going on there?

According to the US government, the region is the ‘frontline’ in the international confrontation between East and West and guerrilla movements are the products of Soviet, Cuban and Nicaraguan manipulation.

The other view regarded by most observers, both of the centre and the left, is that these conflicts have arisen from the struggle between privileged classes determined to maintain their wealth and power and peasants and workers determined to end the legacy of political repression, military terror and massive social injustice which scars the history of the Central American countries.

The violence in Central America, which has left more than 50,000 dead since 1979, can be traced back to the beginnings of European colonial penetration in the 16th century. The Spanish conquerors subjugated the native population, killing over twelve million Indians and depopulating entire regions and established a social order in which Indians, imported slaves and mixed-blood people were reduced to servitude on the hacienas (estates) of the powerful European families.

Central America was integrated into the international capitalist economy as an exporting region. The late 19th century expansion of commercial cultivation, initially of coffee and later of bananas and cotton, intensified the peasantry. A small number of local and American landowners, backed by the army, consolidated its rule over the mass of impoverished campesinos.

With power resting in the hands of conservative agrarian landowners, no large industrial middle class emerged to take the lead in ‘modernizing’ and ‘liberalizing’ the political institutions of the Central American countries.

The middle class did expand with the accelerated industrialization of the region in the 60’s and 70’s (mainly on the basis of US capital), but by this time, conservative political and social structures had become entrenched. Moreover, the economic growth of this period further polarized these societies in thousands of peasants poured into overcrowded urban ghettos. Only a minority reaped the benefits of expansion.

The plight of both the urban and rural poor was magnified by the crisis which hit the international capitalist economy in 1974. Falling export prices, rampant inflation and worsening unemployment became intractable problems.

The history of Central America with all its poverty and violence is closely bound up with American Imperialism. US capital has been heavily invested in Central America since the 19th century, most notably in banana plantations, but more recently in industry.

Attracted mainly by the availability of cheap, non-unionised labour, American companies made and continue to make large profits, and they repatriate much of the newly created wealth to the US. To protect its notoriously exploitative enterprises from a resentful local population, and to keep conservative groups in power, the US has intervened time and again to prop up corrupt and brutal leaders and to topple progressive ones. Central America indeed the whole of Latin America from Mexico to Argentina is America’s own ‘Fast Bloc’.

Here we present a country-by-country breakdown of Central America –

Guatemala (population 5.5 million in 1974)

Guatemala’s Indians lost their choice lands to Spanish conquerors in 1524, and many were reduced to servitude on the haciendas (estates) of the powerful European families.

Sanctu Estrada, who came to power and held office through a series of rigged elections between 1898 and 1920, made major concessions to the American United Fruit Company.

Between 1945 and 1954 Guatemala experienced a resurgence of political liberty unprecedented in its history. One of the leaders in this period was Jacobo Arbenz, who initiated a programme of agrarian reform. He attempted to limit foreign control over the country’s economy. The threatened nationalization of the United Fruit Company incurred the anger of the American military and far right-wing leadership was initiated.

The recently rigged election, which followed a campaign in which rightist death squads systematically murdered opponents, and the subsequent military coup are symptomatic of the unstable terrorist state security units. The military leadership is determined to eliminate supporters of, or sympathizers with, the country’s increasingly active 3,000 strong guerrilla army.

Honduras (population: 2.6 million in 1974)

The Spanish conquest of Honduras saw large landholdings distributed amongst set

Graffiti: ‘Yesterday’
El Salvador's ‘east bloc’

Continued from page 7

and the importation of African slaves to supplement forced Indian labour. Together with foreign (mainly US) economic interests, large local landowners and businessmen monopolize the nation's sparse wealth.

For most of the population over 2/3 of which is employed in agriculture, life is very harsh. The typical Honduran is a peasant or farm labourer with an income of R20 per month. Rural literacy is minimal and health facilities amongst the world's worst.

Politically the country has experienced a succession of military coups and electoral manipulations.

In 1954 a general strike was declared against the US-owned United Fruit Company, which controls whole regions in the Honduras. The Company symbolizes foreign Imperial domination in the eyes of many Hondurans.

Resistance has continued sporadically to the present day. Although the incumbent presidents, Sazoo Cordova, was elected to office, real power still rests with the military and a privileged minority of the population. Convinced that genuine reform can only be achieved when these conservative forces are toppled from power, a guerrilla movement is waging a struggle for precisely such a radical transformation.

Continued on page 8

El Salvador’s Minister of Defence – General José Guillermo Garcia
Continued from page 7

El Salvador
(population: 3.8 million in 1974)

Spanish conquest in the 16th century saw the local Indian population subjugated. Its depletion led to the importation of African slaves. Today the majority of the population is of mixed blood.

El Salvador's economy and political life have long been dominated by a small number of large agrarian families backed by the military. Over half the population lives below subsistence level, condemned to poverty, malnutrition, disease and illiteracy.

Despite post-war industrialization, the majority of the population still eke out a living as landless farm labourers and rural tenants.

When peasants rose against their rulers in 1932, some 30,000 of them were slaughtered.

In 1979 a coup toppled rightist dictator Romero. A civilian-military junta was installed which initiated a programme of land reform and limited nationalisation. Outraged by attempts to distribute land among farm tenants, right-wing death squads and the army stepped up their campaign of terror, murdering tens of thousands of men and women, mainly peasants, who demanded implementation of the land reform programme or who were suspected of sympathizing with the left.

The left-wing guerrillas retaliated by increasing the frequency and scale of their attacks on military and economic targets.

The Salvadorean regime is strongly backed by the Reagan administration which is training government troops and pouring military aid into the country.

The recent election was boycotted by the Left, which regarded it as an attempt to legitimate oligarchic rule. The campaign was marked by intimidation from both sides. A large number of Salvadoreans voted for the Christian Democrats to keep out the Right, while fully 10% of the electorate spoiled its paper in sympathy with the Left. At present, however, a coalition of conservative groupings holds the reins of power.

Costa Rica
(population: 1.8 million in 1973)

Costa Rica's government is the most stable and, with the exception of Nicaragua, the most democratic in Central America. The region's Spanish immigrants were never able to put the small Indian population to work. The result was a small and relatively homogeneous population without massive inequalities. However, social inequalities grew with the expansion of coffee agriculture in the 1820's and to this day the 'coffee oligarchy' remains politically influential.

All but two of Costa Rica's leaders were freely elected between 1889 and the present. After a brief civil war in 1948-9, the government abolished the army, extended education and health services, and nationalized banks and power companies. Out of all the countries of Central America and the Caribbean Basin only Cuba provides better education and health care.

Despite rapid industrialisation in the 50's and 60's, Costa Rica's capitalist economy is still largely agricultural. Dissent is growing. The country is presently in crisis with sky-rocketing inflation, rising unemployment and deteriorating living standards. A small-scale guerilla insurgency has begun.

Nicaragua
(population: 2 million in 1973)

When the Spanish conquestadores arrived in 1522, they enslaved thousands of Indians and deported others as forced labourers to South America. Indians were forced to work in mines and plantations owned by the state. Starvation, overwork, deportation and the spread of European diseases led to the decline of the Indian population from 1.6 million in 1524 to shortage of Indian labour the Spanish imported large numbers of African slaves. Today much of the population is of mixed blood.

The US has intervened in the affairs of Nicaragua time and again in the course of this century. While American companies took over commercial concerns, the Marines were involved in several coups d'etat. In 1933 towards the end of the Marines was taken over by the US trained and supported National Guard of General Somoza, which assassinated the popular President Sandino.

The corrupt, self-serving and ruthless dynasty of the Somozas was preserved when 'Tacho' Somoza took over as head of state after the assassination of his father in 1956. During their long supremacy the Somozas became multi-millionaires, controlling almost every aspect of the Nicaraguan economy. They also stashed millions abroad.

Under their rule, poverty, malnutrition, disease and illiteracy were rife. Life expectancy was only 49 years in 1973.

In the mid-70's, a popular left-wing front, named after the legendary Sandino, deposed Somoza after a bloody war in which the air force bombed the overcrowded urban ghettos from which the Sandinistas drew much of their support. Since then, a socialist government has initiated a program of land reform launched massive literacy campaigns and nationalised the Somoza properties.

Although US-sponsored terrorism and falling international prices have hampered the government's reconstruction efforts, many progressives look to Nicaragua as a source of hope and inspiration for the future.

'Somolomas, tommorow Guatemalas'
Living arts for the people

Living Arts Festival
1 May—15 May at RAU
The festival has been sponsored by the Michael Mount Waldorf School, as an attempt to involve the public in the process of making an art or craft work.

As such, the festival differs from an orthodox exhibition, in that the artists are going to be working on unfinished pieces, as well as exhibiting and selling completed works.

Several overseas artists will be present:
- Daniel Boillat, a Swiss anthropological painter
- Andrés Babrowski, a Polish metal sculptor working in welded steel
- Uri Kandalave, a Russian sculptor (living in Israel)
- and his wife, a painter
- Raymond Bonetto, a Spanish artist who will be demonstrating the art of paper making.

Traditional crafts will also be exhibited and demonstrated.

A Zulu coil potter and a basket weaver from Eshowe will be making traditional articles.

Lino cuts, weaving, woven puppets, silversmithing, pewter work and potters will also be demonstrated.

Owen (a cutler) and Sue (a silversmith) Wood, will be demonstrating the arts of wood knife carving and silversmithing, an old North American craft of drawing on ivory and bone.

Recalling Holocaust horror

"Genocide" is an hour long play based on the rise of Nazi fascism and the holocaust of the Second World War.

The occasion of the production represents the fortyfifth anniversary of events in the Warsaw Ghetto which led directly to the holocaust of the concentration camps in Europe.

The recent development of right-wing fascism throughout the world, coupled with Nazi slogans and revisionist literature about genocide, makes the play a timely and pertinent one, with themes relevant to any contemporary audience.

The testimony of survivors of the holocaust, and the abundant literature devoted to the subject, contains a wealth of material which Ian Steadman and some of his cast have researched and collated for the production. The nightmare world of the concentration camps produces a theatricalism ranging from the realistic to the fantastic.

Ian Steadman has directed numerous stage productions for the School of Dramatic Art. His most recent professional production in Johannesburg was "The Bald Prima Donna" by Eugene Ionesco, which marked the beginning of the popular interest in "late-night" theatre in the Market. Late-night shows are providing an important showcase for works which might not otherwise be commercially propositional.

Ian Steadman will direct "Genocide" at the Theatre 155, Market. Performances will be at 10.30pm from Monday 10th May to Saturday 21st May, excluding Saturday and Sundays. The official opening night is Tuesday 14th May.

Booking will be at Comp ticket.

One Act Festival

As part of their contribution to Arts Week, University Players is staging a one-act play Festival — which hopefully will become an annual attraction.

The programme includes two plays from the Rand College of Education, a collage of fugu plays, and one by Adam Small dedicated to those people affected by the Group Areas Act. (The plays range from the experimental to fairly conventional theatre.)

PROGRAMME — PERFORMANCES AT THE BOX

Wednesday 28 April 1982 — 12.30 pm

'The Audience' devised by Ian Barnard
12.30 pm "The Audience" devised by Ian Barnard
5.30 pm "The Sky is Overcast"
6.45 pm "The Bald Prima Donna"

Thursday 29 April
12.30 pm "The Sky is Overcast"
5.30 pm "The Bald Prima Donna"
6.45 pm "Chrisie in Love"

Friday 30 April
12.30 pm "The Audience"
5.30 pm "The Bald Prima Donna"
6.45 pm "Chrisie in Love"

Saturday 1 May
6.45 pm "The Bald Prima Donna"
On Thursday 25th March the SRC declared the Commerce Students Council (CSC) elections null and void, on the basis that they were carried out in an unconstitutional manner. There is no doubt that the elections were not carried out in terms of the present CSC constitution. That is not the point, the point is whether the SRC made their decision in declaring the elections null and void for the benefit of commerce students or for themselves!

The CSC constitution states that if only one person is nominated for a position on the executive he is automatically elected. This could lead to an unfortunate situation in that the person duly nominated would be handed the portfolio, regardless of whether the students he represents actually want him there or not. He would be asked no questions as to whether he is capable of handling that portfolio and would thus be an unknown entity representing us the students.

For this very reason it was put forward to the General Assembly of class representatives, as to whether they agreed to electing an unopposed candidate by a 3/4 majority vote. This proposal was carried unanimously with no abstentions or dissents. Thus if a candidate was elected by a 3/4 majority vote he would safely gauge that he is a true representative of the commerce students, and further that he has their support and backing when taking any decisions or actions in line with his duties.

The fact that all positions were filled in the executive and all elected by a 3/4 majority vote, spells out that for the first time commerce students actually had a truly representative commerce council.

The SRC’s decision to now declare the elections null and void because of them being unconstitutional is questionable. In the same week SRC by-elections were held, the poll being 9%. Furthermore more of the candidates in this election was then elected onto the SRC exec, where in effect he had only received 1% of the university’s support. These elections will never be declared null and void as they were ‘constitutionally run’, but are they representative?

This decision of the SRC once again shows up its bureaucratic and autocratic nature, funny enough they inform us this is what they are fighting against. Did the SRC ever take the views of the commerce students into consideration when coming to their decision? They did not. Glen Lambert the commerce rep to the SRC informed them that commerce students were not disadvantaged by the CSC elections being held in the manner they were. Obviously his point of view was not considered.

What might you ask was the SRC’s motivation behind this decision? It can only be ascribed to one thing, sour grapes. This fruity suggestion informs us that no SRC cronies were elected onto the CSC and by declaring the elections null and void can once again attempt to strengthen its stronghold on all committees and deny this university the ‘Healthy Power Sharing’ it so desperately needs.

Conscientious Objectors
B Com 3rd Year
Class reps: Accounts 3
Mer Law Company Law B
Income Tax Auditing 1

Glamour not a substitute

I feel I must comment on an article about the SRC by-election that appeared in Volume 34 Number 6 of Wits Student.

The dismal poll of 10% prompted Jeremy Clark to say ‘This is symptomatic of student apathy on this campus’.

What rubbish! There are many more reasons for this pathetic response to the election.

Why should we vote for a SRC that cannot overcome its own personal bias and get on with the serious business of representing the students?

Why should we vote for people who may not hold office for the full term? The last SRC was hardly a stable student governing body, with members resigning and changing portfolios continuously.

Why should we vote for a candidate who does not even attempt to speak to the students? A glamorous photograph is hardly a substitute for a personal appearance.

Before the student body is criticized by the SRC, I think it is time that they looked to their own council, sort out their domestic problems (in private, not in the Press) and begin to represent the student body effectively.

Kathleen Graham
MB BCh IV

28 April 1982
Less bickering and more democracy

The recent by-elections for vacant positions on the SRC and results within the SRC again raise the question 'Is the SRC serving its electorate properly?' I feel the answer must be NO for these reasons:

1. Continual in-fighting and bickering. The SRC is not a strong political party and not concerned with the canteen and other trivial student matters.

2. In the recent by-election, I attempted to vote for people I thought would run the country, into office last April. I, and many other on this campus, are not elected people to the SRC to run the country - I stayed awake through those endless NUSAS sessions and I would not have made such peculiar statements to the so-called student press. Isn't it about time, he should ask himself, that people started examining the structures.

3. Some of the candidates in the recent by-elections came to my class and shouted that they were going to 'F' a strong political party and not concern themselves with parking, the canteen and other trivial student matters.

4. I am not electing people to the SRC to run the country. I attempted to vote for people I thought would run the country into office, last April. I, and many other on this campus, are not elected people to the SRC to run the country - I stayed awake through those endless NUSAS sessions and I would not have made such peculiar statements to the so-called student press. Isn't it about time he should ask himself, that people started examining the structures.

Clint attacked on apathy quote

Clark's statements about student apathy are silly. Had Clark stayed awake through those countless NUSAS sessions he would not have made such peculiar statements to the so-called student press. Isn't it about time, he should ask himself, that people started examining the structures.

However, Jeremy Clark really believes in five minute a year democracy, is serious about his role in the student admin and enjoys the lobbying of closed door committee politics he could take lessons from Mr Reagan. I'm sure they would get on very well together.

Student for Campus Democracy

Your latest public statement reads: 'Despite this setback...I will continue to serve Commerce Students to the best of my ability.'

Now that's a setback! If you genuinely want to keep the interests of the Commerce Students...a top priority at all times,' why not do something about it for a change? Engineering perhaps.

Concerned Observer

B Comm III

1. SRC Minutes.
2. SRC Minutes.
3. CSC statement issued by Lambert.
5. Wits Student, Vol 33, 27 May.
1982
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1982 Medical Students Council Conference

Drugs: Use and Abuse
No drug is completely safe.

The recent pharmacological revolutions including the introduction of vaccines, antibiotics and tranquillizers have greatly benefited Mankind. These advances have also led to cultural changes. For one, we have become a nation of drug users.

If the blame is to be allotted, it must be shared by medical practitioners, the pharmaceutical industry, the patient and society as a force itself. The subject of the 1982 MSC Conference was chosen because it affects all medical students as individuals and as future medical practitioners, irrespective of their future field of practice.

Aims

The major aims of the Conference were:
- To further stress that medicine is practised within the context of society with the moral responsibility of the medical practitioner being in some cases not passively to accept the limitations and expectations that the society may impose on him.
- To stimulate constructive awareness and criticism of the relevant problems existing in South Africa.
- To publish the recommendations by guests and medical students attending the Conference.

Two overseas world authorities will be addressing the Conference. They are Prof H Kafant of the Addiction Research Foundation and University of Toronto, and Prof J R Froncy of Guy's Hospital Medical School, London.

Abuse

The dangers of illegal drugs are discussed at great length, while those of legal drug abuse are chiefly denied or ignored. Yet the abuse of legal, rather than illegal, drugs is probably more widespread in South Africa.

For these reasons and because legal drugs are abused not only by the public but by the medical profession, the major focus of this Conference is on the abuse of legal drugs. Illegitimate drug abuse refers to the inappropriate, indiscriminate or unnecessary prescription of medicines.

Dagga is the main illegal drug used in South Africa although cocaine sniffling is on the upsurge. A terrifying number of 7 to 8 year old children in Soweto are reported to be sniffing cocaine.

Regarding legal drug abuse, there is a 95% probability that a white patient will receive a prescription after visiting a doctor for an actual or imagined illness. South African sales in 1975 were: antibiotics R15 million, sedatives hypnotics tranquillizers R14 million, products for the common cold R7 million.

Medication

Why does the individual exploit chemicals whether illegal, prescribed or obtained over the counter (OTC) for his own use to achieve relief not only from illness but from the tensions and miseries of life? Why does the medical practitioner sometimes hand out potent drugs like sweets?

To please the patient who expects medication? Because he doesn't have time or couldn't be bothered to talk to patients with psychological problems or psychosomatic diseases? Because of deficient training?

Thirty to forty percent of all prescriptions in South Africa are probably for psychotropic substances. Studies have shown that in the case of some diseases, patients respond equally well on placebos as they do on pharmacologically active substances.

Why does our society condone legal but not illegal addiction when so much is known about the adverse side-effects and interactions of legal drugs? Why don't we care that we are so pill dependent? Perhaps, because tablets are a form of social control.

Rather than suppressing the symptoms of stress, unhappiness and anxiety by drugging individuals, we should perhaps expose and eradicate the root causes of these symptoms even if this necessitates changing the nature of our society.

Pharmacology

Family practitioners are one of the main prescribers of medicines. Deficiencies in their knowledge may be due to inappropriate, undergraduate education or inadequate continuing medical education. Pharmacology is taught as a preclinical discipline. Of the 150 medicines most commonly used today, only 22 were known in 1964, and probably half of all doctors practising today qualified before that date.

Attitudes of many professionals continue to achieve relief not only with illegal drugs any worse than those of tobacco and alcohol which would probably be banned or restricted if they were discovered tomorrow? Should all therapeutic value of dagga i.e., cancer chemotherapy surpass that of other standard antimalaria drugs.

Control

And what about the role of the Medicines Control Council? Certainly no drug can be marketed in South Africa in a manner that will attract abuse. Legal drugs are strictly controlled.
Abuse

More than alcohol should be banned; drugs were taken. Why should alcohol be banned? Drugs be banned? Why should some people, the dagga in the country, surpasses the anti-

control measures must be examined. Why is there no central computerised record system for the dispensing pharmacist in South Africa? Why is it not essential to provide identification to obtain prescription drugs?

What are the health authorities doing and for which population groups, with regard to prevention and rehabilitation?

The answer seems to be nothing. Obviously they are afraid to investigate the circumstances contributing to the problem lest they have to admit that all is not well with our South African society. Treatment facilities are grossly inadequate, particularly for the non-white population. There is not one inpatient rehabilitation centre for black addicts in South Africa.

Finance

The government spends enormous sums on financing and promoting family planning; yet although 10 people die of TB every day in South Africa, only last year a superior but more expensive drug used in TB treatment was replaced by a less effective but cheaper drug, for distribution. One can only conclude that the government is financing drug availability and imposing legislation for their own purposes rather than to solve the problem.

We are constantly told of how the KGB use drugs in the interrogation of prisoners. One shudders to think of what goes on in the interrogation rooms of the South African police force.

Sales pressure

Because many substances are equivalent, there are probably five times too many medicines on the South African market.

The sales pressure of the advertising world plays a major role, and misleading claims concerning medication are served to the gullible public. Manufacturers and distributors of OTC drugs spend $1.2 billion annually in advertising and promote the use of OTC medication.

In the USA in 1973 the entire drug industry spent about $4.500 on each practising physician for advertising and promotion. Their primary objective is to sell their product. There is a real danger when commercial information substitutes for academic education.

What about drug safety? For example, throughout the late 1950's and early 1960's, against strong clinical contra-indications large sums were spent to promote chloramphenicol. What are the chances of another thalidomide disaster?

Ilich warns us to take heed. Doctors, their drugs and their methods are not necessarily always efficient. 'Doctors work increasingly with two groups of addicts: those for whom they prescribe drugs, and those who suffer from their consequences. The richer the community, the larger the percentage of patients who belong to both'.

Pollution

In conclusion, pharmacological pollution is a reality. The time has come to recognise this threat and to deal with the problem scientifically, rationally, and honestly.
CONFERENCE PROGRAMME:

Monday 3 May 1982
19h30  Introduction to the Conference: Jonathan Moch,
Conference Committee Chairperson,
Official Opening: Professor R W Charlton,
(Deputy Vice-Chancellor).
Overview of the Problem: Professor H Kalant,
(Addiction Research Foundation and University
of Toronto, Canada).
Drug Abuse - The South African Scene:
Dr S de Miranda (Director and Head of Clinical
Services of SANCA, Johannesburg Society).

10h45  Tea.
11h15  Abuse of Prescribed Medication:
Professor M B Feldman (Head of the Department
of Psychiatry, University of the Witwatersrand).
Health Education as a Preventive Strategy in
Chemical Substance Abuse:
Ms Lee Wilcocks (Senior Advisor, SANCA).
Iatrogenic Addiction - Ignorance or Negligence?:
Dr S de Miranda.
Chairperson: Jonathan Marchand.

Tuesday 4 May 1982
19h30  Clinical Pharmacology - What is the Role
and how should it be taught: Professor J R Trounce
(Guy's Hospital Medical School, London).
Some Epidemiological Aspects of Drug Use in
South Africa: Mr C van der Burgh
(Chief Researcher at ISODEM, Pretoria).
Drugs and the Developing Society of South Africa:
Sister Elizabeth Diamini
(Senior Sister at SANCA, Johannesburg).
The Government Policy: Dr Y Variawa
(Coronation Hospital).
Politics, the Use, Misuse and Abuse of Drugs:
Dr Y Variawa (Coronation Hospital).

13h00-14h00  Lunch
Venue: Night Nurses Canteen, Level 4,
Block 2, Johannesburg Hospital.
14h00  Dagga Use Amongst Wits Medical Students
Survey Report Back: Mr S Levin (MB BCh VI).
View of the Pharmaceutical Industry:
Assessment of the Rational Use of Antibiotics
in a Johannesburg Hospital: Mr D Berkowitz
Mr D Berkowitz & Company (MB BCh IV).
Chairperson: Kathleen Graham.

15h00  Tea.
15h30  Future Strategies - Where to from Here?:
A Panel Discussion with Audience Participation.
Chairperson: Jonathan D Moch.

17h15  thanks to Guest and Participants.
17h45  Summary of Recommendations.

Wednesday 5 May 1982
09h00  Legal Aspects of Drug Abuse in South Africa:
Professor J D van der Vyver (School of Law,
University of the Witwatersrand).

The Control of Medicines in South Africa:
Professor P I Folb (Chairman, South African
Medicines Control Council).
The Bases of Social Policy, Control Measure and
Legislation: Professor H Kalant.
Chairperson: Rhian Glassman.