Constitutional proposals

A nation's stomach turns
Destabilisation & SADF

South African destabilisation of neighbouring African states was the theme of a meeting held on campus on the 27th of April.

The meeting, organised by Projects Committee was part of a week-long focus on Namibia and the continued presence of the SADF.

'Destabilisation, and the uninvited presence of the SADF in neighbouring states is not a recent development, but an issue that has its roots in recent history', said Mike Roussos, speaker at the meeting.

He traced examples of SADF intervention or interference in neighbouring states during the 70's, in Mozambique and Angola.

'The justification given for the presence of the SADF in Angola was that the existence of Cuban troops in Angola posed a direct threat to South African security.'

However, the SADF had already moved into Angola 3 months prior to the arrival of Cuban troops in Angola.

He spoke of evidence of the interference of the SADF in movements towards independence in Angola, Mozambique and Rhodesia.

'South Africa's continued interest in the political developments of neighbouring states is the result of the fear of the emergence of left-wing governments on South Africa's borders', Mr Roussos said.

He said that P W Botha's statement that South Africa will not tolerate a string of Marxist governments on its border was contradictory to a policy of peace.

The South African economy cannot compete in the world market with countries such as Japan: other alternatives therefore have to be found. The most obvious step would be to establish trade links with neighbouring African states.

However, he said, good relations with neighbouring states is a prerequisite to the establishment of such links. Therefore the attempted manipulation of political outcomes of moves towards independence in neighbouring states has interested South Africa for nationalist reasons.

South Africa was hoping for a constellation of Southern African states for economic reasons and political reasons. The home-lands could then be viewed as simply 'another state' amongst many, and no longer part of South Africa, he said.

Mr Roussos lastly linked the activities of the SADF to the moves by the South African government for the continuation of the existing system of apartheid.

Labour day: a ‘symbol of unity’

International Labour Day, on May 1 saw services and rallies held at a number of centres throughout the country. Trade Unions, political organisations, church leaders and student bodies met to observe the day, in the shadow of large scale retrenchments as a result of the serious drought situation prevailing.

International Labour Day has not been officially recognized in South Africa since the late 1950's, when repressive state measures eroded the organisational strength of the trade unions. It has been officially observed throughout the Western world since it originated in Australia in 1865.

Statements were released by various organisations: Azapo said that 'Labour day is a day when all workers come together to pledge solidarity and share their common problems.'

The Workers' Support Committee (WSC) in their statement said, 'The workers should learn how to improve their working conditions, but also learn about their struggle and how they are exploited'. A pamphlet released by the Economic Research Committee of the SRC (ERC) stated that 'It is important for us as students to educate ourselves about, and acknowledge, Labour day and the symbol it represents.

By celebrating Labour Day in South Africa, we are showing our support for people in their struggle for a more equitable distribution of their country's wealth.' Labour Day has become a symbol of united worker's struggle for democracy.

Detention without trial in South Africa is evidently not confined to citizens of the country.

This emerges out of the fact that a man captured by the SADF in a raid into Mozambique over two years ago is still in detention, and has not been charged.

Mr David Mthobela, a citizen of Mozambique, was captured during the raids on African National Congress bases in January 1981.

A spokesperson for the South African Police recently confirmed that Mr Mthobela was still being held in terms of Section 28 of the Internal Security Act. No further details were given.

It is believed that two other men captured in the raids are also still believed to be in custody.

One of them has given State evidence in a treason trial and the judge ruled that his identity cannot therefore be revealed.

Another detainee, Mr Modike Tatsa, is at present in the psychiatric ward of the Johannesburg Hospital, where he was admitted a month ago for observation.

Mr Tatsa is in his fourth year of detention. He, too, has not been charged.

The district surgeon recently granted permission for Mr Tatsa to be seen by a private

Detention in detention

Four years

Each tablet contains Caffine C11 30mg Caffine ALK 30mg Saliicate 3mg Tartrazine trace.

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Keep awake tablets
The Wits general assembly:

Reject the racist quota

Over 6,000 people gathered on the Library lawns last week in a tame protest against the implementation of a Quota System.

The Vice-Chancellor called the 3rd General Assembly in the history of the University to protest against an amendment to the Extension of Universities Act which will limit the number of black students admitted to Wits.

Each black student at present must personally apply to the minister of National Education for a permit to study at Wits. Under the proposed new system the university may choose which students may study at Wits. However, once the quota is set by the minister, is filled, the university and not the Minister of National Education that will have to turn students away.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof Du Plessis convened the 'unusual event' stating that the amendment was an 'extraordinary threat to academic freedom'. He said that the 'integrity of the university rests on the twin pillars of autonomy and academic freedom.'

Autonomy being the right to have free and total control over one's affairs, and academic freedom being the right to decide what and whom shall be taught.

Prof Du Plessis said any violation of academic freedom is a violation of the university's national responsibility. He said that the University's point of view must be accepted for further debate. The University has a 'duty to express a contrary view honestly and fairly.' The Vice-Chancellor indicated that the maximum contribution of the University to the nation was

Prof Charlton, Mr Lampert, Prof Du Plessis, Mr Rosholt, Dr Stutterheim, Prof Tobias and Mr Vogelman all addressed the crowd.

The Vice-Principal, Prof Charlton expressed the University's belief in the irrelevance of colour and race as criteria for admission to the University.

Amidst hisses, the Chancellor, Dr Rosholt, purposed that we 'must defend academic freedom as we defend free enterprise'. He made mention of the 'new and sinister component that strikes at the heart of the university's autonomy: the withdrawal of governmental subsidies from universities that refuse to comply.'

He reiterated university policy that it is 'the Council and no other body, that should decide on admission criteria'. Dr Stutterheim, Chairman of Council called on the minister to scrap 'from the statute book all forms of discrimination in terms of race and colour. He said the University would be compelled to carry out a 'non academic and hence irrelevant process'.

'The University stands for pursuit of truth', Dr Stutterheim said.

In an impassioned speech, Prof Tobias, speaking on behalf of Senate stated that the proposals were 'frankly racist'. Prof Tobias who was at the forefront in 1959 of the protests against the implementation of the Extension of University Act mentioned last week that the University is again defending Academic Freedom, University autonomy and non-racialism. He said, to great applause, that again freedom, principles and feelings had been butchered to make a Roman holiday for the apostles of Apartheid. He said that ethnic quotas 'entrench ethnicity' and the government was insensitive to the repugnance felt by Wits to racially based University education.

There was loud applause when Prof Tobias called for the University to refuse outright to implement the bill. He said that quotas are 'abhorrent', and are 'naked tools of racism and repression'. The proposed system is 'Indelensible in principle, odious in application, and offensive in practice'.

Mr Lampert, President of the Convocation, talked of the loss to commerce and industry of skilled and specialised workers because of the implementation of the Quota Bill. He said that the executive committee of Convocation had unanimously endorsed the statement of Senate condemning the Bill.

He did say that the bill was an 'affront to the dignity of man, and humiliating to the person concerned.'

Then Lloyd Vogelman, SRC president said that repression in the form of the Quota Bill made a mockery of the attempts by the government at reform. He mentioned that 'the University becomes an active participant in apartheid'.

He referred to the UCT meeting at which 400 academics passed a motion calling on the UCT administration to actively oppose the bill and to refuse to carry it out, should it become law. He said that the Cape Town academics had likened it to the restrictions placed on Jews to institutions of higher learning in Nazi Germany.

Vogelman said that 'The University fulfills an obligation to the people of South Africa, and to the principles of justice and equality and must therefore actually defy the bill.' 'Academic Freedom', he said, 'has a responsibility of identifying and serving the needs of all the people in South Africa', and hence 'there can be no monopolization of knowledge.'
Drought ravages homelands: thousands face starvation

About 1.5 million people in rural South Africa are facing starvation as a result of the most serious drought this region has faced for a century. According to reliable sources thousands, mostly children, will die this winter unless something is done to alleviate the situation. The Homelands have been most hard hit. Operation Hunger, a feeding scheme run annually by the South African Institute of Race Relations was established to provide aid in the devastated areas. A one-day fundraising campaign in the Johannesburg and Sandton areas succeeded in raising R16 000. Operation Hunger was also launched by the SRC Projects Committee and Rag in independent campaigns on campus last week.

According to the organiser of the scheme, Mrs Ina Perlman, about 70% of Operation Hunger is funded by private donors. She said that the aim of Operation Hunger is twofold: firstly crisis intervention feeding, and secondly self-help follow up.

A statement released by the SRC Projects Committee said, 'The drought is actually only aggravating existing conditions which in themselves should have been cause for drastic action.' This was reiterated by Mrs Perlman who said that children under 5 years comprise 50% of deaths in South Africa, and in normal circumstances the infant mortality in South Africa is double that of Botswana.

Added to the serious malnutrition situation, which is exacerbated by the drought, Mrs Perlman said: 'seasonal labour was having to be cut back and school leavers were finding it impossible to find work.

The SRC Projects Committee said the conditions in the homelands are a result of their position in the South African economy as a whole. They are a source of cheap labour, and a 'dumping ground', where the unemployed, the sick and those not directly necessary to the economy can be discarded.'

'The long term solution to the problem lies in the fundamental restructuring of the system. This implies an equitable redistribution of land and resources. Short term alleviation in the form of drought relief aid should not be ignored, but should rather be seen in the context of the new conditions in which people live and the limitations which the political, economic and social position places on them.

Durban rejects Quota Bill

Students and staff at the University of Natal, Durban (UND) recently mobilised in support of 28 black students who had not received ministerial permits to study and were therefore being turned away.

The students have combined this issue with the rejection of the Quota Bill, a demand for a creche on campus and a demand for the desegregation of residence at the University. The students feel that all these factors prevent the establishment of an Open University.

Admin responded to student and staff pressure earlier this year by allowing the students to study while waiting for outcome of their applications.

The students' case was taken up by a member of administration, Mr Peter Silver, who travelled to Pretoria to discuss the problem with the Minister.

As a result of this, seven students have been granted permits, fourteen more seem to get permission, while remaining seven seem to have little chance.

SRC President Jon Taylor described the events as a victory for staff and students.

Nusas referendum at UNP

A referendum is to be held at the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg (UNP) to decide whether students are in favour of re-affiliation to NUSAS, the National Union of South African Students.

A motion permitting the referendum was passed unanimously by the SRC in response to a request by the UNP Nusas local committee.

The SRC agreed to sponsor the referendum to the tune of R500 and decided that the referendum would be held on August 16 and 17.

While the result of the referendum could go either way, the feeling on campus seems to be positive towards Nusas, particularly after the mobilization of students around the issue of the Quota Bill. UNP is the only English speaking campus in South Africa that is not affiliated to NUSAS. The affiliated campuses are Wits, The University of Cape Town, the University of Natal (Durban), and Rhodes University.

Although students at UNP decided to disaffiliate in 1972, there has always been a committed Nusas support group on the campus.
What's going on Dr Koornhof?

While down at UCT, Dr Koornhof praised the government's reform initiatives, in the Soutpansberg and Waterberg the National Party continues to persuade voters that the PC proposals will entrenched white rule.

On Wednesday, Dr Koornhof phoned the University in an attempt to prevent Varsity from publishing the lecture which he delivered that morning. When asked why he had done this, Dr Saunders, the Vice-Chancellor said 'I really don't know.'

Earlier that day, Varsity reporters managed to catch Dr Koornhof in his car. In a short interview conducted through the window, Dr Koornhof said, 'You had better get permission from the head of the department before you publish anything I said in the lecture.'

Dr Schrire, head of the department and personally responsible for Dr Koornhof's appearance on campus said yesterday that the lectures were 'Off the record'.

The lectures are not public meetings, he said, 'I promised him that I would not permit it to be published.' Why was Dr Koornhof so concerned to hush the lecture, he asked?

According to students in the class, he took a particularly liberal stand on the constitutional proposals. South Africa, he said, was going back to the Grassroots of reform. The reform in SA can be compared to Lincoln's reform in America, and Wilberforce's reform in England. Nothing can stop that reform,' he declared. 'The government don't'. Some one interjected. Dr Koornhof responded light heartedly: 'You bastard. I was just going to say the government can not stop reform.'

He went on to outline the direction he saw the constitutional proposals taking. This would include:

Koornhof 'Equality regardless of race and colour'

New Deal Pamphlet 'Schools will remain white'

Full citizenship rights'

Full participation in decision processes'

New Deal Pamphlet 'Whites only will be able to own property in white residential areas'

Whites only will be able to vote for representatives of parliament'

So long as the Nationalist party governs only Nationalists represented in the assembly will be members of the electoral college that elects the President

Full human rights'

Dr Saunders subsequently forbade any discussion, in the student press and/or student meetings, about Koornhof's speech or matter relating to it. The Vice-Chancellor also instituted disciplinary proceedings against seventeen Varsity staff members and the editor, Nic Boraine. They are scheduled to appear in a disciplinary court on the 3rd June to be charged with disobeying an order of the Vice-Chancellor; violating the unwritten Harvard laws of academic ethics i.e. that lecturers may not be reported, or bringing the university into disrepute.

The UCT SRC is negotiating with the administration to move the hearing date forward as it now falls in the middle of the study week.

UCT students were reluctant to comment on the issue. 'Administration are angry', said one, 'and they want to make an example out of someone'.

However a senior student leader did say 'Dr Saunders has in the past gained the respect of students for his sympathetic handling of issues. But this time he really overshot the mark — I think most students feel that he has behaved in a high-handed and irresponsible way.'

The student also said that the Vice-Chancellor's actions set a precedent for censorship which was 'disturbing in its implications. Dr Saunders has arbitrarily decreed that there will be silence on this issue.'

The SRC president Anton Richman and the Varsity editor Nick Boraine both declined to comment.

STOP PRESS: An 'open letter' to Dr Saunders has been distributed at UCT. The letter is signed by 13 UCT student newspapers and 24 clubs, societies and faculty councils. It describes the blanket ban on the Koornhof incident as an 'unacceptable restriction' adding that all students 'would obviously accept the normal sub-judice rules. It expresses disappointment at Dr Saunders' 'lack of faith' in student leaders and reiterates the UCT student community's commitment to freedom of speech.

Extracts from the UCT broadsheet.
**New SRC members unopposed**

The alleged attempt at disruption of the SRC by former members Du Plessis and Liebman has backfired.

Anne Du Plessis and Bradley Liebman resigned after the permitted SRC by-elections, apparently so that they could not be replaced. The SRC reacted by applying to the Administration for an amendment to by-election rules which would allow more than one by-election between the general elections. The application was successful and a by-election was held recently.

Provision was made for extra by-elections if necessary in future to prevent parties from standing and then resigning en masse, thus jeopardizing the efficient running of the SRC.

In the uncontested by-election two representatives were elected. They are Alf James and Michael McMaster (see manifestos).

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**Wits Student banned**

Two editions of *Wits Student* were banned on Friday last week.

Vol 35 No 5: the broadsheet on Sharpeville and Vol 35 No 6 containing the feature on the new government military legislation were banned on Friday last week. *Wits Student* has still not received reasons for the bannings.

Other student publications banned include the NUSAS pamphlet on the Quota Bill which was distributed at Wits last Tuesday.

**Student services: progress being made**

Every year, the SRC sets out to extend student rights and increase student services — this year’s SRC has already achieved much in both of these areas.

This statement was made by Lloyd Vogelman, President of the SRC, at the beginning of 1983. In order to determine student appreciation or criticism of these improved services, the SRC recently issued a questionnaire to 3,500 students.

*Wits Student* spoke to Bruce Rubenstein, SRC Secretary for Student Services on the finding of the survey. He said that there had been a favourable response, with 2,500 questionnaires having been returned, and that the general feeling on campus was that the SRC was functioning efficiently as a student orientated body.

Suggestions for improvement were directed at the libraries and the canteens. Students expressed a wish for a more efficient overnight system, more easily accessible past exam papers, and the possibility of health food in the canteens. Great concern was shown over the increased pilfering on campus. Only a few people were ignorant of the SRC innovations.

The achievements of the SRC include, among others, the Swift-Lift System, implemented at the beginning of this year, the bookshop, sportshop, job book, a smalls board and a suggestion box. The possibility of a Compticket on campus 'with reduced rates for students is now being negotiated.

Bruce Rubenstein concluded the interview by saying 'there is a fair more positive attitude to SRC now which means the walk of the SRC members is being appreciated on campus.

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**Job — Seeking Skills**

Venue: Room 3028, Senate House

Dates: 16, 18 & 19 May

Time: 4 — 5.30pm

Group limited to 10 people

Please give your name to the Secretary, Counselling and Careers Unit, Room 3001, 3rd floor, Senate House.
Two musicians from ‘Splash’ appeared before a Johannesburg magistrate two days ago charged with singing revolutionary song at the Free Peoples Concert held in February.

The musicians, Mr Joseph Charles, a 24-year-old guitarist, and Mr Rulai Radbe, a 19-year-old drummer, are alleged to have sung the songs before a crowd of 8 000 people at the Kloofendal Amphitheatre in Roodepoort.

They have been charged in terms of the Internal Security Act. It is alleged that by singing a song entitled ‘Tract in’r’r r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’r’
The Quota Bill mass meeting raised many questions about exactly what the government is trying to achieve. Most speakers seemed to see the quota bill as an 'irrational' piece of legislation, a part of an irrational apartheid system.

Here Professor Stadler, head of the Politics department at Wits and chairperson of the Wits Senate Academic Freedom committee, looks at the history behind the present legislation.

The Department of National Education has drafted legislation which changes the form of the government's racially based university admissions policy.

The system of ministerial exemptions which has operated since 1971 will be replaced by a racial quota system. The operative clause in the new bill (clause 9) is simply an enabling clause in the nerv bill. The new bill meets the difficulty in the present act which states the conditions for the determination of the state's subsidy to universities. This sanction is not explicitly stated in the bill, nor has it been raised in public, but it seems the logical way of applying sanctions in a situation in which it would clearly be absurd to try and select culprits from among students of a particular race in a group which is larger than the approved quota.

Another worry is the possibility that the quota might be varied from year to year, either to reward or punish particular universities. The quota could also be used to allocate students to different universities in a way that would favour the government-sponsored Vista University for blacks, soon to open its doors.

The notion of a racial quota is regnant to many university people because of its associations with the universities of Tsarist Russia and countries in eastern Europe in times long past. (Perhaps the one thing that might facetiously be claimed on behalf of racial quota is that the Nazis did not use them; they simply excluded Jews from the universities.)

Above all, the 'open' universities are worried by the likelihood that they will be involved in the detailed administration of a racially-based quota. They can present claim quite legitimately to have clean hands, though a purist could argue that they know the race of their students and thereby compromise.

The universities have responded to the proposal rather slowly. So far there has been none of the drama which attended the passing of the Extension of University Education Act in 1959. The reasons for this are complex - among them, simply that for more than 20 years the universities have become inured to the threat of financial sanctions.

The second stage was marked by the system of ministerial exemptions formalised in 1974. It matched the attempts made in earlier stages to make the administration of apartheid more feasible; it did not mark a shift in purpose of the state.

The main framework of apartheid had been achieved. Without that framework, flexibility was needed to deal, for instance, with the problems of minorities. The Indian community of Johannesburg, for example became the main beneficiaries of the political and administrative exemptions during the 1970's.

The third stage, marked partly, but only partly, by the proposal to introduce a quota system at the universities, reflects the extremely complex set of developments in state reconstruction. This has been loosely termed 'total strategy'.

State policy

Before looking at the logic of this strategy and its implications for universities, it is worth emphasising that each stage has involved an effort by the government to generate a policy for the universities which corresponds to its overall policy for the state as a whole. The second stage is that each stage is marked by a certain degree of provisionality.

In these terms, total strategy is not fundamentally a departure from earlier development. Total strategy is a total strategy.

The universities and total strategy

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The third stage, marked partly, but only partly, by the proposal to introduce a quota system at the universities, reflects the extremely complex set of developments in state reconstruction. This has been loosely termed 'total strategy'.

State policy

Before looking at the logic of this strategy and its implications for universities, it is worth emphasising that each stage has involved an effort by the government to generate a policy for the universities which corresponds to its overall policy for the state as a whole. The second stage is that each stage is marked by a certain degree of provisionality.

In these terms, total strategy is not fundamentally a departure from earlier development. Total strategy is a total strategy.
Nevertheless, the changes it contains are likely to be revolutionary: we could sum up its contradictions in the phrase from Lampedusa's novel, The Leopard, in which a character says: 'Things are going to stay the same around here, things are going to have to change.'

Unlike earlier phases in the development of state policy, which were, as far as universities are concerned, essentially regulative and coercive, the phase we are entering is not in essence simply concerned with imposing a form of external controls over the universities — though these are part of it. In general, we will return to the meaning of total strategy if we see it simply as a set of repressive controls. Total strategy reflects, in part, an effort to elicit the cooperation and cooption of social and political institutions.

**Total strategy**

It should be remembered that the strategy evolved out of the recognition that repression alone could not guarantee the survival of the South African state. It only seems to be a paradox that this insight was achieved by the military, whose main business is repression, and which therefore has an extremely acute understanding of the limits of repression.

Total strategy is aimed at the legitimization of controls as much as controls themselves. The system of total strategy is extremely complicated, and it is by no means possible to isolate a single determinate principle which explains its implications for universities.

One might think that one would find some guidelines in the pronouncements of the President's Council, but as far as I can see that ruminative corporation has said nothing about the universities beyond staring in its eyes.

It is clear that the universities do have social obligations, but that they cannot be properly or adequately discharged within the framework of an authoritarian strategy designed to perpetuate apartheid.

Extracts from a speech delivered at Quota Bill protest meeting last term.
Things are going to stay the same around here:

Reform, power-sharing and democracy are the latest NP slogans being bandied about in the Battle of the Berge elections. But while with one hand the government pushes for the acceptance of its 'new dispensation', with the other it whitens Pretoria's parks again and continues to ban and detain its opposition.

With this in mind Wits Student looks at the constitutional proposals. In this, the first of a 2-part series, we will examine the proposed structure of central government and its institutions.

Until recently, South Africa was based on a racially exclusive form of the ‘Westminster system’. In terms of this system, once every five years whites elect members of political parties (eg PFP, NP) to go to Parliament, the most important policy and law-making body in the government. Parliament elects the Prime Minister and the State President. The Prime Minister is the official head of government and one of his main functions is to nominate a Cabinet. Members of the Cabinet each have their own portfolio (eg education, defence, economic affairs, labour, etc). Members of the Cabinet are all members of parliament and while they initiate policy and laws, they are supposed to be directly answerable to Parliament in other words; everything they do has to be ratified by Parliament. The State President has no real powers and is merely a symbolic head of the country.

Restructuring

Over the past few years government has been restructured in response to the crises in line with total strategy. Thus, since PW took office in 1978, the Cabinet and state bureaucracy have been reorganized, with power concentrated in the Prime Minister. Six Cabinet committees have been set up, covering internal affairs, social affairs, economic, state security, and legislative and parliamentary affairs. These Cabinet committees are not responsible to the Cabinet or Parliament, nor is membership restricted to members of parliament, but is increasingly drawn from the military and big business.

Over and above the Cabinet committees is the State Security Council (SSC) which since 1977 has emerged as a powerful decision-making political institution in South Africa. The SSC also includes the top brass of both the military and big business. Through its committees the national security strategy of the state is coordinated.

Thus although whites still elect a Parliament, neither they nor Parliament effectively have a say in how the country is ruled.

Parliament

1. There will be three separate chambers of parliament: one for whites, one for coloureds and one for Indians. All people over the age of 18 will be registered on their respective voters' roll.

2. Three separate chambers of parliament will be elected by the voters. Although exact numbers for each chamber have not yet been determined, the ratio will be 4:2:1. In other words, for every Indian that is elected, two coloureds and four whites will be elected.

3. The parties with the majority of seats in each chamber will elect an electoral college from among their own members. The electoral college will consist of 50 whites, 25 coloureds and 13 Indians (again in the ratio of 4:2:1).

4. The electoral college will elect an Executive State President. The Executive State President will be elected for a seven-year term of office. The Executive President will have the power to dismiss the Prime Minister, the Cabinet, the President’s Council and Parliament. No-one can dismiss him. He can also nullify any law. The Executive President will also appoint the Prime Minister and Cabinet. The Prime Minister and Cabinet do not have to be members of parliament, but it is envisaged that they will be ‘experts’ drawn from business, the military, the professions. The racial ratio of the Cabinet has not been laid down.

5. Another very powerful part of the government will be the 60 person President’s Council. The President’s Council will partly be elected by the parties with the majority of seats in parliament and partly appointed by the Executive President. The majority party in the Indian chamber will elect 20 members, the majority party in the coloured chamber 10 members, and the majority party in the white chamber 30 members. The President’s Council is to scrutinize government policy and initiate legislation.

Pseudo-democratic

Although the structure appears to uphold the principle of power sharing, it in fact curbs democratic political power. By creating an acceptable but pseudo-democratic appearance to the constitutional proposals, the NP will be able to entrench and consolidate its power.

The most significant implication is that while Indians and Coloureds will have access to power through the tripartisan parliament, this will in no way constitute any real power. Political power will remain in white hands: Parliament and the executive.
to have to change

The use of power becomes even more arbitrary if one notes that the triamicral Chambers will operate with a quorum of 10%. At present 66% is necessary. So with a parliament of 160, only 6 members need be present to pass legislation.

Another serious criticism is that the power of opposition parties such as the PFP will be so reduced, as to be virtually insignificant. The leading of the triamicral parliaments, the electoral college and Presidents Council all entrench NP rule, and render powerless a party such as the PFP.

The assumption behind the constitutional proposals is the concept of 'consensus politics'. The proposals reject the present system of parliament where political parties can debate policy because it is argued this results in 'conflict'. But what the proposals intend to do, is undermine the vote of the vote and ensure the NP retains political power regardless of the outcome of an election. The proposals remove the traditional checks and balances of the parliamentary system eg the President cannot be unseated by a legislative defeat or a motion of no confidence, or following any legislation. In fact, the constitutional proposals remove the government power and decisions on political issues further away from the electorate into secret committees. These exist outside parliament, and because they are appointed, not elected, are not accountable to the electorate.

But, why have such undemocratic proposals been introduced now, amid all the promises of reform and power-sharing?

Under the present Westminister system the NP may very well lose the next elections to the HNP and CP. It will be forced to either resign or to form a shaky minority government coalition.

The NP has lost the support of its traditional electoral base, the Afrikaans speaking farmers, workers, farmers and civil servants in the Transvaal and OFS. The workers feel threatened by the free labour markets, the prospect of better training for blacks proposed by the Reform and Winning Coalitions. These will erode the white workers traditional control over position of higher paid skilled labour. The farmers are also threatened by the NP policy which favours the large commercial farmers. All these groups are bound by a rigid racism, a result of their livelihood being dependent on their white skins, as well as of ingrained prejudice, which draws them to the HNP and CP.

NP entrenchment

The NP can no longer be certain of winning a majority electorate. However under the new constitutional proposals the NP will be able to exercise full power as long as it retains the minimum 34% of the parliamentary seats. NP power is then ensured through the election of the President and the Presidents Council. The NP will select the electors who in turn will choose a President. The President reinforces NP power by appointment of the Cabinet and of the Presidents Council.

Once in power the NP can use the new system to perpetuate its rule. The President is not responsible to parliament, can't be dismissed, and because of 7 year office will remain in power even if in the following election the NP is defeated. The Presidents Council appointed by him will arbitrate in a parliamentary deadlock and the President can still approve or veto the legislation if it is in NP interests.

What then is the intention of the NHQ and the electoral college are appointed in the ratio of 4:1 (Whites: Coloureds: Indians). The Presidents' Council is even more weighted, given that the Executive President appoints 25 members, hence the ratio will be 9:2:1. Africans are excluded from the central government as they are 'catered for by the homeland governments'.

Dictator

The Executive President assumes the power of a dictator. He can dismiss anyone, but can't be dismissed himself, and approves or vetoes all legislation. He also appoints members of Cabinet and the Presidents' Council. These are not drawn from parliament.

Hence the new system will bring non-elected people (probably from the military and business) into the most powerful government positions. The Executive President has a term of office lasting 7 years. Thus even if the NP were to lose an election the President would still maintain NP power through his appointing Cabinet and the Presidents' Council and vetoing unwelcome legislation.

Institutional proposals

The desire of the NP to co-opt black and Coloured support must be seen in light of growing instability. Their incorporation into political institutions will just extend the extension of the military call-up. In addition to 5 million whites, the SADF will also have 3 million Coloureds and Indians at its disposal. There is also an increasing need for supervisory labour. At present Indians and Coloureds are best able to suit the demand.

As mentioned earlier implicit in the constitutional proposals is the need for consent. This may open the way to greater tolerance of overt peaceful political opposition parties participating in the constitutional proposals. If the NP eliminates all opposition by intensifying repression, it will dispel the illusion of its transition to a more democratic power sharing form of government. This illusion will exist until it is seen to gain international acceptance, which in turn will foster foreign investment and military aid.

In conclusion, it seems that far from pleasing the white electorate in waves of liberalization, the NP is, in fact, intent on entrenching its rule through a minority dictatorship.
Short letters: 
I.R. 'lack suss'

As a student who has done International Relations I would like to say a few things about Mr Campbell's article in 
Paradise. Firstly it's to be expected. Very few people go through that course (especially lower-year level) and learn anything. It is no coincidence that the failure rate for IR I is virtually nil. Campbell's article demonstrated precisely the lack of suss which characterises most of IR I. The Citizen editorial column is often more informative and correct although equally right wing.

The SRC should make students aware of the type of things being offered in IR I, so that students can avoid it. I, for one, had enough propaganda at school.

BA II

Self-paying creche?

I heartily approve of the idea of having a creche on or near campus.

However, there is one very serious flaw in the proposals which appeared in the latest Wits Student. This is that the creche would impose a financial burden on people who do not use it. It is a most unfair situation indeed.

Why no creche?

The University's refusal to create a creche on campus is in total contradiction to its purported liberal ideals of freedom to study, opposition to the quota system etc. As the government uses race, so the University effectively uses an arbitrary, non-educational criteria, that being the birth of a child, as a means of restricting certain groups from furthering their studies.

The acquisition of Milner Park showcases one of the ideal opportunity for the University to make evident their commitment to freedom of access to education, with the creation of a creche. Refusal to correct this situation will point to gross hypocrisy on the part of the University administration.

As a concerned student, I call for immediate action on the part of the administration to redress this situation.

Herby Opland

Herby Opland

Wits water wasters

I was shocked to attend a laboratory session last week which required students to run water through a metal pipe at various temperatures to watch the metal expand.

At the rate of 3-5 litres per student performing the experiment, and over 200 students in the class (both conservative estimates), we are literally drinking 1 000 litres of water down the drain. In a drought it seems disgraceful that we should be so wasteful. It could have been demonstrated once or twice.

What is the Wits student body and authorities doing to conserve water? And what should we be doing? I think we need more awareness, more conservation — and quick.

Heather McLean-Riggs

Creche: 25% per student

In 'Children are tough luck' (Wits Student: Vol 35, No 8), the writer states: 'A child-care centre would be beneficial... but I have no wish to donate some of my hard-earned fees.' In the same issue of Wits Student we read:

- UCT has allocated R18 000 pa for a centre.
- Student fees make up 20.6% of Wits running costs.
- Wits has so far this year 15 105 students.
- Using the UCT figure for Wits and a little simple arithmetic, we find that MC (Male Chauvinism)? Leight is bitching about donating 25c a year to a child-care centre!

As to the alleged arrogance of those working for the centre actions in quashing the 1977 plans for a creche after his predecessor had approved the project — anything but arrogant? Maybe the meek will inherit the earth but they'll get nothing from God in the guise of the VC.

Finally, the letter smacks of sexism as the writer ignores the fact that whether children are pre- or post-registration, planned or unexpected, it is invariably the woman in our society who bears the responsibility of child-care and is consequently, unable to fulfill her intellectual potential. A situation which a child-care centre would help to redress.

PD Kidson

Contributors

Harry Dugmore
Judy Beaumont
Judy Beumont
Grants Gordon

Mike Levy

Matthew Kentridge
Debby Fisher
Leora Bloomburg
Rosemary Bloom

Karen Jochelson
Paul Desmet
Paul Desmet

Linda Berkowitz
Clive Glasser
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Peter Rosendorff
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Linda Berkowitz
Clive Glasser
Neil Abrahams

Heine Joffe
Andy Harrold

Debbie Abrahams
The Staff of Varsity

Matthew Kentridge
Leora Bloomburg

Matthew Kentridge
Herbie Opland and ERC

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As to the alleged arrogance of those working for the centre
The international relations debate:

Attack on Campbell ‘lacks tolerance’

This letter refers to your editorial ‘Relating to the Far Right’ published in the April 28th edition of Wits Student.

It is acknowledged that the gist of your summary of the article published by Mr RK Campbell in the SADF journal *Paratus* is accurate. However, your ‘critical analysis’ raises several questions of principle.

Firstly, is it either just or fair to label an entire academic department (as an institution of this University) as either subscribing to, or propagating, as a body, a specific ideological perspective?

Secondly, if a member of this Department or any other were to publish an article containing equally extremist left views (in the light of your appeal for a limit to academic tolerance) would you argue also for the exclusion of these academics from this campus?

Thirdly, surely your concern for the ‘spirit of free inquiry and curiosity’ could not, by definition, be tolerant of censorship of any kind?

In the fourth place, is your opinion of all members of the Department of International Relations (and it is noted that none is exempt from your allegations) based on a personal knowledge and or experience of the academic qualifications, academic writings, course content, individual ideological political convictions and extramural commitment of each member of this Department?

Finally, is critical analysis of emotional hyperbole (or even verbatim) or are you in your reaction opening yourself to similar accusations of intolerance and emotional irrationality?

These are questions which, personally, it is deeply regretted, in the light of the serious slur which is now cast on an institution of the University, were not considered.

Despite the fact that Mr RK Campbell is the most junior member of this Department and has the status of a temporary member of the University staff and therefore cannot claim to represent the Department in any way, it is the case that extremist views of any colour tend towards the irrational and eventually the absurd. We would have thought that Mr Campbell had provided sufficient rope in his article, with which students, imbued with the ‘spirit of objective inquiry and curiosity’, could hang him, without seeking to slander all members of the Department of which he is a single junior member, and or to denigrate the institution.

The tone of your article, the nature of your allegations, as well as your suggested remedy, are a source of deep concern and warrant to those in this Department and elsewhere who are committed to propagating ‘free’ academic inquiry and broadening discussion within the framework of a scholarly study and understanding of international politics. But more important, your lack of tolerance and your advocacy of ‘exclusion’ policies is counter to the proud tradition of this University as a bastion of liberalism within a controlled exclusivist, intolerant and censored socio-political system and must be anathema to all who endorse this tradition.

Dr Michael Sinclair

Ed: Obviously no department is homogenous. It is regretted that point was not more forcefully pointed out in the original article.

Wits Student retracts and apologises for any inference made from Campbell’s article to individuals in the department. The issue of academic tolerance is dealt with in the editorial.

... but can we tolerate militarism?

Congratulations on your scathing attack on Keith Campbell’s mindlessly right-wing article (*Paratus* - April 1983). I have no wish to use a steam-roller to crush a gnat (no matter how obnoxious), but a number of comments need to be added to your otherwise comprehensive attack.

Firstly, Mr Campbell professes to be a military historian. For this reason, his failure to bolster his specious arguments with any facts must be treated very severely indeed. You mentioned Mr Campbell’s strange description of Malaya and Kenya as true democracies, but what about the sweeping claims that Britain has ‘repeatedly’ resorted to detention without trial, and that the ANC has been trying to ‘subvert’ South Africa for ‘over twenty years’? Such unsupported claims are utterly unacceptable from anybody. From a putative historian, they are ludicrous.

Secondly, it must be remembered that Mr Campbell is not a South African citizen and therefore is not called upon to endure military service. He will never engage in the warfare that he so chillingly recommends for often reluctant South African whites. One can only be relieved that such bloodlust has no outcome, but the fact that Mr Campbell will never have to face danger to support his twisted beliefs makes his aggressive, ‘get ‘em, boys’ statements all the more contemptible.

Armchair belligerence may be less painful than active militarism, but it is equally disgusting.

Digby Ricci

Free speech has no limits

One need not share Mr Campbell’s sympathy for SADF action in Angola, or security police activity in South Africa, to take issue with your attack on Mr Campbell’s article in *Wits Student* Vol 35 No 8.

You suggest some interesting limits to the principle of academic tolerance — and by implication, the principle of free speech generally. You proceed to justify your position by an argument that the same way as the spokesmen of the far right: the idea is that the protection afforded by academic tolerance extends only to those who express what Vorster would call ‘responsible opinion’, and not to those who would indulge in ‘blatant falsification’ and ‘propaganda’. Thus the government generously allows press freedom — but reminds us that freedom ‘is not licence’.

I suggest that it is a contradiction of terms to argue that free academic expression must be controlled by self appointed guardians of the ‘truth’, whether they be right or left wing.

Your reference to the IR 111 essay topic on ‘total strategy’, betraying a degree of ignorance. Virtually, every source recommended for research on the topic, including publications of the Institute of International Affairs, is sharply critical of total strategy.

Finally, I notice that you rather disparagingly describe the head of department as an ‘internationally acclaimed conservative’. Presumably, in accordance with your notion of selective academic freedom, the Professor too, should be ‘restrained’ from teaching the error which inevitably arises from his conservatism. Such restraint will, no doubt, be one of the first fruits of our eventual liberation. I hope this prospect will spur all progressive students to redouble the struggles for true freedom in this country.

M Osborne IR II

Creche mess

Dear Mr Do Please See

My mother is a very clever person. However, she says u are very stupid, because u don understand why there should be a creche on campus. If she is clever and u are stupid, why are u at Wits?

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TV lectures slated

Is this Maths or TV games? The Maths and Stats I course consists of a series of TV lectures, the quality of the lectures is poor and some even border on hyper poor.

To compound this problem: if you don’t understand a point in the lecture you can’t stop and ask questions, you have to wait for a ‘Drop in Tut’ which is attended by tutors (people who passed the course the previous year) or you can wait for your tutorial lecture.

During the seventh week of each unit a test counting 25% is held.

The test is a multiple choice with negative marking. The answers are marked on a computer and you receive your mark back a week later.

What is this proving? As far as I’m concerned all it’s proving is the success of a system devised to keep the pass rate down. Perhaps the Maths and Stats Department should open their eyes and change to the correct system before it is too late.
The Yale Road scene is a typical one. 5 o'clock traffic slithers along the M1. The sun sinks noisily in the west and Nurden A Scatoma stoops in the Milner Park parking lot, shirt-sleeves rolled up to the wrist, furiously cranked the jack's handle — preparing to change his horse's flat hoof.

In our last episode, no. 63, young Scatoma successfully completed his first two labours, to register for BA1, and to find parking at Wits. Admittedly, May is a little late in the year to begin an academic career, but then again, coming from a family of notoriously late starters it's not bad going. For example — In 1963, Oliver Oshkosh Scatoma spent a night in the cells after keeping an elderly German couple locked in the linen closet as prisoners of war and in September of the same year, Alvin Scatoma invented the wheel.

We rejoin our hero, who is now lifting the horse's tail and locking the boot prior to his homeward journey. Unbeknown to Nurden, his relationship with the horse — a gift from his father — was to be short-lived. On leaving the parking lot he was nearly run down by the caretaker of Hobkirk and Doves who sped past him in a yellow hearse. The caretaker had been invited to give professional advice at the new Milner Park building excavations. Unfortunately he had forgotten to switch off the stove before he left work and the following day he was fired. His next of kin have taken possession of the ashes.

Slightly shaken, Nurden galloped home. On arrival he discovered that mother had forgotten to defrost the pork, so they cooked his car. The above events left Nurden ill-prepared for his first serious day at University. The next morning he managed to hitch a ride into 'varsity with a psychopath on his way to a mass murder and strode through the gates ready to tackle labour no. 3 — breakfast in Senate House.

The immediate visual impact was overwhelming; a swarm of females who seemed to have cornered the market in pink and purple material and 300 brief-cased BCom students. This spectacle offers a logical explanation for the unnaturally inadequate size of the Senate House Coffee Shop. Students frequenting the concourse are either on diet or run the risk of losing their breakfast if subjected to this sight for any lengthy period of time.

For Nurden, he firstly had no desire to pour his legs into a pair of Jordache jeans and secondly, he was not sufficiently familiar with good taste to recognise bad. Thus, he sought refuge in the Coffee Shop. Senate House cuisine has long been the talk of the culinary world. For a mere 45c one can choose from a wide variety of plain or toasted thratal diseases - plain or toasted. The Faculty has shit lecturers! (It should be mentioned that while the Senate House toilets do constitute a department in the Commerce Faculty, this does not necessarily mean that the faculty has shit lecturers!)

Sitting on the toilet, eating his roll and waiting for his pants to dry, Nurden was totally exposed to the unique band of culture found only at Wits and selected massage parlours in Hillbrow. Lack of space and courage prohibits the publication of the works but the toilets will be on show in the Posel Museum during study week and should prove invaluable to second year medical students who are having difficulty with their anatomy.

On the spur of the moment, Nurden decided that the time had come for him to immortalise himself on a toilet wall. Nurden left the toilet in the same manner as he had been born; unnoticed. But there is a little corner of Senate House toilet which is forever Nurden.

Today his inscription bears testimony to a man's quest for his own identity, a soul in silent search of self. The epitaph of a questioning mind in a latterday Babel reads stark black on white — ‘NURDEN LIVES’.

Will Nurden ever meet the Vice-Chancellor?

Does anyone read this newspaper?

If so, how many spelling mistakes can you spot in this edition? (a) 12. (b) 286. (c) 1014.

Does Nurden realise that it is only 4 weeks to exams.

Do you realise that it is only 4 weeks to exams.

### SRC Seminars Focus Crisis? What crisis?

**11th May:**
- Populär pressure on the government
  3.00pm
  1D McCrone

**16th May:**
- States response: reform and repression
  2.30pm
  1D McCrone
350 workers went on strike at Premier Paper Mills on 25 April. They were protesting at selective wage increases, and management’s refusal to negotiate with the union.

This strike comes in the wake of a number of attempts by management to undermine the union At a time when profits in the company remain high in spite of the recession, workers wages remain inadequate.

Premier Paper Mills is part of the Barlow Rand Group. The chairperson is Mike Rosholt, Chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand. In his submission to the President’s Council Economic Affairs Committee, Rosholt said ‘We must at all costs avoid uncertainty induced by commitments not being put into effect’. Yet, all indications show that in practice at Premier Mills, this commitment is being contra-dicted in order to undermine worker representation.

Prior to the strike, there was some history of negotiations on the part of the union to close the wage gap between skilled and unskilled workers on the basis of management’s stated commitment to this principle. However, management was not prepared to increase wages more than the inflation rate, and made no attempt to close the wage gap. The management justified this limited increase on the basis of the recession.

The union pointed to the fact that profits remained high, the company had a ready market for their goods, and management had told workers that their productivity had increased. Furthermore, in the following months, earnings per share likewise increased from 83c to 93c. In spite of these figures management continued to insist that they had no money for a larger increase.

At the beginning of the year the union approached management about a promised bonus for night-shift workers, on the grounds of a previous agreement. Management refused to negotiate the amount until the following year, and furthermore refused to formally commit themselves to this.

In April, management held briefings with workers, in which they announced that they had given increases to certain categories of workers. This affected 48 of the 350 workers. They claimed that the union had agreed to these increases. The union called a meeting with the workers, and denied any knowledge of this action. Workers were infuriated and said it indicated that management clearly has ‘other money in a secret sack’.

Divide and rule

The workers felt that the wage increases were an attempt to divide the workers and undermine the union. They called for management to stop their briefings, and demanded that increases be given to all workers. Management acknowledged that there had been a misunderstanding, but refused to commit themselves to general increases.

On Monday 25 April, the workers from all four shifts decided to go on a wildcat strike. On Thursday, management declared that if workers did not return to work by the following morning they would be dismissed. A possible wage of the workers, who refused to return to work until a general increase had been promised. At the same time, the union threatened to take management to an industrial court if the strikers were dismissed.

The following day, no workers returned. Management announced that their recognition agreement with the union was cancelled. They also promised for the first time to negotiate a wage increase in July with workers representatives. Workers, however, maintained that the unions and the workers were the same thing, and the workers couldn’t go back to work with ‘... the union. Likewise, they stressed that the shop stewards were their representatives. They also demanded that the increases be no less than 20c an hour per worker, this to be written down and signed before workers would return to work, and that no workers would be dismissed or victimised as a result of the strike.

Management refused to budge. They announced that shop stewards, but not union officials, would be allowed to stay. They said they had no objection to the points, but refused to put anything in writing. They said they would begin hiring new workers.

Police

When workers arrived in the morning, 8 police vans and dogs were present. These subsequent-ly left. A number of workers noticed that their clock cards were missing, implying that they would be fired. A number of workers, the majority of which are contract workers with very little bargaining power, began to feel uneasy about continuing the strike in the wake of this.

Earnings per share likewise increased from 83c to 93c. In spite of these figures management continued to insist that they had no money for a larger increase. At the same time, the union threatened to take management to an industrial court if the strikers were dismissed. The following day, no workers returned. Management announced that their recognition agreement with the union was cancelled. They also promised for the first time to negotiate a wage increase in July with workers representatives. Workers, however, maintained that the unions and the workers were the same thing, and the workers couldn’t go back to work with ‘... the union. Likewise, they stressed that the shop stewards were their representatives. They also demanded that the increases be no less than 20c an hour per worker, this to be written down and signed before workers would return to work, and that no workers would be dismissed or victimised as a result of the strike.

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The SRC Economic Research Committee looks at:

Rosholt’s paper promises

Against this background, the contradiction between Barlow Rand’s stated policy, and actual conditions in the workplace must be seen. Rosholt must be asked whether his companies stated policy is just window-dressing, and if not, why it is not enforced in his subsidiary companies.

Rosholt has defined his responsibilities to employees as ‘adhering to the highest standards of employment practices and constantly adapting to improvements in those standards as they occur’. We must ask ourselves whether we are promoting a page of change which will be sufficient to accommodate the legitimate aspirations of our employees. It is his companies stated policy ‘To develop and maintain open and fair methods of negotiation between management, unions and employees. As such it is a necessary basis for the creation and maintenance of a harmonious and productive working environment’.

Rosholt’s paper promises
For Sale

NIKON Fe Zoom Lenses. Soligor Macro 35-70mm, Tohia 80-200 mm. For sale R750 each. Additional accessories: converter flash. Tel 642-7511 ext 1303 after 6.30.


YAMAHA XT500 1980. Good condition 1900km. Phone C Martin 700-2659.


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Go in the States? Taking electric razor? Then you’ll need a proper voltage converter. For a brand new one at a good price, contact Jay Allen at North Lodge Rm 3 or call 642-2124 or 643-6641.

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Border Collie puppies for sale. R50. Phone 35-7775.

Disco for sale. Well established, complete with records, lightbox, turntables etc. R2500. Phone Craig 52-2024.

Typewriter — Olivetti Editor 4. Electric, bar (ie not golfball) excellent condition. R150 ono, box of ribbons included. Phone 53-2500 after 6pm.

Houghton: Furnished room, breakfast and dinner. Caring people.

Christian girl, occasionally to babysit. Transport not too good. Serviced and laundry. Tel 716-7777.


Bez Valley North. Single furnished room, use of bathroom and kitchen. Own transport or take 2 buses. Jewish male. Mrs Finkelstein. (B) 23-7177 (am) (H) 786-8672 pm.

Parktown West Large single furnished room with bathroom. Kettle and hotplate if needed. No meals. R100. Mrs Bersak 726-7635.


Miscellaneous

Touch Rugby: A club is being formed. It will meet every second Sunday morning. All those interested in joining should leave their names in the pigeonhole in the Sports Hall.

Wanted: I am an Indian student (female). I am looking for a small family or couple who would be willing to accept me as a paying guest in Lenasia or Fordsburg. If you can help, please phone 852-3458.

Anso Films: 13 May - Kramer vs Kramer. 20 May - The Battle of Britain. 27 May - The Pink Panther.
David Bowie — Let’s Dance (EMI)

So this is what the hordes of fans from the Outer Hebrides to Germiston have been waiting for—the new Bowie!

Like Joe Jackson’s Night and Day, and the new Fun Boy Three album The Waiting, David Bowie’s 19th offering is not that delectable at first. After hearing the single, released before the album, one wondered what Bowie’s first album in 3 years would hold. Yet, apart from the dreadful Let’s Dance, the album proved to be an interesting combination of remixed nostalgia tracks, a few outstanding tracks, and one or two mediocre ones thrown in for good measure.

We see in this album a slight return to the Young Americans type disco/funk experimentation, the reason perhaps being that the album is co-produced by Nile Rodgers of ‘Chic’ fame. It only gets overbearing once or twice when the bass guitar (played by Carmine Rojas and Bernard Edwards, also of ‘Chic’ sound) is a bit like imagination with measles.

Opinions of Bowie fans on campus seem to clash. The one faction acclaiming it ‘the best thing Bowie has done in 10 years,’ the other ‘He’s over the hill and sold out.’

China Girl (from the 1977 Bowie-Iggy Pop collaboration The Idiot) is given the Nile Rodgers treatment with some impressive results. The lyrics are biting:

“I stumble into town like a sacred cow
Visions of swastikas in my head
It’s in the white of my eyes
Ricochet (probably the next single off the album) is Bowie at his best. With a simple melody and a bold, pulsating beat, Bowie delivers:

Like weeds on a rock face waiting for the scythe
Ricochet-Ricochet / The world is on a corner waiting for jobs
Ricochet-Ricochet / Turn the holy pictures so they face the wall

Very effective is the use of a ‘radio-voice’ speaking intermittently in the semi-background. But when they get home, damp eyes and weary / They smile and crush their children to their heaving chests / Making unfailable promises / For who can hear to be forgotten, Great stuff!

Modern Love is great as well. But Shake It and Let’s Dance are quite boring. Cat People is a track that seems out of place here, with the original version being far better.

That Bowie’s voice is at its most versatile and best on the album, no one is disputing, but distinguished his earlier works from the rest of the ‘pop’ market? Bowie has always created Fashion. Is he not bow’ g to it now?

The Hat F.G.

Neil Young — Trans (Geffen Records)

Neil Young’s new album Trans, is completely different. It says goodbye to acoustic guitars and coyote yells and ushers in moogs and vocoders.

The track, Little Thing Called Love isn’t so bad but it isn’t too hot either. It is one of the most ‘Neil Youngish’ tracks on the album: seven out of the remaining eight tracks feature vocoders prominently. Titles also reveal the new direction — Computer Cowboy, Computer Age, The T in Control. One has the feeling that if Kraftwerk were to go pop, this is what they’d sound like!

Young seems to be noting the change in his image with the changed lyrics of Mr Soul: For the thought that I caught... that my head is the event of the season

In a while will the smile on my face turn to plaster
It is strange I should change...

Yes, the change is strange. Young has done better.

Records supplied by The Strand

Pink Floyd have made a dramatic re-entry to the record world after an absence of nearly four years.

After the commercial success of ‘The Wall’, cynical pundits waited for the Floyd’s next move. It came in the form of the film ‘The Wall’, a film which South Africa has not seen, but which was huge success in Britain.

The film was an abstract and violent comment on war and on the violence inherent in our socialization. It contained all the music on the double LP, plus more. The extra bits have now been put on record and added to by Roger Waters, the Floyd’s pen. The result: The Final Cut.

The Final Cut is an album very much in the mould of The Wall. It differs from earlier Floyd in the same way as The Wall. But this is not necessarily to its detriment: different does not mean bad.

The album is refined, maybe mellow, and definitely repetitive. Under analysis, it shouldn’t emerge as a good album. But the overall sound is surprisingly acceptable.

Waters has used the album to launch a scathing attack on war in general and on the British Conservative Party in particular. His lyrics are well composed, but very bitter. His music has changed. Guitar and keyboard harmonies have replaced the riffs and solos of old, and choral backing and the use of sound effects add to the general tightness of the album.

Closed minded Floyd fans will hate this album. But among those who can accept the inevitability of the change, the album will be popular. And the general record-buying public will love it.

PS: Does the title suggest that this will be the final effort from the group? Your guess is as good as mine.
Karr on the Sandwich circuit

The ‘Wednesday at Wits’ series of free lunchtime concerts has become well known to local music lovers for its high calibre, but it is to get a real boost.

Gary Karr, the visiting virtuoso of the Contra-bass (also known as the ‘double’ bass), has offered to play at the concert of Wednesday 11 May. The concert will start at 12h35, 12.35pm, and admission is free, although a donation is requested. Because the recital is over the lunch break, it is not the least frowned on if audience come and go as they need to, or if they (quietly) munch their sandwiches.

With Karr on the Great Hall stage will be his usual accompanist, Harmon ‘ervis, who is an accomplished pianist and harpsichordist in his own right.

Gary Karr is not only acknowledged as one of the four only virtuosi in the 400 year history of the contra-bass, but he is also a hugely popular concert artiste because of his warmly humorous stage manner.

He has a particular rapport with young people (and loves teaching) and has involved himself with numerous imaginative projects with children, including one directed at a group of deaf children.

The Performing Arts Administration and the School of Music of Wits have embarked on a vigorous scheme of promoting good music on campus which has already spawned an often-heard slogan of ‘More Music at Wits’.

With such novel ideas as their recent ‘Music Day’ during which small groups of musicians played in locations throughout the campus, and now with such a pre-eminent musician as Gary Karr playing a free Lunchtime concert, the slogan is becoming very much a reality.

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Tennessee at the Box

Tennessee Williams confronts the destructive forces of nature with even more than his usual forcefulness in his play SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER, which is to be staged at the BOX THEATRE by the REPERTORY AMATEUR PLAYERS (RAPS) from May 16 to 21.

The American playwright’s recent death has, naturally enough, given rise to a revival of interest in his work. This play, one of his shorter works, reflects the decadence, corruption and materialism of modern society which are the themes of most of his plays. It highlights human brutality and selfishness more clearly than most of his other works.

The play, set in the Deep South, deals with a conflict between a rich woman and her niece. The woman wishes to preserve her idealistic, but false, image of her dead poet son, whereas her niece wants to reveal the truth about him.

But despite the sinister undercurrent, the play also has for example by the niece’s fawning relatives, whose values are skewed by their greed for money.

Beryl Pratt, who has produced many plays for RAPS in the past, is directing this production with Shelagh Ray playing the part of the mother and Jessica Benn as her niece.

Beryl told Wits Student about the relevance of such a work. ‘I believe it has lost none of its relevance. It is set in the Thirties to capture the right effect intended by Tennessee Williams, but it is not restricted only to American life or to any particular period. It does not deal with issues specific to a particular country so it has as much relevance in South Africa elsewhere.

The Box has become a regular venue for RAPS productions in recent years. Last year the society staged the Australian play “The Professor” there. The previous year it worked jointly with the University Players in the Joe Sherman’s production of Bertolt Brecht’s “The

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VOW hit parade

For Week Ending 29th April '83

1 (12) JULIKA Simple Things
2 (-) KAJAGOOGOO Too Shy
3 (2) TEARS FOR FEARS Mad World
4 (7) DIRE STRAITS Twisting by the Pool
5 (8) VIA AFRIKA Afrika the Tiger
6 (1) BLANCMANGE Living on the Ceiling
7 (3) BILLY IDOL White Wedding
8 (15) ALCATRAZ All in Good Time
9 (5) DAVID BOWIE Let’s Dance
10 (9) LINDA RONSTADT I Knew You When
11 (22) ERIC CLAPTON Ive Got a Rock ‘n Roll Heart
12 (17) HUMAN LEAGUE Mirror Man
13 (4) SHAKATAK Stranger
14 (16) TOTO Africa
15 (23) DONALD FAGEN IGY
16 (11) HALL & OATES Maneater
17 (25) JOAN Drop the Pilot
18 (13) TALK TALK Talk Talk
19 (-) BOB SEGER Even Now
20 (10) MEN AT WORK Be Good Johnny

Based on listener requests
In our last edition we looked at eVid. This week, as part of our exploration of South African music, we interview the former Pett Frog.

Back in 1980, when Punk was giving way to new wave, two fresh-faced high school kids got together and formed a band. The first of their numerous problems was the choice of a name. 

“Well, we were sitting round the pool one Saturday afternoon trying desperately to think of a name before we played that night. Someone suggested ‘Pett Frog’ (the other ‘r’ being added only later), and being so absurd, we chose it.”

Now, three years on, Pett Frog has finally croaked.

Pett Frog was a concept. With some of the band members having an original musical training (save Andy Cragg who had a bit of classical training), their aim was to get up on stage and say: “Hey look! We’re just like you. We’re not specialized musicians. If we can make people listen and dance, then so can you.” It is within this casual, amateur (yet not unprofessional) make-up that we look back at Pett Frog.

We were speaking to Andy Craggs (guitarist) and Bertrand Mouton (Sax). The other members of the band being John Leyden (Bass) (no connection to Rotten), and John Lloyd (Percussion).

John Lloyd and Bertrand started things with heavy punk and new wave influences. In 1981 Andy joined after having played in a rock band in Switzerland and John Leyden came in on rhythm guitar and bass. At the end of ’81 they decided they needed a vocalist. Brian Little sang for them for 6 months but personality clashes group. However, he influenced them with his Reggae Ska background (having played for various Reggae bands). They then tried a female vocalist — Anthea Schaeffer, but the band felt she was unsuitable as she ‘refused to move around on stage’, so she lasted for just 3 months. The band then began to focus on instrumental compositions.

The band has always been a hobby of the members but the day to day running of the band is finding and organizing gigs, financial negotiating etc was impossible to organize casually. In fact, as students, (3 of the 4 of them were at Wits), they found the administration side too taxing and so, they joined Progressive Productions. They felt Progressive to be ‘exploitative’ and realized that big companies are not interested in South African bands. They are only interested in the ‘commercial institutions’ such as Juluka, Kekana, Hotline etc.

Institution

What does the band feel about not being one of these ‘institutions’.

“Well, at first we envisaged the ‘bright lights’ for the band. We were offered gigs with Peter Tosh, Duran Duran etc you name it. But when all fell through and we had been conned several times, we began opting for self-satisfaction instead of commercialism, (making more money in ’83). This cannot be absolute though you have to be innovative and interesting within the framework of what is popular!”

The band were, appropriately, going to call their first release ‘Commercial Suicide’. However, “on recommendation they opted for the more mundane: The Rest, commercial suicide for them?”

“No, we only cut 1 000 LPs (at a cost of R2 500 — half of what we anticipated) and it’ll be fine if we only sell 300 or so. The thing that mattered to us in the end was the piece of black vinyl whereby to remember our music. The novelty of having a release overrides the financial rewards. Is there political comment on the track A Part of Hate written by John Leyden?

“We’ve always kept our vocals in the background as complementary to melody and harmony. We generally did this because we can’t sing. Not because we were too afraid to. So, while some of our lyrics can be classified as social comment, the band was not a vehicle for political opinion. So few musicians are actually well informed enough to make social comment. Many South African bands are political in order to be trendy and appease their audiences, by giving each different audience what it wants to hear, and not due to true conviction.

“We are quite scared of being labelled. Critics are so quick to label. Our song, Kwela initially a black number written in 1965, has become known as our ‘Token black’ song, can you believe it? The more you say, the more labels you get. As it is, our critics hate us for not having any formal musical background - ‘you guys aren’t trained… and it shows!”

Did this lack of formal training affect their music?

“Well, we never wrote down any of our songs. We played from memory. We created music by having each person composing for their particular instrument, and then Andy and John Leyden composed lyrics for it. We improved a lot. They all listened to similar music: The Cure, Gang of 4… but recently our musical interests became really diverse. We all developed in different directions. Influences ranged from TALK Talk and Echo and the Bunnymen (Lloyd) to Level 42 (Leyden) to the Clash (Bertrand) to Haircut 100 (Andy). The Cure remains our only common influence.

Was this in any way a reason for your levelling-off last year and apparent break-up?

Yes, to a large extent it affected our composing. Also since we joined Progressive we’ve stopped progressing (!) which is really disheartening. We tried a lot of new things yet nothing really worked. Also a lot of the good music venues such as the Selbourne Hall have closed down. There are also a whole lot of things wrong at the open air type concerts which irritated us. Often people aren’t allowed to dance because black/white dancing is forbidden. Audiences are often incredibly apathetic, which deters entrepreneurs. We still really enjoy playing on stage and won’t say no to gigs, but realistically, we’ll probably never play again.

So where to from here?

Well, Flash Harry wants to snap up John Leyden and Andy is semi-involved with Garth Deacon who produced The Rest. Actually we’re all feeling pretty relieved at not having to continually run off to practices.

So another innovative South African band will disappear from the local scene. Although they may gig again (which is unlikely), they have essentially broken up. But let’s hope they, their purpose, and dedication as an untrained band that succeeded, serve as an example to other African bands.
tennis competition

The tennis club received a record number of entries for the various events in the Championship which began on May 28th. A new championship this year is the mixed doubles and the entry response was such that the event is here to stay.

Another interesting feature is that a handicap tournament is being run simultaneously with the championships. The finals of the various events will be played on May 28th and for those interested in watching, the times of the relevant competitions may be obtained from the tennis noticeboard in the foyer of the Great Hall. Prizes for the winners, including cups and cash, will be awarded at the formal prize-giving on the evening of the finals.

But it is not only the championships that have indicated an upsurge of interest in tennis. Club Chairman, Mark Basson, reports that the ladder is constantly changing as the players are regularly challenging each other.

The women's section is particularly strong. Val Bleaard and Lyn Mandelbaum, who were respectively last year's champion and runner-up, are both back and playing better than ever. In addition to which, who is one of the most promising players in the Transvaal, and Carol Moorcroft, who has represented Eastern Province, have both joined Wits' ranks.

Rugby looks sharp

The Sharp Inter-Faculty Rugby League is now underway and two rounds have already been played. This season fourteen teams have entered in the League and rivalry between residences and faculties is running high.

Naturally a repeat of last year's League, which saw a number of evenly-matched sides jockeying for ascendancy throughout the term, would be ideal. So far no team has shown that it will dominate matters to any extent.

For the record Men's Residence are the present champions having piped the 1981 winners, JCE, 18-16 in a dramatic final at the end of last year's season.

Matches are played every Wednesday evening starting at 5.30 with the second and third fixtures kicking off at 6.30 and 7.30 respectively.

Spectators are urged to come down and make as much noise as they so desire in support of their residence or faculty side.

Gymnasts to take on South Africa

The name Gymnastics is derived from a Greek work 'gymnos' which means naked! The Greeks used to perform their various exercises without any clothes on. Fortunately this is not the case these modern days.

The Wits Gym Club is a flourishing club with approximately 40 registered members. It caters for all gymnasts from the beginners to the more advanced.

In the women's section the exercises are performed on all four apparatus (viz. Floor, Pommel Horse, Rings, vault, Parallel Bar and Horizontal Bar). Their exercises are graded from Grade I which is the easiest to Class V which is more difficult.

In July the Wits Gym Club will be participating in the annual Inter-varsity in Bloemfontein after many years of absence.

In August the Southern Transvaal Senior Championships are held and a team is selected representative Southern Transvaal at the South African Senior Championships two weeks after the trials.

The Gym Club are also planning a tour of the Eastern Cape during early October to take part in a club competition in East London.

Carol Moorcroft of the Wits Tennis Club

Hockey scores a good start

The 1983 men's hockey outdoor season began with the First XI taking on Old Ed and Wanderers in centralised games at Hilson Park.

Against Old Eds, Wits took an early lead through a short corner by sweeper, Kieran Whyte, and proceeded to conduct countless forays on their opponents' goal, but with little success. In fact, Wits' second score came with only nine minutes of play left and was largely opportunistic effort on the part of Graeme Coombes.

In their second fixture of the day, Wits began well, with Rob Rindel putting his side ahead from a short corner variation. Misfortune struck when Wanderers scrambled an equaliser twelve minutes from the end.

Steven Flaks displays his prowess in the floor event

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