UDF UNITES - APARTHEID DIVIDES

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT
Medics mad about marks

First year medical students have expressed dissatisfaction with the way in which demands over course content have not been taken into consideration in Sociology.

They had been informed that a reading test was to be held in August. When they objected to writing the test, their grievances were not listened to by the lecturer involved.

Wits Student spoke to a number of Medical students about the reading test and how they felt about writing it.

Students expressed reluctance to write the test. One first year student said 'Workload is not an issue. It is primarily the manner in which students were treated when they expressed dissatisfaction with writing the test'.

'We feel that the major issue is the extent to which academic freedom is being denied'.

The first year students had attempted to approach the lecturer involved about the reading test because they felt that there was a contradiction between sociology and a 'memory' reading test on sociological readings.

Another first year student said 'at the beginning of the year the lecturer had portrayed sociology as serving a function; specifically to prevent students becoming 'text-book' doctors, and requiring more from students than factual regurgitation.

One student asked whether it would be 'adequate to have only read the readings once or twice, but to understand the issues'. The reply was that only if the student had a photographic memory would it be sufficient otherwise it would not be enough to have only read the readings.

Students felt very strongly that this was not in line with a critical analysis of a reading. They felt that the course is not providing them with an opportunity to become more than just text-book doctors.

The students were expected, as one commented, to 'give her book what she wants'.

A vote held before the test indicated that a substantial number of the class would prefer not to write the test.

Student said 'We are confused as to what was expected from us in the reading test. The lecturer said she would speak to us after the lecture about writing the test.'

'She also said that although we could air our views on the issue of having the test we should not expect anything to be changed.'

'More consideration should be given to what we as students feel about the course structure. Our demands as students are not being acknowledged, and we are not given any say in our course as a whole.'

The lecturer involved refused to make a formal comment until the test had been written. 'The student do not know what the test is going to contain, and I cannot reveal the test before it is written.'

After the test was held the format of the test was explained to Wits Student by some of the Medical Students.

They said that the test consisted of eight questions ranging from questions for 5 marks to 20 marks. The total was out of 90 marks. Sections 7 and 8 were written off in June were re-tested.

A student said that 'what I felt was the only relevant section was not tested at all'.

Another student said that they had been told that the maximum number of marks allocated to each question would be five marks yet questions were asked for 20 marks.

Most students said that they would have had to have known the readings in immense detail which is virtually impossible to accomplish in our limited time.

Although the test only counted 5% towards the end of the year, and it is not a DP requirement, the students feel very strongly about the lack of academic freedom also relating to the problem of an undemocratic and inefficient class rep system.

Rhodes Reject Nusas

The recent referendum held at Rhodes University has resulted in the campus' disaffiliation from NUSAS. Poll turn-out was 69%, there were 115 spoilt votes and pro-affiliation campaign won their stand by 95 votes.

The Referendum was the seventh in eight years and Alan Williams, Rhude Editor, told Wits Student that this year's organisation was far more sophisticated and media coverage far superior to previous referenda.

Over the last few years campus opinion has shown no continuity, swaying between affiliation and disaffiliation from year to year.

This, in addition to the fact that this year's referendum was hotly contested, raises significantly the expectations of the university's re-affiliation to NUSAS next year.

The main reason for the outcome of the referendum is the considerable conservative vote on campus.

Lloyd Vogelman, Wits SRC president, said that Rhodes disaffiliation from NUSAS will from sports and political benefits and from student services.

Reports of increasing right-wing violence on the campus against NUSAS and its representatives have been received from Rhodes students.

During campaigns for the referendum a first year student was physically assaulted by a right-wing student while talking in the dining-room of one of the residences about NUSAS. Another incident involved posters and stickers being burnt off the walls in the room of another pro-NUSAS student.

Allan Williams said 'the pro-affiliation committee is setting up an investigation committee to examine more closely the reasons for losing. The campaign for next year's referendum will begin soon.'

NUSAS has received numerous messages of support for the re-affiliation of Rhodes campus.

Well-wishers include Nadine Gordimer, PFP leader Dr Frederick van Zyl Slabbert, Bruce Fordyce, Sheena Duncan and the Vic-Chancellor of Wits, Professor du Plessis. Messages of support have also been received from the British and...
Women for democracy

Over 1 000 students packed the Great Hall to commemorate National Women's Day on 9 August.

Women of all races were called on to unite and fight for democracy. Three prominent women leaders addressed the meeting: Helen Joseph, Zinzi Mandela and Ela Ramgobin.

Helen Joseph who led a march on the Union Buildings twenty seven years ago was given a standing ovation. She is still a living person and cannot be quoted.

Ms Mandela, daughter of jailed Nelson Mandela and banned Winnie Mandela condemned all forms of racialism: 'whether white or black it is abhorrent and detrimental to any cause it purports to serve.'

Ms Mandela appealed to whites to work hand in hand with blacks for meaningful change to avoid bloodshed. 'The sanity of future generations lies squarely on your shoulders,' she said.

Ms Ramgobin, a relative of Mahatma Ghandi and executive member of the National Indian Congress, who was recently unbanned, urged women to unite with other groups to work for change. She said that black women had to fight oppression 'on three levels'. Women were oppressed through discriminatory race laws. They were also part of the oppressed class in South Africa's exploitative capitalist system. Socially created traditional roles caused the third type of oppression for women.

A statement presented by the Wits Women's Movement at the meeting announced support for Albertina Sisulu and Amanda Kwadi who are being held in police custody. They were both scheduled to address meetings on campus during 'National Women's Week'.

The chairperson of BSS Women's Movement rejected the booklet distributed on campus by the SMA. She condemned their 'apparent' support and urged students to reject this blatant prostitution.

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem, Nkosi Sikelelwa.

PMB win referendum

Pietermaritzburg is once again part of NUSAS after winning the referendum of 16 and 17 of August.

On a campus of 3 450 students, the percentage poll was 57%, with 1 957 students voting. Only 23 papers were spoilt. Although the campaign was strongly contested, NUSAS won with a majority of 128.

The campaigning extended over 3 weeks ending with 2 days of voting. Results were released the following morning.

During the campaign there were several unpleasant incidents. Students were followed, a member of NUSAS affiliation comcar tyres were slashed and his brake fluid was drained.

During polling, however, things were quiet apart from occasional protests. The SAF produced slick and expensive pamphlets, which were intended to undermine NUSAS' credibility on campus.

No! to Bill of Rights

Wits Student
Editorial Collective

The government has rejected an attempt to incorporate a bill of rights into the new constitution.

The reason is that the government believes that the essential freedoms of the individual — the right to move freely, the right to a fair trial, the right to free association, and the rights to protest — are already protected by the law, or what is more important to protect the rights of 'groups', rather than individuals.

'The new constitution is not replacing any of the old. Influx control remains, detentions, and a merciless subjugation of all who protest against such atrocities persist. None of those essential human rights are protected in the new constitution. Instead, an intensification of control by the Nationalist Party is ensured; an executive president elected from a nationalist dominated parliament; and a Nationalist nominated cabinet. The government has made excuses about a bill of rights: 'impossible' to entrench. 'a vote of no confidence in South Africa's common law and courts', 'the possibility of group conflict was greater when group rights were not assured'. It was dismissed as 'unnecessary and presumptuous'.

But the excuses are quite true — it would be presumptuous to incorporate a bill of rights in the draft constitution. It would be presuming that those fundamental human rights exist and are enshrined in the new constitution. It would be presuming that the government is serious about reform. It is for this reason that opposition to the constitutional proposals is mounting. People are realising that this great show of 'reform' is just a front for ensuring that while Nationalist domination continues, the apparent enfranchisement of 'coloureds' and 'Indians' is simply an attempt at legitimisation. Apartheid remains and Apartheid divides.

As a result, the launch of the United Democratic Front (see feature) is a milestone in South Africa's history. The unification of many democratic organisations in opposition to the draft constitution will become a force that will have to be listened to. Those denying fundamental human rights to the majority of people in this country should remember that perhaps one day, it will be their own rights that need protecting.

'South Africa is as free a country as Britain is, and will not be more so with the incorporation of a Bill of Rights'.

Mr Rex Le Roux
NP, Pretoria West

'It is not worth including a Bill of Rights in the constitution because it will, in the final analysis, serve no purpose'.

Dr F AH van Staden
CP, Koedoespoort

'A Bill of Rights would not be worth the paper it is written on'.

Mr Louis Nel
NP, Pretoria Central
Psycno Students Union flex their muscles

The Psychology Students Union (PSU) formed in April 1982 has caused much controversy in the School of Psychology. Wits Student investigates.

What are the issues at stake?

The PSU presented a questionnaire to 2nd year, 3rd year and Honours students.

Results showed that:
- More than half the students were dissatisfied with their psychology courses in general.
- 85% of the students felt that there should be more student-staff collaboration on course content.
- 60% felt that there was too much emphasis on statistics and research methodology.
- 90% felt that the quality of lectures was unsatisfactory.
- 90% were dissatisfied with the lack of practical experience offered to undergraduates.
- 70% of honours graduates and second year students felt they had been inadequately prepared for their present year of study by the courses they had taken so far.

The School of Psychology expressed willingness to collaborate with students. However, because professional criteria had to be met by course content, the final decision would lie with the heads of the division.

Prof Tyson, head of experimental psychology at the school, said that unless questionnaires were carefully designed, they were useless.

What does the PSU aim to do?

The PSU sees its role as to further the interests of psychology students through two channels:
- (a) negotiation with staff;
- (b) provision of services to students.

A pamphlet states that 'it is our belief that this dissatisfaction deserves serious consideration and that the causes thereof can only be dealt with through student-staff consultation.'

In speaking to many students we have found that they perceive the situation in the school as one in which the staff make decisions about courses, tests etc., and the students are left to like it or lump it.

It will not be a solution to simply make staff decisions more popular with students while maintaining the one-sidedness of decision-making. Consequently the PSU is not intended to function in a purely informative capacity. Keeping staff aware of student likes and dislikes, but is intended to be the means through which students become active participants.

An open-ended letter to students said 'We intend to engage in constructive negotiation with the staff on these and other issues'.

Prof Straker sees the PSU in an advisory capacity, giving feedback on student feeling and facilitating more student-staff contact.

How much support does the PSU have?

The PSU claims the support of the majority of 2nd and 3rd year students, illustrated by the large increase in membership. They felt that there were few students who were opposed to the union.

How legitimate is the PSU?

During 1982 the PSU was provisionally registered with SRC as a student organisation. The School is not happy with the status to the Union as it does not seem to have been formally constituted and its officers don't seem to have been elected by the students they claim to represent.

The staff, however, stated that some students had expressed dissatisfaction with the way some students had handled some issues.

The PSU feels that some staff members are opposed to the union. The School confirmed this by saying that some staff members had been antagonised by the seemingly 'confrontational approach' adopted by the union in the initial stages of negotiation. However, according to Prof Tyson, the staff were not 'split' on the issue, due to the fact that so little is known about it.

Does the Union have a right to take over the class rep system?

Prof Tyson said that the failure of the class reps to make full use of opportunities for consultation with the staff justified the formation of a union.

Prof Tyson, head of Experimental Psycho Unit

He felt that the class rep system had failed as a result of the arbitrary way in which class reps are 'elected' and the large number of students in the school.

But he emphasised that the school was not happy with the status of the union, and for this reason would deal only with the class reps, as they are at least nominally representative.

Staff members did feel, however, that the union would be able to provide a continuity which the present class rep system could not.

A PSU spokesperson said that the class reps are an integral part of the union, as they are members of the union. As such they are on the steering and staff liaison committees of the union.

He went on to say that the ineffectiveness of the class rep system had been a major factor in the formation of union.

Since the class reps constituted an integral part of the union, should the school deal with the class reps as they would effectively deal with the PSU.

What has the PSU achieved?

Its major achievement was the postponement of the mid-year tests on research methodology for second year students, and postponement of the statistics exam for third years.

The staff disputes this statement saying that the tests had been postponed after consultation with the class reps, not the union.

The union has further provided photostatted reading notes and tutorials on statistics for students.

Where is the union headed?

For the immediate future the union has planned to inform 1st year students about the various divisions of the School of Psychology for their future years of study.

- to implement a survey of subcourses for the second half of the year which will provide further information about psychology students;
- to implement a survey of subcourses for the second half of the year which will provide further information to all psychology students;
- to investigate the system whereby a 50% yearmark for the final year students is dependent on one test written under examination conditions.

At a later stage they intend to take up the following issues:

- Why 100% of 2nd and 3rd year marks depend on test written under exam conditions.
- The admission system for Honours and MA Clinical Psychology, especially with regard to 'academic performance' being the sole criterion for admission.
- The union hopes to negotiate the establishment of an interview system to supplement the solely academic requirements.

Members of the PSU
Apartheid is a cancer in the body politic of the world

The Rocklands Civic Centre shivered with the sound of 12 000 voices singing freedom songs with an intensity and fervour not heard since the 1950s.

The occasion was the national launching of the United Democratic Front, a broad coalition of progressive organisations united in opposition to the government's constitutional proposals and the so-called 'Koomhof Bills'.

The truth of the UDF slogan 'UDF Unites - Apartheid Divides' was clearly borne out on Saturday as thousands of people from all over South Africa, representing over 400 organisations flocked to Cape Town.

Saturday represented the largest gathering of progressive organisations since the Congress of the People, held at Kliptown in 1955 at which the Freedom Charter was drawn up. Many of the delegates at Rocklands had been at Kliptown, and the association between the rock and the klip was clearly spelt out by different speakers.

The launch was divided into 2 stages — a conference attended by about 1 000 delegates and observers, and a mass rally.

A number of resolutions on issues such as Namibia, the Ciskei, militarisation, forced removals, and others were adopted at the conference, together with the working principles and Declaration of the UDF.

About 12 000 people attended the rally, while thousands more gathered outside the centre. The UDF organisers had been warned by the police that gatherings of people outside the hall or the marquee erected for the occasion would constitute an offence under the Riotous Assemblies Act, but excitement was running so high that those outside were willing to risk a prosecution to be present at the rally.

Excitement had been palpable all day, with delegates and observers spontaneously breaking into song throughout the conference. However, it was at the rally that the UDF was truly launched in an eruption of hope and support from the vast crowd.

Major speeches at the rally were delivered by Archie Gumede, one of the three presidents of the UDF (together with Albertina Sisulu and Oscar Mphetsa who were unable to be present), Helen Joseph and Allan Boesak. Boesak's speech, the final one of the day, was fittingly the keynote address, as the UDF was formed in response to his call for unity against the constitutional proposals made at the Anti-SAIC conference in January.

"Our rights are God-given," said Boesak, "we are here not to beg for them but to claim them. Those in power have forgotten that the fear of the gun will always be overcome by the longing for freedom — you can kill the body but not the spirit or the determination. We went on to say, "It is time for whites to realise that their destiny is inextricably bound up with our own. They will never be free until we are free." He said, that the large number of whites present showed that there was an increasing number of progressive whites who recognised this. At the same time he criticised those organisations which felt that there was no place for the white in the struggle for freedom.

On the subject of the constitutional proposals he said, 'Racism is written into the constitution. Apartheid is a cancer in the body politic of the world — it is a thoroughly evil system. It can never be modernised or modified. It must be totally eradicated.'

Boesak's speech was interrupted throughout by bursts of singing, chanting, and sustained applause.

Historic

The UDF is being hailed as a front with truly historic implications. It is felt that here at last is a coalition strong enough and large enough to further the progressive ideal of a South Africa in which justice and equality prevail — powerful enough to move beyond the level of rhetoric to that of action.

Whether the UDF will fulfil its potential or not cannot be assessed now. However, the spirit of union embodied at the launch, where trade unionist sat with community worker, white student with black, is something that will not be forgotten by those present.

Let us hope it will prove strong enough to overcome the artificial divisions of race and ethnicity erected by that most empty and divisive of ideologies, apartheid.

STOP PRESS SRC ELECTION RESULTS STOP PRESS SRC ELE

A hard week of campaigning ended for 13 candidates in the SRC general election as campus went to the polls to elect the 1983/4 SRC.

After a day of voting, Brendan Barry, a member of the Contact ticket, emerged as poll-topper, with Neil Hellman and Anton Gordon close behind.

The unlucky 13th candidate Craig Lind, missed election by 32 points.

Here, in order of popularity, are the full results:
1. Brendan Barry
2. Neil Hellman
3. Tony Gordon
4. Coenie Wesseling
5. James Alexander
6. Nick Loubser
7. Garth Klein
8. Terry Shakinsky
9. Grant Rex
10. Sue Albertyn
11. Brian Leeson
12. Alf James
13. Craig Lind

27% of campus voted, 4% more than in last year's election. There were 300 spoilt papers.

Outgoing SRC President, Lloyd Vogelman, expressed his confidence in the new SRC. 'I feel that they are a very cohesive group who will serve campus well in the coming year,' he said.

An excited Brendan Barry said after hearing the results, 'A hard week is over for us, but we all feel that the work has only just begun.'
Remember the movie *Missing*? You almost didn't see it. Not because of the SA censorship board, but because the CIA did all in its power to prevent its release. Their embarrassment is understandable. *Missing* accurately depicts the violence, brutality and repression which surrounded the 1973 Pinochet coup in Chile. It also exposed the extent of US State Department and CIA involvement in the coup.

The 11th September 1983 marks the 10th anniversary of the right-wing military takeover of Salvador Allende's democratically elected socialist government. Here, *Wits Student* examines the coup — its background and its aftermath.

**Before Allende**

Chile's economy was controlled by foreign interests. Until 1970, 60% of the country's industrial capacity was owned by foreign companies. Copper and nitrate mining formed the base of a precariously undiversified economy.

Workers were subjected to severe exploitation, often taking home wages inadequate for survival. Crippling unemployment gave rise to large shanty towns on city outskirts. This contrasted sharply to the affluent suburbs of prosperous businessmen. Strong left-wing traditions developed amongst miners and urban workers.

The vast majority of the rural population, known as *campeinos*, were landless workers or smallholders. Most *campeinos* suffered from malnutrition, illiteracy and appalling housing conditions. Wealthy landlords owned 80% of the land.

Chile had a western-style democratic constitution which involved separate elections for president and congress. However, the largely independent army was run by a group of conservative professionals who had already carried out several coups in the 20th century.

In the 1964 elections, the Christian Democrats under Eduardo Frei took power. The CD was an alliance of moderate right-wingers and liberals who promised sweeping reforms. The USA supplied the party with over half of its campaign funds while the CIA launched a vigorous anti-communist 'scare' campaign.

**PU Victory**

Frei's government was disastrous. Land reform was pitifully slow, working class conditions remained unacceptable. Government investments were based on foreign capital requirements rather than on the needs of the Chilean people. A broad alliance of socialist parties called the Popular Unity (PU), under the leadership of Salvador Allende, steadily gathered support during Frei's presidency.

In the 1970 elections, the US cut off loans and financial aid. Some wealthy farmers drove their herds into neighbouring Argentina. The army, agitated for change and passively encouraged right-wing terror gangs. All the non-socialist parties in congress united to block popular socialist legislation.

The country was completely polarized. Despite the economic crisis, urban and rural workers rallied behind the PU. Workers, in the face of continuous right-wing harassment, would occupy abandoned factories and farms. Often productivity levels were still maintained.

The PU government, which was committed to democratic structures, tried to negotiate with the CD, but the party had upwards; the state intervened in cases of exploitation by employers. Worker management and participation was actively encouraged.

Despite iran tic withdrawal of capital from businesses, the country's growth rate shot up to almost 10%, unemployment plunged to 4% (from about 20% during the Frei period). The standard of living of the masses improved dramatically. In the April 1971 municipal elections, the PU won an absolute majority.

**Counter Attack**

After 1971 the rot set in. The old ruling class, whose privileges were being eroded, began, with USA help, to sabotage the economy. Many factory owners closed down their businesses, industrial equipment was sabotaged, investments dried up. The crisis reached a climax in September 1973. The government was overthrown by the army backed by the CIA. A military junta under General Augusto Pinochet, took control. Allende, defiant until the end, died in the burning government buildings. Thousands of PU supporters were killed, detained, tortured or herded into concentration camps. All political parties and trade unions were banned; civil liberties were suspended. Left-wing leadership was effectively crushed. The new regime swore to 're-establish Western values' and 'eliminate Marxism'.

**Chile Today**

The 10-year-old junta have based their economic policy on the teachings of Milton Friedman, the great 'free-enterprise' proponent. The economy is in a sad state. Unemployment is running at a staggering 30%, the inflation rate is 28% and there is a negative growth rate.

The US has found it increasingly embarrassing to give Pinochet complete support and urged the regime to improve its human rights record. (Over 30,000 people have been killed in the last ten years). Chile has been constantly criticized by human rights organizations.

The opposition movements have gradually re-organized. Recently, there has been a major political upheaval leading to the resignation of US imperialism. The chances for freedom are small
Uncle Sam Steps In

50,000 US servicemen and 19 US warships have been massed on the Nicaraguan/Honduras border. On the 10th anniversary of Pinochet's US-backed coup in Chile, the United States is embarking on the largest peace-time display of military force that Central America has ever seen.

Ostensibly, this vast deployment of military might is to remind Nicaragua that the US will not tolerate the 'imposition of communist rule by armed force in El Salvador and the rest of Central America'. 'Domino Principle' rhetoric is used by the US State Department to justify the stepping up of US military presence in the region.

Memories of Vietnam loom large for the American public. However, many prominent Reagan Administration figures have hinted at US military intervention in Central America. Reagan is facing a re-election campaign next year. He cannot risk embarking on an unpopular war in the immediate future. He is taking great pains to lower down the US presence in the region, and to stress that there will be no direct military intervention. Schultz recently told reporters: 'We have no intent to engage anyone actively'.

'Might is Right'

But this pledge is hardly reassuring. From another part of the White House comes the remark: 'We succeeded in Chile, Bolivia, in Guatemala militarily... that's the only thing they understand: might is right.'

Sentiments such as these have dominated US policy in Latin America for over 150 years. Since the Monroe Doctrine of 1823, the US has regarded the Americas as her private domain. There is barely a country in the Western Hemisphere that has not, at some time or another, been subjected to the rule of a US-installed right-wing dictatorship.

These puppet regimes have served America's interests in various ways. They provide US multinationals with a source of natural resources and cheap labour. Through preferential trade agreements, they act as a dumping ground for excess US produce.

America's exploitative relationship with these countries generates widespread poverty within them. This poverty is exacerbated by extreme corruption inside puppet dictatorships. Pre-Sandinista Nicaragua provides a marvellous case in point.

Dynasty

Anastasio Somoza was the last in a family dynasty that ruled Nicaragua for 43 years. Before he was overthrown, his personal holdings included a cigar factory, a shoe factory, 46 coffee farms, 51 cattle farms, 400 tobacco farms, 2 airlines, 1 bank, and 1 goldmine. He also appropriated 25 million dollars of public funds to build an airport on one of his farms.

To support his treatment of Nicaragua as his own private company, Somoza needed his own private army — the National Guard. The US was instrumental in both the training and equipping the National Guard. Its record of human rights abuse is appalling even by Latin American standards.

It was against the corruption and exploitation of Somoza, and the repression of the Guard, that the FSLN (Sandinista Front for National Liberation) was formed in 1961. Emerging in the aftermath of Castro's assumption of power in Cuba, the FSLN was the first armed resistance movement in Nicaragua to have a comprehensive political program.

Through the 60's and 70's, the FSLN conducted a low profile campaign. It continuously expanded its support base, until in 1978 it had Somoza's forces on the defensive. By early 1979 it had become clear that the National Guard would be defeated. On June 16, the FSLN announced that it had formed a Provisional Government.

Unity

The composition of the Provisional Government demonstrated the widespread hatred of Somoza. Both middle class organisations and popular groupings joined forces with the FSLN.

Somoza left a legacy of corruption and injustice. The National Debt was $1.6 million. 35.3% of the population was illiterate. The infant mortality rate was the highest in Latin America. Six provincial cities had been destroyed. 200,000 families were homeless.

The reconstruction campaign is being carried out with enthusiastic popular participation. Its successes so far include a literacy drive that cut national illiteracy by more than two thirds, and a comprehensive program of land reform.

Problems

Reconstruction has, however, begun to highlight the strains within the provisional government. Middle class representatives -- wealthy landowners and businessmen who originally cooperated with the government -- have broken away. Social and economic reforms -- particularly land redistribution, have conflicted with their material interests. They are now involved in opposition to the FSLN inside Nicaragua. More ominously, it is also increasing the money it puts into training and arming the ex-National Guard Contras now exiled in Honduras. At this stage, popular support is firmly united behind the FSLN. The Contras are a relatively insignificant band of terrorists. As America brings more economic pressures to bear on the Sandinista regime and pumps more dollars into the Contras, this situation could change...
UDF: The Politics of Refusal

Our response to the crisis facing us today is the politics of refusal. It is the only dignified response black people can give in this situation. In order to do this we need a united front... There is no reason why churches, civic associations, trade unions, student organisations and sports bodies should not unite in the struggle for a non-racial, democratic and unitary South Africa; pool their resources and inform the people of the fraud that is about to be perpetrated in their name.

These words were spoken by Reverend Allen Boesak, President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, at the Transvaal Anti-SA Indian Council Congress in January. They gave impetus to a process which was already in motion — the formation of a United Democratic Front against the constitutional proposals and the Koornhof Bills.

Apartheid divides — UDF unites. The slogan accurately sums up what UDF is. UDF was formed to resist the Government's new strategy to entrench apartheid by introducing 'reforms'. In effect those reforms would merely extend the divisions which apartheid has already caused in South African society.

The introduction of a tri-cameral parliament wherein whites, coloureds and Indians (separately) represented, and from which Africans are excluded could only intensify interracial hostility. It is seen as an attempt to incorporate Indians and coloureds into the Apartheid system, and thus to divide them from other Blacks.

Koornhof Bills

The Koornhof Bills: the Black Local Authorities Act, the Black Community Development Bill, and the Orderly Movement and Settlement of Black Persons Bill, are also divisive. They award privileges to a small group of urban black workers, while subjugating rural Blacks to measures which are more stringent and repressive than ever.

The proposed Community Councils are intended as mechanisms to ensure greater government control. They impede, rather than facilitate, the democratic representation of the people.

The UDF has come together as a united front against the 'New Dispensation'. UDF is not a national political organisation. It is a transitional structure which strives to meet the immediate needs of the political struggle against apartheid.

The UDF is a loose alliance of about 70 different organisations, representing very diverse constituencies. 'Our organisations have united our people inside the factories, within the townships, in the schools and universities. We have organised as women, as believers, and as

The UDF unites people of all races, and encompasses a broad spectrum of political standpoints: 'People with different approaches to the struggle have a place in UDF.'

The national United Democratic Front was launched at a National Rally in Cape Town this Saturday. This was the culmination of the organisational progress which UDF has made since Reverend Boesak's call for unity.

The first regional UDF was launched in Natal in May. It is headed by Archie Gumede.

Soon afterwards, progressive organisations in the Transvaal came together to form a United Democratic Front there. A major figure in this region is Albertina Sisulu. On July 24, the Western Cape followed suit, with Oscar Mpetha as president.

The Eastern Cape is also building up a regional UDF.

Within each regional UDF, area committees are being organised. These committees keep in touch with the community on a day-to-day basis. This provides for full democratic involvement of all community, as well as organisation members. The national leaders of the UDF are elected at the National Conference in Cape Town.

Refusal

The 'politics of refusal', as Boesak termed opposition to current government strategy, is much more than a mere rejection of the proposed 'reforms'. It includes the presentation of social and economic alternatives.

In spearheading the rejection of the CP and Koornhof Bills, the UDF is guided by the principles set out in its declaration:

- A belief that democracy means both the election by the people of their representatives and the allocation of resources for the benefit of all the people.
- Unity of all democrats, regardless of race, religion or colour.
- A recognition of the necessity to work in consultation with and reflect accurately the demands of democratic people wherever they may be in worker, community or student organisations.

The principles embraced by the UDF reflect those set out in the Freedom Charter which was adopted in June 1955 at the Congress of the People in Kliptown.

National Forum

Another movement, also dedicated to opposing the new constitution and government-approved bodies, was launched at the time the UDF was doing its grassroots organising. Just over a month ago, about 200 black organisations met at Hammanskraal outside Pretoria. A 'National Forum' was set up, and a 'Manifesto of the Azanian People' was endorsed.

Whereas lip-service is paid it the notion that the cleavages in our society are more fundamental than mere racial divisions, the National Forum is a Black Consciousness grouping. Thus, although its manifesto affirms the principle of 'anti-racism', the National Forum effectively excludes the possibility of white participation in the struggle for democracy.

This approach is rejected by those aligned to the UDF. The 'manifesto' is the Free state...
Charter, which affirms the principle of non-racial democracy, and the place of all democrats in working towards it.

**Unity**

At present, UDF commands the majority of popular support. Much time and energy has been spent building up grassroots support for UDF's unity. It has been carefully constructed. The UDF has shown its determination to go beyond the slogan of unity and ensure its reality.

But it faces a number of challenges. A major problem to be overcome is the fact that strong unions such as Cosatu, the General Workers Union and the Food and Canning Workers have decided to stay outside the UDF.

These unions, who draw members of all political loyalties, fear that joining UDF will cause dissension in their ranks. Moreover, they are afraid that their own democratic decision-making processes would be overruled by other UDF interests.

However, the unions have declared their full support for UDF, and their willingness to work in parallel with UDF against the government's new laws.

Another problem is that not all the organisations aligned to the UDF are equally strong. The strengthening of weaker organisations is crucial to the success of UDF.

The organisations brought together under the banner of the UDF will maintain their independence and continue to work in specific areas. They will, however, co-ordinate their opposition to the 'new dispensation'.

The strength of the UDF will ultimately depend on the strength of its member organisations, the quality of central leadership and its ability to organise opposition. It must weld disparate groups into a cohesive whole. It must co-ordinate coherent protest to build a genuine working-class movement against apartheid.

Ultimately, then, it is on the strength and solidarity of the UDF depends. As Maphetha has said: 'We are all aiming at a new South Africa. We can achieve that goal unless we unite. Unity is strength. The National Party is in pieces because threatened by the unity of the people. The more we unite, the closer we are to our goal.'
Women ‘the real story’

I would like to just say a word about a recent publication brought out on campus entitled ‘Women in Africa’. I find that this publication sidesteps almost all the major problems of women in Africa in order to further the impression that women and people in general in South Africa are actually better off than in other countries in ‘black Africa’.

This may well be, as far as the issues brought up in this pamphlet go, but it fails to touch on the problems peculiar to South African women.

The message is that liberation brings shack houses, terrible conditions and empty stomachs — do the authors really think that these conditions do not exist in South Africa?

They go on to say that South Africa has the highest literacy rate in Africa and that South Africa contributes 4.2% of its GNP to developing countries — a percentage, they add, which is higher than the United Nations expects. This is indeed very noble but does nothing to solve the situation at home.

What about starvation within South Africa? Shack houses and squatters? What about women who are separated from their families because of the pass law system?

It is all very well to show newspaper articles of successful black women who are models or to talk about the opening of a new hairdressing salon next to Tembisa but surely these issues are inane compared to the stark reality of the life of black women in our society.

Do not take us as one-sided figures, supportive only of the man’s role in society. Women are not only passive figures, here to ‘stop men playing their war-games’ in order to preserve the status quo. Women have not been ‘conned by men into helping their fight wars from which only men benefit’. It is a struggle for ALL people and although not agreeable to war, women will also fight for their liberation.

Sandra Sandrone

Christian Conscience

As a Christian, I must reply to Paul Hayward’s letter, in which he categorically demises homosexuals to ‘eternal death’. He quotes a number of verses from the Bible to support his stance, and he poses a question which needs to be answered: ‘If the whole Bible, ‘he asks, ‘is the Word of God, why does he categorically damn homosexuals merely in order to uphold him in faith, a Christian does not need to trust only a Book which is, in all likelihood, merely a social and political history of the Jews before the Diaspora, and of a more recent breakaway sect.

Mr Hayward may be willing to take the word of men that the Bible is the word of God. To this end he quoted Timothy, (a man, I believe?) 3:15 ‘All Scripture is inspired by God . . .’ I am certainly not prepared to found my faith on something as shallow as the word of men.

And in all conscience, I cannot believe that God would create homosexuals merely in order to afford others the pleasure of damning them to ‘eternal death’.

Robert J Dewar BA III

Contributors:
Harry Dugmore
Matthew Kentridge
Karen Jochelson
Paul Jammy
Cathy Stadler
Clive Glazer
Janet Hersch
Peter Rosendorff
Linda Berkowitz
Hélène Joffe
Debbie Abrams
Grant Gordon
Derek Spitz
Derek Baldwin

Peter Lazarus
Judy Beaumont
Bettina van Lieres
Gideon Friedland
Adam Gordon
David Bruce
Mark Isserow
Joel Barolsky
VOW
Lizz van der Riet
Lorraine Bernstein
Em Beale
Karen Zwi
Neil Abrams

The formation of UDF is particularly significant now in the light of renewed state restructuring. The UDF is a challenge to the constitutional proposals and the ‘Koornhof Bills’. But it is not just a piece of legislation the UDF is mobilizing against.

On one level the creation of an extra-parliamentary political body of resistance is indicative of the undemocratic nature of our society. Blacks, ‘coloureds’ and ‘Indians’ have been excluded from political representation. They have expressed their rejection of powerless, dummy ‘community councils’ by refusing to vote in community elections.

The proposals must be seen both as an attempt to divide blacks from ‘coloureds’ and ‘Indians’ by giving the latter the two groupings a semblance of political power and as a means to establish dictatorial presidential powers. Furthermore, the co-option of ‘coloureds’ and ‘Indians’ will justly their incorporation into the SADF — a significant factor considering South Africa is fighting both a civil and a border war.

On a deeper level this legislation aims to divide and disorganise the black working class. For example, the Orderly Movement Act, part of the Koornhof package deal, will create divisions amongst Africans on two levels: between permanent urban residents and inhabitants of homelands, and between persons authorised and unauthorised to be in white urban areas. The status of permanent urban residents will depend, for example, on approved accommodation — a criterion difficult to satisfy with the present deliberate housing backlog. The Act will mean tighter influx control to prevent migrants seeking work in the towns. The majority of black population excluded from urban status will face poverty, starvation, unemployment and misery in the reserves.

Thus the challenge of UDF, as its slogan ‘UDF unites — Apartheid divides’ declares, is against the fundamental tenets of apartheid.

UDF as an organisation symbolises three principles. Firstly, ‘in unity is strength’: the non-racial alliance will unite all people fighting for a free and democratic South Africa. Whites and blacks are part of this struggle, both suffer under an oppressive state.

Secondly, ‘in democracy lies our power’: the UDF requires the active involvement of all participants. It is the people who must direct their lives — not leaders. Hence UDF is constituted by grassroots workers, student, community and church organisations.

Thirdly, UDF is an alliance of different organisations with different ideologies and programmes. It is not a political party. Thus affiliates retain their organisational autonomy. The emergence of a national political alliance allows for the development of a political consciousness from spontaneous, immediate and local resistance to an organised programme for action.

An alliance of different organisations may present a pretext in determining the future path of UDF. But one factor is agreed upon. This is that worker participation is essential if the demand for unity, democracy and change is to have any validity.

Despite this reservation August 20 will still be remembered as the day we declared: ‘No-one can tell what we want; it is we ourselves who must rule our lives’.

SASPU Multi Media Mindblast
3 — 5 September 1983
Durban
All you ever wanted to know about newspapers and more
Further information: SRC Reception
We aim to offend all

Although we were not involved with the latest edition of Torque and do feel it has dropped in standard, as editors for the previous 18 months we feel that BA II (Male) has certain misconceptions about Torque that must be cleared up.

1. Torque is distributed to the engineering students by their class reps. This system had to be introduced due to the demand for this magazine by non-engineering students. Apparently a large proportion of non-engineering students are prepared to tolerate such 'crap'.

2. It seems that 'academic freedom' and 'Freedom of Speech' at this university means the freedom of the Left-wing to silence all dissent. Torque has always

understood that 'freedom of speech' is the right of people who oppose your views to have their say. While we, and most engineers, are not impressed by the emotionally charged quasi-rhetoric used by Wits Students, or the nationalist approach of the SMA's Standard, we do appreciate that both these publications do have valid points to make, and a right to exist.

3. The definitions of 'sexism' and 'racism' seem to be somewhat distorted at this university. It seems to us that admitting unalterable facts; eg that women are physically different from men, or that negroes and caucassians have different skin shades, label one as a sexist and racist. We also find it amusing that BA II must sign himself 'Male'. Is this not somewhat sexist? Is he unsure? Has his mother told him all the wrong things in life?

4. Torque is much sought after by outside engineering concerns, as is Fulcrum, our more serious publication. Fulcrum (in fact) is also internationally distributed — so much for 'semi-literacy'.

5. Torque admits that some of our jokes may offend the self-declared sensitive amongst us, but we find it amusing that people seem only to be offended when the humour is pointed at themselves. Torque is de
cratic in that it attempts to offend all equally, irrespective of race or colour!

Finally, as long as there are engineers, there will be Torque. But, there will also be some hindrances as cars, electricity etc (ad infinitum) allowing B. (Male) (?) to be what he is, where he's doing it.

Nedumor (Mech)

Alan Patrick (Mech)

Lester Milton (Mech)

Charles Barnard (Mech)

Bruce Slabbert (Mech)

Torque-ing back

My main criticism of the letter concerning Torque, the Engineering faculty magazine, is that it is guilty of precisely what it criticizes in Torque — the perpetuation of damaging stereotypes.

Torque is accused of being 'racist and sexist', attitudes which rely on preconceived simplistic views of either, other racial groups, or in the case of sexism, women and men's relation with them. Torque is thus accused of maintaining stereotypes, while the letter itself, quite unashamedly, utilizes and perpetuates a similarly simplistic, insulting stereotype of the engineer.

The engineer is accused of being 'semi-literate' and it is implied that engineers are racist, sexist and depraved. Mr BA II (Male) also feels that his mother ought to have warned him about this before he came to university.

This is a blatant stereotype, and if the letter writer is so morally outraged at their use in Torque, he should examine his own dubious standards.

A more sinister explanation for why the letter was written is that an attempt is being made to change Torque as a result of disciplinary action precipitated outside the Engineering faculty. Torque is an engineering faculty publication and if it is changed, must change due to the efforts of people inside the faculty only.

Ian Lowitt BSc Engineering Rep to the SRC

Parking anger

Occasionally, unable to find parking outside the University, I am forced to park my motor car in the vicinity of the Nuclear Research buildings. Perhaps due to a fear of nuclear fall-out, there is always ample space in this parking area, and it is clear that in leaving my motor car there, I am not depriving any permit-holder of parking space.

However, Campus Gestapo have been active recently, and I found a terse printed note stuck under my windscreen wiper. It informed me that I had committed a traffic offence, and that, if repeated, I would suffer disciplinary action. This raises a number of questions:

(a) What are the criteria employed by the SRC in allocating parking permits?

(b) How can I be sure that the SRC member responsible for such allocations is not influenced by personal considerations?

This question is relevant, for if you examine the parking area, you will probably find that there are a number of vehicles resting in this noble sanctuary without displaying any author-

ization. This implied that if you know the right people, you can avoid prosecution by Campus Gestapo.

(c) In a supposedly democratic society such as this at Wits, how can it be right to practise elitism in awarding parking permits to club chairmen, committee members, and other worthies? What is the SRC's criteria for granting these permits, and this year I applied for a parking permit; my application would have been rejected had I employed by the SRC in allocating parking permits to club chairmen, committee members, and other worthies. Perhaps the Senate should conduct an examination of the SRC control of campus parking for students.

RJ Dewar (BA III)

Parking problem pacification

Wits Student has asked me to comment on RJ Dewar's letter as I administer the SRC's decisions on the allocation of student parking stickers.

The task of allocating only 200 parking permits annually is an nightmare. Thousands of students think they should have one of 200 allocated stickers.

Each year the SRC considers the criteria of allocation and the SRC member in charge of Student Services is mandated to carry out the task.

The SRC has used the following system over the last few years:

1. SRC Clubs, Societies, Sub-committees, Faculty Councils, Rag, All Sports Councils and SRC members because these students, apart from their academic work, contribute a lot of their time and energy to student affairs.

2. Students who for medical reasons require parking on campus. A medical certificate is required from the Campus Health Clinic.

3. The balance are allocated to applicants who are in their 3rd academic year or higher. The application form states that the list of successful applicants will be posted on the SRC notice board. There is no undertaking to inform unsuccessful applicants.

The SRC Student Services member vets all applications and rejects applications which are not valid. Mr Dewar's 1981 application would have been rejected had he not been a 2nd year BA student in 1982. He then applied to the SRC staff members to do the draw.

It could have been helpful if Mr Dewar had given some suggestions as to how he considered the allocation should be made.

Jocelyn CAIT

SRC Financial Co-ordinator

Wits University
Nicholas Ellenbogen and Malcolm Purkey:
The Educated Playwrights

Friday night at the Market.
Backstage in the dressing room, a small electric heater is beating the cold. A child’s pictures adorn the walls and there are ‘best wishes’ cards on the mirror. Cokes and Aspies; Ellenbogen in underpants (only for a while) and a tall dark stranger wearing a beard (the whole night). It’s as South African as the word — but far more palatable. We’re talking about new South African theatre — how very bourgeois — but what the hell.

**Wits Student:** Nicholas Ellenbogen; Malcolm Perky (the stranger, and lecturer at the Wits Drama department); let’s chew the cud.

**NE:** So what do you want your Wits student people to know about?

‘I think what they should know is that, South African theatre is increasingly recognized throughout the world: it’s like the Australian film industry.’

‘Woza Albert is playing at the West End; Saturday Night at the Palace is going to London; Poppie Nongena is playing in New York; Precious Remnants is going back to London.

But what’s happening inside the country?’

‘Well,’ says Ellenbogen, ‘subsidies are very important. They are greatly wasted in this country. A subsidy is just a bit of tax that the government uses in the way it wants and neither the population nor the profession has any democratic say in it. The Performing Arts Council, is largely a write-off: they play to very few people and satisfy very few, which is ridiculous. But maybe the future is bright: Mauriess Weyers of PACT and Ken Leach of CAPAB are hopeful.

What do you see as the most serious problem for South African theatre?’

**NE:** We’re at a crisis point in terms of audience. The profession is now providing far more vital and exciting plays but the audiences must now start to realise the great joy of live theatre. The younger people are not involved in theatre as they should be in terms of the quality of the plays and its getting better and better. So if we attract that new audience, we’re going to have vital and exciting theatre in the next five years.

And if not?

‘If we can’t — and by ‘we’, I mean Purkey; Ellenbogen; Rooney; Siabolepoky; Honeyman: all these new people — all those old bloody Dinosaurs will carry out their old ideas.

‘And our problem is that what will happen is that fringe theatre will not happen. The face of theatre is changing. It’s happened in Johannesburg: Commissioner Street is no longer the centre of theatre and the old Braamfontein-Rissik Street Intimate Theatre — they’re all just slowly sinking into the dust. There’s a whole new world out there — of which I hope the new Wits Theatre becomes a part.

Do you think that it is the type of play, which is attracting audiences; that people don’t really want to see plays which say ‘It’s really a nice world out there?’

**MP:** I think it’s the opposite. It’s becoming increasingly obvious that people want to see play reflections of their own lives, and that’s a recent event: plays like Master Harold and the Boys; Black plays and National Madness are the ones people are interested in.

**NE:** There’s a generation of South Africans who are loving their inferiority complex. They’re actually turning around and saying: ‘Piss the West End: we’re here’.

It still seems, however, that South Africans are looking outward. There’s a whole string of plays — yours included — which are all going overseas to prove themselves.

**NE:** The reason we go overseas is because when I play overseas I play to full exciting ‘buzz pow’ tap which is more exciting and challenges me as an actor.

**MP:** It’s also lekker to go overseas.

**NE:** But there’s no financial gain in it. In fact there’s a great loss.

**MP:** They pay terrible money on the fringe.

**NE:** I go to grow: to mix with the actors and to keep in touch with the world.

**Malcolm — you said you wanted to bring Greek theatre to South Africa. Isn’t this a manifestation of the inferiority complex?’**

**MP:** Well, for me there is a strong connection between the mythology of Greek plays and African mythology. There is also a strong connection in the form of Greek theatre and what I call the absolute, modern face of modern theatre. That’s what interests me about it.

**NE:** Let’s not forget about the new Wits complex. I hope it will be a part of a new movement, and not just itself with an ancient and dying one. If they treat it as a precious place for precious classics, then it will become an extension of a teaching medium. I think it’s important that it’s involved in vital new things, exciting things; things that make their mark on the world. But I don’t think that experimental work will necessarily come from students; I don’t think they’re skilled enough to do it well.

**MP:** Well it’s doing Master Harold which is a good sign...

**NE:** It’s doing Master Harold, but Master Harold has grown from somewhere else. The drama department must encourage exciting professional people to go and work there... we must produce exciting people in the next few years and we must produce them from the universities; not off the streets. We must produce a generation of educated playwrights.

What’s next for you personally?

**NE:** I want to get to grips with confrontation — basic black and white; where whites are whites and blacks are blacks, and they do hate each other, and the hate comes from insecurity. I don’t want to pretend that they kiss and make up. I don’t want to write about hate for hate’s sake but truth for truth’s sake.

**DS DA**

Township Tin Pan Alley

The greatest lineup of township jazz bands and soloists since the 1950’s will be assembled in the Wits Great Hall on Friday 2 September.

The occasion is a benefit gig for those stalwarts of ‘our kind of jazz’ — the African Jazz Pioneers.

The lineup is a who’s who of the greatest performers who emerged from the ghettoes of the Witwatersrand — Sophiatown, West End and Soweto — such exciting groups as: Peace, the Jazz Minstrels, the Elite Swingsters, Malombo and New Bloemfontein Symphonica.

Peace are a new, excellent fusion jazz band led by probably South Africa’s best bass guitarist; Sipho Gumede, who recently broke away from Sakhile; they have superb musicianship in the form of Jabu Nkosi on keyboards, and the delightful Thembi Mehnunu on vocals.

The Jazz Minstrels from Bensusi proved their international class by playing at the Newport Jazz Festival, and the Orlando-based group, the Elite Swingsters, will bring nostalgia to the denizens of that suburb, who will remember them as the Blue Flames and Blue Serenades of the ’50s.

Philip Thabane’s Malombo, from Mamelodi, need no introduction to jazz lovers, so well are they known for their fusion of jazz and African rhythms.

The African Jazz Pioneers themselves are a living social history of ’50s music. They are ably led by the dynamic Niemi Piliso, whose sax solos have graced many bands, none more fondly remembered than the Harlem Swingsters, that great group from the ‘Dark City’ of Alexandra. On trumpet is Kientjie Rubushe, Niemi’s sidekick on the Harlem Swingsters and the African Swingsters. Others in the band are Captain Linda Sithole (piano), K Manana (guitar), Dugmore Silingo (trombone) and Tim Ndaba (sax), a great mover on stage and a relative of the late, great Zakes Nkosi.

If you care about the real cultural history of your city, or if you care about jazz and good music — be there on Friday the 2nd!

Tickets will be sold out on campus.

Just Jazz — Wits Great Hall

— 8pm Friday 2nd September 1983
Wits second in log

With one President's League match remaining this season the Wits University Rugby 1st XV are lying second in the log table, one point behind Roodepoort.

Wits have lost once this season in fifteen matches — to Roodepoort when Robbie Blair’s prolific boot sealed the match with decisive second half kicks at goal. Yet Roodepoort, at the same time, were downed early in the season by an unpredictable Meyerton combination.

However, Wits have also drawn twice and this has cost them vital points. One draw was against Roodepoort (10-10) and the other in a hard-fought contest against Police both matches being first round encounters.

But more important in this season’s progress is the record of the lower sides because it illustrates tremendous depth in the ranks.

The second team lost their first match of the season and then inexplicably lost their most recent fixture against Police. Their only other blemish in fifteen matches was a 9-9 draw against Boksburg.

The Thirds have lost twice and the Fourth's once in a combined total of thirty league fixtures which means overall the Wits senior sides have lost a mere six matches out of sixty.

This highly successful record can be attributed to a number of factors not least being the hard work of the committee, headed by Jomo King, a former Transvaal Under 19 captain.

But undoubtedly Wits’ greatest trump card has been their acquisition of coaches of the calibre of Zed Tomes and Terry Gilham to assist Jomo King.

Zed Tomes many years ago equalled the world record of the legendary New Zealander, Ron Jarden, by scoring 38 points (six tries and ten consecutive conversions) on his own in a First League Rugby match against Bellville. Then playing for UCT, Tomes went on to represent Western Province and Eastern Province as a backline player before concentrating on coaching.

His coaching career has taken him to Hamilton’s in the Cape, the former Rhodesian ‘glamour’ club Old Hararians and Jeppe Old Boys.

Having played the traditional running game himself for several years at Cape Town, it is hardly surprising that Zed Tomes has become recognised as one of the most enterprising coaches in the Transvaal. Certainly the brand of rugby played this season by Wits’ senior teams has been a credit to the University.

Ian Hume, about to score a try against Van der Bijl Park. Hume has scored 14 tries this season, an incredible effort for a forward.

Financial Writers’ Wanted

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We need people who can write, with a knowledge of, and interest in, business and economics, people with energy and initiative who make friends easily.

If you measure you, ring the editor now: If you measure up, ring the editor now:

David Carte
Editor
The sports debate:
S A: A Sporting Nation?

For many years the mixing of sport and politics has been a sensitive area for the majority of white South Africans. The very words, 'South Africa, sport and apartheid', have produced a political knot which has fascinated the media and tormented the sporting world for decades. But, in a racially differentiated society such as South Africa, is it actually possible to separate sport from politics?

South Africa, certainly according to white South Africans, is a sporting nation. The amount of time, energy and financial investment put into South African sport is indicative of its social significance. Did not André Brink comment on how BJ Vorster arranged to be interrupted every quarter of an hour during his talks with Henry Kissinger, to inform him of the score of the All Blacks/Springbok Rugby Test?

It can be said that for a large proportion of white South Africans sport is the characteristic form of social expression. Sport, ever since the first forms of racist legislation, came to occupy for white South Africans its present supreme rank among educational and social activities—a symbol of white virility and superiority. Within South Africa, where apartheid gives everything a political dimension, sport has a specific political significance.

South Africa, a sporting nation, but it is this very concept that has caused the conflicts over sport in South Africa. A nation includes the whole society, but in South Africa, sport has been largely confined to the white minority. South African sport has invariably come to mean white sport. In the same way it was effectively 'white' sport that was expelled from the Olympic movement for its racism.

What has prevented us from speaking of South African sport as a whole?

The effects of apartheid laws have been not so much to promote and develop white sport, as to totally deprive the black population of all sporting aspirations.

In contrast to 'white' sport, the acute lack of material facilities and adequate organisation for black sportsmen and women has meant that most blacks could not even begin to play sport. Most whites, from an early age are encouraged and even forced to play sport at school, where adequate facilities complement this ideal. To a large extent the development of sport among the whites has entailed the 'under-development' of sport among the blacks. Thus we do not have to look far to see that even sport, like all aspects of this society, is both unified and decomposed by the laws and ideology of apartheid. Indeed, it has been said that in South Africa, the blacks work so that the whites can play sport.

'White' sport underwent great difficulty in the international sports boycotts in the 1960's and 70's and forced white South Africans to change the picture and accept the existence of black sport and take black aspirations into account. However, even the 'reforms' that were subsequently introduced to promote 'multi-racial sport' in South Africa did not change the fundamental ideology behind apartheid which segregates and reinforces inequality and, even in 1983, continues to keep sport as far as possible white. The excuse that exclusion of blacks in modern sport is not a racial issue, but one merely of the fact that they have only been playing 'western sport' for a short while and have thus obviously not reached the same standard as the whites, is surely untrue in the face of racial legislation which affects blacks most harshly and has been formed to restrict their freedom.

In sport, as in every area of social life, blacks are the most deprived and oppressed group. With the inherent ideology behind racial legislation, it is not hard to see why 'black' sport has not reached the same 'standard' as 'white' sport.

Socio-economically, the separation and unequal development of black and white sport is closely associated with the system as a whole. There is an intimate relation between sport and apartheid, between sport and discrimination and racial oppression in their most political forms. To separate sport and politics would be to pretend that South Africa was a unified society which promoted equal opportunity for all its people. In South Africa this is far from the case.

Peter Lazarus
Sports Editor

SPORTS SHORTS

Phineas kicks off

A little known sporting trophy on campus is 'Phineas'. Phineas is a plaster statue of a Scotsman. Every year intense competition occurs between Mens Res and EOH for the possession of Phineas.

Phineas originally came from Scotland. UCT students over in Scotland who met up and loaned the statue back to us. Most recently it was stolen from Tukkies and for many years it was the trophy in an annual intervarsity between Tukkies and Wits.

Phineas then faded into obscurity. Once EOH was started, it surfaced again.

Every year a sports week is held between the two Res's. Points are won or lost for such activities as athletics, tennis, hockey, bridge, rugby and squash. The week culminates in a rugby match.

Phineas is an interesting part of Wits' sporting history.

JCE beaten

On Wednesday 17 August the Sharp inter-faculty Rugby final was played. In a close, fast-moving game, Men's B 'A' beat JCE by 18 points to 16.

Both teams were evenly matched. The game moved up and down the field in a display of great running rugby. The points came off 4 penalties and a try each. JCE missed a conversion.

Judging by the final of this year's season, next year's inter-faculty league will provide a spectacle.