Police celebrate Republic Day at Wits: 50 injured
Exams: Applause for administration

The university’s decision to reschedule exams was necessary so that exams could be written under normal conditions.

According to Ian Burns of the Exams Office, the university anticipates a large scale stayaway by black staff in response to the National Education Crisis Committee (NECC) call for a national stayaway by all sections of our people on June 16, 17 and 18.

The stayaway has been called in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the June 1976 student uprising.

Black university workers are responsible for preparing exam halls, fixing lighting and clearing up litter.

“I don’t know if students are aware of this, but if you’ve ever seen one of the exam halls after an exam, they’re in absolute chaos,” Mr Burns said.

The rescheduling of exams basically means that the traditional ‘swot leave’ will be split in two, the second half being completed between June 14 and 18.

Other English speaking universities will also not be writing exams during the June 16 to 18 period.

In a statement released on campus, the Student Moderate Alliance (SMA) accused the university administration of trading off ‘genuine student interests and demands against political considerations’, of ‘ignoring the genuine demands of thousands of students’ and of ‘capitalising on the demands of the NECC’, an organisation which, the statement said, “has nothing whatsoever to do with this university”

“The students of this university are demanding the return to the original exam schedule and they expect the SRC to put political interests aside and to stand up firmly in support of genuine student demands,” the SMA said.

Replying to the SMA statement, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof Shear said, “We have not ignored the demands of thousands of students simply because we were not presented with any.”

“It wasn’t a case of capitulating to any demands but of responding sympathetically to a request from the SRC and the Black Students’ Society, one of the societies on campus which has a very large membership.”

“We were approached by the SRC and BSS, who pointed out the great difficulties that students in the townships would have in writing exams. After careful consideration of the problems we came to the conclusion that it would be possible to reschedule with minimum disruption.”

“In any case for a number of years we have not had exams on June 16. We understand what is going on in the country and about the crisis in education,” Prof Shear said.

Democracy and you

In another of its meetings, the UDF Call to Whites Campaign addressed “You, the UDF and the Future”. The meeting was held at the Central Methodist Church.

Censored

Curnick Ndlovu and Helen Joseph, who spoke at the meeting, cannot be quoted as they are ‘listed’.

Student dies

Students at the Lennox Sebe College of Education in Ciskei protested last week against a proposed concert by a Welsh male voice choir at their campus.

They said in an open letter to the choir, “We as the students of this college wish to express our opposition to your presence on our campus...as South Africa is internally isolated as far as sporting and cultural activities are concerned we expect every progressive country to take part in this isolation.” A second year student, Nokuzola Nduna, died when police invaded the campus allegedly assaulting students. She jumped through a window in her third floor residence while running away.

As an example he gave the right of universal suffrage and he called for “the immediate transformation of the South African apartheid state into a democratic South Africa.”

Finally, a JODAC speaker gave a brief history of JODAC urging whites to join them and build a future South Africa.

The meeting was very well attended also by a large number of riot police who remained outside.

Rag riots

On Saturday 24 May, Rag held a party on the first floor of the Students’ Union building. According to posters put up by Rag, entrance was free and drinks available at R1.00 each.

On Sunday morning, students who went into the Students’ Union report that the first floor was littered with numerous cans, cigarettes and other litter. It would appear that partiers went up to the second floor and sprayed fire extinguishers over the corridors and stairs. They also allegedly damaged some expensive equipment there as well as causing considerable damage in the men’s toilets.

The Rag Exec, who cleaned up, are investigating ways of preventing these sorts of activities happening in the future.

More police

Police and army units invaded Wits campus for the third day in a row on Saturday 31 May. This time they had come to ban an Education Charter rally which was being held in the flower hall on West campus. And they came in force—about 300 heavily armed men, a large number of cappirs, a mobile water cannon crammed into the parking lot in front of the flower hall.

Police allowed the meeting to disperse without violence—only after lengthy negotiations with senior police officers.

At an impromptu press conference, the organisers of the rally condemned the police action. An organiser said that the meeting had originally been scheduled for Jabulani in Soweto, but magisterial permission had been denied.

“We thus decided to hold an indoor meeting at Wits—still, the police insisted that it was banned”, the Southern Transvaal co-ordinator of the Education Charter campaign said.

But the police were unable to produce written notice of the banning of the Wits meeting, despite an intensive search.

About 5 000 people had been expected at the meeting and about 1500 had already arrived when the police intervened.

Organisations participating included the UDF, Sosco, Fedtraw, Nusas, Neusa, Azaso and Cosatu.

“The state is threatened by this democratic and peaceful process, and by the democratic education system people are demanding. That is why they want to crush the Education Charter campaign with violence and terror,” the Southern Transvaal co-ordinator said.

“Police have been operating on a policy of terror and political violence in an attempt to crush student politics in order to win the election,” he said.

The state is wrong. The policy is wrong. The police are wrong. We know that the police are wrong because they have been proven wrong in the past.”
A decade of struggle

"I was there when the first riots took place, I was in the streets with the children. They were playing at first. Then they got angry when the Boer policemen tried to stop them from marching... then the children threw stones... then the Boers shot the children...

"I burned a motor car, I helped to burn a school. It was a bad thing and I was ashamed of myself. But I hated so much that I knew I had to do it. You see, they shot the children and I hated them.

(Schoolgirl, Soweto, 1976)

On Wednesday, 16 June 1976, 20,000 school-children marched on Orlando Stadium. Pupils were demonstrating against the use of Afrikaans as a language of instruction. Shortly after leaving school, the Orlando West Junior Secondary School they were confronted by police. When teargas failed to disperse the students, police opened fire, killing two and injuring hundreds. Thirteen year old Hector Peterson was the first to be killed shot in the back.

By mid-afternoon, Soweto was ablaze. Administration buildings were burned, shebeens gutted, liquor stores ransacked and cars stoned. Two white officials were dragged out of the burning building and beaten to death.

Within 24 hours, the township was sealed off, and 'hippos' patrolling the streets. In less than two years, violence had spread across the Reef setting Mohlakeng, Tembisa, Katerberg, Daveyton and the surrounding townships ablaze.

The major cause of the student revolt was the enforcement of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction. In 1958, Verwoerd's government decreed that there was to be a 50-50 split between English and Afrikaans in "Bantu" schools. However, the decree was never strictly enforced until 1974. In 1974, the Department for Bantu Education clamped down declaring that 'practical' subjects were to be taught in English, 'social studies' - history and geography - to be taught in Afrikaans from the secondary school level.

Furthermore, it was declared that Standard 5 was to be regarded as part of secondary, instead of primary schooling. This meant that Standard 5 pupils - of which there were more than all the other secondary grades combined, due to the high rate of school-leaving after primary school - would now have to write exams in Afrikaans, another two weeks, six schools joined the strike. Parents and school boards calling for an end to the strike were ignored. Within four weeks, several thousand pupils and students became involved in boycotts and strikes.

During May, several violent incidents occurred:
- a teacher using Afrikaans was stabbed with a screwdriver by a pupil
- pupils breaking the strike were stoned
- police cars patrolling around the school were stoned and set on fire
- pupils were detained by police

On 13 June 1976, the South African Students' Movement (SASM) met at the Naledi High School and formed the Soweto Students' Representative Council (SSRC). The SSRC was composed of SASM delegates, and under the leadership of Tebello Motopane, it planned the mass protest march for June 16.

On the morning of the 16th June, over 15,000 schoolchildren gathered outside the Orlando West Junior Secondary School bearing placards and banners such as:
- "Down with Afrikaans"
- "We are not Boers"
- "We are not dustbins - Afrikaans stinks"
- "If we must do Afrikaans, Vorster must do Zulu"

Violence erupted when police attempted to seize the placards and stop the march. Teargas was fired - the children responded by throwing stones. Police immediately opened fire - two students were killed, and hundreds injured.

Rioting spread throughout the township. Beerhalls, shebeens and bottle stores were pillaged. Over 15,000 schoolchildren were involved in the protests. The South African Students' Movement was banned.

Hector Peterson, the first child to be shot dead by police in Soweto on 16 June 1976
protection problems we face. That is why we burned down the bottle stores and told the shebeens to close.

Violence continued into the evening and deepening in intensity when police baton-charged homecoming workers.

School principals were seen as collaborators with the system and attacks against them were frequent. Within a period of ten days, over 150 schools were firebombed and damaged - most attacks concentrated on administration and the principals' offices.

One pupil claimed: "In the old days our fathers said, 'half a loaf is better than no bread'. We say 'Ban tu education is like deadly poison half a gram kills as surely as a full dose' ...."

Towards the end of July, the SSRC called for a return to schools. However, the decision was taken at leadership level, and, on the whole, students were unwilling to return to classrooms. In the state of indecision and confusion, only a trickle of students returned. In an attempt to ferret out student leaders, police launched a series of classroom raids - the raids had the effect of emptying schools until the end of the year.

Students turned to other forms of protest, and a stayaway was called for 4 August. A degree of coercion was employed, with students barricading roads and surrounding stores.

Students also attempted to march on John Vorster Square on the 4th, to demand the release of student leaders. They were met by police gunfire at a roadblock on the Soweto highway. Three students were killed and many more injured.

Following another success on the 23rd August, the SSRC called for another two day stayaway beginning on 13 September. On that day, a section of miners from the Mzimhlope Hostel went on the rampage. With alleged police tolerance and even incitement, the workers raged through the streets, killing at least 33 youths.

The SSRC negotiated with Mzimhlope Hostel representatives and together a 70% successful stayaway was staged.

A commemoration service at Regina Mundi Church on 16 June 1977 of over 6,000 people was broken up when teargas was fired into the church.

Sporadic rioting continued throughout 1976 and 1977. Following more class boycotts in July 1977, police clamped down. Over 800 student leaders were detained, and on 12 September 1977, Steve Biko - black consciousness leader died in detention. Virtually all student organisations, including the SSRC and SASM were banned. Township newspapers were shut down, and more than 1,500 black civilians were arrested.

Reports collated by the South African Institute of Race Relations revealed that over 660 people had died in detention. Virtually all students were expelled. Repression was particularly harsh in the bantustans. In the Ciskei students were detained, assaulted and threatened and in the Transkei, Cosas was eventually banned in 1984.

The banning of the Congress of South African Students (COSAS) in 1985 was in part, an admission by the government of Cosas' strength.

When COSAS was banned it had 30,000 members.

In six years Cosas had built up remarkable organisational strength and unity, enlistng mass support in 150 branches countrywide. At the time of its banning, Cosas had 30,000 signed up members.

Cosas began to organise in black schools in 1979 in response to discriminatory and oppressive education prescribed for black students. The rapid growth in membership and proliferation of branches reflects the objective grievances that existed in black schools, such as corporal punishment, overcrowding, poorly qualified teachers, sexual harassment and the lack of democratic SRC's. While it was these things that Cosas set out to struggle against, they also went far beyond them, demanding 'free compulsory, dynamic education in a non-racial, democratic South Africa. Unlike the student organisations which emerged around 1976, Cosas adopted a non-racial rather than a black consciousness stance. This highlights an important component of what was Cosas' strategy: the difference between short term and long term goals. Short term goals, such as the demand for democratically elected SRC's were those which Cosas identified as being realisable under the current political system. Long term goals, such as that of democratic education, they identified as only being possible in a democratic South Africa. Yet the two were linked in that the struggle for democratic SRC's was seen as a step towards securing a democratic education.

Democratic SRC's

The demand for democratic SRC's continues as the single most popular demand among students. There has been outright rejection of the prefect system in black schools. As Cosas said, "Youth are taught to instruct, command and be strict... There is no room for explanations, questions or criticisms." A student explained: "We saw that by acting in union each student fights a small battle on his or her own, which gets them nowhere. That's why SRC's are important to us - democratic SRC's which represent the students and are accountable to the students."

Within a year, the state swooped on Cosas members nationwide. The entire exec was detained. By the end of 1981 at least 40 members were held. At certain schools, Cosas activists were expelled. Repression was particularly harsh in the bantustans. In the Ciskei students were detained, assaulted and threatened and in the Transkei, Cosas was eventually banned in 1984.

Students' grievances:

- corporal punishment, overcrowding, sexual harassment.
- Repression was aimed at intimidating Cosas students and their families - for example by bombing and raiding their houses or at eliminating or removing leadership through detention or
The concept of 'People's Education raises the question of what kind of education would be appropriate to the needs of all South Africans in a democratic South Africa.

One of the initiatives which has assumed new meaning in the light of the call for 'People's education', is the Education Charter Campaign. Through collecting demands not only from students, but from parents, workers and teachers, the Campaign aims to draw up a Charter which would provide the guidelines for an education system in a democratic South Africa.

How equipped are the teachers trained by the present system to teach 'People's Education'? What training would enable them to do so? What structure, content and method of education will genuinely serve all South Africans? How can the democratic participation of students, parents, workers and teachers be ensured in realising a transformed education system? These are some of the questions raised by the Education Charter Campaign, and the call for 'People's Education'!

Whereas in 1976 students basically sought equality with white education, their demands are now based on a broader, more critical rejection of the present education system.

In the townships of the Eastern Cape, and in places like Mamelodi near Pretoria, students and youth have also become involved in the setting up of street committees, people's courts, and disciplinary committees aimed at building an alternative system to that offered by the State.

'People's Power' means people controlling their own lives.

Part of a programme to build 'People's Power', these new structures are seen as providing the roots of a new democratic system in which people do not simply vote once every four or five years, but rather are involved in making and implementing decisions relating to their lives on a more day-to-day basis.

Out of the school boycotts of the last two years, the nationwide revolt and the campaigns against the Community Councils - youth, students and even communities are seeking to build a new system of democracy in the ashes of Apartheid.

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Spirit lives on

*In 1982 PE Cosas leader, Siphiwe Mtimkulu, mysteriously disappeared. At the time Mtimkulu was suing the Minister of Law and Order after he was allegedly poisoned with thalium while in detention.

*In 1984 Soweto Branch Secretary, Bongani Khumalo was shot dead, allegedly by police, while leaving his house.

*Cosas Administrative Secretary, White Mohape alleged that he was kidnapped, assaulted and shot at by police in the outskirts of Bloemfontein, in 1984.

State of Emergency

Out of all mass based anti-government organizations, Cosas was most hard hit by the State of Emergency last year. Activists were detained in hundreds and thousands of students went into hiding. Students were also in the forefront of street battles with police.

Cosas was the organizational expression of the student's opposition to bantu education and their demands for improvements in their conditions. When asked how students plan to go forward after the banning the reply was: "We will go out alternatives. Organisations, like leaders, come and go, but the ideals and the aspirations of the people remain."

Organisations come and go, but the ideals of the people remain

Another student replied: "Ban or no ban, the struggle for a people's democratic education is on. It will be on until our demands are met. And our demands go far beyond our classrooms."

Participation

These students have pinpointed Cosas' greatest achievement. By stressing democracy and participation on a mass level, Cosas enabled student organization to continue in spite of the repression of leadership and the banning of the organization.

The call for the unbanning of Cosas has been one of the central demands put forward by the National Education Crisis Conferences held last December and in May this year.

Conditions in rural areas are far worse than those in urban areas.
Activities on campus on Friday were initiated in response to Thursday’s apparently pointless invasion of campus by police. On Thursday, it seems that the SMA intended to create a violent scene by setting up their tables and telexing the local and international press to cover “the story”. In fact, what happened made no story at all. Small group discussions took place around their tables until lunchtime.

After an ECC Rally, a group of students marched up to the SMA tables and engaged the SMA. After about 20 minutes of chanting, a BSS leader asked students to disperse. They were on their way to lectures when the police appeared.

The police found themselves with nothing to do. A plainclothes policeman grabbed Ronnie Makgosi, a Wits student, out of the crowd and forcibly arrested him. The police then left.

Students gathered early on Friday morning with the intention of holding a peaceful demonstration. It was decided to protest against the arrest of Ronnie, a past UniBo SRC President, and also against the “180 Day Detention Bill” to be passed in Parliament.

Students gathered in the Students’ Union Arcade, and it was believed that there were police surrounding campus. It was proposed that a delegation of 30 students should approach the police and negotiate for a peaceful withdrawal. Tension was high but 30 delegates – representatives of virtually all campus organisations - volunteered to risk arrest.

Several academics including Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shear, Dr Jackie Cock, Dr Douglas Hindson, Ms Judith Hawarden and Mr Mark Swilling joined the delegates. The procession, led by Professor Shear and bearing a banner saying “We Demand the Right to peaceful Protest”, left apprehensively. BSS marshalls ensured that no students followed so that the police would not be “provoked” by a “large crowd” and the delegation’s safety would not be jeopardised.

The delegae left campus and marched into Jorissen Street. Continuing up to the Civic Centre. When police appeared, students sat down. The delegation and some surrounding press photographers were arrested, and taken to Hillbrow Police Station. A delivery man was beaten by police for stopping to see what was happening.

Students on campus decided to send another “peace delegation” to demonstrate for the release of arrested students. The delegation marched into Jorissen Street, and Riot police sealed off the intersection of Jan Smuts and Jorissen. The demonstrators then sat down in the middle of the intersection. What follows is an eye-witness account given by a woman in the delegation:

“The head of the Riot police shouted at us to move out of the traffic. We said to him that he should move his police first. He ordered them to move, and we advanced and sat down in the road outside the CNA. The Riot police then surrounded us on three sides. There were more of them across the road.

“The head Riot policeman gave us two minutes to dis-
She held onto me, and she was crying and hyperventilating. They grabbed her away from me, and pushed her into the van. The last person to go in was Nicky. They held her and beat her before arresting her.

About 15 people were badly injured, a few were bitten by dogs, and two had stitches in the head.

In response, a decision was taken by about 1 500 students to march into Jorissen Street. Five representatives were sent to request Admin to lead the delegation. They refused, saying they would be in contact with the police telephonically.

When the march of about 1 500 people reached Jorissen Street, police vans accelerated at high speed into the crowd from behind. What followed was a series of charges by shotgun and sjambok wielding police during which students dispersed and then regrouped. Two policemen were surrounded and beaten by students.

The police advanced on campus. Most students were sitting outside the Nunnery Theatre. The police declared the gathering illegal, and ordered it to disperse. Students used the time to arm themselves with stones, and when the police moved forward, the stones were thrown. A policeman drew his gun when his vehicle was hit. They fired teargas into the Life Sciences tunnel where most students had fled to.

The protest then regrouped on the piazza. A known plainclothes policeman, posing as a student was identified, and angry students chased him into the Geology building. There he was beaten before managing to escape. Firoz Cachalia, ex-BSS President issued a warning to all informers. He said that student leaders would not be able to guarantee their safety against the justifiable anger of students.

Police reappeared, entering campus from Jan Smuts Avenue. They marched past the Oppenheimer Life Sciences Building and stopped. Students regrouped to sing "Nkosi Sikelel i'Afrika", before concluding the meeting and dispersing.

At the conclusion of the meeting, at about 17h15, students began to drift away. Some students remained, and shouted at the police to leave campus. Several policemen wielding sjamboks charged, chasing a group of students into the Wartenweiler Library. Police eventually retreated after the students had disappeared.

The names of those arrested follow. They were released on Saturday morning, and will appear in court on Monday 2 June. They face charges under the Internal Security Act:

Claire Wright, Dali Mpofu, Erica Elk, Tieg Moseneke, Thandi Gqubule, Shenz Bolbata, Asham Baba, Tselele Maho, John Evans, Claire Ceruti, Paul Sadie, Moses Mashishi, Leanne Bricker, Aaron Mstrikin, Etienne Marais, Nicky Mogorosi, Thami April, Azar Bham, Nicola Ridgeway, Sue Smuts, Mike Nyoni, Robbie Lessem, James Maseko, John McCormack, Mark Potterton, Kendall Geers, Vanessa Barolowsky, Leila McKenna, David Heldsinger, Lauren Kaplan, Kim Heller, Lauren Kaplan, Kim Heller, Karen Miller, Abdul Mayet, Saul Johnson, Conrad Mercal, Errol Gooch, Roger Young, Jacob Moleko, Michael Mptso

Stuff:
Judith Hawarden, Francis Cornell, Terrie Sacco, Doug Hindson, Mark Swilling
I think that normal teaching cannot take place when campus is continuously invaded by the police - not only because this interrupts the normal course of events, but because it brings the larger South African crisis, that affects township dwellers on a daily basis, onto campus.

In the face of this, academics face a choice: they can either remain aloof and distance themselves or else take concrete steps to express their solidarity with the students. In the coming few weeks there is certainly going to be a major coercive onslaught, if the State manages to implement the Public Safety Amendment Bill and the Internal Security Amendment Bill of 180 days preventive detention. If this happens, tensions on campus will mount. Students are going to become increasingly militant and will put greater pressure on the Administration and the Academic Staff to participate in the opposition to Apartheid and public brutality.

I think that Academic Staff should follow the example of Prof. Shear, who has played an extremely constructive role in recent events on campus, by both demonstrating against police on campus as well as by remaining in close contact with student leaders.

My reason for joining the protest was quite simply that I supported the students' demands and that I felt that I could no longer continue to fulfill any role as a teacher if I only stand by and let the students make the sacrifices.

The relationships that developed between lecturers and students in the cells, to me, broke down the conventional barriers that usually exist between them. This was an extremely enriching experience.

Mark Swilling, Politics Lecturer

"I saw the police - armed with sjamboks and dogs, surround the seated students in what looked like an attempt to seal off all escape routes. The police started attacking the students sjambokking, and laying right into them. The students and casual passers-by were screaming and trying to protect themselves, but the attack continued. The students, while vainly trying to protect themselves against this brutality, were also attacked by dogs under the 'control of their handlers'."

I honestly thought that police were supposed to protect South Africans. But this incident has highlighted my naivety. After this unprovoked attack, lying amongst the shoes on Jorissen Street was the torn remainder of the students' banner, 'Release our leaders - peaceful protest'.

Claire Joyce, BAI

"When we sat in Jorissen Street, the officer in charge ordered us to disperse. After two minutes, he said to his men 'Go!' I still thought the police who were surrounding us would not sjambok us. It was only when I heard the sound of sjamboks hitting flesh, that I realised we were being attacked. In the confusion, I fell over into a crowd, and when I stood up, being disorientated, I walked into three policemen who sjambokked me. I remember thinking that they were so strong. My back and legs were sjambokked and I had to have my head stitched.

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Friday's events began with a peaceful protest march up Jorissen Street towards the Hillbrow Police Station. At the Johannesburg Civic Centre, the protestors were arrested by the police. Amongst those arrested were 5 academics, 2 photographers and 3 pedestrians. Here Wits Student interviewed Erica Elk, the editor of Wits Student, who was one of the 48 arrested.

Why was the march organised originally?

The purpose of the march was to protest against the arrest of Ronney Makgosi who was arrested on Thursday when police came onto a quiet campus. We were protesting against the police invasion of campus on previous occasions, in contravention of students' right to voice their protest. The police had said that they would disrupt any large demonstration they saw. It was felt that a small group of representatives should petition the police to stay off campus and in so doing avoid large-scale confrontation with the police.

Briefly describe what led to your arrest?

A petition, voicing our protest, was handed to the police. They agreed to consider it and insisted that we must disperse. Our intention was to secure their assurance that they would not interrupt any future demonstrations on campus. The police were not prepared to do this and so we offered ourselves for arrest.

On what grounds were you arrested, and was there any violent confrontation?

We were arrested under Section 57 of the Internal Security Act, 1982, for taking part in an illegal gathering. We did not resist the arrest, and there was no violence between us and the police. We are taking legal advice as to whether the alleged gathering was illegal or not.

How were you treated in custody; where were you taken; were you allowed to contact anyone?

We weren't physically abused, although I felt they were trying to intimidate us. We were taken to Hillbrow Police Station where we were put in a large room and processed, fingerprints and photographs together with the policeman who had arrested that person. I was not questioned, but others were. This took five hours after which we were allowed our one phone call.

We were then divided sexually and racially into cells, where we were given blankets and food - soup and bread. I was in a cell with 13 other women. We were treated well, as we were allowed to see friends and relatives briefly and collect the food and clothes parcels they had brought.

For how long were you detained?

From the time of our arrest to our release, was about 24 hours.

What are the conditions of your release?

We were released on our own recognisances, not on bail, and we had to appear in court yesterday. The hearing has been postponed until 9th July 1986.

Did the march fulfill its intended purpose; was anything gained by being arrested?

Yes, a night in prison! Seriously, yes, for a number of reasons: firstly we were successful in presenting our petition to the police; secondly in terms of press coverage, we were able to express our protest publicly. Unity was forged, between students and academics, and across racial lines amongst the group who was arrested. On campus, students were politicised by police action and were united against this. I feel that the roots of a new society must be built now and that non-racialism was strengthened through this event.

While we were in police custody the news that students had marched in protest of our arrest gave us strength. We were extremely grateful to those students who were prepared to face the police on our behalf and suffer the consequences.

Common Species

Following a period of incarceration, an unidentified Wits student's claim that the riot police who invaded campus last week belong to a rare ape-like species, which is capable of walking semi-erect for periods as long as several minutes, has been dismissed as 'improbable' by the Pretoria Directorate of Zoological Comparisons in Government Departments. This was confirmed by a spokesperson for the Johannesburg Zoo, who said that 'such over-simplified beliefs originated as primitive jokes and evolved from there.'

In any case said a Police liaison officer, 'we have well-trained, speaking officers on duty to ensure that there is no common species among them.'
Scene 1: June 16 1976: Twenty thousand students march to protest the introduction of Afrikaans as a compulsory medium of instruction. They are confronted by police. The police have tear gas and then open fire with live ammunition.

Scene 2: May 30 1986: Thirty-two Wits students and academics march to the Hillbrow Police Station. They confront police with the intention of dispersing them. The police attack the students using batons, sjamboks, and dogs. Five people are arrested and many injured.

Later, students march round the corner of Jorissen St. Two riot policemen are stoned. Students then attack one campus where they face riot police in front of the Dentistry building. Students are given thirty seconds to disperse. As they begin to retreat, tear gas is fired.

Ten years separates the first incident from the others. They also differ in the level of violence which was unleashed against protesters and in the significance history will accord them.

As the cycle of violence in South Africa intensifies, we are confronted with questions about it. Where does this violence come from? Who initiates it? Why can't opposing groups simply come together and sort out their differences?

Government representatives and supporters are often quite clear on the answers. The violence is inspired either by fanatics who are in the service of Moscow or by lawless elements who seek to impose anarchy and terror on South Africa's people. Police action, they say, is necessary to uphold the rule of law.

The incidents outlined above point in another direction. In both instances the police were, to some extent, exercising the power of the 'peacemakers'.

Police provoke participation

Although I sensed the justice in the black struggle, until Tuesday I was a relatively uninvolved white student. However, the riot squads presence and subsequent actions transformed me into an individual who is militantly opposed to the rule of brutal force under which we are living. My anger is still seething! The outrage! How could they act so violently and with such a display of force, so unprovoked? And further more, how dare they? I felt their presence to be a violation of my integrity and basic human rights. Yet, I am left feeling that what occurred on campus is only a taste of what black people are exposed to in the townships.

Manoeuvres such as we witnessed only serve to polarise the community at a time when the Botha government needs it the least. The ranks of the UDF and ANC can only be bolstered by students and staff like myself.

Anonymous

Could the person who wrote this letter please contact Wits Student-Ed.

Non-Christian nonsense?

I will appreciate a lot if you could insert the two Christian leaflets I am enclosing with this letter of mine in your Wits Student newspaper, and the main thing is that the Lord will bless you abundantly.

Actually Wits students don't need any of the nonsense, i.e. ANC or any UDF or Mandela, but they need to know about Jesus Christ, the son of the living God and they got to accept him as their Lord and Savior, and they will be forgiven for their sins, and they must then start walking in God's will, likeness and power, and they could be used mightily for the Lord, on the Wits campus.

Many thanks and Saviour Jesus Christ bless you abundantly in his service.

John 3: 3-7

You must be born again

"Dear Jesus, forgive me all my sins and save my soul. I repent of all my sins and ask you to come into my heart and be the Lord of my life. Amen." A Christian Believer.

We could not print the leaflets because of lack of space.

Woolf Whistles

It is worth remarking upon the fact that numerous social scientists at Wits are absent from Robert Woolf's (visiting lecturer) discussion concerning the possibility of objectivity in the social sciences. Two members of the sociology department were present with the head leaving mid-

From this we may deduce that foreign lecturers are to be ignored or it is believed that the question of the scientific or objective status of the social sciences has long been resolved and the debate is no longer necessary.

Even so, it is arguable that someone, like Prof Woolf, who is more than familiar with Plato, Socrates, Uwe, Kant, Dilthey, Weber, Marx, Freud, Sartre, Erikson, Kripki, Marcuse, Barrington Moore, Quine and others is likely to at least have something interesting to say concerning the status of the social sciences.

In the light of the disputes within the social sciences as well as social and political practices, there is much to be gained by those wishing to make contributions in both these fields, in familiarizing themselves with the issues in this regard. Far from being resolved, many of the problems pertaining to the social sciences remain problematic. For example, objectivity per se, relationship between social science and political practice, the status of explanatory mechanisms, data...
The Phantom Typewriter

approach nervously. He hoped the Riot police were still around somewhere. It wasn’t fair, they were forced to come here, but no on... why didn’t they go back up... Suddenly a large arrow loomed over him. He turned breathing a sigh of relief. It was their Great Leader, the Big Man himself, Mussel Grissel, freedom fighter. Even bigger than usual. He would sort things out.

But as the radicals approached, a strange thing happened. The Great Leader seemed to get smaller. He thrashed around nervously. "Where are my bodyguards?" he whimpered. "Do something!" he squeaked at Larton. He was just about to turn and run when he was surrounded by the radicals.

Larton watched, terrified, as the radicals sang their repulsive, tuneless songs and danced their tribal dances. They kept edging up to him and Mussel, who moved back until they were against the wall. Mussel even started to climb up the wall until he fell back with a plop.

Just when Larton was sure he was going to faint, the cavalry arrived. Er, at least the boys in blue. They stormed through the crowd and demanded to know why Mussel was antagonising the crowd. Larton was about to protest when it occurred to him that they might leave him there if he said anything. So he kept quiet.

When SATV came to interview him, Larton was quite angry. He had a good mind to tell everyone in South Africa (well, those that knew it, anyway) that the police had no right to treat Mussel like this. He had been one of the few left with a sense of loyalty towards the government. But decided not to. He recalled a script that they had brought to him perfectly, and afterwards they were quite pleased, for a change and promised that he could mention it to PW one day.

Phantom has learned that somewhere deep within the Int. sec. Relations dept. there lurks more than a glimmer of support for the recent SAC invasions of neighbouring states. These type of "relations" rank with gunboat diplomacy and should not be part of the repertoire of a responsible state. Maybe IR should be renamed "International Invasions".

Rumours that Prof Shear has given a talk at the UDF are unfounded. Questioned as to what had given rise to the rumour, he firmly denied it. Prof Tober said that Prof Shear had been misphotographed.

Wits creche comments

I wish to reply to the anonymous letter in Wits Student, May 1986. The Wits Creche serves the needs of all students and members of staff. The Creche is subsidised by the University Council and it is this subsidy that enables us to set fees at R40 a month and not at the ‘real cost’ of R200 per month.

The Creche is non-profitmaking. The fees cover the costs of employing qualified and experienced staff to care for children aged 6 months to 3 years.

The staff/school ratio is effectively one to six. Baby care is very labour intensive if it is well done. It is important for the development of the child to offer as much child-subject interaction as possible and to treat each child as an individual.

We offer a quality service at an effective charge of R7 per day or 70c an hour as we are open for virtually ten hours a day. Three meals a day is a governed. This compares extremely favourably with the fees charged by other similar private creches. To date 13 students have their children at the Wits Creche.

We are confident that students who are responsible parents will wish to ensure that their children are well-cared for in the best possible environment. We believe that this is your responsibility to visit the creches to form your own opinion.

Telephone: Pam Beverley on 641-0318 should you wish to visit the

State hijacks Congress

The South African scientific community has done it again. From the 7th to the 11th of July an international earth sciences congress will be held at Wits. "Geocongress '86" is being hosted by the Geological Society of South Africa and is a project of the South African Academy of Science. The event has been planned as a vehicle for the promotion of South African science and to encourage interactions between scientists from all over the world. The Congress is a significant event for the South African scientific community and provides an opportunity for scientists to share their research, exchange ideas, and establish collaborations. As a result, it is a highly anticipated and well-attended event. The Congress is an opportunity for scientists to showcase their work and for the broader public to learn more about the latest developments in the field of earth sciences.
No easy walk to freedom