A bloodshed election

"Put your hands on the truck you communist black kaffir!" the plainclothes policeman shouted at Weekly Mail reporter Sefako Nyaka before searching him.

The treatment of this reporter at Cosatu House last Thursday was mild compared to what striking workers suffered after security forces had besieged Cosatu House in End St., Johannesburg, where they had gathered.

Nyaka alleges that workers were brutallyised by police who's orders were to "werk hulle". Nyaka says he saw bloodied workers being led out of the building in handcuffs under a rain of truncheon blows and kicks. He saw two dead workers on the pavement. One had a bullet wound in his head.

The incident occurred after striking workers had armed themselves and gathered apparently to travel to Germiston where a number been shot by police. According to the SAP, the incident in Germiston occurred when police responded to "rioting workers". A Cosatu official says that in fact police dispersed an indoor meeting of 1000 SARHWU workers and then fired on fleeing workers, many of whom broke through windows in their flight. Reports of the dead range from three to five.
Rhodes security shock CBS cameraman

A CBS cameraman was shocked with an electric cattle-prod while filming a peaceful demonstration in protest against a Rhodes University graduation ceremony. Mr George Luce, based in Port Elizabeth, was shocked by a Rhodes Administration staff member, at the traditional graduation garden tea party. The University, fearing that the Black Students Movement (BSM) would disrupt the graduation ceremony, had organised extra security by calling on non-academic staff to be on stand-by for the weekend. The staff members were contacted by someone "very high up" in the University and told they had to provide extra security. They were also told that "under no circumstances were they to reveal the name of the person who had phoned them." Four members of the BSM were handing out pamphlets and holding placards to leave by the "protection officers". Some white students were seen to be acting as "protection officers".

![Cameraman George Luce shocked by a member of Rhodes University](image)

**Campus Control**

Three days earlier at a mass meeting, students burnt an effigy of a student wearing a graduation gown. The symbolic burning was the start of a campaign aimed as a mass stayaway from the graduation ceremony.

Shortly before the tea party took place, a sociology lecturer was detained briefly by security police, in an attempt to find out what sort of action the students had planned.

Mr Askwin Desai was picked up while driving in town and taken to security police head quarters in High Street. He was asked why an American TV crew was coming to Grahamstown. The SAP Liaison Officer for the Eastern Cape, Captain Piet Grobler confirmed that Mr Desai had been taken in for questioning.

Mr Desai was also warned by the University authorities to "stay out of student politics". He received a letter from the Vice-Chancellor saying he was not to be involved in student or worker issues, or he would face disciplinary action. The Public Relations Officer for the university MS Mary Burnett said that the matter was "an internal disciplinary one" and that the university was not prepared to discuss it.

The Eastern Cape branch of the Society of South African Journalists (SASJ) sent a letter to the Vice-Chancellor Dr Derek Handeboom expressing "grave concern at the action taken against a photographer and TV cameraman during their pursuance of their professional activities." Mr Bob Kemp, vice-president of SASJ, urged that the action taken by the university staff involved be fully investigated.

**Wits Student** thanks Albany News Agency for this story.

Police disrupt meeting protesting State violence

The phone rang in the Wits Student office. A member of Varsity (the U.C.T paper) was on the line - she had a story for us...a mass student meeting, a picket, a burnt S.A. Breweries truck.

She had hardly begun speaking when she broke off and gasped: "There's chaos on campus! They're running backwards and forwards - oh shit, there goes another teargas canister!" For the Wits Student member on the other end of the line this seemed all too familiar - but it was new for U.C.T. However, even he was forced to sit up in surprise when the Varsity reporter exclaimed: "Oh my God! They've got a helicopter - they're firing bullets from it!" He relaxed again when she corrected herself: "No, no it's only more teargas."

**Maties students protect unionist from branch**

Students at the University of Stellenbosch rescued a trade union shop steward from a plain clothes security policeman after a political meeting held on the campus.

Mr. Morris Mbou, a member of the South African Railway and Harbour Workers Union (SARHWU), which has been deadlocked in strike action for over six weeks, spoke at a meeting convened by NUSAS and the Black Students Organisation on Stellenbosch Campus last week.

The meeting, held under the banner "ONE PERSON ONE VOTE", was held to fill students in on the ongoing rent boycotts in Soweto and the crisis in the trade union sphere. Protest against the killings of people in Johannesburg, Germiston and Soweto, was registered.

Some students dispersed, others milled around in confusion, still others responded by throwing stones. At this time, students noticed billowing smoke on the far end of campus. Many went to escape from the campus during the fracas.

After Mbou had spoken, Dion Goosen - allegedly a member of the security police - attempted to arrest him. At least ten students swarmed around Goosen and formed a protective ring around the shop steward. They demanded Goosen's police identification. His response was that the matter was "none of your business".

A scuffle ensued in which the security policeman fell to the ground. Students took the opportunity to lead Mbou outside. A second scuffle followed in which the students obtained Goosen's identification card. Mbou was able to escape from the campus during the fracas.

Allegedly, the Stellenbosch leader of the Afrikaans Studenten Bond, helped the security policeman in his attempts to detain the trade union official who had "targeted" the truck. U.C.T. spokespeople do not believe students involved in the protest were responsible because they were milling around at the scene of the disrupted picket.

Later on an unprecedented event occurred...
Ironfist shatters illusions

Continued from pg 1

Wits Student reporters had arrived at Cosatu House at nine o'clock that morning. About 70 workers were standing outside the building speaking among themselves. When we departed at 10:30 the workers were no longer there - probably having been moved into the building. A small contingent of police was outside the building.

By the end of the day 400 railway workers had been arrested and hundreds of workers, Cosatu officials and others briefly arrested. According to a Wits Student photographer who went to Cosatu House the next day: "It looked as if things had been damaged or destroyed at random and the place was ransacked. I walked through a large pool of blood in the foyer.

These incidents form but a part of the backdrop to the white election. A backdrop which is being illuminated albeit selectively for the first time in months.

While black resistance and protest has continued unabated since the Vaal uprising of September 1984, media coverage of the recent events in Soweto, Germiston and Doornfontein has penetrated the sense of security and stability in white families and has hopefully brought home the conflict that is a constant element of the fabric of South Africa.

As the election for the House of Assembly draws near, it is becoming apparent even to whites deprived of information of events in the factories and the townships that this minority parliament is divorced from the major forces shaping South African political life.

Last Tuesday the white electorate was stunned by reports of an attack on the Tladi Municipal Police Training Centre in Soweto. The Bureau for Information stated that a trainee policeman was killed and 51 injured when a grenade was thrown from a moving bakkie into a group of recruits on a parade ground. The outlawed PAC claimed responsibility for the attack.

This incident was followed the next day by the clashes between police and striking railway workers at Germiston and Doornfontein. This clash occurred in the context of the strike of 20 000 SARHWU workers, 12 000 of whom have been sacked by management which refuses to recognise the union. Besides the brutal attack at Cosatu House and the Cosatu offices in Germiston, between six and ten people died as a result of security force action at Doornfontein station. Wits Student has received horrific reports on the condition of "streams of wounded" from staff of Hillbrow Hospital. We are prevented from bringing these allegations to you.

On the same day of the clash Johannesburg experienced a massive stayaway as Soweto residents protested against the eviction of rent boycotters. For almost a year now, Soweto residents have been carrying out decisions taken at street commitee level not to pay rents in the face of escalating inflation and declining real wages which eats into the already meagre budgets of most black households. The Star reported that police used teargas to disperse a crowd of demonstrators marching on the Soweto Council Chambers in Jabulani.

Wits Student received reports from photographers who had witnessed the march, that police response developed beyond the fear of the Rooi/swart gevaar to the iron fist. The South African state is probably in the grips of the severest crisis since the establishment of the Republic in 1961. Since the declaration of the State of Emergency there has been limited media coverage of unrest but reports of unrest have recently been more numerous in the national media.

The carefully nurtured false sense of "an improved internal security situation" has been replaced with the fear of the Rooi/swart gevaar to win votes for "law and order" and to show liberal voters the need for the iron fist. The other side of the coin is Saturday morning's unwarranted attack on Zambia - how many potential CP voters will this impress?

The reason why Wits Student has produced more than it would normally be able to in an article such as this one is because we have made use of Sefako Nyaka's personal account of the siege of Cosatu House. This was published in the Weekly Mail because it felt "satisfied that the acts of police conduct he has described are true and, because of their excessiveness, do not constitute se-

security action." Where our article covers incidents that did not appear in the Weekly Mail article we have followed the normal legal procedures.

Shooting in Barnato kitchen

One Sunday evening about two weeks before the end of term Barnato kitchen became the scene of some big-time action.

The catering supervisor, Mrs Booyeen and the staff were busy in the kitchen when her husband, Mr Booyeen came into the kitchen and allegedly pulled out a revolver and shot at one of the staff members, Mr Joseph Mtembu.

According to Mr Mtembu, Mr Booyeen thought he was having an affair with his wife and claims that was the reason for the shooting. Mr Booyeen himself claims the gun went off accidentally. He says nothing was intended by the shooting and he apologised profusely to Mr Mtembu. Mtembu has filed an attempted murder charge, and intends to look into the incident fully in conjunction with the police.

The University asked Mr Booyeen to leave the flat provided for the couple and Mrs Booyeen has resigned. She has subsequently been replaced, after working on campus for eight years.
Police - party poopers

"Why did you do this to us?" cried an incredulous party-goer. "You were disturbing the peace," replied the policeman. After some thought...

"Umm...Er...What peace is there to disturb?" asked a quietly spoken musician.

This thought provoking exchange took place at 4am on Sunday 12 April outside the Hillbrow police station. Earlier in the morning 30 sjambok-wielding men - some in police uniforms and some in civilian clothes - had stormed into a party in Louis Botha avenue in Berea and arrested about 60 people after at least five were allegedly assaulted.

The reasons for the arrest varied (according to those who were throwing people into yellow vans) from disturbing the peace to resisting arrest, one person was even arrested for trespassing and he lived there! At 2am the police who had been in the vicinity from about 10pm, asked for the music to be turned down.

"I personally went to check that the music had been turned right down," said one of the house residents, "that definitely wasn't the reason for the raid. I mean half the people were beginning to leave because the dancing had stopped!"

At least one student however applauded the ban as a 'positive regulation' and it would test Just how badly students needed to do it. The MSC is negotiating for a smoking room for students.

No smoke No joke

Smoking has been banned in all public places at Medical School. This is not a belated April Fool's joke either!

The Medical Students Council (MSC) regards the decision taken by the Faculty Board Executive as a blatant infringement of student rights. The decision was taken without consultation with student body, despite the MSC having pointed out that such a move would anger students.

Smokers may not smoke in any public place although they are allowed to smoke outside or in offices. It is claimed that this ruling discriminates against students and workers without offices in which to smoke.

At least one student however applauded the ban as a "positive step" which should be followed on main campus. He claimed "non-smokers have long been discriminated against by being forced into the role of 'passive smokers'" and continued, "The decision might have been autocratic but it was for the greater good."

Whether smokers oppress non-smokers or not, the MSC clearly is at odds with the Faculty Board Exec over their undemocratic processes.

The MSC has met with the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Professor Rosendorf who said that he was "extremely pleased with the new regulation" and it would test "just how badly students needed to smoke if they had to walk outside to do it." The MSC is negotiating for a smoking room for students.

Student shot at

What happens when a political party is gate crashed, and electioneering becomes a life-and-death matter? A student, who will call 'James' to protect him, recently found out.

Looking for a fast buck, James and three friends were employed by the National Party to put up posters in the Parktown constituency. This made clear through letters that were sent to both members of staff and students.

The letters highlighted an example the incidents on 19 March, when students, allegedly members of the Black Students Society, disrupted lecturers while trying to persuade students to join them in commemoration of the Sharpeville and Uitenhage massacres.

Prof Tober stated although the university supports the right of students to peaceful protest on campus, it also supports the right of students and staff to pursue their academic activities "without hindrance."

He added, "The university views the incidents on 19 March with grave concern and will not hesitate to institute disciplinary action against anyone involved in further disruption of lectures."

Were the yellow vans parked illegally?

In fact I remember one policeman saying later that he never heard any music when he arrived.

Ten minutes after the music was turned down the baton-wielders stormed the house. A witness at the party said "They just started pulling people out and loading them into the waiting vans. People who complained or asked questions got punched, kicked or sjambokked for being cheeky." In fact, according to another witness cheekiness seemed to be one of the main reasons for the attack. "I heard cops outside saying that someone inside had been cheeky and the party would have to be busted up."

Apparently in reply to the threat that the music be turned down or "we'll arrest everyone" came the witty reply "You'll have to bring a bus'. Cheeky!

The 60 or so people who didn't manage to get away like the rest of the 200 - strong party were then taken to the police station. They were kept there for about two hours. 37 names were taken before everyone was released with the warning to "stay out of trouble": "Why did you call me a fascist you Jewboy?" one policeman asked as the newly released students were leaving, tapping his baton against his bruised hand.

Making the most of smoking before the ban is imposed

chakas and a broom stick handle for his friend. When the driver of the silver Porsche and his companion saw they went back to the car and came back brandishing a gun - "a bloody huge thing," says James, who found himself looking down the wrong end. James turned and walked back towards his car. The man fired a shot above his head and when James didn't stop he fired another two shots at him. An eye witness said he then had "a tantrum" fired and his companion drove off.

This could be the end of the story, but its not... The man was traced by his number plates and he now faces charges of attempted murder and aiming a loaded weapon.

The incident suggests that aggression towards the National Party is growing. Nowadays blacks aren't the only people being shot at. The case goes to court on the 6th of May - quite an eventful
Black workers at Wits get raw deal

"I get R 519 a month - after deductions it's R 300. Our rent is R 250 and my husband and I have to support both our parents and five kids at the University of Bophuthatswana - they didn't get administrative permission to study here." These are the words a campus worker spoke with a shrug. When Wits Student asked her whether the Black University Workers Association (BUWA) could do anything to improve her lot, she got angry: "BUWA does nothing. They only interfere with our money - no increases. They promise to win us a 19% increase in June but we know all government workers get that. It's not even above inflation. We've decided we want a union which is strong - GAWU."

Many more black workers at Wits seem to be dissatisfied with BUWA. "We're all in a state of shock" from BUWA have occurred, while the COSATU-affiliated union on campus, the General and Allied Workers Union reports a vastly increased membership. But it seems that BUWA is refusing to allow its members to resign through normal procedures, thus retaining its numbers and funding. Only 239 out of the 1519 non-academic staff at Wits are not represented by BUWA.

Ordinarily, members of BUWA, the only association which Wits' admin recognises as representing grade one to four workers on campus, would simply have to fill in a resignation form supplied by the Association Secretary in order to resign from BUWA.

On the last quarter of 1986, however, so many workers have handed in these forms that the procedure has been changed. Now workers must take their forms to the chairperson of BUWA, Mr Ndlovu, so that their resignations can be "approved". Without Ndlovu's approval, a resignation is not valid.

A cleaner told us, "Ndlovu has said no one can resign without consulting him. I said this is funny, he has no mandate. Ndlovu has never taken up our problems with Admin and now he decides if we can resign!"

On what basis can workers claim that Ndlovu has no mandate? A canteen worker said, "Who elected Ndlovu? We have never elected him in our lives!" The chairperson of BUWA is appointed by the nine member executive which BUWA membership elects annually.

Ndlovu is unlikely to be fired by the executive. Khorombi said, "There is a feeling that we shouldn't sack the chair; that would be victimisation, wouldn't it?" Workers have pointed out that Ndlovu lacks a mandate, and feel that he evades those workers who need his "approval" before they can resign. "Once we stood at his office in the Workers' Hall and asked, 'are signing resignation forms but there's no one to give them to. I've got 26 with me now'," said a worker.

GAWU shop stewards complain that GAWU membership on campus is very close to fulfilling the representivity criterion. It is alleged that by hampering members who wish to resign with uncertain and time consuming procedures, BUWA hopes to retain its numbers and thereby the recognition of Admin as the only negotiating body for workers. Admin recognises any union or association which has 50% plus one support in any grade of worker. An added hindrance to workers resigning from BUWA seems to be the continued deduction of subscriptions even after resignation.

A member of Administration explained that the new procedure was necessary because "GAWU is coming in to poach a lot of BUWA members in doing so, it hopes to undermine the negotiating rights of BUWA with the university. GAWU is part of COSATU," she went on, "and they are trying to increase their membership at the expense of BUWA." Admin it seems, are worried about negotiating with COSATU-affiliated unions which are renowned for forcefully pressing workers claims and often emerging victorious.

Admin claims that "fraudulent resignations" by BUWA members also prompted the change. Assistant Registrar, Mr. Crowther said BUWA alleged signatures of resigning members were not genuine and they had had pressure put on them to resign. In some cases, BUWA alleges that members who had resigned did not even know they had done so. The same member of Admin said, "Some workers are so simple, they didn't know what they were signing."

GAWU members firmly denied allegations of fraud. They claim that despite the University's alleged policy of "free-dom of association" in joining unions, workers are actively encouraged to join BUWA. Commenting on the allegation that workers didn't know what they were signing, a GAWU shop steward said, "If this is the case, then BUWA certainly seems to have capitalised on it." Mr. Khorombi, who holds the recruitment portfolio on the BUWA 9-member executive and has done so for a number of years, said that, "Recruitment depends on the understanding of the worker. Sometimes workers simply had to write down their names to become members of BUWA while others had to read the membership form carefully..." recruitment depends on the relationship between BIMA and workers resigning from BUWA. Admin recognises any union or association which has 50% plus one support in any grade of worker. An added hindrance to workers resigning from BUWA seems to be the continued deduction of subscriptions even after resignation. The association secretary commented that "Resignations are not increasing since the new procedures were introduced. They seem to be falling off."

Once a worker resigns from BUWA his or her subscription is automatically deducted from the monthly pay cheque. Workers who have resigned from BUWA claim their subscriptions are still being deducted from their pay-cheques. The association secretary assured Wits Student that though the subscriptions may in some cases continue to be deducted even after resignation from BUWA, "a refund is given."

A cleaner said, "Some decided BUWA is rubbish, let's join the union (GAWU). The problem is that the University deducts money to pay BUWA. We can't afford to lose the GAWU subscription." A postal worker told Wits Student that the University pays for the BUWA." It is a 'sweet-heart union'..." BUWA seems to be out of touch with the predominant feelings of workers on campus. Mr. Khorombi asserted, "BUWA has fought for a lot of worker issues. I disagree with every one who says we are on good terms with management."

He made this statement after phoning Mr. Crowther to "check" before he spoke to the Wits Student reporter. "All the workers are very happy with BUWA," he concluded.
Puzzled stares and much head-scratching was the response amongst members of the SADF stationed at Witwatersrand Command when they were presented with a cake and a card by members of the Wits End Conscription Campaign on Thursday 9 April.

The cake was cut and iced to form the ECC chain logo. It was presented in commemoration (not celebration) of the 75th birthday of the SADF and as a response to a parade held by the SADF in Cape Town on Monday 6th to mark the event.

The day started with a cake cutting ceremony under a large banner proclaiming "75 years of the SADF, not such a happy birthday". Black crosses took the place of candles on the cake which was shaped like the Cape Town Castle. Needless to say, the castle was demolished within minutes.

In a referendum held by the Black Students Society (BSS) at Wits last block, BSS members overwhelmingly supported a change in BSS sports policy. This means they can now use university sports facilities provided that sporting activities correspond to the South African Council of Sport's (SACOS) principles of non-racism.

The majority of black students felt that all parts of their lives - academic, social or sports - must reflect the reality of oppression which they experience as black South Africans.

A policy review was initiated by a BSS Mass Meeting on 3 March. It was prompted by developments such as:

* the increase in the numbers of black students at Wits since the adoption of the original policy;
* the relaxation by SACOS of its attitudes concerning the use of university facilities in the interests of non-racial sports.

Although the Wits All Sports Council (ASC) is constitutionally non-aligned, it embodies sporting codes which are at odds with SACOS policy. For this reason BSS members will not make use of sports facilities as individuals but under the auspices of the BSS.

A black student said that this policy "further organisations and lays a democratic principle under which sport should be played in this country."

Wits drummies came out on top in the National Rand Show Championships in April for the second year running. Sharon Shulke, who took the 'best leader' trophy for Wits once again, attributes her success to hard work. "The 42 women practised three times a week, two hours a day.

Drumming has always been a controversial matter at Wits. Sharon Shulke, drummer leader at Wits, said, "Drumming isn't sexist at all. It is not exhibitionism; drumming perform and the object is entertaining the audience."

She denied that drumming is perceived as sex objects, saying that the short skirts they wear are just as appropriate for the 'sport' as shorts are for rugby players. "We're not showing off our legs or anything; I mean, it will look pretty stupid if we're performing in long skirts up to our ankles."

Shulke described the military aspect in drummies as "fun." "Drumming is the only sport that girls actually have, besides a few schools which have girl cadets," she said. An End Conscription Campaign spokes-person commented that this attitude is "sad". "Glamourising and romanticising militarisation in this way ignores the reality of the role of the military in South Africa," she said.

On the question of whether drumming is a way of socialising women to accept certain roles in society, Shulke commented that "anyone can join, but traditionally it has only been girls.

Dawn Loudon, who holds Women's Portfolio on the SRC suggested that the precision and skill of drummies' performances could be used to create events which are as spectacular as drummies but are not sexist or offensive in the same way as drummies is.

To be fulfilled in non-governemental agencies such as welfare or church groups.

These are only interim demands of the End Conscription Campaign but it will continue to voice their support until such time as compulsory conscription to the SADF is ended.
NUAS, supported by SANSco, is spearheading a non-racial poll on all Nusas campuses, in the week preceding the white election on May 6.

Students voting "Yes" in this poll will be giving their support to "One person, one vote in a United South Africa". This will send a message nationwide that students on the English Universities together with some students in the University of Stellenbosch support the demands of the majority of South Africans.

Thus, the poll focuses on the most important question in South Africa: "One person, one vote".

Why vote?

Commitment to Democracy

"It is our future that is at stake - we cannot sit idly by watching the government fiddle with reform, while the country burns. Black South Africans have made it clear that 'one person, one vote' is their minimum demand. It is the first step towards resolving the growing conflict in South Africa. An overwhelming response on our campuses in favour of 'one person, one vote' is a strong assertion of commitment to a democratic future."

Steve Kromberg, NUSAS President

Solidarity with the voiceless

"Your support for the principle of 'one person, one vote' in a unitary South Africa will be a clear show of solidarity with the majority of South Africans who have been excluded from participating in determining the policies of the country in which they live. This voiceless majority have long endured an imbalance must go! support for democracy.

Etienne Marais, SRC President

Campaign Calendar

Wed 29: * Lunchtime: LAUNCH, Polling continues
* Lunchtime debate: Mark Swilling and Tony Leon - "Can we fight for democracy?" LB131 West Campus
* "Apartheid": the Granada TV video on the roots of Apartheid 12:40 - 1.25 in SHB4
* RSS cultural evening 7:30pm in the Arcade
Thurs 30: * Polling continues
* Concert in the Dark 8pm in the Arcade
Fri 1: * May Day (University holiday)
Mon 4: * Polling continues until 6pm
Tues 5: * Who really governs SA?* Mark Swilling (Politics Dept), followed by discussion 12:40 SH

 symbolic importance

It is true to say that "one person one vote" in and of itself does not guarantee freedom and justice, but without it, there is no possibility of it being achieved. A "yes" vote is a vote for a peaceful, prosperous future. It is a vote against the government's use of brutal repression to suppress legitimate opposition to its policies. It is a vote for democracy.

Colin Coleman, NUSAS Media Officer

Rev Beyers Naude and Helen Joseph support the Nusas poll. They are flanked by Steve Kromberg (Nusas President) and Pascal Moloi (Sansco exec).

Students can't be ignored

Students should vote in the NUSAS non-racial poll because we can send a powerful message to the government that six campuses around the country are dissatisfied with the role that it is playing. Today's students are the livelihood of our country - our voice cannot be ignored. It is our responsibility to express our rejection of apartheid in a visible, meaningful way, and to throw our support behind the wishes of the majority of people in South Africa.
WS: For most whites, May Day is a time when the vast majority of South Africans, especially workers, have their say about the country's future. In the past two years, workers and youth have been becoming more involved. This year workers will repeat their demands for:

*a non-racial, democratic South Africa
* Jobs for all
* Living wage
* Decent housing, education, etc.

May Day, falling as it does so close to the election, is a demonstration against the minority elections, therefore PW has tried to diffuse its importance by making it a public holiday - picnics rather than political meetings.

The celebration is in a sense a defensive rallying point for PW. There is as much an element of fear as an element of aggression, so we expect a possible banning of May Day rallies.

WS: PW has attempted to co-opt the day by declaring a limited public holiday. Can you clarify exactly who the holiday affects and comment on PW's new-found gratitude to the workers?

Frank: PW has proved that he is a person who can't be trusted: in public he boldly says, "First Friday in May to all workers." Groupings in big business rushed forward to commend him. Now it appears that tens of thousands of workers are excluded. I think that this was deliberate deception.

The real effect of this announcement is that for workers who have not won May Day, their struggle will be more difficult.

Workers are very critical of bosses coming forward to accept PW's May Day, knowing full well that it clashes with what the workers want.

As bosses, they should point the way to a true democracy involving them and all the people of South Africa.

The white elections are dangerous because they draw the curtain on the real issues.

We haven't yet heard anyone talk about unemployment (around 6 million), housing or black education, or the fact that the African majority is excluded, their organisations banned and students, children and leaders are in detention or hiding. Research has shown that wage increases in 1986 were almost all below the rate of inflation, which means that poor people in the townships are getting poorer. These people are fighting a losing battle to survive.

WS: The white elections have highlighted the question of democracy - how does democracy work in Cosatu?

Frank: Cosatu functions democratically. Democracy means that people have direct control over their lives. Cosatu doesn't want workers to vote once every five to seven years and then leave the decision-making up to a few individuals.

Before we take major decisions at national and regional committees. Leadership is accountable and can be replaced if it is felt that it has not effectively conveyed the feelings of rank and file.

In this way we have managed to deepen consciousness at rank and file level and to deepen understanding of society and the working of the economy.

WS: What is the logic behind one union, one industry, one federation?

Frank: We realise that power and wealth in South Africa is very concentrated. Workers realise that there are strong links between various companies, especially those in the same industry.

When workers in a particular industry negotiate in a united way, broad-based unions give them more power.

Cosatu has a membership of 707,000 and it is growing at a phenomenal rate. At the latest count, membership was 500,000. Just the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) since launch, has increased its membership by 80%.

Cosatu's affiliates are fighting unions which have won things for their members, eg. wage increases, job guarantees and advancement.

Events nationally and the mass democratic movement have raised political awareness. Workers are becoming more militant.

The SAT's strike is a graphic example - workers from rural areas have been given a raw deal. The workers have not been cut off from political events. They feel that their desires can only be expressed through militant and democratic unions like Cosatu.

Cosatu is committed to building democratic organisations in the townships. It encourages shop stewards to play an active role in the leadership of the community. For example, in Springs, workers have spread shop stewards locally to representatives from civics youth, and the unemployed.

WS: Do workers support socialism?

Frank: The system of capitalism in South Africa has brought workers nothing but poverty, hardship and degradation. Workers around South Africa are looking at how the wealth of the country continues to be concentrated in the hands of so few, and how wages are getting less and less in real terms.

The workers see how capitalism has joined hands with apartheid when this was convenient. Only now are some employers criticising apartheid. Workers wonder if they are not only considering their own survival and if they're looking for more sophisticated ways of making more profits under a system of less racism, less Bantu education, less Group Areas, and of course, less social unrest.

Workers are discussing different economic systems as alternatives. Systems are judged by the provision of jobs, wage rates and if they address themselves to the needs of workers, the poor, the homeless, the unemployed.

Socialism is one of the issues being discussed. It is a long-term answer to the problems of workers.
My brother is with me, carrying my shoulder, and on his feet are his feet. He follows me towards the shaft; and, if I die there underground, who am I? Dear Lord! all around is stumble, fall and die.

("In the Gold Mines", B.W. Vilaka)

An underground world of racial degradation and danger deep inside.

"Few have suffered more than the workers in the goldmines in Johannesburg" - Ramaphosa (NUM)

While a senior manager discussed "power sharing" with workers, saying that of course he had no objections, we climbed out of the segregated cage into the 28 degree Celsius heat. The fact that the lifts are segregated is not seen as a racist practice but rather because "often they don't wash for two or three days so they smell a bit ripe." (Goldfields Geologist)

The stope, i.e. the rockface being mined, is a long, low cavern on a very steep gradient, in line with the reef. There is no lighting except for your own little bulb and the roof is so low that we walked hunched. The floor is covered with loose rocks. The heat is suffocating and the noise unbearable.

Most miners work stripped to the waist because of the heat. "Noise deafness" is common among miners and the noise level from the drills, dangerously high. On whipping out the NUM safety book we found that drill silencers cost R50. Why doesn't Kloof use them?

According to the engineer, "Ag Lady, these machine boys only feel like 'manne' when they handle machine that makes a loud noise."

Miner: "Yes in reality that does happen. Blacks do seem to do almost everything."

The deepest stope at Kloof is four and a half kilometres underground. The temperature is around 55 degrees. "To get the workers to work more productively" water and air is pumped into the shafts. Profit not safety or working conditions are clearly the driving force. When asked whether management was looking ahead to a post-apartheid mining industry the geologist laughed: "Kloof looks as far ahead as the next financial report."

Cyril Ramaphosa, General Secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) says, "The racism at Goldfields is ridiculous, unbelievable." It permeates all levels in the mine. According to the geologist "If you have a black man digging a ditch and you employ another black to get the job done in half the time, they both just talk and the job takes just as long, what do you do?" "A rotund senior manager interjected - "Get them a white boss."

Wits Student asked to be shown the compounds - the answer: NO. "Because we're tired of a publicity". Instead he brought his 'pies' (about 40) with compounds are as they're alright".

In spite of the large signpost, Mr van Bermen Personnel said workers of the single quarter at Goldfields spent more than any other on the staple diet of "mop-meat". This is like getting kids to eat greens - these guys accept them."

We went on to explore the hostels, regularly over crowded. "Because workers are tired of a publicity".

The stope, i.e. the rockface being mined, is a long, low cavern on a very steep gradient, in line with the reef. There is no lighting except for your own little bulb and the roof is so low that we walked hunched. The floor is covered with loose rocks. The heat is suffocating and the noise unbearable.

Most miners work stripped to the waist because of the heat. "Noise deafness" is common among miners and the noise level from the drills, dangerously high. On whipping out the NUM safety book we found that drill silencers cost R50. Why doesn't Kloof use them?

According to the engineer, "Ag Lady, these machine boys only feel like 'manne' when they handle machine that makes a loud noise."

Miner: "Yes in reality that does happen. Blacks do seem to do almost everything."

The deepest stope at Kloof is four and a half kilometres underground. The temperature is around 55 degrees. "To get the workers to work more productively" water and air is pumped into the shafts. Profit not safety or working conditions are clearly the driving force. When asked whether management was looking ahead to a post-apartheid mining industry the geologist laughed: "Kloof looks as far ahead as the next financial report."

Cyril Ramaphosa, General Secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) says, "The racism at Goldfields is ridiculous, unbelievable." It permeates all levels in the mine. According to the geologist "If you have a black man digging a ditch and you employ another black to get the job done in half the time, they both just talk and the job takes just as long, what do you do?" "A rotund senior manager interjected - "Get them a white boss."

Wits Student asked to be shown the compounds - the answer: NO. "Because we're tired of a publicity". Instead he brought his 'pies' (about 40) with compounds are as they're alright".

In spite of the large signpost, Mr van Bermen Personnel said workers of the single quarter at Goldfields spent more than any other on the staple diet of "mop-meat". This is like getting kids to eat greens - these guys accept them."

We went on to explore the hostels, regularly over crowded. "Because workers are tired of a publicity".

The hostels are overcrowded. When asked whether migrants are going to challenge the labour system, the answer: NO. "Because we're tired of a publicity".

The hostels are overcrowded. When asked whether migrants are going to challenge the labour system, the answer: NO. "Because we're tired of a publicity".

The stope, i.e. the rockface being mined, is a long, low cavern on a very steep gradient, in line with the reef. There is no lighting except for your own little bulb and the roof is so low that we walked hunched. The floor is covered with loose rocks. The heat is suffocating and the noise unbearable.

Most miners work stripped to the waist because of the heat. "Noise deafness" is common among miners and the noise level from the drills, dangerously high. On whipping out the NUM safety book we found that drill silencers cost R50. Why doesn't Kloof use them?

According to the engineer, "Ag Lady, these machine boys only feel like 'manne' when they handle machine that makes a loud noise."

Miner: "Yes in reality that does happen. Blacks do seem to do almost everything."

The deepest stope at Kloof is four and a half kilometres underground. The temperature is around 55 degrees. "To get the workers to work more productively" water and air is pumped into the shafts. Profit not safety or working conditions are clearly the driving force. When asked whether management was looking ahead to a post-apartheid mining industry the geologist laughed: "Kloof looks as far ahead as the next financial report."

Cyril Ramaphosa, General Secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) says, "The racism at Goldfields is ridiculous, unbelievable." It permeates all levels in the mine. According to the geologist "If you have a black man digging a ditch and you employ another black to get the job done in half the time, they both just talk and the job takes just as long, what do you do?" "A rotund senior manager interjected - "Get them a white boss."

Wits Student asked to be shown the compounds - the answer: NO. "Because we're tired of a publicity". Instead he brought his 'pies' (about 40) with compounds are as they're alright".

In spite of the large signpost, Mr van Bermen Personnel said workers of the single quarter at Goldfields spent more than any other on the staple diet of "mop-meat". This is like getting kids to eat greens - these guys accept them."

We went on to explore the hostels, regularly over crowded. "Because workers are tired of a publicity".

The hostels are overcrowded. When asked whether migrants are going to challenge the labour system, the answer: NO. "Because we're tired of a publicity".
NUM is not recognised at Kloof although 8 000 of the 15 000 employees are in NUM. They manage the workforce through threat of dismissal and violence. A video depicting rural poverty has been shown to workers. A voice says: "Times are bad. Jobs are hard to get and difficult to keep. You don’t want to be one of those men with no job and no money. Look after your job... do nothing foolish. There are many more to take your place."

A former industrial relations expert at Goldfields describes the company as an "aggressive, exploitative company, determined to secure profit at any cost."

Goldfields employs South Africa’s largest private army. There are 6000 trained troops equipped with armoured vehicles, shotguns, dogs, teargas, sjamboks and rubber bullets. The aims of the force are "to combat subversion and labour unrest" (Goldfields Security Report) - should the SAP not be available to "control rioting in the mines".

In 1985 the working costs of the company were R400 a month. The largest slice of profit goes out of the country - 48% of Goldfields South Africa is held by British Goldfields Consolidated. The largest shareholder is Anglo American with 28%.

It has been said that Gold created both the wealth and poverty of South Africa. For some, mining has made them super-rich. For most, the mining industry is directly responsible for their loss of land, the poverty of their families and the indignities of staring at the stope face of a mere R400 a month.

Cyril Ramaphosa of NUM says: "For thousands of people, Johannesburg means struggle and trouble and hardship. These people have not got rich. They have not done well. Johannesburg has not been kind to the ones who really built her. The workers are the ones who really built her. The workers are the ones who built Johannesburg and few have suffered more or worked harder than the migrant workers."
May Day pull-out

STOP PRESS

Police fired buckshot at UCT students in a day of running battles on the campus last Monday. At least ten people were shot, some seriously injured. A student was hit on the head with a teargas cannister, eight people were detained and many were beaten.

A helicopter pointed out students to police. Police also entered the libraries and it is alleged that a librarian was arbitrarily beaten up.

Some one who went to the aid of a fellow student was beaten and arrested but later escaped. It is probable that a woman who hit a policeman with a bottle will be charged with public violence.

When the police left at about 3:30 they were followed back to De Vaal Drive by the crowd. The police then used buckshot.

Students were shocked and traumatised by the excessive police violence. It is the first time that buckshot has been used on white students. Buckshot is fired from a shotgun. It is made up of a dozen metal pellets cased in a plastic cylinder. The cylinder bursts when fired. Buckshot is fatal when fired at close range.

At the time of going to press UCT was discussing a boycott of classes.

An unidentified woman student at the University of Bophuthatswana (UNIBOP) died in hospital after sustaining serious injuries in clashes with police last Thursday. On Thursday 23 April, if in protest against the presence of Bop, President Lucas Mangope on campus, students burnt a tent and a platform where he was due to speak. He was opening a new building at UNIBOP.

Lucas Mangope is hated by students as he has seen as an apologist for the regime. He was repeatedly tried to bring the UNIBOP students "under control" and the repression experienced by the students and the residents of the bantustan is just as harsh, if not worse, than in the rest of South Africa.

Soon after the protest, at about 10pm, police occupied UNIBOP. Students were given an hour to evacuate the campus. Before the hour was up, police charged - using sjamboks, batons and teargas.

Many students, mostly women, were hurt. Some had burst eardrums, broken jaws and other serious injuries. Students were hospitalised, including the woman who subsequently died.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) has laid down the demands of its over 700,000 paid up members:

- A living wage for all
- *40-hour week without loss of pay.
- Job security
- 6 months paid maternity leave
- An end to the host system and decent housing near places of work.
- May Day, June 16 and Sharpeville day as paid public holidays.
- The right to a decent education and training.

The demand for a living wage must be seen in relation to two predominant factors: gross underemployment and inflation. Unemployment is estimated by Cosatu at nearly 6 million against the government's figure of 700,000 which excludes the bantustans.

It is internationally accepted that the working week is 40 hours long at maximum. In South Africa many workers labour for much longer, some miners working up to ten hours a day, six days a week.

With the ever looming threat of retrenchment, workers have demanded some guarantee of security of people dependent on the wage earner. This is a very real concern. The construction industry retrenched 100,000 workers between March '85 and March '86 and between January '85 and March '86, 250,000 workers from the metal sector were laid off.

Women, especially pregnant women, are seen as the most expendable part of the labour force. In South Africa today, they no longer supplement the household's income, but the family has come to rely heavily on them as breadwinners.

The Group Areas Act and the widely used migrant labour system means that families are separated for long periods of time. In South Africa workers must live in single-sex hostels as boarders in their own country. Those who live with their families must stay far from their work and pay unaffordable amounts for their transport, spending valuable time commuting.

Cosatu says that May Day, June 16 and Sharpeville Day are important national days. May Day is of particular importance to workers. It is international workers' day, celebrated in 110 countries throughout the world, including most western European countries and the UK.

Longest public sector strike ever

Young MAWU supporters at the History Workshop at Wits

City Deep driver, Andrew Nendzanda was punished for returning R40,40 to a cashier late. He was first suspended from work, then fired.

The South African Railway and Harbours Workers Union (SARHWU), City Deep shop steward negotiated for his reinstatement, but no agreement was reached. The strike began just over seven weeks ago in solidarity with Nendzanda.

The strike was supported by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) to which SARHWU is affiliated. Issues beyond that of Andrew Nendzanda came to the fore in higher wages, and of course the controversial question of union recognition.

BLATU, a sweetheart union is through BLATU which is unrepresentative and who they felt would not adequately reflect their grievances.

In the second week of April, talks between SATS and SARHWU collapsed. SARHWU representatives were considered "elected grade stewards" of the 39 persons. SATS would only speak to 5.

The situation then deteriorated: railway coaches were burned and damaged; bomb blasts disrupted train services to Soweto; at least 400 people were arrested and between eight and ten people died.

SARHWU was accused of intimidating not only SATS workers, but also their property and passengers.

The decision to call in the army was announced on Sunday 19 April. By 20 April, it was admitted by a Cosatu spokesman that Nendzanda had been fired although not yet in writing.

The following day SARHWU members clashed with security forces. Six union members were killed, and three policemen injured. Shortly after this incident, COSATU House in Johannesburg was seiged by police for seven hours. Two workers were shot, and about 400 arrested.

COSATU demands the reinstatement of the dismissed workers, and the re-opening of negotiations with the representatives of those workers.

The strike was the longest ever in the public sector and has had far reaching effects in the labour movement and in the black and white communities. The state's violent response and particularly events at Cosatu House have...
The PFP has argued that the election is an opportunity for the electorate to give the government a vote of No Confidence, and in doing so end government intransigence.

The following are some brief tips on how to vote. If you have any further enquiries, please phone me at 786-9772.

Shawn Kopel

Q: Who is eligible to vote?
A: White South African citizens over 18 years who are registered voters.

Q: How do I know if I am a registered voter?
A: If you have a valid identity book you are automatically registered to vote in the area listed as your home address. Your name thus appears on the voters' list for your home constituency.

Q: How do I know where to vote?
A: A postcard will be sent to you at the address listed in your ID book. This will inform you of the name of the constituency in which you are registered to vote, and the venue you must go to in order to vote. If you no longer live at this address, phone the political party you intend to support and ask them to arrange a Special Vote or a Postal Vote for you.

(i) Special Vote:
You go to a Magistrate's Court with your ID Book. The electoral officer makes out a special ballot for you.
(ii) Postal Vote:
Specially sworn-in agents from the Party you phoned will come to your home where you’ll fill in an application form. They will return to your home with your special ballot for which you sign a receipt. In both cases you vote in secret and seal the ballot in the specially-provided envelope yourself. The envelope is returned to your home constituency and opened on election night on which all the votes are counted.

Q: Transport to the polls?
A: Parties offer this free as a service to voters. Phone and arrange a time with the Party you intend to support.

Q: When do I vote?
A: On Wednesday, May 6 1987, from 7am to 9pm. You must bring proof of identity with you such as an ID book or a passport. Student cards/bus-tickets are not sufficient.

Q: How do I vote?
A: Parties set up tables outside each polling booth. They check your ID and establish your voter's number, inside the polling booth the electoral officer will issue you with a ballot. The full names of candidates and their political parties appear on each ballot. You vote secretly behind a screen. A special indelible pencil is provided for you to make your cross in the box next to the candidate/party of your choice. You may only vote once. Your ballot is folded and posted into a sealed guarded box.

Q: If I don't support any of the Parties standing in my home constituency, may I spoil my vote?
A: Just sign your name in clear
top for a pair of track suit pants. Needless to say, when washed, they adhered exactly to what I had come to regard as brand name custom, and shrunk accordingly.

On approaching Kappa in Sandton City a second time, I was told to take a replacement garment or be happy with a reject. Obviously, this was unacceptable to me, and I was then introduced to a Mr. Rovetti, who claimed to be one of the owners of Kappa.

After repeating the saga to Mr. Rovetti, I explained my fears of accepting any other Kappa garment and requested a refund. He proceeded to tell me repeatedly to 'F**k off out of his shop' or else he would call a local security to remove me.

Mr. Rovetti proceeded to try and stretch the shrinken pants, bytracting at either end, in an attempt to get them to approximate their original length.

This experience highlights some key questions which you may give some thought to:

1. Should shops be allowed to advertise premium wares in the media without stating that the garments, if washed according to instructions, are likely (according to my experience) to shrink?!
2. Should shops that stock a variety of rejects and vulgar-mouthed representatives be located in South Africa's premier regional shopping centre?
3. What guarantee is available to a consumer to protect his/her right to receive a garment that is advertised fit for the purpose for which it was purchased?

Surely, a minimum degree of moral and ethical conduct is expected from traders in their daily business, or are we now living in a 'dog eats dog' society, in which standards, values, morals and ethics no longer play a role?

Bible condems gays

After reading the responses to your mini-questionnaire on Gay-rights etc (Vol 39 No.4 Pg 23) it has become obvious to me that a great deal of confusion exists here regarding the rights and wrongs of the matter.

The Bible, however, is very clear and unambiguous on the point of homosexuality:

In Leviticus 20:13 relevant to both Christians and Jews - we read: "And when a man lies down with a male as one lies down with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination..." (New World Translation)

And likewise in Leviticus 18:22 from the Revised Standard Version:

"You shall not lie with a male as with a woman, it is an abomination."

Supported by this weight of evidence, I ask that you publish this letter in order that the numerous well-meaning and open-minded readers of your publication may come to understand God's truth on the subject of homosexuality.

Wayne Ford
B Comm III

What makes a traitor today?

Obed Bopala is a friend of mine. His warm and open manner, his concern for people around him, his ready smile prompt me to call him "friend".

I haven't seen that smile for months now. You see, Obed is also called "comrade" by the people of Alexandra, and he has been in detention since June.

Obed was facing treason charges and had to report to a police station regularly. When the State of Emergency was announced, he packed extra clothes, said goodbye to those close to him and reported as usual.

Now I read that he is facing another treason charge. Along with trade unionists Moses Mayekiso and three others, Obed has been charged with high treason for his role in the formation of the Street Committees.

Obed's political involvement stems from his concern for people-people who for the first time in their lives are experiencing some form of control through their involvement in democratic organisations. Because these organisations challenge white domination and state control, they have faced consistent attacks and thousands of participants have been detained.

"High treason" suggests that Obed is a traitor. Nothing can be further from the truth. Obed is a loyal servant and friend of his community- now his life is in danger.

It is time that we in the white community wake up to the harsh reality facing South Africans in their struggle to get rid of the injustices of apartheid. Let's not wait until something happens to a friend before it is brought home to us.

R P SUSSMAN

JCE students pissed off

In reply to the article printed in Wits Student Vol 39 No.4 April 1987, I would like to say the following:

If B Prim Ed students, Wits students or any other student for that matter object to the way in which JCE is run, to such a degree that they can write an article to complain about it, then they should FUCK OFF.

Roll call is taken in certain lectures for two main reasons:

1. To introduce a subtle measure of discipline such as is necessary at schools and
2. Because the syllabus is too vast and students are always absent from various practical and other assignments which count for year marks. Lecturers do not have time to examine each student when he/she is ready. 'Yes Sir!' is surely a courteous way (which most Witsies do not seem to know of) to greet a senior person/lecturer.

You are not asked to salute; and if you have a problem with that - tough!

If you don't like it - either go back to Wits or to a black college. Yours faithfully

A pissed off number of JCE students (vrotkol)

BSS must participate

We elected a black student to represent our class on the university's SRC. After several days, the elected student consisted of explained that he would not be able to accept the position.

It is the policy of the BSS not to participate on the SRC because black South Africans outside the boundaries of the University are not able to hold positions of democratic leadership. As members of the BSS, they wish to stand in solidarity with the black South Africans who are not given such opportunities. A somewhat heated discussion arose in our lecture, and the attitudes of several BSS members are quite alarming. They do not wish to have an association to the university's student council, or play "stooges" to white students, and yet they are willing to accept tertiary education at Wits whilst millions of black South Africans are not afforded the same opportunity. Why is solidarity not consistently upheld?

Such a contemptuous attitude towards our university's SRC makes one wonder. As it happens, Wits University is one of the rare platforms in South Africa where ALL people are encouraged to put forward their notions. The BSS, by refusing to participate in student-life when it suits the society, is literally snubbing one of the vital channels of communication afforded to a multi-racial student-body.

BA III student

Science faculty cares

I feel that some reply needs to be given to the letter you published from "Pudge BA III", since the impression is given that the University and the Science Faculty in particular is not sensitive to the manifest inequalities in high school education.

The Science Faculty is acutely aware of the fact that simply using matric rating at the lower end of the scale as a criterion for acceptance is inappropriate since it is a poor predictor of performance at the University. To address this question, we introduced a selection procedure which involves a series of tests and possibly an interview to replace the use of the matric rating.

However, in order to be accepted for the faculty selection tests, a student must achieve a minimum number of matric points (15 points). While the use of this level of matric achievement is arbitrary, it is based on two considerations:

1. All students with matric ratings between 15-22 have to be given the selection tests, and the number who can be tested is constrained by the faculty's limited resources for conducting the tests. A further limitation is the number of places available in the faculty for students.

2. A feeling among faculty members that it is irresponsible to accept students who feel have very little chance of successfully undertaking the courses.

To supplement the selection tests, the faculty arranges interviews for those students who perform poorly on these tests. Such students are offered a place in the faculty if the interview reveals that they have a reasonable chance of success.

We recognise that our selection procedures are not without flaws, hence they are subject to continuous review and validation as each cohort of students writes final examinations. We believe that these selection procedures do attempt "to judge academic achievement in the context of one's opportunities!"

R M CREWE
Deputy Dean: Faculty of Science
This saga can be approached on many levels.

Nurden gets a lift

In which:
*Nurden has his chips and eats them
*Nurden fails to come to an agreement with God. The contract is not signed and Nurden realises there is no sanity clause.
*Chris Ball signs the contract on Nurden's behalf without reading the sanity clause.
*Later (much later) Nurden gets shafted.
*Absolutely nothing happens to Finga Hu (who?)

"What could I do? There we were, peacefully protesting against the Gentlemen's League when this poor nurd with thick glasses and a big nose and was hit by a mellow yellow can thrown from a passing police van! This poor guy just lay there murmuring. I had to go and help him. The next thing, my support group started humming "Blueberry Hill" and this guy looks at me - smiles, mumbles "I've found my thrill," and passes out! - it was so sweet."

Nurden peered through his cracked lenses. "I've failed my seven labours," he thought as music filled his ears. He saw a beautiful woman looking at him from above. "My mum was right," he thought, "God is a woman and she's so beautiful!" Being dead wasn't so bad after all, and he said out loud, "I've found my thrill" and watched wondrously as the lovely blurred vision floated away from him.

"Wake up you little ninny, it was only a bloody can." shouted Nurden's mum, turning up the flame.

Nurden was awakened by a burning pain in his legs. "I've le my thrill!" he cried wonderingly why he had been rejected to heaven. "You naughty Nurd" said his mum swiping him with the cat. Unconsciously Nurden dressed and set off on his Colt "Galant" for Wits. He was distraught. Why had he been rejected from heaven? He racked his brains for reasons kicked Maya too hard? Was his BOB T account in too much of mess? Or was he needed for a more important test?

At Wits he headed straight for the canteen, but three plates of chips later he still had no answer and depressed as he was, he resolved to kill himself. He rushed upstairs to the top floor of the Students Union building where he found the lift shaft open for repair and he prepared to jump. Just then he heard female voices behind him and he turned around. "God is it Wits!" he exclaimed and stepped backwards, disappearing into the lift shaft.

In the next edition:-
1. Is God a member of the women's movement?
2. Is the second floor of the Students Union really heaven?
3. Where is Finga Hu?
4. Is Hu Finge Who?

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

* Bronwyn Adams (616 - 7460; evenings). Masters student offering extra tuition in psychology, sociology, philosophy, economics, statistics and history.

* All student typing professionally done at special low rates for students. High quality presentation and accuracy enhances your work. Phone Mrs Kolitz at 440-6380, afternoons, evenings and weekends.


SRC's West Campus Vibe Committee (with help from Plascon) is launching a Subway Mural Competition. All students are invited to submit designs to fill two walls of 2,15 x 22m space. These plans could consist of panels of 2,15m x 5,5m/11m/22m.

The SRC will be the final judge and will select either two or a combination of panels.

The theme is "Student Life at Wits". Submit your colour plans to the SRC by Friday the 15th of May and watch for the displays of these designs in the West Campus canteen and Students Union Arcade.

The subway is in fact 33m long. Fine Arts students are painting one wall with the theme of "Student Life at Wits".

CONCERT IN THE DARK!

* Free Expression in a Free... PREVIEW AT POOL TUES 22 APRIL LUNCHTIME FREE

ATTEND a PREVIEW MON 21 APRIL 9:00 pm • 10:30 pm

Evening Performance 8:30 pm • 10:00 pm

THURS 30 APRIL 8:00 pm • 10:30 pm

TICKETS FROM THE POOL CAFE.
Michael Segerman, a VOW deejay, has provided Wits Student with reviews of a selection of albums from the other side of the world.

Three of the best records to be released so far this year are available on the Island label. The first and foremost is the new U2 album 'The Joshua Tree'. An incredibly stunning record which quite exceeds my, and I'm sure most people's, expectations. Words in fact do not do justice to the album's sheer brilliance but ones that do come to mind are mindblowing, flawless, bluesy, profound, schematic, enchanting, mystical - oh God you could go on forever. A unique album that - although not similar - is comparable in stature to classic albums (my personal favourites) like Van Morrison's 'Astral Weeks', Patti Smith's 'Horses', Bob Dylan's 'Blonde on Blonde' and the Doors 'L.A. Woman'. An essential record which YOU should have.

The next bombshell to be released is Julian Cope's (remember him from Teardrop Explodes days) 'Saint Julian'. Get this record, hide it in your room and then when your parents go out put it on the turntable. Turn up your volume to beyond distortion level (don't worry, these songs are available on the Island label. The other side of the world. The next side of the world.) and as the result they will not be releasing this album locally. A bummer, I know, but the cost of an import copy will not be moneywasted. So if you love music - and I'm sure you do - then you'll be prepared to spend your monthly allowance on these three albums. Don't worry if you don't have any money left to go joring with. You won't want to go out - you'll just sit at home and play these records over and over again.

Our Father...

"Forgive me Father for I have sinned..."

"Come kneel by me and tell me why my son..."

"It's this new record by 'PW Botha and the NP's'..."

"Well Father... I don't like it..."

"But why my son..."

"It's just that, well... it's so boring. I mean, it doesn't even have a beat. You can't even dance to it..."

"But my son, the Smiths make boring, repetitive music and they are considered totally cool, and hordes of people at Decadence dance to them all the time..."

"Er... Father..."

"Yes my son..."

"We don't say words like cool anymore..." "Oh...er, well what about alternative?..."

"Ja, that's OK, but this record isn't alternative, it's the alternative to the alternative. I mean this guy just drones on and on and on about how the NP's will guarantee your safety and peace of mind against internal unrest and stuff. I mean really Father who does this guy think he is, the president of some thing? And talk about music. This band obviously doesn't have a single cassiotone to bless themselves with..."

"That's blasphemous my son. Say 16 Hail Mary's and then carry on, I think we are building up for a really spectacular admission..."

"Well Father, you're right. I don't know how to say this Father but I really think this guy is lying..."

"Why my son?..."

"Well he says he believes in peace but on the inside cover of the record where the pictures of the band are supposed to go there is this picture of this huge cannon on the back of a thing which looks like an armoured car. Right next to this picture they have written 'Our plan for peace'. Father, I must admit, I think this guy PW believes in war. There is even a rumour that he worked for the SADF for years. I don't know Father. What's the world coming to if you can't even believe in pop stars any more?"

"Carry on my son..."

"This guy even looks awful, Father. The cover of the record has a picture of him on it, and really Father, I feel they should have left his face off..."

"Isn't that really unfair my son. I mean Joe Strummer isn't my idea of a dreamboat and I'm not so sure I would like to wake up next to Divine in the morning..."

"Father... you're not supposed to wake up with anyone in the morning. Hey Father why have you got those handcuffs under your robe?? And what's that microphone on your sleeve?? Father?!! What are you doing with that PW and the NP's? record? Why are you stuffing it into my mouth - I don't even like the taste of plastic. Gmmmf!!! No Father! I really don't think you should play with guns. No really Father you shouldn't point it at me. I mean, really, it could go......"

Gig calendar

Wits Student is looking for a new (and hopefully sober) local music reporter. We have listed below the raves for May and if anyone is interested in becoming a reporter they can submit articles to the Wits Student office.

Jamesons (Commissioner Street)
1 and 2 May
Reist of May
Benny & Funk
(Wed, Fri, Sat)

Kuppies (Market Theatre)
5-14 May
Alain Kwela
(Tues, Wed, Thurs)
1-17 May
Count Wellington Judge
(Fri, Sat, Sun)
19-28 May
Pongola
(Tues, Wed, Thurs)
22-31 May
Alan Kwela
(Fri, Sat, Sun)

Oxford Hotel (Rosebank)
All of May
Bright Blue

Nusas Elecetion Campaign
"Concert in the Dark" at the Bozzoli
Thursday 30 April
Lurchers
Genuines
Spectres
Kerels
Joanna Weinberg
and buskers

VWO Top 20
1. U2 - Red Hill Mining Town (11)
2. Siouxsie and the Banshees - The Passenger (5)
3. Swing Out Sister - Surrender (1)
4. Micrdinesey - Armadillo Man (2)
5. U2 - With Or Without You (13)
6. Lone Justice - Reflected (On My Side) (6)
7. Madness - (Waiting for the) Ghost Train (3)
8. Hollywood Beyond - No More Tears (10)
9. Then Jerico - Ket Her Falt (8)
10. Kate Bush - Experiment IV (4)
11. Tom Verlaine - Town called Walker (20)
12. David and David - Welcome to Boomtown (15)
13. The Triffids - Kathy Knows (7)
14. The Circle Works - Evangeline (NE)
15. Iggy Pop - Cry for Love (9)
16. Billy Idol - Don't Need a Gun (NE)
17. Julian Cope - Trampolene (NE)
18. UB40 - Rat in My Kitchen (NE)
19. Martin Stephenson annd the Daintees - Boat to Bolivia (NE)
20. Psychedelic Furs - Angels don't Cry (18)
Some black fun in the Sun

Stunned and Sober! Stunned because I had just been worked over by the Wits Student editorial collective. Sober because I had been hiding from them in the library for a week.

My eyes hurt where the Wits security dog had bitten me. I had quoted Marx and Psycho I to them (both the library staff and the collective) but to no avail - the library staff weren't open to debate and the collective just threw Lenin back at me. I had no answer.

"Culture", they said! Where was I supposed to find culture in this hick mining city? I laughed madly. An approaching pedestrian crossed the street. Hillbrow was full of hippies and Yeoville was crammed with Yuppies - Culture!

I took another one of those pills the friendly features editor had slipped me before I embarked on my 'culture crusade'. The sign in front of me read 'areeb'.

The pain in my eyes shifted down my neck and the pain in my calf shifted upwards - or did I just need a leak? I staggered to my feet and lurched into a massive house nearby - 'The Colony', the sign read, followed by 'The Black Sun'.

This is great, I thought, and cursed again that bastard who had stolen my dark glasses at the Market. I entered carefully so as not to tread on any of the ants (or was it a 'leper colony')?

"Table for one?" said a friendly Greek man. "Do you have any culture?" I enquired. "The Sun doesn't open till ten," he replied, adding, "but you can wait in the Annex upstairs if you want."

"Lepers", I said and started to go.

"There's a great music video on at the moment."

That changed my mind and I mounted the steps (sideways). I found a room filled with people. Some were shouting at each other in foreign languages, some were smoking and playing cards, and some were just holding hands.

"Excuse me gentlemen," I said, and dashed through to another room from which loud music was escaping. Twenty or thirty eyes glanced at me before returning to the TV set. "Freak-out", I said and sat down next to the woman with independent eyes (one eye continued to watch the TV) - it was love at first, one-eyed sight.

Cult movies, music videos and fall downstairs.

Although cabaret falls outside of the classical definition of culture it does provide an enjoyable, slightly risque form of people's culture. Both the mesmerising Estelle Kokot and the alluring Joanna Weinberg had well balanced shows - political and social comments are made in sometimes humourous ways.

Joanna Weinberg, a woman of extraordinary talents, is ably supported by pianist Tony Bentel, and saxophonist Rob Muirhead, while Estelle Kokot supports herself.

I was supported by the bar. The feminist review "Whorefish Bloomers" had me laughing so much that the ensuing tears caused one of my contact lenses to drop into my tequila. Four days and many dilligals (plus one contact lens) later I headed for home.

The Black Sun is one of Joburg's most exciting venues at the moment and the lesser-known upstairs Annex is a great place to spend a cheap but enjoyable evening.
Limited success for Wits rugby

The Rugby Club has enjoyed limited success in their Pirates' Grand Challenge matches. The side has won one match against Jeppe but has lost twice at the hands of Roodepoort and Alberton.

In assessing the strength of the present first team it should be taken into account that Roodepoort and Alberton are two of the strongest teams in the Transvaal and that the results could easily have been reversed. Wits lost to Roodepoort 14-9 and to Alberton 22-19 but on both occasions the players were attacking strongly as the final whistle was blown.

There is little doubt that Wits boasts a talented side - good enough to hold mighty Stellenbosch University at their Coetzenberg Stadium. Wits led 9-3 at half time in that match and if a seemingly perfect try had not been disallowed towards the end of the match, then more six points, yet the side could only manage a position in the middle of the eighteen team log.

A pleasing aspect about the performances of the first team so far has been the excellent progress made by a number of younger student representatives. Grant Daniel, Peter Macfarlane, Gary Puterman, Lwellyn Lezar and 'Wally' Walters have all shone in the matches in which they have played.

Paul Mosenthal has been in outstanding form and was recently chosen for Transvaal in their Teljoy clash with neighbours, Northern Transvaal. After a fine season last year in the Roobokke XV, Paul's selection was well deserved.

Inter-faculty matches resume after the vacl and the season promises to be a most interesting one. Wits Sharp XV will again be taking on their RAU counterparts and will be looking to repeat their marvellous victory of last year.

Two entirely student fifteens will also travel to Grahamstown to play Rhodes in an 'interspecial'.

Chase Club - making moves

Wits students dominated the Bleiden Chess tournament which took place at Wits recently, winning first and second place in the first section, and second and fourth in the final playoffs.

The Bleiden Chess tournament is an invitation only event, and the field of twelve contained most of Johannesburg's top players. It is an indication of the strength of Wits Chess that seven of the contestants were students and an eighth was a Wits staff member.

The tournament was divided into two sections of six players each. The winners of the sections played off for overall first place, while the runners-up met for third and fourth places. The first section was won by Commerce student Mark Levitt with BA student Harry Joffe in second place.

In the second section, the Wits challenge was led by Wits Chess Club Chairperson Mark Brodie, who finished third and was the only player to defeat the eventual tournament winner. In the final playoffs, Levitt was beaten into second place overall and Joffe into fourth place.

For those interested, Wits Chess Club meets every Wednesday at lunchtime in SH 2115.

Canoe Club victory

Mark Perrow and Neil Evans the first student pairing in the K2 Canoeing Championships

The Canoe Club is once again proving itself to be one of the strongest sports on campus.

The A team (Nich Verkerk, Nico Viljoen, Mark Perrow and Neil Evans) won the hotly contested Dabulamanzi Eight hour Enduro for the third time in four years. A mixed team (Graham Cross, Andrew Venter, Marinda Hartzenberg and Alex Robertson) also won in its section.

A good performance in the South African K2 Championships on the Umzimkulu River saw Mark Perrow and Neil Evans end up as the first student pairing to finish. Club team-mate, Nico Viljoen, who was partnered by Tukkie representative Greiling Viljoen, finished second overall in the championships.

Wits baseball tops

The first team Wits Baseball side, back in the top league for 1987, had a good win on Sunday at the Wanderers in the opening of the Transvaal League, winning 10-7.

Although early season rustiness showed in stages, the enormous potential of the team was evident and clearly the new look Wits team has the potential to go all the way.

The second team also had a good victory, destroying Hornets in the 10th frame to run out worthy winners by 11-5. Solid pitching by S van der Berg for the first side and G Lazarus and I van den Berg for the second side were the key to the exciting victories.

The Wits Baseball Club is based at Frankenwald and comprises two teams, one in the top league and the other in the third league. New student members, even those without any baseball experience are welcome to attend practices on Wednesday evenings at 18h00 in the Main Arena on the West Campus and at 14h00 on Saturdays at Frankenwald.

Canoe Club victor

Stuart Newlands about to score against Jeppe

A good performance in the South African K2 Championships on the Umzimkulu River saw Mark Perrow and Neil Evans end up as the first student pairing to finish. Club team-mate, Nico Viljoen, who was partnered by Tukkie representative Greiling Viljoen, finished second overall in the championships.

Wits baseball tops

The first team Wits Baseball side, back in the top league for 1987, had a good win on Sunday at the Wanderers in the opening of the Transvaal League, winning 10-7.

Although early season rustiness showed in stages, the enormous potential of the team was evident and clearly the new look Wits team has the potential to go all the way.

The second team also had a good victory, destroying Hornets in the 10th frame to run out worthy winners by 11-5. Solid pitching by S van der Berg for the first side and G Lazarus and I van den Berg for the second side were the key to the exciting victories.

The Wits Baseball Club is based at Frankenwald and comprises two teams, one in the top league and the other in the third league. New student members, even those without any baseball experience are welcome to attend practices on Wednesday evenings at 18h00 in the Main Arena on the West Campus and at 14h00 on Saturdays at Frankenwald.
In 1968, the first pedal car race at Wits was won by an enterprising team of engineers who built their car with materials worth R200, including second hand gears, brakes and wheels.

Today, some of the cars which will take part in the pedal car races on Saturday will cost over R5 000 to build.

The computer designed cars will negotiate a hair-raising one kilometre long track on west campus. Over 30 teams from universities and technikons countrywide, will enter cars which travel at 35 kilometres per hour on the flat, and reach speeds of 70 kilometres per hour downhill.

Wits, however, may not even compete in this spectacular event. If they do, the Wits team will only take part in the 'social' category. This is because a number of Wits engineers are not happy about the competition which marks this modern-day event. Nor are they crazy about the hi-tech cars which are largely commercially designed and built. Yet they are bound in terms of their membership of the National Engineering Society, to organise a race at Wits.

The engineers complain that some of the Afrikaans campuses "take what should be a festive event, insanely serious and they get their cars built by engineering firms."

"Another person who is not entirely enthusiastic about the competitiveness and seriousness which marks the event these days, is Mr Bruce Dickson, a senior member of admin. He was a member of the Wits winning team in 1968. If our car had done today's speeds, it would have fallen apart," he exclaimed.

Mr Dickson explained that the event began in Durban in 1967 after a group of students had seen a similar race in the USA.

Taking pedal car racing "insanely seriously"

One event which Wits, however, may not even compete in this spectacular event. If they do, the Wits team will only take part in the 'social' category. This is because a number of Wits engineers are not happy about the competition which marks this modern-day event. Nor are they crazy about the hi-tech cars which are largely commercially designed and built. Yet they are bound in terms of their membership of the National Engineering Society, to organise a race at Wits.

The engineers complain that some of the Afrikaans campuses "take what should be a festive event, insanely serious and they get their cars built by engineering firms."

Another person who is not entirely enthusiastic about the competitiveness and seriousness which marks the event these days, is Mr Bruce Dickson, a senior member of admin. He was a member of the Wits winning team in 1968. If our car had done today's speeds, it would have fallen apart," he exclaimed.

Mr Dickson explained that the event began in Durban in 1967 after a group of students had seen a similar race in the USA.

Taking pedal car racing "insanely seriously"

"The first intervarsity was held the next year at Wits, between UCT, Natal, Tukkies and Wits and we won. The prize was a case of Witsfield beer - you don't get it here anymore. Then the next event was held in Natal a couple of weeks later - we ran the car on beer," he said.

"That was what it was all about in those days, a good time. Sure, we tried to win, but today it's so serious. Then we had very little sponsorship and thus no outside pressure to perform."

Mr Dickson shook his head when describing last year's event as "so serious" but according to an engineering student, last year's race was a "little less competitive, and more fun" than the previous few.

Mr Dickson continued: "All the cars were completely home designed and home built. Boy, did we scrounge around. I remember, one of the guy's old man had a step ladder manufacturing business and that helped. The first car wasn't much more than a U-shaped pipe with wheels welded on - I mean, they were really crude. Each year, you would get one or two bummers - a little faster than the milkcart. I think we won because our car broke down less than others," he laughed.

Mr Dickson continued, 'the races were really big event - which, remember, was little over a third of today's and far more homogenous. It was a great spirit at the race, large part of campus got involved.'

"Predominantly engineers part, because we were the ones who would build the cars. There's a natural competitive atmosphere really worked to the extreme, there was a great spirit at the race, and the cars were really big event - which, remember, was little over a third of today's and far more homogenous. It was a great spirit at the race, large part of campus got involved."

"There's a natural competitive atmosphere really worked to the extreme, there was a great spirit at the race, large part of campus got involved."

"Predominantly engineers part, because we were the ones who would build the cars. There's a natural competitive atmosphere really worked to the extreme, there was a great spirit at the race, large part of campus got involved."

"There's a natural competitive atmosphere really worked to the extreme, there was a great spirit at the race, large part of campus got involved."

"There's a natural competitive atmosphere really worked to the extreme, there was a great spirit at the race, large part of campus got involved."
UDF: Minority elections meaningless to majority

Recently Wits Student interviewed Mohammed Valli, acting National General Secretary of the UDF. The meeting was conducted very differently to those previously conducted for our "White Elections page."

Valli - as he calls himself - had just been released from detention and the interview, conducted in secret after tortuous arrangements, was a far cry from that held in Wynand Malan's chic campaign office or the one with Van Zyl Slabbert in a plush hotel foyer.

Valli was detained on January 12th while driving through town. His lawyers claimed that the reasons given for his detention (that he was a member of the Transvaal Indian Congress Executive and had called for the release of Nelson Mandela) were inadequate. (In fact, he isn't even a member of the TIC executive). The Supreme Court ruled in favour of his lawyer's claims.

He was involved in the Durban branch of SASO (South African Students Organisation) until its banning during the clamp-down in 1977. Valli continued to actively oppose apartheid, playing an important role in the formation of the TIC and in August 1983 he was elected to the UDF National Executive.

in the 1960's. Today, if we look at the way in which UDF affiliates and COSATU operate, carrying out the mandates of their membership, the fears and prejudices about blacks' ability to involve themselves in democratic practices should be out forward.

"Parliament is nothing but a showcase"

W.S.: Many whites feel that they must use their vote in the best possible way. Is this enough?

Valli: The central question which whites have to face up to is abandoning apartheid. Voting for the PFP does not mean this will happen. It is in the name of the white minority that the state is continuing with an undemocratic system. Hence whites have an obligation to dissociate themselves from this system - abandon the sinking ship!

W.S.: What impact can a white student make with the pace of politics being defined by people in the townships and the factories?

Valli: Whites need to become part of the 'liberation movement'. This doesn't mean they should engage in the exact same activities as people in townships and factories - one's participation should be appropriate to the environment in which one finds oneself. At this point, white democracy needs to dedicate themselves to countering state propaganda about what is happening in the townships. They must challenge the myths surrounding what organisations

W.S.: How does NUSAS fit into all of this?

Valli: NUSAS' role is very important because the membership of NUSAS are the very people who will potentially play an important role in servicing the apartheid machinery. They are getting an education which will make them future decision makers - for instance, management in factories. Also, many of them will be conscripted into the SADF and become unquestioning servants of this unjust regime.

The students on your campus are also people who have come out of 12 years of systematic brain washing. NUSAS has the historical responsibility of equipping students with the ability to see through what the government is saying. Their task is to make white students realize that democracy and votes for all are factors in their long term interests. White students need to understand that for them the choice is not between shooting their way out on the one hand and leaving the country on the other - they have an absolutely vital role in joining others in building peace and creating a new society.

"Abandon the sinking ship"

Those who proposed a federal system have not themselves been able to say how it will work in this country. We can't help but be suspicious of any strategy that balkanises the country because historically, apartheid has meant that the wealth of the country has been restricted to certain pockets. A federal system is a devious means by which the privileged would ensure that the wealth of the country is not shared.

W.S.: How do you see the future?

Valli: Perhaps the only thing I can say is that we've reached a point where millions of people are participating actively in the struggle to create a new South Africa. This is unleashing a tremendous amount of creativity. Every detail of the future is not mapped out - it is not our task to impose a system.

W.S.: Do you have a message for students?

Valli: Simply that the white youth needs to remember that P W Botha relies on them as much as Huter relied on the German youth