

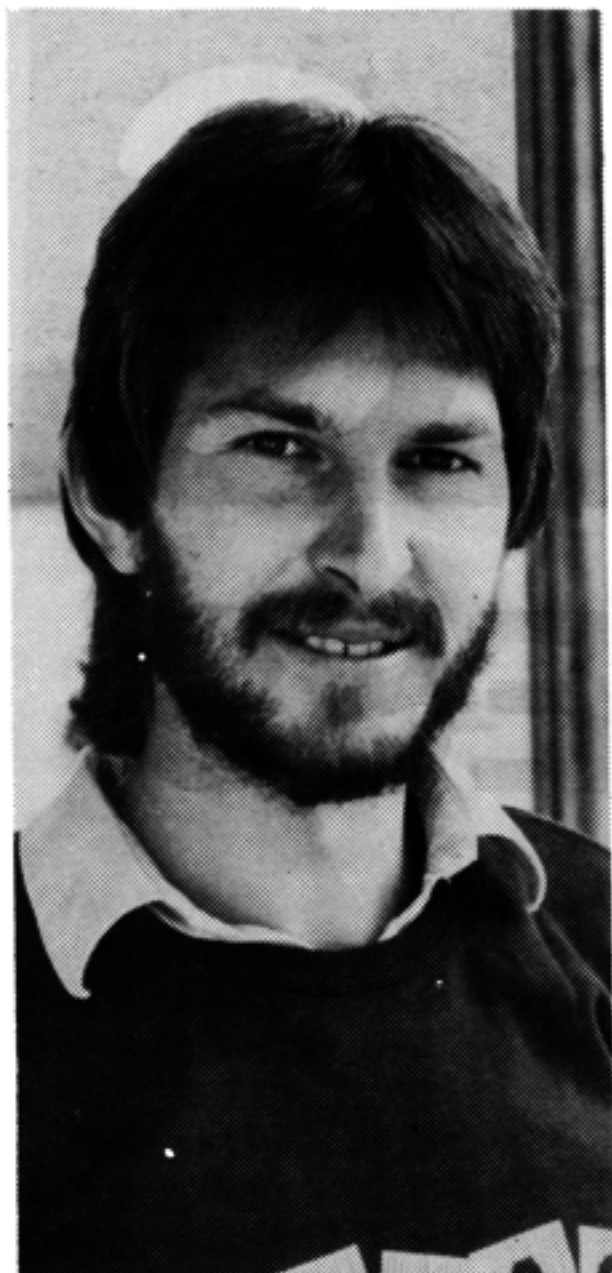
NUSSAS

61st CONGRESS

28 Nov - 1 Dec

WITS 1983

Welcome



Brendan Barry

WELCOMING MESSAGE

Welcome to Wits and the 61st Nusas National Congress! The 1983 theme 'Educating for Change' has developed through a year of exciting and diverse student activity.

The year began with the 'Campus News' smear and further right-wing attention was directed at student organisations during the referenda at Rhodes and Pietermaritzburg. Throughout the year, significant gains were made by NUSAS in both the educational and political spheres. At the same time, the formation of the United Democratic Front substantially altered the national political scene.

We approach Congress with more questions asked, more challenges posed as a result of the 1983 experience.

The challenge of this Congress is to formulate the answer and direction that will make 1984 a successful year for NUSAS.



Kate Philip

A few things worth knowing

REGISTRATION

Registration will take place in the Students Union Foyer on Monday afternoon from 2pm — 5pm. Delegates will receive a folder with information, meal tickets etc.

COST

Wits delegates and any other delegates not staying residence will be required to pay a R10,00 registration fee, to be paid at registration.

All delegates are encouraged to stay in res and to eat meals in the canteen, as this facilitates discussion and social interaction between campuses.

Delegates staying in res will be required to pay R40,00 all inclusive — to be paid to their SRC Projects Officer and *not* to Head Office on registering.

Late registration will take place every day during morning tea break in the BOX THEATRE FOYER.

NAME CARDS

This is your free ticket to the cocktail party, movies, tea etc. It is also

important to help people to get to know each other, so please wear it at all times, until the end of Congress.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation will be in Sunnyside Residence (Women) and College House (Men). Visitors to Sunnyside Res must be out by 12.00pm. Delegates staying in res will be able to get in at any time during the night, provided the security guard has their name. Delegates staying in res will be required to pay a R2,00 deposit for their key at registration.

MEALS

- Delegates in res will be issued with a full set of meal tickets on registration.
- Other delegates can buy a set of tickets at *registration* or individual tickets at *morning tea*.
- Tea and coffee will be served free during morning and afternoon breaks, in the Box Theatre foyer.
- Meals will be served in the Student Union Canteen.

PUB AND ENTERTAINMENT

• Every evening, after the last NSA session, there will be music and a pub in the *Box Theatre Foyer*. Beer, wine and soft drinks will be on sale. Tickets must be bought.

• On Thursday night, delegates are encouraged to go to the JODAC 'Rock for a Reason' concert at the Selbourne Hall, *after* the end of the evening session. Tickets cost R4,00 and the money will go to the Ciskei.

BOOKSHOP

The bookshop will be run in the Box Theatre Foyer during afternoon breaks. Books from 'Open Books' and 'De Jongs', as well as publications, periodicals and T-shirts will be on sale.

Times: Tuesday 2.30 to 4.30; Wednesday 4.00 to 5.30; other times to be announced.

Hässles: Speak to any of the head office members — Ruth, Janet, Giulles, Ian or Kate — or to Garth Klein or Sue Albertyn.

Congress from A to Z

WHAT IS CONGRESS?

Congress is a meeting of students from all centres within NUSAS, at which policy and projects for the forthcoming years are decided.

It is an important event, providing the basis for national coherence of student action in South Africa within a continually reassessed framework of past performance and future possibilities.

REPORTS

After the formal opening, the first working session of National Student Assembly (NSA), at which all delegates meet together, is devoted to the tabling and consideration of reports on the year's activity.

These include reports from:

NUSAS Head Office, Centre reports (from each campus), Directive reports, SASTS reports.

These reports are not tabled simply 'for the record'. They serve a necessary function in providing, collectively, an indication of NUSAS' current situation, strengths, weaknesses, successes, failures. In these terms the reports provide the information for assessment of the effectiveness or otherwise of the previous year's activities, direction and implementation.

DELEGATION MEETINGS

A fair amount of time is made available for delegates from any one centre to meet together. These meetings provide an invaluable opportunity for delegates to receive informal reports on the progress made thus far in committees on which they do sit. This serves two functions:

- Delegates can stay in touch with developments in all of Congress proceedings and not merely their own committees.

- It provides a very necessary feedback from one committee to another via individuals from different committees.

Delegation meetings also provide the opportunity for developments to be related to individual campus projects and for motions etc., to be informally discussed before they are brought before NSA. This helps to avoid repetitive and wandering debate on the Congress floor.

NATIONAL STUDENT ASSEMBLY

NSA is the supreme decision-making body of NUSAS. It is here that NUSAS policy and programmes are formally decided. Formal rules of debate apply and all debate is centred around a motion.

Broadly speaking, motions would be one of three types:

- Tabling of a report, which is then discussed.
- A committee recommendation.
- A 'private' motion.

All of them are finally resolved by moving to a vote. Voting delegates are 9 SRC members from each of the affiliated campuses. All delegates however, have the right to speak and are encouraged to do so.

The standing rules which govern debate will be distributed at Congress. Please ensure that you familiarise yourself with these.

Delegates should avoid proposing time-consuming motions which cannot reasonably be expected to contribute positively to NUSAS' operation and/or sphere of influence.

The draft programme is flexible enough to be changed according to need. The Steering Committee which meets regularly, stays in touch with progress in committees, delegations, etc. and the programme is modified continuously in terms of this. The Steering Committee presents the programme for each day at an NSA session which begins that Congress day.

An absolutely essential factor in a smooth running and productive congress is the strict observing of times of meetings — whatever they may be. There is nothing more frustrating than sitting around after agreed starting times while delegates drift in, others drift out to seek drifters and so on. It is a relatively short Congress, there is much work to be done, and the task is an urgent one.



Scenes from our previous attractions

Committees, Directives and Interest Groups

COMMITTEES

Committee sessions are the most vital aspect of Congress proceedings. It is here that policy for the new year is formulated through democratic discussion. Delegates from each campus assess the past year's activities, share ideas, tackle problems and work out a clear direction and programme for the coming year. They then draw up a report which is tabled and debated in NSA before being amended and rejected or adopted. A group in a committee can also present a minority report to NSA.

Delegates are required to choose which committees they would like to attend at the first delegation meeting. If there are any other suggestions for committees, these should be raised at the beginning of Congress, and will be incorporated into the programme if enough people are interested.

Delegates can choose one committee from Group 1, which will sit for 2 sessions; one committee from Group 2, which will sit for 2 sessions; and one committee from Group 3, which will sit once. There will also be Directive Sessions and Interest Group Sessions, which will run separately.

GROUP 1

2 SESSIONS

Political Action
Faculty Councils
Media

GROUP 2

2 SESSIONS

Political Education
Student Services
Relationships with other Groups

GROUP 3

1 SESSION

Orientation Week
Student Representation
End to Conscription
Admissions and Subsidy

GROUP 4 : DIRECTIVES

Labour
Women
Law
Health

GROUP 1:

POLITICAL ACTION

Session 1:

- (a) Review general political trends in South Africa and establish how the student movement relates to these.
- (b) Evaluate the NUSAS theme, 'Educating for Change', in terms of activity on the campuses, looking both at
 - (i) action around education related issues (eg Quota Bill campaign) and
 - (ii) action around broader political issues (eg Anti-Constitution campaign).

Session 2:

- (c) Discuss NUSAS direction for 1984 with reference to:
 - (i) broad political developments;
 - (ii) overcoming weaknesses of this year;
 - (iii) questions of strategy and organisation.

Faculty Councils

Session 1:

- (a) Discuss the role and importance of faculty councils.
- (b) Discuss the relationship between faculty councils and SRC's on the campuses and the role of Edcomms.
- (c) Discuss staff-student liaison and student representation in faculty boards.
- (d) Discuss faculty councils in specific faculties, eg medicine, engineering, science, architecture, and some of the problems in involving students in these faculties.

Session 2:

- (e) discuss practical ideas and suggestions for faculty council organisation in 1984.
- (f) Discuss the idea of a National Faculty Council, publication and a National Faculty Council Conference for 1984.
- (g) discuss guidelines for class representatives.
- (h) Discuss media for faculty councils in general and for Orientation Weeks in particular.

MEDIA

Session 1:

- (a) Discuss the importance and role of media in building organisation and communicating ideas.
- (b) Discuss NUSAS' relationship to

SASPU and their respective roles in relation to media.

- (c) Discuss media skills training.

SESSION 2:

- (a) Discuss practical ways in which media can be used creatively, looking at:
 - different media forms and techniques;
 - the use of drama, art, singing etc;
 - the use of radio and music.

GROUP 2:

POLITICAL EDUCATION

Session 1:

- (a) Discuss different methods of education, viz:
 - (i) seminars
 - (ii) publications;
 - (iii) lecture programmes;
- (b) Discuss innovative methods of education, eg workshops, films, simulation games etc.

Session 2:

- (c) Assess the effectivity during 1983 of:
 - (i) seminars, with specific reference to the merits/demerits of campus-directed seminars; organisationally specific seminars; and inter-organisational seminars;
 - (ii) publications.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER GROUPS:

Evaluate, with specific reference to support and resources where applicable:

1. Black students organisations.
2. Community organisations.
3. Women's organisations.
4. Labour organisations.
5. Academics.
6. Liberal groups ie Black Sash, SAIRR, Women for Peace.
7. Religious groups.
8. Afrikaans students.
9. Schools.
10. Commercial press.
11. Organisations such as DPSC/Descom; TAG and other resource groups.
12. Conscientious Objector Support Groups.

STUDENT SERVICES:

Session 1:

- (a) Discuss the importance of student services.

ORIENTATION WEEK: GROUP 3:

- (a) Discuss general role and importance of Orientation Week.
- (b) Discuss NUSAS profile and new ways of introducing students to NUSAS.
- (c) Discuss what political context should be given in Orientation Week, and how.

STUDENT REPRESENTATION:

- (a) Assess student representation on university structures on each campus.
- (b) Assess how students have organised around questions of representation etc, during 1983.
- (c) Discuss the potential for organising in the university, with particular reference to:
 - (i) student representation on administrative committees, faculty boards, senate etc.;
 - (ii) staff selection;
 - (iii) course structure and content.

END TO CONSCRIPTION:

- (a) Discuss the Black Sash/COSG call for an end to conscription, and the potential for taking this up on campus in 1984.

ADMISSION AND SUBSIDY:

- (a) Discuss the proposed subsidy formula for universities, and the tightening up of admissions criteria, in terms of:
 - (i) their broad implications;
 - (ii) how the issue could be taken up on campus in 1984.

DIRECTIVE SESSIONS

Students who have been active in Women's Directive and Labour Directive are encouraged to attend the sessions, as they will involve practical assessment of 1983, and plans for 1984.

Other students interested in these areas are encouraged to attend the Interest Group Sessions On Feminism and Labour.

All students interested in working in the faculty — specific directives (Law and Health) are encouraged to attend these sessions, whether or not they were involved in the Directive during 1983.

LAW DIRECTIVE

- (a) Assess the functioning of the Directive in 1983.
- (b) Discuss the viability of directive structures existing on each campus.

- (c) Discuss the role of a National Directive Structure.
- (d) Discuss the relationship of the directive to faculty councils.
- (e) Discuss the co-ordination of resources nationally.
- (f) Discuss publication and media:
 - (i) for the faculty;
 - (ii) for broader campus.

HEALTH DIRECTIVE

- (a) Assess the functioning for the Directive in 1983.
- (b) Discuss the viability of directive structures existing on each campus.
- (c) Discuss the role of a national directive structure.
- (d) Discuss the relationship of the directive to faculty councils.
- (e) Discuss the co-ordination of resources nationally.
- (f) Discuss publications and media.
 - (i) for the faculty;
 - (ii) for broader campus.



WOMEN'S DIRECTIVE

- (a) Assess Women's Movements during 1983, with specific reference to:
 - (i) the role of women's movements;
 - (ii) the image and presence of women's movements and of feminism on campus;
 - (iii) questions of democracy and education within women's movements;
 - (iv) reaching different constituencies, especially women in residence.
- (b) Assess the role of Women's Directive during 1983, with specific reference to:
 - (i) co-ordination of resources nationally;
 - (ii) the role of national co-ordinator;
 - (iii) national gatherings;
- (c) Discuss plans and directions of the Women's Directive for 1984.

LABOUR DIRECTIVE

- (a) Assess the activities of Wages Comms/ERC during 1983.
- (b) Assess the role of the Labour Directive during 1983, with specific reference to:
 - (i) co-ordination of resources nationally;
 - (ii) the role of national co-ordinator;
 - (iii) national gatherings ie, the July Workshop.
- (c) Discuss ways of raising labour issues.
 - (i) on campus;
 - (ii) within Wages Comm/ERC;
 - (iii) in other student organisations;
- (d) Discuss plans for 1984, with specific reference to:
 - (i) projects;
 - (ii) recruitment;
 - (iii) education programmes.
- (e) Discuss the position of smaller campuses vis-a-vis labour issues.
- (f) examine the relationship between Wages Comm/ERC and unions/community groups.
- (g) Elect national and regional co-ordinators.

OTHER COMMITTEES

Structures and Finance

This committee will meet twice during Congress.

The committee is composed of:

The NUSAS President and Secretary General, SRC Presidents and other who may be appointed by Congress.

- (a) To decide on the NUSAS Budget 1984 and affiliation fees.
- (b) To act on recommendations made by other committees as regards the structure of NUSAS.
- (c) To discuss constitutional changes.
- (d) To discuss job definitions of Head Office staff.
- (e) To discuss FONS and fund-raising.
- (f) Other.

THEME COMMITTEE

This committee meets on the final day of Congress and consists of:

The SRC Presidents, The SRC Projects Officers, NUSAS Head Office and the Chairperson of each Congress Committee.

1. To discuss the type of theme needed for NUSAS in 1984.

2. To discuss the recommendations that have emerged from the Congress committees and the ideas and political trends that should be incorporated in the theme.

3. To make recommendations to NSA to serve as the NUSAS theme for 1984.

Interest Groups — Speakers

INTEREST GROUPS:

LABOUR

The development and dynamics of the labour movement have been significant in the past few years, and have concrete implications for all progressive organisations. This interest group will attempt to formulate an understanding of contemporary developments. The relation between the student movement and the labour movement in general will be examined; how labour issues can be raised on campus, how students can support labour struggles, and the changing role of Wages Comms/ERC's will be examined.

FEMINISM

This interest group will outline the meaning and significance of feminism and its role in the broader struggle, and will focus in on feminism in the student movement.

RELIGION:

The politics of religion in South African society today will be examined. In particular, the role of the Church and some of the controversy surrounding its role will be examined, as well as the place of other religious organisations in the process of change.

POST UNIVERSITY INVOLVEMENT:

This session will look at the different areas of involvement 'off-campus'. These include resource and research groups, organisations of professionals and academics, and political organisation.

NAMIBIA:

This session will attempt to provide an understanding of the contemporary situation in Namibia. It will look briefly

at the historical developments there, and the relationship between South African and Namibia; it will also look at the different political groupings in Namibia, and at international pressure and opinion with regard to the Namibian situation.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS:

This interest group will focus on current events in other Third World countries, attempting to situate these in the context of imperialism and political/economic developments in the major Western powers.

MILITARISATION:

This interest group will look at the militarisation of different aspects of South African society — the economy, education, ideology etc. It will examine the role of the SADF, and the different ways in which South Africans are affected by, and repond to, the military.

Profiles of the presidents

NUSAS since '76

A panel of five NUSAS presidents since 1976 will address Congress on the development and role of NUSAS in this period. For the first time in many years, all of these five are able to sit together on a public platform, unrestricted by banning orders and detentions. The five

are: Nicholas 'Fink' Haysom NUSAS President 1976/77.

Fink is now working for the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at Wits, and has just published a report, 'Ruling with Whip', on recent events in the Ciskei. He was banned in March 1983 for 2 years, and unbanned in July this year.

Auret van Heerden, NUSAS President 1978/9. He was detained in September 1981 and kept for 10 months before being released in July 1982. He is presently involved in JODAC, and works for CRIC (Community Research and Information Centre).

Andrew Boraine, NUSAS President 1980/81.

Andrew was re-elected president at the end of 1980, and led NUSAS through the stormy 'Anti-Republic Day Campaign', until he was banned in 1981 for 5 years. He was unbanned in July this year, and was elected onto the UDF National Executive, and onto the UDF (Western Cape Region) Executive as Treasurer.

Jonty Joffe became Acting President of NUSAS when Andrew was banned in 1981, and was re-elected as President for 1982. He is now studying law at Wits and is involved in JODAC.

Kate Philip was elected as NUSAS President for 1983, the third woman president in NUSAS' 59-year history. Prior to her election, she was involved in a number of student organisations over a four year period, serving on the UCT SRC as Projects Officer and Vice-President (External).



From the office of the president . . .

General Programme

Monday 28 November 1983

2.00-5.30 pm 5.00 pm	Registration Delegation Meetings	Students Union Foyer Wits: Wits Student Office UCT: Box Theatre Foyer Durban: Aggett Room Pmb: SCA Room Rhodes: ID MacCrone Room GR Bozzoli Pavilion
5.30 pm	Cocktail Party hosted by Prof D J du Plessis Vice-Chancellor of Wits	
7.30 pm	Opening Addresses Kate Philip, NUSAS President Oscar Mpetha, UDF National President	Congress Hall
9.00 pm	Bar opens	Box Theatre Foyer

Tuesday 29 November 1983

7.30-8.15 am 8.30-10.30 am 10.20-11.00 am 11.00-12.30 am 12.30-1.30 pm 2.00-3.30 pm	Breakfast NSA Tea NSA Lunch Directive Committee Sessions	Students Union Canteen Congress Hall Box Theatre Foyer
3.30-4.00 pm 4.00-6.00 pm 6.00-7.00 pm 7.15-8.00 pm 8.00 pm	Structure and Finance Committee Tea 'NUSAS since '76' Supper Delegation Meetings "Situating the UDF" 'Terror' Lekhota, UDF National Publicity Secretary Video: UDF National Launch Pub opens	Labour: SS4 Women: SS5 Law: SS7 Health: SS8 Mandela Room Congress Hall As above Congress Hall
10.00 pm		SS2 Box Theatre Foyer

Wednesday 30 November 1983

7.30-8.15 am 8.30-10.30 am 10.30-11.00 am 11.00-12.30 am	Breakfast NSA Tea 1st Session Group I Committees	Political Action: SS4 (+7) Faculty Councils: SS5 (+8) Media: I D MacCrone Room
12.30-1.30 am 2.00-3.30 pm	Lunch 2nd Session Group Committees	As above
3.30-4.00 pm 4.00-6.00 pm	Tea Bookshop Interest Groups Supper	Box Theatre Foyer Venues to be announced
6.00-7.00 pm 7.15-8.00 pm 8.00 pm 10.00 pm	Delegation Meetings 'Organising Women' Bar opens	As above

Thursday 1 December

7.30-8.15 am	Breakfast	Political Education SS4
8.30-10.30 am	NSA 1st Session Group 2 Committees	Political Education SS4 Student Serv. ID MacCrone Other Groups SS5
10.30-11.00 am	Tea	
11.00-12.30 am	2nd Session Group 2 Committees	As above
12.30-1.30	Lunch	
2.00-3.30	Break Structure and Finance Committee	Mandela Room
3.30-4.00 pm	Tea	
4.00-6.00 pm	Groups 3 and 4	Orientation Week: Aggett Rm End to Conscription SS5 Admissions and Subsidy SS8
6.00-7.00 pm	Supper	
7.15-8.00 pm	Delegation Meetings	
8.00 pm	'The Labour Movement Today: Achievements and Potential' Eddie Webster JODAC Concert	Congress Hall Selborne Hall

Friday 2 December

7.30-8.15 am	Breakfast	
8.30-10.30 am	NSA	
10.30-11.00 am	Tea	
11.00-12.30 am	NSA	
12.30-1.30	Lunch	
2.00-3.30 pm	Interest Groups	Venues to be announced
4.00-6.00 pm	NSA	
6.00-7.00 pm	Supper	
7.15-8.00 pm	Delegation Meetings "White Democrats — The Extra- Parliamentary Alternative" — Tony Karon	
10.00 pm	Bar opens	Box Theatre Foyer

Saturday 3 December 1983

7.30-8.15 am	Breakfast	
8.30-10.30	Theme Committee Break	I D MacCrone Room
10.30-11.00 am	Tea	
11.00-12.30 am	NSA	
12.30-1.30 pm	Lunch	
2.00-3.30 pm	NSA	
3.30-4.00	Tea	
4.00-6.00 pm	NSA	
6.00-8.00 pm	Supper Break	
8.00 pm	NSA Theme Committee Report Motions Closing Address Election of Office Bearers Afterwards Bar opens	

Congress '83 speakers

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS:

BEYERS NAUDÉ

Dr C F Beyers Naudé, NUSAS Honorary President, was invited to give the opening address at our 61st Congress. Dr Naudé has been banned since 1977, and has been refused permission to accept our invitation. Dr Naudé will continue to be a source of strength and inspiration to the student movement.

Oscar Mpetha

Oscar Mpetha is one of the UDF's three National Presidents. A highly respected trade union and community leader in the Western Cape, Oscar has a proud history of dedication to the non-racial democratic struggle, and has suffered much for his commitment.



Oscar was a founder of the African Food and Canning Workers' Union in the 1940's, and in 1951 became its General Secretary. In the same year, he joined the ANC and was elected President of its Cape Town branch in 1958.

The AFCWU became an affiliate of the South African Congress of Trade Unions, which was formed in 1955, and was part of the Congress alliance.

Oscar Mpetha was banned first in 1954, and again in 1959, and was detained in 1960 in the State of Emergency after Sharpeville.

Oscar continued to be seen as a leader of his community, and was involved in founding the Nyanga Residents' Association. In 1978 he rejoined the Food and Canning Workers' Union as an organiser. In 1980, during a period of intense mobilisation around the bus boycott, the red meat boycott and the schools boycotts, violence erupted in Nyanga East. Oscar Mpetha was arrested and tried along with seventeen youths. Despite his age and ill health, Oscar was refused bail and spent nearly three years in jail in one of the longest political trials in South African history.

Although evidence was minimal, Mpetha was found guilty under the Terrorism Act, and was sentenced to five years in prison. He was released on bail, and addressed the launching of the UDF (Western Cape). Because of his ill health, Oscar was unable to attend the UDF National Launch in August, where he was elected National President along with Archie Gumede and Albertina Sisulu. However, he has been able to address a number of UDF meetings since then. Banning, detention, trial and intimidation have not deterred Oscar Mpetha's commitment to building a non-racial and democratic South Africa. He is determined to see freedom in his lifetime. NUSAS is honoured to have Oscar opening our 61st National Congress.

Eddie Webster

Dr Webster is a senior lecturer in the Department of Sociology at Wits, and is co-ordinator of the Industrial Sociology Programme. He has done research into a range of labour-related areas, and is involved in worker education projects. He is an honorary vice-president of NUSAS, and has consistently been supportive of progressive students. He is a former editor of the South African Labour Bulletin.

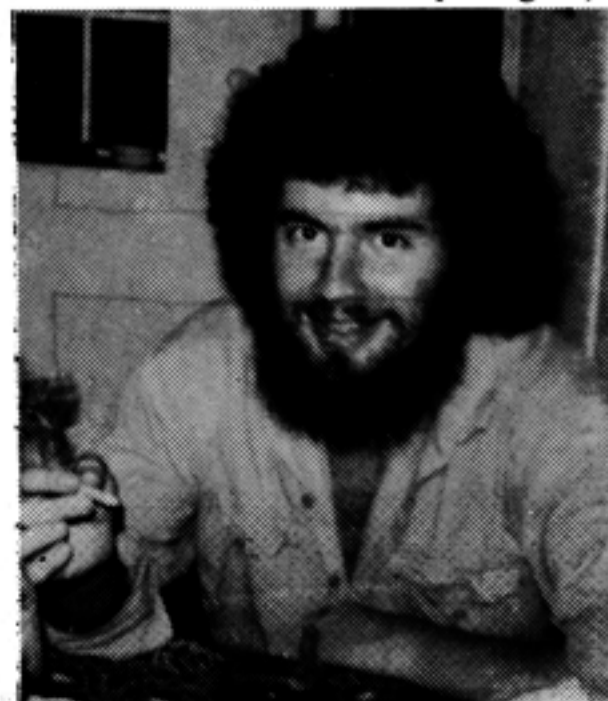
'Terror' Lekhota

Patrick 'Terror' Lekhota is National Publicity Secretary of the United Democratic Front. A former member of the Turfloop SRC and permanent organiser for SASO (South African Students Organisation), he was detained in 1974, and later sentenced to six years imprisonment in the SASO/BPC trial. Released from Robben Island earlier this year, he is committed to the principle of non-racialism and democracy which the UDF upholds.

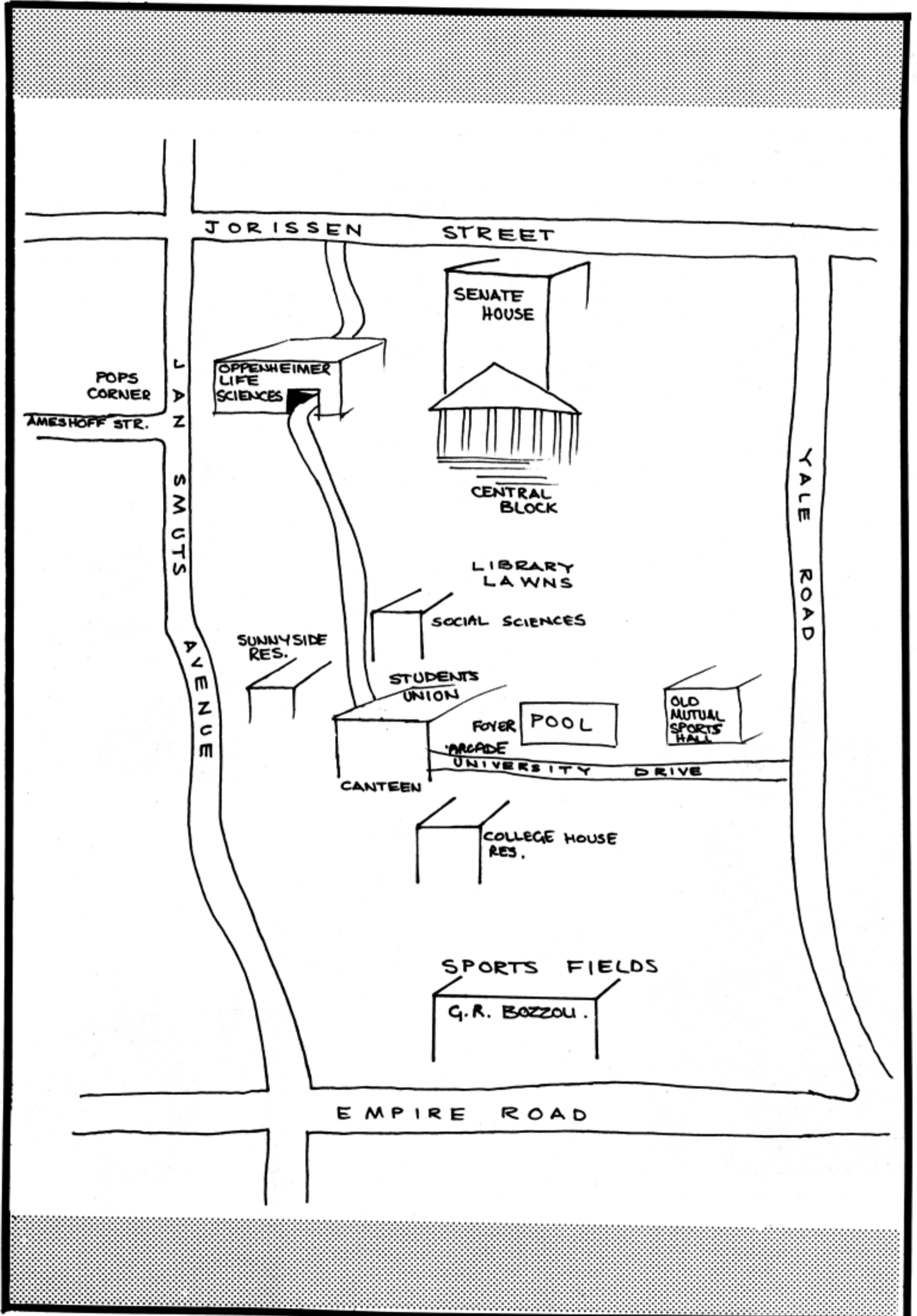


Tony Karon

Tony is a Masters student and tutor in Economics History at UCT. He was involved in the student movement for three years, being a member of the Arts Students Council and of Students for Social Democracy. He has been involved this year in the Observatory Area Committee of the United Democratic Front (Western Cape Region).



Campus



The Golden City:

Huge monopolies, low wages

JO'BURG — EARLY HISTORY

Jo'burg is the political and industrial heart of South Africa. But it is only since World War II that secondary industry has developed. Prior to that, the gold mining industry reigned supreme. Gold mining was the base on which the South African economy was built. It created the system of labour control as we know it today. Through forcing peasants to become wage-earners, a vast pool of cheap migrant labour was created. Today, Jo'burg industry has the mining management to thank for the creation of the conditions for the development of industry.

The discovery of gold in the Witwatersrand in 1886 marked the beginning of the rapid industrialisation of the South African economy. Like all industrial revolutions, it transformed all existing ways of life. A unique set of social relations developed around the needs of mining capital.

After the initial discovery of gold, the ore was found to be low grade and requiring deep-level mining.

These factors meant that large-scale mining operations were necessary. This required the outlay of capital beyond the reach of small claim holders, and resulted in the growth of huge monopolies at an early stage. As the gold price was set outside of South Africa, the industry was forced to rely on the extensive use of cheap labour, in order to maintain high profits.

The available labour was insufficient for the expanding industry, and most blacks were peasants, producing for their own subsistence in the rural areas. The earliest attempts to change this situation were the introduction of taxes which had to be paid in cash — eg hut, poll and labour taxes. This forced many peasants to leave the land and seek work in the cities in order to pay these taxes. However, taxation did not displace enough blacks, and in 1913 the Land Act was passed, which gave 13% of the land to 70% of the population. The majority of the black population were dispossessed, and forced to work either in white farms or in the cities and on the mines.

In order to control the influx of people into the Witwatersrand, pass laws were introduced and strictly enforced — first by mine-managers, who needed to control workers who



On the Mines . . .

broke their contracts; and later by the State, when the urban working-class became an increasing threat to stability.

The compound system, (adapted from the diamond mines in Kimberley) was implemented to house workers on the mines. This was used to control workers, as well as to depress wages as workers were fed and housed on the mining premises, while their families were meant to subsist in the reserves.

However, land in the reserves became increasingly overcrowded and unable to support those who lived there. Despite mass starvation and poverty in the reserves, mine owners continued to pay extremely low wages to their black workers.

The compound system also placed workers in a position where they could

be controlled and disciplined by management. Workers were separated along tribal or ethnic lines, causing faction fighting and inhibiting the formation of trade-unions. This ethnicity was reinforced by the tribal 'homelands' created by the 1913 Land Act.

Thus, the gold mining industry effectively created a working class reliant on wages to survive. In order to control this vast population of workers, the State and management developed the pass and compound systems. These systems destroyed black family life and subsistence economy, and helped to cut costs, keep wages low and profits high.

This basic system has been refined, but still exists today to maintain high profits and control workers in Jo'burg, and in South Africa as a whole.



Political trial in Johannesburg.

Johannesburg:

Years of resistance

Looking at the history of Johannesburg it is clear that people's resistance to State oppression can be traced back to the beginning of the century, and has been marked both in frequency and intensity throughout the years until the present day.

The year 1912 saw the first meeting of the South African National Native Congress (which later became known as the African National Congress). However, it was only in 1919, in Johannesburg, that the ANC made its first serious attempt to fight the pass laws by means of passive resistance. The 1920's saw the growth of the Industrial Commercial Union as well as the Communist Party of South Africa (CPSA). The ICU was rapidly to grow into the largest union in South African history, but equally rapidly lost support in the early 1930's. During the depression years many working class people voiced their dissatisfaction, one of these occasions being in 1933 when black and white employed workers demonstrated thought Johannesburg.

The war years led to an increase in

dissatisfaction with conditions and this was expressed through the bus boycotts in Alexandra and riots in Sophiatown. Dissatisfaction was climaxed in the 60,000 mine worker strike of 1946. The SACP and ANC were instrumental in organising this massive strike. The coming to power of the Nationalist Party in 1948 and the subsequent systemisation of apartheid, resulted in a decade of mass resistance.

The 1950's saw what was perhaps an unprecedented era of mass mobilisation among progressive people in South Africa. The suppression of Communism Act in 1950 led to the disbandonment of the SACP which had a strong base in Johannesburg.

In 1954 resistance to the system of Bantu education took the form of class boycotts and an attempt was made to set up independent schools. This was frustrated by police interference and intimidation. The highlight of the Defiance Campaign was the Congress of the People which took place in June 1955 in a Coloured suburb of Johannes-

burg, Kliptown.

There were 3 000 delegates while many other supporters attended as well. During the two days of the Congress, the Freedom Charter, a blueprint for democracy containing the minimum demands of the people, was drawn up. Four months later 2 000 women decided to take up the principles of the Freedom Charter and marched to the Union Buildings in Pretoria in defiance of the extension of passes to African women.

This occurred again in 1956 when 20,000 women, in protest against the extension of passes, marched to the Union Buildings. The Federation of South African Women and the ANC Women's League were instrumental in organising the protest which took place on 9 August 1956. As to this day August 9 is commemorated as National Women's Day in remembrance of the protest.

A turning point in the history of national resistance was the Sharpeville crisis of 1960. On 21 March people gathered at a police station in Vereenig-

ing, in peaceful protest against having to carry passes.

The police reacted violently — 69 people were shot dead and many others were injured. A state of emergency was declared. The ANC and PAC were subsequently banned. Mass detentions took place during the next two years, SACTU was forced underground and the Congress of Democrats was banned in 1962. In July 1963 police raided a house in Rivonia, a remote suburb of Johannesburg and detained 17 people. The Rivonia Trial lasted until 1964 when 8 of the accused, including Nelson Mandela, were sentenced to life imprisonment.

The intense repression of the early 1960's caused a lull in mass political resistance for the next decade. However, in 1973 the Durban workers' strike caused the resurgence of mass political activity. Three years later, in 1976 school children began a protest against the use of Afrikaans in their education. This was brutally crushed by State machinery which resulted in the development of massive resistance which spread throughout the country. In October of 1977 the state banned 19 organisations and continued to play an active role in suppressing resistance. In this year the death of Steve Biko in detention led to widespread outcry, both nationally and internationally.

The Wiehahn and Riekert Commissions of the post-Soweto period led to the recognition of trade unions and to changes in the migrant labour system. Although it could be said that the State reacted to the resistance and mass opposition of the oppressed, these 'changes' only led to more stringent control of the majority of people in South Africa. The consumer boycotts which occurred in other centres were widely supported in Johannesburg, especially of Wilson Rowntree, through the WR Support Committee. School boycotts occurred again in 1980, in support of students in the Cape. Anti-Republic Day activities in Jo'burg and elsewhere united progressive people all over South Africa. The State reacted to these activities with a massive security clampdown. The growth of the progressive movement reached a historic point in 1983, when organisations around the country opposing the new Constitution and the Koornhof Bills came together to form the United Democratic Front.

The UDF (Transvaal) has a significant base in progressive organisations in Jo'burg, such as AZASO, Alexandra Youth Congress and the Transvaal Indian Congress.

Jo'burg — Housing and control

As the mining industry developed, the need for cheap black labour increased. State legislation pushed the majority of South African people into 13% of the land. Unproductive land and overpopulation in the reserves meant that the men had to work in the mines as migrant labourers in order to provide for themselves and their families. Later they were followed by their families who lived in shanty towns on the outskirts of Johannesburg. In areas such as Sophiatown, plots of land could be owned by the people themselves. During this early period, these areas surrounding Johannesburg were not segregated and any person could own land.

In 1913 the government passed the Native Land Urban Areas Act (Urban Areas Act) which meant that all areas in Johannesburg had to be racially segregated.

The growth of secondary industry in the later 1930's and 1940's led to a massive increase in the urban population.

Even at this stage there was a lack of adequate housing, and increasingly the State used housing as a means of controlling people living in the urban areas.

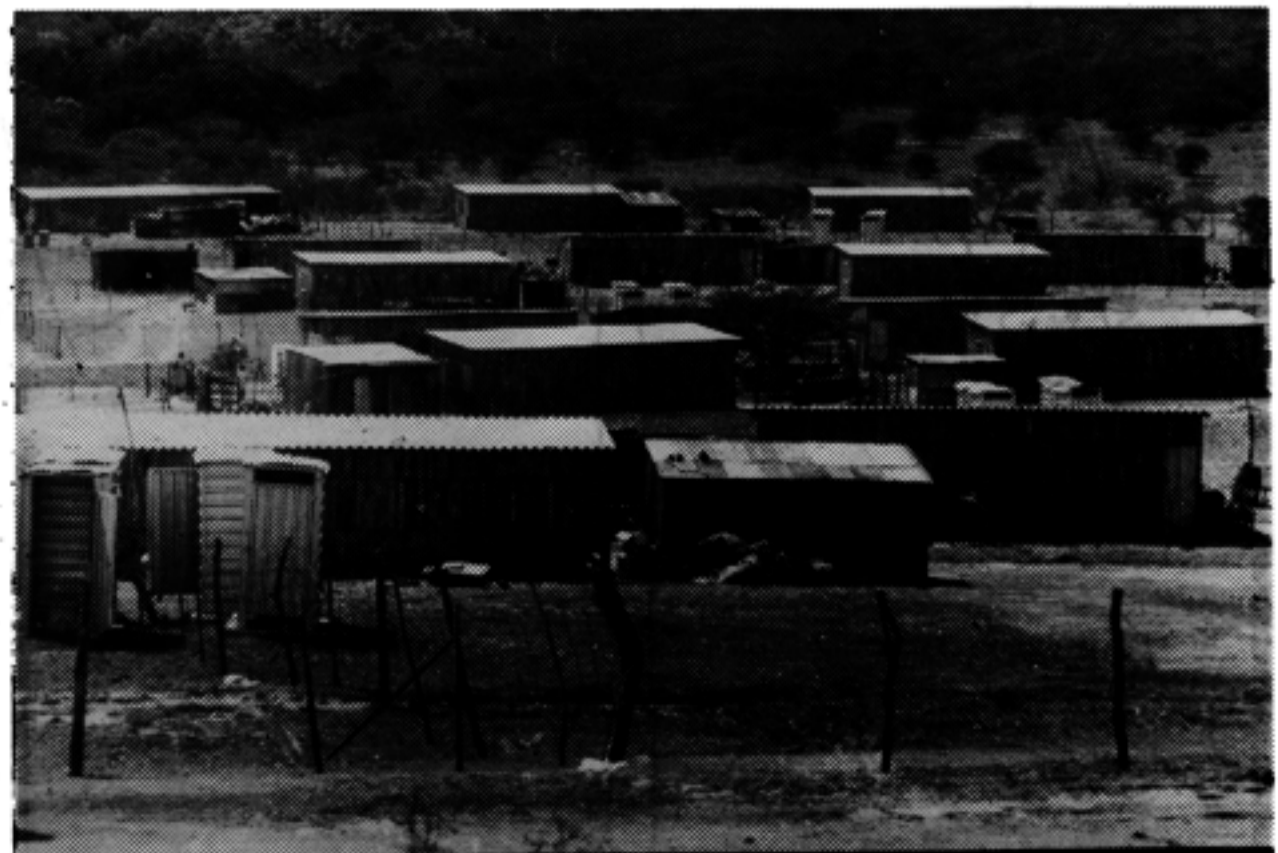
In 1933 Johannesburg was declared under the Urban Areas Act; six years later the City Council was urged to

remove all Africans from the western areas. In 1944 a resolution was passed approving movement and resettlement in Orlando and Pimville. This meant that Sophiatown become a white area and Newcastle and Martindale an Indian area.

This eventually resulted in the enforced destruction of Sophiatown, in February 1955. Thousands of people were forcefully removed and resettled in Meadowlands and Diepkloof. Sophiatown was renamed Triomf and Soweto (South Western Township) began to develop.

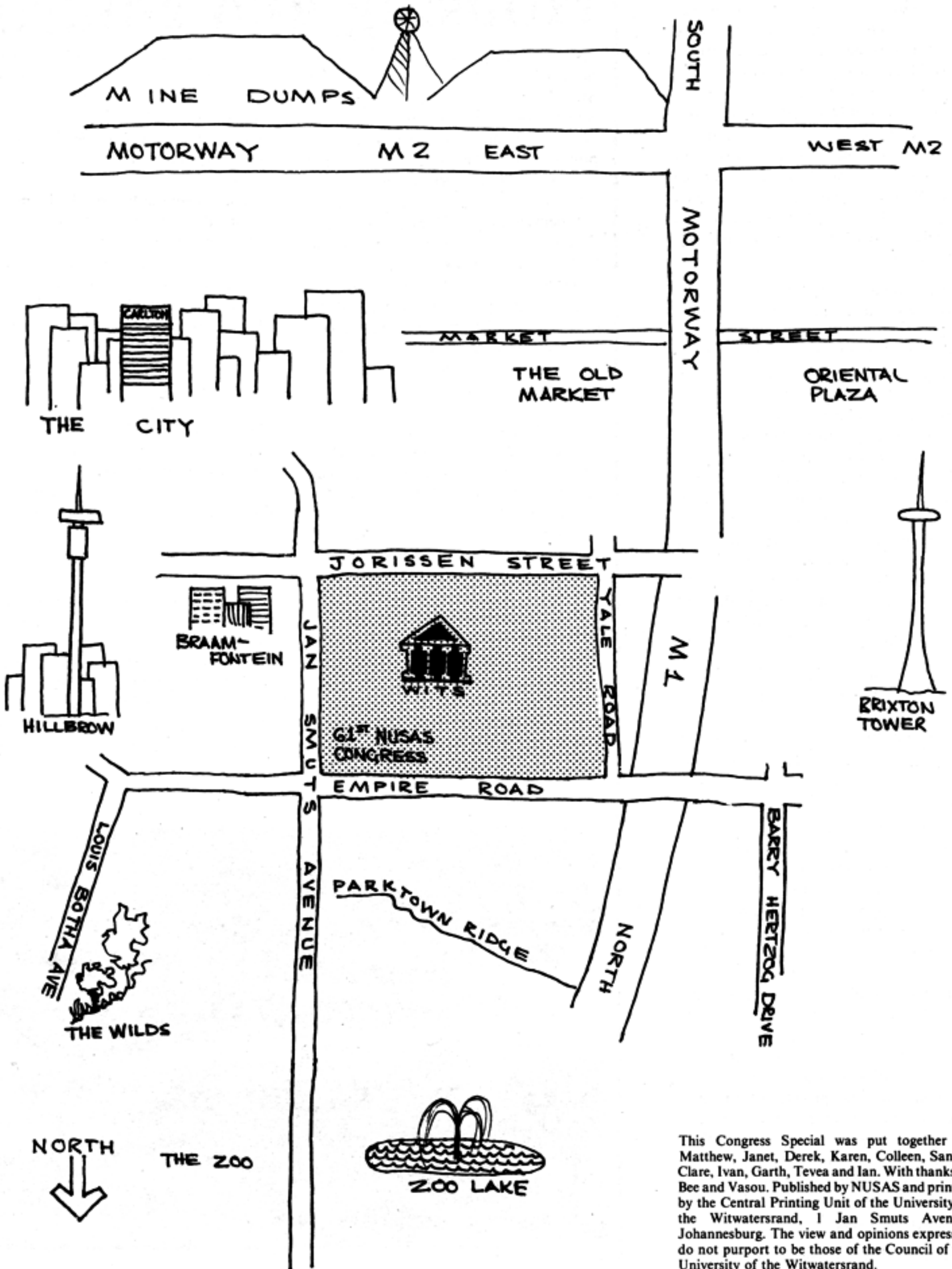
This means of control by the government has continued. Recently there was a move by the government to declare parts of Mayfair, Indian. This has resulted in wealthy Indians buying out smaller properties, for prices far in excess of their market value. People in Driefontein have also met with harassment in the government's attempt to remove these people to the areas of Kangwane and Kwazulu.

The government's attempts to forcefully remove people from their homes has continually met with opposition. The most recent example was a meeting held by the people of Driefontein, to protest against the forced removals. At this meeting Saul Mkize was brutally shot by police, when he expressed the feeling of his communities.



A resettlement camp at Kammaskraal

Johannesburg



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