

NUSAS Resumé 1981

INTRODUCTION

This is a record of some of the main events that NUSAS has initiated or been involved in during 1981. The list is not complete, but we hope it will serve to show that the National Union is alive and well.

1981 has been a turbulent year. The General Election saw Botha's government trying to legitimise its power. The State's Republic-Day celebrations evoked massive protest from most South Africans who refused to celebrate Apartheid. The Wilson-Rowntree boycott emphasised the ongoing struggle of unions to achieve democratic representation for workers.

Whilst NUSAS campuses dedicated themselves to a democratic future this year, the state cracked down, detaining and banning student leaders.

Despite these knocks, NUSAS has emerged, at the years end, stronger, and still intent on working towards democracy and freedom in South Africa.

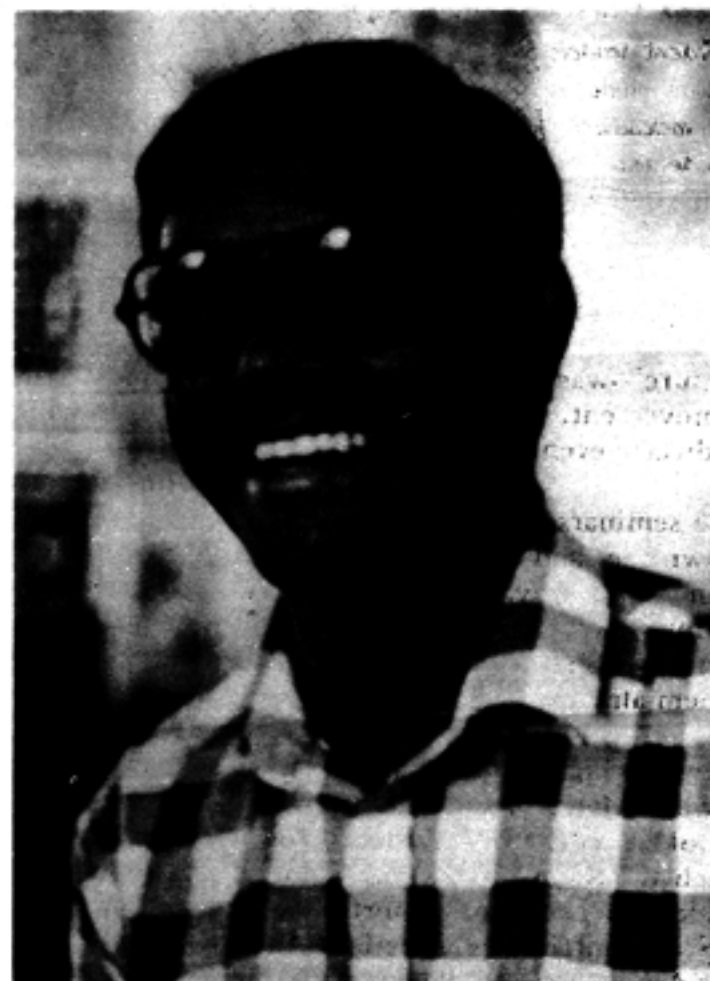


NUSAS HEAD OFFICE 1981

**Franz Krüger (Secretary General), Andrew Boraine (President)
Ingrid Obery (Media Officer)
Lisa Seftel (Projects Officer), Jonty Joffe (Research Officer and
Acting President since July)**

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On the 1st September 1981, Mog Davids had worked for NUSAS for 20 years. Mog does the NUSAS finances, the office printing, and works as a SASTS sales officer in the SASTS office on the Green Level on UCT campus.

NUSAS HONORARY PRESIDENT 1981



Beyers Naudé

Beyers Naude (banned for 5 years in October 1977)

NUSAS HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS

Guy Berger (jailed for 4 years in March 1981)
Adv. George Bizos
Dr. Alex Boraine
Prof G.R. Bozzoli
Geoff Budlender
Jacki Cock
Paul Davids
Prof. John Dugard
Sheena Duncan
Colin Gardiner
Prof. Peter Horn
Helen Joseph (banned for 2 years in July 1980)
Paddy Kearney

Sir Richard Luyt
Florence Mkize (banned for 5 years in Feb. 1981)
Curtis Nkondo (banned for 5 years in June 1980)
Charles Nupen
Paul Pretorius
Prof. Stuart Saunders
George Sewpersadh (banned for 5 years in June 1981)
Dr. Helen Suzman
Prof. Phillip Tobias
Dr. David Webster
Eddie Webster
Joanne Yawitch



above: George Sewpersadh. below: Helen Joseph. above: Florence Mkize. below: Curtis Nkondo.



NUSAS THEME

students for a democratic future



right: Zinzi Mandela spoke at mass meetings at Wits and Durban to launch the theme. She explained that the majority of South Africans believe that South Africa is a fundamentally undemocratic country where a small minority hold all political power.



top far right: Wits SRC president, Sammy Adelman addresses Wits students on the NUSAS theme.

bottom far right: Alex Boraine explained the need for all South Africans to take part in the decision making and government of our country.

middle right: Ironically, during a year when students had committed themselves to a democratic future, student leaders were banned and detained. Wits students protested against the state crackdown on both black and white students.



"Students' for a Democratic Future" was the theme that held 1981 together for the student movement. It was no mean task, for it was a year marked by very diverse events and activities.

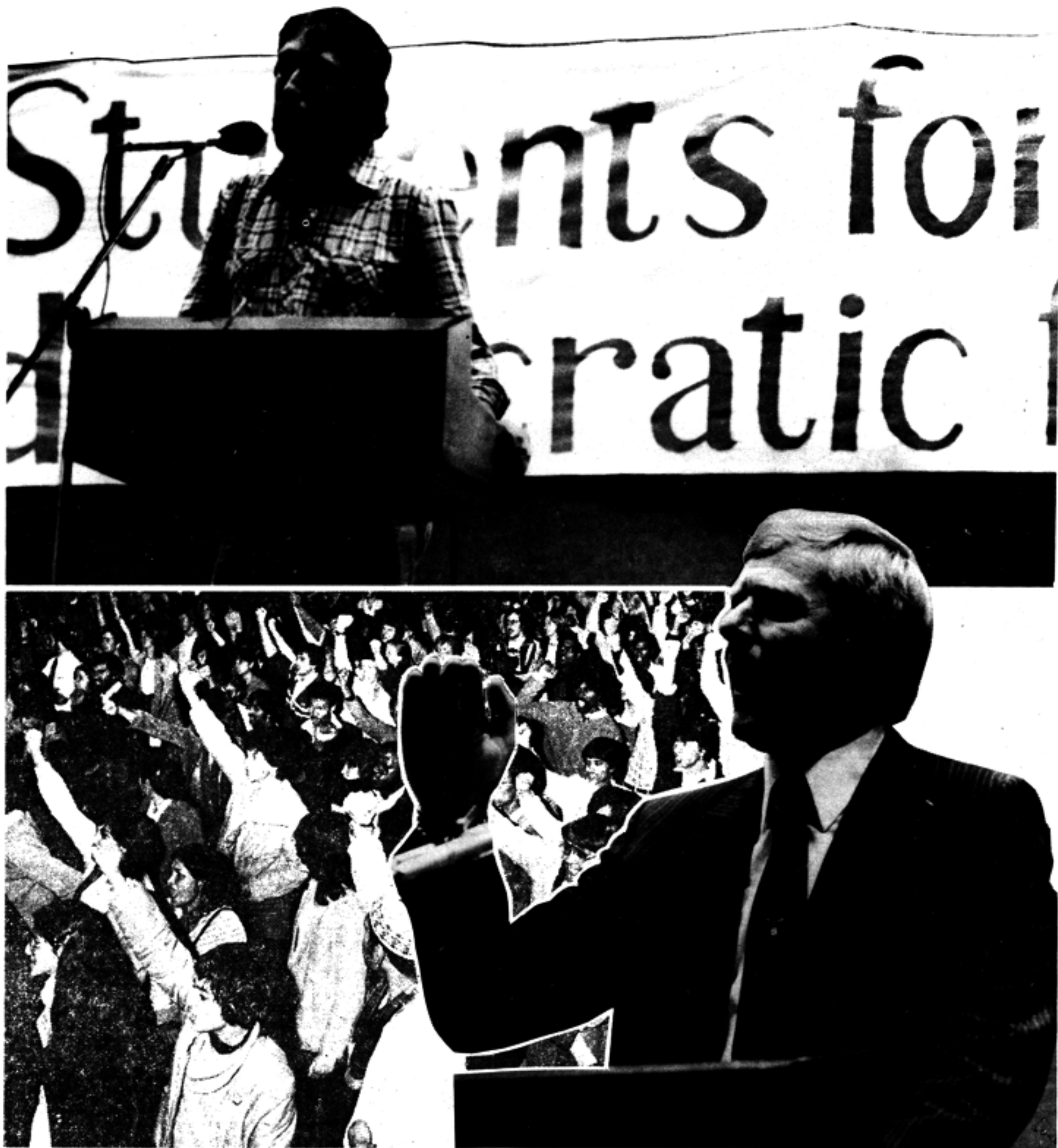
High profile protests, low profile seminars, specialised conferences; Republic Day, Wilson Rowntree and academic freedom issues: all had to be linked in some way. The strength of "Students for a Democratic Future" was its ability to provide for a wide variety of issues, activities, debates and people, and to provide a basis for the unity of them all.

Soon after the theme was launched in high profile mass meetings addressed by speakers such as Zinzi Mandela and Alex Boraine, a highly successful cartoon booklet entitled "Students for a Democratic Future" was launched. Soon after was General Election time, which also provided an excellent opportunity of taking up the theme. A number of conferences investigated the role of professionals, particularly doctors and lawyers, in the democratic future. The NUSAS July Festival, held under the

theme "Towards a South African Democracy" focussed on the ways in which people were organising for the future now.

The theme emerged during the deliberations of the 1980 Congress as an expression of the importance that the idea of "democracy" had assumed in the events of that year. Schools boycotts, the Release Mandela Campaign, and the meat strike had made it a central part of the ideological armoury of the forces of opposition in South Africa. Students felt the need to place their allegiance on record, to say that they were also "for a Democratic Future".

At the same time, it flowed logically from the themes of the previous years. Following on the consolidation which occurred with the education years between 1977 and 1979, the organisation decided to look beyond the universities during 1980. "Exposing Total Strategy" was the theme for that year, and it examined and exposed the "reforms" of the Nationalist government as little more than an attempt to entrench existing



power relationships.

The 1981 theme developed this trend by examining the anti-democratic nature of South African society. Each aspect of that South African society was scrutinised, the family, the political realm, the workplace, education: everywhere, people were shown to be subjected to the power of others. The inadequate nature of present structures made it possible, also, for students to investigate other ways in which societies had been organised to make for effective control of people over the factors which shaped their lives.

An important part of the theme has been the contrast between the status quo and the demands of the majority of South Africans. Students have been able to support these demands in various ways, and have been able to take their place in the broad democratic movement against Apartheid, which has emerged in a much clearer form this year. NUSAS has not only kept students informed of the emergence of this movement, but has actively

integrated white democratic students in it.

With the focus on the democratic organisation of the majority of South Africans against Apartheid, NUSAS has also examined its own organisation and role. Students have explored the extent to which it is possible to organise democratically in a fundamentally undemocratic society. Lessons were learned about students' possibilities and limitations in contributing to a democratic future. There has therefore been a particular emphasis to encourage as many students as possible to participate in formulating the policies and running the programmes of NUSAS.

NUSAS today is stronger than it has been for many years in its 57 year history. It has both gained support on the campuses and managed to play a significant political role. The wide appeal of "Students for a Democratic Future" has undoubtedly played a significant role in making this possible.

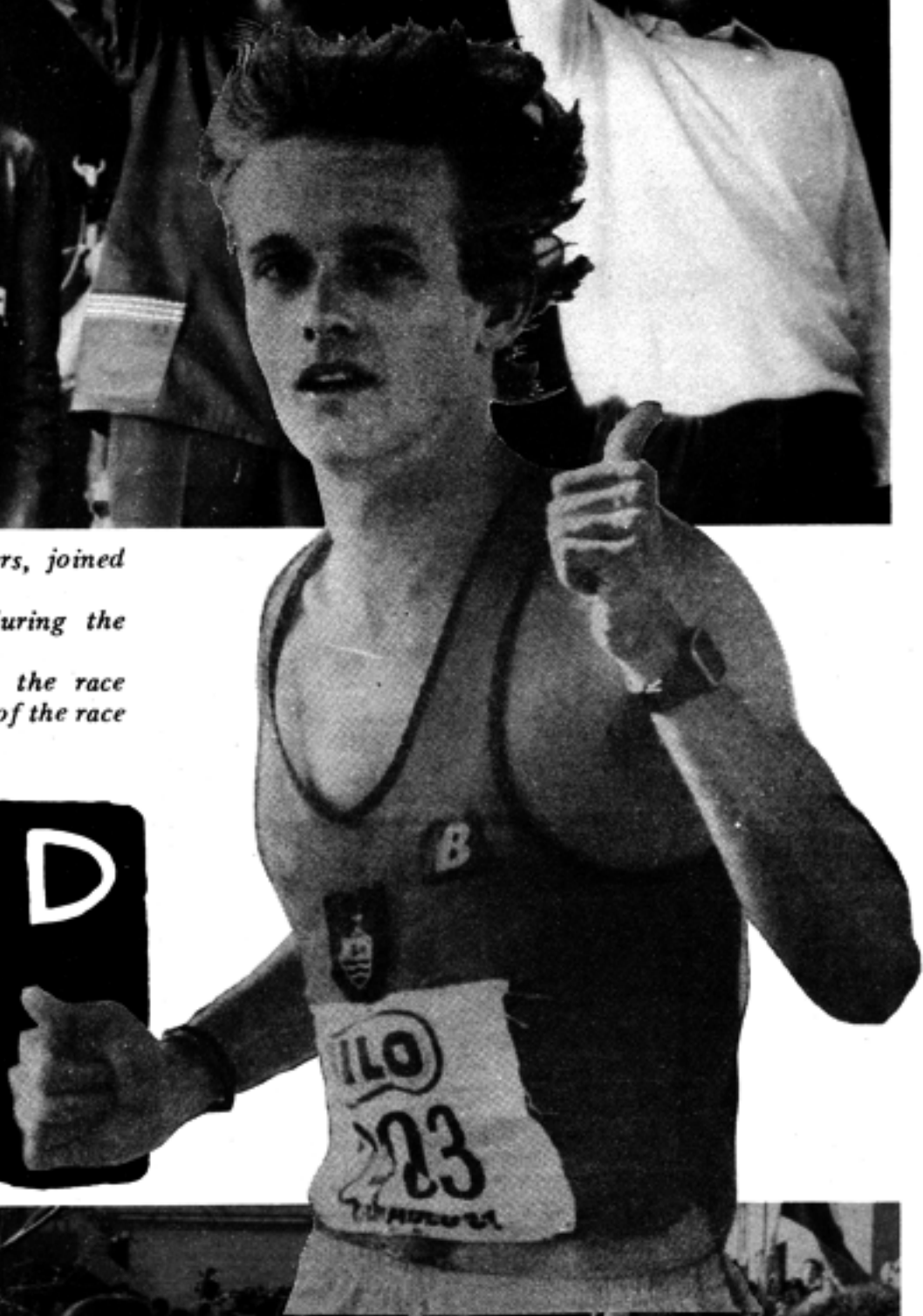


above: Student leaders, unionists and community leaders, joined together to reject the Republic-Day celebrations.

below: Camouflaged riot police invade Wits campus during the Republic-Day protests.

right: Bruce Fordyce, Comrades Marathon winner, ran the race wearing a black armband in protest against the inclusion of the race under the Republic-Day banner.

**FORWARD
TO A
PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC**



WHOSE REPUBLIC?

Little did the 1980 Congress realise what lay ahead when it decided to oppose the 1981 Republic Day festivities.

The decision was to lead to the burning of South African and Festival flags, the appearance of riot police on campus, detentions and bannings, but also to a new acceptance of the student movement by the larger non-racial movement for change.

The Natal anti-Republic Celebrations Committee said in their call to boycott: "What have people to celebrate but poverty, disease, malnutrition, oppression and exploitation. If anything, the oppression has intensified rather than decreased since the formation of the Republic." It was clear that students had to add their voice to those who were saying: No Cause to Celebrate.

In spite of numerous attempts by the state to lable the campaign as negative and destructive, the campaign was linked to a positive idea – a new South Africa, based on the principles of the Freedom Charter. "No to apartheid republic, yes to a people's republic" was the slogan that fired the imaginations of people in all parts of the country.

Huge rallies were held on all English campuses except Rhodes to protest against the celebrations. The meeting scheduled to be held at Rhodes was banned but students burned the banning order in a gesture of defiance.

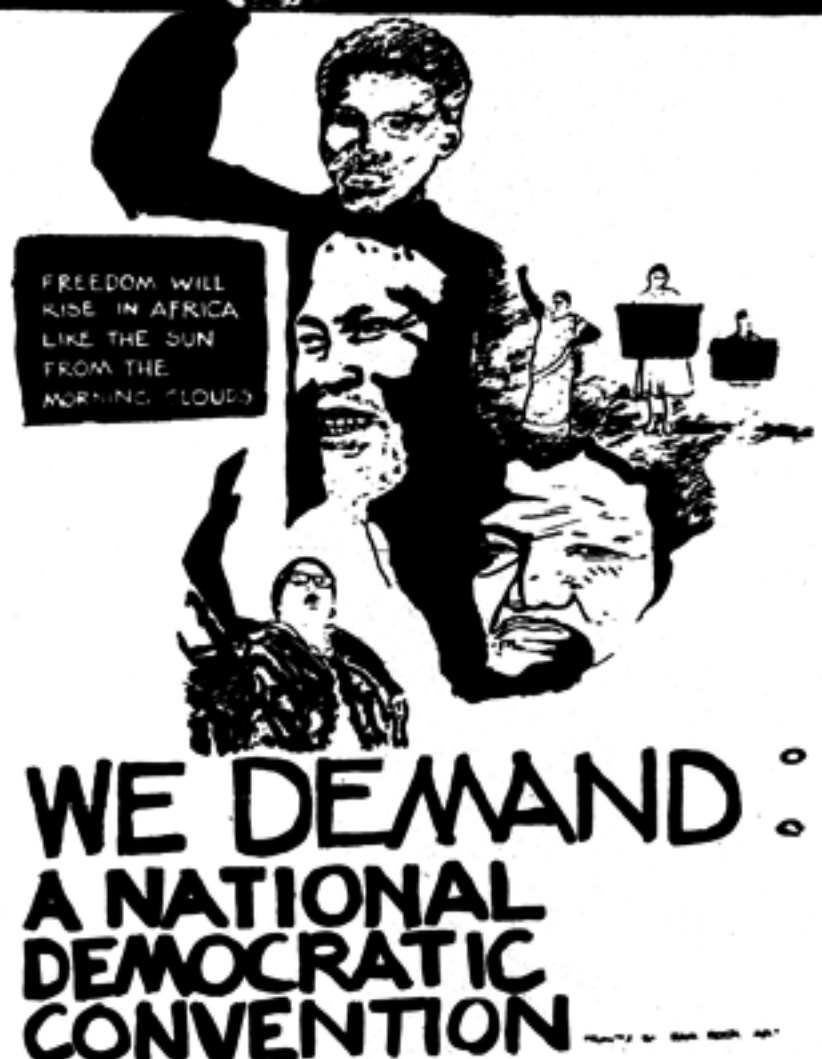
For the first time in many years, black and white student leaders shared platforms on their respective campuses. Wantu Zenzile of COSAS spoke at UCT, Alf Karriem of UDW SRC spoke at Wits and Andrew Boraine spoke at UDW. With them on stage were representatives of many of the organisations involved in the boycott: churches, trade unions, sport, community and teacher organisations.

Students actively pressurised their universities not to take part in the celebrations. UND joined the boycott, while UCT refused the authorities access to the university's sport facilities for the Festival Games.

It was at Wits that the most dramatic developments occurred when taunts by right wingers led to the flag-burning incident, so adeptly exploited by the SABC and its talented propagandist-in-chief, Chris Saunders. Campus conflict escalated, bringing the riot police of Brig. Theuns "Rooi Rus" Swanepoel onto campus. Ultimately, all cabinet ministers were barred from the campus as fears mounted that the right wing Students Moderate Alliance would invite Prof. Gerrit Viljoen, the Minister of Education, onto campus in order to provoke further incidents.

But students also carried the message about the boycott of the festivities to the broader community. Thousands of pamphlets were distributed in white schools throughout the country. Bruce Fordyce of the Wits SRC raised the issue in a powerful way when he won the Comrades marathon wearing a black armband. The armband indicated his rejection of the way in which the marathon has been linked to the festivities.

By and large, the festivities failed as a celebration of Unity in Diversity. The divisions inherent in South African society were simply far too apparent. And students were able to play a significant role in exposing the bankruptcy of the festival, and the Republic they were designed to celebrate.



PUBLICATIONS

This year NUSAS has extended the scope of its media, beyond the more formal publications.

Orientation Folder

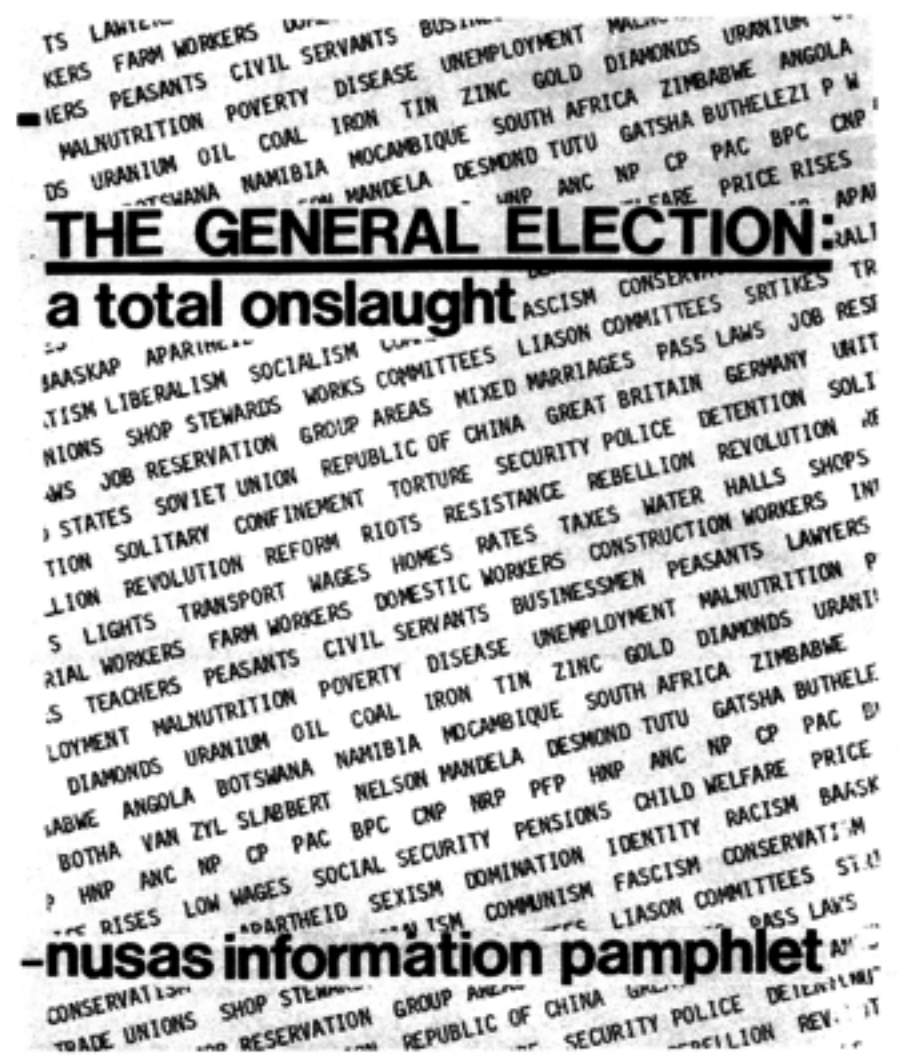
NUSAS usually produces an introductory booklet about NUSAS activities, for distribution during Orientation Week. This year, to make our contribution different from the mass of pamphlets and publications which inundate new students, NUSAS brought out an Orientation Folder. Inside were loose sheets outlining NUSAS projects and activities, the theme, interesting facts about South Africa, NUSAS structure, etc. New students also used the folder for all the other material handed out – another student service from the National Union.

STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC FUTURE

Each year NUSAS has to get the theme across to students. Often these publications remain unread because they are dull and look uninteresting. "Students for a Democratic Future" however, took a different form – and emerged as a semi-cartoon booklet, mixing text and drawings. It covered the issues of parliamentary democracy (that democracy meant more than the vote), democracy (or lack of it) in the home, the workplace, the school and the media, and also mentioned the history of opposition to this lack of democracy by communities, students and workers. It concluded with ideas about how the situation and prevailing attitudes could be changed and how students could play a part in this necessary change, both during and after their university careers.

ELECTION PAMPHLET

April 1981, and once again South Africa's white electorate was called to the polls to reaffirm its commitment to the apartheid policies of the Nationalist government. The HNP and the PFP tried to gain support on the right and left of the rulers. Their positions improved to some extent, the Nats won anyway, and



people went home happy that they had contributed to South African Democracy. The NUSAS pamphlet on the election had a different message. 1) That the Nationalists had called the election to entrench their own power and to legitmate their 'total strategy', their answer to the 'Total Onslaught' that they claimed to be fighting. 2) That voting once in 5 years is not enough – people should all participate in the decision making process that affect their lives.





REPUBLIC DAY
WHERE
DO
YOU
STAND
?

REPUBLIC DAY PAMPHLET

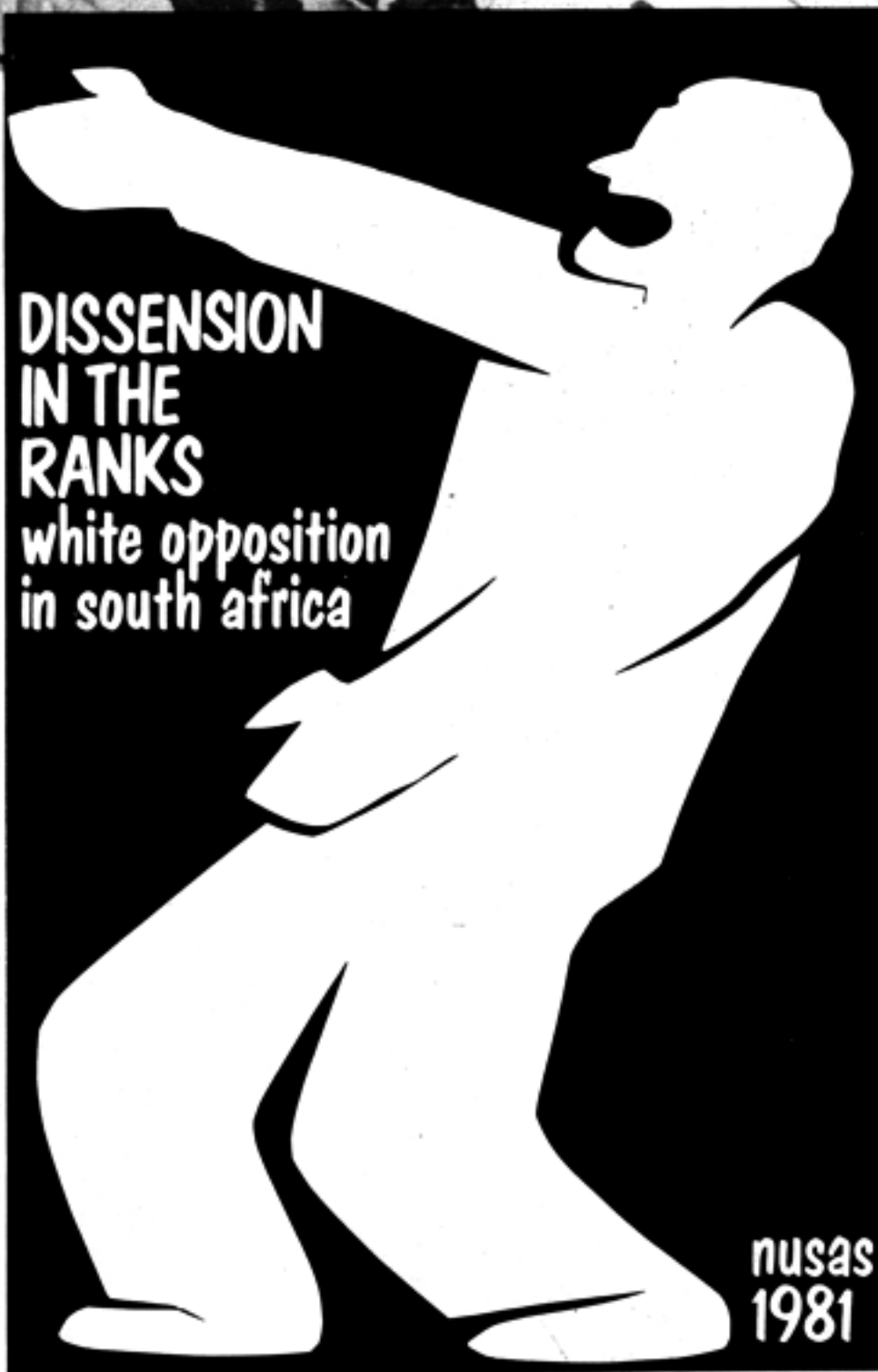
A political high point of 1981 was undoubtedly the 20th Anniversary Republic Day Celebrations and the massive anti-Republic Day Campaign waged by progressive groups throughout the country. In an attempt to counter some of the state propoganda which stressed that all South Africans should celebrate 'Unity in Diversity', NUSAS produced a pamphlet to be distributed to schools and the public. It stressed that the majority of South Africans had nothing to celebrate. That in 20 years the Republic had done little else but intensify their oppression and exploitation. The pamphlet stressed too, that the time had come for people to take sides: either the side of apartheid, subjugation and unjust laws – or the side which strove for equality and freedom, the side fighting for a truly democratic South Africa..

DISSENSION IN THE RANKS

During the political campaign of the past few years it has become clear that the struggle against apartheid is a non-racial one. Both black and white democrats have united in opposing the apartheid state. 'Dissension in the Ranks' sought to trace some of the recent history of a few white opposition groups in South Africa, commenting on the place they occupied in the struggle and what they did to aid or hinder it. It tried, too, to draw out lessons from the mistakes of the past. 'Dissension' hoped to further and facilitate the debate and understanding about the position and contribution of whites in the struggle for freedom.

WELCOME TO NUSAS

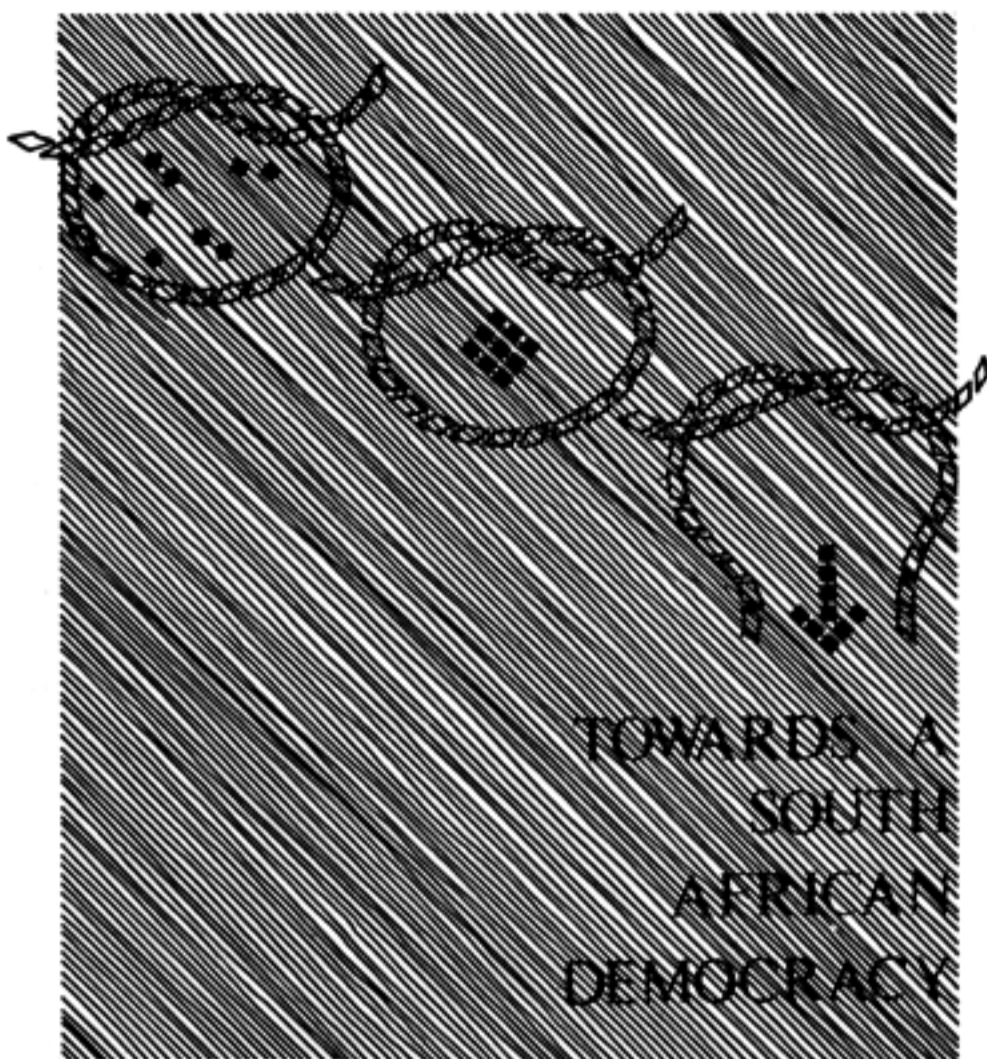
This publication did not have a very wide distribution and was essentially a second introductory booklet. It was intended for all new SRC members on affiliated SRC's and also new members of projects committees and other SRC sub-committees. It included an outline of NUSAS structure, Congress, National council, Head Office and what it does, the Directives, NUSAS projects, Fons, Sasts and so on.



DISSENSION
IN THE
RANKS
 white opposition
 in south africa

nusas
1981

NATIONAL GATHERINGS



A record number of National gatherings were arranged this year. The directives arranged a number of seminars and conferences and NUSAS Head Office has arranged the others.

CONGRESS

The annual Congress is the most important national gathering. This year it is being held in Cape Town at the end of November. About 250 delegates are expected, who will meet for five days to evaluate the past year and determine policy and direction for 1982. The President and other office-bearers are also elected at Congress.

KATBERG

Each year in April, NUSAS holds a national introductory seminar at Katberg, in the Hogsback mountains in the Eastern Cape. The four days are filled with talks, simulation games, discussions and an occasional movie. Katberg provides student leaders with an important introduction to student politics and the issues facing the student movement.

Topics such as feminism, education, history, and the role of the student movement spurred on interesting discussion and argument which continued late into the nights.

NATIONAL COUNCIL

NUSAS holds four national council meetings every year where SRC members and other student leaders get together to review



Banners from political campaigns on the campuses provided lively decoration in the conference hall at the Nusas July Festival.



A lighter moment during the Wits presentation at Katberg this year.

and update policy. This year the September meeting in Johannesburg was larger than usual. As a very active and traumatic year drew to a close, it was important to evaluate our activities thoroughly and analyse our strengths and weaknesses.

JULY FESTIVAL

When Andrew Boraine returned from his trip overseas in March, he suggested that NUSAS hold a fair in July instead of the usual conference. When in the Philippines, he had visited a fair which combined educative, fundraising and simply enjoyable activities. It was decided to hold a festival under the theme: "Towards a South African Democracy."

The programme included talks, movies, slide tape shows, seminars and workshops, which all looked at one or other aspect of a future South Africa. The activities tried to situate South Africa historically and in its international context. The focus then shifted to areas where people are organising for change today: housing, education and women. SASPU ran practical skills

workshops, teaching layout, silk screening and the drawing of cartoons. And in the evenings, people were able to relax at movies, concerts and jorls.

Some highlights from the programme were:

- * a panel discussion on the Durban rent struggle, presented by the Durban Housing Action Committee.
- * Social History tours of Durban and the surrounding areas.
- * Movies such as "To Die in Madrid".
- * A concert and sing-song with Jessica Sherman.

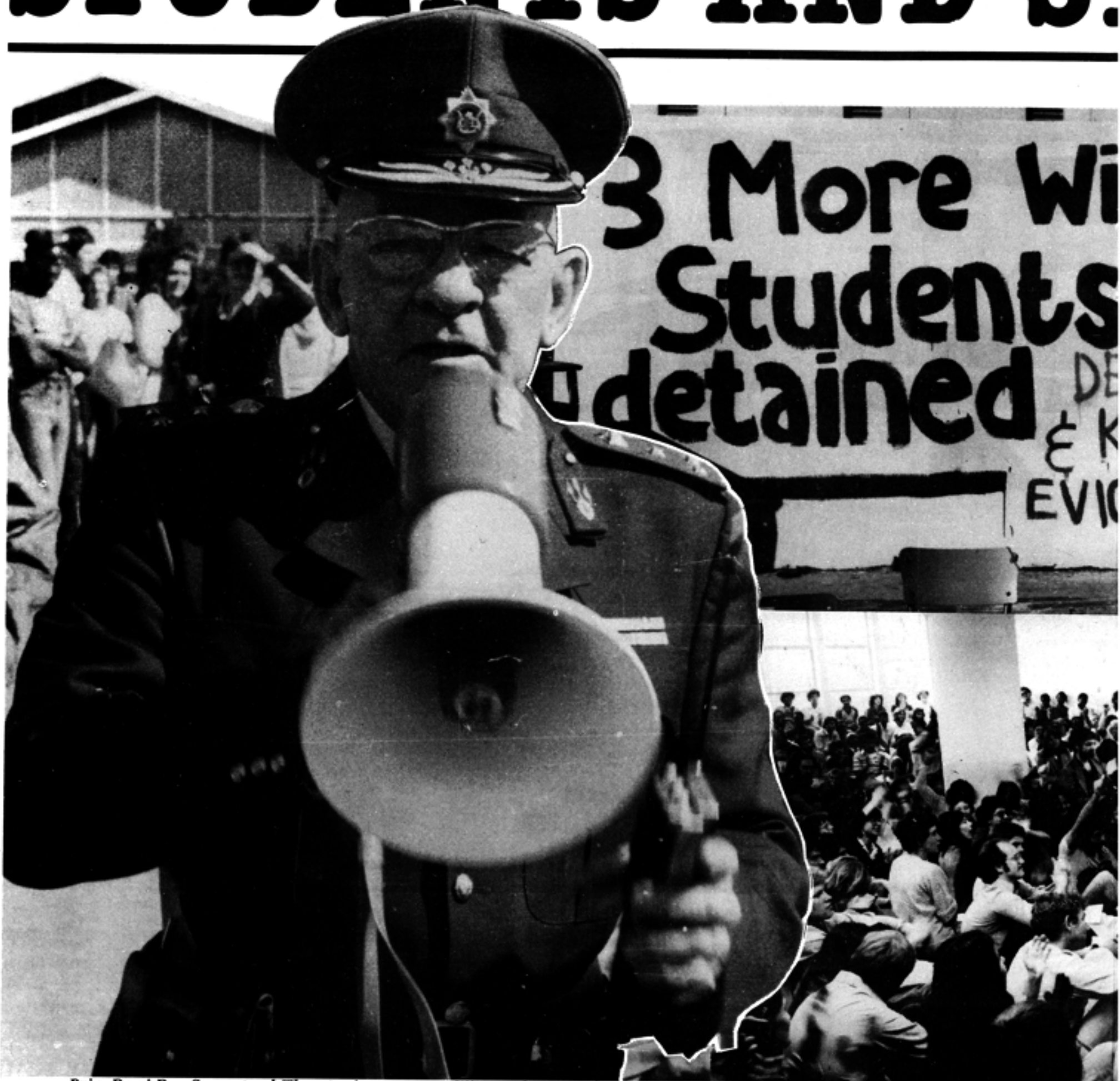
The festival was unique in many respects. For the first time in many years, students from black campuses and youth organisations attended a NUSAS event. Over the weekend, people from progressive organisations and the broader community attended.

The festival only lasted four days. As a result of its success, NUSAS plans to continue the idea in the future – but bigger and better!



Delegates take a break at the National Council meeting in Rhodes in March.

STUDENTS AND S'



Brig. Rooi Rus Swanepoel Threatening to arrest Wits students . above: 'the wall' outside wit's student union. below: Protest meeti

Participation by NUSAS in high profile campaigns such as over the Republic Day issue saw the state respond with accustomed severity.

Detentions and Bannings:

The NUSAS President, Andrew Boraine, was detained under Section 22 of the General Laws Amendment Act in Cape Town a few days before Republic Day. He was held in solitary confinement for 2 weeks, before being transferred to Section 10 of the Internal Security Act and moved to Pretoria for a further 3 weeks. On his release, he was banned for 5 years.

During this time, members of the Wits Black Students Society (BSS), including the chairperson, David Johnstone, were detained and held in solitary confinement. Two of the members of the BSS, Firoz and Azhar Chachalia, were banned for 5 years when they were released.

The fourth student to be banned was NUSAS exec member and Wits SRC President, Sammy Adelman, also for five years.

Two further Wits students, Clive van Heerden and Keith Coleman, are being held under Section 6 of the Terrorism Act. They are journalists on SASPU National, the Johannesburg based student newspaper. In addition, two former office bearers are being held under Section 6. They are 1978/79 NUSAS President Auret van Heerden and 1975 NUSAS Exec member, Cedric de Beer.

Other students held at present under Section 6 are Les Lax, Elaine Mohammed and Ben Greyling. Greyling is awaiting trial under charges of contravening the Official Secrets Act.

Trials:

In March, a Rhodes university lecturer, Guy Berger, and a student from the same university, Devon Pillay, were found guilty on

TATE REPRESSION



...ing in Jo'burg to protest against detentions and state repression. above: NUSAS Pres. Andy Boraine. below: Wits SRC Pres. Sammy Adelman.

charges of supporting a banned organisation. They were sentenced to four and two years respectively, which they are now serving. Both are at present appealing against their sentences. Two other students from Rhodes, Mike Kenyon and Chris Waters, were released during the trial after 8 months in detention.

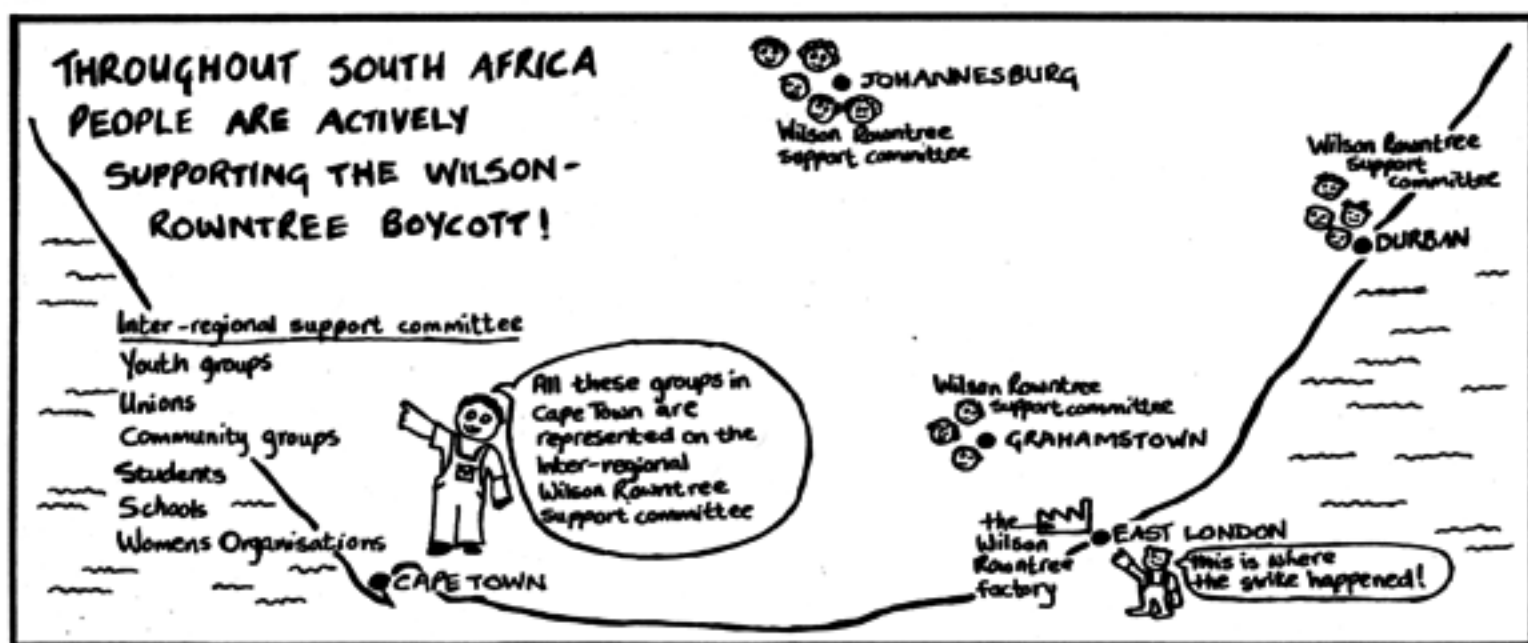
In April, a Durban magistrate found Andrew Boraine and Durban SRC President Chris Swart guilty of speaking at a political gathering on June 16th, 1980. They were cautioned and discharged.

U.C.T. student and former SRC member, Richard Wicksteed, was charged under the Official Secrets Act, but the charges were dropped when he appeared in court.

In December, 48 U.C.T. students are to face charges under the Riotous Assemblies Act. These charges relate to a picket held outside the International Meat Producers Congress in May.

Other state actions against the student movement have included:

- * the banning of a protest meeting at Rhodes University in May
- * the questioning and harrassment of many students around the country by Security Police
- * Riot Police invading Wits campus in order to break up meetings
- * repeated approaches to students to inform and spy on fellow students
- * the banning of a large number of student publications, journals and pamphlets
- * attacks by SABC and SATV which used distortion, inuendo and plain falsity to paint a picture of the student movement as a subversive and sinister group
- * threats by the Minister of Education to withdraw state funding from the universities if they did not exercise better control over students.



the WILSON ROWNTREE boycott

SUPPORT DISMISSED ROWNTREE WORKERS



AN INJURY TO ONE
IS AN INJURY TO ALL
A DISMISSAL TO ONE
IS A DISMISSAL TO ALL

The call to boycott Wilson Rowntree sweets has been taken up nationally by scholars, students, workers and community organisations. Students on NUSAS campuses, too, responded to the call and have been involved in the production of posters, pamphlets, stickers and displays.

The dispute arose when 3 workers at the Wilson Rowntree factory in East London, were fired for refusing to fix a machine. The workers said that they had been reprimanded for doing a similar job last year. They refused to do the job and were unfairly and illegally fired. The news spread throughout the factory and 500 workers downed tools in support of the three workers. All of them were dismissed.

The majority of the workers were members of the South African Allied Workers Union (SAAWU), who tried to negotiate with the Wilson Rowntree management to get all the workers reinstated. When the bosses refused this demand, the workers decided to call a boycott of all Wilson Rowntree products.

The boycott was slow in getting off the ground but clearly took its toll on Wilson Rowntree's sales figures. New skills and approaches were learned as students' interest in worker issues increased and they began to play an important support role.

In Johannesburg and Cape Town, the students formed part of Regional Support groups and were responsible for raising awareness about the issue amongst their own communities. They wrote pamphlets aimed at school children.

Newspaper coverage of the boycott has been poor. But when a group of U.C.T. students raided the cafeteria, confiscating all the Wilson Rowntree sweets on sale, the press showed renewed interest. Students have publicised the issue effectively through such actions.

WE DON'T EAT WILSON-ROWNTREES



MASS RALLY

SPEAKERS: Wantu Zinzile (COSAS)
Alf Karrim (Dbn/Westville)
Andrew Boraine (NUSAS)
Paul David (NIC)

**MONDAY 25
GREAT HALL 12.30 pm**

AZASO	Women's Federation	SAAWU
SACC	Soweto Committee of Ten	Wits SRC
Black Sash	Lenasia Community	ACSTOP
NEUSA	Race Relations	SASPU
BMWU	BSS(Wits)	AZASO
BSM	Young Christian Society	SACC

above: Poster advertising the Wits Republic Day rally.

left: Right Wing students waved South African flags and hurled racist comments at black students during the Republic-Day furore.

below: Wits SRC elections were marked as usual by extensive media



WITS

The year has been an especially dramatic one for Wits students with political activities raising enormous public interest and controversy. South Africans were shown by thousands of students that they will oppose the injustices of our society despite severe public criticism.

The Koornhof Incident catapulted Wits into the limelight. In the midst of the General Election, the pro-Nationalists, Students Moderate Alliance, invited Pict 'Promises' Koornhof, Minister of Co-operation and Development, to address campus. Because Koornhof was responsible for suppressing the call for freedom of millions of South Africans, and because he always got enormous media coverage anyway, Wits students protested by heckling and shouting him down. A huge public outcry followed and the SMA organised a petition calling for the SRC president, Sammy Adelman's resignation. But a counter petition was organised by progressive Wits academics (a group which later constituted itself as the Conference of Academics for a Democratic Society). Adelman addressed campus and students showed overwhelming support for him and the SRC. The incident may have dented Wits students image with sectors of the White public but it ultimately enhanced their standing with most South Africans and particularly black students.

During the Anti-Republic Day campaign the second major public controversy exploded. An enormous mass meeting addressed by Paul Davids (Natal Indian Congress), NUSAS President Andrew Boraine, and COSAS President, Wantu Zenzile exploded into violence in the face of provocation and blatant racism by right-wing students. South African flags were burned as a symbolic

expression of opposition to Apartheid. Despite the public outcry, 2 000 students boycotted lectures in protest against the celebrations. On the second day of the boycott the infamous Rooi Rus and 150 riot policemen invaded campus and violent confrontation was only narrowly avoided. The 'flag burning' was blown up out of all proportion by the commercial press and SATV. The Anti-Republic Day campaign did more than provide a bit of excitement – it considerably increased students awareness of social injustices.

Most activities at Wits this year were very well attended. There was an enormous meeting to launch the NUSAS theme, and meetings protesting against the detention and banning of student leaders. A torch light vigil by 200 students lining Jan Smuts Avenue in protest against the banning of SRC President, Sammy Adelman, was particularly dramatic.

NUSAS leaders ended a successful year by romping home in the SRC elections. The SMA did not feature, having failed to take up Acting President, Jeremy Clark's challenge to contest the election.

1981 saw both the rise and the fall of the Students Moderate Alliance. Under the leadership of the infamous "Crystal Brothers" the organisation did little more than alienate anyone who disagreed with their National Party dogma. Attempting to repeat the Koornhof Incident the SMA invited the Chief Minister of Gazankulu to address campus. Students responded eagerly to the SRC's call to boycott. The result? The speaker spoke to 50 students in the Great Hall.



UCT

A quiet year at UCT. The many educative programmes that have been run have left most organisations strong and well prepared for the coming year. There was the Focus on Torture, which looked at the prevalence of torture in the rural areas. Projects Comm. also brought down Hannes Smith, of the Windhoek Observer, for a Focus on Namibia and organised a vastly successful Focus on Multinationals together with the Commerce Students Council.

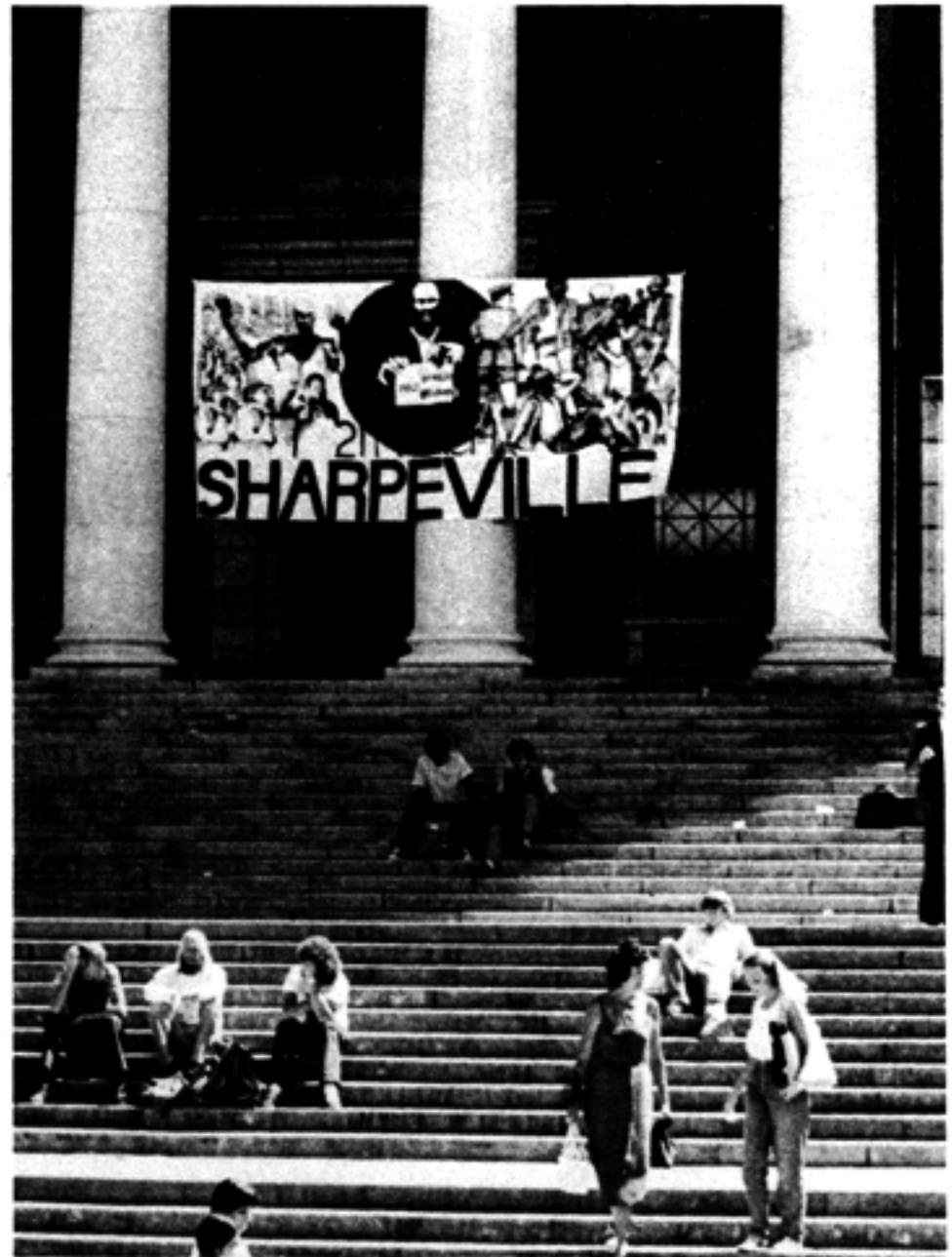
For many students at UCT, Monday afternoons has been seminar time. Up to 50 people would gather in the Resource Centre to discuss various issues, ranging from sexism to contemporary developments in El Salvador. The seminars were arranged jointly by a number of organisations, and always also provided an opportunity for people to chat informally over tea and biscuits.

In April, UCT was rocked by the exposure of yet another spy, Jerome Marshall. Marshall had been involved in UCT Radio for many years, and was well known to students as the person who adjusted the microphones at mass meetings, taped speeches, and installed (one way?) speakers in the SRC offices.

In the wake of the Republic Day period, UCT students mounted a picket outside the venue of the International Meat Conference. Its aim was to bring delegates attention to the ways in which the local meat bosses treated their workers. Posters pointed out that the conditions in the meat factories had not improved since the meat strike of 1980. Police arrived in 10 vans and arrested the 48 protesting students. Apparently the police expected a far larger protest, and were very confused that it was a protest about meat workers and NOT Republic Day. All 48 students have since been charged under the Riotous Assemblies Act.

The brutality of the apartheid system emerged with frightening clarity with the treatment of the Nyanga squatters. People were first evicted, then harrassed and arrested, had their shelters destroyed and were finally "deported" to the homelands. Students participated in the support activities that developed around the squatters, both on the material level, and by drawing attention to the issue on campus and participating in off-campus protests. Students were part of a protest meeting in St. Georges Cathedral and a march on parliament organised by other groups.

A protest of a rather different sort took place after the spate of bannings and detentions which included the banning of Andrew Boraine and Sammy Adelman. For a whole week, a solitary picketer would be posted on the roof of the Summerhouse, directly below De Waal Drive. In spite of frequent attempts by the security police to stop the protest by intimidation, confiscation of placards and constant observation, the students proved that they would "not be intimidated by state harrassment of our leaders", as the banner read.



Students, clergy, community organisations and Cape Town citizens protest against the State's treatment of the Nyanga squatters.

DURBAN

Political activity at Durban mushroomed this year. A number of well attended meetings were held: to protest against Republic Day, against the detention of Andrew Boraine and to commemorate June 16th. Issues such as the Msinga drought, the removals of St Wendolins and the rent struggle in Durban were brought to the attention of students. The SRC also played a supportative role in the rent struggle by organising a petition in support of residents call that the City Council face them at a mass meeting.

The first anti-Republic Day rally was held on Durban campus. It was organised by the Natal anti-Republic Day Committee, which included the SRC's of Durban, UDW, and Medical School and other progressive organisations. The meeting was addressed by Zinzi Mandela, Andrew Boraine and M J Naidoo. The committee also organised an alternative symposium with talks, slide tape shows and seminars on Republic Day which was held on Durban campus.

The increased amount of political activity was reflected in the greater interest aroused by the SRC elections. A strong pro-NUSAS SRC was elected into office with the highest poll that Durban has seen in years.

In September, the students of Durban and Pietermaritzburg campuses were shocked to learn that approaches had been made by the SADF to the university with a view to setting a campus military unit. The SRC's on both campuses were strongly opposed to the move, arguing that the autonomy of the university would be severely impaired. They said also that the introduction of military systems of authority onto campus would affect relationships between students and between students and staff. The Principal, Prof. Clarens, rejected the proposal in the light of student opposition, but students were left with the strong feeling that similar approaches could easily be made again and should be guarded against.



Zinzi Mandela addresses student at a mass meeting in Durban.

Women's issues were taken up with a great deal of energy by the revitalised Women's Movement this year. A regular seminar programme was run and stickers and T-shirts were printed. The WM has also been planning and pressurising for a creche for students and staff. The SRC has now created a new portfolio, Women's Co-ordinator, to raise awareness of women's issues, to look into the high incidence of campus rape and to liaise with other women's organisations in Natal.



RHODES

Celebration in almost all centres greeted the news that Rhodes had rejoined the National Union on the 29th July after 5 years out in the cold.

In March the NUSAS Local Comm had called for a referendum. A pro-affiliate comm. was soon formed but despite an extended deadline nobody formed an anti-comm. As there was apparently no opposition to affiliation the SRC decided to make a positive decision on behalf of Rhodes students and voted to re-affiliate to NUSAS. Conservative students suddenly mobilised and demanded that the SRC rescind their decision. In one of the largest student body meetings since '72, about 2 000 students voted on the SRC's decision which was rejected by only 100 votes.

This by no means dampened the spirit of the local comm and they called for another referendum in July (making it the 6th attempt in 5 years). This time an anti-comm emerged and a fierce campaign was fought. The large pro-affiliation comm worked frantically, talking to as many res and Oppidani students as possible. Their campaign was marked by innovative and inventive media, which did much to win the campaign. On the night of the final result many NUSAS supporters, fraught with tension, speculation and exhaustion waited anxiously for the result which was - VICTORY by a majority of 64 hard won votes.

Only then did the real work start. The SRC and many other students concentrated their energies on setting up a project comm, a wages comm, strengthening the women's movement and getting the NUSAS theme across to campus. The two student newspapers Rhodeo and Oppidan also helped by carrying NUSAS related articles, as well as articles on topical issues such as the trial of Rhodes student and lecturer Devan Pillay and Guy Berger.

In a joint NUSAS/SRC venture, John Anderson, 1980 American presidential candidate was invited to speak at Rhodes, and this proved to be a great success, boosting the NUSAS presence on the campus.

The new SRC elected in August is again predominantly pro-NUSAS and Mike Kenyon, who was detained for 6 months last year, was elected unopposed as president.

Besides the referendum, the most exciting political event was the Republic Day meeting at which Griffiths Mxenge, Thosamile Gqwetha and Andrew Borraine were to speak. But the state stepped in - in more ways than one. The day before the meeting

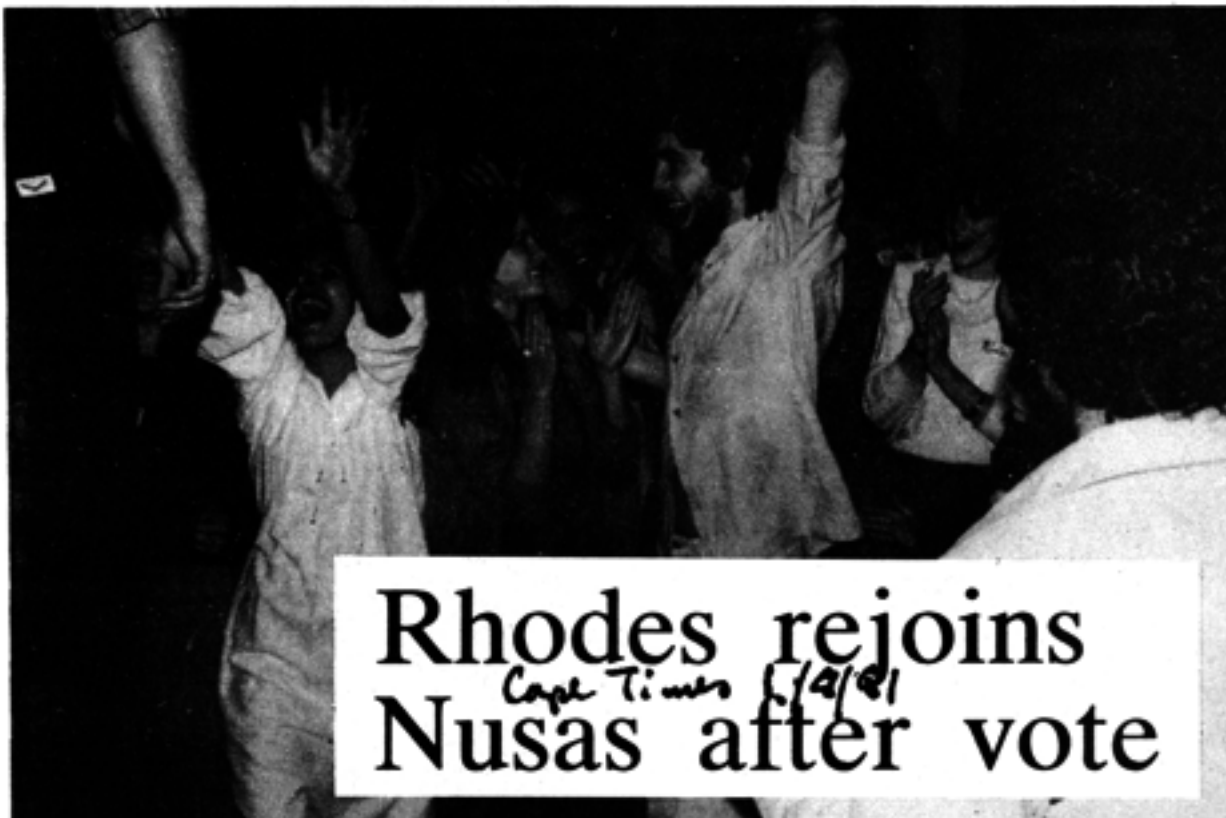
NUSAS

For
an
effective
union!



Andrew Borraine was detained, Griffiths Mxenge was turned back to Durban from the P.E. airport and the meeting itself was banned. In a gesture of defiance, the banning order was burned by students gathered in a huge crowd to hear of the banning.

Nor did the year go smoothly with admin - student relations. Students were outraged when it was discovered that Prof. Henderson, the Vice Chancellor, had sanctioned the handing over of confidential information about students to the security police. A student meeting condemned this and demanded that no information about students should under any circumstances be given to anybody without the students permission, and deplored the administrations collaboration with the security police. The university Academic Freedom committee also protested and Henderson promised that it would not happen again.



Rhodes rejoins
Cape Times 1/4/81
Nusas after vote



above: Ashley la Grange addresses Rhodes students at the referendum meeting in March.

left: Jubilation as Rhodes rejoins Nusas.

PIETERMARITZBURG¹⁷

unaffiliated campus

At the end of last year a conservative SRC swept to power and voted to disaffiliate from NUSAS at their first meeting. As the year progressed it became clear that this SRC was incompetent, corrupt and ineffective.

A NUSAS Local Comm was started at the beginning of the year but was constantly hindered and harrassed by the SRC. NUSAS Orientation Week folders were seized by the SRC and only released after Orientation Week was over. The Local Comm was driven to organising many of their activities secretly. Nevertheless, some very successful meetings were organised, including one during the anti-Republic Day campaign and another which protested the detention of Andrew Boraine.

In April, the SRC fired the editor of the student newspaper NUX, allegedly because the second edition had been delayed. The SRC undertook to produce a regular campus newspaper but none of the promised editions materialised. Instead, ex-NUX staff started an independent newspaper called "Not Quite Nux". Under difficult circumstances and with little initial experience, they began producing an excellent and popular newspaper.

The firing of the NUX editor prompted a group of students to call a student body meeting to protest against the SRC's inefficiency, and its inability to carry out its administrative and other functions properly. This was one of the largest student body meetings in recent years at Maritzburg.

The success of the meeting highlighted students demands for constructive leadership and paved the way for the more liberal and effective SRC, which came into office in an uncontested election. All conservative candidates withdrew at the last minute. The new SRC is eager to have contact with NUSAS and met other campus student leaders at National Council in September.

WOMEN'S WEEK



an alternative view
3rd-9th August

programmes available all res. 5 and students union
Please watch boards for late programme changes

not quite

NUX

INDEPENDENT
STUDENT
NEWSPAPER



UNP

JUNE 1981

DIRECTIVES

Three directives have been established since 1979 in order to gather information and co-ordinate activities on Women, Health and Law. The directives discuss ways in which people working in these areas can contribute to change in South Africa.

law directive

The Law Directive, established at the end of 1980, has brought law students interested in a progressive approach to law in contact with one another, sharing knowledge and ideas.

A highly successful Law Conference was organised by the UCT Law Students Council and the NUSAS Law Directive. Held in July, the conference was entitled, "Law in South Africa; Lifting the Veil". Lawyers, legal academics and students from around the country attempted to come to grips with the problem of law and justice in an undemocratic society. The conference opened up many new areas of debate in law and delegates went off exhausted but keen to carry the debates to the campuses.

At Wits, there was a series of talks, seminars and movies on legal topics. Areas looked at included legalism and democratic organisation, criminology and the ideology of law. Some law students in Durban have arranged a reading group and have organised one or two meetings for law students and a large group of law students in Rhodes expressed an interest in the directive after the Referendum.

health directive

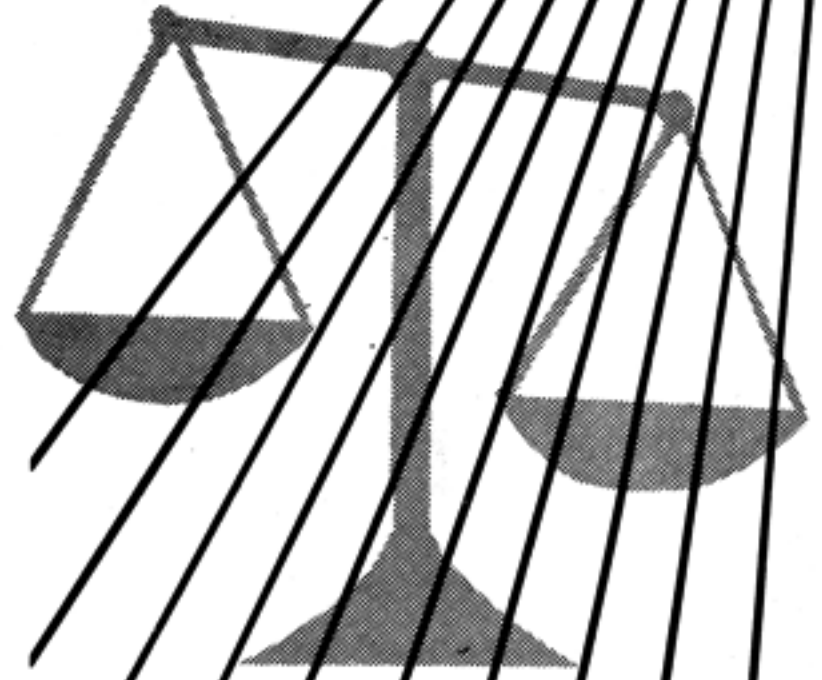
Medical students at UCT and Wits form the core of the directive's activities. However after the Rhodes referendum, Pharmacy students there expressed interest in setting up a group.

This year two conferences were organised by the Directive in conjunction with the Medical Students Councils. At Wits a conference was held in May, entitled "South African Health: History of the Main Complaint". Speakers from Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town and Zimbabwe discussed the relationship between health, politics and apartheid. A very useful one day workshop was organised just prior to the conference for those working in progressive health fields. This was an opportunity for students and non-students to exchange ideas and access their activities.

The Cape Town Medical Students Conference, held in August, was entitled, "The People and the Professionals: Health Care Organisation in the Western Cape". It looked at the undemocratic nature of health services, the role they play and who controls them. Both conferences were very well attended by students and non-students, ranging from academics to community health workers.

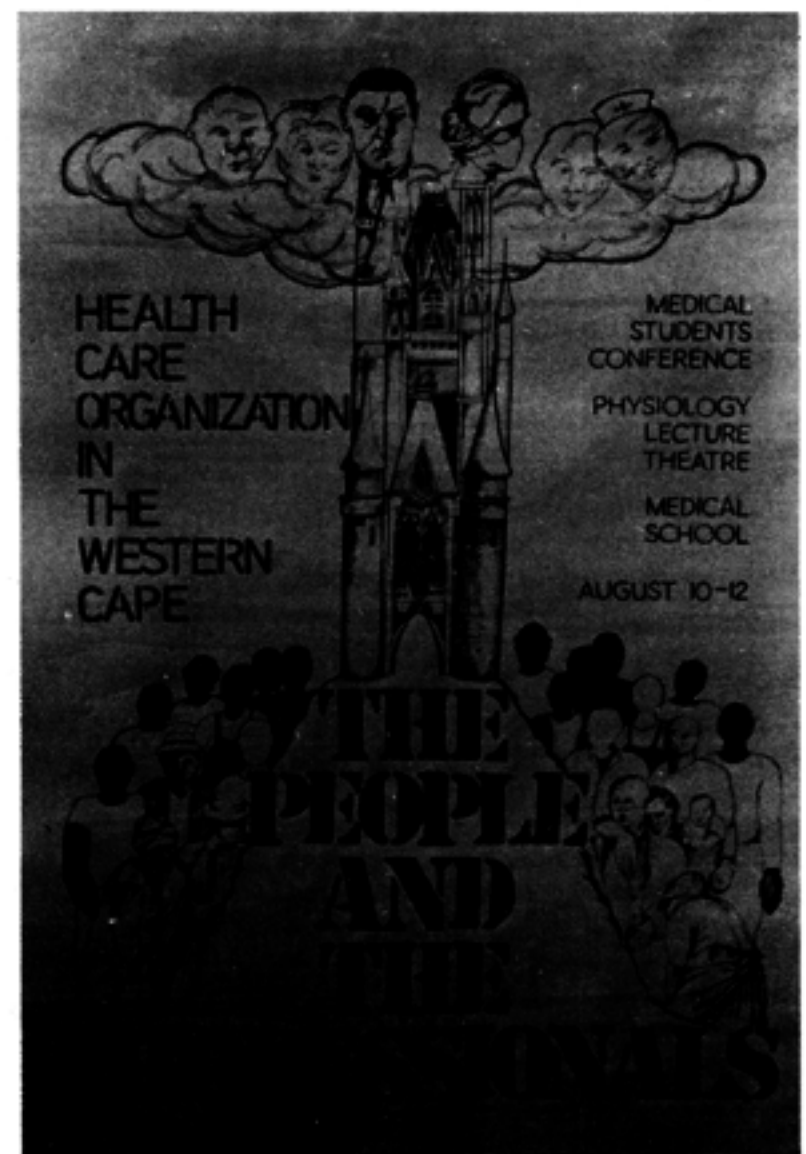
The Directive in Johannesburg has produced a series of Health Fact Sheets. These provide general and topical information on health and related issues within a broader social context.

In Cape Town, a reading group was arranged for the first half of the year. The directive also organised a few political meetings on Medical School campus and have prepared the way for these to become more regular.



Law in South Africa
LIFTING THE VEIL
6th-10th July 1981

UCT LAW STUDENTS COUNCIL.
NUSAS LAW DIRECTIVE.

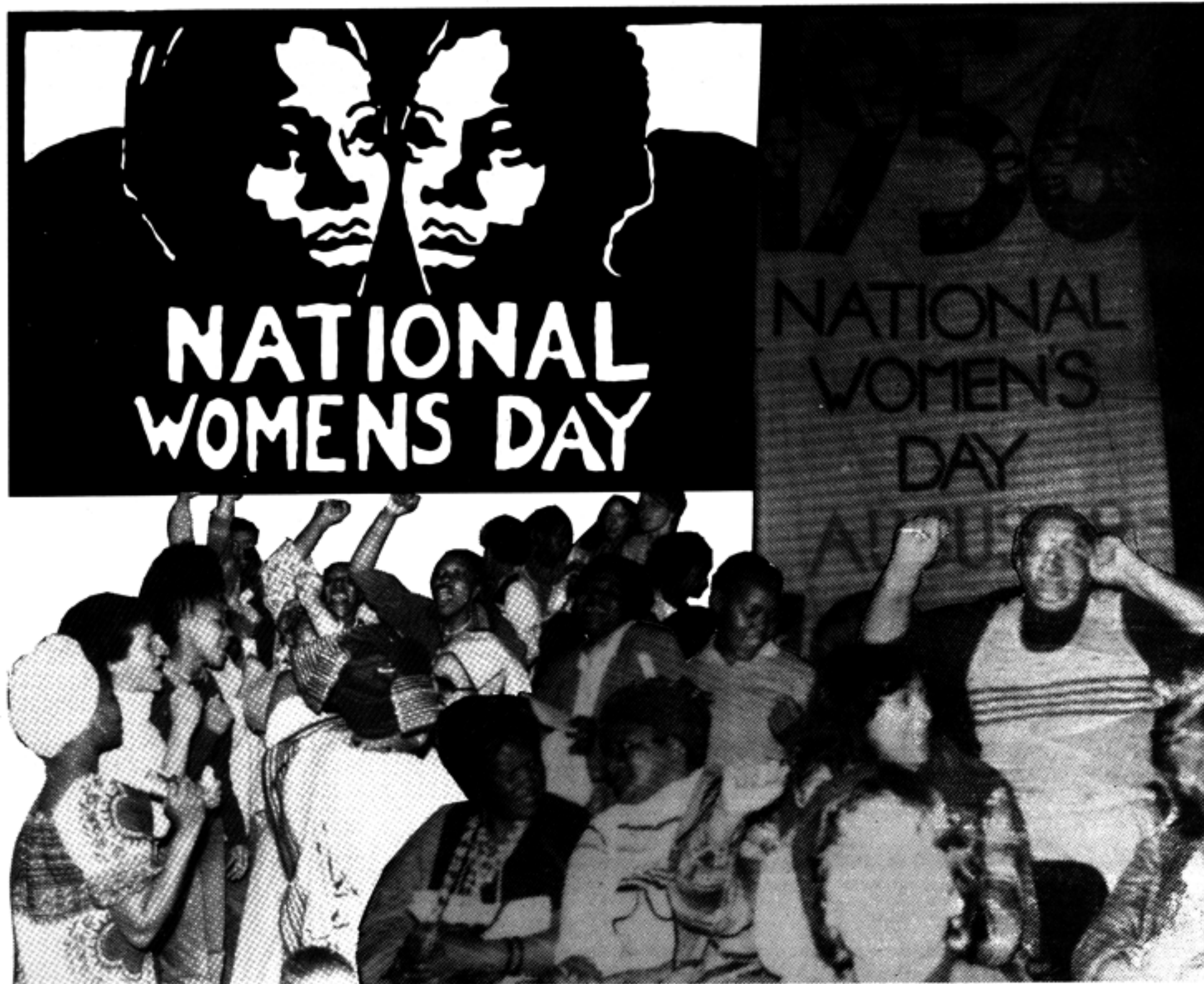


women's directive

At the beginning of the year the directive, together with the UCT Women's Movement, produced an introductory booklet on women called "Herstory". A pamphlet entitled "Some Women are Oppressed, Some Women are more Oppressed than others" was also distributed by the directive. A few newsletters have been written, to keep the Women's Movements in contact with one another and to provide a forum for the exchange and input of ideas.

1981 marked the 25th anniversary of National Women's Day. On this day 25 years ago, 20 000 women marched to Pretoria to protest against having to carry passes. This was commemorated by all Women's Movements. During the week preceding August 9th, National Women's Day, displays, talks, slide shows, seminars and movies were arranged. Students also participated in off-campus meetings such as the United Women's Organisation rally in Cape Town and the National Women's Day Workshop in Durban and various Women's Day meetings in Johannesburg.

Regional Women's Seminars were arranged and co-ordinated by the directive for the first time this year. Rhodes and UCT met near Knysna for a weekend and Wits, Pietermaritzburg, Durban and Westville met at Pietermaritzburg on that same weekend. Collectively researched papers were presented, the exchange of ideas and working experiences proved invaluable.

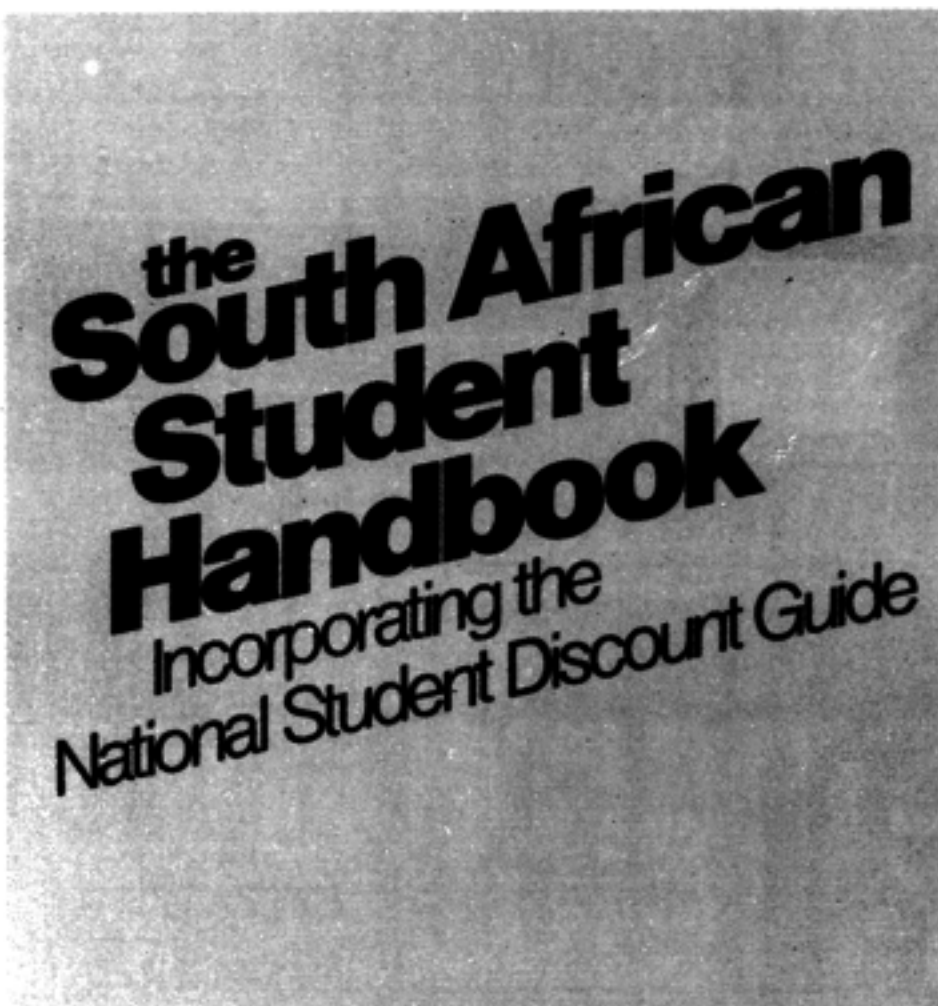


STUDENT SERVICES

Despite a hectic year on the political front NUSAS has continued to run various student benefit schemes. The most recent innovation was the Swift Lift scheme. This was an attempt to co-ordinate lifts for students travelling between the university centres.

SASTS, of course, continues. Started by NUSAS in 1972 it has now expanded to offices on each campus and a Head Office in Cape Town. Each office has a professional travel agent who deals with students and staff flights. SASTS is the only student travel organisation in South Africa to belong to FIYTO and ISTC, international travel organisations. This position enables SASTS to provide discounts and deals for student travelling overseas. In March this year Andrew Boraine went to the Phillipines to the ISTC Conference. There he met student leaders from throughout the world and came back with lots of ideas gleaned from other student unions.

The Student Handbook, although almost 2 years old, is still very useful. It contains lists of shops where discounts on goods can be obtained as well as useful hints and information. A new supplement to the handbook will be ready in the new year.



Need a lift to Durbs, Pmb, Rhodes, Cape Town, Jhb?

DON'T SPEND DAYS ON THE ROAD

Need passengers to fill your car on a long journey?

GET A

SWIFT LIFT

With the NUSAS/SASTS lift scheme
LEAVE DETAILS AT SRC OR SASTS OFFICE



FONS

After the formal launching of the Friends of NSUAS (FONS) at the 1980 NUSAS Congress, a lot of work this year has gone into putting the Society onto a firmer footing.

NUSAS Head Office was repeatedly the site of frantic activity as large numbers of initial appeal letters and two FONS Newsletters, produced by Nusas for FONS members, were sent out. There are now well over 100 members of FONS, and local coordinators in each centre. These co-ordinators are actively engaged in recruiting members, and cocktail parties have been held to this end in most centres.

The newsletters serve the one aim of FONS, namely keeping past members and supporters of NUSAS in touch with current NUSAS thinking and projects. The second aim is providing material support for NUSAS. This resume has partly been paid for by FONS.

Sir Richard Luyt is the chairperson of the committee, which also includes people like Nadine Gordimer, Paul Pretorius, Charlie Nupen, Geoff Budlender and others.