

sort of thing to the gangsters. We believe that the people should boycott the elections out of a proper understanding of the issues involved and from a full realisation of their duty as an oppressed people to other sectors of the oppressed.

To use the imaginary anger of the African people to dragoon the Indian and Coloured people is to use the despicable tactic of Swart Gevaar.

Our commitment is to create a bond, a unity, arising from common suffering, common goals, and a common love for liberation. Such a bond or such a unity can never be based on FEAR. Fear only divides. It destroys.

If we are to reject the New Constitution by means of the boycott, let us do so on the grounds that the new Constitution is the direct opposite of true democracy, viz, the right of all persons over the age of 18 years to elect and to be elected to the law making organs of the country. Let us also do so on the grounds that as oppressed people we are not prepared to form a block with the ruling class in order to oppress others.

UNIVERSITY OF NATAL - MEDICAL STUDENTS

The boycott of lectures by the Medical Students was precipitated by the refusal of the authorities of the University of Natal to recognise and appreciate the grievances of the students. Some of the students' grievances were the arbitrary implementation of new rules, changes in the curriculum, and the introduction of conditional passes. The students at first attempted to have discussions with the Medical Faculty Board. Although there were some meetings with the Student Representatives, the authorities adopted an uncompromising "take it or leave it" attitude and closed the University. Their high handed depostic action did not just end there. They also closed the residence, knowing full well that the majority of the students living at the student residence were from distant places. The ultimatum presented to the students when they re-registered, is another jackbo@t attitude adopted by the authorities .

These events highlight certain lessons for the oppressed

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students in South Africa :-

1. An academic boycott, while intended to achieve greater unity and political consciousness, can be of limited duration only.
2. A democratic system of education can only exist in a democratic society.
3. The lack of the full franchise allows the University authorities to adopt repressive measures as their authority is derived from the oppressor and is unchecked by democratic structures of a democratic society.
4. The system of education in South Africa is "oppression orientated" - be it at schools; at Ethnic Universities or at liberal "open" universities. The Black man's "place" in society must be ensured.

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