



**South African women and the struggle for freedom**  
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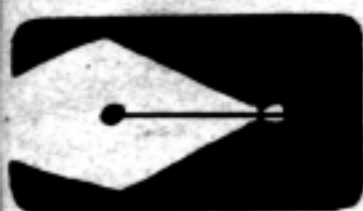


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**SASPU**



# NATIONAL

A SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS PRESS UNION PUBLICATION

Vol. 2, No. 6. **AUGUST** 1981

PRICE: 20 cents



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## Oppression at Westville



Students were locked out of the cafe and library and ordered off campus

THE STUDENT boycott at the University of Durban Westville is now into its sixth week with students working hard to enlist community support for their stand.

The students initially went out over three issues:

- they had to write exams on June 16th, a day of commemoration for most South Africans.
- The University Administration refused to investigate grievances of physiology students who were being taught Human physiology by a Zoologist.
- 600 school students in Natal were expelled over the Republic Day Period for anti-Republic Day activities. (The students have now been re-admitted under harsh restrictions).



Alf Karrim re-admitted to Westville

Matters on the campus came to a head when students called for a boycott of June examinations. The boycott call was highly successful according to figures released in the U.D.N. News with 90 percent of students not writing.

The university authorities responded to the boycott by calling in the police, supposedly to protect those writing exams from being "intimidated".

Student sources said however that all students were ordered off the campus, after the cafe and library had been locked.

According to U.D.N. News approximately 250 armed policemen invaded the campus daily.

The confrontation aura on the campus was heightened by the new rector Professor Greyling's statement that "this year there is an all out war and in these conditions even the innocent must suffer".

On 9 June the Rector slapped an all out ban on student meetings on campus, despite requests not to from staff and students.

Three students — one of them SRC President Alf Karrim — were suspended from university.

The students then called a meeting at Vedic Hall to call for normalisation of the campus situation. One speaker at the meeting said, "the ball is now in the administrations' hands. It's up to them now to normalise things by acceding to our demands."

The student' conditions for normalisation on campus were the immediate removal of police from the campus, the disarming of campus security guards, the reinstatement of the three students and the lifting of the ban on student meetings.

A letter stating the student demands was sent to the rector. Both the rector and vice-rector were away at the time, and the registrar replied in their absence saying that

- June exams would not be repeated.
- staff appointments were not negotiable.
- police had been removed from campus and the ban on meetings lifted.
- campus security guards carried weapons for their own self defence.
- he could not comment on the suspension of the three students.

The situation at Westville is at present still in flux. Students are working to explain the issues to the community, following adverse press over the boycott.

According to acting President Brits Hansjee, "we will stop the boycott immediately upon the university authorities acceding to our demands and our preconditions for negotiation".