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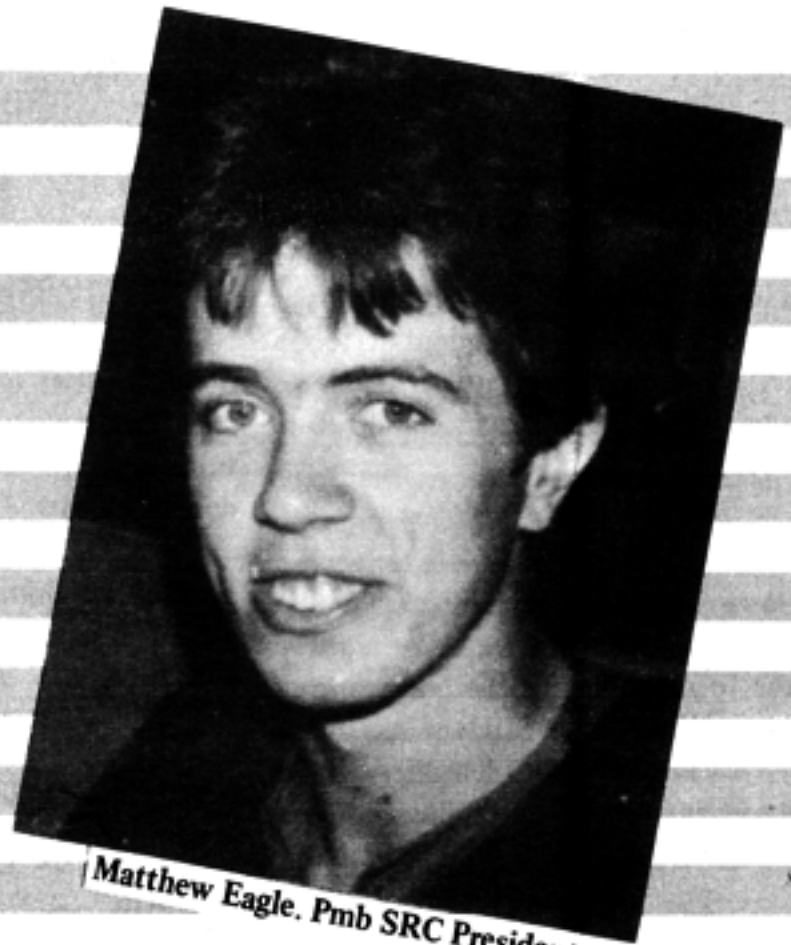
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# Welcome to Congress '84

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Kate Philip. NUSAS President



Matthew Eagle. Pmb SRC President

Welcome to Pietermaritzburg and the 62nd NUSAS national Congress.

We are particularly excited to be hosting this congress since it is the first to be held in Pietermaritzburg in seven years.

This year has been a busy year for NUSAS, given the political intensity of 1984 and the deepening crisis in education. Students on NUSAS campuses have been put in touch with the growing sphere of extra - parliamentary politics and have given the UDF their overwhelming support.

Despite attempts by the right wing to undermine NUSAS, the National Union is stronger than ever!

Given the pace and challenges that are set before us we approach congress with the urgent need to give NUSAS the direction to make 1985 one of our most successful years.

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# 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 following year 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 the 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), NUSAS Directive Reports and a SASTS Report.

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

## DELEGATION MEETINGS

Time has been set aside for the delegates from each centre to meet together as a delegation. These meetings provide an opportunity for delegates to receive informal reports on the progress of the committees on which they sit. This serves two functions:

- \* Delegates can stay in touch with the developments in all Congress committees rather than being confined to their own.
- \* It provides important feedback between 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 to the NSA. This helps to avoid discussion and debate on the Congress floor from becoming repetitive.

## 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 a motion would fit into one of three categories:

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

All of them are finally resolved by moving to the vote. Voting is restricted to the 9 voting delegates appointed by each affiliated SRC. At previous Congresses procedural motions have been adopted which allow all delegates to speak, and they have been 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 said to contribute positively to NUSAS' operation and/or fall within its 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 the progress of committees and delegations, enabling it to modify the programme where necessary. The Steering Committee presents the programme every morning at the NSA.

Strict punctuality for all sessions is an absolutely essential factor in ensuring the smooth running of Congress. There is nothing more frustrating than sitting around waiting for late delegates to drift in so that sessions may begin. It is a relatively short Congress, there is much work to be done, and the task is an urgent one.

## Bookshop

We will be running a bookshop in the Projects Room. It will be open every day from 1.15 pm to 2.00 pm and from 10.00 pm to 11 pm. There will be a variety of books on sale, as well as T-Shirts, buttons and publications from the campuses.

## Meals

Meals will be served in the William o' Brien residence dining hall.

\* People who want individual meals can pay cash.

Mealtimes:	Breakfast	7.15-8.00 am
	Lunch	12.30-1.30pm
	Supper	6.15-7.00pm

## Name Cards

These will be issued at registration and should be worn throughout Congress. The name card is each delegate's free ticket to the cocktail party, cultural evening and jorl.

## Accommodation

All delegates will be staying at William O'Brian residence which is opposite the Student Union.

\* Keys will be issued at registration. A deposit of R5.00 must be paid. This will be returned on the return of the key.

SPECIAL THANKS go to Win, Leslie, Marlene, Freda, Mr Roos, Professor Booyens, Pick 'n Pay, Sports Centre, AM International, Hertz Car Hire, Fedics and the University Security and Estates depts. Also to the Pietermaritzburg people for help with Congress Preparation and the Congress programme.



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# Committee Sessions, Directives and Workshops

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## 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 year's activity, 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 select which committees they wish to sit on 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 there is sufficient interest from delegates.

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### A COMMITTEES: ONE SESSION

Orientation Week  
End Conscription Campaign  
International Year of the Youth  
Education Action Groups

Media  
Student Services  
Political Education  
Student Representation and Liason

### B COMMITTEES: TWO SESSIONS

UDF  
Faculty Councils  
Education Charter

### C COMMITTEES: THREE SESSIONS

Political Action

### OTHER COMMITTEES

Structures and Finance  
Theme Committee

### DIRECTIVES: ONE SESSION

Labour directive  
Law Directive  
Women's Directive  
Health Directive

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### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### ORIENTATION WEEK

- 1) Assess the function and aims of Orientation week.
- 2) Examine how Orientation Comms can function most effectively.
- 3) Discuss ways of ensuring maximum attendance and participation in O.W. How do we integrate the entertainment and political aspects of O.W.?
- 4) Discuss how NUSAS can be presented most effectively and how NUSAS profile can be ensured; assess and make suggestions for NUSAS national O.W. and campus O.W. media.
- 5) Examine ideas for fundraising during O.W.
- 6) Discuss co-ordination of resources for Free People's Concerts.

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#### END CONSCRIPTION

- 1) Assess which approaches to the End Conscription Campaign—both form and content—have been most effective. Which issues have the potential to mobilise students and what criteria do we use to assess this?
- 2) Examine ways of countering right wing attempts to undermine the campaign.
- 3) Discuss plans for 1985 including:
  - i) International Year of the Youth
  - ii) Call to end conscription.
  - iii) Namibia.
  - iv) SADF involvement alongside the SAP
  - v) Conscientious Objectors
- 4) Compare the relationship between NUSAS and ECC, UDF, COSG and other related structures in the various regions; discuss how NUSAS can contribute to the impact of these organisations on the white community.

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#### INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE YOUTH

- 1) Discuss the objectives of this campaign and what the key issues are for our

constituency.

- 2) Examine the broader issues that can be linked to this campaign as well as how IYY can form part of our general direction.
- 3) Discuss the methods and structures that we should adopt for this campaign
- 4) Assess NUSAS relations with UDF IYY sub-committees, churches and other organisations involved in this campaign.
- 5) Examine the state's plans around IYY and possible methods of countering initiatives and pre-empting right wing propaganda.

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#### EDUCATION ACTION GROUPS

- 1) Assess and compare how campuses have responded to issues of education during 1984.
- 2) Discuss the role of E.A.G.s with regard to:
  - i) whom E.A.G.s are trying to reach and involve; include plans for Orientation Week.
  - ii) the relationship between the EAGs and faculty councils, EdComms and Projects comms.
  - iii) EAG's involvement in campaigns, internal education, publications and tutoring schemes.
- 3) Examine the relationship between EAGs and the Education Charter Campaign as well as other activities for 1985.

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#### MEDIA

- 1) Discuss the role of media campaigns and other activity looking at both the advertising and educative value; which techniques have been successful and what new approaches can be adopted? Also examine how media can be used to build organisation. What has been the impact of right wing media?
- 2) Discuss media skills training with reference to:
  - i) whose responsibility this is
  - ii) what does this training entail?
  - iii) the role of the SRC Media Officer
  - iv) the role of the SASPU President and regional co-ordinators.
- 3) Assess NUSAS media during 1984 including tone, pitch, content and form. Any exciting ideas for 1985?

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## Committees

- 4) Investigate creative forms of media and examine effective forms of publicity in the broader community.
- 5) Discuss SRC involvement in media including:-
  - i) SRC News— what role should it play and how can its image be improved?
  - ii) Organising media resources
  - iii) Use of the SRC press—look at legislation as well as the degree of student control.

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### STUDENT SERVICES

- 1) Review and assess national services provided including SASTS, Swift Lift, National Student Discount Scheme, Student Handbook and Vac Accommodation scheme. Discuss ideas for new services.
- 2) Compare services currently provided on the campuses by SRCs; which of these can be extended to other campuses?
- 3) Discuss the role of the National Student services Co-ordinator. What are the criteria for this position?
- 4) How can services be better advertised?
- 5) Discuss the launching of the Rebel Rock record during Orientation Week.

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### POLITICAL EDUCATION

- 1) Assess the level of political education during 1984 looking at the effectivity of seminars aimed both at campus and at an organisational or inter-organisational level.
- 2) To what extent are innovative methods being utilised, eg reading groups, films, cultural activity, lunchtime lectures, publications and seminars as part of focus weeks? Suggest new ideas, particularly with respect to seminar presentation.
- 3) Discuss the package of education needed for new people in our organisations.
- 4) Assess the role NUSAS Head Office has played in facilitating political education this year as regards national gatherings, publications, seminars, resource packs, talks and report backs. How can this role be improved and expanded?

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### STUDENT REPRESENTATION AND LIASON

- 1) Make a comparative assessment of student representation on the campuses.
- 2) Discuss the areas in which it is most

important for students to be represented, and ways of securing representation in these areas.

- 3) Assess potential gains and limitations of representation, eg confidentiality rules, lack of continuity etc.
- 4) Make a comparative assessment of campuses' disciplinary procedures and discuss potential improvements.
- 5) Examine ways for SRCs to improve their representative profiles.
- 6) Assess SRC's contact with House Committees, RAG, Radio stations, Sports Union, campus newspapers and staff associations. How can these contacts be extended and improved.

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### B COMMITTEES

#### UDF

Session one of this committee will be restricted to the Projects Officers, General Council Reps and 4 delegates from each campus. The terms of reference for this committee are still being compiled. Session two is open to all delegates and will look at:

- 1) Assess the impact of the UDF on the campuses and the gains made in taking up UDF campaigns. How do students view extra-parliamentary opposition and how effectively have we countered state propaganda?
- 2) Assess the implications of events since the white referendum for students' support for the PFP.
- 3) How has our involvement in UDF affected our general direction and organisational activity.
- 4) Assess the broad participation of students in off-campus UDF work.
- 5) Discuss NUSAS relations with UDF sub-committees and other UDF affiliates.

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### FACULTY COUNCILS

- 1) Assess how faculty councils have identified priorities during 1984, examining
  - i) whether FCs have effectively represented students in various areas.
  - ii) whether the potential and responsibility of FCs for educative and political work has been fulfilled, eg. involvement in NUSAS campaigns, FC media, focus weeks, lecture programmes etc.
- 2) Discuss the role of Ed Comm.
- 3) Discuss plans for National Student Review for 1985 and how to overcome the problems experienced during 1984.
- 4) Make suggestions for Faculty Council Conference for 1985.

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### EDUCATION CHARTER

- 1) How has NUSAS been structurally incorporated into the ECC?
- 2) Discuss what contribution NUSAS can make to this campaign. What are the key issues for our constituency, in what ways can we approach the issue of education and what gains do we hope to make?
- 3) Discuss what sort of campaign we envisage.
- 4) What methods and structures should we adopt in order to involve campus in the campaign.
- 5) Discuss the viability of contact with technikons, teacher training colleges, Afrikaans campuses and schools.
- 6) Investigate broader issues which can be linked to the campaign.

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### C COMMITTEE

#### POLITICAL ACTION

##### Session One

- 1) What is the role of NUSAS? What do we mean by politicisation, mobilisation and organisation? What is the relationship between them?
- 2) What is the nature of the student base? What issues have students best responded to this year? Discuss the difference between different constituencies.

##### Session Two

- 1) Discuss the effectiveness and appropriateness of different forms of mobilisation. Has our mobilisation been as broad as possible?
- 2) What effect has the intense political activity of this year had on our organisations?
- 3) Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the different organisational forms that have been used to take up political issues.
- 4) What understanding did our organisations attempt to develop among students in the course of the year?

##### Session Three

- 1) What are the NUSAS campaigns in 1985 likely to be? What other political issues will NUSAS need to respond to?
- 2) Discuss our political work next year in the light of 1) and in the light of the strengths and weaknesses identified in Session Two.

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### OTHER COMMITTEES

#### STRUCTURES AND FINANCE

This committee should meet at least twice during Congress. It needs to meet near the end to discuss recommendations made to it by the other committees.

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## Committees

The Committee is composed of the NUSAS President and Sec Gen, SRC Presidents and Treasurers and others who may be appointed by Congress.

- 1) To decide on the NUSAS budget and affiliation fees for 1985.
- 2) To act on recommendations made by other committees as regards the structure of NUSAS.
- 3) To discuss constitutional changes.
- 4) To discuss job definitions of Head Office staff.
- 5) To discuss FONS and fundraising.
- 6) Other

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### THEME COMMITTEE

This committee meets on the final day of Congress and consists of the SRC Presidents and Projects Officers, NUSAS Head Office and the chairperson of each Congress committee.

- 1) To discuss the type of theme needed by NUSAS for 1985.
- 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 1985.

### COMMITTEES

Delegates attending the C committee must also attend a B committee and an A committee. Delegates not attending the C committee must attend at least one B committee as well as A committees.

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## Workshops

These sessions will involve an input paper and discussion. The areas have been chosen because of their pertinence to the student movement, and some are designed specifically to supplement committees. Each workshop runs for one session and everyone should attend two workshops. Arising out of discussion, people in the group may decide to:-

- \* draw up a motion for NSA to debate
- \* draw up a statement to be read to NSA
- \* draw up a report to be discussed, voted upon and adopted as policy.

### 1. END CONSCRIPTION

An update on activities and developments in this area during 1984, e.g. the role of the SADF in the townships. This work-

shop is designed to supplement the End Conscription Committee.

### 2. LABOUR

A brief overview of the labour movement. The workshop will also discuss ways of improving the labour input in our organisations and on campus generally.

### 3. FEMINISM

The NUSAS Womens' Workshop held in September concluded that there is a need to develop our understanding of Feminism and how it can be integrated into our daily work. This workshop will discuss concrete suggestions for integrating Feminism into our organisations.

### 4. CULTURAL ACTIVITY

A review of the forms of cultural activity that have been used in campus campaigning. The workshop will brainstorm new and creative ways of reaching campus through culture.

### 5. REPRESSION

A brief history of repression looking particularly at changing forms and the present situation; discussing the attempts to criminalise political activity and ways in which we should respond.

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## Directives

### LABOUR DIRECTIVE

- 1) Assess the activities of ERC/Wages Comm during 1984 and plans for 1985 including focus weeks, publications, internal education, Orientation Week, strike activity and consumer boycotts.
- 2) Discuss how labour input can be ensured on campuses without a labour organisation.
- 3) Assess the relationship between NUSAS and trade unions and community groups. What is our role in this regard?
- 4) Assess the role of Labour Directive during 1984 and ideas for extending and improving this role.
- 5) Discuss proposals for a national labour workshop during 1985.
- 6) Discuss criteria for local and national directive co-ordinators and appoint them.

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### LAW DIRECTIVE

- 1) Discuss the aims of Law Directive and its potential role.

- 2) Discuss the viability of Law Directive as a national structure. Are there existing structures that could be co-ordinated through the Directive?
- 3) Examine the relationship between Law Directive and Law Students Council.
- 4) How do we raise the political awareness and participation of law students; what are the appropriate structures for doing this?
- 5) Assess whether national coordination are necessary, and if so, discuss criteria and appoint them.

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### WOMENS' DIRECTIVE

- 1) Assess Womens' Directive during 1984 and suggestions for extending and improving its role. Discuss the potential activities of the Directive, including proposals for Orientation Week and a National Conference during 1985.
- 2) Assess Womens' Movement activity on the campuses during 1984. Also discuss internal education and the issues the Womens' Movement could be responding to.
- 3) Discuss the role of the SRC womens' portfolio e.g. creche, advice bureau, resource centre and booklet on advice for women students.
- 4) Assess criteria for national and regional co-ordinators and the role they are expected to play on campuses without Womens' Movement. Appoint them.

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### HEALTH DIRECTIVE

- 1) Discuss and compare the structures that exist on the campuses.
- 2) Discuss off-campus structures to which medical students relate.
- 3) Investigate co-ordination between the campuses and ideas for extending such contact and possible joint projects.
- 4) Examine the possibility of contact people on the campuses and the role of NUSAS Head Office in co-ordination.
- 5) How do we mobilise medical students? How should medical school respond to issues being taken up on main campus?



# Programme

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## Sunday 2 December

2.00–6.00pm 6.00–8.00pm 8.00–10.00pm	<b>REGISTRATION</b> Cocktail Party <b>CONGRESS OPENS:</b> Welcome: Matthew Eagle (Pmb SRC Pres) Opening Address: BEYERS NAUDE Election of Honorary President	Students Union WOB residence Congress Hall (students union)
10.00pm	Pub Opens	Oppie Lounge

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## Monday 3

7.15–8.00am 8.15–10.00am 10.00–10.15am 10.15–12.00pm 12.00–2.00pm 2.00–3.30pm 3.30–3.45pm 3.45–5.15pm	Breakfast NSA Tea NSA Lunch NSA Tea Structure and Finance Committee <b>DIRECTIVES:</b> Labour Directive Law Directive Womens' Directive Health Directive	Congress Hall Foyer  Mike Robinson Room Oppie Lounge WOB Reception Lounge WOB Junior Common Room WOB Junior Common Room
5.15–6.00pm 6.00–6.45pm 7.00–8.00pm	Free time Supper Delegation Meetings	Venues to be announced
8.00pm	<b>STATE OF STRUGGLE ADDRESS</b>	Congress Hall
9.30pm	Pub Opens	Oppie Lounge

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## Tuesday 4

7.15–8.00am 8.15–10.00am 10.00–10.15am 10.15–12.00pm	Breakfast NSA Tea <b>A COMMITTEES:</b> Orientation Week Education Action Groups <b>C COMMITTEE:</b> (1st session) Pol Action Lunch	Mike Robinson Room WOB Reception Lounge  WOB Junior Common Room
12.00–2.00pm		
2.00–4.00pm	<b>WORKSHOPS:</b> End Conscription Labour	WOB Junior Common Room WOB Reception Lounge
4.00–4.15pm 4.15–5.45pm	Tea <b>A COMMITTEES:</b> End Conscription Student Representa- tion and Liason <b>B COMMITTEE:</b> (1st session) UDF (A)	WOB Junior Common Room Mike Robinson Room
6.00–6.45pm 7.00–8.00pm	Supper Delegation Meetings	WOB Reception Lounge

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## Tuesday 4

8.00pm	THE EDUCATION CHARTER ABBA OMAR	Congress Hall
9.30pm	Pub Opens	Oppie Lounge

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## Wednesday 5

7.15-8.00am	Breakfast	
8.15am	NSA Announcements	
8.30-10.00am	A COMMITTEES: Political Education Year of the Youth Education Charter	Oppie Lounge Mike Robinson Room WOB Reception Lounge
10.00-10.15am	Tea	
10.15-12.00pm	B COMMITTEES:(2nd session) UDF (B) Education Charter	WOB Junior Common Room WOB Reception Lounge
12.00-2.00pm	Lunch	
2.00-3.30pm	A COMMITTEE: Student Services B COMMITTEE: (1st session) Faculty Councils C COMMITTEE: (2nd session) Pol Action	Mike Robinson Room WOB Reception Lounge WOB Junior Common Room
3.30-3.45pm	Tea	
3.45-5.15pm	A COMMITTEE: Media B COMMITTEE: (2nd session) Faculty Councils C COMMITTEE: (3rd session) Political Action	Mike Robinson Room WOB Reception Lounge WOB Junior Common Room
5.15-6.00pm	Free	
6.00-6.45pm	Supper	
7.00-8.00pm	Delegation Meetings	
8.00pm	CULTURAL EVENING	
9.30pm	Pub Opens	Oppie Lounge

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## Thursday 6

7.15-8.00am	Breakfast	
8.15-10.00am	NSA	
10.00-10.15am	Tea	
10.15-12.00pm	NSA	
12.00-2.00pm	Lunch	
2.00-3.30pm	NSA	
3.30-3.45pm	Tea	
3.45-5.15pm	Structure and Finance Committee WORKSHOPS: Feminism Cultural Activity Repression	Mike Robinson Room WOB Reception Lounge Oppie Lounge WOB Junior Common Room

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## Thursday 6

5.15-6.00pm	Free	
6.00-6.45pm	Supper	
7.00-8.00pm	Delegation Meetings	
8.00-9.30pm	NSA	Congress Hall
9.30pm	Pub Opens	Oppie Lounge

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## Friday 7

7.15-8.00am	Breakfast
8.15-10.00am	Theme Committee
10.00-10.15am	Tea
10.15-12.00pm	NSA
12.00-2.00pm	Lunch
2.00-3.30pm	NSA
3.30-3.45pm	Tea
3.45-5.15pm	NSA
5.15-6.00pm	Free
6.00-6.45pm	Supper
7.00-8.00pm	Delegation Meetings
8pm	NSA: Motions Theme Comm Report Election of Honorary VP's Election of Office Bearers Closing Address

PUB AND JORL

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We welcome the release of our President Kate, who has been held for two weeks in detention under Sect. 29 of the Internal Security Act. We are greatly relieved that Kate is out of detention and that she will be able to take her rightful place at NUSAS Congress. That many democrats remain in detention is however a cause for great concern and anger. As long as the govt. attempts to silence those working for a non-racial and democratic society there can be no peace in South Africa. We demand the immediate release of detainees and of all political prisoners.

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# Forced Removals in Natal

Millions of South Africans are afflicted by the harsh reality of apartheid in many parts of rural Natal. Segregation in our society has succeeded perfectly in excluding us from the lives and experiences of people literally dumped and discarded in the homeland areas. But these people too are organising against state policies and we need to be aware of both the extent and the urgency of their struggle.

Resettlement, while not the only issue, has been central to the affliction of black people in Natal. According to the Surplus People's Project, 745 500 people have already been resettled and a further 622 000 are still under the threat of removal.

Since June 1984, nearly 800 people have been forcibly removed or evicted from land which in many cases, had been their homes for several generations. Over the past year, 4 new resettlement camps have been built in Natal alone. At Frankland, near Port Shepstone, 800 sites now await

people of undisclosed origin. At Quinisa, near Ladysmith, already over 400 inhabitants have been resettled within the last 6 months. But it is the large group of closer settlements around Ekuvukeni which is of the most concern. Waaihoek, Vaalkop and Uitvlucht, together comprising of over 4 000 sites, and now nearing completion, are being built to accommodate an estimated 10 000 people from the Ladysmith district. Already nearly 50 families have been moved to Waaihoek where they are having to adapt to appalling conditions. There are insufficient water reticulation points, no shops, no schools, no clinics and the transport to the nearest town is infrequent and expensive.

Ladysmith is thus fast becoming the focus of the government's onslaught against those threatened areas such as Matiwane's Kop, Jonono's Kop, Lusitania and Driefontein. These places are areas of freehold land, which in most cases has

been the homes for thriving and prosperous communities since the 1880's. Because they now lie outside the prescribed white areas of South Africa the government has declared them to be blackspots which must be eradicated and displaced to the neighbouring parts of Kwazulu.

But the removals of the past, the horrors of Ekuvukeni, Limehill and Waaihoek, these are not unlearned lessons for the threatened communities. Aware that resettlement would mean a loss of land and livelihood, that it would be an act of institutionalised impoverishment, such communities are organising against resettlement. This organisation, too is being hindered by State repression and poverty. It is important that we, as partners in a struggle for a democratic South Africa, support and assist the growth of organised resistance against resettlement.



## Alternative History of Pietermaritzburg

It took many years for organisation to re-emerge and take root amongst the people. In the late 60's and early 70's repression had assumed a form unknown in the earlier days. Any attempt at re-organisation was brutally crushed via banning orders, detentions and intimidation.

The extremely harsh conditions that prevailed in the factories in Natal and the poverty wages that workers took home to their impoverished families, provided the impetus for the growth of the trade-union movement. Pmb was not left out of this development and in 1973, the General Workers Benefit fund was building a large membership mainly amongst

African workers. At this period of our history independent trade unions were illegal.

1977 saw an attempt at the revival of the NIC, which had enjoyed a truly mass-based support and membership in the fifties. Even now, we are reminded by our older people of mass meetings organised over a day, having thousands of people attending such meetings. This attempt at revival was crushed by the banning of A S Chetty who had spearheaded this attempt.

1977 was the year too, that saw Harry Gwala being sent to Robben Island for life and others for extended periods. One

of the sentenced, Axaniah Ndebele has only recently returned to his home and family in Sobantu only to inspire our youth and activists.

1979 saw the governments' attempts to force the SAIC down the throats of the Indian community. But by now, the wheels of freedom had been put in motion again and organisation had begun to re-emerge. If the government had persisted in this attempt, it would have failed miserably.

April 1980 - a time forever engraved in the hearts and minds of our people - the heroic struggles of our youth against racial and unequal education, against



# Alternative History of Pietermaritzburg

continued

apartheid and its forces of destruction. They pointed the way for the future for no longer could the politics of liberation be restricted to little groups of intellectuals. Finally it had become clear that the politics of liberation had to be the politics of the people in the townships and of the workers in the factories.

The People's rejection of the SAIC in 1981 demonstrated the need and urgency for the creation of new mass-based organisations and the revival of old ones which had been crushed in the '60's. And since again, the NIC began to emerge as a force to be reckoned with. At the same time youth organisations began to mushroom around Pmb. The DCO Matiwane Youth League organised youth in the Edendale area and with its formation came an increased militancy in Pmb's political arena.

The Sobantu Youth Organisation (SOYO) grew out of the great struggle waged by the people of Sobantu against higher rents - a struggle that was victorious. SOYO, although political in its aims, has committed itself to organising for the youth and has therefore organised winter schools and tuition classes for scholars in Sobantu.

The early 1980's saw too the development of community organisations. After a sustained struggle for better housing in the Bombay Heights area in Northdale we saw the development of the Bombay Heights Residents' Assoc. And now, we have too the Committee of 12 in Sobantu and other such organisations.

The scene was by now set for Pmb's participation in the formation of the UDF. A Committee of Concern was formed in May 1983 to unite all community based organisations under an umbrella body. And by now, of course, the Trade Union movement had an extremely strong membership in Pmb. The Trade Union movement was represented in the Committee of Concern as well.

At the formation of the UDF in Cape Town in August 1983, Pmb's Committee of Concern had pledges of support and solidarity from 62 other organisations in and around Pmb.

The support shown by organisations for the formation of the UDF surfaced again when the UDF People's Rally held on 31 October 1983, drew thousands of people to Edendale. It was the strongest meeting held in Pmb for at least two decades.

1984 was the year of mass action.

The Sobantu bus boycott was perhaps the most remarkable example of community mass action. The buses of the City Council drove into and out of Sobantu completely empty. A memorial mass meeting called to honour the death of Graham Hadebe had the support and attendance of all sectors of the community and a welcome home meeting for Azania Ndebele, who

spent seven years on the island, drew massive support.

And the UDF with its affiliate, the NIC waged the anti-constitution campaign on every possible front. These forces were able to deploy up to 150 activists on the day of the election and the disciplined, concerted campaign resulted in the mass stay away at the polls. But most important, NIC and the UDF had become credible mouthpieces for the needs and aspirations of our people. We have once again entered the era of mass politics. Repression has followed of course. Practically, the entire executive of the DCO Matiwane Youth League were detained earlier in 1984 and two of its members received sentences in a Treason Trail recently.

But the wheels of mass organisation have been set in motion and there can be no turning back





# Tribute to Beyers

This year, for the first time, Beyers Naude will be able to accept the position of NUSAS honorary president.

He has been unanimously elected to this position for the past 7 years, but he has never been able to accept because of his banning order.

Dr Naude was detained in 1977. Just 20 years earlier he was a popular NGK dominee and a member of the Broederbond.

He became aware of the injustices in SA and of the struggles of its oppressed people.

"Beyers has moved from the heart of Afrikaner Verkramptheid to a position where he has come to be recognised both in South Africa and internationally as a democrat", said Kate Philip.

In December 1961 he attended a gathering of churches to discuss racial conflict in South Africa. A document condemning Apartheid was drawn up.

The NGK church rejected these recommendations and withdrew from the WWC. "When the NGK .... adopted a position of isolation and aggressively defended the policy of apartheid ..... I withdrew as apartheid is abhorrent to me."

In August 1963, at a meeting of about 250 clergy, the Christian Institute was formed with Beyers Naude as its director. This invoked the disapproval of the NGK church and he was removed from his position as a dominee.

The Christian Institute planned to attempt to convince whites, especially Afrikaners, of the injustices of apartheid. When reflecting on the process of questioning and personal conflict that determined his change in attitude Beyers said: "I felt the need to develop a clear understanding of the DRC's theological justification of apartheid and subsequently found there was none. I was afraid to express this as a member of the Broederbond, as questioning can be treason to the Afrikaans cause and was afraid of the possible reaching effects this would have had on myself and my family."



After being unbanned earlier this year, Beyers was asked how he felt about being elected as NUSAS honorary president: "I would gladly accept this responsibility and perform my duties as far as I am able. I see NUSAS's role as informing students of the political developments in SA..... and of informing them of the roles they can fulfil in working for a democratic and non-racial society."

After he was unbanned Dr Naude said "I would like to remain actively involved in working for social justice and I

would like to have the opportunity to help white communities face the agonising process of adjusting themselves to a situation where the increasing black, Indian and coloured aspirations will determine the future of the country, where white communities should gladly offer and make available knowledge, expertise, wealth and experience to serve the goals of justice and liberation for all."

NUSAS is honoured to have Beyers Naude personally present at the opening of our 1984 Congress.