

HEAD OFFICE REPORT TO NUSAS CONGRESS 1981U.C.T. 28 November - 3 December1. Political Action(i) "Students For a Democratic Future"

The 1981 NUSAS theme has served as an effective thread running through the political activities of a very exciting year. Not only has it been a popular slogan under which NUSAS has worked, but it has also served to inject political content into the diverse range of activities. From the rejection of the Republic Day Celebrations, to the support of the Wilson Rowntree strikes and the national protests against the detentions and bannings of student leaders - the notion of students playing a role in working for a "democratic future" has emerged.

The central feature of the theme has been to contrast the anti-democratic nature of South African society, with the struggle of the majority of South Africans for a democratic future. The first NUSAS publication of the year entitled "Students for a Democratic Future", pointed both to the anti-democratic nature of South Africa's parliamentary system, as well as to areas such as the economic and educational systems. Following on this, the July Festival examined the organisation and struggle of South Africans against their exploitation and oppression.

The theme was launched fairly spectacularly on most of the campuses, with speakers like Zinzi Mandela and Alex Boraine addressing students. Although other "formal" activities were arranged revolving around the theme, such as the "Debate on Democracy" at Rhodes and "Media and Democracy" focus weeks at Wits, the main impact of the theme came in its use of the concept "democracy" as a reference point according to which both the activities of the Apartheid state and the actions and intentions of the majority of South Africans could be judged.

There are two inadequacies which stand out in the implementation of the theme:

Firstly, the theme suffered from a lack of theoretical input. Whilst a substantial amount of input was injected into the theme at the beginning of the year, the debates that developed remained relatively static. As a result, students did not develop a thorough understanding of both the limitations and possibilities of democratic organisations. Secondly, NUSAS did not focus the theme on our own immediate environment, i.e., the universities. We pointed to the anti-democratic nature of the educational system, but failed to conscientize this in the daily events on our own campuses. There were many dramatic events during the year which clearly illustrated the role of the universities in South African society and provided enormous potential for incorporation into a systematic challenge against these supposedly "liberal" institutions.

Despite these inadequacies, the 1981 NUSAS theme will undoubtedly be remembered as being a successful one - both in terms of allowing students to play a role in the Broad Democratic Movement and in educating students on the campuses themselves.

(ii) Participation in National Campaigns

A central aspect of NUSAS activity during 1981 was involvement in National Political Campaigns. In this respect, Head Office has played an important role in spreading information and ideas, and co-ordinating activities on the different campuses.

The anti-Republic Day Celebrations activities stand out as the major political campaign of the year. Democratic groups throughout the country came together to oppose these celebrations and call for a National Democratic Convention to establish a democratic Republic for all South Africa's people.

From the very outset, NUSAS played an important role in the campaign. Following on a motion at the 1980 Congress, students organised activities on all the campuses to complement and add impetus to the campaign. Focus weeks, mass rallies, pamphlets and boycotts were organised and generated a considerable display of militancy by students. Possibly the most notable achievement of the campaign, from the point of NUSAS, was that it solidified relationships with the progressive groups and particularly the Black Student Movement - Andrew shared platforms with a range of progressive student, political and trade union leaders.

The anti-Republic Day activities will be remembered as a significant campaign in the development of the Democratic Movement. Despite an all out attempt by the Government to create a display of "unity" and "national pride", the activities of the opponents of Apartheid far overshadowed this. For NUSAS the month of May was both exciting and educative. Our participation in the campaign undoubtedly contributed to its success and generated considerable credibility for the National Union.

The latter part of 1981 has been dominated in the national arena by the incredibly successful campaign to boycott the South African Indian Council elections. Besides articles that were written in the student press, our role was generally restricted to supportative statements and providing resources. Whilst some campaigns allow us to assume a prominent role, others require a sensitivity and recognition of the necessity for other groups to play a leading role.

It is vital that NUSAS continues to participate in national campaigns. It is also important, however, that we do not slip into the trap of playing "reactive politics". The potential always exists for the student movement to slip into the trap of sitting and waiting for the next "issue" to which it can respond. The obvious flaw in this is that we obviously cannot anticipate a "constant flow" of events and, more particularly, events to which we can respond. NUSAS must therefore consider adopting a programme which will provide the student movement with a dynamic of its own and momentum for the entire year. Whilst we must "react" to events, this must complement and strengthen, not replace our own activities.

(iii) Playing a Support Role

Since the boycott of Fattis & Monis' products in 1979, the student movement has emphasized the importance of utilizing our privileged position and numerous resources to support and complement the activities of other democratic groups. In this regard, 1981 has been notable for participation in support work for various strikes (Wilson Rowntree, Dalton, and Leyland being the main examples), as well as support for the struggle of the squatters at Nyanga and Kliptown.

It is a sad reflection (although not necessarily surprising) of the commercial press that there is often little coverage of the activities of democratic groups. Head Office has therefore seen it as a priority to spread information and ideas generated in the individual centres, to the other campuses. We cannot overestimate the importance of the dissemination of information in building a national movement for change.

As the intensity and tempo of resistance against Apartheid increases, the student movement will be increasingly called on to play its "support role". It is already becoming difficult to decide which activities must be supported and which we simply do not have extensive enough resources to engage in. We are therefore at the point where it is vital that we thoroughly assess the role we have played in this regard since 1979 in an attempt to establish criteria and guidelines for our continued participation.

The most abundant resource that we have available as students is clearly our intellectual one. Through publications, speeches, discussions and seminars we have an enormous opportunity to play a strong ideological role in the Democratic Movement. There are real considerations and limitations in playing this role, most significantly in terms of the fact that we are largely isolated from the broader community in our "ivory towers" on the English-speaking campuses.

Although, during 1981, NUSAS has possibly underplayed its "ideological" role, we cannot allow the limitations of this role to actually undermine our productivity. If we utilize rigorous criteria (eg. a thorough understanding of the issue; sensitivity to the groups involved; a careful assessment of our audience) there is no reason why NUSAS should not increase its ideological role.

(iv) Political Education

One of the most important areas of the student movement is the political education of those who are organizationally involved. If we are to ensure that our commitment to democracy is a life-long one, it is essential that we utilize our years at university to develop a comprehensive understanding of our society and our roles in contributing to building a democratic future.

Head Office has recognized the centrality of political education and in this capacity organised national gatherings, produced publications and prepared seminar material. The tempo and momentum of events has often overshadowed the systematic implementation of educational programmes, however. Whilst we must obviously be flexible, we must ensure that a more comprehensive programme is implemented next year.

2. Head Office

It may be useful to begin by outlining some of the functions that Head Office (H.O.) fulfils. On the one hand, H.O. is the people in it, the six employees of the national union. It is a group of people, with different skills and aptitudes, who function as a team to provide leadership on a national level, give suggestions, input, support, advice and many other similar things. There is always a tension between this leadership function and the possibility of dominating. H.O. people always have to be very careful not to use their skill

and experience to stifle the initiative of others. (This is a tension we have not always managed to master, but where there have been problems we have tried to confront them and solve them). It is best to see this function as a part of the second function of H.O. people, and that is to provide services to political activity on the campuses. Such services can be very different things: material, information, skills, contacts, etc. etc. National co-ordination, too, is a service provided to the campuses. Over and above that, H.O. people are charged with the responsibility for the various national events and meetings that take place.

On the other hand, H.O. is a place, located at 131 Lower Main Road, which also fulfils a very useful function for the national union. It is a base for operations, a central point where the administrative tasks involved in running NUSAS are fulfilled, information is readily available and through which people can get in touch with each other, a fair amount of news and the latest developments. H.O. is an important home base for H.O. people, and others, when they tour.

In addition, H.O. offers a substantial amount of space for meetings, banner printing sessions and other activities. This has been a particularly nice feature of the past year. It has meant that Mannies Snooker Parlour has come much more alive, and been much more used and useful.

In general, there is a problem in defining the role of H.O. within NUSAS. On the one hand, there is often a too easy assumption that H.O. is NUSAS. This is quite clearly nonsense. NUSAS is a federation of S.R.C.'s, and it is here that the bulk of NUSAS activity takes place. At the same time, NUSAS office bearers are elected to represent the national union, and as such one (rightly) is often called upon to speak on its behalf. This is a tension that still has to be adequately resolved.

Some General Comments:

There are some things which are important for H.O. to become a well functioning team, and which should be recorded here for the use of future H.O.'s. The lessons we have learned from spending a year together include:

(a) Communication is absolutely vital within H.O., especially when people return from touring. In day to day working, too, it is important constantly to ensure that others are aware of what we are doing, to share experiences, impressions and thoughts. We have been able to regularise and formalise this process when people return from other centres, and this has proved invaluable, but it may be important to organise regular (weekly perhaps) H.O. meetings to ensure continued communication.

(b) Job definitions need to be very clear, and thoroughly discussed at the beginning of the year by H.O. They can be tailored to individual skills to a certain extent, and need not be rigid. To a certain extent, people should be able to swop roles, but a certain division of responsibility helps to ensure that everything gets done.

(c) January is a crucial time to build up working relationships between H.O. people. It is a relatively quiet time, when much preparatory work and thinking is done. Our H.O. was hampered by the fact that some of us only returned to Cape Town in late January.

3. Touring

H.O. has done a large amount of touring. Not only has the President (and acting-president) and Projects Officer got around, but the Secretary General and Media Officer have toured too. We visited each campus at least ten times collectively and Lisa toured each campus at least five times.

Some of the tours were brief and in the case of the President, mostly speaking tours. Andrew did a national speaking tour during Orientation Weeks and during the anti-Republic Day campaign. The latter was cut short, however, when he was detained just before he was due to go to Rhodes.

While on some occasions, our tours have been too brief, on other occasions we have spent longer periods of time at centres, especially Rhodes and Durban. Spending longer periods on individual campuses is generally more productive, but schedules often do not allow for this. We also toured in pairs, especially during the second half of the year. This is sometimes more productive but means that we get around to less campuses, in the same time period.

Touring - meeting with student leaders and organisations, spreading ideas and co-ordinating activities - is one of the most vital functions that H.O. can fulfil. Touring by H.O. staff is often when NUSAS comes alive and real to most students. New people get introduced to NUSAS and it becomes less of that awesome organisation "up there" (or that disgusting organisation "down there").

During tours one usually meets S.R.C. members, and student organisations, such as Wages Comms, Projects Comms, Faculty Councils etc. Here, H.O. can play a role in spreading or helping with ideas or explaining what NUSAS is about and how student organisations can benefit from it (eg. attending national gatherings). Some campuses were very good about facilitating meetings between H.O. and the organisations. On others, however, this role of NUSAS was not so clearly perceived and one got the feeling they did not understand why H.O. staff wanted to attend their meetings.

Regular and almost constant touring helped us develop a greater and more detailed understanding of the campuses. With this insight, we were in a better position to offer leadership and to provide campuses with the input for them to grow and become stronger.

However, we did not act on our understanding to the extent that we could have, eg. by responding with media.

Throughout the year, touring facilitated and promoted national co-ordination. Some of the areas where this occurred were:

- co-ordination of anti-Republic Day activities;
- setting up and encouraging the local Law Directive groups and promoting the Conference;
- collating a list of media resources at each centre;
- organising participation by groups from different centres in activities of the July Festival;
- organising research for Dissension in the Ranks.

We tried to plan tours to coincide with local seminars, eg. Projects Comm. Weekends. H.O. is usually called on to give a "history of the student movement talk", but can make a lot of valuable contributions besides. H.O. could perhaps have been used more in this regard.

It is important that NUSAS keep in touch with its honorary vice-presidents, important academics, prominent lawyers, old student leaders, etc. They have some valuable ideas to share with us and by keeping in touch with them, we can rely on their support during difficult times. On tour, we were also able to spread and build up FONS.

While NUSAS has valuable input to give, we have to be careful not to dominate and undercut campus initiatives and ideas. Apart from one or two incidents, we hopefully managed to keep this balance. We were generally welcomed when touring and if there have been complaints, then they have been about too little and not too much touring.

Campuses generally made an effort to arrange people and groups for us to meet - Rhodes once organised three things almost simultaneously for Jonty and Franz - and they had just arrived by car.

On a few occasions, a member of the H.O. staff took somebody from a campus on tour with them. We had planned to do this more often but it was difficult because people often are too busy on their own campus. This plan often makes touring more enjoyable for H.O. staff and can be very valuable learning experience for the other person. Also they can give additional input.

4. Contact

(i) Black Students:

Our relationship with Black students has steadily improved over the past few years. As the reactionary part of the Black Consciousness Movement declines in political influence, more and more opportunity develops for democratic students of all races to work together. The bulk of our contact with Black students has occurred on an internal level or at the level of public appearances. Andrew spoke at Durban-Westville at the beginning of the year and shared platforms with AZASO and COSAS speakers during the anti-Republic Day Campaign. Jonty also co-chaired a commission on education at the anti-SAIC Conference in Durban. Wits campus probably saw the greatest move towards non-racial unity with the SRC and BSS working in unison with one another throughout the year.

NUSAS has learned many painful lessons over the years with its relations with Black students. Although we are clearly heading towards even greater cooperation between democrats of all races, we must be constantly aware of the problems involved. At the moment it is very obvious that the very different conditions on Black and white campuses necessitate racially defined student unions (ie. NUSAS and AZASO). The possibility of a non-racial alliance between us is, however, not too far in the distant future.

(ii) Afrikaans Students:

Unfortunately developments (or lack thereof) in the Afrikaans student movement have given us little hope for optimism on that front. The ASB continues to be caught up in Nationalist Party dogma and shows no signs of

moving towards a position which could give us adequate common ground to co-operate.

The only real "ray of light" has been Polstu, with which we have a productive (if not "ethical") relationship. Polstu people have been at most of our events and we sent observers to their annual congress. Both Laurie and Jonty were given the opportunity to talk to Afrikaans students by being invited by Polstu to speak at Stallebosch and Tukkies respectively.

(iii) International:

In his capacity as chairperson at SASTS, Andrew attended the International Student Travel Conference in the Phillipines and had the opportunity to meet student leaders from throughout the world. He established good relationships with people from the National Union of Students (NUS) in England, as well as student unions in Ireland, Australia and Asia. We have received constant messages of solidarity and support from these unions during the year, and have in turn supplied them with material on South Africa. It is important that NUSAS maintains and extends these contacts which serve as effective pressure groups and disseminators of information.

NUSAS Head Office continues to be a popular "tourist attraction" for the more politically minded overseas visitors. We consider it important that we speak to these people and let them have copies of our publications.

(iv) SASPU

It has been particularly encouraging to witness the expansion of our sibling-organisation. SASPU has grown enormously (in both size and influence) this year and plays an incredibly vital role in the student movement. All of us at H.O. see SASPU National as a priority and consistently supply articles to it.

Obviously as SASPU expands it is able to assume more and more "training" responsibilities from NUSAS, particularly in terms of media skills. We regard ourselves as complementary organisations and intend to continue to work on building the student movement together. A few "problems" have arisen with the expansion of SASPU in terms of organising meetings and gatherings at the same times and venues as NUSAS. In order to co-ordinate activities with SASPU, we have agreed to have regular meetings with the SASPU people whenever there are national gatherings. We are sure that problems will be easily sorted out in the future.

(v) Academics:

All of us at Head Office regard it as an important function to keep in touch with academics on all the campuses. They have a great deal to offer both in terms of ideas and information.

The relationship between progressive students and academics at Wits has obviously paved the way for an even more productive relationship - with the respective groupings now able to mobilize to provide each other with very real support.

NUSAS H.O. expresses its appreciation to all the academics who have assisted us during the year and taken a working interest in the National Union. After all, the university is a site of struggle for all of us.

(vi) A General Comment:

The concept of "contact" is often a problematic one in that it suggests a relationship which is "created", rather than one which develops organically.

At H.O. we have had a simple principle this year, and that is that we do not have "contact for contact sake". NUSAS attempts to keep in touch with the broadest range of groupings. This is, however, done in accordance with the notion that relationships are only established where they can be productive to one of the groups involved. As the Democratic Movement expands and picks up momentum, many more opportunities will arise for "contact". It is obviously important that we all attempt to keep in touch with other groupings so as to develop a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics which surround us. At the same time, however, we should always maintain a cautious and considered attitude towards the relationships and "contacts" we establish.

5. National Gatherings

H.O. organised the following national gatherings during 1981:

(i) Katberg Introductory Seminar

H.O. organised this, with Rhodes helping on the catering side. While Katberg this year allowed for much more participation, there was insufficient political input and education. Nevertheless it was very popular and enjoyable.

(ii) July Festival

This was a new innovation to NUSAS.

Andrew's brainchild - the NUSAS July Festival, proved to be an exciting addition to the NUSAS annual agenda. Under the broad theme "Towards a South African Democracy" at least 150 people converged on Durban for four days of frantic activity.

The festival had a widely varied programme, including speakers, slide-tape shows, seminars, workshops, social history tours, movies and a concert. There was also a bookshop and a resource centre.

Both Lisa and Franz spent time in Durban prior to the festival, assisting with the organisation. Lisa also toured other centres to get ideas for the Festival and involve people in the planning and participation.

Although it is generally agreed that the festival was both educative and enjoyable, there is undoubtedly an enormous amount to be learnt about running this kind of event. Probably the most serious fault was simply providing people with too many options and choices. Too little time was also provided for the all-important discussions needed to follow talks and visual material.

The idea of a festival has enormous potential and should be explored further in the future. To be really successful it should be planned at least 6 months in advance and should probably be spread out over a full week.

(iii) National Council Meetings

In the past, National Council Meetings have been regarded as a "drag", "bureaucratic" or "boring". This year we attempted to change this and

circumstances helped us in this. In March we were faced with the Koornhof incident at Wits and then the affiliation attempt affair at Rhodes, and in July we had to respond to Andrew's detention and banning.

In September, after the dramatic activities of the last year, we held a larger and longer National Council meeting. We evaluated our activities and analysed our strengths and weaknesses. This meeting was far more educative and achieved far more than previous national council meetings.

(iv) Congress

Well...this is happening at the moment. U.C.T. has done the bulk of the organising but H.O. has spent a lot of time planning and preparing for it. As, you will see, the committees have been changed quite substantially.

6. Publications and Media

The publications produced by NUSAS this year were generally fairly well received. H.O. tried to define the aim and audience of each publication before working. Below is a list of the media we produced:

- (i) The Orientation Folder turned out to be a very good idea and did much to promote NUSAS's image on the campuses during Orientation Week. It didn't look at all intimidating or heavy and did not appear overtly political. The emphasis was to use the folder to introduce people to NUSAS and to encourage them to become involved.
- (ii) Students for a Democratic Future was perhaps our greatest success this year. It was a complete breakaway from the conventional NUSAS booklet and also did not look heavy or intellectually intimidating. It was aimed specifically at university students. (Possibly the audience could have been expanded somewhat as many other groups expressed interest but couldn't really make use of it). As an instrument for getting the ideas of a theory across the booklet worked very well. However what was lacking was a substantial follow-up where the ideas in the booklet were expanded, to provide a deeper understanding.
- (iii) Election Pamphlet. This was produced to provide some insights into the General Election issue and was quite a novel design as pamphlets go. However, campuses felt that it was too long and that the ideas could have been explained more simply.
- (iv) The Republic Day pamphlet. Although adequate in ideas, the pamphlet was badly designed for mass pamphleteering. This was one instance where H.O. discussed content and audience extensively but did not discuss format, and we agonised for hours about the cover and the slogan.
- (v) Dissension in the Ranks was also very well received. The debate about the position of white democrats in the struggle for change expanded dramatically this year. It was evident that whites had begun to carry their commitment beyond university on a far larger scale than previously. "Dissension" attempted to give some form to the debate. Unfortunately, it took rather a long time coming out and when it did was in a sense no longer ahead of the debate. It did however provide an excellent starting point for discussion around the issues it raised and did outline invaluable lessons which white democrats can learn from past history.

- (vi) Welcome to NUSAS. A new innovation - this publication was a second introductory booklet about NUSAS. H.O. felt that since people often became involved in Projects Comm. etc, during the year (ie. after Orientation Week), they may not have an insight into NUSAS structure and functions. It also outlined the ideas which had been around in the student movement for the past few years. It was intended for all new S.R.C. members who had not been involved in NUSAS activities in the past - to give them some insight into the organisation of which they were now an active part.
- (vii) Herstory. This was a joint NUSAS Women's Directive/UCT Women's Movement publication. It seemed to go down very well on the campuses as an introduction to women's issues in South Africa and feminism in general. The women's directive also reproduced the pamphlet "All Women are Oppressed, Some Women are More Oppressed Than Others". This did not have a very wide distribution but nevertheless pamphlets like this are useful to get an idea across.
- The Papers from the Cape Town July Law Conference have eventually been printed and are ready for distribution. The law directives should be contacted if more copies are needed. These papers could also be used as the basis for discussion groups.
- The NUSAS Organisation Handbook is also finally ready. This is an extensive list of do's and don't and basic principles of campus, committee organisational points to remember, ideas for media, etc. etc. It will be invaluable for Projects Comms, etc., giving guidelines about how to run focuses and many other useful tips. So please make sure it is used extensively.
- (viii) Nusas Newsletter. H.O. sent out about 5 newsletters. These sadly to say were not very well distributed to campus organisations as was intended. They gave news on campus happenings and news about NUSAS H.O. and NUSAS activities. These newsletters are useful for keeping campuses in touch with activities on other campuses, current ideas, issues, etc. Next year please distribute them better.
- (ix) NUSAS News. At September National Council it was decided that campuses in general also need to be kept up to date with day to day NUSAS activities. H.O. produced an A3 newsheet for distribution to campus at large. This is a good idea and should be continued but this, too, must be well distributed (through canteens, etc.).
- (x) Memorandum. At September National Council student leaders discussed the position of the student movement at the moment, its failures and successes. H.O. produced a summary of the discussion which could provide helpful pointers for activity next year. Also, much needed at this time, was a knowledge of the history of the student movement. Jonty presented a paper on this at some campuses and the paper has been printed. This is a useful thing to be used at Projects Comm seminars - to give students an understanding of their history and also help them learn lessons from the mistakes of the past.
- (xi) Banners. Students have used banners extensively this year and they have proved to be very effective media. The acres of H.O. floor have been used for most of the U.C.T. banners, some of which have been exceptionally good, eg. The Sharpeville banner, Republic Day banners, National Women's Day banners and of course the Congress banner (it's good hey - designed by Clive van Heerden). Many of the banners were used by off-campus groups for mass meetings.

- (xii) Slide Tape Shows. A group of U.C.T. students and NUSAS put together a slide tape show for Republic Day. Starting out with very little experience, they produced an amazing show. We had copies made but unfortunately they didn't come out too well (shockingly in fact - some of the slides were impossible to make out). This was unfortunately seized by the SB and banned. The Cuba slide-tape show has also finally been completed - second time round and is now in a fairly passable form. Please use it. Slide-tape shows are excellent projects for group work although it helps to have someone around who knows what is going on in terms of audio visual media, tying together slides and scripts, etc. Slide-tape shows are also a medium where there is lots of room for experimentation and innovative ideas. But make sure you have your audience in mind all the time.
- (xiii) Silk Screening. This has become a popular process for poster making. At the July Festival we held a silkscreening workshop and we held a few workshops at H.O. for Cape Town students and community groups. This is a very useful skill and one which as many people as possible should acquire.

Production of a NUSAS publication is usually a fairly rushed job and its quite difficult to streamline this. We set many deadlines this year and met very few of them - at times admittedly due to a bit of slackness, at others the deadlines set were humanly impossible.

Presentation:

As an organisation, NUSAS has a role to play both within the student community and within the broad democratic movement. Also it is a channel which articulates new ideas and debates, which are essentially in opposition to the ideas of the ruling ideology. It is therefore important that our publications are presentable and readable, simple and clear and provide clearly worded alternatives to the barrage of state propoganda.

To do this effectively the media officer has to 1) use and improve her/his own skills and 2) make use of people with other skills (drawing, photography, etc.). Sloppy publications don't get read.

Skills Training:

The SASPU skills workshop provided skills training to some extent but mainly in the field of student newspapers. However, there is scope for the media officer to engage in training people on the campuses in other media skills, particularly in the field of good publication production which is substantially different from newspaper production, ie. in terms of conceptualising lay out, design, using pictures, etc. The media officer could also help to some extent with the student newspapers on a more day to day basis (as I did with Varsity this year - giving advice and also writing the odd article). Perhaps the media officer could run an additional skills section at the SASPU skills workshop where other media skills are discussed, eg. slide-tape shows, banners, posters and pamphlets and publications.

Distribution and Sales:

This is the eternal bugbear of the student movement. This was said last year but must be said again. As leaders in the student movement we continually have new ideas and concepts to get across to students. There are many ways of doing this, eg. focus weeks, displays, slide-tape shows, movies, theatre, posters, newspapers AND publications. To communicate our ideas to our campuses, our

publications etc. must be seen and read. The hard work and slog of H.O. and other students involved in producing publications comes to nothing if the publications sit collecting dust in S.R.C. storerooms. Also, NUSAS publications always have the attention of the PCB lurking in the background, so the sooner sold, the better. U.C.T. has been fairly good about this - if any organisation, eg. Women's Movement, had their own publication to sell, they would grab all other publications that needed selling and put them out as well on tables in the union. Generally, spurts of concerted selling do occur when a publication first comes out. During the first term especially and also during focus weeks and political campaigns, outside meetings, etc. distribution tables should be set up with all useful publications (including things like SASPU, WIP etc.). Also posters advertising the latest publications help in publicising them.

Planning for distribution: Both H.O. and S.R.C. projects and media officers should liaise closely about the NUMBERS of publications their campuses need and explain carefully the procedures of order No's and payment. The aims and audience of each publication should be discussed at National Council so that people can judge how many they will be able to sell. This is NB so that neither NUSAS or the SRC's lose too much money.

Bannings:

Despite extensive state repression in other spheres this year, our publications have survived rather well. The only one banned was Students for a Democratic Future and the reasons for banning were, as usual, quite hysterical saying "In this supposedly amusing little pamphlet,....NUSAS once again gives expression to its criticisms of prevailing social conditions and the social status of the Bantu population. First comes an attack on the parliamentary system because it is not democratic, then on the factory system. Then an attack on the educational system which makes a slave of the woman (precious!).....etc." They go on to comment that "The whole publication is in light mood and not bitter and the superficial little arguments do not get down to the roots of the matter....." and so on. Oh well!

7. Directives

(i) Womens Directive

The Women's Directive started well with the joint NUSAS-UCT Women's Movement publication, 'Herstory'. However things lagged a bit, because the National co-ordinator did not plan anything further. A group in Pietermaritzburg were very keen to start a Women's Movement and would have greatly appreciated more assistance and input from the Directive.

A women's workshop at the July Festival did not work very well because people came with very different expectations. Input could have been better structured and more careful thought given to who was attending.

However, the regional seminars held one month later were very successful. They followed a programme designed by Ingrid who had to take over some of the functions of the National Co-ordinator. Ingrid and Lisa attended the Rhodes/UCT seminar.

Ingrid also produced 3 newsletters which were distributed to the Women's Movements.

(ii) Law Directive

The major activity of the Law Directive in its initial year, was the Law Conference at UCT. H.O. helped formulate the programme, design the media and produce the Conference papers. When touring, H.O. helped by inviting speakers and by encouraging and arranging students to come.

Touring H.O. encouraged the setting up of local groups of the Law Directive and attended and addressed some meetings. We also initiated a book on detentions which is being worked on in Johannesburg.

(iii) Health Directive

H.O. staff met with the health directive's people regularly throughout the year, and attended the Medical Students' Conference organised by people involved in the directive. Franz addressed a small meeting about the directive in Rhodes.

We applied for, and got money from Student Services Project Trust Fund for the Health Fact Sheets, on behalf of the Directive.

Both the Health & Law Directives have had problems getting finances for their activities. For this reason, we have suggested that local groups of the directives become constituted under the SRCs.

While both directives have organised some very successful activities and projects (eg Conferences, Fact Sheets) their weakness has been in the area of recruiting and involving students. This should be a priority in the next year.

8. State Repression

1981 has seen an endless stream of repressive actions aimed at undercutting the Democratic Movement. If there is a central lesson that the student movement should learn from this year, it is the lesson of both the power and the brutality of the Apartheid state.

The list of acts of repression against students directly involved in NUSAS and others related to the student movement is a particularly long one:

- * Last year Andrew and Chris Swart were charged for addressing an illegal meeting on June 16. In May this year they were found guilty but only warned.
- * Andrew was detained for 35 days immediately after the anti-Republic Day activities.
- * Andrew and Sammy Adelman both received 5 year banning orders.
- * Richard Wickstead was charged under the Official Secrets Act.
- * Bruce Irvine is currently facing charges of Contempt of Court.
- * 48 U.C.T. students are currently facing charges under the Riotous Assemblies Act.
- * 4 Wits students are currently facing charges under the Internal Security Act after spending 3 months in detention.
- * 2 SASPU editors, Keith Coleman and Clive van Heerden, are currently in detention.
- * Auret van Heerden and Cedric de Beer, two ex-office bearers of NUSAS have now spent 10 weeks in detention.

Fink Haysom, another ex-NUSAS President was detained on the eve of Congress.

- * Guy Berger (a NUSAS honorary vice-president) and Devon Pillay were sentenced at the beginning of the year to jail sentences of 4 and 2 years respectively under the Internal Security and Terrorism Acts.
- * An enormous number of publications produced by students have (predictably!) been banned for distribution or possession.
- * The Black Student Movement has been faced with an equally vigorous and far more brutal attack. Closest to home, this has involved the detention of Wits BSS leaders and subsequent banning of Azhar and Firoz Cachalia.

Possibly the most remarkable piece of state repression this year was the 20 minute programme shown on SABC TV attempting to do a major "hatchet job" on NUSAS and the Wits SRC. In an incredibly distorted picture of both the "Flag Burning" and "Koornhof" incidents, Cliff Sanders attempted to undermine the "white" public image of NUSAS. Although the programme undoubtedly had effect, it is the type of attack that we have learned to anticipate. (As a sideline to Cliff Saunders: All indications are that the programme did far more to increase the credibility of NUSAS in the eyes of the majority of South Africans, than it did to diminish it in the eyes of the SABC TV die-hards.)

There have been many massive protest meetings during the year - attacking the various acts of repression. It is testimony to the strength of the student movement that, in the face of these acts, we have not only continued but have continued to grow. It will be important for us during the following year to anticipate and accept that we will have to cope with similar (and possibly even more extensive) acts. We must not shy away from this challenge but rather accept it as a reality of the system under which we live. The struggle for democracy is not an easy one. Whilst we might have had a relatively easy ride in the past, this does not hold true for the future. It is therefore our responsibility to strengthen our ranks and to develop the necessary commitment to continue acting in the face of the repressive system which we face.

Whilst the NUSAS campuses have had many protest meetings, we have not launched a systematic enough attempt to bring acts of repression and the generally repressive nature of South African society to the attention of students and the public at large. We could possibly play a far greater role in monitoring and publicizing the actions of the Apartheid state.

9. NUSAS and the campuses.

(i) Wits

Wits has undoubtedly been the most exciting NUSAS campus during 1981, and often had head office struggling simply to keep up with the course of events. Fortunately a particularly good relationship has been developed between head office and Wits people, allowing both Wits and the National Union in general, to benefit greatly from the dynamism of the campus.

Two areas stand out as having served as a particularly solid foundation for student government at Wits. The first was the great attention paid by the SRC to running a successful orientation week to launch the year's activities. The second was the attention paid by the SRC to providing comprehensive and constant student benefits to campus.

The "Koornhof Incident" was clearly one of the highlights of the year at Wits and one from which we can learn many lessons. At the time of the March National Council Meeting the Wits SRC was at the peak of the crisis and appeared to be battling to survive, with intense ("white") public pressure and an upsurge of right-wing terror on campus. With careful strategizing and a remarkable effort by Sammy Adelman (and possibly a bit of luck) the SRC was able to weather the storm and come out very much in control of the situation. The near-hysterical response of the ("white") public and SABCTV, however, serve as a lesson not to be forgotten.

It is accurate to say that Wits campus was the focal point of student activity during the Anti-Republic Day activities. With a series of enormous meetings, the "Flag Burning", lecture boycott and invasion of the campus by Riot police, the period was particularly dramatic and intense. A great number of students were mobilized during Republic Day and a level of militancy achieved what has not been witnessed in NUSAS for many years. While students learned a great deal during the period, it is unfortunate that Wits was unable to channel the mobilization and militancy more effectively into campus organisations. The impact of the militant activity of "white" students did much to increase the credibility of NUSAS amongst the majority of South Africans and the period will undoubtedly go down as an historical one.

The Wits SRC has done much to improve its relationship with other progressive groupings on campus. The two that stood out most are, firstly, the firm working relationship that was built up with the Black Students' Society (BSS) and, secondly, the relationship established with progressive academics (who have recently formed the Conference of Academics for a Democratic Society). The creation of a "front" of progressive groupings on campus is particularly powerful and should be seen as a priority on all the campuses.

Organizational work on Wits campus has been fairly strong this year. Groups like the women's movement and "Wits Student" stand out for having been particularly successful in integrating people into their activities. One of the weakest areas of the campus, however, has been the political education of those already organizationally involved. Students have learned about handling crisis and public pressure, but more attention must be given to ongoing and thorough educational programmes.

Sammy's banning came as a substantial blow to Wits and to the National Union. The extent to which Wits was able to absorb the blow and continue to work is testimony to the depth of leadership on the campus. Sammy has been sadly missed by all of us in NUSAS. His courage and dedication have remained a constant inspiration to all of us for the remaining part of the year. (The "Torchlight Vigil" held on the eve of Sammy's banning was an excellent example of the potential for disciplined protest action.)

NUSAS candidates could not have done much better in the September SRC elections. The "Alliance '81" and "Campus Link" tickets won convincingly, taking all the top positions on the poll. Surprisingly, NUSAS was hardly ever actually mentioned during the election campaign. Although much activity has taken place on the campus in keeping with the NUSAS theme, there is a tendency not to promote the organization itself. Attention must definitely be given to our profile on campus and the knowledge of students about NUSAS.

It is only on Wits campus that NUSAS has experienced organized right-wing activity this year. The Student Moderate Alliance has been remarkably destructive and wasted much political energy and opportunity. It is clear that the right-wing onslaught (one can only surmise as to who is behind it all!) is now not geared to capturing SRCs during elections, but rather aims at obstructing and hindering democratic activity. (It was however, way back in 1963 that Vorster claimed that NUSAS is a "cancer in the life of the nation which must be cut out." Its closing is on the 20th anniversary of that statement, and we're still here.....)

(ii) UCT

UCT is a campus of contrasts. It is more successful than the other campuses, recruited and involved people in activities and provided student activists solid political education. However it was least able to mobilise campus and student leaders have had problems defining their constituency and what they think and respond to.

This was due to a whole series of factors which only a careful understanding of campus and hard work can help rectify. However, the new SRC is acknowledging this and realise that campus support for the SRC does not just exist, it has to be fought for and won.

UCTs strength lay in the low profile work it did. It was one of the first groups to respond to the Wilson Rowntree Boycott campaign and an enormous amount of work was done in this regard. Some problems of UCT dominating skills, the production of media for other off-campus groups etc. arose but these were handled well. While UCTs actions were unintentional, these dynamics need to be borne in mind by the student movement.

The Wilson Rowntree Campaign was successful in both achieving actions and in incorporating and training new people. This is often difficult to achieve. Other activities such as the following were also crucial in developing strong, experienced and educated student leaders :

- * an extensive and thorough seminar programme operating throughout the year
- * an active Projects Comm for the first time in years
- * a well-run and accessible Resource Centre
- * numerous publications on issues such as Zimbabwe, Nyanga Bush and Angola
- * active campus organisations with many members and admirable organisational forms e.g. Wages Comm., Varsity

UCT has also the largest number of active and progressive Faculty Councils. It is unfortunate that some are isolated from more mainstream student activity e.g. Education & Architecture Faculty Councils.

H.O. relationship with UCT we felt was better than in previous years (apart from occasional hassles over payment of bills.) The fact that H.O. is in Cape Town has meant that the relationship of UCT to H.O. (and vice versa) has lacked definition on both sides. We feel that things have improved this year, but much work still needs to be done in this area.

(iii) Durban

While Durban has experienced a few problems this year, leadership is now learning from past mistakes and are committed to working hard to correct them.

The activities organised by the SRC were relatively well attended. The potential for recruiting people was there. However, Durban's greatest problem was their inability to recruit and incorporate people. This limited the number of activities that were organised and the ability of organisations such as Dome, Wages Comm to operate effectively.

The SRC participated in many of the campaigns that were waged in Durban and played a useful and valuable role. (e.g. anti-Republic Day, Rent Struggle.)

H.O.'s relationship with Durban is good. When we held the July Festival there, the SRC worked well with us and a lot of hard work was put in. It was a pity that more people were not involved in the organisation of the Festival or that more people did not attend it.

A new well-conceived women's movement and the moves towards establishing a creche was an important step forward.

(iv) Rhodes

NUSAS's first input to Rhodes this year was when Andrew arrived half an hour late for his Orientation Week address. But this was not to be a bad omen. Rhodes is now affiliated to the National Union and is going well.

NUSAS needs to take special notice of the particular dynamics that operate at Rhodes. Rhodes is a small university in a small town. In addition, very few students come from Grahamstown, stay there continuously, or stay together once they have left university.

Consequently the direct support role of Rhodes is limited and a mass meeting cannot have the same public impact as one at Wits for instance. Much greater attention needs to be paid to providing students with an orientation, education and the skills needed, so that they can play relevant roles when they leave campus.

The isolated position of Grahamstown, demands that NUSAS be very conscientious about keeping Rhodes in touch with national politics, trends and ideas.

The Referendum was obviously the most significant event this year. While the first affiliation attempt was depressing and frustrating, it seemed to have played an important role in mobilising NUSAS supporters and drawing them together.

After so many years of trying, the Referendum Campaign in July had to be successful. The key thing now is to build on the victory and ensure that it is long lasting. There is a need to work out appropriate forms of organisation and to discuss how these organisations should operate and relate to one another.

SRC leadership has worked very hard this year - introducing innovations (eg. SRC Newsletter) and doing a lot of concrete work in res reform campaigns. (Not to forget - discarding some old practices, like paid lunches at SRC meetings!)

H.O. understood very little about the dynamics and intricacies of Rhodes student politics at the beginning of the year. However, we learnt quickly; especially during the first affiliation attempt.

Other campuses can learn a thing or two from the in-depth understanding that Rhodes student leaders have of their campus, and of constituency politics.

During the referendum, the relationship between H.O. and the campaign team was not clearly defined. Consequently there were problems of domination by H.O. It was unfortunate that while we sensed this, it was not discussed openly and worked through.

Otherwise, we have a strong relationship with Rhodes. Rhodes is particularly conscientious about distributing NUSAS literature, bags, etc. and about sending us money (Thanks!). And the effort made by the SRC to promote FONS is gratefully acknowledged.

(v) Pietermaritzburg

There was not much cause to be hopeful about Pietermaritzburg in January. However, things have changed dramatically during the year and now there is a solid, active and hard working core of NUSAS supporters involved in the SRC, on NUX, in the Local Comm and in the Women's Movement.

Much of the activity of the year (apart from defending themselves against the rightwing) has revolved around the student newspaper and organising a few meetings. Perhaps a bit more attention could have been paid to education amongst NUSAS supporters through seminars and reading.

Despite Pietermaritzburg being unaffiliated, H.O. has tried to provide the same services to them as to other campuses. We have toured Pietermaritzburg campus - although never longer than for a day - and sent copies of all media produced. We should, however, have spent more time at Pietermaritzburg. This was definitely a failing on our part. Without access to SRC telephones, more regular contact with Local Comm has been difficult.

10. Administration

Administration is the blanket term for all those little things that make things unbearably difficult if they are not done. H.O. bureaucracy is minimal, but it is amazing how much better H.O. is able to function if it is properly dealt with. It would be far too tedious to go into it all here, but a short overview of the areas involved is important. There are things like correspondence, keeping things tidy, maintaining financial management (more of this later!), sale of publications and other items, maintenance of equipment and much more.

In addition, a crucial part of admin is ordering material and information that comes in so as to make it readily accessible. This involved everything from information on cheap airfreight places to information on national issues. It also includes documenting campaigns, national events, struggles and occurrences on the campuses. This has been a very badly organised area, but a start was made on improving the situation when the filing system was changed dramatically early on in the year. (We won't go into the details here. For filing freaks, guided tours can be arranged by contacting the Sec. Gen.) But much still needs to be done. The importance of having information readily available is often underestimated.

11. Equipment

H.O. retains its A4 offset litho printing machine. This is still as skittish as ever, but is capable of remarkable feats in the expert hands of Mog. We have used it less than in previous years, since we have tended to prefer professional printing, but it has come in very useful for smaller things. It is severely hampered by the absence of a plate maker, but these things are expensive and so we will have to survive without one for the foreseeable future.

H.O. is also the owner of an ancient wet-paper copier, which although fairly reliable, is not very nice to use. Some investigations into the possibility of acquiring a new machine have been done, but these things (again) are expensive.

This year, a telex machine was installed in H.O., jointly rented by SASTS and NUSAS. This has often proved invaluable, particularly in times of crisis. Other groups, such as SASPU, have also been able to make good use of it.

The H.O. car, a Citroen, remains a problem. It has cost NUSAS an enormous amount of money, and we are at present trying to cut our losses and sell it. Adverts have been placed in newspapers, but so far, nobody has expressed interest.

In addition, there is the usual motley collection of typewriters, clerks, other office furniture, etc.

12. Finance

The finances have continued to be largely in the hands of Mog. We have instituted a number of procedures aimed at streamlining and improving the control over money. Statements are now sent out regularly, and we have been able to chase up some bad debtors successfully. Barry Fine has been invaluable as a bookkeeper, but he has now left us and we will have to look for someone else.

Debts have been an enormous hassle; campuses could make things a lot easier for H.O. if they made sure that affiliation fees and other debts are paid on time. Remember: money that is paid late could be earning us interest.

FONS:

FONS is now an independent organisation looking after its own affairs, and as such, is not accountable to Congress. Nevertheless, H.O. people have played a large part in bringing about this state of affairs, and as such, we wish to report on the work we have done for and with FONS.

H.O. undertook to do the bulk of the work involved in sending out the initial appeal letters. This entailed the production of the various letters and forms that were sent out, compiling and computerising the mailing list, and actually sending out the letters. Since then, NUSAS has kept up its side of the agreement with FONS and produced 2 newsletters (NUSAS agreed to send out one newsletter each quarter to FONS members.) Also, H.O. people have helped organise and spoken at a number of cocktail parties, maintained contact with FONS local coordinators when on tour and with the FONS committee people in Johannesburg.

SASET, SAPET:

These trusts were originally set up by NUSAS, but now operate completely independently. NUSAS only has to ratify new trustees appointed by these trusts. This happens at Congress on National Council.

Students Services Projects Trust (SSPT):

We have applied for money to this trust on a number of occasions, most of which has been granted. Andrew and Franz attended one SSPT meeting, while nobody was able to attend a second meeting in the latter half of the year, due to National Council taking place at about the same time.

13. Mog Davids

The one person who is not an elected member of the Head Office staff is Mog Davids. In fact this was his 20th year of working for NUSAS.

He comes into the office each day until 11.00 am, deals with the finances, helps us out with printing and other office tasks. Mog is the person who has to hassle about whether we will make it financially, and so sends out "nasty" invoices for unpaid accounts.

For the rest of the day, Mog works for SASTS as a travel agent on campus.

Whereas the rest of us can easily manage on a small salary, Mog and his family find it very difficult. This remains a problem, and attention must be paid to this in the future.

14. Comments on individual portfolios

(i) Research Officer and Acting President

The year has been one of extremes for me, having to change half way from being the most low profile member at Head Office to taking on the primary public role. Head Office undoubtedly suffered from the loss of Andrew, both in terms of his leadership and dynamism, and in terms of the shrinking of the staff from 6 to 5 people. It is to the credit of the whole group, however, that we have not only continued but actually strengthened the National Union during the latter half of the year.

The research officer's post is very different than the others in head office. Whilst the rest of the staff is involved in the day-to-day "politics" and organising, it is important that the research officer remains somewhat removed and gets down to the (often lonely) work of researching and writing. From the very outset my role was probably misdefined, in that I attempted to combine my research with playing a very active role in head office and at Wits. As a result, it was soon decided that I should become a full-time worker for NUSAS (in practice, if not in financial terms!)

NUSAS has to some extent underplayed its ideological role this year. In terms of re-emphasizing this aspect of our activity, I would suggest that the research officer becomes a permanently full-time post. Whilst this would allow the person to play a more active general head office role, it is still important that they do maintain something of a distance from the day-to-day events.

Both the major NUSAS publications of this year were researched collectively. Although it is often as much work as doing the publication on one's own, it is definitely a practice that should be built into all NUSAS publications. Not only does it include a greater number of people in the direct activities of NUSAS but it also ensures that publications represent the ideas of a greater section of people.

My election to the Acting Presidency in the middle of the year obviously involved considerable readjustment. The National Union probably suffered in not finding a person to replace me as research officer, in that our productivity in terms of publications was not what it should have been. In terms of head office itself, the transition was a fairly comfortable one. We have undoubtedly managed to mould ourselves into a cohesive team and accommodate the 'crises' that are the inherent plague of a political organisation in South Africa.

The role of the acting president is not an easy one. Whilst the elected president has the opportunity to meet people and get to know the campuses at the beginning of the year, it is far more difficult to do this when the campuses are in full swing. In this regard, I must express particular appreciation to Lisa for "showing me around" the campuses I did not know and for the rest of head office for putting up with an often irrational team-member.

As the year draws to a close, I think head office can look back and feel satisfied with the work we have done. We live in very dramatic and exciting times in South Africa with the potential and momentum of the Democratic Movement increasing steadily. As white democrats, many of us face the difficulty of defining a role in the process of change. In this regard, it has been a particularly rewarding privilege to have been able to work in NUSAS and dedicate a year to the Democratic Student Movement.

Jonty Joffe

Projects Officer

Most of the activities I have been involved in are discussed elsewhere in the report. Instead here I will relate some more personal observations of the Projects Officer's portfolio.

I spent a large part of the year on the road (or as some joke : driving off the road - having accidents) ie. touring. I found touring very exciting and challenging, but it does get a bit tiring and de-orientating staying somewhere else each night.

There was a lot I had to learn when I started - something you only realise 6 months later. People, especially on the smaller campuses, which I was most unfamiliar with, were very welcoming and helped me learn the ropes. Everywhere people were considerate and patient, when I raised things, (I later realised) were very inappropriate to raise. I also want to thank all the people who let me stay with them.

One of the tensions which confronted me most during the year, was between providing ideas, input, leadership etc without undermining people on the campuses. I was sometimes not sure if people welcomed ideas or felt ideas were being imposed on them.

A slightly related problem which hassled me was being regarded as a "heavy". Because people look up to you, are scared of you etc they regard you differently. They are reticent to speak frankly, and often won't say if they think you are wrong or have made a mistake. I really appreciated it when people gave me honest criticism and feedback on my role.

While in H.O., you meet a lot of interesting and informative people in all the different centres, you do not get much time to read and understanding of the issues which face the student movement. I feel that some internal education amongst H.O. can be very valuable. People come to H.O. with different levels of theoretical knowledge and experience, and such a process can help even things out.

This year was an invaluable experience. It is not without some sadness, that I leave the National Union. Yet I am confident that it can only grow from strength to strength with the dedication, discipline and determination to strive against all odds for a democratic South Africa.

Lisa Seftel

Secretary General

The role of the Sec Gen is in many ways difficult to define, simply because it has no clearly defined area of responsibility beyond the administrative. And so the role of the Sec Gen becomes one of helping on all levels and in all spheres. I have been able to help organisationally with various national gatherings, such as Katberg, National Councils, and Congress. In addition, I spent a few weeks in Durban before the July Festival with Lisa to organise it. I have also often had to play a high profile role, in dealing with the press while Andrew was detained, speaking (I spoke twice at UCT, once to launch the theme and once in the course of the Republic Day programme and a few times at Rhodes when Jonty and I went there shortly after the referendum.) At the same time, I have been able to help with a lot of the media produced by HO this year, in lay out, conceptualising and , above all, writing and subbing. I have also been able to play a contact role in Cape Town, keeping in touch with developments and representing NUSAS in some contexts.

And then, of course, there has been the office, which it has been my primary responsibility to keep running. This has entailed a million little things, correspondence, dealing with visitors and queries, answering phone calls, distributing publications, filing, office maintenance etc etc etc (and, infact, etc.) The role and importance of admin is dealt with elsewhere. Head Office, also , functions as a base for people when they are touring. Contact is maintained through HO, when HO people are not in direct contact with other campuses. This is an important area of responsibility for the Sec Gen. I have often been hamstrung by the fact that I only really got to know the campuses very late in the year. I think it is absolutely crucial that the Sec Gen tours more than I was able to do, and particularly, that he/she does at least one tour very early in the year. Every office bearer of the National Union has to have a good understanding of the whole national union.

I have found working for NUSAS an exhilarating and educative experience. Our HO was able to become a team in the real sense of the word, I feel. Where there were tensions and differences, we were able to create mechanisms to root them out, by and large.

May the student movement go from strength to strength, and may we experience the democratic future to which we have pledged ourselves as a reality in our lifetime.

Franz Kruger.

(iv) Media Officer

The Media portfolio is perhaps the easiest H.O. portfolio to define. It is therefore has tremendous potential for expansion in terms of new ideas and exploring different types of media.

The portfolio itself involves producing NUSAS publications, pamphlets, poster, etc etc. To this end I spent many nights on campus, fighting with the dark-room equipment, layout tables and typesetting and also getting lots of co-operation from the SRC staff. The job was also marked by frenetically active times and a few rather slow periods. I came into H.O. with a couple of skills. During the year I have gained many more.

Besides the actual media jobs I also helped with FONS work, doing the newsletter, liaising with the secretaries etc. I also helped quite a bit with the Womens Movements, met with them in Durban, Wits, Rhodes and Pmb. At UCT I attended some working group meetings and gave a couple of seminars. I also took over some of the functions of the Womens Directive national co-ordinator and sent out a couple of newsletters, ensured that the regional seminars happened and tried to be around as much as possible. I helped produce Herstory at the beginning of the year. Unfortunately didn't manage to get a second edition together. I also helped a bit on Varsity when the new editor took over, helping with their skills seminar for new recruits.

One of the problems with the job is the tension between having to stay in CT a great deal of the time and on the other hand attempting to help people on all campuses with skills training in publications etc. To do this effectively the media officer should spend some time on each campus to get to know the people and understand their particular needs. In general HO - Media Officer relations have gone well, we all worked together on most of the publications.

15. Thanks

Our thanks go to all the various people who helped us in our jobs. At UCT, especially, we would like to thank all the Green levelites; Mrs C, Robbie, Linda, Phyllis, Sid, Manny, Adiba, Klaas, Trevor, Mrs P, and Pat. The staff of other SRC's were also always co-operative and helpful; Alex, Linda and Mrs Cairnes at Wits, Liz and Mrs Bremner in Durban and Elise at RHodes. Our bookkeeper, Barry Fine and auditors also deserve thanks. Particular thanks should go to MOg who has stuck by us through thick and thin for 20 years.

And our last thanks should go to students on all the campuses who have helped to make our year productive and pleasant. It is their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment which has spurred us on.