

Media mind-blast at SASPU skills seminar

• See page 9

Asbestos: The silent killer in your home

• See page 10

NUSAS pres tells it like it is

• See page 5



# NATIONAL

A South African Students' Press Union publication

October 1980 Volume 1 No.3

## Nusas call on national and student issues

STUDENTS have shown an impressive understanding of the realities of South Africa in the issues they have picked up this year, NUSAS President, Andrew Boraine, said last week.

Boraine told the opening session of the September 1980 National Council in Cape Town; "This has been a year responsive to events off campus, but there is a need now to return to a more formal campus base.

"This year has seen a major assault on the ruling group in South Africa. Bantu Education has been brought to a virtual standstill by prolonged school boycotts. Industrial unrest this year has involved tens of thousands of workers in a number of strikes — the Cape Town meat strike, the Ford and Volkswagen strikes in the Eastern Cape, the municipal workers' strike in Johannesburg and the Durban Frametex strike."

"But we must reassess our position critically," he said. "We must re-evaluate the NUSAS theme for 1980, Exposing Total Strategy, and look at how it has been translated into action. A sub-theme, Resistance, has developed, but we must decide whether we are free to adapt the theme in response to issues."

Commenting on the Maritzburg SRC decision to disaffiliate from NUSAS, Boraine said: "We must accept defeats and setbacks in the ongoing war for justice in South Africa. Remembering the victories of the past and looking forward to the future, we are learning valuable lessons all the time."



SASPU NATIONAL looks this week at a recipe for disaster — a day in the life of a migrant labourer as he struggles against the horrors of the compound system See Centre - spread

• Pic by Ben McLellan

# Fed woman rips Gatscha

## 'We don't need outside help, we can help ourselves'

THE President's Council and Inkatha only existed to delay "true freedom", ex-African National Congress Women's Leaguer Florence Mkhize told a packed Wits University meeting last week.

Inkatha was no more than "apartheid dressed in black", and the President's Council was a buffer to help the white people of South Africa to stay white, she said.

The large non-racial crowd greeted her with applause and cries of "Amandla", during the NUSAS focus on "Homelands" at Wits University.

Mrs Mkhize opened her speech by listing names of banned, detained and exiled leaders on whose behalf she said she was speaking. The Rand Daily Mail quoted her as saying: "I stand here on behalf of Ahmed Timol, Joseph Mduli, Mepetla Mohapi, Steve Biko and of Dr Haffejee."

Oliver Tambo, Robert Sobukwe, Lillian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Walter Sisulu and Alfred Nzo, according to the Mail article.

Mrs Mkhize harshly criticized homeland leaders such as Matanzima, Maingope, and especially Gatscha Buthelezi.

She said these men were doing no more than aiding the government's attempts to preserve white identity. She therefore had no hesitation in labeling them as "stooges" and "puppets" of the South African government.

She reserved her harshest criticisms for Inkatha, calling it: "Apartheid dressed in black, nothing more."

"The only thing the people of South Africa knew Inkatha for were the ANC colours which it had usurped for its flag," she added.

Inkatha claimed a membership of 300 000 and should therefore have



Florence Mkhize

accumulated more than R5 million in membership fees since its formation. Mrs Mkhize questioned where the money had gone. Why did Inkatha now claim not to have funds for development and for education?", she asked.

The Rand Daily Mail report described Mrs Mkhize's attack on Buthelezi's overtures to the ANC. Referring to his plans for an independent Natal, the Mail quoted her as saying: "If the ANC was operating through Inkatha as Chief Buthelezi claimed, why did it (Inkatha) ask for Natal and leave all the gold in the Transvaal, the diamonds in the Free State and all of the beautiful province called the Cape?"

Mrs Mkhize, a member of the Free Mandela Campaign Committee, condemned Buthelezi's refusal to support the campaign. "Our leader is on Robben Island. The leader we can all be proud of ... the leader that has the ability to stop the war ... the leader that can help us build a nation," she said.

Turning to the Presidents' Council, she said it was created as a buffer to "help the white people of South Africa to stay white."

She compared it to Inkatha. "The

Presidents' Council and Inkatha are there to prolong the pain of the birth of true freedom."

Discussing the role of the United States in South Africa, Mrs Mkhize said that although the US saw apartheid as bad, it could not help to solve South Africa's problems. Apartheid provided temporary stability, ensuring the safety of US profits from South Africa, she said.

When, a right-wing student challenged Mrs Mkhize on her attitude towards the ANC, she forcefully replied that although the ANC had been banned in 1960, the government could not ban ideas. Although the organisation was legally buried, the seed had been planted in the people of South Africa.

The NUSAS focus on homelands also included a talk on the Transkei by former Daily Despatch reporter in Umtata, Richard Wickstead. He gave a detailed account of both the repression and corruption of the Transkei regime, and pointed to the problems which the Transkei faced as an integral part of the South African economy.

Another highlight was the debate between the Natal Indian Congress leader, M.J. Naidoo and Dr Olivier on the Lombard Plan for Natal.

# Would you let your daughter betoog here?

WHEN the matrons of Rondebosch go shopping nowadays they drive past a bare patch of earth. The old corner cafe, the saddle shop and the National Union of South African Students' ex-office have been razed to make way for another of those Star Wars shopping centres.

But the NUSAS Head Office staff, after commuting forlornly between UCT campus and home for six weeks, have found a new, and less bourgeois, abode. Mannie's Snooker Centre, a green ship of a building in Lower Main Road Observatory, now houses the National Union's motley collection of shelves, aging files and sundry posters.

The office itself, the size of a small ballroom, was in a state of "seedy disrepair when we discovered it", said one NUSAS employee. "The outside stairs looked the perfect place to commit a murder in."

Paint on the windows dimmed the light inside to a sleazy shade of green, while snooker-table-shaped areas of dust patterned the floor. Cryptic messages scrawled on bits of cardboard, like "Forgettery is a sin. Pay before you play," were scattered

about, and a huge pile of empty bottles was stacked in a dingy stairwell.

Not to be daunted by the grime and slime of the place, the Head Office staff set to work with gusto and litres of Handy Andy. The resident flea population was summarily gassed, the piece of sad carpet vacuumed, the windows scraped, desks scrubbed and the floor squeegeed. Now all that remains of the old snooker days is a high bar bench in red leather and black wood. And on occasion some inebriate will peer round the door and mumble, "Where's all the snooker tables?"

Yet 131 Lower Main Road, its doubtful history painted over, is sunny and spacious and ideal for seminars. Business conventions are not, however, very welcome. For with its view of Table Mountain, its endless cups of coffee and devoted staff, the new Head Office seems set fair to become the student mecca of Cape Town.

Of course, there's one more thing still to be done - a painted sign that says, "We'd like to be your National Union."



Nusas' New Head office ...pooling their resources

## Final score at UCT : 11 radicals. 1 liberal. 1 moderate



Sarah Cullinan ... SRC President.

MORE THAN 3 000 UCT students elected the entire left-wing group of nine, one independent leftist, one liberal, one confused though concerned res student, one institutionalised moderate, one Rag "chairman" and one moderate to their new SRC.

Students didn't share the 17 candidates' enthusiasm partly because they didn't have much choice — the 17 candidates were fighting over 15 seats.

It was hardly the Left's fault, without them there wouldn't have been an election. They provided more than half the candidates.

And in keeping with tradition they all got in to control the UCT SRC for the fifth consecutive year.

What of the issues? There were plenty of them. Sexism, total strategy, labour action, the student press, censorship, education, NUSAS, Rag/SHAWCO, student representation, the State and J M van der Elst.

Van Der Elst's candidacy was crucial to the left. Many people dislike him intensely enough to go out and vote against him. As the sole representative of the Conservative Students' Alliance (CSA), with the quaint habit of screaming at his election audiences to "Shut up!", he proved an Election Officer's dream. He has a penchant for toting firearms and an unremitting fascination with policemen.

Van Der Elst spent a lot of time giving President Sarah Cullinan uphill in the elections. He was rewarded with the wooden spoon for the second successive year, getting less than half the votes cast for Cullinan.

The right wing do not like



FRANS KRUGER STEVE GORDON

Cullinan at all. She represents just about everything right-wingers detest and fear: she is left, articulate, intelligent, and, worst of all, a woman as well. Had the right wing not swung their support behind Gareth Ackerman she would undoubtedly have topped the poll. As it transpired, Ackerman's "Man For All Seasons" campaign edged him into top spot by some 130 votes.

Ackerman is immediate past Rag chair. The son of a prominent capitalist, he devoted his stint as Rag chair to chasing the magical goal of R200 000 — profit. This he achieved by turning Rag into a successful business, not unlike dad's.

Ackerman and the two "student factor" candidates — Dean Blomson and Lauren Snitcher — employed a "doublespeak" campaign method. They would choose the largest (and most nebulous) faction in any audience and pander to it.

Thus in residence speeches the extension of student rights would be advocated in terms of more parking facilities, improved catering, and so on. But in the face of challenges from the left, student rights were interpreted as something else altogether.

Ackerman imagined his topping the poll should secure him the Presidency. He soon realised that the majority of the SRC did not hold the same opinion.

There were some sterling performances for the left. Nassos Martalas (the jovial, dignified Greek ship-of-state) was rock-solid in his incisive demonstration that a left wing SRC could lead politically, as well as administer with smooth efficiency. Justin Hardcastle won his spurs by shooting into a

passionate demystification of sexist practices and Rag before a phenomenally hostile res audience. He was showered with paper projectiles, loose bits of things and was snarled at.

Kate Philipp patiently and fluently answered a barrage of convoluted economic questions put to her by a diminutive Nationalist senator's son (Simon Kock) who doggedly followed her around to every speech.

Simon Kock was one of the vast number of hopelessly unsuccessful CSA candidates in the 1978/79 SRC elections. He used every opportunity that came his way in these elections to grab some public limelight. Kock was overshadowed by one person in the get-seen-get-heard stakes: his sister, Judy. Ms Kock pitched up to the Election Circus dressed especially for the occasion in an outrageous ensemble straight out of VOGUE. Jameson Hall laughed.

No one really laughed at the so-called joke candidate, Arthur Kemp. Given the choice between the vacuous "student factor" twins and Kemp to join Van Der Elst at the bottom of the poll, the electorate was hardpressed to decide. They elected Kemp and one student factor. It is patently obvious that the remarkably unfunny Kemp would never have made it onto the SRC in a larger field.

In spite of Kemp, Peltz and Ackerman, there exists a very talented and strong left wing SRC at UCT. The left group has not lost a candidate now in three consecutive elections. And it has contested those elections in vastly differing circumstances. It will continue to enjoy this success as long as it continues to maintain its record for challenging the campus politically as well as shouldering its administrative duties. Cullinan told me: "I believe we have very few illusions. We are a working team that recognises its potential as well as its problems. But more importantly we realise that we have a duty to fulfill in supporting where we can, the struggle for a free society and in mobilising students out of the comfortable numbness of privilege to face up to the urgent issues of the day. We intend to meet that challenge."

### UCT exec line - up

The executive elected at the first meeting of the new SRC is a powerful one. Cullinan is president of the 1980/81 SRC (she held the external vice-presidency last year). Her deputies are Franz Kruger and Martalas. Ackerman is Secretary.

Kate Philip is Projects Officer and the Media whizz-kid Steve Gordon (perhaps the nicest of the nice guys in the election) has the Media portfolio.

Yasmin von Shirndig (a Masters student in the Science Faculty) who vigorously promoted feminist and environmental issues throughout her campaign co-ordinates the Feminist Commission (Fem Com).

Hardcastle handles Social Action, while Nathan convenes the Education Commission (Edcom). Terence Moll (the amazingly bright though publicly inaudible left wing Christian) co-ordinates Wages Comm. Rautenbach tackles sport and res portfolios whilst Hugh Bloch (the charismatic diminutive dynamo) co-ordinates Orientation week and shares Liaison duties with Blomson.



Wits SRC election ... American election extravaganza

## Rhodes election: tough 'n dirty

RHODES SRC took office in the second week of term, after being elected on August 12.

In an exciting and at times dirty campaign, John Campbell achieved a decisive presidential victory over Rhodoe editor Michael Bagraim with twice as many campus votes as Bagraim.

Nusas affiliation became a hot issue, both candidates promising solemnly not to affiliate without a referendum.

In the oppidan constituency, Mike Kenyon, then in his second day of detention, topped the poll in what student leaders see as a massive vote of confidence. Nusas Local Comm chairperson Alison Hill was the other candidate elected.

The five general seats were uncontested. Those appointed were Campbell, Bagraim, Oppidan editor Nigel Wrench, Guy Woolford and Jannie Roux.

Elected in the reses were Niki Cox, Steve Appel and Sonia Kopecky. Jeremy Price, Sue Knox, Gillian McAinsh, Joyce Nolan and John Fletcher unopposed as res candidates.

Most of the new SRC are pro-Nusas and have given full support for John Campbell's presidency.

## Durban SRC reshuffle after votes recounted

Dome Reporter

A recount of votes in the recent SRC elections removed member-elect Dave Welch and instated Arts-candidate Robert Ensor in his place.

The votes were recounted after the close election result was announced. The recount led to ten more votes for Ensor and three less for Welch, transposing their positions.

SRC President-elect Chris Swart told DOME that the affair was "terribly unfortunate." Vice-president elect Martin Appel echoed this sentiment adding it was unfortunate "not because of the people involved, but that it had to be done — it casts a shadow," he said.

Both executives expressed optimism for the new SRC's future. It had more potential than any other council for the last five or six years said Chris Swart. He was excited about the possibilities of the new SRC with all members "committed to raising political awareness". Mr Swart was concerned that the council must not be seen as a "Swart SRC" and he would like to keep a low profile, he said.

Projects Officer Julian Baskin said "I intend to stimulate political debate and conscientisation toward a new democratic society".

Thanks to Dome.

## A Clean sweep for Wits progressives in no-holds-barred election fiasco

IF YOU thought Carter, Reagan Anderson and co. were involved in the biggest, brashiest, most hotly contested election of 1980, then you aren't a Wits student. The Wits SRC elections this year outshaded even the 1979 American style chaos, not only in magnitude but in bitterness.

While rumours of "tickets" "coalitions" and "shlenters" spread for weeks before nominations were filed, it seemed at least that some of the members who had dominated the previous council, had elected to stand down and make way for new blood.

The Faculty elections, in which ten representatives are elected, brought a number of surprises. Donald Rallis was elected unopposed in the Science Faculty and it seemed that final victory for the "moderate" camp was assured when their candidates clinched three of the four contested faculties.

In the wake of these successes came Tony Leon's decision to stand in the General Election. One candidate noted that Tony Leon was "quite obviously only standing because he thinks he can become president." Leon vociferously denied this and similar charges, and while referring to his promised retirement retorted that, "only dead men and fools don't change their minds."

Twenty-three nominations were received for the general election. The candidates could be categorised as

"liberal-left", "moderate", "facist" and "outrageous".

The left group formed a coalition known as "Alliance '80" consisting of Sammy Adelman, Damon Bizos, Jeremy Clark, Sheldon Cohen and Lisa Seftel, as well as a ticket of Hugh McLean and Adrian Tyghe. The moderates were rather a mixed bag including three past SRC members, Tony Leon, Jenny Lunz and Mike Collins.

The remainder of the field could be classified as "joke candidates". The neo-fascist, Students Moderate Alliance put up three candidates and the Apathy Party another three.

Almost two weeks before election day, the campus was more colourful than the Rand Easter Show. Posters adorned every inch of wall-space and manifestos littered every lecture theatre floor. The great campaign had begun!

The Students Moderate Alliance rapidly polarised students. Swastikas were graffitied across most of their expensive posters while certain groups of conservative students were moved to hysteria on the arrival of their candidates. Throughout the campaign, SMA chairperson Brian Cavin denied that their campaign was being financed by outsiders.

As the campaign grew in intensity, several incidents reflected the emotional nature of the elections. A



Pres. Sammy Adelman

special election for absent medical students was declared null and void by the University Administration after a few incensed candidates protested that Alliance '80 had had an "unfair advantage". Sheldon Cohen commented: "The only advantage we had was our initiative and willingness to work hard. Every candidate had an equal opportunity to canvas the voters. We just happened to do the job better than anyone else." The Alliance Coalition accepted Admin's decision nonetheless.

On the day prior to elections, six of the moderate candidates, Leon, Lunz, Borghart, Sive, Potgieter and Ind formed a ticket called "Deal 6". They wanted to "avoid confusion" about who to vote for.

Election day was a concentrated

flurry of activity which eventually ended in a 46% poll. Tony Leon topped the poll with Sammy Adelman second. The entire Alliance '80 ticket as well as Tyghe and Maclean were successful. Only two of the six members of the Deal Six ticket were elected.

The result was a resounding victory for progressive students on campus, who wield a comfortable majority on the SRC. Only one member of SMA, Lance Crystal, was elected despite their Muzorewatype ploy of giving away sweets in Senate House Concourse. In their typical confused fashion, however, right wing students celebrated noisily at the announcement of the results.

Sammy Adelman was elected president at the first SRC meeting. The meeting was characterised by the antics of Leon and Rallis, who, realising that they could not win the Presidency, proceeded in the obstructionist fashion to which they were so accustomed. Leon refused his nomination for the Vice Presidency and towards the end of the meeting he and Rallis resigned. "Only dead men and fools ..." remarked one member cynically.

The new SRC has exhibited cohesion, enthusiasm and ability and is already in full swing. Wits Student published an article revealing that the SMA was funded by a group of right-wing businessmen. Leon and Rallis, in true South-American style, moaned to every newspaper in town that they had been robbed although few thought the story worth publishing. The posters are down. Lecture theatres are clean. Senate House floors are once more littered with Kugels. Wits has stepped aside to let the Americans take over.

policies and direction.

There can be no departure from NUSAS's commitment to the achievement of a non-racial democracy in South Africa.

Where SRC's cannot be politically accommodated it seems unavoidable, if unfortunate, that they will disaffiliate and that those students who wish to operate within NUSAS will have to do so through local committees or societies.

In Maritzburg a "Focus on NUSAS" program will be held early in the last term, aiming to raise campus awareness of NUSAS policies and programmes and to generate support for a local committee to attend the National Congress in Johannesburg in December.

## It's goodbye to Nusas as right wing take over at Pietermaritzburg

of moderate and conservative candidates indicated a high level of dissatisfaction with liberal/left politics and involvement in NUSAS.

A number of factors contributed to the result: an unusually large influx of "Rhodesians", the increasing trend to conservatism among white South Africans and the effective mobilisation of rightwing students by the group of moderate/conservatives who now control the SRC.

Added to this, NUSAS failed to establish an effective presence on campus and neither NUX nor Projects Comm operated particularly effectively.

Maritzburg illustrates one of the more serious problems facing NUSAS. While even conservatives acknowledge the value of national co-ordination and contact achieved through the organisation, they cannot identify with its progressive

AN UNCONVINCING attempt at applause by a handful of spectators was Maritzburg's only audible reaction to the new SRC's decision to disaffiliate from NUSAS

It was a sad echo of the responses two years earlier when the affiliation referendum victory had incredulous pro-NUSAS hordes shouting and tearfully hugging each other in a spontaneous and frenzied display of joy.

The decision to break with the National Union was taken without a referendum — given the election results, it hardly seemed worth the effort. On a 46% poll, moderate and conservative candidates had filled 10 of the 12 contested seats on the SRC.

The campaign aroused little interest among students, but the significant block vote cast in favour

# SASPU NATIONAL

## Student victory

THE 1980 SRC elections on the white campuses could be considered a massive victory for NUSAS and a general indication of a growing political awareness. With the exception of Maritzburg, moderate and conservative elements were dramatically defeated.

## Progressive activity

The old argument that participation in SRC politics amounts to non-progressive activity and a general acceptance of the university structure, has once again emerged. What this argument ignores is that universities constitute definite political arenas which have to be contested. The need for political organisation is clear. Universities and in particular the black campuses, are state-created and controlled and as such, by combatting these institutions you engage the basis of all structures which are undemocratic in society. The fact that the black campuses and schools experience even greater repression than the white universities makes it even more vital that organisations act to conscientise students.

## Political leadership

SRC's should provide leadership and direction which equip students with knowledge and understanding they need to locate themselves within a reality which is troubled and confusing. Unless students understand society, they cannot act to change it. An SRC has to be understood as a means towards an end. The need to boycott elections might arise when as SRC cannot be used as an avenue for progressive change, but boycott should never become a narrow-minded principle.

## Organization

Political organisation must have a clear programme of action, thought out in advance. Organisations should be democratic and persuasive - political principles have to be voiced as part of a long term thrust. A number of black organisations have failed to realise that political mobilization has to be consolidated. Boycotts are only of value if they increase organisational strength and develop awareness. As such they should be a constructive part of a clear programme of action.

## Democratic Education

The Rhodes University SRC victory has demonstrated the need for hard programmatic work. Consciousness escalates through educative experiences. Political focuses, speeches and pamphlets depicting this reality have led to a growing awareness on this campus.

## Programme

**WE NEED A PROGRAMME FOR DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION IN ORDER TO SUCCEED.**

### EARLY ONE MORNING DURING THE BOYCOTTS...



N.D. MAZIN '80

Dear SASPU National. I'm really glad to see that at last people are trying to develop a real 'alternate' press for South Africans.

Your first two editions were very interesting and informative. However, I do have one criticism. I think that your paper is a little too intense.

It has page after page of serious material without ever having any real 'break'. Perhaps you should begin having satire or something like a crossword.

Otherwise, keep up the good work!

Impressed (JHB)

PS ND Mazin's cartoons are brilliant.

Dear Editor, I was surprised to see that after calling for letters in the first edition of SASPU National you did not print a single letter in the second

## Letters

edition. Was this an oversight?  
Arnold Peterson (Cape Town)

Unfortunately there were problems with the address given in SNI and very few letters got through to us. Could people in future address letters to: SASPU National, C/O SRC, University of the Witwatersrand, 1 Jan Smuts Avenue, Braamfontein 2017.

Dear SASPU National, At last someone has recognized the power of the photograph!

It's been really encouraging to see that at last people have realized just how potent a weapon a camera can be. With so much happening in South Africa at the moment, it would be a great loss if it were not

recorded in visual form. The pics in SN have really been excellent. One hopes that they will encourage others to begin to record and display what is going on around us.

Jeremy Klein (JHB)

SASPU National thanks two friends, Ben McClellan and Paul Weinberg for many of the photos printed in the first three editions. Eds.

## Beware

We would like to warn our readers that SASPU NATIONAL Vol 1 No 2 1980 has been declared undesirable by the Publication control board. Possession of this publication would cause some problems.

# SUBSCRIBE!

Subscription rates: R5.00 per 10 edition  
Postage paid

Address correspondence to:  
SASPU NATIONAL  
c/o SRC Wits University  
1 Jan Smuts

Name: .....  
Address: .....  
.....  
.....

## WORK IN PROGRESS

EDITORIAL ADDRESS:  
PO Box 93174,  
2143 Yeoville,  
South Africa.

is a journal which explores and presents ideas and material about contemporary South African society. WIP appears five times per year.

### regular features

include summaries of political trials, and items on resistance by the working class.

### some articles

in previous editions have dealt with resettlement, the Wiehahn and Riekert Commissions, the Solomon Mahlangu case, strikes at Ford, Eveready, Kromco, bus boycotts, rents protests, the strike of meatworkers in the Western Cape, the Pietermaritzburg Treason Trial, total strategy, community organisation and the press.

### subscriptions

are available to organisations, individuals, and groups who wish to distribute WIP.

### Rates in Southern Africa:

Individuals: R5-00 per annum.  
Organisations: R10-00 per annum.  
Group distribution: 80c per copy. Reduced rates and/or a certain number of complimentary copies can be arranged on request.

# 'A nice little book to have around.'

The SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENT HANDBOOK offers access to information on travelling, legal matters, health, coops, residence living and much more. It also carries a revised and updated NATIONAL STUDENT DISCOUNT GUIDE. A book for students by students, it has 136 pages of information, useful hints and ideas. All in all, a nice little book to have around. Available from any SASTS office or your local SRC.

# Let this man tell you why Nusas is still alive — and thinking hard.

*He's Andrew Boraine, president of the National Union of South African Students. Here he tells SASPU NATIONAL how his union has reacted to the pressure of the last months.*

**Q:** The past few months have seen the commercial press making a really big fuss about two new South African student organisations — SUCA and POLSTU. What do you feel about these two groups?

**A:** I believe that at all stages it is extremely important for students in Nusas to be aware of changes, both in the Afrikaans student environment and in black student circles.

I have talked to numerous people from both SUCA and POLSTU and I would not hesitate to do so again. I think they are genuinely looking for alternatives. But I can't agree with the direction in which they're going — I think we have several major political differences.

**Q:** Do you think they will present some kind of challenge to Nusas?

**A:** No, I don't think so, and I don't think they see themselves as playing that sort of role. I think something like Polstu would concentrate on being a study union, rather than a students' union.

I think that will be the essential difference. In fact I think they are very wary — and they've said this to me — of teaming up with right wing or conservative English speaking students, or, for that matter, right wing black students.

**Q:** Do you think representative black organisations or black student organisations are likely to have contact with groups like Polstu?

**A:** I very much doubt it. They were initially wary of having contact with a group like Nusas, which is definitely regarded as being to the left of Polstu or Suca. And although we have broken down a lot of those barriers and find that contact with representative black student groupings is very fruitful, I cannot see other groups having this sort of contact.

**Q:** Do you think the relationship between black and white student organisations has changed since the late 1960's or do you think it is still similar to what it was when Biko and Pityana walked out of Nusas to form Saso?

**A:** It's definitely changed. The turning point came, probably, in 1977. I think there's a new feeling of non-racialism, almost a return to the kind of working relationships of the 50's.

**Q:** What do you think of white students having contact with black students, people in black communities or black political organisations?

**A:** Words such as contact and dialogue are bandied around but often they don't have any real meaning. Looking at contact for the

sake of contact — contact with Afrikaans students just because they're Afrikaans, or contact with black students just because they're black — is a very racist way of looking at it, a monolithic way.

I first look to see whether people adopt a similar position to me, not necessarily explicitly or exactly, but in the same general direction and only then do I look to see whether they are black, white, Afrikaans or English — and not the other way round.

**Q:** Now that the SRC elections on all the Nusas campuses are over and new presidents and executives have been elected, what are your feelings about the way things have been going this year?

**A:** Generally, reasonably well for Nusas. I think students are aware of what happened at Maritzburg where certain right-wing elements banded together, particularly in the residences, to throw out Nusas, not because they wished to offer an alternative programme but simply because they were opposed to Nusas per se, to Nusas as a structure.

For them it is ultimately self-destructive, because they're going to lose out on a lot of the contact and a lot of the new developments that are taking place in the student movement.

**Q:** You spent probably ten of the most important weeks of your year in detention. Unfortunately that type of detention brings out a lot of fears in students about the safety of being in student politics. How do you feel about that now that you're out?

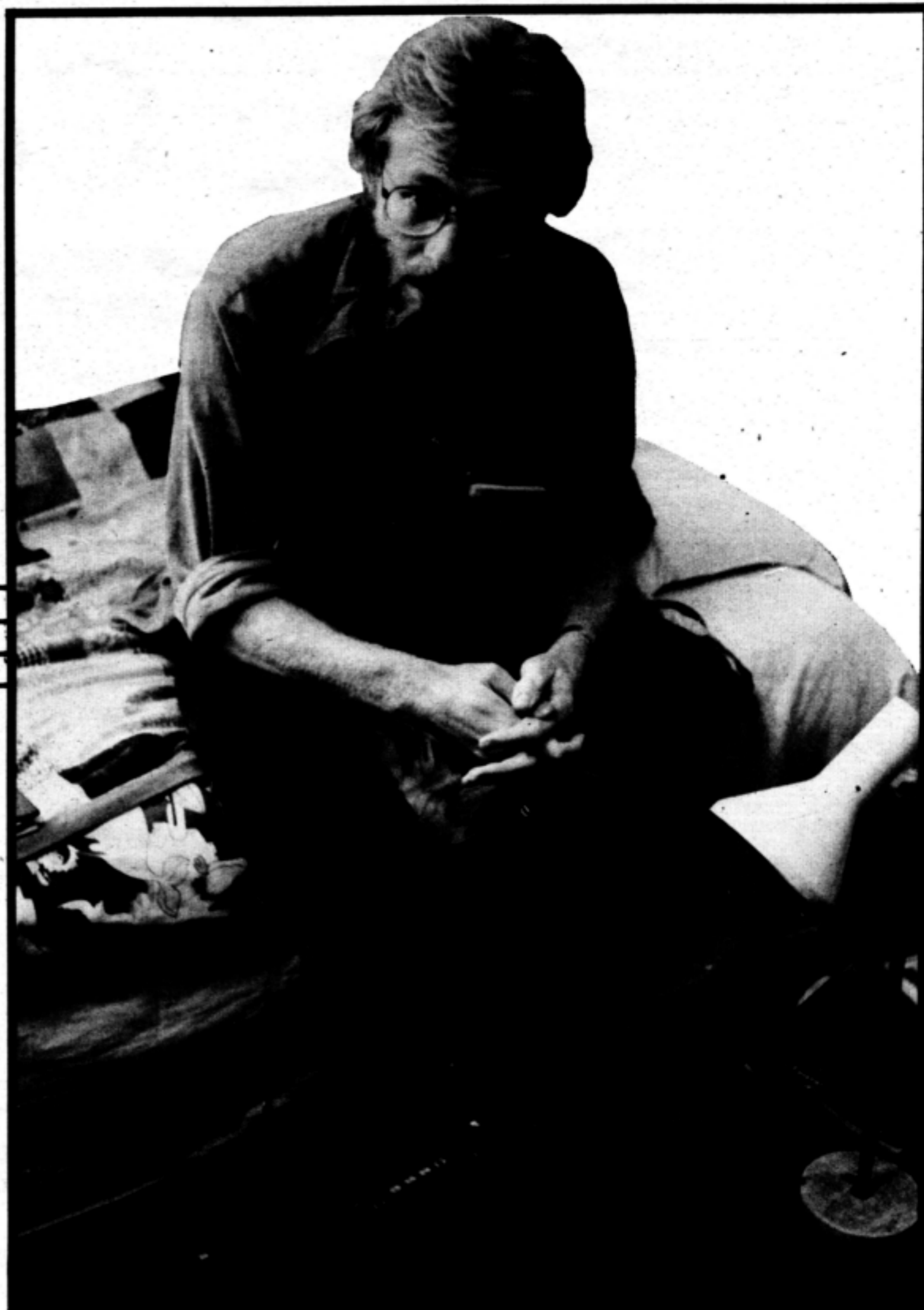
**A:** I think if one takes a narrow view, looking at it in terms of white student politics, it does look pretty scary. But in overall terms the harassment of the white student movement is absolutely nothing compared to the persecution of, say, black student movements or political organisations.

There is lots of evidence that there is far more political repression in those areas than in the white student movement.

**Q:** And your own detention — do you think it altered your views or feelings on South Africa or on your involvement in politics?

**A:** It helped me to define more clearly the types of changes that I feel are necessary in order to bring about a more democratic, more just South Africa. I think it strengthens one, rather than weakening the resolve.

**Q:** Looking back on things realistically, how successful do you think Nusas's theme for this year — Exposing Total Strategy — has been?



Andrew Boraine ... detention strengthened me and helped me define what I believe in.

**A:** As an explicitly academic theme, I don't think it has been all that successful. It hasn't been that good at portraying exactly what Total Strategy is, exactly where it is succeeding or where it is failing.

But I think that is not the priority of a theme. A theme should be there to let one respond to events that are happening all around one, and it is quite clear that on Nusas campuses, students have been very successful in taking up issues such as the meat strike and boycott, the Johannesburg Municipal workers' strike, the schools boycott and the Free Mandela Campaign.

**Q:** Do you think there has been some development within the student movement this year in terms of the kind of role that white students are playing in national politics?

**A:** Students are coming to see more and more clearly that South Africa is in a process of civil war and one is either on the one side or the other. And rather than sitting on the fence, students are beginning to choose the side of the majority of the people.

**Q:** To what extent do you think that activities or events in South Africa this year are likely to influence the kind of direction or role Nusas defines for itself over the next year or so?

**A:** The students movement must continually redefine itself in terms of education in the country, particularly in view of the crisis that so-called Bantu education is going through at the moment.

I think if students weren't able to focus on that and perhaps provide

alternatives for the future, they would be failing. So I see a kind of educational direction for Nusas but perhaps a theme that is flexible enough to look at various other important issues, such as the continuing labour struggle in this country.

**Q:** Anti-Nusas campaigners regularly criticize the public image of Nusas, saying that the National Union has a bad public image. Looking at the majority of people in South Africa, do you think Nusas's image is bad?

**A:** From the type of contact that I have had, particularly with black students and other black people, I don't think Nusas's image is at all bad. I certainly have been received very favourably and I think Nusas as a whole would be accepted as a very important grouping in this country by the people that I have met.

**Q:** The phenomenon which one finds happening repeatedly in South Africa is that you have groups from every area of the political spectrum talking about democracy. Just what do you mean when you talk about democracy?

**A:** Firstly, what I don't mean by democracy. When talking about democracy people often look at countries like America where they have an election for a president every four years and every person has a chance to put a cross on a little piece of paper.

I think that is possibly a semblance of democracy but ultimately for me democracy is the control and direction that people have over their own lives. It is a fact that people spend most of their young lives in school

and most of the rest of their lives working.

We have therefore got to look at whether schoolkids in this country have democracy and, more particularly, whether workers in this country have democracy. We must also look at factors such as legal democracy and democratic health schemes when discussing the subject and not only at Western formalized democracy.

**Q:** One of the most remarkable aspects of this year's SRC elections is that after losing a Nusas affiliation referendum earlier this year, Nusas supporters on Rhodes campus comfortably won the SRC elections. What is likely to happen at Rhodes now?

**A:** I'd hope that they would see fit to rejoin Nusas. I'll be speaking to people on the SRC, on the faculty councils and in the residences and hopefully Rhodes will affiliate to Nusas and once again play the vital role that it used to play.

**Q:** Finally, how positive do you feel about the student movement entering the 1980's?

**A:** Talking to past Nusas presidents I realize that there has never been a time when the student movement has not had some kind of crisis on its hands. There have always been disaffiliations, detentions and banings.

Yet the student movement has been courageous and has continued to challenge fundamental injustice in South Africa. If students continued to do this I see no reason why they should not be on the winning side in the end.

# The Compound

IN APRIL this year Rand Mines Properties set about demolishing the main Crown Mines "C" compound, shunting its former inmates five kilometers closer to Soweto, to the Shaft 17 compound.

Within three days the compound was levelled, erasing another landmark of control and repression. But the memories live on.

The gross profits reaped from the Crown Mines gold reef declined from the time when the mine produced more than half the world's gold in the 1930's until today when only the skeletons of buildings, machines and men are left.

It is a short walk from the graves of indentured Chinese labourers to the number 5 Shaft headgear and levelled compound.

Since 1888, mining first commenced on the Crown Reef Mine, an average of about 180 miners per year gave their lives and an unknown number lost limbs for the desires of a few to live in luxury and safety.

But not without complaint or resistance. An old miners' story tells of the Crown Mines miners' participation in the 1920 mine-workers' strike.

About 7 000 miners from Consolidated Langlaagte and Langlaagte Estates barricaded themselves into the compound and armed themselves with hastily-made assegais, knives, rocks and other weapons.

After mounted police broke down and charged through the gates, the black miners swept the horses' legs out from under them and beat up the fallen policemen. They then retired to the mine dumps from where they threw down rocks and assegais at the oncoming police.

Even today, or especially so, when the state is embarking on elaborate schemes to 'co-opt' sections of the black community and to erase some of the more glaring malpractices, the compounds continue to exist, no more comfortable or humane than before.

In this interview with Shaft 17 compound dweller, SASPU NATIONAL examines the evils of compounds. This particular compound is run by Rand Mines, a subsidiary of Barlow Rand.

**In which compound did you live?**

WE ARE living now at Number 17 Compound. We used to live at "C" compound - 5 Shaft - they've destroyed it now. We were there for about 19 years.

**Could you describe the compound?**

THE COMPOUND has got no dining rooms or sitting rooms - it's only where the people stay. They eat in that house, they sleep in that house. The beds are made of flat stones. Like now, it's winter - those stones are very cold to sleep on. We used to stay



"The drums smell like pigs food".

at Shaft 15 but now they change us to Shaft 17 - we hoped that things were going to be changed. But we have found that we are still going to sleep on those stones.

**How many rooms were there in the compound?**

THERE were about 28 rooms. Some rooms were full, some were not. One room, full, could sleep sixty-four people. In my room there were twenty. Altogether in the compound there were more than five hundred.

**Where did everyone work?**

SOME OF THEM work on the mine-dumps - they plant grass. Some work at the reductions; some for Rand Mines security, and others . . . I'm not sure.

**Did people have to pay to stay in the compounds?**

RENTS? They do it like this - you don't have to take your money and pay yourself. They deduct the money. I don't know how much it is but it must really be a lot. They know that your

pay is so much. Then they, themselves, pull the money that they know is owing them. Then you just get your pay and they don't tell you how much they pull. It is the same for everyone. We know we pay for their food and everything but we don't know how much they pay for everything. They only know. It must be more than R80 per month per person.

**And what do you get for that?**

WE GET FOOD, sleeping, toilets, water . . . Some people say that it is better if you (the bosses) don't give us your food, but give us all our money. But they said 'No'.

**What food do they give you**

THEY GIVE us meat about 3 times a week. In your house they give you one piece. Then all of you, must take that piece and put it in a pot and cook it. But it is a small piece. They give us pap, too . . . but it is not very good pap. It is not well cooked. There are big pots, about a meter and a half wide; they boil water and then throw the bags of mielie-meal in and stir it with big spoons. Then when you come to get your pap they use spades to put it into your dish.

Secondly, they give us inside meat - the black one. It's rotten - you can't even eat it. But we do eat it. It's old, it's terrible smelling.

**And the toilets and showers?**

THEIR TOILETS are made of cement. They are right next to each other with no walls in between.

The showers - its's a big hole. All of you - you just get in and take off your clothes and open the water and it comes out. You are all standing naked and you see each other. That is bad, it's not nice.

**Are you allowed in and out of the compound at will?**

YOU CAN GO out while you are off duty but, actually, they want people to stay in the compound. But we do go out. The next point is C Compound was not far from the town and the stores when you wanted to buy something or pay your accounts. But they moved us to 17 Shaft which is far, and in the veld. There are no stores there for people sleeping in the compound. And there is no transport, so you'll have to walk far to town to buy anything.

**Is Shaft 17 the same as C Compound?**

IT IS THE same, but on the far side they cut a quarter of the compound off and destroyed it because there is a highway they are building to go to Diepkloof right next to it. There were people staying before at 17 Shaft and they shifted those people to 5 Shaft. Then that compound was empty. Then again they shifted us back to 17 Shaft. It is the same as C Compound.

**Were you allowed visitors at all?**

VISITORS were stopped at the gate and sometimes the guards of the compound at the gate would call you and tell you you have a visitor outside. Sometimes they were not allowing the visitor to come in the compound and used to be cross with the visitors and want to hit them. These were Rand Mines Police.

**Were your sleeping hours regulated?**

YES, BECAUSE they switch on the lights at about six in the afternoon. Then at about 11 o'clock every night the lights go off. So each and every one must be in bed before that time. They switched the lights on again at half-past five the next morning. The people working night shift have a problem. They stop at ten o'clock and get back to the compound at about eleven. Then they have to take off their clothes in the dark, they have to eat in the dark, they should buy them stick-candles, but they don't.

**Who runs the compound?**

FIRSTLY you have the compound manager. Then you have the indunas, selected by Rand Mines. Then you have compound police. You also have siboudas who are pointed out by the people of the room - that is the law of the compound. The induna is elected like this - you start to be a guard by the gate and if I am lucky the manager likes me, and I am chosen. The indunas are not good people to the others.



"The beds are made of flat stones. In winter those stones are very cold to sleep on"

# s of Horror



"Even the municipality is better than the mines"



"Its very cold but we sleep there because we need money"

Was there any strike while you were in Number 5?

manager. Then they'll pull you out, like this (clicks his fingers.)

from "C" Compound to Shaft 17?

to protest?

on the drums and flies in our food in the kitchen — nobody cares. That is bad.

What is the average Rand Mines wage?

RAND MINES PAYS most R90, R80. Some more. Indunas get a lot. Police get not as much as indunas but get R160 or R170. If you work 20 years for Rand Mines you get maybe R200. Now they employ new ones who they give more money to. Your salary must wait till the new ones come to your salary. If you have R200 they will raise R5. Others will be R30. They never tell you how much they take for the compound. We don't get pension, medical aid, or unemployment insurance. They don't give transport or entertainment.

We used to get leave pay but Rand Mines say that if we go home we won't get leave pay. If you come back then they say you'll get it when you come back.

They say that they wanted to destory "C" Compound and build up a nice hostel — like Croesus Flats. Alright, when we go to 17 Shaft we think we'll come back to a nice place. But now we see that there they want to plant grass! We see now that the CMR compound is closing and they will also be moved to us at 17 Shaft. Rooms will be very full.

You cannot believe that some of the mine people sleep at that compound. They have no blankets — they have come from somewhere and they sleep just like that, also in boots. They don't issue anyone with blankets. Some of them get some cardboard and put it on the stone and sleep on that.

Plenty get sick but mostly from the food. It's very cold but we must sleep there because we need money. It's a matter of must because we have no other place. Even the municipality is better than the mines.

SOMETIMES IN 1970's, 1973 I think, the whole people in the compound struck. Some people said they wouldn't work any more and better go back to the homelands. Because they were not satisfied about what was done to them. They used to call the Rand Mines Police who used to have dogs . . . dogs . . . and used to go to the gate and throw teargas. When the big smoke came and people couldn't see they called the SAP and put them in the kwela-kwela's.

Even now it can be like this but all these people are afraid.

What kind of punishment is there for breaking rules?

THERE IS PUNISHMENT. At Shaft 17 compound when you walk in the front gate and look to the right, you'll see a small room — the 'stokkies'. If you've done something they'll lock you inside. And it's so cold inside — it's a jail. If they found you with alcohol they'll lock you in at 5 o'clock and see you the next morning. Then you see the compound manager and if you are not lucky he'll just chase you. If you are lucky then he'll give you another chance.

If you quarrel with someone they'll lock you in and they'll forget about you. You shout there for them to take you out but nobody will come. You can stay there sometimes for days.

Was there any resistance to the bad conditions — strike, for example?

THE TROUBLE IS they don't strike always because when people start to talk and say that "this thing which they do to us is not right, we must strike" there are some who go around to his induna and make a report. Then the induna will tell his compound

Strikes used to be done at 5 Shaft — strikes by people not satisfied. But then they call the police who hit them with sjamboks and all that. They don't do it now. Because the people who are working here are not too much like before. They are more scared, a lot of them.

How did the riots of 1976 effect the compound?

YES, IT HAPPENED here too at Crown Mines and at Boksburg and Durban-Deep. People were striking. And that time 16 Shaft compound was empty and they used it to bring the people of all the mines which were striking and keep them there. You stay there and they discharged them to go back to the homelands. Some of them used to check up on at the compound. If you do trouble there too, they just put you out and you don't know where to go.

What do people generally think about being moved

THE PEOPLE DIDN'T want to move. But the trouble is No 5 is no good for them so that when they tell them they're moving to 17 Shaft they thought that it would be better than 5 Shaft. Maybe they made it better, but nobody went to look — we just heard they were fixing it. They just painted it a little bit.

In two rooms they destroyed two rows of beds on the wall and put two mabalans there (clerks). They fixed their rooms so nice! They sleep on beds! And also the induna has his own room there next to the clerks and has a bed inside. So now when the people of the compound see the room of the clerks and induna, they are not happy because they must also have beds like them. All others sleep on stones.

But they are all afraid to complain. We also want our rooms to have beds.

Has any group been formed



"The showers — its a big hole ... we are standing naked and you see each other"

# Behind the laughter, there lies the pain



Our laughter the mask covering the desperation that lurks underneath

## George Hallett's caring camera

PHOTOGRAPHY is a form of robbery. It is an outside view which denies its subjects the right to speak for themselves.

They can either arrange themselves into an image which they think will be acceptable to the viewer or walk away. And if they are unaware of the presence of the camera, they are denied even that limited freedom.

Writer James Matthews seems to understand this. In the book **IMAGES**, in which Matthews writes 'poem captions' to accompany the pictures of exiled Cape photographer George Hallett, he suggests that even ghetto people present "smiles for the camera":

*Our laughter the mask covering the desperation that lurks underneath*

But in Hallett's remarkably fine photography, the masks work on another level — they are a way of shutting out the photographer from his subjects, re-affirming their integrity and dignity without glamourising their poverty and pain.

The book's special strength lies in the way that words and pictures work together. It's a significant departure from the notion of 'photography as art' which insists that a photograph must stand on its



George Hallett ... insider's view own in order to be valid, and that any juxtaposition with written language reduces the image to the vulgar level of illustration.

But any photograph has a multiplicity of meanings, a multiplicity of readings. Susan Sontag, in her book "On Photography", remarks: "What determines the possibility of being morally affected by photographs is the existence of a relevant political consciousness."

Because the medium is so open-ended, the political consciousness of the photographer and the viewer combine to determine the final effect of an image.

That famous 1976 "front-page" picture of Hector Peterson in the arms of a Soweto student, for example, says different things to

different people.

To black South Africa it is an image of courage and resistance — perhaps the definitive image of 1976.

To sections of whites in this country it may mean "That's what happens when you stone the police," and to a reader in Japan, say — who knows nothing of its context — the dead child could be the victim of a car accident.

However lucid the photographer might be in his/her choice of images, photographs often remain too easily wrenched from history as "moments" if there are no words to place them clearly in context.

Matthews' poems put the photographs firmly into history. But they are never mere captions and they never chain the images to a meaning which is too crudely specific.

What develops is a dialogue of words and pictures. Their statements are sometimes complementary, sometimes contradictory; and the text itself provides guidelines for a reading of the pictures.

And the boldest step is that Matthews' poems comment on the process of photography itself:

*The secrets that we have are hidden in the chambers*



Chains will tighten and cries strangled but voices will sound and movement not restricted

*of our hearts: not revealed by the smiles shown  
The casbah  
that the gleaners of our souls with their cameras will never know.*

The photographs have an informality and a sense of movement which contrast, for instance, with David Goldblatt's careful studies in which the subjects seem to be controlled and placed, even subordinated in the pursuit of perfection of technique and composition.

Matthews and Hallett also make an explicit political comment. It is sometimes threatening:

*Chains will tighten and cries strangled  
And it is sometimes bold, as it dares to envision the future:*

*To the worker  
there shall be music  
and the flute-player  
shall flute his due*

Many of the pictures, particularly towards the end of the book, powerfully affirm the strength and vigour of black culture.

But 'personalities' (Louis Moholo, Dumile, Matthews himself) are juxtaposed with 'ordinary people', and importantly, no-one is named.

The effect of this mixing is complex. It at once undermines the notion of stardom and it gives to the dispossessed (often seen by the 'possessed' as faceless anyway) a voice and a significance and a beauty which is obvious to those who share their lives, but often invisible to the outsider.

The juxtaposition says too that star and squatter alike, in this insanely polarised society, are of the oppressed.

• "Images" is published by BLAC Publishing House, Box 17, Athlone Cape. The retail price is R6 00.

By Bidy Crue

### Subscribe Now

To South Africa's Newest Literary Magazine

## The Bloody Horse

A bold exciting magazine devoted to good writing. Containing a stimulating mixture of creative writing, debate, book reviews, photography and art.

Open to all writing which is innovative, original and combative and of a high quality and relevance.

A bi-monthly — Your first edition will be with you in September

Subscription rates for six editions

Southern Africa: R9,75 (incl. G.S.T.)

Overseas: \$25 (U.S.) or £12.50 (U.K.) Airmail

\$15 (U.S.) Airmail or £7.50 (U.K.) Surface

The Bloody Horse

P.O. Box 6690

Johannesburg 2000

South Africa

# afrika

## Welcome!

Welcome to AFRIKA — South Africa's latest paper! AFRIKA is a news magazine for and about the people of South Africa — YOU!

And every second Friday, starting next month, AFRIKA will be on sale at your bus stop and railway station, at the shop near you or on your street. AFRIKA aims to write about you:

- YOUR jobs
- YOUR trade
- YOUR housing
- YOUR organisations
- YOUR sport
- The movies and plays YOU want to see
- The laws and rules that control everything YOU do every day
- The people and organ-

isations who make those laws

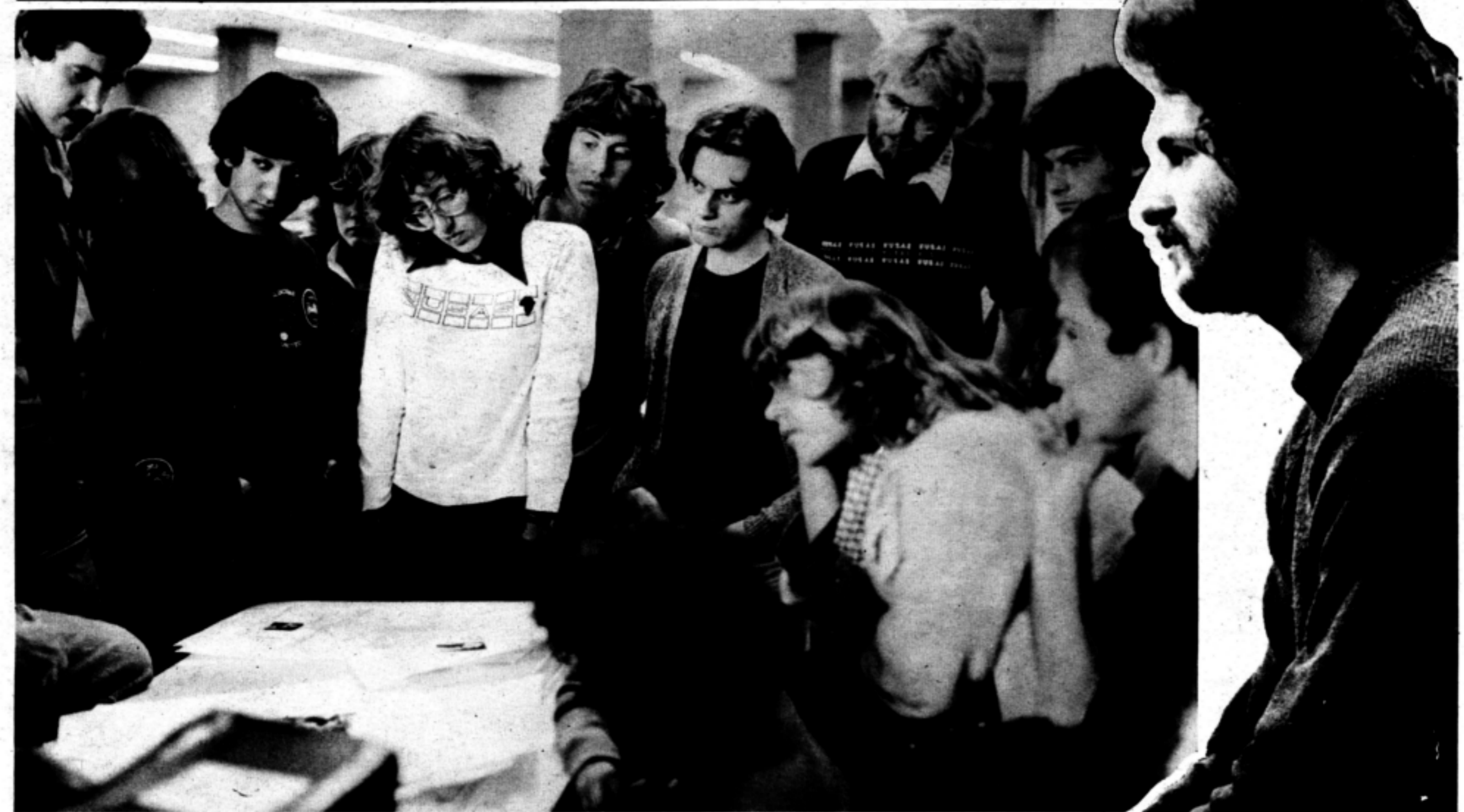
We at AFRIKA believe that this is what you want from a paper. But to succeed in giving you this, we will need your help. We will need to hear your stories, to hear your complaints, and to know what you want to read.

AFRIKA will be on sale for 10c, the lowest price of any paper in the country.

The copy of AFRIKA that you are reading is one of only a handful we printed to see how you'd like it, before we start seriously next month. If you like it show it to as many of your friends and work-mates as you can, so they will also be ready for AFRIKA when it starts.

Don't miss it, and remember, we need your help.





All eyes at the layout workshop. Even Nusas President Andrew Borraine, second from right, slipped in to watch

# Editors converge for a media mind-blast

*The alternative press learns commercial press skills*

THE recent highly successful SASPU skills seminar, otherwise known as the Multi-Media Mind Blast proved to be a big boost for the student press.

Editors, editors-to-be and staff of student publications from all over South Africa converged on Wits campus for a weekend of intensive writing, subbing and layout workshops as well as the inevitable jorl.

It is rare that students from the various publications have the chance to meet and discuss aims, problems and the future of the student press under a barrage of laws. This contact should in fact be one of the main aims of SASPU, as the body's President, Shaun John-

son, pointed out in his opening address.

There was much such discussion at Wits and it was decided that since solidarity was essential, a once-a-year meeting at SASPU Congress was certainly not enough to keep South Africa's student press the cohesive unit it should be.

Though sloppy writing and layout is largely something of the past in today's student publications, there is still much room for improvement. Few editors have had formal journalistic training, and often presses are producing a paper in a limited time, so that there is little time for passing on those skills that have been acquired.

This is another area where SASPU can be effective and which has largely been ignored in the past. The workshop was an attempt to bring this function to the fore, and it should certainly become an annual exercise. Top commercial press journalists and sub-editors gave crash courses in subbing, writing, lay-out and design on publications.

These included Sunday Times sub-editor and ex-Wits Student editor, Irwin Manoim, who gave a brief but intensive guide to newspaper lay-out. A practical session under his guidance proved to be one of the most fruitful and popular of the seminar, but most felt more time should have been given to this crucial aspect.

Photographer Paul Weinberg puts his line

Manoim's presence, as well as that of Rand Daily Mail sub-editor and ex-Rhodes student Martin Feinstein showed that contact between present and past editors of publications can and should continue after they graduate - especially those editors who now work on the commercial press.

Editors of student publications have realised that appearance of their papers is all-important. The presentation of the message is now seen by some as being just as important as the message itself.

Discussion at the seminar often revolved around terms like Helvetica Bold, Century Medium, circus layout and even WOBs, that "dance" all the jargon of seasoned press people.

Writing and subbing sessions with Manoim, Feinstein, David Niddrie (formerly of Sunday Express) and Bruce Cohen of the Rand Daily Mail were once again brief, but the groundwork was laid for tighter, more professional writing, using the formulas of the commercial press for the alternative press.

An example here was the feature writing session, which was perhaps too commercially orientated, but ex-Sunday Times writer Jill McIlraith was still able to offer useful guidelines in areas where student papers often fail.

The paper on Mass Media and Society by Norman Manoim briefly summarized the main trends of thought of contemporary media theorists.

RDM labour writer Steve Friedman gave a provocative paper on the

field he has revolutionized in the South African media. He feels that student press articles on labour take too much for granted.

Basic explanations of trade unions and South African labour laws were examples of what was perhaps needed, he said.

With every issue of Varsity so far this year having been banned, as well as issues of Dome and Rhodoe, to mention just two, knowledge of publication laws and ways to avoid bannings is crucial. Johannesburg lawyer Geoff Budlender's talk was a useful outline of the major laws.

Criticism from other campuses and from professional journalists is perhaps painful when it is your paper that is under the spotlight, but the workshop criticism session was largely constructive and opened the door to further contact.

One major criticism was the bad quality of photos - an area stressed by photojournalist Paul Weinberg. There were calls for greater specialisation in this field and it is certainly the area where the biggest improvement is needed.

Of course the seminar did have its problems - like the parking problems at Wits, anytime of the day and night, but organisation was excellent, which led SASPU National co-ordinator Jonty Joffe to compare it with previous SASPU seminars, which dissolved after even the organisers failed to arrive ...

There were areas that weren't covered, such as headlining and staff organisation, but on the whole the next year should see an improvement in the student press and this will be in no small way due to the seminar.



Learning to produce a newspaper without flashy equipment ... pens, rubbers, knives and sweat

**SKIN LIGHTENING LOTION**  
**SKIN LIGHTENING CREAM**

Years of Research  
 Doctors and  
 have gone into  
 paration of the  
 Skin treatment at  
 thousands of An  
 results by this m

**THAT REALLY WORKS DEEP DOWN—LIKE MAGIC!**  
 — Not just another Cosmetic Product but a proper  
 Medicinal Skin Lightening Treatment developed and  
 Skin Specialists and Chemists

**THE FAELOUS NEW CHEMICAL**  
 THAT IS FAR MORE EFFECTIVE QUICK  
 SAFER THAN ORDINARY HYDROQUINONE

The combination of the lotion and the cream becomes a  
 proper Medicinal Treatment whereby the lotion opens the  
 pores of the skin and allows the cream to penetrate deeply  
 and to remain there for a long time. This enables it to act on  
 the skin colouring pigment from deep down to give the  
 skin a lighter and brighter tone and a smoother texture.  
 This method is far more likely to succeed where ordinary  
 creams fail and the effect is longer lasting!

**STRENGTH! EXTRA  
 LIGHTENING! LIGHTENS  
 SOFTENS AND  
 THE SKIN IN A  
 DAYS!**

# What's white today is gone tomorrow

SOME skin lightener users get all the instant whiteness and social prestige they were promised on the pack. The rest get only long-term blotchiness and social embarrassment.

Skin lighteners contain a substance known as hydroquinone which can lead towards the disfigurement of the face.

On sun-exposed areas such as the face, the skin may become darker with dark blotches, leading to the frantic application of still more of the cream which in turn aggravates the darkening of the skin.

Skin-lighting creams do have a limited use in the treatment of white people with skin blemishes. But doctors stress that the treatment should be carefully controlled and supervised and should not extend for more than a few months.

It is the manufacturers of the skin cream who have the most to benefit from their use. The annual turnover of "skin care" products for black South Africans is approximately R25 million according to an article in a Sunday paper.

The article described the market for "general purpose" items and

skin lighteners as "phenomenal", "ripe for the picking" and as a "roaring trade".

This is backed up by the authors of a South African Medical Journal article who remark that the amount of products sold must indeed be very large, considering the vast numbers of people now suffering from skin problems caused by these creams.

The aspirations of poorer blacks are fully exploited by marketers of the creams to suggest that the more 'white' your skin, the more happy, healthy and wealthy you will be.

Usually, the opposite proves true. Users find unhappiness and poor health thanks to the skin damage the creams cause, and become a little poorer from buying unnecessary products and having to pay doctors' bills.

Clearly, action should be taken to inform people of the dangers and prevent the sale and advertising of these harmful products.

No sufferer from the effects of these creams has yet sought legal compensation. But the courts may offer possibilities worth trying.



Light fantastic ... with a touch of hydroquinone ... for that extra strength that clears the skin sometimes literally!

IN MAY last year, Sweden banned all products containing asbestos, and shut down every one of its asbestos cement factories.

Denmark and Norway indicated that they would soon follow suit.

Why the sudden panic over a substance that has been accepted in households for years as an excellent heat insulator on electrical equipment and a tough, non-corrosive material for water pipes, gutters and roofs?

Because people are dying by the hundreds from cancers caused by asbestos.

It has been found that asbestos workers can take home enough dust on their clothes for their children to develop cancer fifteen or twenty years later. This kind of cancer is incurable and causes death within two or three years.

Asbestos is mined in South Africa in the northern Cape Province around Kuruman, Koegas and Prieska as well as in the Eastern Transvaal and Sekhukuneland.

Around the Cape mines over a hundred people are known to have died from cancer caused by asbestos. Many of them did not work directly with asbestos, they got their cancers from environmental pollution.

The cancer they died from is called mesothelioma, or cancer of the lining of the lung. It is incurable. It is caused by tiny, invisible asbestos fibres carried in the air,

# Asbestos: The silent poison lurking inside each home

which are breathed in and penetrate the lining of the lung.

There they act on and alter a few of the cells in the lining, causing them to grow out of control.

Because only a few cells are affected it takes years - as long as fifteen or twenty - before this becomes noticed as the disease we call cancer.

Heavier exposure to asbestos causes the disease asbestosis, in which asbestos dust destroys the lungs.

Miners and asbestos cement workers who get this disease become crippled by shortness of breath.

Asbestos is a poison to all of us. Yet it is being mined and used in large amounts in manufacturing in South Africa.

Export sales of asbestos are worth more than R100 million a year.

There is a large and profitable asbestos industry that is mining asbestos ore, milling and refining it into fine asbestos fibres, and then manufacturing it into a wide range of commodities that we can buy and take home with us.

It has been estimated that at least



40 000 workers are at the moment exposed to asbestos in their jobs. Many of them are exposed to a great deal of asbestos.

Since there can be no safe level of anything that causes cancer all of them are exposed to too much asbestos.

Thousands of tons of asbestos are being used in commodity production in this country, mainly in asbestos cement, which uses

asbestos fibres to hold the cement together.

Some of it is made into the pale grey non-metallic corrugated roofing that is often used on houses. It is also used in non-metallic guttering and piping.

Most asbestos cement is made into underground pipes that carry our water supply. These pipes contain about 12% asbestos in the cement. In the United States where water is also carried in asbestos cement pipes, researchers have found that fibres washed into the water are causing some people to develop cancer of the gut.

Asbestos is also used because it resists heat very well. It is widely used to insulate hot water pipes and electrical appliances that generate heat.

It is used in hundreds of different commodities though in very few of them it is essential. It is very difficult for people to know that asbestos has been used in the commodities they are buying.

Most asbestos containing

commodities do not give off fibres. That is, they do not give them off when they are new. But with use they get chipped, broken or worn away and fibres are given off.

Are they enough to cause cancer? Yes they are. English workmen demolishing houses have developed mesothelioma from asbestos fibres given off when they smash the asbestos insulation on hot water pipes.

The South African government is showing itself very reluctant to do anything to stop the rising epidemic of asbestos related cancers.

For example, a German firm was recently allowed to establish an asbestos textile factory in Cape Town.

The factory was originally based in Hamburg where it had been unable to show a profit because it had to spend too much on safety equipment needed to comply with German factory regulations.

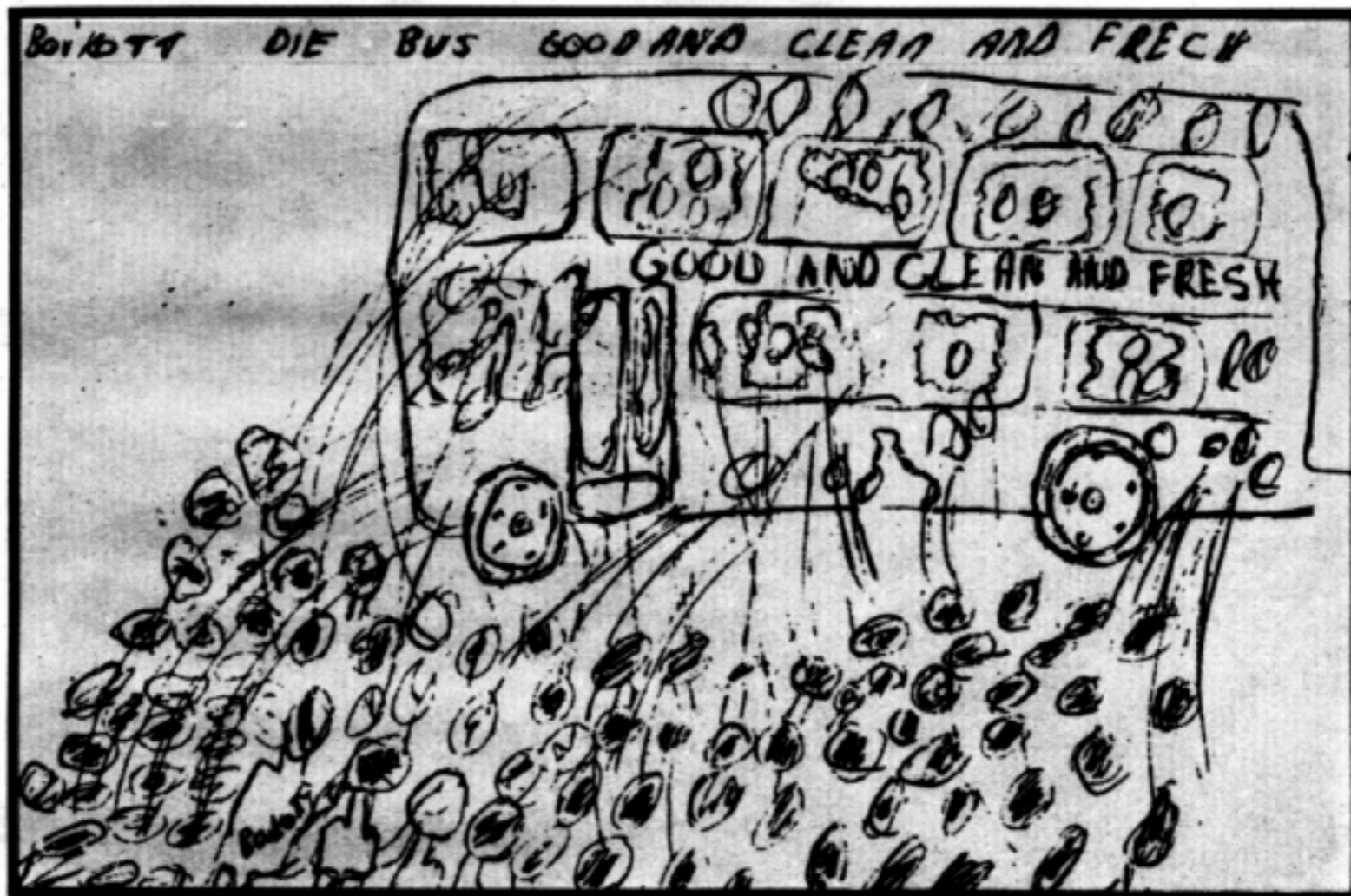
In South Africa there is plenty of asbestos and no safety regulations to control its use.

Research in South Africa and experience in other countries tells us that there can be no safe level for asbestos in the environment.

There is already enough asbestos above the ground to keep its cancer causing effect going for our children, born and unborn.

# Was the child who drew this born in a home of skollies?

*A new book dissects the tragedy of ghetto life*



The boycotts through the eyes of a young Cape child ...no bus escapes

60% of the people had no recreation besides drinking.

Pinnock gives a chronological account of the recent school boycotts and a vivid description of the events of June when the skollies took over.

"I saw about 200 skollies come over this bridge and I was scared," recalls one Eureka Estate woman, while a Valhalla Park housewife said: "The gangsters had decided what to do in advance. They worked with the children in the boycott —

but so they could get something out of it. The kids begin, then the skollies take over."

In a chapter headed "Who are the skollies?" a picture emerges of the human cost of the Group Areas Act: extended families torn asunder in

the interests of capitalism.

These are substituted by small nuclear families where both parents have to go out to work, women for much lower wages than men. There are few creches, and no relatives at home to look after the children ... they run in the streets.

The children of the ghetto grow up with little other company than that of their friends, friends who may already know the secrets of survival taught by the skolly gangs. Pinnock shows that for many Elsie kids, the gangs provide the only human bond they know and the only way to occupy hours spent outside a boring and elitist school system.

In some cases, Pinnock maintains, the gangs actually serve the interests of capitalism, in that they make it dangerous to be on the streets at night in working class suburbs, preventing people from organising politically. These young men are blatantly self-serving and conservative, picking the pockets of their own community and intimidating even the police ("call us when there's someone dead", the police say in reply to reports of a gang fight).

TV and movie violence also have a part to play in the Clockwork Orange world of the township skolly — 63% of the films shown during one month at Elsie's River involved scenes of violence, killing and death. The popularity of vicious Kung Fu movies in Cape Town's black townships testifies to the pervasive effect the media has on young people with nothing else to do but hang about outside the "Panorama".

Pinnock's book should be prescribed reading for all those concerned about the injustices in South African society and the effects of racially-justified exploitation on working class communities.

From textile worker to student, street-sweeper to professor, this booklet should clarify a lot of questions, and highlight, in its deceptively simple language, the destruction apartheid has wrought on the lives of Cape Town's people.

**BOXED**

**BORDER BOXES** (East London): Post reported (11.09.80) that the entire labour force at this factory refused to work after the chairperson of their workers' committee had been fired.

They said that the foreman had threatened to fire all committee members who were also members of the South African Allied Workers' Union (SAAWU).

About half of the labour force of 64 were reemployed on Thursday, September 11 (RDM, 12.09.80)

**PACKAGED**

**AMALGAMATED PACKAGING INDUSTRIES** (Industria, Transvaal): 25 workers, transferred two weeks earlier from Fuchs (Albertyn) to the API plant, refused to work on Friday, August 29.

Their complaints related to transport and accommodation problems caused by the transfer. It meant that the shifts they worked inconvenienced them with regard to transport arrangements — the firm's suggested solution was to house the workers in a hostel at R20 per month, and refused to provide them with transport.

All 25 workers were paid off.

**DAILY?**

**RAND DAILY MAIL** (Johannesburg): A 'go-slow' by editorial staff on this newspaper was reported in the Natal Mercury (06.00.80).

This action was taken in protest at breakdowns in the electronic editing equipment, and took the form of one-hour stoppages after every breakdown.

News service to the Natal Mercury and the Cape Times (both morning papers) was also affected.



## South Africa's workers: a record of labour disputes

**DUMPED.**

**COLLONDALE CANNERY** (East London): Still community and workplace 'unrest' continues in the Eastern Cape. Schools and factories are two of the most important arenas for the struggle at present.

On Wednesday, August 27, the entire workforce at Collondale Cannery was fired. This assault by management followed a brief stoppage in demand of the reinstatement of 'retrenched' fellow workers.

Six which was later changed to five members of the workforce at the Cannery had been 'retrenched' 'because work ...was slack'. However, one of the six was the chairperson of a workers' committee elected as a result of organising activity by the African Food and Canning Workers' Union (AFCWU), an unregistered union that had asked for company recognition.

Management demanded to talk only through the liaison committee when workers asked for an explanation for the 'retrenchments'. Workers were ordered to leave company

premises.

When workers gathered at the factory on the following day they were met by three officials from the Department of Manpower Utilisation who said that they were there to resolve the strike. This was rejected by the workers who demanded to negotiate directly with management.

Security police ordered workers to disperse. Management issued a deadline for return of Friday, August 29, to the workers.

Workers were fired and told that they could reapply on Monday, September 8, for jobs. However, workers did not accept their pay, said the AFCWU.

A week later (September 5) workers from Collondale, and also from Ray-Lite Batteries and National Converter Industries, decided to return to work only when their representative unions had been recognised and workers' committees accepted. The unions involved in these demands from 2 000 workers are the AFCWU and the SAAWU.

On Monday, September 8, some workers returned. Roger Tilney, managing director of Collondale

said that as many as 150 had returned, while another 150 were employed from workseekers who had not been at the firm before. The AFCWU denied this and said in a statement on 16.09.80 that 90% of workers were still out, that normal production had not resumed, and that the company was approaching individual workers to return while also attempting to recruit labour tenants with the assistance of farmers.

The sacked workers have called on other cannery workers to refuse to handle unprocessed pineapples from Collondale, and for the community to boycott Collondale products.

**Power Failure**

Four executive members of the Black Municipal Workers' Union (BMWU) were detained after the strike. Joseph Mavi, charged under the 'Sabotage Act' (minimum sentence 5 years, maximum sentence death) has been released on R500

bail. The case has been postponed to September 29. Mavi has been dismissed by the Johannesburg Municipality and is out of work.

Philip Dlamini (general secretary of the BMWU), charged under the same Act, has been released on bail of R1 000. His case will also resume on September 29.

Gatzby Mazwi, charged under the same Act, has been released on bail of R500, while Hope Mamabolo was released from custody on August 29 with no charges laid.

Of the 1 000 workers bused back to the bantustans, both Gazankulu and Venda 'governments' confirm that they have had no contact with them. The men have not reported to magistrate's courts within the areas, as required to do by law.

Meanwhile dumped workers have started arriving back in Johannesburg, complaining of starvation and the extreme scarcity of jobs in the bantustans, particularly in the Transkei. By September 3, 300 people were known to be back. The returning workers are being helped to survive through a fund administered by the BMWU.

Strikers keen to return to work with the Municipality are encountering considerable obstacles and resistance. Only a few workers have been reinstated. The WRAB has asked Venda and Gazankulu to provide alternative workers.

Meanwhile the BMWU's rival, the Union of Johannesburg Municipal Workers, has come out in favour of the striking workers, and called for the reinstatement of all of them. Mavi has not been impressed. He has made a scathing attack on what he sees as 'cashing in on the plight of the workers' and asks, 'Where were they when people asked for wage increases?' (Star 09.09.80).

We would like to thank the Development Studies group for the above information.

# SASPU

## Sport

# Student Movement boots... Double Standards!



PROGRESSIVE organisations in South Africa have often been criticized by the Right for "dragging politics into sport".

But to the Benoni Students Movement, a lively community-oriented group on the East Rand, such a criticism would probably be a complement.

For the BSM subscribes firmly to the South African Council on Sport's belief that sport cannot be divorced from politics.

This principle is reflected strongly in the day-to-day activities of the BSM.

Last year the BSM held a symposium on Sport in South Africa. Among the speakers at the symposium were Frank van der Horst (Vice-President of South African Council of Sport) and Mr Phineas Xulu (Assistant General Secretary of the Tennis Association of South Africa).

All the speakers condemned the attempt of the government to get into international sport "through the backdoor by using stooges like Rashid Varachia and George Thabe".

Mr van der Horst in particular took a hard line on "toothless Management Committees and Community Councils, as well as

non-representative bodies like the South African Indian Council and the (now defunct) Coloured Representative Council".

The BSM is engaged in a continuing campaign to raise funds for needy students and community projects. To date the movement has granted bursaries to 31 students.

The annual BSM soccer festival is one way in which the movement raises funds for these projects. The third such festival was held at the Actonville stadium, Benoni, this month, and ten teams from Benoni, Lenasia, Bosmont, Vrededorp and Cape Town took part.

Before the final game the chairperson of the BSM, Mr H V Singh, delivered a speech in which he pledged solidarity with the oppressed people of South Africa.

"While today is a day of joy, it is also a day of mourning", he said. "We mourn the loss of some of our great leaders like Mary Moodley and Lilian Ngoyi. We mourn, with our friends from Cape Town, the tragedy and the loss of life during the boycotts. We also mourn the denial of our basic human rights."

After the speech Mr Singh appealed to everybody to rise as the sound of the national anthem, Nkosi Sikele Africa reverberated around the grounds.

In its sports' policy, the BSM strongly believes in the principles of non-racialism as put forward by the South African Council of Sport (SACOS). In addition it unequivocally accepts the "Double Standards" resolution which states that:

No person, whether he is a player, an administrator or a spectator, committed to the non-racial principle in sport, shall participate in or be associated with any code of sport which practices, perpetuates or condones racialism or multi-nationalism. Players and/or administrators disregarding the essence of the principle shall be guilty of practising double standards and cannot therefore, be members of any organisation affiliated to SACOS.

The BSM's leaders say that contrary to what many people think, sport cannot be divorced from

politics. They quote Frank van der Horst: "Our sportsmen must involve themselves completely with the progressive struggle of the people. Sport is heavily influenced by social events, and a careful intelligent ear must be tuned to the forces of change so that we can become part of it."

We must hasten the process that will enable us to play fully non-racial sport in a non-racial society. Every sportsperson has an important task in the struggle that lies ahead."

It is a fundamental belief of the BSM that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can claim to represent the people unless it is based on the will of all its people.

This, says the BSM, is why it rejects the "artificial solutions" that the government is imposing on South Africa's people artificial solutions like South African Indian Councils, Coloured Representative Councils, Community Councils, Bantustans and the President's Council.

The BSM believes that before any equitable solution is found to this country's problem the government must:

- Release all political prisoners
  - Allow exiled South Africans to return
  - Accept the reality of the failure of apartheid
  - Make a commitment to move towards a non-racial society.
- "Anything less is unacceptable to the oppressed people of South Africa", says the BSM.