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... of the ... through borrowing and printing money

Wits Student

Vol 35 No 13

Official Student Newspaper of the University of the Witwatersrand



We shall
not rest

Found in the drawer of the file should at least no 257/13 Bentley.

Sweet'ners for staff

Guidelines for staff who are offered gifts have been sent to Wits' academics. The guidelines are a response to the recent furore over alleged 'sweeteners' to medical lecturers which culminated in the resignation of Prof Saul Zwi, Dean of Medical School.

The circular stressed that any gift to staff should benefit the university as a whole. It outlined a number of categories of gifts suggesting the appropriate responses.

The circular says: 'The council assumes that a member of staff acts honourably and would not jeopardise his academic or personal integrity by accepting gifts which are tantamount to bribes.'

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof Du Plessis said that the circular had been a response to uncertainty expressed by staff members as to

how to respond to offers of gifts. He emphasized that the University did not see any need to act as a watch-dog over staff members.

The University Council also sent a letter to SRC president, Lloyd Vogelman suggesting that the SRC draw up gift guidelines for students. When asked why this had been seen to be necessary Prof Du Plessis said that senior staff members had pointed out that in certain situations students themselves are offered gifts.

Prof Du Plessis referred to an example of final year medical students being offered medical equipment. He suggested that this was often done to influence the students in their assessment of the products.

Prof Du Plessis said that it was part of the university's role to provide an ethical understanding to students.



Vice-Chancellor Prof du Plessis

Milpark — The New Deal

Negotiations for the expansion of campus to the adjacent Milner Park show-grounds have been completed.

Engineering, science and architecture are to remain on the old campus, while arts, education, commerce, law and business administration are to be accommodated on the new site. A new library will serve these faculties.

A building complex comprising the Empire Hall, State Pavilion, Chamber of Mines Building and the large cafeteria has been chosen to accommodate the teaching, laboratory

and office requirements for the faculties of education, commerce and law for several years.

Plans include a system of pathways intergrating the various activity zones. Provision of convenient parking and the establishment of a new catering centre have also been made.

Good news is that emphasis will be laid on landscaping and 'every effort is to be made to capitalize on the mature trees and shrubs on the new site'.

Yale Road is an important feature in connecting the two campus areas and according to plans should become part of University property.

Marx, get set, go!

The most recent SMA pamphlet headed 'Where Communism's Leaders Are Recruited' appeared on campus last Tuesday.

This reactionary newsletter suggested that various departments (their examples being political studies, history, sociology and economics) had secreted within their depths sympathisers to 'Godless communism'.

Wits Student spoke to some Professor Stadler, head of the Politics Department, responded with 'I perfectly understand the SMA's fear of intellectuals'.

Professor Botha, head of economics felt that the pamphlet was 'absolute nonsense' and saw it as a 'pointless exercise'.

Professor Schutte, head of Sociology felt that the credibility of the pamphlet would be non-existent with any critically minded student.

'They seem (the SMA) to lack the maturity to know what critical sociological thought is about, and this pamphlet merely shows their inability to tolerate the social sciences'.

Prof Schutte said that it was a regurgitation of right-wing propaganda.

Someone was heard to comment on the pamphlet... 'I regret that the quality of the paper is unsuitable for the only purpose to which it might have been put'.

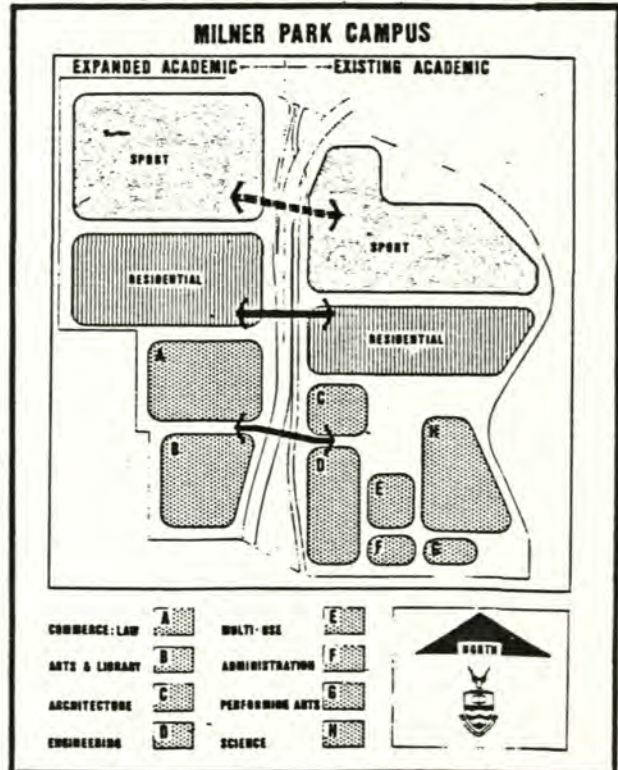
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Quota Act rejected



Rev Frank Chikane



Sydney Kentridge

SENIOR advocate Sydney Kentridge, prominent theologian Frank Chikane and Wits SRC President Lloyd Vogelmann have added their voices to the call for universities to refuse to co-operate with the Quota Bill.

At a mass meeting at Wits, the three addressed a crowd of about 700.

Kentridge said he had underrated the 'foxiness' of the government. He had expected that restrictions on university registration would have been abolished as part of the government's new reform strategy.

Instead, they were planning to replace the 1959 Extension of Universities Act with the new Quota Bill.

The 1959 Act made it illegal for blacks to enter a 'white' university without ministerial permission.

The new bill would make university administrations themselves responsible for restricting the admission of black students.

Kentridge said he would not expect the government to close down the universities if they ignored the Quota Bill.

Turfed out

'Students at the University of the North-Turfsloop have once again been victims of police brutality and repression' according to a statement released on campus by Azaso.

A 'fact sheet' drawn up by a number of student organisations reports on how the crisis originated:

Unprovoked police attacks on students followed the peaceful dispersal of students after a mass meeting held to commemorate June 16.

There was further unrest in July when students refused to write the exams. The exams, however, were 'written' despite the fact that less than 10 students were sitting.

The staff of the university also expressed dissatisfaction with

He did feel that the government was 'mean and shabby enough' to withdraw subsidies. The could 'starve' the universities and favour more compliant universities with funds.

The Wits University Council and the Senate are still deliberating over whether to comply with the Quota Bill.

'Silence is not an option', said Kentridge.

'It is a simple moral issue'. The University should not help apartheid run smoothly. He urged the council to reject the Quota Bill completely and unequivocally.

Their tactics, however, would not work. 'No form of pseudo-reform . . . will ever make the oppressed masses abandon their struggle for freedom,' he said.

The BSS read out a statement saying they rejected the Bill and 'also reject any university which collaborates with racist legislation.'

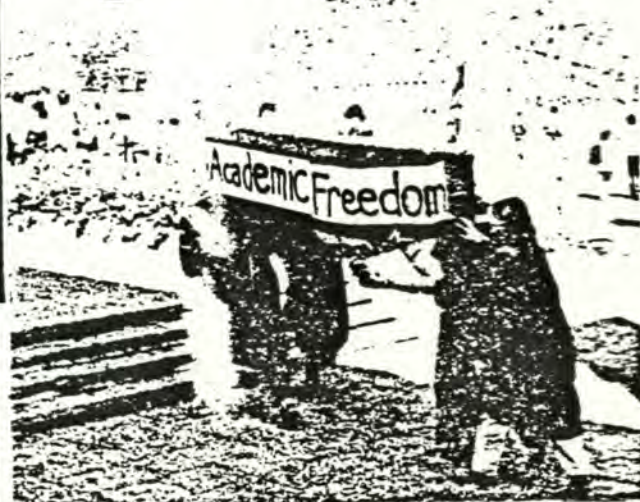
Lloyd Vogelmann said that University Council members had condemned the Bill at the anti-Quota Bill mass meeting last term.

'We now wait and see if they will act on their word.'

the manner in which exams were written.

The SRC was banned, and all organised activity, including mass meetings were outlawed. This hampered the ability of students to discuss and resolve the issue.

Attempts have been made by students and parents to form a parents committee to represent students to the Administration and to assist in resolving the crisis. A number of demands were laid out by the students: students demanded an end to police brutality, a fair repeating of exams, and the recognition of the parents committee. The statement ended by calling on all students at Turfsloop and throughout the country to unite in solidarity with the affected students.



Members of Projects Comm carrying a coffin, signifying the effect of the Quota Act on Academic Freedom

South African education policies could not be expected to be humane or equal because that would contradict the aims of those in power. 'The Council could refuse to co-operate with these policies,' he said.

'Wits students will not tolerate this racist Act. We will struggle until our university is a non-racial one,' he concluded.

Rev Chikane saw the struggle for academic freedom as part of the wider political struggle for freedom.

The Quota Bill was simply another development in the government's reform programme which is trying to 'keep the oppressed subservient in a more scientific way'.

4376 signatures

Stage two of the SRC Day-care centre campaign has been quietly underway for the last three months.

The petition signatures were counted, the questionnaires analysed, the messages of support for the SRC motion reckoned. The results revealed overwhelming support for a campus day-care centre.

This support, and the data supplied by the questionnaire, provided the basis for a carefully researched document which the SRC Day-care centre committee submitted to the University Council.

The 8-page motivation dealt with the need for a Day-care

centre at Wits and what the university stands to gain by its establishment. The size, estimated costs and day-to-day running of the centre were thoroughly discussed.

The document, together with the 4 376 signatures which were collected by the Day-care centre committee was handed to Professor Shear, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, by Lloyd Vogelmann and Terry Shakinovsky (SRC Women's Portfolio).

It was agreed that the document was sound and comprehensive, and that it would be discussed by the university council at its meeting on the 5th August.

Terry Shakinovsky



VOGELMANIA!



Lloyd in a rare moment of relaxation

His office is strikingly large. The furniture is functional but comfortable. The walls are covered with posters, stickers and slogans. He sits alertly at his desk, he is looking good.

On one pile of papers a floppy dog with a ribbon in its hair acts as a paperweight. Behind the desk a poster reads: 'People think I'm only a poor mouse, mice think I'm trying to emulate an intellectually impoverished person'.

Lloyd Vogel, SRC President is nearing the end of his term of office. Was Student sent a team to catch his last few words.

WS

Campus opinion indicates that this SRC has achieved a closer contact with students than in previous years. Would you agree with that?

Lloyd

Yes. We've made contact with organisations or societies with whom we've had no contact in previous years, like Rag, Faculty Councils and residences, through FDCOM and NUSAS. We've

also worked with the All-Sports Council in taking up sporting issues.

Campus has always indicated that it wants the SRC to be highly involved in student issues, and this year I think we've certainly done that.

WS

When things go wrong on campus the immediate response is to blame it on the SRC. Is this justified?

Lloyd

Well I won't say it's never justified. Obviously we do make mistakes, and in those cases campus certainly has a right to blame us, but on other occasions complaints have actually been very unfair. For example, the problem of parking. Students blame the SRC for lack of parking facilities instead of Admin.

What's more, the SRC has received bad publicity in the daily press in the past, usually through highly inaccurate reporting. These things make an impression and students tend to see the SRC as a fallen body, which, I must stress, it is not.

WS

The Quota Bill, undeniably the most important political issue of the year for this university, has just become law. The SRC has issued a statement condemning the new act. How do you think the University itself should react to it

Lloyd

If the university does not respond with non-cooperation with the government, then it will have to accept the label of being racist. This university is going to have to make a choice about Academic Freedom. This means identifying with, and serving the needs of the people of this country. You can't do that by making skin colour an entrance criterion.

Already South Africa is plagued with inequalities in the educational system, and the Quota Act as it now stands, serves to accentuate these inequalities. Literally dealing a death blow to our aspirations towards academic freedom and a democratic university.

WS

We hear a lot about democracy. What exactly do you mean by a democratic university

Lloyd

A university in which everyone has an equal say in decision making. We can't isolate ourselves from our community, we have a duty to serve those needs as well as simply the needs of the university. We're not at school anymore, being part of a democratic university means being part of a more humanitarian society.

We are talking about more than facilities, we are talking about human rights. We're not just talking about good science laboratories, good tutors, and good lecturers, we're talking about a system of justice.

WS

What is the SRC's opinion of right wing students on campus, particularly the SMA?

Lloyd

Our opinion of the SMA is different to our opinion of right wing students in general. The former have a history of destructiveness and deceit on campus, which fortunately usually rebounds on themselves, further undermining their credibility on campus. However, we encourage conservative students to air their views, as long as they are not expressed in racist or sexist terms.

WS

Some students feel that the SRC should be a non-political body. Given this, what right do you think the SRC has to continue with political activity?

Lloyd

I agree with you — there might be a group of students who believe that the SRC should be apolitical. All I can say to that is that we're not living in a society in which all conflicts have been resolved, and in which justice and equality prevail. Instead we are living in an oppressive society, one in which we as students will be living in the future, and we have to try and change that future before there's bloodshed.

WS

Do you have any advice for students for the forthcoming elections?

Lloyd

I was going to say something about the SMA's behaviour last year, but it's been said before. (It has indeed, see feature — ed.) So instead I urge people to vote, obviously. I also urge people to think about what I've just said about the myth of the 'apolitical SRC'. Very important too, of course, is for students to have a good time questioning campaigners and to enjoy the election circus.



Looking bashful, he admits he's done well

What they said about the President.
(We take a walk around campus, tape recorder in hand).

Grant: 'He's a good guy.'

M: 'He's made a concerted effort to get down to the students.'

Russel Crystal: 'We're very busy at the moment.'

(WS: - I'm sure you are.)

J: 'My mother was very impressed with his orientation speech.'

A: 'At long last the SRC's done something for students.'

D: 'I thought they banned the president.'

S: 'My God, he's got such hairy arms.'

M: 'Sorry I don't get involved.'

N: 'He's very hunky, that's all I know about him.'

T: 'Very constructive.'

No No No

The recent passing of the new Quota Bill, which will directly affect Wits students if implemented, has not gone unnoticed.

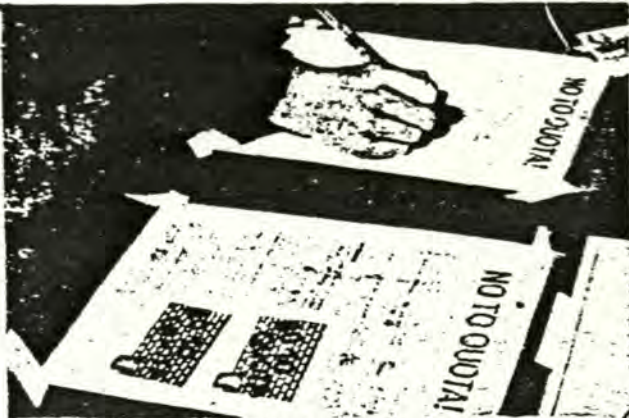
At a Quota Bill meeting arranged by projects Comm, the SRC passed a motion condemning the Bill. This initiated two campus staff associations to express their strong opposition to the implementation of the Bill in any way by Wits Administration. They called upon

various other organisations to endorse the SRC motion.

The Administrative and Library Association and the Academic Staff Association expressed their support of the SRC motion.

Students have also expressed their opposition to the Quota Bill by signing petitions organised by Projects Comm.

Students who have not yet signed are urged to do so.



No to Quota - over 4 000 signatures

Referenda at Rhodes, Maritzburg

On 11 August 1983, a referendum will be held at Rhodes University which will determine whether or not the University retains its affiliation to NUSAS.

The referendum has been called by certain right-wing groupings at Rhodes, who are opposed to Rhodes' present affiliation to NUSAS.

The Rhodes SRC agreed to the referendum after being presented with a petition signed by 500 students, calling for disaffiliation from the national union.

The next couple of weeks will see intense activity at Rhodes as both the pro-NUSAS and the anti-NUSAS committees begin campaigning in earnest.

The programme will consist of numerous razzies, debates, open forums and question and answer sessions. Both factions will be making a concerted effort to canvas the various residences, the major arena in which the campaign will be fought.

A similar referendum will be held at the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg on August 16.

The difference between the two referenda is that the Maritzburg one is in response to calls for the university, presently disaffiliated from NUSAS to re-affiliate itself to the national union.

Although Maritzburg is officially disaffiliated, NUSAS activity has been considerable. Numerous meetings have been held between Head Office members and the executive of the Maritzburg SRC, at which matters of common concern to students were discussed.

NUSAS has also worked closely with other student organizations, including a seminar attended by NUSAS President Kate Philip, at which almost all the chairpersons of Maritzburg student societies were present.

The pro-NUSAS committees on both campuses are presenting fundamentally similar arguments in favour of affiliation to NUSAS:

• NUSAS, as a central union facilitates communication between the various affiliated campuses, as well as co-ordinating a flow of student services and resources between the campuses, for example, the Quota

Bill, and the Constitutional Proposals.

• NUSAS also gives white students the opportunity to participate actively against apartheid, through its commitment to democracy and non-racialism in South Africa.

• NUSAS enjoys a high degree of credibility and respect among international student unions, such as the National Union of Students (NUS) in Britain; the Australian Union of Students (AUS); and the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). All these, and many other unions around the world support NUSAS in its struggle against apartheid.

Furthermore, these unions draw on NUSAS publications for information on current stu-

dent activity in South Africa, and NUSAS in turn does likewise, creating a flow of student opinion from all around the world.

The outcome of the referendum at Rhodes and Pietermaritzburg will have a significant bearing on the position of NUSAS. If both campuses vote for affiliation to NUSAS, the union will be stronger than it has been since 1975, with all five white, English speaking campuses affiliated.

This will be seen as a clear mandate for NUSAS to continue its campaign against the Constitutional Proposals, together with other progressive groupings in SA, and in accordance with the 1983 NUSAS theme, 'Educating for Change'.



SASTS Specials

The South African Students Travel Service (SASTS) has introduced a number of new special offers for students.

The most attractive of these offers is a one year Harare-London return ticket for R900. This is considerably cheaper than all similar flights.

Also offered are return flights to Europe for the end-of-year vacation for R865.

SASTS also offer a 25% discount on accommodation in the USA.

SASTS is a major service

offered to students by the SRC. It is a national organization, operating on all NUSAS-affiliated campuses.

SASTS caters specifically for student needs. Ursula Lebahn, who has worked for SASTS for 5 years, can offer expert advice on travel specials for students.

SASTS have also recently been joined by Karen Taylor, an experienced travel agent.

SASTS is controlled by elected student representatives, and the service is able to offer discounts to all students.

National Women's Week

Thursday 11 August

Slide and Tape Show on Domestic Workers
SS3 12.30 pm
Seminar: Organizing Women Workers
ID MacCrone 330

Friday 1 August

Movie: The Women's Room
SHBU 1.30 pm

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Rag Royalty Deposed

The 1983/4 Rag executive has entered their term of office with a revolutionary change. Rag Queen has been scrapped. *Wits Student* spoke to new Rag chair, Sharon Jowell, about how this change has come about and the reasoning behind it.

WS: What was the motivation behind this radical change?

SJ: I believe that Rag Queen has become a redundant and anachronistic institution. I feel that it needed to be reviewed and changed. A unanimous decision was reached within the 1983/84 exec, after discussion of the purpose Rag Queen served. The evaluation revealed that it was a redundant institution.

We felt that there should be a decrease in emphasis on appearance which is so prominent in society, and this was one of the major drives behind discarding Rag Queen.

The move has come from within the executive; all five members strongly supported it. Rag Queen was seen as having no effective role within Rag. The sexist implications of having such an institution were also discussed and given consideration.

WS: What will replace Rag Queen?

SJ: Rag will always need a figurehead. What we're changing are the criteria on which the figure-head has always been selected. Instead of an emphasis on looks, figure etc, we envisage this person as embodying the spirit of Rag.

He or she will be someone who has put in the most time for Rag, showed the most initiative, and be a representative of Rag rather than of herself.

This person could be male or female; however because less

men are involved in Rag there less chance of a man holding such a position.

He or she will be more accessible to students and to members of Rag as well as participates in dynamics. A need to represent Rag in a more favourable way to the public and to the students on campus was realised.

The fun of Rag will not be removed as dynamics and socials will not be discarded.

WS: In view of Rag's recognition of the Rag Queen as having sexist implications, do you see drummies as the next institution scrapped?

SJ: Definitely not. The sexist implications are continually decreasing. Drummies are viewed as professionals, rather than as 'sex objects', who bring in a considerable amount of money for Rag, mainly through competitions.

Drummies are often 'hired out' for a morning, and the better the squad, the more offers we get. The major difference between Rag Queen and Drummies is that Rag Queen encourages a negative attitude, while drummies work together.

The girls compete against one another, and bitchiness is often present. However, drummies work together as a group, encouraging a more positive attitude within Rag.

WS: But aren't drummies also chosen on their looks, physical attributes? The drummies uniform could also be described as having a large amount of 'sex appeal'.

SJ: Drummies are chosen entirely on their marching abilities. They are given two weeks training before the final selection for the squad of 40.



Sharon Jowell - New Rag Chair

I feel that the uniforms are functional, not with 'sex appeal', easy to march in and militaristic. Drummies are becoming increasingly recognised as a professional sport. This means that the sexist implications are decreasing.

WS: What has been the reaction to this change? Have students been negative or positive about this move?

SJ: I found, initially, that a large number of students were opposed to it, mainly because they did not understand the reasoning

behind it. After I had explained the motives, and students gave it some thought, an overwhelming majority agreed that it can only enhance what Rag is doing.

This is, I feel, a particularly innovative and important step. At the moment we're the only university who has taken this step, but I strongly believe that we will be followed by others.

Even becoming a Rag Queen has become unpopular. This year only 15 girls entered.

I hope that this move is understood and favourable recognised as the positive move that it is.

Psycho conference boycotted

Boycotters, including 2 Wits MA Clinical Psychology students, recently disrupted an international psychology conference on Family Therapy held at Sun City.

Psychologists and students boycotted the conference on the grounds that the venue was unsuitable for a conference on family life as it endorsed the injustices of the apartheid system. They said, and raised the

question of whether family therapists in South Africa are addressing themselves to the most pertinent factors affecting family life.

A group of boycotters attempted to distribute pamphlets at the conference.

The pamphlets stated that Sun City was a 'first world pleasure in a third world setting'. The material benefits were negligible when seen in the light of its detrimental effects. It stated

further that it was ironical that a conference on family life be held against this backdrop of family deprivation and disintegration.

The distributors were apprehended and questioned by the Sun City Security Police, who then turned them over to the

Bophuthatswana Security Police. They were questioned for four hours before being released. The convenor of the conference refused to allow them to distri-

bute the pamphlets following their release.

The matter became an issue at the conference, where about 360 delegates of various nationalities were gathered.

An organisation to deal with the state of mental health in

South Africa arose out of the boycott, and is planning a one-day conference on the state of mental health in South Africa.

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Are you short of friends?

Are you short?

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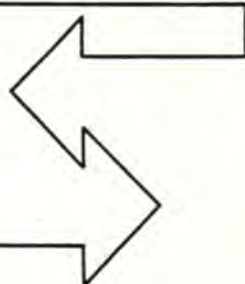
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Anne du Plessis

In 1980 they fielded four candidates. Only one made it. In 1981 and 1982 they 'declined to participate'. What will they do this year?

Matthew Kentridge, *Wits Student* Further Deputy Editor, examines the involvement of the Wits right wing student organization, the Student Moderate Alliance (SMA) in the last three SRC elections.

In 1980, Lance Crystal, younger brother of SMA Chairman, Russel Crystal, and himself a senior member of the SMA, was elected to the SRC. He was later declared unfit to serve on the SRC because 'he had brought the university into disrepute, undermined the SRC, and had played a decisive and leading role in an eruption of racist provocation on campus'.

Contrast that to the SMA manifesto, which states, 'We (the SMA) aim to encourage and generate enthusiasm and a spirit of awareness, by organizing and co-ordinating regular social activities and by stimulating much needed personal contact on campus.'

Well, Lance redefined the meaning of 'much needed contact' quite dramatically, so much so, in fact, that the SMA, rather than face another embarrassment of this nature found it necessary to radically rethink their election strategy.

In 1981 the SMA did not field any candidates in the elections.

Right exposés: So what will it be this time?

June 1982 saw the publication of a *Wits Student* broadsheet exposing the SMA's intimate links with such prominent South Africans as Chris Heunis, Minister of Constitutional Development; Piet Koornhof, Minister of Co-operation and Development; Pik Botha, Minister of foreign Affairs, and of course the Prime Minister, P W Botha himself.

Indeed in a letter to Russel Crystal, Botha thanked him for 'the positive way in which your organization is endeavouring to influence public opinion.'

That was June '82. Conservative estimates rated SMA credibility on campus at a steady zero. No-one was surprised, therefore, to see the following statement, issued shortly before the elections: 'Last year the Student Moderate Alliance decided not to participate in the SRC elections, because we felt that our SRC should concern itself mainly with the effective administration of student affairs, (echoes of Lance Crystal?) leaving politics to the student societies created for that purpose... Students must bear this in mind when voting and must seriously consider what each candidate is standing for — STUDENT INTERESTS OR POLITICAL GAIN.'

Good solid sensible advice to students, it seemed. Had the SMA changed its image? Had it become a benevolent, fatherly organization, guiding students through the pitfalls of SRC electioneering?

In a word, no.

What happened next, was this:

Shortly before the elections, the SMA began to get edgy. They were so worried about something, in fact, that they brought an urgent interdict against *Wits Student* on the grounds that it might publish articles prejudicial to 'the SMA's participation in the SRC elections'.

But if they weren't putting up any candidates anyway, what was the point, we asked ourselves.

The answers came soon enough.

Rumours began to circulate indicating that far from their purported dispassionate attitude to the elections, the SMA had in fact, been centrally, if covertly, involved in them.

The next stage — rumour becomes fact.

In a (literally) sensational SRC meeting lasting 7 (seven) hours, three new members, all of whom had stood on the liberal ticket, Positive Action, with liberal leader Paul Alexander, admitted that they had



Russel Crystal

received money from the SMA to fund their campaigns.

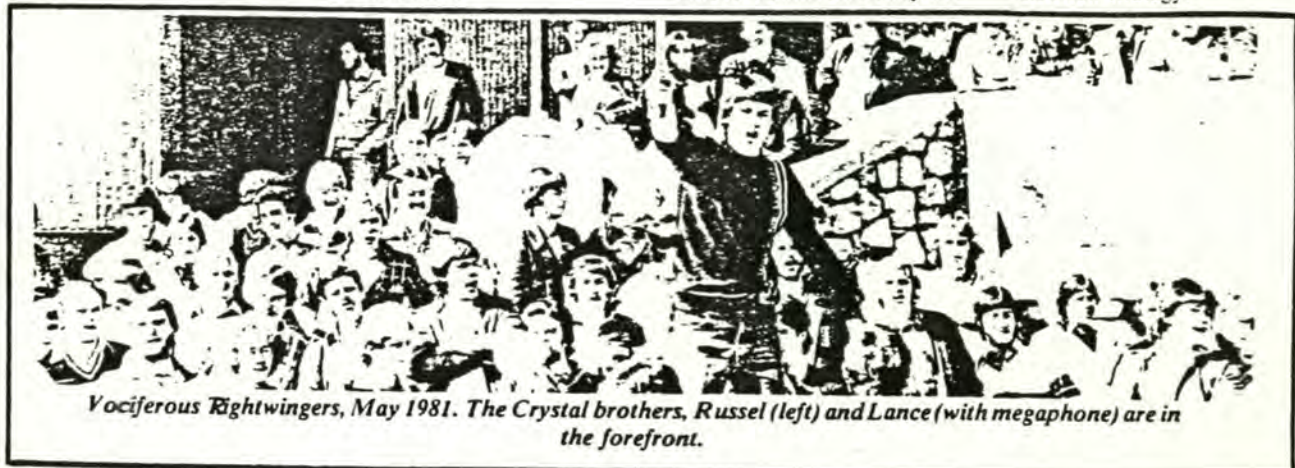
The three, Anne du Plessis, Bradley Liebman and Avrom Sevell also admitted to varying degrees of contact with the SMA.

Furthermore, once exposed, Anne du Plessis proceeded to blaze a brief and ignoble trail through student government, adding as they say in the clichés, insult to injury.

First she flew to the border in the company of Mirryena Karam (ex Students' Arts Council President) and Diane Nicholson (Commerce Students' Council President). The three toured the operational area as guests of Mrs Ristie Viljoen, wife of Chief of the Army, General Constand Viljoen.

Next, having failed to fulfil any of the pledges made to campus in her election manifesto, she resigned from the SRC. Her letter of resignation, addressed to SRC President Lloyd Vogelman was a model of senseless invective and monumental bad taste: 'I admire the well thought out way you and yours are going about ensuring your banning orders. I have it on good authority you will not have too long to wait...' she wrote.

So the question still stands — given their infamous (and laughably unsuccessful) history of participation in the SRC elections, what will the SMA choose as their 1983 election strategy?



Vociferous Rightwingers, May 1981. The Crystal brothers, Russel (left) and Lance (with megaphone) are in the forefront.

9 AUGUST '56: WOMEN

What is National Women's Day?

On the 9th August, 1956, 20 000 women of all races joined a mass march to the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest against the extension of the pass laws to include Black women. Today, 27 years later, we commemorate the strength and determination of these women.

The demands of the women were ignored. The pass laws were implemented. Yet the campaign was not unsuccessful: the march itself was an expression of the solidarity and political efficacy of South African women. It was a statement by women of their determination to ensure that South African history would at least be stamped by the memory of anger and protest.

The 9th August is not just a day of solemn commemoration. It is one of pride and celebration. It is a day on which the people of South Africa express their solidarity with the 20 000 women who refused to acquiesce.

Part II Before . . .

The Nationalist Party came to power in South Africa in 1948. The country's economy was changing rapidly.

Industry was expanding, and men and women were drawn away from farm and domestic labour and into industry. This led to a shortage of farm and domestic labour. The Government came under pressure from the agricultural sector to tighten up control of labour in general, and women in particular.

In 1952, parliament extended the pass laws to include women.

Administrative attempts to implement these laws began during the recession of 1955-56. But already, in the early '50's, women were beginning to organise.

The Defiance Campaign of 1952 provided many women with their first political experiences. This was crucial in that it provided the women with invaluable skills and confidence.

In 1954, the Federation of South African Women

(FEDSAW) was established. Its first meeting was held in April. A charter of human rights, stressing the rights of women, was adopted. The organisation was non-racial and democratic. Women of all other democratic organisations immediately became FEDSAW members.

At this stage, FEDSAW intended to concentrate on community issues such as rents, and to operate through local committees. They immediately encountered problems: Key leaders were banned and many members found that domestic responsibilities interfered with their political activity. FEDSAW attempted to extend the energy and action of the Defiance Campaign, but was severely hampered by regular police raids on townships.

The Women's League

Another active women's organisation at this time was the ANC Women's League. The League helped to organise the Congress of the People in June 1955, at which the Freedom charter was first presented to the public and adopted.

In September 1955, the government announced that passes would be issued to women from January of the following year.

The response was immediate. A demonstration of 2 000 people was held. FEDSAW urged women not to accept passes, and began to organise demonstrations against the new legislation.

Protests were organised all over the country, increasingly gathering momentum.

In January 1956, women in East London presented a memorandum to the local Commissioner stating that they would never accept passes. In February, the women of Durban and Cape Town marched in protest. In March, the women of Germiston protested despite threats of police action and mass arrests.

In the same month, the first passes were issued to women in Winburg in the Orange Free State. Initially, the women were tricked into accepting the passes. They were told that the books were not passes, but permits which would allow them to move freely anywhere. Within a week, however, the women were marching. They arrived silently at the magistrates court, and burned their documents. Similar demonstrations were held all over the country.

Part III The March

9 August 1956 20 000 women from all over South Africa gathered in the Lady Selbourne township in Pretoria. That day, their husbands took care of their children.

They marched through Pretoria, to the amphitheatre of the Union Buildings. There, their leaders, Lilian Ngoyi, (FEDSAW president), Helen Joseph, Rahima Moosa and Sophie Williams collected their signed protests. But when they knocked at his office door to deliver the protest forms, the women were told that the premier was not in. They had come to confront the 'Lion of the North' in his den — and he had fled.

The leaders returned to the crowd, and for 30 minutes they all stood in silence, fists raised in the congress salute. Afterwards, *Nkosi Sikeleli* echoed through the Union Buildings.

Part IV After . . .

The pass laws were implemented. The leaders of FEDSAW were arrested in December that year on a charge of high treason.

But the women of South Africa continued to organise. As they sang during the March: 'Strijdom you have tampered with women — you have struck a rock.'

The Problems

The 1980's have seen a resurgence of women's organisation. The first step has been pinpointing the problems facing women. Those faced by Black women are particularly daunting.

Their movements are restricted by pass-laws, and they are often unable to live with their husbands unless they do so illegally. Women receive lower wages than men, and perform the most unskilled jobs. The rate of unemployment and retrenchment is higher for females than for males.

Women carry the additional burden of having to cope with the work of running their households, for which they receive no overtime pay. Their problems are intensified by a social environment in which women are seen as inferior and encouraged to be subservient.



The Challenge

1982 — women unite and protest on several fronts. Opposition is rallied against the rising bread price — petitions are issued, boycotts observed.

In Nyanga in the Cape, women resist the demolition of their shacks. The women of squatter communities organise to deal with issues such as eviction and demolition.

The United Women's Organisation is formed, and the problem of child care is taken up. Programmes based on this issue are carried out through the country. These programmes involve many women, who are educated and politicised. While the UWO is active in Durban and Cape Town, stressing democratic organisation and member participation, similar work is carried out by FEDSAW in the Transvaal.

Women's organisations have emerged in Trade Unions and community councils. The Commercial, Catering and Allied

WOMEN FOR AFRICA



Workers union, (CAWUSA) is taking up the issue of maternity leave for its many male members, is an important sample of this.

On all Nusas affiliated campuses, women's movements have been established. Not only do these organisations take up issues such as child-care and the abuse of women; they also seek to educate to change student attitudes to stereotyped sex-roles.

Organisations such as POWA (Prevention of Women Abuse) and Rape-Crisis contribute to the struggle against the abuse of women.

The organisation of women plays a vital role in the struggle for a democratic future for South Africa. Until discrimination against women is entirely absent, there can be no democracy. It is both hypocritical and absurd to fight against racism and to ignore the issue of sexism. As a speaker at the Neil Aggett Commemoration Meeting stated: 'Freedom cannot be won for any one section, or for the people as a whole as long as the women are kept in bondage.'



Top: 20 000 women flood the Union Building Amphitheatre

Bottom: The leaders, Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph and Rahima Moosa, with signed protests

Wits Student

Twenty seven years ago, on 9 August 1956, 20 000 women marched on the Union Building in Pretoria. This was the culmination of a massive protest campaign against the extension of passes to women. Their grievances received neither redress nor hearing.

The passes, a form of labour control, signified the increased exploitation and oppression of black women. Black women are subject to dual exploitation: as workers, their race is used to justify their forced participation in the migrant labour system and their restriction to lowly paid unskilled labour; as women, they are conditioned to accept a subservient inferior socio-economic role, with the additional burden of raising a family. Influx control confines women to the poverty-stricken homelands where they fulfil the male economic functions or they are forced into farm labour. In the towns, women are restricted to domestic, menial and unskilled factory labour — all notorious for harsh working conditions and paltry wages.

Today these same grievances stand, yet the government remains as deaf as ever.

• • •

The importance of women's issues in South African society cannot be overstressed. There will be no freedom in South Africa until women are free. The subservient, inferior and oppressed position of women can only be undermined by challenging the basis of the socio-economic system itself. Women's liberation must be accepted as an integral part of all progressive democratic struggle.

• • •

The Quota Bill is now the Quota Act. The passing of this legislation is an example of government intransigence at its worst. The government has ignored the universities' representations against the bill. This is not a time for hesitation. The university must oppose this new legislation. It must prove its commitment to Academic Freedom. It prove that the pledge made in 1959 still stands.

Twenty-four years ago Wits dedicated itself 'to uphold the principle that a university is a place where men and women without regard to race and colour are welcome to join in the acquisition and advancement of knowledge'. If the university upholds these liberal principles as indeed it claims, it will, without hesitation, defy this abhorrent racist legislation.

Harry Dugmore	Derek Spitz
Matthew Kentridge	Judy Beaumont
Karen Jochelson	Peter Lazarus
Clive Glaser	Paul Desmet
Cathy Stadler	Peter Rosendorff
Janet Hersch	Karen Zwi
Lizz van der Riet	Paul Jammy
Linda Berkowitz	David Bruce
Hélène Joffe	Derek Baldwin
	Amanda Cohen
Jenny Sapire	Roddy Suskin
Grant Gordon	Bettina von Lieres

No place in heaven for gays?

Concerning 'God and gays: some Christian views', it should have been entitled, 'Some hopefully Christian views' since it seems that the author is digging for support for his *un-Christian* view and hoping God will go along with him. Unfortunately for him/her, the Bible makes it perfectly clear that homosexuality is totally wrong. The author lists no verses for his support because there are none. However there are many against homosexuality.

He/she states that some same-sex relationships are better than heterosexual ones, therefore they make God happier. If a gang of murderers got along better than some honest businessmen, would God be happier with the gang? Nonsense.

The New Testament does clearly condemn it. Romans 1:24-32 clearly speaks of men and women who have abandoned their natural functions and who commit indecent acts with the same sex. It says that 'God gave them over to a depraved mind to do those things that are not proper' and 'that those who practice such things are worthy of death'.

Yes, Leviticus condemns homosexuality along with many other condemnations which are still part of Christian lifestyle. And just to make sure that true Christians do not use your line

of argument, Paul emphatically states in 1 Corinthians 6:9 that effeminate and homosexuals shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

The Sodom and Gomorrah story includes an attempted homosexual rape but the men (the intended victims) were coming to destroy the city even before this attempt because of the wickedness of the people. See Genesis 18:20.

If the whole Bible, every word, doesn't apply to the modern Christian, on what does the modern Christian base his faith — on a lot of his own reasoning that sounds good to him? 'All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, and the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.' 2 Timothy 3:15.

Yes, homosexuality is an alternate lifestyle with an alternate eternal reward — eternal death (1 Corinthians 6:9, above). Truly accepting Christ into your life must chase homosexuality and all sins out of your life. 'If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things are passed away; behold new things have come.' Jesus can forgive a homosexual who believes and puts his trust in Him, and makes him a new person with natural desires.

Paul Hayward
Another Wits Student

The editor welcomes all correspondence on the issue of homosexuality.

Running into problems?

It appears quite amazing that Wits, the largest university in South Africa (student-wise) should not even possess its own athletic track. This fact becomes even more amazing when one considers that Wits produced, perhaps, the third fastest runner in the world, viz. Paul Nash, and also produced one of South Africa's greatest sprinters, namely Eric Essmann.

With Wits' forthcoming occupation of the Rand Show grounds, one would have felt certain that the administration would have chosen to turn this ideally suited main arena into an athletic track, but no contrary to all expectations these besotted missions of law have deemed it necessary to construct of all things a commerce block there! Surely this ill fated building may be constructed elsewhere on the grounds?

I sincerely hope that this decision will be rethought, since there is great need and indeed support for a track.

Wits' present low standard of athletics can only be attributed to a complete lack of proper facilities and not to lack of enthusiasm and budding young athletes.

I therefore appeal to the administrators and ask them whether Wits' proud athletic heritage, namely winning S^AA^U more times than any other university, should be allowed to vanish or whether they will stem this tide of disaster and have this athletic track finally constructed?

The Missouri Kid
(Athletic Club member)

Torque talk

The editorial of the latest edition of *Torque*, the Engineering faculty magazine, proudly announces that despite its racist and sexist nature, it remains the most widespread publication on campus.

Contrary to their belief, this does not erase students' criticism of *Torque*, but if this claim is true, we have to seriously start worrying about campus.

Thankfully, *Torque* is a faculty publication. I can't see any student who is not doing engineering tolerating such crap. It is rumoured that even a few engineers are disgusted.

What more indeed?

After reading the feature in the last issue of *Wits Student* (Vol 35 No 11), in particular the section headed 'God and gays: some Christian views', I feel I must challenge the depth of research undertaken by the author/s.

I would like to present some other Christian views, those of the apostle Paul, written under

The King James Version reads:

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God and recorded in 1st Corinthians 6 verses 9 to 11.

Nurden takes note

SRC meets res students

For the first time in a number of years, contact between the SRC and the university residences has been enhanced. This year the SRC has made a concerted attempt to reflect and represent student interests and residences have been a major focus of this attitude.

Lloyd Vogelman, the SRC President, addressed students in all four of the university residences. A number of issues relating to the SRC and student government in general were raised. This forum has proved to be of benefit to all involved. Periodic meetings between the SRC and the Committee of Twenty-four (consisting of representatives from all four

Nurden wants to know why the SRC hasn't introduced the Nusas Swift Left Scheme to off Campus students.

He also wants to know if big brother is recruiting communist spies on campus. He also wants

Torque is not just racist and sexist. The literary standard achieved, rivalled only by *The Standard*, the SMA offering, is a marvel. With pertinent features focusing on subjects as

relevant as the effect of tight black shorts on male sexuality, and with... wait for it... a nude 'chick' as a centrespread, the magazine can but enhance the 'good name of the university'.

The emergence of the magazine has, however, unearthed some startling facts. There are, for example at least a handful of literate (or semi-literate) engineers. Their satisfaction with their mag obviously reflects their true nature.

As long as there are engineers there will always be publications of *Torque's* quality. I'm beginning to think that our mothers warn us about the wrong things when we first come to university.

BA II (male)

nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the spirit of our God.

Whilst the New International version of verse 9 is

"Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders."

What more can I add?

BSc III

Insensitive protest

This week our family suffered a very tragic death which hurt us very much and which is very difficult to accept and understand.

Can you imagine my horror, repulsion, abhorrence and wretchedness to be sitting in the canteen on Wednesday morning to see a 'sensational' procession of sniling or maybe it should have been jeering faces, lapping up the attention of students

Cuzen calling

The University wishes, between now and 1995 to increase the number of Residences available for students. Some of these will be built on the new portion of the campus and some in Parktown adjacent to Ernest Oppenheimer House. It will be most useful to the planners to know what sort of Residential accommodation our students are likely to want.

A questionnaire will shortly be sent to all the students in Residences and University flats, as well as a 'random sample' of day students.

watching them, carrying a coffin. I do not agree with the Quota bill, but I think that that method of protest is despicable, tactless, thoughtless and deplorable. We felt that the strength that had kept us going this week had been stripped from us on the sight of that very hurtful and sick mockery. My brother and I can not believe that a caring liberal human being can think it was an ingenious form of protest. It was sick!

I know death is a difficult part of reality we all have to face, but can't a more compassionate and tactful metaphor be used.

Caryn Cowan
BA II

Completed questionnaire should be returned as follows:-

Residence students: to your Warden, or the Residence Secretary

Students in University flats: to the caretaker, to the House Committee or to the Student Accommodation Officer, room 3018 Senate House.

Non-resident students: to the SRC Reception area, to the Central Admissions Office (Senate House Concourse), or the Student Accommodation Officer room 3018 Senate House.

Pauline Cuzen
Accommodation & Student Services Officer

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Hillbrow

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to know who big brother is and will he lose marks for spelling mistakes in English I. He also wants to know why they are building a Subsistence Concrete Creche.

Nurden's Brother

Nuclear power:

A Split Decision

Case study 1:

● 3 January 1961: Low Power nuclear reactor, Idaho, USA.

A central control rod is inadvertently removed from the reactor. 3 operators are killed in the subsequent explosion. Their bodies are so radioactive that they cannot be buried for several weeks. And then only in lead coffins.

Case study 2:

● 8 October 1957: Windscale No 1 Plutonium production reactor, Essex, England.

A physicist is performing a delicate operation known as 'Wigner release' without an operating manual. A minor mistake ignites one fuel rod. Fire rages for 42 hours before detection.

A toxic gas, Iodine 131, is released. It is a substance which rapidly finds its way into milk and, from there, into the human thyroid glands. 2 Million litres of milk are contaminated.

● The United States Safety Information Centre at Oak Ridge has recently disclosed that of 2 000 nuclear incidents investigated in 1979, 32 could have ended in catastrophic core meltdown.

So far we have been lucky.

The experts encourage the myth that the average person cannot adequately understand nuclear physics to form an opinion about the relative safety of nuclear power. But this is a tactic to prevent people demanding the right to ensure the safety of their environment.

The nuclear reactor is immensely complicated. It must be designed to shield operators from radiation, contain contaminated nuclear waste and still yield the necessary power. Elaborate safety mechanisms form a major part of the complex. The engineers who design reactors inevitably claim that they are practically failsafe. But the plants' safety record belies this.

In March 1979, the Three Mile Island nuclear disaster hit international headlines.

The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission believes that there were 6 independent failures at the nuclear plant, 2 of which were attributed to human errors.

Thousands of people were evacuated from the area. The world watched anxiously. Eventually relatively small quantities of radioactive materials were released into the atmosphere. But this time it was dangerously close. It was largely a matter of luck that a major catastrophe was averted.

Toxic

Nuclear plants are not the only hazards associated with fission technology. Plutonium is the most dangerous by-product of nuclear reactors. It is estimated that 50kg of pure plutonium is sufficient to exterminate the human race. Says Donald Geesman, a nuclear physicist: 'Plutonium is not native to earth, it is toxic beyond experience. One 300th of a gram of inhaled plutonium will cause death.'

By the year 2020, the US nuclear industry will have produced a staggering 30 000 tons of plutonium.

The problem of nuclear waste disposal is the major concern of environmentalists. Reactors create large quantities of radioactive waste. A safe solution for their disposal has yet to be advanced. These wastes take 100 000 years to decompose. They have to be isolated from the environment all this time. Until a solution is found, wastes are being stored in temporary facilities which have poor safety records. Leaks are reported every month in the USA. Large quantities of wastes have disappeared from storage and dispersed into the environment.

By the end of 1979, 20 million litres of radioactive waste were in storage in just the United Kingdom alone.

disposal

Enormous quantities of wastes are being dumped into the sea. In 1979 British Nuclear Fuels Ltd admitted to dumping 7 500 litres of waste into the sea every week. The radiation level in the Irish Sea has increased tenfold in recent years. Environmentalists fear long term disruption of the marine ecosystem.

There is a further hazard associated with nuclear technology. Once a country has access to enriched uranium, the process of creating nuclear weaponry is not particularly difficult. To build a bomb one needs fuel and a mechanism to detonate it. Any group of people with access to enriched uranium and a few million dollars can construct a nuclear warhead.

In fact, nuclear bombs are far easier to make than we imagine.

A student at an American university recently created a workable model for an atomic bomb as a Phd project!

Bomb control

The Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty was organized in 1968 to regulate the construction of nuclear weapons. According to this agreement, no countries are to be given access to nuclear technology unless they agree to have their nuclear plants submitted to regular monitoring. By 1970, 40 countries had signed the agreement. Notable exceptions included South Africa, Israel, Argentina, Pakistan and Taiwan. After the NPT, India detonated a nuclear bomb in South East Asia, becoming the

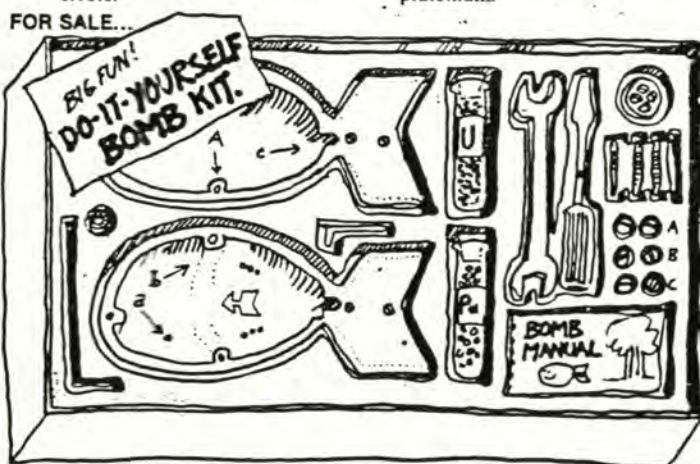


first Third World country to openly have nuclear weapons. It is widely speculated that the mysterious 'flash' in the South Atlantic, spotted by a reconnaissance satellite in 1979, was an Israeli neutron bomb detonated with South African co-operation.

Many advocates of nuclear power point to the fact that alternate energy sources also involve danger and environmental damage. Electricity generated with the use of coal and oil is responsible for accidents and pollution.

Alternatives

However, there are other alternatives. There is a growing body of support for renewable, pollution-free 'soft-energy'. This involves the harnessing of wind, sun, waves, tide and geothermal heat. Scientists who support nuclear energy do not consider these to be viable alternatives. One wonders, though, whether they have been given sufficient



Collection Number: AK2117

DELMAS TREASON TRIAL 1985 - 1989

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: -Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand

Location: -Johannesburg

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