Election Special

May '87

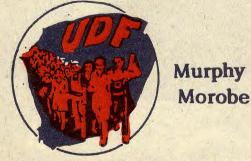


Elections for some Democracy for none If you are white and over 18, on May 6 you get a chance and the commercial press have made a concerted effort enough to make responsible decisions. Yet, they only gi There are millions of South Africans whose voices have what those who are really concerned about democracy a



Black Sash Mary Burton

Calling a whites-only election at the present time is a demonstration of the ineptitude and insensitivity of the National Party government. It excludes the majority of citizens and ignores their demands. There are, however, signs that members of the House of Assembly electorate are aware of this, and that they will campaign for united action and use their votes to contribute to the real and essential re-shaping of South African



Acting National Publicity Secretary of the UDF, Murphy Morobe's advice to students on the forthcoming white elec-

To UDF supporters on the campuses we say: History is on your side. You are the new Voortrekkers with integrity and vision to build bridges into the future. Expose the white community on a mass scale to the politics of the democratic movement. It is not enough to refuse to vote. Go into the homes, offices and study places of concerned white South Africans. Bring meaning to the politics of non-racialism on which the future of our country depends.

The people have rejected all government imposed leaders in the past and will continue to do so. That is why a chief pre-condition of the African people is for Nelson Mandela, all political prisoners and others jailed under apartheid to be released.

Banned organisations have to be free to assert the demands of their supporters. The State of Emergency lifted and repressive measures halted.

These elections are like all other previous other elections. They are racist and do not do anything to improve the quality of life for the millions of disenfranchised South Africans. To the extent that they are for whites only, in a racial parliament and are being conducted under a racist and undemocratic constitution, they shall remain rejected by us. But that is not to say that there is nothing significant about them. The significance lies in the fact that these elections have been forced on the government essentially by the unrelenting struggles of out people all over the country.

The theme of our response to the electin will be 'Down with Apartheid Elections: Votes for all in a united South-Africa!' Four years of disastrous misrule by the tri-cameral parliament has made our people more determined to achieve our goal of a non-racial, democratic South Africa. The true questions facing all South Africans is the dismantling of apartheid. In every sense the forthcoming election is a farce. It is a farce because it will be neither free or democratic. The elections will take place under a State of Emergency with police and army control. There is a heavy censorship of the press, an almost total information blackout and no freedom of association. Most white South Africans are the victims of state-promoted fear and ignorance. The country is already being run by the military. Increasingly whites will find themselves excluded from effective political power. The chicken of political domination has come home to roost.

The future lies in joining the majority of this country in building an anti-Nationalist Front that will isolate the Nationalists from all support and ultimately unseat the government.

The real engine for change lies outside parliament. It is based in the democratic and mass based organisations of our people. All those genuinely opposed to apartheid, black and white will be wel comed into these organisations as fellow South Africans comitted to the liberation of all our people.

We have a special message for the PFP supporters: turn away from the racists, look towards the majority. Abandon the myth of change through parliament. PFP supporters will have to recognize that their future lies neither in a futile bid for a few extra seats in a moribund parliament, or in leaving South Africa.

### VC of UCT

Dr S J Saunders Vice-Chancellor & Principal UCT

The forthcoming election raises a number of problems, the most important of which are the fact that only a minority of South Africans will be going to the polls and that the election will be held with profound and extensive curbs on the press still in place. It would seem to me that the actions of those who are able to play a part in the election by casting their votes should be deter-mined by whether, in their judgement, this will speed the emergence of a free and democratic South Africa.

Dr D Henderson Vice-Chancellor RU

Dr Henderson felt that he was unable to take a stand on the election

## Rhodes SRC **President**

Sue Middleton SRC President

On May 6 in South Africa, whites will be called on to vote in the white elections. As students, the situation demands us to consider: these elections are taking place in a state of emergency in which thousands of individuals who oppose apartheid and a white minority government have been effectively silenced. The majority of South Africans do not see these elections as legitimate or of being capable to bring about change.



The forthcoming white elections can be compared to a circus - with various artistes performing fascinating trapeze acts before a rapt (white) audience. At the end of the day, however, everyone goes home to much the same life with no problems solved, or real questions

NUSAS believes the root causes of conflict in South Africa are:

\*unemployment;

\*low wages;
\*unbearable conditions of life for the

\*a fundamentally undemocratic education \*repression and the State of Emergency;

\*the exclusion of black people from meaningful political participation.

The elections provide no solution. Aside from whether any party offers a realistic programme for change, the outcome of the election is clear. The National Party will retain power, even if it loses some support to the Independents or the PFP/ NRP alliance.

In addition, we must ask ourselves whether parliament has any real power? Does the State Security Council meet before every Cabinet meeting? Do the JMC's in fact make the real decisions at a local level? What role does the military play in political decision making? What is the vote worth to the average white South African anyway.

Furthermore we consider the elections to be illegitimate. Eighty percent of South Africa's citizens are excluded. The election is taking place under a State of Emergency, with extraparliamentary political organisations suffering under the worst attack since the 1960's. The African National Congress is banned. The Tri-Cameral parliament was clearly rejected in 1984, as were the Community Councils and the

The most effective vehicles for change today are the extraparliamentary organisations such as the United Democratic Front and Cosatu. Jointly these organisations represent millions of South Africans committed to a non-racial, democratic South Africa.

The process of change in South Africa cannot be dictated by white parliamentary groupings - it must involve all South Africans or it will fail and we will continue to slide further and further into a civil war.

It is time for white South Africans to take sides with the majority of our citizens. We must bravely face the reality of a new South Africa.

We support the principle of One Person One Vote in a united South Africa.

We believe the following demands will have to be met before all people in this country can determine their future.

We therefore re-affirm the call for:

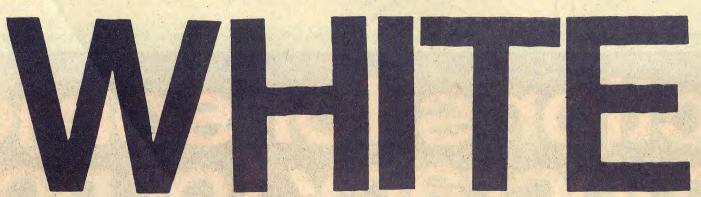
- The release of political prisoners:
  The removal of armed forces from the communities, campuses and schools
- The scrapping of apartheid education; The lifting of press restrictions;
  The removal of all apartheid laws,
- including the State of Emergency; The unbanning of banned organisations.

An informed decision is vital when anyone votes in an election, but in South Africa, stringent press curbs deny us the necessary information to make such a decision

The reasons for these curbs should be considered when deciding whether or not or for whom to vote in the forthcoming white elections.

They are aimed at hiding the total rejection of the legitimacy of the government and its structures by the majority of South Africans. They are intended to reassure the white electorate that all will be well if the Nat "reform" policies are carried out. Draconian cover-up measures like the press curbs indicate, in fact, that these reforms and this government have failed. They show that the situation in this country is such that, unless fundamental change takes place there will never be peace, justice, stability or whatever else the various political parties are promising us.

RHODEO endorses NUSAS's demand for 'One Person One Vote in a Unitary South Africa' and we call on all students to participate in their poll.





to exercise your 'democratic right' to vote. The SABC to convince those allowed to vote that they are informed to coverage to the HNP, the CP, the NP, and the PFP. ever been heard and will not be heard on May 6. This is differedom of choice have to say...



In the coming elections the Nationalist Party is offering the white electorate the final solution to our country's problems. Their catchword is "security" but what it actually means is WAR.

The government is seeking a mandate for their chosen path of "kragdadigheid" ECC believes that it is white conscripts who must bear the brunt of this strategy. It is all of us - black and white South Africans who will pay for the National Party's failure to address the roots of the conflict in our country.

ECC believes that war is no solution nor is it compulsory. We believe that the real solution is the establishment of a just peace through negotiations with the real leaders of the people. Our national campaign is a call for all of us to work together for this peace.

The war in this country has come to mean states of emergency, press curbs, detentions, vigilante groups, troops in the townships, restriction orders, closure of schools, raids into neighbouring states, and 90 000 SADF troops in Namibia.

The costs of this war are great. 'Defence' costs South Africa R13 million every day. In 1986, 1184 South Africans immigrated every month. That same year, 1298 people were killed in the war. But the social costs of the war cannot be reduced to a set of statistics, cannot be plotted on a graph, cannot be counted.

War is not compulsory - let's choose a just peace

It is the government that has chosen war, yet it is us, the conscripts and the people who have to pay the costs. This is not a solution to our country's problems - the real solution lies in the establishment of a just peace. Let's choose this option and work towards it.



we as the National Students organisation view the timing of the white elections as a calculated move by the desperate Nationalist Party to attempt to close the cracks which have been created by the democratic movement over the past few years within the Afrikaner lager.

We believe that the Nationalists have lost a lot of credibility in many levels over the past few months. The International Community was opposed to the declaration of the State of Emergency, at the same time organisations such as

the UDF and COSATU which represent the aspirations of millions of South Africans who are going to be spectators in this whole white circus, gained a lot of credibility in the eyes of the International Community.

The emergence of the new look white liberals led by the likes of Dr van Zyl Slabbert has also placed the Nats in a difficult position. The resignation of Dr Slabbert from parliamentary politics was a slap in the face of P W who until that time was engaged in an attempt to sell the new lock apartheid in the form of reforms. It was a clear victory to the democratic movement that the only hope lies within the extra parliamentary forces.

The emergence of the ultra-right in the form of the AWB's has also placed the Nats in a difficult position. The failure of the State of Emergency to restore 'peace and harmony! and many more, we can go on and on.

These circumstances have actually forced the P W regime to call on the election two years earlier. They obviously need to get a new mandate to continue with programme of action. It is also very possible that they will get this mandate.

SANSCO, together with the whole of the democratic movement led by the UDF, wants to make it clear that occasions like the white elections will continue to have no meaning until:

- The present Colonial and Gutter education is scrapped and replaced by a non-racial, democtatic system of education i.e. Peoples Ecucation.
- The African National Congress, the Congress of South African Students and othe organisations are unbanred.
- 3. Nelson Mandela and ALL OTHER political prisoners are released from the dungeons of apartheid; and exiles are allowed to come back home and make their indedpensable contribution to the building of a NEW society.
- 4. The oppressed and exploited people of this country, especially the African Working Class earn a living wage, as demanded by the workers' voice COSATU.
- 5, Troops are withdrawn from our townships, villages and campuses.

The above are genuine peoples demands and before they are met, we cannot talk of elections.

The peoples minimum demands are also enshrined in the peoples document, the Freedom Charter and the significance of these demands has just been demonstrated by the National Union of Mineworkers adoption of the Charter.

SANSCO will expose these apartheid and racist elections for what they are. It is within this background that SANSCO endorses the call by NUSAS to all students to support and campaign for ONE PERSON, ONE VOTE.

We call on all our campuses to support

our sister organisation in the campaign leading to the Alternative Non-Racial Poll.

## Nusas Rhodes

NUSAS SANSCO

The NUSAS Local Committee at Rhodes will be holding a non-racial poll on campus, enabling students to demonstrate their support for 'One Person One Vote in a Unitary South Africa'.

The NUSAS campaign which is fully supported and endorsed by SANSCO, aims to show that the forthcoming white elections cannot provide a solution for change in this country. Apart from the fact that 80% of South Africa's people are excluded from parliament and have no political rights in South Africa, we believe that none of the political parties are addressing the relevant issues; namely, the need for fundamental change in South Africa. We further believe that no party is offering a realistic programme for change.

NUSAS believes that most students at Rhodes want to see a peaceful solution to South Africa's problems. Furthermore, students realise that such a solution necessarily entails fundamental changes including an end to apartheid, repression, mass poverty, the gross inequalities that exist in all spheres of life and the exclusion of the majority of people from political rights.

It is in this light that NUSAS calls on all students at Rhodes to show their support for the need for fundamental change in South Africa. We want to make it clear that we are not calling for a boycott of the elections themselves. We are however, asking Rhodes students to join thousands of students around the country in the call for Political Rights for All. This call is encompassed in the demand for 'One Person One Vote in a Unitary South Africa'.

NUSAS also believes that peace cannot prevail in South Africa until the following demands have been met:

\*the release of all political prisoners; \*the removal of armed forces from the communities, campuses and schools; \*the scrapping of Apartheid education;

\*the lifting of press restrictions; \*the removal of all Apartheid laws including the State of Emergency;

\*The unbanning if banned organisations;
\*a living wage and jobs for all;
\*political rights for all.

NUSAS, together with SANSCO, will be holding seminars in all the reses and for oppies where we will explain the reasons behind our call for One Person One Vote. We will be encouraging students to raise problems or questions at these sessions - so watch out for further details.

Booths will be around campus on Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 May where students can vote whether or not they support the call for One Person One Vote in a in a Unitary South Africa.

NUSAS urges all students to participate in this non-racial poll. We are all concerned about our future and this is one way of clearly demonstrating our belief that South Africa belongs to all he people and that we can and do have a role to play in bringing about peaceful change in our country.

Political comment by Sue Middleton c/o Union Buildings, Rhodes University



Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok-en-Vaderland, admitted today that new regulations forbidding lanyones from speaking until after the elections had been a "mistake". Amidst wide-spread, if silent, confusion and anger, Minister Vlok -them-up-and-throw-away-the-keys withdrew the regulations, saying that at the speed with which new regulations had to promulgated, such slip-ups were inevitable.

Minister Vlok, however, denied written opposition claims that the regulations were "a threat to freedom of speech", and a further breach of democracy. It was well-known, said the Minister, that Oliver Tambo had in his New Year's Message called on all South Africans to "speak out" against Apartheid. From that date, said Mnr Vlok, one can trace a steady stream of talking from various lopposition sources. Some political parties have gone so far as demanding to be allowed to speak on television. This, he said, indicated the depth of the total onslaught and justified the measures. Furthermore, he asked, was it right that his own party suffer in the elections simply because it had nothing to say. The government would not allow anything to interfere with the democratic right of the white population to vote Nationalist.

In a move intended to end weeks of speculation as to exactly what mandate the NP was seeking in the coming elections, the Party has revealed a comprehensive IO-point programme. Speaking at the opening of the "Monument to Reform", Mr Chris "Why say it in one word when you have the whole of a network to fill" Heunis, using as his text the biblical "In my father's house are many chambers," outlined the following plan.

 Negotiation with recognized black leaders (i.e. only these leaders which PW recognizes and his memory is failing)

2. One city, one state.

3. Er...



RHODEO MAY '87 page three



# BUTLERS

your

HOUR PHOTO

bonus

PHARMACY

12 exposure film developed and printed - only R7-11 (with replacement film R11-99)

24 exposure film developed and printed -(with replacement film R15-35)

R10-47

36 exposure film (with replacement film R20-12)

R13-83

**Top Quality** 

**Top Service** 

HILL STREET

BATHURST STREET



11 Bathurst St.

Tel · 27305

We Deliver To Campus

Are you going to make it to the

"This Boy's Gonna Make It"

RMR/AIESEC

concert

- · Monument
- ·Thursday 7th May
- ·8.00pm
- ·R5.00

Tickets from AIESEC







# Settlers rotea



The pub with style

PO Box 219 Tel 2-7313

Grahamstown 6140

CRESCENT HOTEL



WED, FRI, SAT 8 TILL LATE

DISCO FULLY LICENCED

WE CATER FOR:

21 sts, group parties and dinners

INDIAN CUISINE A SPECIALITY



Phone 27010 Church Square

Official Robemakers for Rhodes

We have been in business for over 125 years because our prices are competitive.

For clothing alterations and repairs For track suits and track shoes

For first class service For modern merchandise For sports equipment

Visit our departmental store



A

## SMOKING BRASS

the Cape Town Import



Great Hall
Saturday 2 May
8pm
R 2,50

THE PORNOCRÄCY
NADER JAKOB
ASHANTI BABASH



# Rhodes' most riotous paper as shot in the face

RHODEO got an eyewitness account of the recent events at UCT campus. In terms of the Emergency regulations we cannot state who the people were that came onto campus, therefore we refer to them as 'bogies'.

On Friday there was a march to protest

on Friday there was a march to protest the dismissal of SATS workers. Bogies came on to campus and there were running battles with students. The bogies walked durn liversity Avenue firing tearns in eller side. Piles of abandoned books were found in the library after students fled to avoid teargas and tests in Jammie Hall had to be cancelled due to thick teatgas.

On Monday we had a meeting to protest bogie presence on campus and South Africa's invasion of Zambia. There was a mach to De Waal drive and the bogies arrived in a enormous calvacade of about seven or eight vans and five in full. Students just ran while bogies round and parked their vans on the near the Plaza. They told marching students and people who were watching march to GO HOME.

There was the most horrific powers.

There was the most horrific noise as they tried to hit students, missed and hit rue lino floors instead. It was quite ridiculous because all the law fecturers popped out shricking "This is illegal! This is illegal!" Bogies rain into one of the lectures and the students started laughing at them. The manufaced bogies told them to stop laughing, atherwise "We're going to have to disperse you".

Another group of bogies ran into the library and allegedly beat up one of the librarians with a sjambok. Outside, a student was cornered by bogies on the Union stairs and was attacked by their dog. They didn't restrain the dog, even after the student had been subdued. Five bogies stood around poking him with their quirts and shouting obscenities at him.

Bogies were beating a cornered student when a Varsity reporter ran up, yelling "What the fook are you doing?" They turned on him, beat him up and not their dog on him. You should have seen his back - it was absolutely crist-crossed with weals from the quirts.

They are accessed to the suits.

They are accessed to the students of which a were sitting on the sign of the students were sitting on the sign of the students were sitting on the sign of the students are students. They should out from behind the heart of they should connect from under their lackets and comment free without warning. The students turned and ran with the bogies firing at head height. A student was about in the eye and others were wounded shot in the eye and others were wounded in their heads and chests."

On Tuesday a decision was taken to On Tuesday a decision was taken to have a completely peaceful march. There were well over 1 000 students on the siden of De Wast Drive. The whole of the road was sealed off to traffic, except for a few bogie vans filming students. There was a helicopter overhead for about two hours - God knows how much it cost them! Apparently the bogies ordered the students to disperse, but no-one could hear as the helicopter was hovering above the students at that point. Thirty seconds later at least 3 van loads of bogies that had driven on to campus attacked that had driven on to campus attacked students from behind. Students were sjambokked and punched in the mouth, and one student fell down a flight of

stairs while trying to get away. 18 students were arrested. The charges against them are still being investigated,

but they were all released on bail.

At the time of going to press boycotts of classes had been called and an alternative programme was running. On Wednesday and Thursday, students marched to Admin and presented them with requests that students not be victimised for participating in the boycotts, and an effort be made to keep bogies off campus. At a meeting on Thursday, the VC Dr Saunders agreed to look into these requests.

The Academics' Association could be a contraction of the boycotts.

The Academics' Association supports the boycorts and classes in a number of faculties have been rescheduled or postponed.

The Bureauster Information said that on Monday about 300 black, white and coloured students exthered on the campus where they burned some tyres. When police arrived to investigate the matter, students stoned police and other vehicles.

"The police warned them to disperse but they refused and tearsmoke was used. The use of tearsmoke was however limited for fear of affecting passing motorists. The SAP subsequently used

sjamboks.
The students dispersed but regrouped a little later and again soned police and private vehicles. The SAP then used birdshot to finally disperse the group. Three white females, a white woman, as well as three coloured males were arrested. Three police sustained slight injuries: Two caused by stones thrown by students, while one was bitten by a police.
On Tuesday, police said they used sjamboks to disperse about 400 placard demonstrators who had sat alongside De Waal

Drive and ignored requests to disperse."

Fingo Grahamstown's Village township was sealed off by security forces on Thursday, the day before Mayday.

The army moved in at 4 O'clock on Thursday morning and set up roadblocks at all roads leading to and from Fingo Village. They also built a tent which apparently served as the headquarters for the operation.

Passengers in cars wanting to pass were asked for their names and these were then checked against a list.

A township resident said that those people whose names appeared on the list were told to step aside.

"There were quite a few people whom they wanted. These people had to stand with the police and the army next to the big tent," he said.

Members of the security forces forces also conducted house to house searches and a teacher at one of the high schools said they were apparently looking for pamphlets.

Township residents were

told that the action was a routine operation to clean up the area according to Capt Grobler, Police Liaison Officer for the Eastern Cape. Police arrested Cape. Police arrested housebreaking, theft and narcotics suspects.

Many people however believed the operation to be a precautionary measure taken against people planning a May Day church service.

Residents in the townships have claimed that numerous high school students, some of whom were carrying pamphlets, did not return to their homes.

Iournalists wanting

photographs of the armed operation were told to obtain permission from Capt. Grobler.

When phoned by lawyers acting for the journalists, he refused to grant permission. The journalists then asked him if the recent ruling by the Natal Supreme court did not allow the coverage of security force action. He replied that it applied only to Natal.

Since Thursday, the SADF has maintained a constant presence in the township and residents have had to become used to the sight of six or eight heavily

soldiers walking through their streets footpatrol.

Mayday passed without any incidents and situaton in the township is quiet but tense due to the large number of soldiers walking around.

Last year the community and several Rhodes students cleaned the streets of the township on May Day.
This year, residents decided against this because of the heavy police presence.
"If Botha sends his army." "If Botha sends his army in, then we are not going to clean the place them", a high so high school

# GOPS-ITEPOFF GURGAMPUSES

# University of Bophutatswana

An unidentified woman student at the University of Bophuthatswana (UNIBOP) died in hospital after sustaining serious injuries in clashes with police.

On 23 April students burnt a tent and platform on campus where President Lucas Mangope was due to speak. The protest arose as a result of Mangope's image among students as an "apartheid stooge" and his repeated harsh repression of students at UNIBOP.

Soon after the protest, police occupied the campus and gave students an hour to evacuate. Before the hour was up, police charged using batons, sjamboks and teargas. Many students, mostly women, recieved serious injuries, including burst eardrums and broken jaws. Students were hospitalized including the woman who subsequently died.

UNIBOP is open, but the reses are closed and the campus is reportedly quiet, but tense.

### Wits

Police fired an estimated 20 rounds of teargas into Wits Campus from surrounding streets during a confrontation with students on April 30 that lasted over two hours.

The Campus was surrounded by Casspirs and other vehicles following a successful May Day meeting on campus which was addressed by several speakers including the Chair of SAYCO, Peter Mokaba.

One teargas cannister shattered a laboratory window of the Oppenheimer Life Sciences Building and students and staff were forced to vacate the building and several others as clouds of teargas drifted around the campus.

No-one was arrested and police did not set foot on university property. In the aftermath of the shooting at UCT, police seemed keen to restrict their activity to teargassing. The gas was released over a period of more than two hours, during which time some of the University buildings were largely unusable.

# University of Western Cape

Students at the University of the Western Cape boycotted classes last week to protest against an allegedly racist dentistry lecturer, Prof Cohen.

Students bussing to the Dentistry Faculty at Tygerberg on Monday were stopped by police. At a mass meeting addressed by a SATS worker students resolved to continue the boycott until Cohen is suspended or fined.

On Tuesday, a mass meeting to celebrate May Day and to demonstrate solidarity with SATS workers was surrounded by police and teargassed.

The press was ordered off campus by police and students moved on to the public road to continue their protest.

Two international TV crews were arrested in terms of the Emergency regulations and teargas was fired at students again. Eight students were arrested. No-one has been charged.

## CRISIS!

RHODES RESPONSE TO POLICE VIOLENCE ON CAMPUSES AROUND THE COUNTRY

COME AND AIR YOUR VIEWS

TUESDAY AT 12.15 IN THE LIBRARY QUAD.

## Stellenbosch

Nusas and the Black Students Society (BSS) were effectively banned by administration on Stellenbosch campus earlier this week. This followed events in which a plain-clothes policeman was prevented from arresting a guest speaker of Nusas and BSS.

The banning has subsequently been lifted whith severe restrictions in its place. All media has to be passed by the SRC, and any guest speaker has to have his or her name submitted to administration 24 hours before the meeting takes place.

Last Friday Nusas and BSS held a joint meeting at Stellenbosch. One hour before the meeting was to take place, admin banned it from any campus building.

The meeting took place outside, and was attended by approximately 200 students. At the close, a man, who identified himself as Sergeant Goosen, approached Morris Mdou - a shop steward from the South African Railway and Harbour Workers Union (SARHWU) and told him he was under arrest. A number of students prevented the arrest from taking place, and Mdou escaped. Sgt. Goosen was assisted by three AWB members, to no avail.

On Monday a meeting was called, protesing the banning of the Friday meeting. A motion was passed calling for the right of free expression. This was taken by students, in their indevidual capacity, to administration.

Later that day, admin announced that the SRC was to hold a Commission of Inquiry into the affair, during which time Nusas and the BSS would not be allowed to operate on the campus.

The next day another protest was called this time under the banner of the United Stellenbosch Front, which is made up of a variery of religions and academic groupings.

An SRC meeting was convened in which it was announced that any campus organisation would have to operate under the new administration regulations. This seems to indicate that both Nusas and BSS can continue to work on campus, but members are doubtful that matters will end there.

