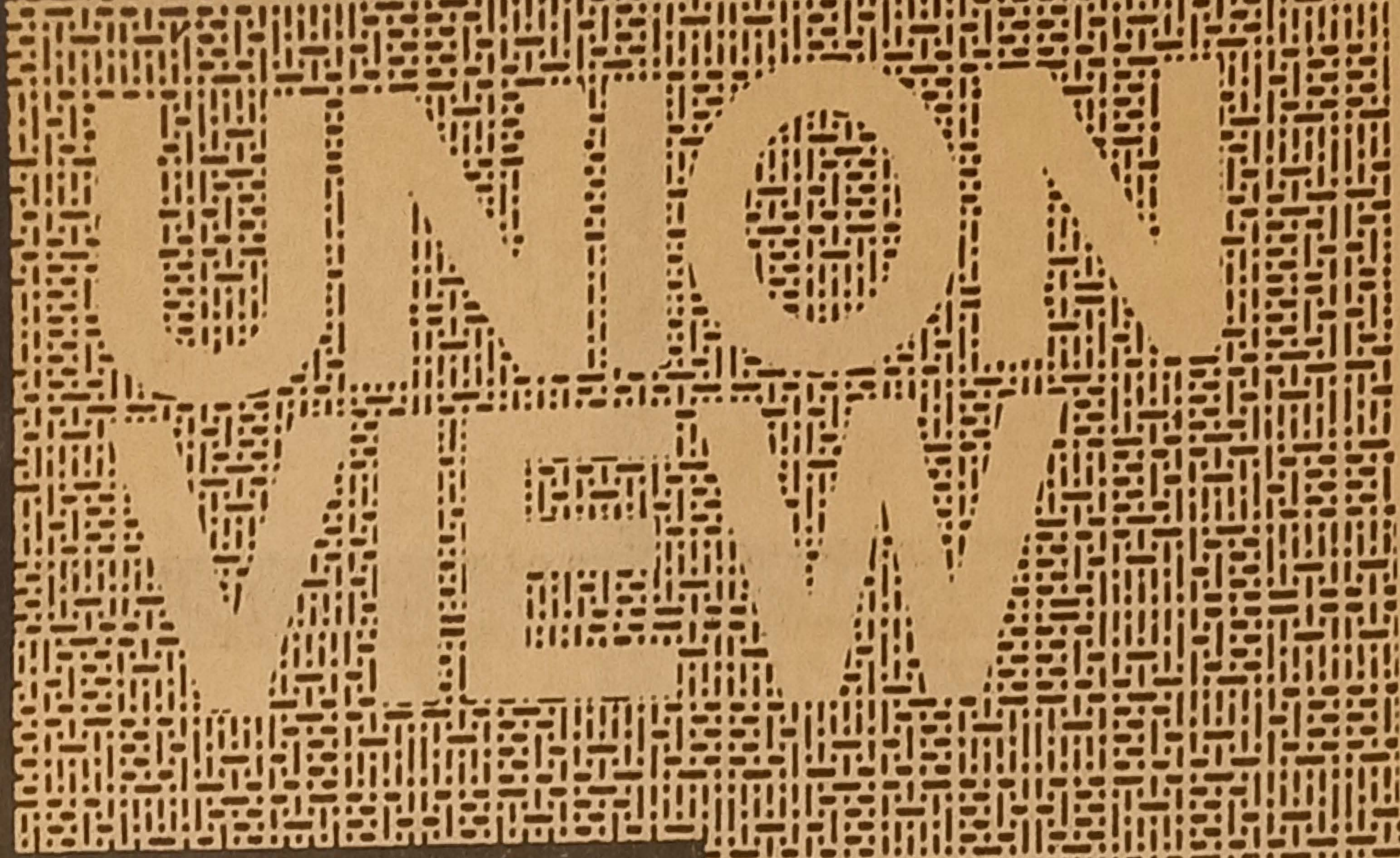


This article was taken from the publication **Pulse, Issue 106** (1985.) **Pulse** was a free weekly newspaper published by the Loughborough Students' Union in the first half of the 1980s.

The delicate nature of the binding of this item has prevented a more detailed scan.

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The articles carried in this section are not intended to represent the views of any political party, pressure group, or personal viewpoint of anyone on the Executive. They are a reflection upon current Union policy, and issues; which in the opinion of the Executive are of relevance. They are presented as part of the Executive's ongoing commitment to Union democracy, and student awareness and involvement. We hope they will initiate discussion and solicit response.

ANDY THORNTON
VICE PRESIDENT (COMMUNICATIONS)

SOUTH AFRICA - TIME TO ACT

Recent events in South Africa have aroused concern and renewed condemnation of the apartheid state, from all over the world. We present the following information in the hope that you will lend your voice to that concern and condemnation, through your Students' Union.

Your Student Union has many policies relating to South Africa and the apartheid regime, these range from a boycott of South African goods and companies supporting apartheid, e.g. Cape fruit, Rothmans Cigarettes, Barclays Bank; to the naming of a bar after a victim of the South African regime; Colin Winter, a former Loughborough student expelled from Namibia for his active support of the Namibian people in their struggle for democracy and freedom from oppression by the South African state. All however have a common cause, in their condemnation of the South African government and the racist apartheid system.

STATE OF EMERGENCY BOYCOTT BARCLAYS

At midnight on 20 July, the South African President PW Botha imposed a State of Emergency. Large areas of South Africa have been sealed off from the outside world. Press reporting has been prohibited. The army and police, under the instructions and protection of the regime, have been ordered to 'shoot to kill'.

During swoops on the townships hundreds of anti-apartheid activists are being picked up. Most are detained; others are disappearing in mysterious circumstances. It is frighteningly reminiscent of Nazi Germany.

The State of emergency is a desperate attempt to break the resistance to apartheid which is spreading throughout South Africa. The anger, bitterness and resentment of the African majority, who for so long have been humiliated and exploited by apartheid, has finally erupted. There is a new mood of defiance amongst the people and the State of Emergency is an admission by the South African authorities that they can no longer govern the country.

REPRESSION

Under the Internal Security Act (1982) in South Africa, the Minister of Law and Order has the power to :

- hold people in indefinite 'preventive' detention without charge or trial
- declare organisation illegal
- 'ban' individuals (putting them out of circulation) or place them under house arrest
- ban meetings and gatherings
- ban newspapers and other publications

UNDER SOUTH AFRICAN SECURITY LAWS

- in 1960 the ANC and PAC were banned
- in 1977 alone, 18 anti-apartheid organisations were banned
- 16,000 people were detained in 1960
- since 1963 over 60 people have died in detention
- at least 1,000 people were killed in the 1976 - 77 student uprisings.
- in 1984 over 150 people were killed and at least 1,200 detained

"Every effort to isolate South Africa adds strength to our struggle"
Nelson Mandela: Honorary Vice-President NUS

The involvement of Barclays Bank in South Africa is substantially different to that of any other financial or commercial institution.

Barclays is the only British High Street Bank with a major investment in South Africa.

Barclays has constantly participated in massive international loans to prop up the racist apartheid regime; including money to ESCOM, which is building two nuclear reactors from which weapon grade plutonium can be obtained.

Barclays invests in apartheid. At the end of 1979 it held over £500m in apartheid government and government guaranteed securities.

Barclays National even operates in Namibia, illegally occupied by 100,000 South African troops.

Many organisations as well as countless individuals have withdrawn their accounts from Barclays. Since 1980, the bank has lost accounts worth a total annual turnover of £6 billion, due to the boycott campaign. Nationally it is hoped that Barclays will receive none of the total student grant figure of £1 billion per year (hopefully that will include yours!)

Ultimately the choice as to whether or not to bank with Barclays is up to you. We would urge you to think very carefully, and NOT to give your indirect support to the racist apartheid system.