



## AL3073 - The Merle Favis Collection

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| Call Number:         | AL3073  |
| Title:               | The Merle Favis Collection  |
| SubTitle:            |   |
| Creator:             | Unknown   |
| Origination:         | Merle Favis   |
| Inclusive Dates:     | 1983-1990   |
| Bulk Dates:          | 1986-1990   |
| Extent:              | 0.4 linear metres (4 archival boxes)  |
| Language:            | English   |
| Acquisition:         | Accession Number: 02-010  |
| Access Restrictions: | This collection is open for research  |
| Use Restrictions:    | Copyright restrictions may apply. See SAHA copyright statement for Use Restrictions   |
| Copyright:           | Finding Aid: Â© The South African History Archive (SAHA)  |
| Abstract:            | Merle Favis was born in Johannesburg in April 1957. By 1979 she had already been an active member of the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS) at the University of the Witwatersrand and an editor of the South African Labour Bulletin. Merle Favis was arrested for her political activities in 1981 while working in Durban. She was released after serving five months in detention without charge. |

### Introduction

Merle Favis was born in Johannesburg in April, 1957. She was the second child of a white liberal family. She attended a government school in Johannesburg and then proceeded to King David High School in Linksfield. While at school she became interested in politics.

After completing her high school education, Merle went to the University of Witwatersrand to study for a B.A. degree majoring in Political Studies and Industrial Sociology. After she graduated in 1979, she became an active member of NUSAS (National Union of South African Students) and the Wages Commission Assisting Unions, negotiating better salaries for their members.

Later in the 1980's, Merle went to Durban to study for a post-graduate diploma in Adult Education at the University of Natal. She enrolled for another post-graduate degree in Public Policy and Development Administration. The June 1976 Uprisings, inspired Merle to fight Apartheid and to organise different communities to fight together for the liberation of South Africa. In 1979 she was appointed an editor for the South African Labour Bulletin. She later resigned because of internal conflicts evolving from both members of the unions and political organisations.

Merle Favis was arrested for her involvement in political activities in 1981 while working in Durban. After serving five months in detention without charge, she was released. Her work at the University of Natal as a manager for Community Welfare Funding gave her more time to organise various communities. While at Durban, she was able to work with the Indian Congress, the United Democratic Front and the Durban Democratic Association.

### Notes

This collection is the result of Merle Favis' many years of activism. The collection includes correspondence, newsletters, newspaper cuttings, minutes of meetings, press releases, speeches and miscellaneous materials. Some of the organizations represented in this collection result from Merle gathering materials from fellow activists in Johannesburg and Durban.



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### Inventory

#### A: Action Group Against Apartheid

- A1: Minutes, 1986-1987
- A2: News paper clippings, 1986
- A3: Campaign fliers, undated
- A4: Policy documents, 1986-1987
- A5: Newsletters, 1986-1987
- A6: Handwritten notes, 1987-1990
- A7: Correspondence
  - A7.1-A7.17: Correspondence: 'struggle for a just society' undated
  - A7.17-A7.32: Correspondence: 'political detentions and workers committee', 1988
- A8: Finance, 1987

#### B: Durban Democratic Association (DDA)

- B1: Membership forms and membership list, undated
- B2: Pamphlets and posters, undated
- B3: Fax cover sheets, 1989
- B4: DDA newsletters
- B5: DDA mailing list
- B6: Shaping our Future Conference
  - B6.1.1-B6.1.46: Interviews, undated
  - B6.2.1-B6.2.26: Minutes: correspondence shaping our future planning of conference, 1987-1988
- B7: DDA Annual Reports, 1989 and undated
- B8: DDA Correspondence, 1989-1990
- B9: DDA Evaluation Forms, 1989
- B10: DDA Finance and Accounts 1988-1991
- B11: Miscellaneous, undated

#### C: Five Freedoms Forum (FFF)

- C1.1-C.1.30: FFF conference, "Towards democracy: whites in a changing South Africa" Wits, 5-27 Sept, 1987,  
*Conference programmes, correspondence, minutes and planning notes.*
- C2.1-C2.12: FFF correspondence, 1987
- C3.1-C3.15: FFF pamphlets & newsletter, 1980-1990

#### D: Port Elizabeth Action Committee

- D1.1-D1.3 : Port Elizabeth action committee pamphlets, undated

#### E: White Democrats

- E1.1-E1.38: White Democrats papers, 1986- 1990

#### F: Municipal Elections

- F1.1-F1.34: Municipal Elections, 1988-1990

#### G: NCC

- G1.1-G1.10: NCC minutes, 1986-1990

#### H: Natal Indian Congress and Transvaal Indian Congress

- H1.1-H1.26: Pamphlets, 1983-1984

#### I: United Democratic Front (UDF)

- I1.1- I1.14: UDF news letters & correspondence, 1983-1990

#### J: Johannesburg Democratic Action Committee (Jodac)

- J1.1-J1.9: Jodac newsletters, 1987-1989



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J2.1-J2.7: Jodac statements & working documents, 1986-1989

K: Regional UDF affiliates

K1.1- K1.8: National and Regional Reports

*(Grahamstown committee of Democrats, Port Elizabeth area committee etc.)*

L: Newspaper articles

L1.1-L1.52: Newspaper articles, protests & arrests, 1983

M: Cape Democrats

M1.1-M1.8: Cape Democrats newsletter & statements, 1988-1990

N: Pietermaritzburg Democratic Association

N1.1-N1.7: Assorted Documents, 1987-1988

O: University of Natal (Centre for Adult Education)

O1.1-O1.6: Assorted documents, 1987-1988