

ASSEMBLY DEBATE ON UWC

Minister studies UWC demands

UWC accepts! Adam Small's resignation

Speakers: GERT JANSEN LEOP. SOREN SMALL. ADRIANA BOUTHE. GAYTRA NEER.

ONRUS STUTT

Small on Geruel geowaarsku

2000 BACK THE STUDENTS

CRISIS AT U.W.C. DEEPENS WITH BLACK STAFF MOVE

3,000 WIFE U.W.C. QUEST PLANNED

Support for students

Troubles at university

Community joins rowing

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Students fight for reinstatement

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Bid for community involvement in dispute UWC STUDENTS GO TO THE NATION

Demo at UWC 1500 vow to aid UWC students 12,000 at withdrawal by Black staff

12000 hear top Black leaders back

FREEDOM & EDUCATION MASS RALLY U.W.C. RE-INSTATEMENT CAMPAIGN

VERIANT U.W.C. NA SKORING VAN LEIERS

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June 12th marks a milestone in the history of Black students in general and of students at U.W.C. in particular. With the growing realisation that at U.W.C. education for subjugation was being meted out to them, students manifested their discontent with the oppressive circumstances, which were not conducive to intellectual development.

The university authorities in consultation with the Minister of Coloured Affairs reacted to this legitimate and orderly conducted protest by arbitrarily expelling each and every student with the ignoble proviso that re-application be made if students wished to continue their studies. Students reacted to this Draconian and illegal step with disgust and issued the June 12th Declaration in which they resolved, as one man, not to re-apply for admittance but to fight, together with the Black Community at large, for the total and unconditional re-instatement of each and every student.

The escalating support the students received from all quarters, the re-admittance of every student, the dissatisfaction with the still prevailing oppressive conditions, the mass walk-off from U.W.C., is now history - the University authorities as well as the authority behind their authority, with all their oppressive machinery and ramifications, had failed to quench the rising consciousness and the determination to institute change for the better, as displayed by U.W.C. students.

With all these incidents quoted, it now becomes necessary for us to examine profoundly our present situation. When we ask ourselves questions like how far we have progressed since last June, the answer becomes an obvious embarrassment to us. There is no need indeed for this to happen. What is really required of us is to get down to re-defining our priorities as students.

We now find ourselves prepared just to go from lecture hall to lecture hall. Amongst other things, our interests revolve around the sporting body we belong to. These very mundane interests have now become our pattern of life, a mere resigned existence. Are we really still considering that some of our brother students suffered so heavily to bring the truth

about our conditions on this campus to those of us less aware, as well as the public. We are back at U.W.C. after some of our students were:

- a) intimidated by the police.
- b) victimized by certain instances into preventing students from getting employment.
- c) suspended by the authorities of the university.
- d) expelled by the authorities of this university and
- e) even banned by the government of South Africa.

Unless we have been effectively silenced by acts of intimidation, there is no reason why we are not taking up the struggle against prejudice and oppression. There is no excuse for our present delapidated position; there is no justification for our indifferent attitude; there is no escape route for allowing ourselves to be used disgracefully by the authorities. We have but one thing to do compulsively and that is to re-align ourselves. To avoid making this decision means failure. Failure is stagnation. Stagnation presupposes death. Death is ultimate non-existence.

**H**aving looked at our pitiful situation we have to finally ask ourselves the sincere question: Have matters really changed for the better at U.W.C.? One merely has to look around to understand what has taken place. We have been deceived. The lie which we sought to destroy still persists. It manifests itself even more bluntly this time. To name only a few instances: Why are we still not allowed to invite the speakers of our own choice? Why is it that effective students representation is still vociferously being opposed by the authorities? Why is it necessary when we want to have mass-meetings, to seek the Rector's permission? We can only arrive at the correct answers if we ask the correct questions.

If the situation is the same as it was last year, then something is direly wrong. Why then did we make such heavy sacrifices? While we are pondering these questions we should not forget the community which gave us its unqualified support and above that, the promise we made to them .....

If it is true then that the situation on campus is the

same as it was last year at the same time, then we ought to know why this is so.

The white-lie is still being perpetuated at U.W.C. and our demand for meaningful change has again been frustrated by the white racial authority.

Recalling of the past should not be used as a form of escapism and a compensatory mechanism for the inactiveness and apathy that is prevalent in our ranks. Now is the time for us to pose serious questions and to re-affirm our stand as Black Students.

Are we not the same students who decided not to re-apply, and who demanded full unconditional re-instatement? Were we not part of the decision to go home and inform our fathers, our mothers, our sisters and brothers of the conditions under which we had to study? Did we not beg the Black Community for its support and distribute pamphlets and explain the stand we had taken? Are we not the same students who decided to walk off the campus in support of the suspended leaders we had elected to expose our suffering? Did we not elect Henry Isaacs to say what he did say, to which we unanimously agreed? Were we not part of the City Park audience which listened with tears in our eyes and knots in our throats, to Fatima Meer, when she said: "...and power to all our brothers over the mountain"? Are we not the same students who packed St. John's, St. Mark's, the halls at Worcester, Port Elizabeth, Paarl, Stellenbosch, East London and other places?

Students, with what drug have they inject us to have forgotten that once we were proud to stand up and be counted?

## Black Student Protest

they filled the higher halls of learning  
 to eat from the table of wisdom  
 but were fed crumbs of ignorance  
 by men bereft of sense who could  
 not see them as earth  
 ready to receive the seed of knowledge  
 their soil cracked under the heat of  
 racial prejudice and white arrogance  
 they whirlpooled their rage to  
 find the gate of enlightenment shut  
 the foolish men as hiver at the  
 storm their stupidity had stirred

A POEM WRITTEN IN PENSIVE MOOD BY

james matthews

IN SUPPORT OF U.W.C. STUDENTS IN THE  
HEAT OF THE CRISIS.

# Sunday Times

15 JULY 1973

THE PAPER FOR THE PEOPLE

## THE BIG BUNGLE

IF ALL 1 600 COLOURED STUDENTS turn up tomorrow when the University of the Western Cape re-opens, no thanks will be due to the University's governing council. Its contribution to the troubles on the campus was a fumbling, bungling "big stick" from start to finish.

There is nothing particularly mystifying about the unrest on the campus. Student grievances have been accumulating over the years, and eventually, as one would have expected, they found expression in protests and demonstrations — which, incidentally, were very mild compared with what has happened at other universities, including South African universities.

The sensible thing for the council would have been to try to redress the grievances; instead, it tried to suppress the protests arising from the grievances, and it even went so far as to prohibit student leaders from issuing Press statements — only one of a long list of restrictive regulations which the student body found intolerable. From this point on, escalation of the troubles became inevitable.

A student leader was fined R50 for issuing a Press statement; he refused to pay the fine; students asked for his reinstatement but this was refused; students staged a sit-in and disrupted classes; and, finally, in a moment of panic on June 12, the council shut down the university. The Security Police, meanwhile, running true to form, busied themselves on the campus, interrogating students and even visiting their parents.

It is a sign of the times that all this official harassment did not deter the students. They refused to give the university authorities the written undertaking demanded of them to observe the university's rules in order to gain readmission. In this resistance they were given strong support by their parents and by the university's Black Staff Association.

Possibly, at this stage, the Government was reading the warning signs, but if it was in any doubt about the serious turn that events were taking in the Coloured community, this doubt was dispelled last Sunday when more than 10 000 Coloured people attended a meeting in Cape Town to launch a fund to start a "free" Black university. From this meeting now has emerged a movement to summon a "Black summit" in South Africa, representative of the 16-million Africans, 2-million Coloureds and 700 000 Asians.

Note how the trouble escalated: from

being a dispute over student grievances, it swelled out into a political demonstration which, in turn, looks like developing into a campaign for a united Black front, with Black consciousness as the vital, direction-giving element. Throughout history rulers have committed this kind of blunder: always the concession is too little and too late. The Minister of Coloured Relations, Dr. Schalk van der Merwe, admittedly minimised the damage to race relations by agreeing to the students' unconditional return (though there is now an argument about the word "unconditional") but all that really has been achieved is to bring the dispute round full circle.

The students will return to the campus tomorrow, to take up the struggle over their grievances at the point at which they left off, only now they are much more self-confident and militant. They have flexed their muscles, and found the exercise rewarding. From this point of view, therefore, the situation at the University of the Western Cape remains potentially as difficult as ever.

The Government should ask itself whether, in the circumstances, it can afford to allow the present council to continue to run the university's affairs. The intelligent thing to do would be to ask all council members to hand in their resignations and then to appoint a new council. Ideally, such a council should be drawn mainly from members of the Coloured community — where there are many moderate and sensible men who have the interests of the university at heart.

But if this is unacceptable to the Government, at least it should replace the authoritarians on the council by Whites who have the confidence and trust of the students. It should also curb the activities of security policemen, some of whom seem to think they have resident status on the campuses of the "ethnic" universities.

The disturbing thing about events at the University of the Western Cape is the revelation that, after 25 years of apartheid rule, with all its trials and tribulations, no lessons apparently have been learnt: the university's council remembered all the old mistakes and repeated them with meticulous accuracy. The one sign of hope in the whole sorry affair was the intervention of the Minister, Dr. Van der Merwe, to cut the Government's losses, and turn the dispute back to its starting point.