

EDUCATION UNIVERSITIES

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As the profile of the distance-education student changes, new problems and difficulties

Adrift in a sea of knowledge

(54) MtG 6-12/6/97

Tamar Kahn

A TAXI-DRIVER from KaNyamazane, a shopkeeper from Cape Town and a teacher from Tzaneen might not appear to have much in common.

But over the years, hundreds of thousands of people from equally disparate walks of life have enrolled with distance education institutions and private colleges throughout the country to satisfy their need for knowledge.

In 1996, almost 240 000 students were registered with universities and private colleges as distance learners. More than 130 000 teachers were involved in teacher education at a distance and more than 180 000 were enrolled at private distance colleges.

Although the majority of distance learners are teachers or nurses looking to upgrade their skills by taking a diploma, many students enrol to study for a degree in the humanities, such as law, and a tiny percentage study technical or scientific subjects.

"Distance education has enormous potential, particularly as more and more people are finding that they have to study throughout their lives," says Jennifer Glennie, director of the South African Institute for Distance Education (Saide).

"It is not only an economic imperative, but also a political imperative. There are hundreds of thousands of adults who were denied an opportunity for higher education in the past. This is one way that a talented 30-year-old or 40-year-old can achieve his or her potential."

With such huge numbers of people studying from home, are they getting their money's worth? Recent government policy documents have emphasised the importance of distance-education methods in solving South Africa's education problems.

However, research suggests that the quality of distance-education practices leaves much to be desired. Saide published a report in 1995 concluding that: "Taken as a whole, distance education's contribution to the priorities of education and training ... is variously marginal, inefficient and ... dysfunctional."

Only 10% to 15% of students ever complete a degree, and those who do finish their studies take, on average, nine years to do so. For example, at the University of South Africa (Unisa), the country's oldest and largest correspondence university, less than 5% of the students enrolled



No comparison: Full-time students, like these from the University of Durban-Westville, have the benefit of lectures and tutorials; whereas distance learners must grapple with academic problems on their own

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVE BUZZARD

on a BSc course in 1984 had graduated by 1992.

One of the reasons for the low number of students completing their distance-education courses is poor course design. The content-driven, transmission-education flavour that characterises so much of South African education, in which the teacher is the fount of all knowledge rather than the facilitator of learning, is even stronger in distance education.

"There is very little concept development and very little interaction with the learners takes place," says Glennie. "The vast majority of courses — and there are some notable exceptions — are developed by a lone academic writing slightly elaborated lecture notes. Seldom is the material developmentally tested with the learners."

The other major pitfall is lack of

student support. "Students are often not counselled, not given academic tutoring and, in many cases, do not get sufficient help with assignments. The turnaround time for assignments to be marked is terribly slow, and students are rarely told where they are going wrong or how they might improve."

During the past 10 years, the student profile has changed considerably, from predominantly white to predominantly black.

At the same time, a new group has emerged — that of full-time distance learners. Traditionally, the typical distance-education tertiary student was aged 30 to 40, but these new full-time students are young — between 18

and 25 years of age. These younger students pose new challenges for institutions. "The support they require goes beyond their academic needs; many of them desperately need a quiet place to study," says

Thandiwe Ngegebule, the head of student support at Unisa.

"Without the benefit of peers or teachers, students must grapple with their difficulties alone. Most students are from historically disadvantaged groups and are studying in a language other than their mother tongue, so they are faced with both content and language difficulties."

Ngegebule stresses that Unisa is well aware of the needs of the distance learner. Her department has estab-

lished regional learning centres throughout the country and is currently running a pilot project to investigate the viability of running tutorials for students at these centres. These tutorials last an hour and give groups of students the opportunity to address questions to a qualified tutor.

The need for many distance learners to receive support from other students and lecturers has spawned an industry, exemplified by one of the oldest and probably most successful — Midrand Campus. Unisa students can enrol at Midrand full-time for the sort of support they'd be getting at a residential university — they attend lectures and tutorials, study in the library, take tests on site. Established eight years ago, it has spread to a second location, with a third campus — a business school — offering support for postgraduate

'Students are often not counselled, not given academic tutoring and do not get sufficient help with assignments'

The guide that helps students get to

Mail & Guardian Reporter

IT takes a special sort of student to survive the rigours of distance learning. There's no spoon-feeding here, no personal support: one survives or fails on one's own.

"For most of us, distance learning is an adjunct, a supplement, to what we get face to face," says Jonathan Cook, director of the management development unit at the University of the Witwatersrand Business School.

"Distance learning is appropriate for some purposes — where you are looking at principally factual mater-

ial, focusing on knowledge, as against skills. One wouldn't go by choice to distance learning for interpersonal skills, whereas you might benefit from studying the principles of accounting by distance learning."

The material itself could pose a problem if it is supplied by an overseas institution. "The learner should check whether the subject can be dealt with relatively context-free," he says. "How much will the learner be prepared to give up the South African flavour of the material he is learning from?"

A distance learner must be good at self-discipline. And, says Cook, "peo-

ple who are more extrovert often need input; their energy requires contact with people. They need to put themselves under the discipline of a face-to-face course."

However, a person who is more of an introvert, who derives his or her energy from within, might do very well as a distance learner.

There is another important distinction — the medium.

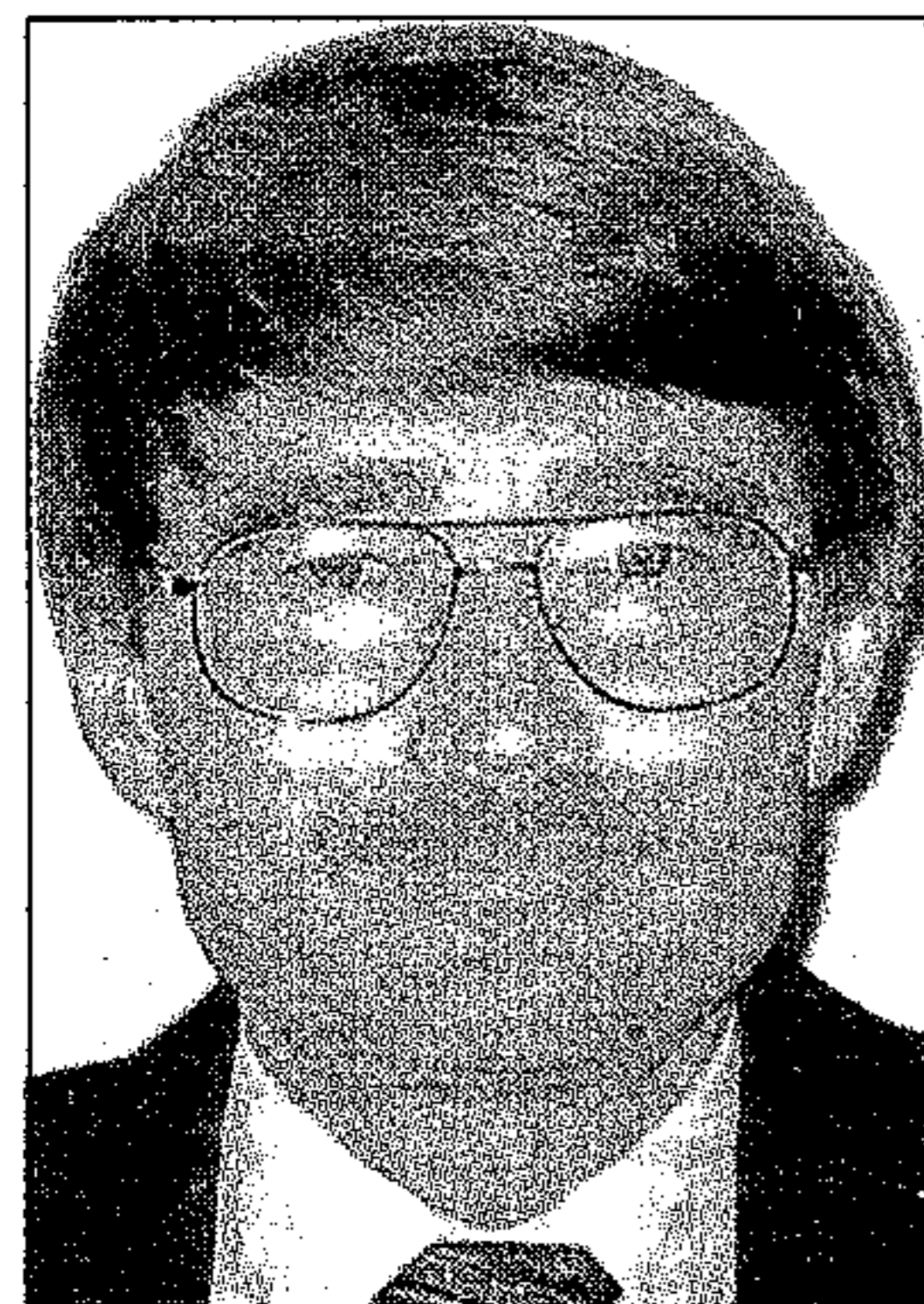
"Those who relate well to written material can benefit from distance learning. Others may relate better to oral-presented material. They should be in a classroom or a study group."

The addition of audio or video

tapes will help. But, "the good distance learning institution will ensure you are placed in a study group and work together with other students on the course".

Adds a Western Cape academic involved in distance-learning programmes: "You need self-discipline. You can't procrastinate; you should do your tasks as they come in. And you should keep in close contact with the department. That's crucial."

"As soon as you have a question, don't hesitate, write it down and then communicate with your department. You can phone or write or fax or, depending on the depart-



Jonathan Cook: 'Distance learning is appropriate for some purposes'

are arising which must be addressed if the courses are to succeed

qualifications. Other institutions, set up on similar lines, have followed.

One of the great attractions of distance education for students is that it appears to cost less than attending a contact university. But, according to Glennie, the institutions actually spend very little money on the students. "In some cases institutions receive more money than they spend on students," she says. And as for the institutions themselves, one of the more insidious attractions of distance learners may be that they are an effective way to boost their numbers of students from disadvantaged backgrounds without having them clutter up their campuses.

And so what do the students get? In the absence of any national quality controls, students may be victim to courses which provide education of a dubious standard.

"At the moment, the whole notion of quality assurance which has developed in other countries has not really impacted yet," says Glennie. There are attempts to define a framework for quality assurance [the Department of Education has appointed a research group to investigate this], but it is still unclear how these will be implemented and enforced."

Technikon SA's Gerard Grobler would like to see course material set nationally, "in order to engage expertise nationally. Currently each institution re-invents the wheel, and quality suffers."

He would also like to see collaboration among institutions: "There's a window of opportunity at the moment to establish a very efficient and flexible learning system, as opposed to a fragmented and costly collection of flexible learning institutions." Duplication could be eliminated if colleges, universities and technikons got together and decided who would offer what.

Distance educators fill a crucial role. He believes distance education to be "the only way you can properly address the question of mass higher education".

And students who complete their distance-education courses appear to improve their career prospects, regardless, it seems, of the content of the degree or diploma.

"Many employers value the kinds of attributes a student with a degree will bring to the workplace," says Glennie. "Take teachers as an example. If they complete accredited courses, they receive salary increments for their achievements, even if we at Saide don't necessarily think they are better teachers."

Saide, 1995, *Open Learning and Distance Education in South Africa: Report of an International Commission*, January to April 1994, Macmillan



Push play for an education

Tamar Kahn

CHANNEL CAMPUS, which launched a range of new courses last month, is one of a myriad of South African organisations specialising in distance education. However, it does so electronically, offering multimedia courses aimed at the upper secondary school and tertiary level.

Each course is based on a set of videos, accompanied by workbooks. Learning material is also available on CD-ROM and computer disk, and the company is currently developing material on the Internet.

Time for work, and the student switches on the video (or pops a CD-ROM into a computer) and follows the lesson, pausing to answer the questions posed in the accompanying workbook. "Students don't have to worry about taking notes; they just have to fill in the blanks," enthuses Rael Lisssoos, co-director of Channel Campus.

One of the strengths of video-learning is the ability of students to

determine the pace at which they learn; if things are confusing or the lecturer is going too fast, the student can easily stop the video, rewind, and have another go. However, this is not without its problems. A number of educators present at the official launch of Channel Campus in May felt that the very fact that a student can go over the same material time and time again encourages rote learning.

"This material does not exploit the medium to encourage learners to engage critically with the information presented in the video," says Emelia Potenza, a curriculum specialist. "It is effectively transmission education and although it fulfils the current matric requirements, it does not further the aims of the new curriculum in terms of learning outcomes."

The video lecturer uses the standard teaching aids: computer graph-

ics, overheads and a video board. The overall presentation is very simple (no complicated cuts to the outside world) and essentially reproduces the classroom or lecture hall. It is obvious that the video production process involves a minimum of editing, presumably to keep the costs down. "We strive for affordability" says David Modlin, co-director of Channel Campus. "The average cost of a university level course is R300, a cost that can be shared by a group of learners or an institution."

The videos are in English, and educators have raised the question of how fluent a learner needs to be to follow the lessons successfully. Modlin stresses that because the video format is so simple it is very flexible, and can easily be tailored for a specific teacher's needs (making a video in another language, for instance). And he says that teachers are welcome to

approach Channel Campus to help them make their own videos. The simplicity of the videos and workbooks has another advantage — new courses in new subjects can be made very quickly.

However, rapid product development is not necessarily a virtue, say some educators, time should ideally be spent on developing the materials. Modlin says his lecturing experience has shown him what students need most, and that the other lecturers featured in the videos are similarly experienced.

Despite its reliance on transmission-learning in a country moving towards an outcomes-based system, Channel Campus has undoubtedly found an enthusiastic market.

"More than 5 000 pupils from around the world have passed through our doors in the four years we've been running," says Modlin. "And we are looking into establishing a 24-hour telephone hotline to answer students' questions."

'We are looking into establishing a 24-hour telephone hotline to answer students' questions'

grips with distance learning in SA

ment, you can e-mail if you've got the facility."

Contacting the university where the student is registered is not a worry if it's only a query that needs an answer. But the post office's problems can change the simple task of turning in an assignment into a mission. So another quality is necessary for the distance learner: tenacity.

More and more, students are less likely to trust their assignments to ordinary post and more likely to opt for special — rather pricier — packages offered by the post office. There are also other options, depending on whether the university will accept

assignments in any form other than the traditional: faxes are sometimes acceptable, e-mails less so.

This year's excellent *Student's Guide to Distance Education in South Africa*, compiled by the Human Sciences Research Council, includes a number of checklists on distance learning. Among them: a list of demands this mode of education places on the learner.

For each of the demands listed below, the student should note either "I can handle this" or "I will need help in handling this":

● Planning what and when I am

going to study in the days and weeks ahead.

● Concentrating for long periods of time.

● Studying on my own with little or no help from a "live" tutor.

● Reading books and articles in order to learn from them.

● Summarising and commenting on various specialists' ideas.

● Using graphs, tables, simple statistics and so forth.

● Learning from video or audio tapes.

● Planning and writing essays and other assignments.

● Responding to a tutor's com-

ments on my essays/assignments.

● Asking a tutor for help with something I find difficult.

● Travelling to contact sessions at learning centres.

● Participating in face-to-face discussions with other students.

● Applying what I am learning to my work or in the community.

● Carrying out independent research with little guidance.

If most of the demands elicit a "I will need help in handling this" response, the guide suggests the student talk to a counsellor at the institution where he or she intends registering.

If you want to judge the course you're taking — whether it's suitable for your purposes, for example, or supplies sufficient support — the book also includes checklists to match the course against. They are all derived from *Ensuring Quality in Open Learning: A Handbook for Action*, published by Britain's Manpower Services Commission

Student's Guide to Distance Education in South Africa, A Southern Directories Yearbook, (R49.95) is available from the HSRC at PO Box 5556, Pretoria 0001, or telephone (012) 302-2912

Toil and trouble in the cauldron of the University of the North. **Ann Eveleth** reports on the issues



Two sides at loggerheads with the university's vice-chancellor and management: The Students' Representative Council (left) and the Broad Transformation Committee

Back to class, but conflict simmers

M+G 6-12/6/97

(54)

UNIVERSITY of the North students returned to classes last week after a three-week boycott over an issue directly affecting about 300 of the 14 500 students.

But a tangled web of conflicting views over transformation remains — and further conflict looms.

Transformation may mean different things to different people, but a common goal in South Africa is the reform of apartheid-era institutions to reflect democracy and non-racialism.

While the road to transformation has been turbulent for the University of the North, it is not alone: other campuses, including Wits, the University of Durban-Westville, the University of Cape Town, Fort Hare and many others are, or have been, experiencing similar problems.

At the University of the North, discord between students and the management of vice-chancellor Njabulo Ndebele — who lost out in last year's contest to lead Wits — over the withdrawal of a Higher Education Diploma course for students still completing their primary degrees has been brewing for some time. Last month this relatively minor dispute mushroomed into full-scale confrontation complete with demonstrations, sit-ins and suspensions.

Criminal charges are threatened against the strike's alleged "ring-leaders", and relations between management and most of the campus's constituencies are in a shambles.

The shutdown was the second incident this year in which Turfloop campus — once at the forefront of transformation in university education — has been brought to a halt by a relatively minor issue. In February, the dispute was about financial exclusions.

Students have lost more than five weeks of instruction in the first five months of the year.

Four issues are behind the dispute.

1 Transformation: Students and the Broad Transformation Committee (BTC) — now generally known as Broad Transformation Forums — accuse Ndebele of stalling transformation. This is at the heart of the troubles.

In February, the committee ousted Ndebele as its convenor, claiming he failed to call meetings and relied instead on the senate — a body then seen as dominated by old

things on the grounds of this 1969 Act," says Students' Representative Council (SRC) president Gilbert Kganyago. "The first thing that needs to happen is the democratisation of structures of governance."

That started in 1991 when the university led the country in forming its BTC, which in 1992 appointed a new council. In 1993, there was wide involvement, albeit not agreement, in Ndebele's selection. However, the committee has now set its sights on the senate.

Ndebele denies the senate is conservative: "Significant numbers of senate members are committed to this institution and to transformation. The senate composition does need to change, but this can only be done when the Act is amended."

Ndebele, who also leads the Committee of University Principals, says he supports government recommendations on Broad Transformation Forums, but warns they are not a substitute for "professional leadership".

He says: "The BTC is only an advisory body. It is not a statutory body on academic matters — these decisions still belong to the faculty boards and the senate and the management must be allowed to manage the university."



Njabulo Ndebele: 'We are virtually rebuilding a university'

BTC convenor Arnold Msimeki disagrees: "It appears the senate is dragged in when council takes a decision that is not favoured by management. We still need to transform governing structures from the top."

"The BTC should lead this transformation. It should be a policy-formulation body, a troubleshooter and a forum for reconciliation between different constituencies. The BTC is the university's Parliament and we will be

riculum reform. Students say this should reflect the "new national ethos".

"We should be involved in discussions on what kind of courses we want to take, what kind of material we want to learn and even how many lecture rooms we have," says SRC secretary general Ishmail Malale.

Ndebele agrees the curriculum "needs to be totally revamped", discussions are already taking place.

But he and senior academics might again anger students and the BTC. "Stakeholders will have ample opportunity to interject their views when the recommendations are fed back into the faculties," says Ndebele, but argues that this responsibility lies with the faculty boards and the senate.

"After [proposals] are drawn up there would be no harm in asking for the views of the BTC, but decisions like how many lecture halls to have require a high degree of professionalism. I doubt that any of the students has the capacity to take such decisions."

3 Staff: The BTC traces the lag in curriculum development to another simmering conflict — between management, the senate and the Concerned Lecturers and Academic Support Services Group. This group of junior lecturers claims to carry more than its share of academic responsibilities, but lacks recognition or senate representation.

"There is a tendency to ignore that this campus was created to produce people to run the bantustans," Msimeki says. "Most of the course offerings are from the old order and the people who are supposed to lead the curriculum changes — the doctors and professors — are just not there. It is their juniors coming up who are pushing for transformation."

The group's vice-chair Tsitso Moalusi, a junior industrial psychology lecturer, says its demands centre on staff development, senate representation and faster transformation.

"Although we are called junior lecturers, many of us have higher qualifications than those who are called senior lecturers. We are not just the juniors, we are

Ndebele concedes the mentoring process has fallen behind, but blames this — and many other campus shortcomings — on lack of capacity. "We have changed the promotion requirements so it is virtually impossible to get promoted without proving you have done mentoring, but our departments still lack the capacity to monitor the situation."

"In the old system, many of the basic procedures and processes of the university came to a halt, so we are virtually rebuilding a university from nothing. That's why transformation is such a long process."

4 Higher Education Diploma: The diploma saga demonstrates the practical level on which these ideological differences play out.

Ndebele says the senate resolved in 1995 to drop the diploma course for non-graduate students, because: "The students couldn't cope. Only 40% were passing and there were logistical problems around schedul-

ing. The SRC agreed to this decision in 1995, but this year the SRC has been campaigning for the students to be registered."

But the SRC's Malale says the diploma issue is hardest on poor students with one degree course to complete: "We come from working-class backgrounds and we cannot afford to study for a whole year if we're not taking a full load."

The matter is still unresolved: though the council last week overruled the senate's refusal to allow students to register for the course, a senate meeting this week asked the council to reconsider its position. If the council agrees, the issue will go back to square one with possible implications for further conflict.

"The BTC feels the diploma issue is not a matter that should have brought the university to a halt if proper lines of communication were open ... It just shows we have a long way to go to transform this university," says the BTC's Msimeki.

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Warwick graduate: Dr Marcus Balintulo

Black principal set to take top technikon job

SABATA NGCAI
EDUCATION REPORTER

(54)
ARG 2/6/97

History will be made when, for the first time in its 76 years, a black academic becomes rector of the Cape Technikon - if Marcus Balintulo accepts the offer of rectorship and vice-chancellorship.

Last week, the technikon council offered the position to Dr Balintulo, 54, acting vice-chancellor and principal of the University of Durban-Westville.

Dr Balintulo beat two other finalists in the race, professors Nicholas Morgan, vice-rector Technikon SA; and Nicolaas Kok, vice-rector (academic) at Cape Technikon.

He will be the second black academic to be appointed to a senior management position at the institution. Mandla Tshabalala was appointed last year as vice-rector in charge of student support services.

Academics see the move as part of the process of changing the face and image of tertiary institutions which for many years have been dominated by white academics.

The offer also comes barely a year after Mamphela Ramphele became the first black woman vice-chancellor and principal of the University of Cape Town.

Speaking from his office at the university in Durban, a delighted Dr Balintulo said he would not like to comment as the offer was only verbal at this stage.

He said he would hold discussions with the technikon council next week to see what the offer entailed. However, he said he was "excited at the prospect because the technikon has a lot of potential".

Dr Balintulo, who holds a Ph D in sociology from the University of Warwick in Coventry, would replace Theo Shippey, who has been at the helm for 18 years.

Unisa SRC 5 guilty 'of misconduct'

By Sowetan Reporter

FIVE members of the University of South Africa's students representative council were found guilty of various charges of misconduct at a disciplinary hearing at the university in Pretoria at the weekend.

Unisa's head of media affairs Mrs Doreen Gough said the charges against

the students "arose from their individual conduct on campus and not during any demonstrations".

Mzikayifani Thabethe, Mandla Mabuza, Andrew Moraka, Mfanafuthi Sithebe and Masiele Masenamela were found guilty while their co-accused, Sandile Nkosi, Barrett Enoch and Selaelo Lebogo, were acquitted on all charges.

"The convicted students have had their suspension from the campuses of the university upheld until the end of 1997. A further suspension from the campuses until the completion of their first degrees was suspended on condition they are not found guilty of similar contraventions of the student disciplinary code," said Gough.

She said the hearing on Sunday,

which had also taken place at the university between May 12 and 14 and on May 25, had found that Thabethe was guilty of behaving in a disorderly, improper or unbecoming manner towards two women administrative officers by accusing them of being racists and saying they did not belong to the university and should be replaced.

Mabuza was found guilty of behaving in a violent, disorderly, improper or unbecoming way by swearing at staff and accusing them of racism and adopting a threatening manner towards a member of staff.

He also shouted at a telephonist and accused other members of staff of racism in the university's telephone exchange office.

Sowetan 3/6/97 (5/4)

Sactwu provides R8-m in student bursaries

BUSINESS REPORTER

The South African Clothing and Textile Workers' Union's (Sactwu) investment company has set aside R8 million to fund 550 tertiary institution students whose parents belong to the union.

Sactwu spokesman Andre Kriel said the bursary, which was launched in the city last night, would pay between 50% and 100% of the recipient student's fees.

"The only criteria that the union has imposed for us to continue sponsoring students is that they must pass every year."

He said the R8 million was derived from

profits Sactwu's investment company had made in its various ventures. These include a stake in Vodacom and the soon-to-be launched Cape Talk radio station.

Mr Kriel also said the union was considering funding primary and secondary schools which in neighbourhoods were its members lived.

AKG 4/6/97

Cape distance learning group expands International Colleges signs deal to train 1 000 students (64)

HEMELYN JONES
BUSINESS REPORTER

International Colleges Group (ICG), the Cape-based distance learning group, is setting itself up to become Southern Africa's leading player in distance education.

ICG and the Institute of Life and Pension Advisers (ILPA) concluded an agreement this week which will allow ICG to establish a college to train over 1 000 ILPA students each year.

The agreement comes hot on the heels of the establishment last week of ICG (out of Intec College) as a holding company for a group of self-study education colleges.

The colleges, which are headed up by chairman Frank Maunder, include Intec College, Rapid Results College, which Intec bought in June last year, and the recently-formed College of Banking. They have over 145 000 students in Southern Africa.

ILPA president Christopher Bean said ICG would provide ILPA students with professionally-developed distance-learning courses and traditional as well as Internet-delivered tutorial support.

"In the fast-moving field of financial advisory services, training must be consistent and kept current almost daily," Mr Bean said.

ILPA was founded 15 years ago, primarily to promote professionalism in the marketing of life assurance policies. The association has 1 650 Fellows - members who have the highest ILPA qualifications. Mr Maunder said ILPA members were

more Internet-connected than most service industries, allowing ICG to provide students with very powerful on-line tutorial support.

"We view it as a virtual college - a dedicated ILPA College web site will cover everything from student counselling through course registration, assignment marking, tutor-facilitated news group discussions, e-mail links to tutors, exam registration and the posting of results," Mr Maunder said.

The overall aim of ICG was to establish itself as a global force in distance learning, while retaining its position as the leading provider of guided text-based self-study courses in Southern Africa.

"With the Internet and other rapid advances in technology, any distance-learning college that wants to survive the next five years will have to become internationally competitive.

"ICG sees this as an enormous opportunity to expand into the international market of 60 million Internet users and to provide Intranet education and training support to corporate clients," Mr Maunder said.

With the ICG structure in place, he said the group's colleges would have the benefit of combined course development, publishing, student support services and information systems.

ICG has already established a number of international partnerships with institutions including Oxford College, Killroy's College, Wave Technologies and International Correspondence Schools.



Focus on education: Frank Maunder, chairman of International Colleges Group, signs a contract with ILPA president Christopher Bean to train ILPA students

CT 5/6/97
City professors
for grilling on
top Wits post
(54)

JOHANNESBURG: The two candidates shortlisted for the vice-chancellorship of the University of the Witwatersrand, Professor Francis Wilson of UCT and Prof Colin Bundy of UWC, will be interviewed privately and publicly in July and August, the university announced yesterday.

The successful candidate will take over from Wits vice-chancellor Prof Robert Charlton, who has resigned from the end of the year.

Wilson, an economist, will address the public at the university on July 30 and have a private interview the following day with Wits' senior appointments selection committee, spokeswoman Ms Peggy Jennings said.

Bundy, a historian, will give his public address on August 4, with his private interview the following day.

Wilson is director of the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit at UCT, where he is professor at the School of Economics. He obtained his Ph D (Economics) at Cambridge.

Bundy is vice-rector of academics at the University of the Western Cape, where he was director of the Institute for Historical Research from 1992 to 1994. He obtained his Ph D (History) at Oxford. — Sapa

Charges recommended at UDW

Kevin O'Grady

A PRESIDENTIAL commission of inquiry set up to investigate years of conflict at the University of Durban-Westville (UDW) had recommended criminal proceedings against several senior staff members and student leaders, Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu said yesterday.

The commission, appointed in May last year, had forwarded its findings to KwaZulu-Natal attorney-general Tim McNally and had also made "far-reaching" recommendations on human resource and financial management, security and communications at UDW.

Not all of the bulky report produced by the commission, which was headed by advocate Johan Gautschi, was made available to the media yesterday, but the volumes released were strongly critical of UDW's Combined Staff Association (Comsa), blaming it for much of the violence and tension on campus.

Comsa was founded in 1986 to represent academic, administra-

tive and technical staff and workers at UDW. It evolved from a broad-based body championing transformation into what the commission called a small clique of campus politicians.

Intimidation tactics used by Comsa, the commission said, ranged from anonymous telephone calls, graffiti, window breaking and the trashing of offices to holding members of the university's management committee hostage in 1996.

The commission named senior Comsa members Logan Naidoo, Aswhin Desai and advocate Regan Jacobus — who is vice-principal in charge of student affairs and development at Technikon Natal — as being primarily responsible for the conflict.

It was also scathing in its criticism of Comsa organiser Heinrich Böhmke. The commission recommended the university take steps to "prohibit him from entering the university premises".

"Evidence overwhelmingly demonstrates that Heinrich Böhmke's involvement with the

Desai/Naidoo/Jacobus triumvirate was the root cause of destabilisation and intimidation at UDW," the commission said.

Böhmke, who was previously expelled from Wits University for organising violent student protests, was "not employed at the university, and given evidence ... of numerous acts of serious misconduct, his presence is destabilising, disruptive and not desirable, and steps ought to be taken to prohibit him from entering the university premises".

Gautschi said recommendations to McNally on criminal proceedings involved acts of intimidation, public violence and criminal defamation.

Pending criminal proceedings, steps should be taken to suspend staff members against whom allegations were made.

Releasing a summary of the commission's report, Bengu said: "It is now up to the collective leadership of the institution to steer it onto the right course. Our role will remain a monitoring and facilitating one."

BD 6/6/97

WITS UNIVERSITY

Challenging the radicals ⁽⁵⁴⁾

PM 6/6/97

In trying again to find a vice-chancellor, Wits surprises observers

The shortlisting of only two people for the post of Wits University vice-chancellor is remarkable on several counts. Neither is black nor female, both have strong Eastern Cape connections and both work at Western Cape universities. All previous Wits vice-chancellors were found within the university.

Candidates are elected by the 28 members of the university's senior appointments selection committee.

Academic staff account for half their number. The university's council provides another four members, among them Judge Fikile Bam and Anglo American's Bobby Godsell. The other mem-



Colin Bundy



Francis Wilson

bers represent staff, students and convocation.

To get on the shortlist, candidates have to win at least 60% of the votes. Out of about 12 local and foreign candidates thought to have a fighting chance,

only the University of Cape Town's Francis Wilson and the University of the Western Cape's Colin Bundy did so.

Malegapuru Makgoba, who resigned from a Wits deputy vice-chancellorship just over a year ago after a dispute over his CV details, is said to have just failed to get on the shortlist.

Significantly, the radical student organisation Sasco remained silent.

That could be because Wits earlier this year showed itself ready to appoint a black vice-chancellor — in the event, Prof Sam

more than a few months before Charlton retires in December.

It's unlikely, too, that the selection committee will continue looking for two deputy vice-chancellors until the new vice-chancellor is in office. The strengths of the lieutenants are supposed to complement those of the leader — or cover his weak areas. It will take time for those flaws to become apparent.

John Collings

chairman of Fort Hare's council for about 10 years, speaks Xhosa and has also accumulated experience of resource-organising and fund-raising on a large scale by heading the second Carnegie study of poverty in SA during the Eighties.

Who will win the contest for the vice-chancellorship won't be known until August. So it's unlikely he will understudy present incumbent Robert Charlton for

Nolutshungu declined to take up the post — and because both Wilson and Bundy are sympathetic to the ANC. Bundy brings a Marxist perspective to his rewriting of SA history, while Wilson's fervent Christianity is reflected in his studies of poverty and other ravages caused by apartheid.

Bundy, who has been vice-rector at UWC since 1995, is said to be a sharp analyst of the political scene. Wilson, who has been

Secrecy shrouds UDW report for 'legal reasons' Staff and students accused of destabilisation

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Pretoria - The national education department is keeping a lid on its controversial investigation into the problems at the University of Durban Westville (UDW) - only releasing two of the 28 volumes to the media.

Part of the report was still in Cape Town, department officials said on Thursday, adding that they were not releasing the whole report for legal reasons. The commission was set up on May 21 last year to look into bitterness at UDW after various interest groups clashed during the transformation process of the university.

- The commission accuses:
- A staff association consisting of both academics and students (Comsa) of developing a pattern of destabilisation which has been applied over and over again to influence events at the university.
 - Sunday Tribune journalist Farhana Ismail of writing sensationalist reports to further Comsa's aims.
 - A number of staff and student leaders of mis-

conduct - and has recommended that criminal charges be laid against them.

The report has been handed to KwaZulu-Natal Attorney-General Tim McNally, who has been asked to prosecute a number of student leaders and Comsa leaders on criminal charges ranging from intimidation and public violence to defamation. The charges date from December 1992 to the present.

But in spite of holding a press conference hosted by education minister Sibusisu Bengu in Pretoria on Thursday, the department is refusing to make the complete document public and has provided only minimal information about it. The department claims it has received legal advice and has decided to keep the details of the huge report secret.

Controversy has dogged the commission since its inception last year. In one incident, Dr Bengu is alleged to have held a secret meeting with commission member Linda Zama. According to the minutes of this meeting, obtained by journalist Farhana Ismail, Ms Zama is

alleged to have said that there was a need for an intelligence network on campus.

When asked about this at Thursday's press conference, Dr Bengu admitted to attending the meeting, but said that his records differed from others. He said he was questioned about the meeting in Parliament last week.

Meanwhile, the commission report implicated Ms Ismail in the problems at the university, charging that she sensationalised reports to further the aims of Comsa leadership.

Sunday Tribune news editor, Yogin Devan, declined to comment on the situation. "We have not studied the report and cannot comment until we have discussed its content with Ms Ismail", he said.

In another incident, bugging devices were found in the offices of some academics at the university. It was claimed that these were planted by the National Intelligence Agency (NIA). The devices were very unsophisticated and it was unlikely that the NIA was responsible, according to commission leader Johan Gautschi.

(54) APR 7 1997

'Pigsty' Fort Hare clogged with cleaners

Grahamstown - The nearly-bankrupt University of Fort Hare, with 1 020 service staff on its payroll, is gradually turning into a pigsty, an angry senior academic staff member has said.

Philosophy lecturer Leonard Praeg said he was even obliged to supply his own toilet paper.

Commenting on the excessive number of service workers - with a total student population of 4 644, there is a ratio of one worker to 4.5 students - Mr Praeg said at least the place could be kept clean.

"With this number of workers, some of whom appear to be doing very little, one would at least expect the grounds to be properly maintained and

the offices to be cleaned.

"The toilets are in an appalling condition and some staff members are obliged to bring toilet paper for their own use.

"It is highly embarrassing to bring outside academics and foreign visitors and show them around the university.

"I would like to make the point that the large number of service staff costs the university a lot of money and there ostensibly is no money for computers, fax machines and basic research facilities," said Mr Praeg.

'It is highly embarrassing to bring outside academics and show them around'

Rhodes University in Grahamstown, by comparison, employs a total of 527 service staff for a student population of 4 031. The University of Port Elizabeth employs 207 service staff for a student population of 4 500.

UPE's worker to student ratio is one worker to 21 students, while at Rhodes it is one service staffer to 7.6 students.

University of Fort Hare spokesman Mbeke Mnyatheli refused to comment to reporters with receiving written questions.

AKG 7/6/97

(54)

Pretoria students call in rights body to probe racism at residences

By VUKILE POKWANA

SEVEN STUDENT bodies at the University of Pretoria have asked the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) to investigate human rights violations at residences on the campus.

Although a commission of inquiry instituted by the university authorities has investigated complaints of racism at the residences, many students feel that not enough was done.

These students and the SAHRC say the university commission lacked the necessary skills to conduct the investigation.

"We need people with skills to investigate these incidents," said Siphwe Mboyane of the Azanian Student Congress.

"You cannot expect a racist to investigate himself."

Two key areas of transformation at the residences are in dispute: orientation and democratisation.

The university, reacting to the

CP 816197
(54)
need to transform residences, has, in partnership with the management structures of the residences, set up a co-ordinating transformation committee.

This team will draw up a time frame for the democratisation of the management of residences as well as for the adjustment of induction practices and traditions.

"This is a former whites-only university and as the number of black students increase, the need for transformation becomes bigger.

"We need to make sure that all students are represented in the residence committees and that there is respect for their cultural values," said Abrie Bothma of the Central Student Council.

He confessed that incidents of harassment, conflict and racial tension had taken place at the university's residences.

"This can be attributed to students who do not want change," said Bothma.

Fort Hare's getting cleaned out, not up

THE NEARLY bankrupt University of Fort Hare, with 1 020 service staff members on its payroll, is gradually turning into a pigsty, an angry senior academic staff member said at the weekend.

Speaking from his office on the Alice campus, philosophy lecturer Leonard Praeg said he was even obliged to supply his own toilet paper.

Commenting on the excessive number of service workers - with a total student population of 4 644 there is a ratio of one worker to 4,5

students - Praeg said at least the place could be kept clean.

"With this number of workers, some of whom appear to be doing very little, one would at least expect the grounds to be properly maintained and the offices to be cleaned.

"The toilets are in an appalling condition and some staff members are obliged to bring toilet paper for their own use."

He said the university spent a considerable amount of money on service staff while there was ostensibly

CP 8/6/97
no money for equipment and basic research facilities. (54)

Rhodes University in Grahamstown, by comparison, employs 527 service staff members for a student population of 4 031.

The University of Port Elizabeth employs 207 service staff for a student population of 4 500.

University of Fort Hare spokesman Mbeko Mnyatheli would not comment without "written questions" faxed to him. - Ecna

Technikons knock draft white paper

Kevin O'Grady

DD 10/6/97

(54)

THE Committee of Technikon Principals has criticised Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu's draft higher education white paper, charging that it relegates technikons' contribution to economic growth to "the level of insignificance".

A spokesman said the fact that the white paper and the draft higher education bill were issued with "such a short response time", and the fact that the contents of an earlier green paper and the white paper "differed radically", indicated a "sinister motive".

Both the National Commission on Higher Education's report and the green paper recognised the role of technikons and the omission of such recognition from the later documents would be "detrimental to the technikon movement and the competitiveness of SA", the spokesman said.

"This apparent sidelining of a critical player in the higher education arena is in stark contrast to the recent public statements and views by various ministries and organised commerce and industry."

The committee was unsure whether the "marginalisation" of technikons by the white paper was "an oversight or whether this has been done deliberately" since its concerns and comments were "clearly articulated" in documents submitted to the education department.

"The committee has acted professionally and submitted comments on time and it believes it has not been treated fairly," the spokesman said.

It was disturbing "that the word 'technikon' is not used in the draft white paper" and the committee believed the current versions of the documents would "effect irreparable damage to career and vocational education in SA".

They would also prevent SA technikons from competing successfully in the international arena.

World competitiveness reports in 1995, last year and this year showed how poorly SA ranked in terms of the education and skills of its workforce and were a "direct indictment of the SA education system".

There was no doubt that career and vocational training would be vital to the reskilling of SA's workforce, as was shown by the fact that they were the focal point of economic success in countries which had rapidly advanced their rankings in the reports, the spokesman said.

Ivy League honour for Ramphele

(54)

AACT 11/6/97

STAFF REPORTER

Princeton, the American Ivy League university, has conferred honorary doctorates on Mamphela Ramphele, vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town, and her predecessor Stuart Saunders.

Princeton president Harold Shapiro conferred Doctor of Laws degrees on the two South Africans on June 3.

The American university's orator Robert Rawson told the gathering Dr Ramphele's life "personifies the trials, the anguish and, ultimately, the triumph of the struggle for justice and democracy in South Africa."

"An apartheid education did not prevent her from becoming a doctor and then a scholar; banishment did not diminish her commitment to community service and justice."

Of Dr Saunders, the orator said that, in the face of overwhelming odds, he had "instituted an aggressive programme of reform that transformed his university and made it a leading institution in the new South Africa."

"While overcoming the many forces resistant to change, he helped make his university a centre of research excellence not only for South Africa but for the entire African continent."

The oration says Dr Ramphele, a physician and anthropologist, was installed in 1996 as vice-



Honoured: from left, former UCT vice-chancellor Stuart Saunders, current vice-chancellor Mamphela Ramphele, retired Johnson and Johnson chairman James Burke and archaeologist Homer Thompson, all of whom were presented with honorary doctorates from Princeton University

chancellor of UCT, "one of South Africa's most distinguished universities".

Dr Saunders, author of nearly 200 papers on liver disease, was "as vice-chancellor, a courageous leader who broadened access for black students well in advance of changes in government policy".

"Despite the Group Areas Act, he housed black students on campus, he challenged government attempts to limit freedom of

expression on campus and he led a delegation to meet the then-banned African National Congress in Zambia.

"Dr Saunders began a process of transformation that led ... to an entering class at UCT that was more than 50 percent black. In 1995, Dr Saunders signed an agreement allowing Princeton students to study at UCT, the first such agreement for Princeton with a foreign university."

Many black graduates battling to get jobs

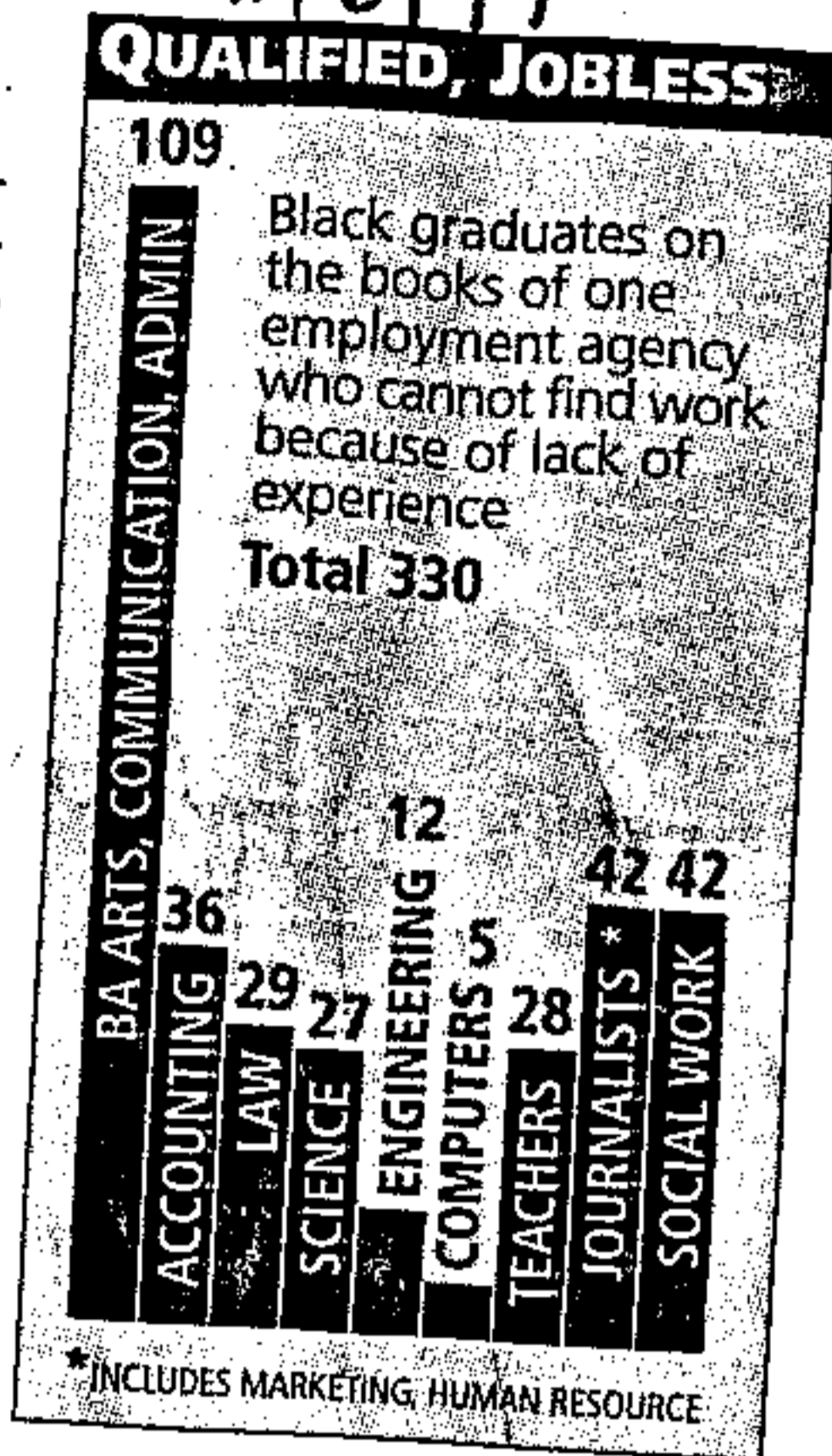
BY ADAM COOKE

Black university and technician graduates are still battling to find jobs as private companies opt for experience rather than educational qualifications, personnel agencies and educationists said yesterday.

They urged companies to put training programmes in place to help graduates make the transition from the academic world into the workplace.

The job outlook is in bleak contrast to figures released by the South African Institute of Race Relations which detail a huge upsurge in the number of black graduates.

The study found that from 1991 to 1994 the number of degrees, diplomas, and certificates awarded by universities to blacks grew by 42%, against a comparable figure for whites of 1%. At technicians the figure for blacks



rose by 167% against 10% for whites.

Last year there were still nearly twice as many whites with degrees, 403 000, as there were Africans, of whom 188 000 had degrees. Coloureds

had 24 000 and Indians 35 000.

The manager of placements at the Black Management Forum, Thobeka Modikoe, said the 375 unemployed black graduates on her books had been left disillusioned with post-matric education.

"These are people with degrees including B Comm honours, MAs and engineering diplomas.

"They are highly trained people who can't find work because the corporate world cannot take them."

The chief executive officer of the Committee of University Principals, Professor Jos Grobbelaar, said universities were already trying to produce more graduates than were needed in the economy.

"But industry and commerce have an increasingly important role - they need to translate and apply the skills that graduates have gained at university," he said.

(54) ~~(55)~~ Star 11/6/97

US to boost technikons

PETER FABRICIUS
FOREIGN SERVICE

AACT 11/6/97

The United States has pledged more than R3-million to help improve engineering education at Peninsula Technikon and five other South African technikons, the US embassy announced.

The money will be used to help American universities, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Washington's Howard University, to help the technikons.

The other institutions that will benefit are Technikon Northern Transvaal, Mangosuthu Technikon, Eastern Cape Tech-

nikon, ML Sultan Technikon and Technikon South Africa.

"This project will assist the South African government in its goal to encourage and increase proficiency in maths and science among the majority population by strengthening the capacity of historically-disadvantaged institutions," said Aaron Williams, South Africa mission director of the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

The curriculum project will develop course material for eight engineering courses in chemical, civil, electrical and mechanical engineering at the technikons, concentrating on training for instructors.

the external South African Tourist Board (SARTOUR)

US in R3-m pledge to aid S African (54)

technikons

Star 11/6/97
BY PETER FABRICIUS

Star Foreign Service

The United States has pledged more than R3-million to finance a project in which four American universities will help improve the engineering education provided at six South African technikons, the US embassy announced yesterday.

The US universities include the famous Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Washington's African-American college, Howard University. The South African institutions that will benefit are Peninsula Technikon, Technikon Northern Transvaal, Mangosuthu Technikon, Eastern Cape Technikon, M L Sultan Technikon and Technikon SA.

"This project will assist the SA Government in its goal to encourage and increase proficiency in maths and science among the majority population by strengthening the capacity of historically disadvantaged institutions," said Aaron Williams, South African mission director of the US Agency for International Development (USAid), which is channelling the aid.

The project will develop course material for eight engineering courses in chemical, civil, electrical and mechanical engineering at the technikons, concentrating on training for instructors in curriculum and materials development, pedagogy and research skills.

Brian Figaji, rector of Peninsula Technikon, which is coordinating the SA technikons, said that "in order to support economic growth, we need to increase the number of engineers and technicians within the majority population.

"It is unlikely that current shortages can effectively be addressed without building capacity in historically disadvantaged technikons to provide quality engineering graduates and technicians."

This project is part of a larger nine-year project, to which USAid has committed R223-million.

Number of qualified blacks is increasing

Kevin O'Grady

OF THE approximately 2-million South Africans with some form of post-matric qualification, whites are now in the minority — an indication that an increasing share of SA's know-how is held by blacks, coloureds and Indians.

Figures in a recent SA Institute of Race Relations report indicating the educational levels of people 20 years and older, show that in 1995 956 000 whites held post-matric diplomas, certificates or degrees

compared to 999 000 blacks, coloureds and Indians.

Whites are also in the minority when it comes to diplomas and certificates which were awarded with Standard 9 certificates or less — 50 000 compared to 110 000 blacks, 9 000 coloureds and 3 000 Indians, the figures show.

A register of graduates compiled by the Human Sciences Research Council shows that while whites are still being awarded more degrees, diplomas and certificates by universities and technikon, the number

being awarded to blacks is increasing steadily.

In 1994, the register shows that 435 000 people held degrees, of which just 11% were black. However, blacks counted for 30% of the degrees, diplomas and certificates awarded by universities and technikons at the end of that year.

This shift was a result of the rapid changes in university and technikon output, notably that between 1991 and 1994. The total number of degrees, diplomas and certificates awarded to blacks by

universities increased by 42% compared to a figure of 1% for whites.

Over the same period, the total number of the same types of qualifications awarded by technikons to blacks increased 167% against a comparable figure for whites of 10%.

A breakdown of the types of degrees held by the SA population shows that literature and philosophy — a category including psychology and social sciences — accounted for 28% of the 435 000 degrees held in 1994. In the case of degrees held by blacks, 43% fell into this category

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compared to 23% of whites.

The next most held degree was commerce (12%), followed by natural sciences (10%), education (8%), engineering (6%) and accounting and management just below 6%.

Although there was a 24% increase in the number of engineering degrees awarded between 1990 and 1994, they constituted between 4% and 5% of the degrees awarded and therefore shrank as a proportion of the total. Degrees in mathematics increased by 27% but accounted for 2% of the total.

RAU pledges allegiance to Afrikanans, but says English will be phased in

STAFF REPORTERS

The Rand Afrikaans University will continue to "promote the culture of its Afrikanans-speaking support community" by keeping Afrikanans as a medium of instruction, Professor J C van der Walt, the university's rector, told President Mandela

at a banquet last night.

However, he said English would be phased in as a parallel medium of instruction. English-speaking students would be provided with English study material and test and examination papers and many lectures would be duplicated in English.

"The university feels strongly about the maintenance of promotion of Afrikanans. Such a policy complies fully with the constitutional provisions in respect of language of instruction," he said at the banquet in honour of Mandela and Graca Machel. Van der Walt said the uni-

versity was developing, in a systematic and orderly manner, a South African culture and identity.

"The university fully accepts the new democratic dispensation and has already made progress with a process of transformation which is intended to absorb the democra-

tic values within RAU," he said. ■ The banquet was marred by a protest by members of the South African Students' Congress. The small group of black students claimed the university's management was racist and was dragging its feet with the transformation process. During the dinner, the pres-

ident thanked the university for a warm reception and said it had proved how a "traditional white Afrikaner establishment can adapt and change to reflect and serve the diversity of your broader environment, without denying what is culturally important to Afrikaners".

Star 12/16/97

(514)

Tertiary institutions urged to co-operate to weather budget cuts

Kevin O'Grady

CUTS in state funding to tertiary institutions are likely to force them to discontinue certain disciplines, and greater co-operation is needed to ensure that fields of study are not lost to SA altogether, says Committee of University Principals chief director Jos Grobbelaar.

Cost-cutting exercises, such as those announced by University of Natal vice-chancellor Brenda Gourley last week, were likely to become the norm in view of limited prospects

for generous state funding for universities in the future.

Gourley announced the university would shed 600 jobs, halve the number of faculties and cut the number of departments by three quarters because of a 5% budget cut for the current financial year. Grobbelaar said most other institutions faced similar financial constraints.

He said it was "a matter of great concern" that if the less well-attended disciplines were faced with discontinuation, the same courses would be

in trouble at most institutions.

"If there is no contact between institutions, we will find the disciplines phased out nationally resulting in a lack of expertise in fields that are not well attended but not necessarily unimportant," he said.

Courses affected were most likely to be in the front line, modern languages and expensive courses such as the performing arts and possibly the fine arts. It was "a positive move" that, so far, institutions in Western Cape,

Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng had already put structures in place at regional level "to facilitate greater co-operation between them".

Grobbelaar said other cost-cutting measures considered by institutions were likely to include retrenchments, early retirements and the freezing of posts and salaries. It was important, however, that academic staff still highly active in their fields were not retrenched.

While most institutions have cost-cutting rationalisation plans in the pipeline — such as retrenchments

and early retirements — not all are considering trimming the number of disciplines offered at this stage.

Wits University vice-chancellor Robert Charlton said the university was not considering closing faculties "at this stage" but had well-advanced cost-cutting plans, including the possibility of retrenchments. However, the university was not considering retrenching academic staff.

In a circular sent to university staff last week, Charlton said the university council had agreed to the establishment of a strategic plan-

ning team to determine the best way for the institution to restructure itself in order to increase effectiveness and cost-efficiency.

University review subcommittees had also held a series of meetings to assess proposals by deans and heads of divisions on how to achieve their share of the R12,5m target for reducing personnel expenditure or increasing recurrent income.

The institution's central review committee had told the council that in certain areas of the university, financial targets could not be met

"without considering measures such as the possibility of retrenchments", Charlton said in the circular.

Areas likely to be affected included the university's art galleries, its performing arts administration, the vice-chancellor's office, branch libraries — such as international affairs, nuclear sciences, architecture and performing arts — and the university's mobile catering unit.

Meetings had been held with staff members to "state the problem and identify the steps that may be required to resolve it", Charlton said.

(64) BD 13/6/97

Sorry saga at Durban varsity finally exposed

By Morgan Naidu

IT IS A SCRIPT that any director of soap operas for television would die for, containing lies, deception, intimidation and power-mongering – just the right ingredients to keep an audience captivated.

The difference is that in the sorry saga of the University of Durban-Westville (UDW), the script is based on true facts and the actors are the academics, students and staff members of one of the country's most renowned but also very controversial institutions of learning.

Last week Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu released part of the findings of a year-long commission of inquiry into the strife and internal conflicts at UDW, a university that attracts thousands of students from around the country, especially KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng.

The commission's findings were a culmination of thousands of hours of vigorous interviews, digging and probing by Advocate Johan Gautschi, attorney Ms Linda Zama and Professor Jerry Coovadia.

Cursed by intimidation

In a university environment cursed by intimidation, harassment and destabilisation, the job of the commission was no mean task. But their thoroughness and determination to make conclusive findings is evident from the sheer length of its report – 28 volumes.

If there is one thing the commission's report has done, it is that it has vindicated the few individuals who dared call for a Government probe into the activities of activists on campus.

When an internal university inquiry report yielded evidence of harassment and intimidation of academics who dared oppose the now-discredited Combined Staff Association (Comsa), no decisive steps were taken. The recommendations of that report were not followed.

Not so with this commission's report. No sooner had Bengu announced the findings than the management of UDW acted on some of the recommendations.

The report blamed Comsa, a staff association set up in 1986, for much of the university's troubles. In particular, it accused Comsa leaders Dr Ashwin Desai, Mr Reagan Jacobus and Mr Logan Naidoo of being the main culprits.

Changing face and agenda

"Indeed, the balance between governance and destabilisation (on campus) is largely related to the changing face and agenda of Comsa, particularly (its) leadership," the commission said.

Comsa evolved from a champion of transformation to "an association dominated by a small clique of campus politicians whose rhetoric and initiatives are often more suited to revolution than evolution, and whose activities are the major cause of campus problems over the past three to four years".

The report found that Comsa identified perceived threats and targeted individuals for harassment, starting off

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Sowetan 13/6/97
Year-long commission of inquiry fingers troublemakers on campus



UDW rector Marcus Balintulo braved much abuse and criticism but says its time to move on.

with anonymous pamphlets, moving on to public defamation and then intimidation in the form of threatening phone calls, graffiti and violent attacks, including the slashing of car tyres.

Acting on the commission's findings, the university management has banned from the campus Jacobus (currently vice principal of the Tecknikon Natal) and Comsa organiser Mr Heinrich Bohmke.

Desai, Naidoo, lecturer Mr Evan Mantzaris and three others were suspended indefinitely.

Mr Ronaldo Munck, former UDW lecturer and one of the victims of on-campus harassment by Comsa, was a key witness before the commission.

Currently lecturing at the University of Liverpool in England, Munck said he was delighted to see South Africa's education officials finally "dealing with this long-running sore".

"Thuggery at UDW has nothing to do with transformation or democratisation. What we need now is a full implementation of the commission's report to get UDW up and running again," Munck said.

Desai, who is regarded as a brilliant sociologist, was branded a "troublemaker" by the commission.

Jacobus' relationship with *Sunday Tribune* journalist Farhana Ismail also provided much fodder for the commission's report.

According to the commission, she had on several occasions acted as a link between the Comsa leadership and the media, culminating in sensational, one-sided reports.

Ismail appeared to be doing more than just her job, the commission maintains.

UDW must now move forward. To achieve this it must shed the image of



Linda Zama investigated the internal conflict at UDW. The commission's job was no mean task.

an institution in distress, and the greater good of the university and its students must be the new priority.

Braved abuse

UDW rector Mr Marcus Balintulo, who has braved much abuse and criticism, this week summed up the giant task that lies ahead in the face of sporadic student protests.

He said it was crucial to start rebuilding and gradually transforming the learning institution and "to just take it one day at a time".

● Comsa chairman Mr Prea Banwari said the union's lawyers were studying parts of the commission report but did not yet have access to all 28 volumes.

On the suspension and banning of Comsa members, he said "the due process" had not been followed in terms of the Labour Relations Act.

Comsa intended taking the matter further and was preparing court papers.

The commission's findings were not a blow to Comsa but "a blow to democracy and natural justice", he said.

"It (the report) is in fact a wonderful testimonial that we are a fine union," Banwari said.

Meanwhile *Sunday Tribune* news editor Yogin Devan said the commission's report did not warrant any disciplinary action against Ismail.

Ismail said the commission had never called her or asked her to give evidence.

She added: "The commission has not attacked the authenticity of my stories – I simply wrote about public officials and public issues."

Ismail declined to comment on the commission's mention of her links with Jacobus. "I have friendly relations with many individuals at the university," she said.

By Adrienne Roberts

Revolutionary growth in black graduates ⁽⁵⁴⁾

But still not enough technical experts

~~FM 13/6/97~~
 In the old days, when a classical education still had some prestige, a Bachelor of Arts was the qualification most sought after by black graduates.

There's a joke about a student from a disadvantaged background who, through great sacrifice and stamina, puts himself through medical school. At his graduation party, his proud grandmother says: "You've shown us you can achieve anything you set your mind to. Now what I want to know is, when are you going to get your BA?"

A Black Accountants' Association representative once told this to the parliamentary finance committee, with reference to the scarcity of black chartered accountants.

And though blacks are starting to make inroads in technical, commercial and mathematical fields, there's still a heavy bias towards arts and social sciences. The SA Institute of Race Relations says, based on HSRC data for 1991-1994, that in 1994 only 330 engineering degrees were held by blacks compared to over 24 400 by whites.

Obviously, preferences aren't the only factor. Many people blame the problem on the restrictions imposed by apartheid era tertiary education and job opportunities.

Nothing new about that. But what is new is the massive surge in the number of degrees, diplomas and certificates awarded by universities to black graduates between 1991 and 1994 — 42% growth compared with 1% for whites. There was also a 167% rise in the number of diplomas and certificates awarded by technikons to black students, compared with 10% for whites.

The HSRC reports that, until 1994, only 11% of people with degrees were black. But

during 1994, 30% of the degrees, diplomas and certificates awarded were earned by black graduates. The data aren't complete, but they give an idea of the trends.

For both blacks and whites the largest category (28% of all degrees held) is still arts and social sciences. A quarter of whites went this route compared to 43% of blacks.

The next biggest category (12% of degrees) is commerce, which attracted 13% of whites until 1994, but only 6% of blacks.

There are proportionately more black graduates in disciplines like nursing, education and administration (see graph).

Some of the starker disparities are in fields like quantity surveying (27 blacks held degrees compared with 1 672 whites), pharmacy (175 blacks, 4 833 whites), fine arts (164 blacks, 5 374 whites) and architecture (38 blacks, 4 558 whites).

PERCENTAGE OF GRADUATES* IN:

Black	White
Accounting	
1,3	6,6
Administration	
3,2	0,6
Commerce	
5,9	13,4
Education	
16,7	5,2
Engineering	
0,7	7,4
Law	
5,3	6,0
Arts & social sciences	
42,9	25,2
Medicine	
2,0	5,7
Nursing	
8,1	1,3

* in 1994 SOURCE: HSRC

University of Durban-Westville will be closed to avert strife

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Durban - The University of Durban-Westville has taken the drastic step of shutting its doors - barring academic staff and students - from tomorrow until further notice in a bid to prevent an outbreak of violence on the campus.

Exams have been postponed indefinitely and students will have until noon tomorrow to leave the residences. Only security, cleaning, medical and maintenance staff will be permitted to continue working and

only people who obtain the written permission of the vice-chancellor will be allowed on campus.

The institution is bracing itself for resistance by certain students. The university has obtained an interdict against the Combined Staff Association (Comsa) preventing the union from embarking on illegal strike action or work stoppages.

Comsa has described the closure as "ill considered" and "unwarranted". Suspended Comsa chairman Prea Banwari

said the move was unnecessary because the campus had been peaceful on Friday.

Trouble has been bubbling on the campus since the release of a commission of inquiry report a week ago which resulted in the suspension of six staff members and restraining orders being issued to five former SRC leaders.

UDW vice-chancellor Dr Marcus Balintulo said keeping the university open under the circumstances would have been irresponsible because there had been "systematic targeting

of individuals" and he was concerned for their safety.

Several incidents - including the attempted kidnapping of some students, the dumping of stolen cars at the university by unknown people and several bomb hoaxes - were signs of a false calm during recent months.

Sporadic student and staff boycotts during the past week had caused major disruptions, he said. Students were also making "impossible demands" and the university could not continue operating with the danger of escalating violence.

(54) Star 16/6/97

'Language Bill' row expected

BY CECILIA RUSSELL
AND REUTERS

Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu is headed for a showdown with predominantly Afrikaans political parties and cultural organisations over the proposed legislation that would compel Afrikaans tertiary institutions to offer tuition in English.

The bill was approved by Cabinet yesterday and will now be tabled before Parliament.

The Freedom Front said today it feared that, if the bill was passed into law, the minister could use his financial pressure to force Afrikaans universities to change their medium of instruction from Afrikaans to English.

Bengu told a news confer-

ence that the Higher Education Bill would establish "a single, co-ordinated system of higher education while encouraging diversity".

Freedom Front education spokesman Leon Louw said, while there was no indication in the bill that single medium universities would be phased out, the bill still allowed too much power over universities to be placed in the hands of the minister.

National Party education spokesman Renier Schoeman said, provided the language policy remained within the spirit of the Constitution, the party would not have a problem with the bill.

Cultural organisations have indicated they will oppose the bill.

(54)

Star

17/6/97

No hiding Unizulu's light under a bushel

(54) Star 17/6/97

Vice-chancellor Professor Charles Dlamini believes strict order facilitates learning

By WINNIE GRAHAM

When the University of Zululand was built among the Ongoye hills of KwaZulu Natal in 1960, it was dismissed as just another "bush college". It had come into being without the support of the local community and many saw its creation - along with other apartheid universities - as a sop to blacks who were being denied access to the seemingly superior white universities.

It was an inauspicious start. Against such a background, what chance was there of the university producing properly qualified graduates who would make a contribution to development and the empowerment of people? Surely standards would be inferior, the degrees worthless?

For a time it seemed as if there might be some truth in this unfortunate perception.

The University of Zululand (Unizulu, as it is known locally) has been plagued by dissension, class boycotts, the alleged sale of degrees, and even by an *impi* attack which left four students dead. This kind of disruption (and corruption) was hardly conducive to the kind of environment in which students could achieve.

Yet, despite its unfortunate beginnings, the University of Zululand, is making an impact. The "bush college" is seen as a light in the region which, nearly four decades ago, may have been bush but today is close to South Africa's fastest growing industrial centre.

Richards Bay is home to the world's largest coal export facility. Empangeni, too, is an important industrial hub.

Unizulu is expected to produce the graduates so urgently needed for regional economic growth. And it is doing just that. Nonetheless, the environment remains challenging.

At the head of the university is Professor Charles Dlamini, SC, vice-chancellor and rector. He is a graduate of his own university and a man who has earned four doctorates, the most recent from



Sympathetic ... Dlamini tries to help students who can't pay fees.

Unisa on April 17 this year.

A brilliant academic, he is a suave, polished personality who brooks no nonsense. Unaligned politically, he claims this is both his strength - and his weakness. "Without political friends, there is no one to protect me when I am attacked," he says ruefully. "But I prefer being my own man."

When Dlamini was appointed rector and vice-chancellor in 1991, his instinctive reaction was to pray. He had no illusions about what he was about to tackle.

"Thanking God was spontaneous," he recalls, "Praying for wisdom and guidance was deliberate."

He has needed the wisdom of Solomon in trying to achieve his goal: building Unizulu into a university of excellence, "a light in the bush for the community".

Many of his colleagues are impressed with the stand he takes with students. His political opponents see him as high-handed but, he claims, if he wants Unizulu to become one of the country's finest universities, a work ethic has to be instilled - and campus disruption will not help the cause.

At the beginning of the year he hoped Unizulu was off to a good start. The newly elected Students' Representative Council assured him there would be no more class boycotts, that they were keen to get on with their studies and that, if there were problems, the SRC would

negotiate with management.

Despite the promise, trouble erupted. Political rivalry between the newly elected SRC and the losing South African Student's Congress (Sasco) flared.

"Sasco would not accept the new SRC and formed its own steering committee, expecting me to negotiate separately with it," Dlamini says. "I told them we would negotiate only with the elected body."

With violence threatening the campus, the executive committee of the senate closed the university, forcing students to return home "till their heads had cooled".

Annoyed at the disruption in their children's studies, parents telephoned to complain. Most accepted the rector's reasoning. Lectures resumed without trouble when the young people returned.

"These disruptions are very painful for me," he says. "Sometimes I feel I need a course in firefighting. I seem constantly to be putting out fires ... I have told the students that they are disrupting their own futures - they must get on with their studies."

Unpaid student fees are another burning issue at Unizulu. As a former student at the university, no one knows better than Dlamini the financial difficulties experienced by students.

When he was younger his father became ill and his family survived on a meagre pension. During school holidays he worked for R3 a month, money

his mother let him keep to buy school books. He graduated against enormous odds largely because he is something of a workaholic. Staff say he often works in his office till midnight. He never lets up.

At one point unpaid student fees reached a high of R56-million. The figure is now down to R26-million, largely because the university insists that fees be paid up front.

"Students who complain that we refuse to register them are the ones who have failed," the rector says. "If they pass and cannot pay we will do everything possible to help find money for their studies."

The professor claims that the move away from apartheid at his university started in the Seventies. He dislikes the word "disadvantaged", saying that Unizulu may be historically black but it is not disadvantaged.

"For me transformation is about finance," he says. "In the old days the budgets of black universities were 'needs' based. Money not spent was ploughed back into the State Treasury. As a result we have been unable to build up reserve funds. We receive little from the private sector and we do not have a wealthy alumni base to help us become self-reliant."

The problem of transforming Unizulu financially has prompted the rector to approach virtually every big company and foreign embassy in South Africa for assistance. He visualises the day when he will have a R1-billion reserve to back up the university, a fund that will cover capital development and pay bursaries to deserving students.

"I dream of a time when this university does not have to go cap in hand looking for handouts, when there is enough money in the bank to reach into the community with all sorts of projects, when students fees are not a major problem."

"Unizulu is the university of the future - but I need a philanthropist to recognise this."

(54)
Jan 18/6/97

Public protector targets suspicious university degrees

Public Protector Selby Baqwa recommended yesterday that the University of Zululand withdraw improperly obtained degrees, courses and diplomas.

His investigation found serious flaws in communication between individual departments and the university's central administration, especially with regard to alterations to examination results.

Baqwa was asked by the Department of Education to make the investigation.

In a 65-page report released yesterday he said there was a need for consistency in exam marking and maintenance of records, and for a second scrutiny of all papers.

His investigation revealed that 21 degrees (including the law degree of Esikhawini magistrate T H Mnyandu), two secondary teachers' diplomas and one university education diploma were invalidly conferred.

He found 142 students had not passed 362 half-yearly courses but

were credited for them. He recommended all be disqualified.

The degree scandal was discovered at last May's graduation, when it was found some students had not completed all the courses.

A student affairs official in the university's administration, A M Ngubane, was found to have been paid by students to alter their records.

He was dismissed and fraud charges against him were pending, Baqwa said.

He criticised Ngubane's superior - head of the student affairs section, assistant registrar S Mzimela, for not supervising him correctly.

After an internal investigation by auditing firm Deloitte & Touche, Baqwa was called in to investigate.

His report concluded there was inadequate checking of records and cross-referencing between academic departments and the university administration, which, he recommended, needed to be beefed up. - Sapa.

Bill puts pressure on Afrikaans universities

Jacob Dlamini

(54)
80 19/6/97

CAPE TOWN — Afrikaans universities could be forced to offer tuition in English to accommodate more students in terms of a higher education bill approved by the cabinet yesterday.

Announcing the decision, Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu said the bill would allow tertiary institutions to develop their own language policies.

However, these policies would be subject to a framework which the government would create to ensure they were fair and equitable. The framework would be used to ensure that students received tuition in the language of their choice.

Government would not force universities and technikons to implement policies that were impractical, Bengu said.

It was government's responsibility to ensure institutions' language policies were guided by the constitution. He said: "We will not do anything that deviates from what the constitution states."

The bill provides for the establishment of private and foreign institutions, provided they are registered in terms of the legislation. It would introduce a new funding system where institutions would be required to provide strategic plans and report on their performance before they are funded.

Bengu said the bill would see the establishment of a Council for Higher Education to serve as a statutory advisory body.

The council would replace the Advisory Council on Universities. A permanent subcommittee, the higher education quality committee would be linked to the SA Qualifications Authority.

The bill would allow for the minister to order an independent assessment of conditions at tertiary institutions. Bengu said the cabinet had also approved his department's proposal for a white paper on higher education to be discussed next month.

The Freedom Front rejected the bill, saying it contradicted the promises made by President Nelson Mandela on the protection of Afrikaans. It said the new funding system would force "Afrikaans universities to change their demographic composition in order to survive financially". The party said the bill was an insensitive step which would lead to ethnic conflict.

Olympic bid company slams latest survey

Star 19/6/97

Cape Community Newspapers' tally
has been dismissed as inaccurate

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town - A huge "no" in the Cape Community Newspaper's Olympic vote has been dismissed by the bid company as an inherently inaccurate reflection of popular opinion.

It has also noted that 20 000 pro-bid forms collected by the Cape Town Community Olympic Forum, which it claims were handed in at the newspaper's offices, are not reflected.

The Forum is investigating their omission. The survey drew 32 200 responses, of which 24 689 (77%) were against, and 6 879 (21%) were in favour. It also produced some widely divergent results - 80% against in Athlone, but 79% in favour in Mitchell's Plain, for instance. A high "yes" vote - 64% - was also registered among readers of the Northern Echo, which circulates in Elsie's River, Maitland, Bishop Lavis, Kensington and Cravenby.

The survey was conducted using community newspapers distributed across parts of the Cape Flats, the southern suburbs, northern suburbs, False Bay and the Atlantic seaboard.

Readers were not restricted to submitting only the printed ballot, but were allowed to send photocopies, faxes and e-mail

responses. Observers pointed out that this exposed the survey to abuse by campaigners.

Cape Community Newspapers (CCN) has acknowledged that its poll has no scientific foundation. One of the survey's weaknesses is that it excludes virtually the entire black community of the Peninsula, but includes all the well-off white suburbs from which most of the opposition to the bid has come, based largely on fears of increased rates.

The CCN poll follows the pattern of other similar polls - one in the Peninsula Times - and an early Argus phone-in poll, which both registered large "no" votes.

In contrast, the bid company points out, three independent, scientifically-run polls between 1995 and late 1996 showed support ranging from 69% to 81%.

A final scientific survey will be conducted in August once the results of an overarching strategic environmental assessment of the bid have been published.

Business and tourism sources said they were puzzled at the point behind the CCN poll. "Why go to all this trouble when you're admitting that the information is essentially pointless?" asked one.

Degrees 'for sale' should be withdrawn

Star 19/6/97

STAFF REPORTER

(64)
Public Protector Advocate Selby Baqwa has recommended that courses, degrees and diplomas which had been improperly obtained in the University of Zululand "degrees for sale" scam be withdrawn.

In a lengthy report he said about 1 500 changes effected to the academic record of students were investigated by his office and four people had been charged with fraud.

Baqwa said: "I found that 142 students did not validly pass a total of 362 semester courses, although their academic record indicated that they had passed the said courses.

"Fifty-six students validly passed, or obtained credits in 90 courses, and changes effected to their academic record in respect of the latter courses were valid changes.

"Twenty-one degrees, two secondary teacher's diplomas and one University Education Diploma were invalidly conferred on or awarded to students who did not pass all the necessary courses to qualify for such degrees or diplomas; and two students died prior to the commencement of the investigation."

He said many of the students who collaborated in the fraud saw the attainment of a certificate by whatever means as a goal in itself.

Baqwa warned: "Let those who are inclined to commit this kind of fraud, note that there is now a zero tolerance for such activities. Such people shall be routed out wherever and whenever they are found."

Maties making no effort, says Bengu

ET 19/6/97 (64)

UNIVERSITIES should develop their own language policies, but the government would provide a framework to ensure these were just and practical, Education Minister Dr Sibusiso Bengu said yesterday.

This framework would interpret the Constitution and look at the "practical situation" at each university in a concrete way, he said at a media briefing.

Both he and his special adviser, Mr Thami Mseleku, pointedly referred to the University of Stellenbosch, saying the university offered no English-language undergraduate courses and was making no efforts to address students' language preferences.

Bengu's announcement follows a speech at the University of Stellenbosch last month, in which he said the university's language policy and identity had to be reviewed urgently.

He also said there was no moral or constitutional justification for preserving Stellenbosch for the sole or dominant use of one community.

He said he had always maintained that language policy should not be imposed on an institution.

However, in a situation where there was a need for transformation — and if an institution had admitted students who were being frustrated because language policy was not being reviewed — the department had a role to look at a fair, just, and equitable framework that could be used by the institution.

Bengu said he had been briefed on transformation at the University of the Free State, where Afrikaans was the dominant language, but certain courses were offered in English at all levels.

Mseleku said Stellenbosch was making no attempt to deal with students' constitutional right to be taught in their language of choice, where practicable.

The University of Stellenbosch senior director for marketing and communications, Mr Kobus Visagie, was in a meeting last night and could not be reached for comment.

— Sapa

Free State university to scrap 50 top jobs

(54) BD 25/6/97

BLOEMFONTEIN — Free State University is to scrap 50 posts at senior lecturer level by July next year and is to restructure faculties and departments as part of its revitalisation programme to be a top quality university.

This was announced by principal Stef Coetzee after the university's council approved recommendations from 10 task teams on Monday night.

Coetzee said 30 academic and 20 nonacademic posts were affected as part of the financial sustainability of the university. Hardest hit were the arts and education faculties. However, the economics and management sciences, law and natural sciences faculties were to be granted additional posts. The aim was to build key competencies, not merely to reduce staff.

The reduction in posts would be handled in accordance with the Labour Relations Act. Affected persons would not necessarily be lost to the university as they might be accommodated in other positions or even employed on a contract basis, he said.

Coetzee said financial sustainability and elimination of duplication would be controlled through the process. A programme-based approach would be followed with regard to the academic responsibility of the university. This would mean consolidated strategically important teaching and research programmes would have to be designed and compiled.

Scaling down nonstrategic diplomas and certificates would be investigated. — Sapa.

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(54) Bb 25/6/97

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Unisa principal steps down in shake-up

By ADAM COOKE

54

In two major changes at the University of South Africa, Unisa's principal, Professor Marinus Wiechers, has announced he will step down at the end of the year, and Unisa's council accepted proposals to radically alter the management structure of the country's largest university.

Wiechers said that in the context of the "changing of the guard" at Unisa, he felt it was time he retired.

"The university must be maintained in its role as an institution of national and international stature, and continue to be transformed," he said.

Wiechers, a renowned legal academic

whose term of office was due to expire at the end of next year, said that in line with the council's move to encourage senior colleagues to consider retiring on reaching 60, he would follow suit because he turns 60 in October.

The university, which has been in turmoil this year with student protests at its Pretoria and satellite campuses, has more recently also faced serious staff challenges.

In an unprecedented move last month, all administrative and academic staff organisations called for Wiechers' resignation amid claims of mismanagement.

In a statement yesterday the council said the changes had been announced to "address the univer-

city's financial situation, make the transformation process more effective, and enable the university to meet the tertiary education needs in the country".

The 30 members of the interim management board, which was established by the council yesterday and will operate until the end of the year, have been chosen to represent all stakeholders at the university.

It was further agreed by the council that consultants be appointed to carry out a strategic review of the university.

The report also called for the urgent return of Professor Antony Melck, who has been seconded to the government finance advice committee for two years.

26/6/97

University of Cape Town to cap five honorary doctors today

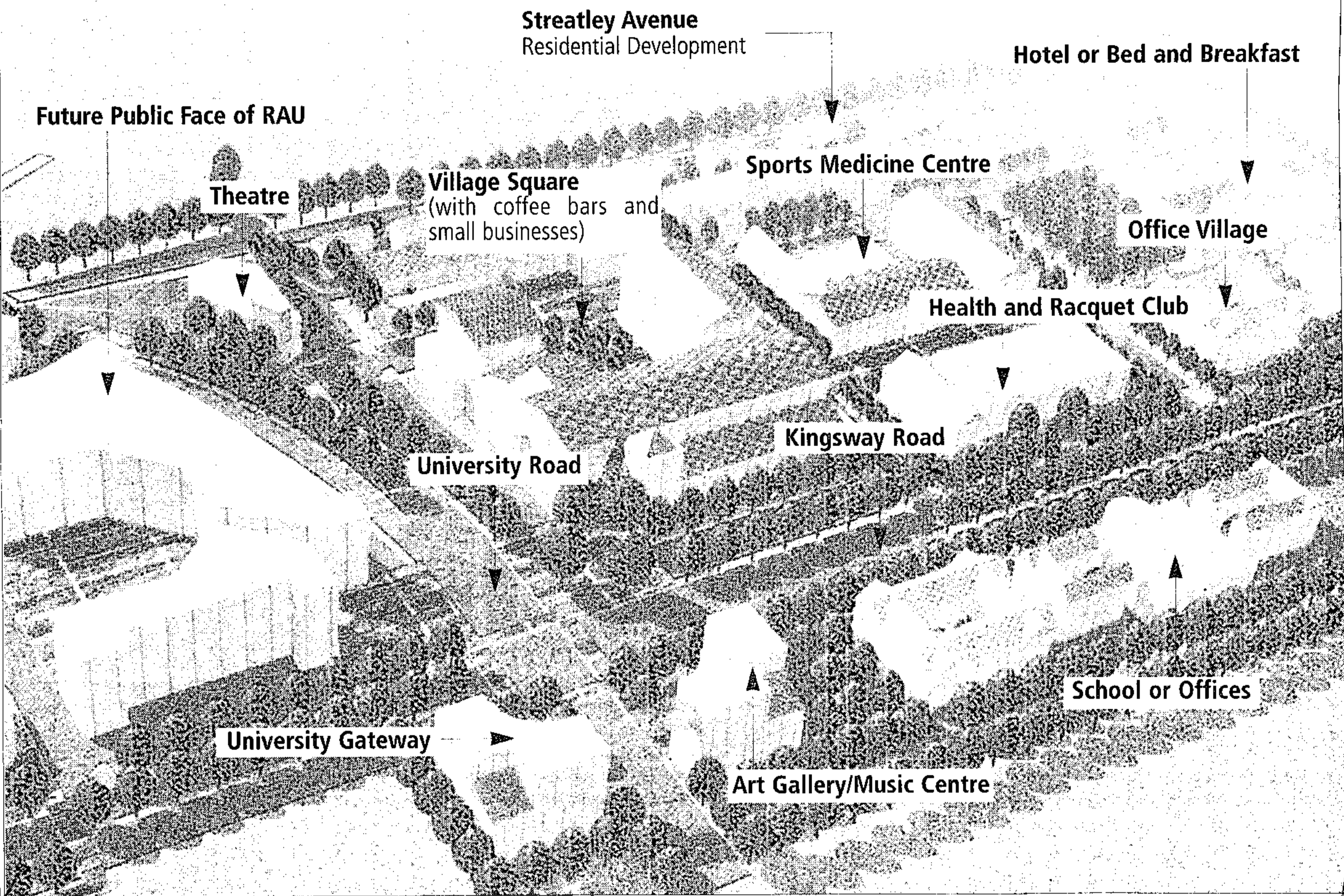
FIVE of the six "outstanding individuals" the University of Cape Town has chosen to give honorary degrees — among them parliamentary Speaker Dr Frene Ginwala, and Mr Cyril

Ramaphosa — will receive their degrees at a graduation ceremony today.

Other recipients include DP MP Mr Colin Eglin, Old Mutual chairman Mr Michael Levett and ambassador to

ET 27/6/97 (54)
the US Mr Franklin Sonn.
Sir Aaron Klug, a 1982 Nobel Prize winner who studied at UCT, will receive his Doctor of Medicine degree in December. — Staff Writer

R500-MILLION DEVELOPMENT AT RAND AFRIKAANS UNIVERSITY (RAU)



Exciting RAU development partly motivated by subsidy cuts

By ADAM COOKE

Rand Afrikaans University's planned R500-million development at its Auckland Park campus aims to provide the institution with long-term financial security in the face of declining state subsidies, the acting rector Professor Roux Botha said yesterday.

Speaking at the official launch of the project, he said that while the development

would break the barrier that existed between the university and its surrounding community, it was also part of a strategic plan that would ensure the long-term survival of the university. "Our main motive is to provide an environment that will benefit the university and the community," he said, adding that the entire tertiary education sector was under financial pressure.

It is expected that building on the development, which

includes a R200-million sports facility, residential accommodation and a business village, will begin early next year. Developer Ian Fife of the Newport Property Group said it should take between five and eight years to complete the project, which will be done in phases.

"We have been working on the idea that this should be a 'community-integrating neighbourhood'. It will be flexible and people-friendly, and helps

to create a sense of community," Fife said.

The first development will be the building of a sports site complete with Health and Racquet Club and other sports facilities. This will be followed by a sports-medicine centre and the development of residential units that will be semi-detached houses on single stands.

The R30-million "public face" for the university will bring many academic activities

- including legal advice, eye therapy, literacy, and scientific and social research projects - on to the streets and make them accessible to the community.

Other developments include a village centre made up of shops around a square; a privately owned art cinema; and a R50-million studio village that will allow people to work, play and live in one place, "much as people have lived in Paris and Rome for centuries".

Uneasy time for Unisa as new board takes over management of campus until new principal found

By ADAM COOKE

Unisa is set to face some tough decisions as its new interim management board (IMB) takes over and the search for a new principal begins, sources at the university said.

The principal, Professor

Marinus Wiechers, announced on Wednesday that he would be retiring at the end of the year, and the university council has approved the establishment of the IMB to guide the university through its transformation process until December 31, when it will be reconsidered.

The IMB was created after allegations of mismanagement. It comprises representatives from all the university's sectors - which, some fear, may make it unwieldy.

Chairman of the university's South African Parastatal and Tertiary Union, Annalize

Harzenberg, said that while there had been a problem with the management of the university, she was concerned the new structure could be divisive.

"Beside the fact that Professor Wiechers is retiring and we have a new board, we are in a financial crisis that is coupled

with a very deep suspicion between academic and administrative staff organisations."

But the national president of the Azanian Students' Congress, Console Tleane, said the move was calculated to divert attention from "Wiechers' fall from grace".

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Probe raps Matie council over 'cash-for-leave' scandal

PIETER MALAN
STAFF REPORTER

AAC 28/6/97
The council and management of the University of Stellenbosch have been rapped over the knuckles by a committee appointed to investigate the controversial "cash-for-leave" paid to the rector and other senior officials.

The commission, appointed from the council's own ranks in March this year, was also critical about the way one of the council's sub-committees, the "Remuneration Committee", operated.

The committee, under chairmanship of council member and Afrikaner business tycoon Christo Wiese, was appointed after it became known that several top Matie academics received cash payments for accumulated leave. This is not normally done under university rules.

Since the payouts first became known in the middle of last year, numerous efforts by the university administration to quash the rumours failed and critics demanded that the council come clean.

Members of the university's top management structure, including the

(54)
rector Andreas van Wyk, and vice-rectors Walter Claassen and Christo Viljoen received between R120 000 and R200 000 at the beginning of last year. The money was paid in lieu of long leave owed to them which they had not been able to take.

Despite earlier denials by university spokesman Douglas Davis, the men did not pay tax on these amounts and the university was fined by the Receiver of Revenue for this omission.

From the sections of the report released to Sunday Argus by the university it was clear that the Remuneration Committee held meetings without having a formal agenda or minutes and that it delegated its powers to individuals.

The committee also recommended that no people should be involved in taking a decision which affects them directly. This recommendation probably refers to the fact that Professor Van Wyk, one of the beneficiaries of the cash payouts, was a member of the Remuneration Committee.

In its reaction to the report, the council said it took note of the fact that there was no indication of dishonesty and confirmed its previous statement that the integrity of the management was above suspicion.

Varsity employees dismissed for degree and diploma fraud

BD 27/97

(54)

Kevin O'Grady

TWO University of Zululand staff members had been fired and a faculty dean was under investigation following Public Protector Selby Baqwa's recent damning report on the issuing of fraudulent qualifications at the institution, spokesman Carl de Villiers said yesterday.

At least two cases had also been referred to police for criminal investigation and another staff member had been demoted and transferred after being found guilty of irregularities, De Villiers said.

Baqwa's probe, which was instigated after allegations of irregularities came to light last year, found that 21 degrees and three diplomas had been issued fraudulently at the university. It also found that 142 students' marks had been altered.

De Villiers said former students holding fraudulent qualifications had been told by the university to return their certificates or face legal action. Altered marks had been corrected.

One of the employees dismissed was

Alson Ngubane, a faculty officer in the student affairs department who Baqwa and an internal disciplinary inquiry found had accepted between R500 and R1 000 from a number of students to change the records to reflect nonexistent degrees and credits.

Another student affairs employee, P Gumede, was dismissed for similar offences and both cases had been referred to the police, De Villiers said.

The dean, who De Villiers did not name, would face a disciplinary committee to answer allegations that he altered a student's marks to show she had passed when this was not the case.

De Villiers said the scam had a "devastating effect on the university's image and put all students who graduate from here under suspicion". The institution was relieved to find that the fraud was "not as widespread as was initially believed".

All the weaknesses in the university's records system identified by Baqwa had been rectified and the institution had "immediately tightened up and improved its systems" to prevent a repeat, De Villiers said.

Unisa spokesman gagged

Mt Gr 4-10/7/97

(54)

Ann Eveleth

JOE DIESCHHO, the most senior black administrator at the University of South Africa, has been gagged, demoted and deprived of his official car. He is the public relations director, but stands accused of publicly criticising the university.

These actions follow two press interviews earlier this year in which he echoed growing campus criticisms of the university's slow pace of change. He now faces a disciplinary hearing.

Diescho has been ordered not to speak to the media and has been axed from his second post as deputy director of the larger department of corporate communication and marketing.

Diescho is the most senior black appointment in an administration that is still more than 90% white and which oversees the largest student population in the country (about 130 000), more than 60% of which is now black. He is also a member of the Black Academic Forum, part of a campus alliance demanding an overhaul of the institution's conservative Afrikaner traditions. Although Diescho declined to comment, a

chronology of the crisis handed to the *Mail & Guardian* by student leaders this week suggests the battle between the black administrator and some of his white colleagues — including outgoing Principal Marinus Wiechers — has been raging for most of Diescho's short career there.

The chronology details battles with white managers, smear campaigns and even a death threat alleged to have dogged his tenure since Wiechers backed his appointment in late 1994.

The final straw, however, was Diescho's public criticism. Wiechers has since written a series of increasingly critical letters to him, culminating in a May 28 attempt to get him to sign his own gag order.

Acting staff registrar Professor Ricky Mauer denies that Diescho's troubles are linked to his press statements. But a March 27 letter from Wiechers to Diescho suggests otherwise: "You voice opinions about the 'riff' Afrikaans causes at Unisa, the African National Congress with its 'unfulfilled promises' and the 'stubbornness' of the university in dealing with transformation issues, thereby dragging Unisa into the political

arena, polarising staff and casting doubts and suspicion at the university's good faith." Diescho is also accused of failing to perform his duties.

A reading of Diescho's job description suggests he may have interpreted his responsibilities more loosely than many other staff.

But Students' Representative Council (SRC) vice-president Console Tleane says: "Diescho's victimisation must be seen in the context of this broader conflict over transformation. He is no [Professor William] Makgoba. He chose to push for the kind of transformation demanded by the alliance. That is why they want to get rid of him."

SRC president Khehla Nkonyana adds: "Transformation at Unisa has been held to ransom for too long and the principal features prominently in efforts to stall that process. The essence of a university has been eroded and Unisa is turning into a place where students, lecturers and even administrative staff who disagree with the status quo are targeted for purging."

"We have had staff strikes and student demonstrations, but still Wiechers wants to pretend we're one big, happy family." Wiechers could not be reached for comment.

Natal University rings the changes

(54)

CT 7/7/97

CONTINUING her series on the challenges facing South African universities, **WINNIE GRAHAM** argues that Martzburg's "sleepy hollow" was ripe for change.

THE University of Natal has always been a favourite with upcountry students. The "sleepy hollow" atmosphere of Martzburg has as much appeal for young people as it does for parents, whereas the campus at Durban, of course, has the attraction of being in the centre of South Africa's best loved playground.

Yet, though the young may view Natal's two campuses as "fun" places to obtain a degree, the dramatic changes taking place at the two venues provide ample proof that Natal is serious, indeed, in redefining its role to become more even relevant in SA.

The demand for transformation at Natal University, in fact, has more to do with new thinking than with the racial mix of its student population which — with a black enrolment of about 75% — already reflects the demographic structure of South African society more fully than other universities.

The one area where the university lags or, in the words of the vice-chancellor and principal, Professor Brenda Gourley, "are not going as fast as we should", is in the appointment of black academics. "Our Senate is largely white male and our professional staff mainly white but, as we acquire good black people, they are bought off us," she said.

The changes she talks of are infinitely more dramatic than the race composition of the university and, though far-reaching, are

not always immediately apparent. To the uninitiated, they do not even appear progressive.

The recent announcement that Natal was closing — or at least merging — a number of faculties as part of a major cost cutting exercise was seen as retrogressive and yet another indication of the limitations subsidy cuts were imposing on higher education. Yet, after just an hour with Professor Gourley (a chartered accountant by profession) and this major transformation begins to make sense.

The number of faculties at Natal may have gone from 14 to seven on the two campuses and the subject choice reduced, but strategic initiatives by the university are designed to bring new life to a system in need of a reviving. Gourley has outlined it thus: "Restructuring faculties is not just a South African phenomenon. It is part a world trend. Not only that, but Natal University has accepted the challenge that it needs to produce a new kind of graduate.

"Until recently this university concentrated on producing graduates who were destined mainly for the First World sector of our economy. We will continue to produce them, but we also need a new kind of graduate to address the demand for jobs in the small business and informal sectors."

She has pointed out that the University of Natal houses an impressive range of units

and projects (about 84), mostly funded by outside agencies that tackle "development" problems. The strategic challenge to the university is to integrate their activities.

"It is the university's responsibility to equip students so that they can harness technologies and exercise their intellects and capacity for creativity."

"We have declared ourselves to be in the service of the community and nowhere could the needs be more pressing," Gourley said. "The university will only be seen to be truly part of the community when it visibly contributes to the alleviation of their distress."

The "cutback" in the faculties, therefore, is part both of a reformation of the curricula and Natal's strategic initiatives. There is no doubt that in the past science and technology students were probably too narrowly focused.

Humanities students, on the other hand, need at least some scientific and technology literacy to understand the environment in which they will one day work. Curricula and research are being organised so that students can learn to make connections across the disciplines. This restructuring is important in the new order. The technological revolution has made unlimited information available which, in turn, is having an impact not only on what is taught but how it is taught. The emphasis must increasingly be on process and less on content.

Because it is no longer possible to teach students everything they need to know for any career, the university is intent on creating a "learning organisation" that will foster

research skills, problem-solving skills, good writing skills, enterprise skills and familiarity with information technology.

"It is the university's responsibility to equip students so that they can harness technologies and exercise their intellects and capacity for creativity in a way that was once undreamt of," Gourley said.

To ensure quality, the University of Natal has committed itself to a programme whereby all students will have certain basic competencies. By fostering independent critical inquiry, it plans to produce graduates who are well informed, articulate, thoughtful and responsible. In other words, it is intent on using its resources more efficiently in the awareness that state subsidies are unlikely to increase as rapidly as the university's needs.

Perhaps the most exciting initiative is probably the less publicised. Natal has deliberately added ethics as a core item to its curricula, a decision that aims to make students more perceptive in detecting ethical problems (when they arise) and equip them with the ability to reason about the ethical issues they will undoubtedly face in their personal and professional lives.

"There can be no more relevant item on the curricula of our students than the ethics," Gourley said. "I think many universities find themselves almost paralysed by the multiplicity of cultures and values and religions as we steadily become a more diverse people. As

Natal has deliberately added ethics as a core item to its curricula, a decision that aims to make students more perceptive in detecting ethical problems.

they struggle to be politically correct or, to avoid the risk of offending any group, they end up doing nothing at all. Anxious to be tolerant of differing ethical systems and creeds, we rather leave students to believe that all moral views are entitled to equal respect and no discussion goes beyond that."

Hand in hand with ethics, Natal University is promoting a concern for people and how they live. Already about 20% of the students do community service. The vice-chancellor would like to see this figure increase. At Harvard, in the United States, more than 60% of the undergraduates teach children in public housing projects, work with prison inmates, staff shelters for battered women or man law and medical clinics for the poor.

Gourley talks, too, of the "ethics of solidarity" and asks how many universities have tried to develop mediation skills, cross-cultural conflict resolution or even the use of computer applications to simulate disaster relief and famine emergency? She believes some of society's most serious problems are not on the research agendas of major universities — and they should be. "I believe that, whether universities relish the task or not, they are failing if they do not address themselves to these particularly complex moral and ethical issues."

□ Winnie Graham is associate editor at The Star, Johannesburg.

Natal varsity plans to be better by degrees

Star 9/7/97

The strong emphasis on ethics and community service is designed to enable all types of students to give something of value back to society after graduating

By WINNIE GRAHAM

The University of Natal has always been a favourite with upcountry students.

The "sleepy hollow" atmosphere of Pietermaritzburg has as much appeal for young people as it does for parents, while the campus at Durban has the attraction of being in the centre of South Africa's best loved playground.

The young may view Natal's campuses as "fun" places to obtain a degree, but big changes taking place at the university's two venues provide ample proof that Natal is serious in redefining its role to become more relevant in South Africa.

The demand for transformation at Natal University, in fact, has more to do with new thinking than with the racial mix of its student population which - with a black enrolment of some 75% - already reflects the demographic structure of South African society more fully than

other universities.

The one area where the university lags or, in the words of the vice-chancellor and principal, Professor Brenda Gourley, "is not going as fast as we should", is in the appointment of black academics.

"Our senate is largely white male and our professional staff mainly white, but as we acquire good black people they are bought off us," she says.

The changes she talks of are infinitely more dramatic than the race composition of the university, but though far-reaching, they are not always immediately apparent. To the uninformed, they do not even appear progressive.

The recent announcement that Natal was closing - or at least merging - a number of faculties as part of a major cost-cutting exercise was seen as retrogressive and yet another indication of the limitations subsidy cuts were imposing on higher education. Yet after just an hour with

Gourley (a chartered accountant by profession), this major transformation begins to make sense.

The number of faculties at Natal may have been contracted from 14 to seven on the two campuses, and the subject choice reduced, but strategic initiatives by the university are destined to bring new life to a system in need of a revamp.

Gourley outlines it thus: "Restructuring faculties is not just a South African phenomenon. It is part of a world trend. Not only that, but Natal University has accepted the challenge that it needs to produce a new kind of graduate.

"Until recently this university concentrated on producing graduates who were destined mainly for the first-world sector of our economy. We will continue to produce them, but we also need a new kind of graduate to address the demand for jobs in the small busi-

ness and informal sectors."

She points out that the University of Natal houses an impressive range of units and projects (some 84), mostly funded by outside agencies that tackle "development" problems. The strategic challenge to the university is to integrate their activities.

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some scientific and technology literacy to understand the environment in which they will one day work. Curricula and research are being organised so that students can learn to make connections across the disciplines.

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"I believe that whether universities relish the task or not, they are failing if they do not address themselves to these particularly complex moral and ethical issues," she says.

Ministry backs community service for all students

Mukoni T Ratshitanga

THE Ministry of Education is backing a proposal that hundreds of thousands of university, college and technician students be compelled to carry out community service.

The South African Students' Congress (Sasco), which first put forward the proposal, this week announced it will "vigorously push" the scheme, called "RDP Students' Brigades".

The ministry says it has discussed the plans with Sasco and favours them, though "concrete policies" are still some way off.

"We are not averse to community service, and there are processes to include the matter in policy," representative Lincoln Mali says. "It will take a bit of time."

The proposals, if implemented, will broaden community service to take in the whole tertiary education student body. At the moment, teachers are

required to undertake on-the-ground training as part of their course, while medical students face two years of vocational training under plans tabled by the health minister.

"Higher education is expensive and elitist," says Blessing Manale, Sasco's general secretary. "Our position is that it must be free and commit students to social responsibility. Community service is one of the ways to do so."

Sasco wants students to devote six months during their undergraduate

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years to doing community work related to their studies.

It believes the scheme should be funded by the government and organised by stakeholders in tertiary institutions. Sasco already has several such projects under way.

The African National Congress Youth League supports the idea, last weekend calling on all students to support community service.

The National Youth Commission also backs it. Deputy chair Nomfundo

Mbuli says the commission is considering a two-pronged approach to community service, which will cover students as well as youths in general.

The National Party Youth says the proposals will merely lead to more students emigrating.

The South African Liberal Students' Association, which rivals Sasco for support among students, is cautious. Hennie van Vuuren, elected president of the association this week, says it "rejects outright the notion of academic conscription. Why not build a community service component into degrees and make it part of degrees?"

UniZul officials ⁽⁵⁴⁾ in R640 000 scam ^{source 11/7/97}

A FRAUDULENT scheme involving at least R640 000 has been uncovered at the University of Zululand in northern KwaZulu-Natal, university spokesman Mr Carl de Villiers said yesterday.

Initial investigations indicated two officials in the committee department and three others in the student affairs department had allegedly falsely credited students' accounts in return for payment.

The officials had since been suspended, De Villiers said.

The fraud apparently involved at least 115 students.

The fraud was detected during a computer audit and independent auditors had since been appointed to investigate the matter and a report was expected by next week.

"Following this, the suspended officials will be formally charged by the university's disciplinary commit-

tee and all student accounts identified will be adjusted," De Villiers said in a statement.

He added that the university would decide what action, if any, to take against the students allegedly involved, pending the outcome of the committee's findings.

If they were found guilty of fraudulent activities, the matter could be handed over to the police.

Stamping out corruption

Rector Professor Charles Dlamini said the university was committed to stamping out any form of corruption. "The recent degree scam severely tarnished the university's reputation.

"The university acted swiftly to repair the damage and will continue to search for and remove people guilty of criminal behaviour which brings the institution into disrepute,"

Dlamini said. - Sapa

New shock at Unizulu

By CHRIS HLONGWA

(54)

REP 13/17 97

THE BELEAGUERED University of Zululand, which has just emerged from a bruising fake-degree scam, is facing another scandal — five officials have been caught fiddling with the financial records of students after being paid bribes.

When students return after the winter recess, they will find that the five have been suspended, for recording that 120 students who still owe money to the institution have paid up their fees.

Some of the 120 students have owed money to the university for years. In all, students owe the university R26-million.

To date, it has been found that more than R500 000 in fees has been falsely recorded as paid. It is estimated that the scam could run into millions.

Spokesman Carl de Villiers said the administration had corrected all the fraudulent records it had come across so far.

It is understood that the scam was uncovered when an official who should not have had access to the records was caught in a

routine check. The check was put into place when controls were tightened after the degrees scam.

The trail led to the other officials, all of whom were in the student affairs section — the body from where the fraudulent degrees were handed out.

De Villiers said the size of the swindle was bound to amount to more than R500 000 when the internal investigation was completed.

The five officials are said to have opened bank accounts into which students paid for the "alterations" to their records.

City Press has learned that the scheme had been going since last year. The implicated officials would pocket half the required fee from a student and the balance would be handed to student.

The university has brought in auditors to help with the probe.

"It's crazy," said De Villiers. "Just after the fake degrees hit us, now this."

But he emphasised that the university was working hard to get to the bottom of the fraud. He expected the inquiry to take a week

to be completed.

Some senior staff face disciplinary hearings after public protector Selby Baqwa's investigation of the fraudulent degrees scam. These include the vice-dean of the faculty of education, Professor Jabulani Maphalala, and the acting head of the African languages department, Nonhlanhla Mkhuli.

Annette Erskine of the information technology division was found by Baqwa to have been grossly negligent in not adhering to agreed procedures.

Some junior officials have already been demoted, moved to other departments, or fired.

Rector Charles Dlamini wanted to complete the implementation of Baqwa's recommendations within two months said De Villiers.

In a statement on the latest controversy, Dlamini said: "The recent degree scam tarnished the institution's reputation. The university acted swiftly to repair the damage and will continue to search for and remove people guilty of criminal behaviour which brings the university into disrepute."

Man of integrity ... a son of Pretoria, Professor Marinus Wiechers has given a lifetime of dedicated service to the mega-university and to South Africa.

Always the gentleman as Unisa's principal ^{Nov 14/7/97}

By Adam Cooke

Whatever people may say about Unisa principal and vice-chancellor Professor Marinus Wiechers they all acknowledge that he is a gentleman.

He opens the door to his expansive office on the top floor of the administration building at one of the world's mega-universities in Pretoria.

"Hello, hello. Hmm. I didn't keep you waiting," and he smiles generously, pipe in hand.

He leads the way to the polished boardroom table.

"Would you like some tea?" he asks. "It's just hoibos."

In a few small gestures he has welcomed me in. The world he inhabits. And this is quite a world. He recently announced that he would be retiring after 37 years at the university and he has faced criticism and slanderous accusations from all sides - ostracised by

the Afrikaans Right and scorned by the Left.

Outside of the criticisms of his management style, where he is accused of not consulting widely enough, and of "poor" financial decisions taken under his administration - which is said to have perpetuated the severe financial problems - he is a man of great integrity.

Wiechers was born in Pretoria nearly 60 years ago and bred from a "very conservative religious and verligte political background". His father was a history teacher and his mother, as he says, "in a much more noble profession, a housewife".

Even his arch enemy at the university, Dr Joe Djescho, the university's director of public relations, who claims to have been gagged by Wiechers, has a good word to say about him.

"He is a real human being. Maybe too much so. If a destitute old woman stopped him at the side of the road and asked

him to help her rob a bank, he would probably do so," said Djescho.

At heart Wiechers is an academic, a legal man. His work outside of the university is patchy in terms of its political correctness. The first time he stood up in court was at the World Court in 1970-71 as part of the South African team motivating for the mandate of the then South West Africa.

Some 25 years later he was a member of the technical committee, constitutional affairs, which was responsible for drafting the interim constitution.

But his involvement in the writing of the constitutions of some of South Africa's "homelands" - such as Boputhatswana and the Ciskei - has also raised questions about whether he can really be committed to transformation.

It has been widely accepted that these were constitutions

that were very liberal in essence.

He also played a central role in drafting the Namibian constitution in 1990 and bemoans the fact that President Sam Nujoma wishes to change that document to allow himself to rule for another term of office.

It is this attitude that has landed him in trouble, many on the campus believe. Sources say the administrative and academic staff had, over the years, become used to being told what to do. Wiechers' management style is more open than his predecessors, and this has led to a loss of confidence in him as a manager and consequently he has forfeited his power base.

Wiechers is adamant that he is not being removed from his position.

"No, no. I have not been pushed out. I am a person who lays the foundation - the constitution and democratic culture - and then gets out to let

other more competent people get on with the job."

He has achieved a remarkable amount since 1994 at an institution that was regarded as one of the breeding grounds of Afrikaner patronage. He gave official recognition to the Women's Forum, the Black Staff Forum, to the administrative staff organisations and encouraged trade unionism.

Any regrets? "I just wish I could have finished the registration of all the students to vote for truly democratic student representation."

And of the future of the university? "I am worried that the university is still cast in an old mould. I think I have started to democratise it, but like all institutions that came from apartheid there are those who want to cling to their power. But black aspirations can also be as shortsighted, ambitious and parochial as any apartheid official."

(54)

Fort Hare, Nehawu talks called off

TALKS between Fort Hare University management and the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) on the retrenchment of 1 000 university employees have been called off. **BD 14/7/97 (54)**

The two parties have been locked in meetings since last Monday and no agreement has been reached. Nehawu has now referred the matter to the university's executive committee council.

The university management wants to retrench the workers, citing government cuts on its subsidies as the reason. Nehawu says some agreement has to be worked out to save two-thirds of the university staff from being laid off.

REPORTS: Business Day Reporter, Sapa, AEN.

Salary strike forces Natal technikon to close down

Farouk Chothia

DURBAN — Technikon Natal was closed yesterday after being hit by its worst strike to date, with academics joining ordinary workers in demanding salary increases.

Technikon principal Bennie Khoapa said the strike had come at a time of the mid-year registration of students, and some students were due to write examinations.

Defending the strike, National Union of Technikon Employees of SA (Nutesa) chairman Tom McKune said that for "trade unions to be effective, they had to be very disruptive".

However, staff were kept to resume work. Nutesa and the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) wanted a meeting with the technikon council in an attempt to reach agreement on increases, McKune said.

Khoapa had agreed to relay the request to the council, and the union hoped for a meeting either today or tomorrow, he said.

He said management had unilaterally implemented an 8% increase for all staff, while the unions were demanding 12%.

This was the first time Nutesa, representing academics, and Nehawu had embarked on such joint action. The strike was legal, McKune said.

(54) (14/12) BD 16/7/97

Campus blocked as UWC service staff strike over pay

ARG 16/7/97

(54)

JERMAINE CRAIG
STAFF REPORTER

Non-academic workers at the University of the Western Cape embarked on a major strike today to back pay demands.

Toy-toting workers blocked the main entrance to the campus with a tractor and prevented students and non-striking staff from entering or leaving the campus.

But the strikers cleared the entrance and moved to the administration block after the university management gave them an hour to disperse.

Academic staff were earlier parked hundreds of metres away from the campus as they were prevented from entering for lectures.

The strike, by all non-academic staff, was organised by the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu). Strikers included workers responsible for administration and services on the campus.

Nehawu has been in ongoing wage negotiations with the university management, but a dispute was declared recently after no agreement could be reached.

UWC's Registrar of Finance, André de Wet, said that management had offered a 7,5 percent increase, but Nehawu was insisting on 12,5 percent.

Mr De Wet said the cash-strapped university could simply not afford to pay workers more than the original offer, but



BRENTON GEACH

Pay protest: striking workers at the University of the Western Cape block the campus entrance

was trying to resolve the matter.

"At the moment, it is the maximum we can afford into next year.

"We expect our subsidy to drop due to decreasing student numbers. Management will be giving them a letter telling them the strike is illegal and they must disperse to

let the negotiation process take its normal course.

"The university is in a process of transformation and it is unacceptable that they do not follow due process," Mr De Wet said.

Education reports, page 5

University bosses 25%, staff 0

CT (BR) 17/4/97

(54)

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JONATHAN ROSENTHAL

Johannesburg — Senior administrators at the University of Durban-Westville asked for salary increases of up to 25 percent just weeks before university staff would decide whether to strike over a pay increase offer of between 0 and 1,8 percent, university documents reveal.

A document in Business Report's possession, understood to be written by the university's administrative registrar, recommended in late June that the salaries of university executives be substantially increased as from July 1.

The letter, addressed to the chairperson of council and marked "strictly private and con-

fidential", recommended that the basic pensionable salaries of staff at level one — that of the vice chancellor — be increased by 11 percent to R332 205 a year and that those of staff at level two — vice principals and the administrative registrar — be increased by 24 percent to R256 583 a year. It also recommended increasing the total monthly vehicle allowances for senior staff.

University sources indicated that the recommendations were accepted earlier this month by the executive committee of the university's council.

Marcus Balintulo, the chief executive of the university, said he did not think the document was "put before council, as

salaries of top executives were determined by a remuneration committee.

He said salaries of "the top echelons are falling behind. We are below the average of historically black institutions, which are themselves below those of historically advantaged institutions."

Fae Fynn, the university's human resources director, said she had no knowledge of the letter but it was university policy to pay on scales in line with other tertiary education institutions.

The Combined Staff Association, a union representing 1 300 of the university's 1 750 staff, said it would vote on Friday whether to strike.

SA sciences face the chop

Theoretical research withers in SA as government makes science politically correct

Research in key areas of theoretical science in SA is starving to death as government, funding agencies and universities shift their focus to applied research to help meet the country's immediate socio-economic needs.

Pure, fundamental research or experimentation might not seem to have any immediate practical purpose, but in failing to direct sufficient resources to that sector SA is eroding its science base, says Foundation for Research and Development (FRD) spokesman Eugene Lottering.

It also poses the danger that more top scientists, engineers and technologists will emigrate — a phenomenon that has already damaged SA's standing in the international science arena.

While the FRD (a statutory channel for government funding) supports both types of research, it has made only R18,6m available for fundamental research compared with R38,6m for applied research this year. Once contributions from the private sector and university budgets are included, applied research gets R66,9m — three-quarters of the cake — to support about 500 scientists while fundamental research gets only R22,6m to support about 321 scientists, 39% of the scientific community.

"A significant minority of scientists at Wits University are unhappy about the FRD's attempts to direct them towards applied research," says University of the Witwatersrand research spokesman Ian Burns.

He quotes a former deputy vice-chancellor for research who was fond of saying "if we had spent all our time improving the paraffin lamp we would never have discovered the light bulb."

Burns says Wits' policy has always been that there is good research or bad research, not relevant or irrelevant research. Rhodes University vice-chancellor David Woods (an A-rated scientist) says what's important is "good, innovative, long-term research that is at the cutting edge of a discipline — not whether it is applied or fundamental research — because this produces the independent and capable thinkers SA needs."

He cautions against "killing off" disci-

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(54)

rective action" — women, students or blacks must be involved in the research team.

The shift in favour of applied research has been given added impetus by the fact that the new government is widely engaged in policy formulation. With many departments lacking the necessary research skills, universities are beginning to play a more supportive role.

University of Cape Town deputy vice-chancellor Prof John Martin says the shift does not signal a reduction in the importance, level or impact of fundamental research.

He concedes, though, that while the pool of researchers at UCT has grown because of the sharp increase in contractual work (nearly always applied research), areas which rely solely on agency funding — such as theoretical physics and astronomy — are starving for lack of funds.

"This is critical," says Martin. "Excellence in fundamental research is the platform on which the excellence in immediately productive research is built."

He says total research funding and research output at UCT has actually increased and its international standing is not threatened.

This may be so, but UCT's preliminary 1996 research figures reveal an alarming trend: the total number of journal articles published has fallen 11%, from 1 280 in 1995 to 1 140 in 1996, having remained fairly constant the previous two years.

In contrast the number of university publications (including policy documents, creative work and consultancy and developmental activities) has risen steadily from 659 to 785 between 1993 and 1996.

A US Institute for Scientific Information survey published in 1995 revealed a con-



UCT's Ramphela... scientists value research capacity over world-class salaries

siderable decrease in the number of citations of UCT's and Wits' work in the world's top science journals. Between 1988 and 1993 the number of UCT articles cited fell from 837 to 527 while Wits citations nearly halved from 840 to 452.

An FRD survey published last year found that all SA's tertiary institutions lack sufficient research funds, incentives and laboratory facilities.

Despite the FRD's request for R198m from the government science vote for 1997-1998, only R103m was granted. This is a 1,5% increase over the previous year and "is in no way sufficient to adequately support research and development in science, engineering and technology at universities and technikons," FRD president Khotsiso Mkheliso said at the time.

Natal University deputy vice-chancellor Prof Eleanor Preston-Whyte feels that the shift in research focus is "necessary" given the needs of society. But she predicts that if the trend continues, within five years universities will have to begin protecting fundamental research by raising their own funds.

This could pose a heavy financial burden

on universities that elsewhere in the world is borne by governments, given the enormously expensive equipment needed for research at the forefront of science.

Wits professor of theoretical chemistry Jan Boeyens is disenchanted with the FRD for failing to contribute towards SA's only diffractometer — it cuts the time needed to determine the molecular structure of crystals from weeks to hours.

When the FRD turned down a sponsorship request for the diffractometer because Wits couldn't guarantee that it would have any practical application, the university imported the R1,5m machine from Germany at its own expense. In the six months since then, however, Sasol, De Beers and the Atomic Energy Corporation have all jumped at the chance to use it — and pay for the opportunity.

Given all the constraints, universities are battling to retain top academics tempted by attractive overseas research posts.

Ten of the 50 Presidential Award winners in science, engineering and technology have emigrated since 1984. That is 20% of SA's future A-rated scientists under the age of 35. Between 1987 and 1996 SA lost seven A-rated scientists — people judged by international peer review to be leaders in their fields.

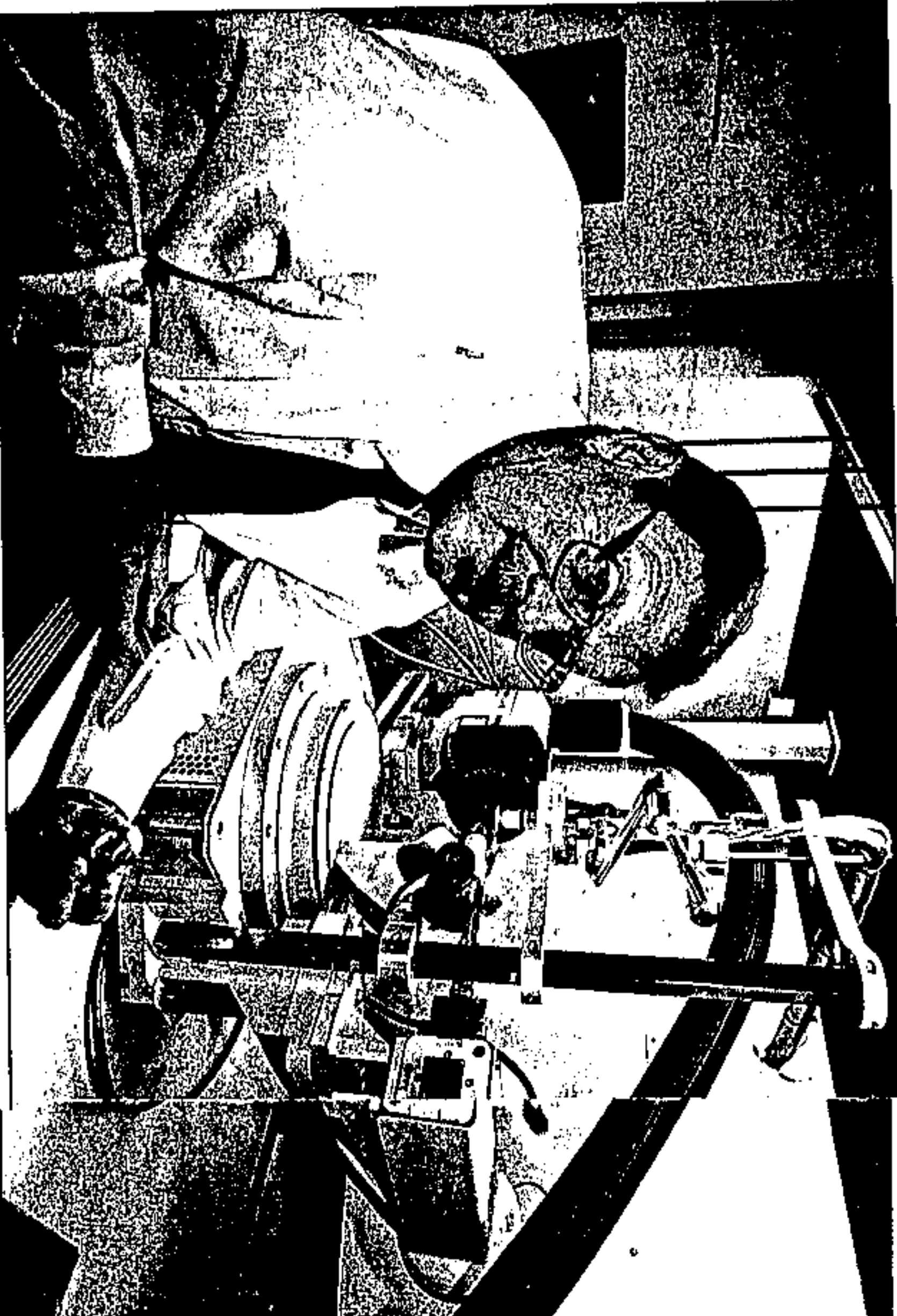
UCT has 19 of SA's 46 A-rated scientists. Hanging on to them is a top priority for UCT vice-chancellor Mamphele Ramphela.

She says UCT cannot pay internationally competitive salaries so has concentrated on satisfying researchers' logistical requirements as far as possible.

"Essentially, what keeps researchers interested is not money, it is the ability to do their desired research and to interface with their peers," she says.

Government's failure to provide them with adequate resources to do cutting-edge theoretical research is a sure way of denuding SA of vital skills in science, technology and engineering.

Clara Bissette



Wits' Prof Jan Boeyens... with the R1,5m machine government refused to buy

plines that don't lend themselves towards applied research, such as astronomy or English literature.

Lottering — who manages FRD funding for fundamental research — argues that since applied research can attract private funding relatively easily, the FRD should be directing more funds towards theoretical science.

"The engine room of science and innovation comes from pursuing the unknown. The economic benefits may be come apparent only further down the line. The problem is that politicians and legislators sometimes can't relate this research to immediate societal benefits and hence feel it is of no benefit. That is highly erroneous."

FRD board chairman Ahmed Bawa thinks it is possible to have the best of both

worlds. "We need to ensure that research projects are conducted in such a way that they do have a social impact but also contribute to a new generation of knowledge. The SA system is beginning to move in that direction."

Until January 1996, the FRD made no distinction between fundamental and applied research.

Its new policy is in line with the White Paper on Science and Technology and the Green Paper on Higher Education, which emphasise the importance of research in improving SA's living standards and economic competitiveness.

Research proposals must satisfy two new criteria to qualify for FRD funding. Previously, excellence was the only criterion; now, proposals must demonstrate links with industry and incorporate "cor-

TOOLING DOWN

Research equipment purchases by tertiary institutions



SOURCE: FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

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Strike brings technikon to a halt

CP 2017/197 (54)

Commen are on the prawl with fake Kwazulu-Natal cheques

BY HANGWANI MULLAUZI

to accommodate some of the students but it is going to be difficult," he said.

STUDENTS at the Natal technikon in Durban are going through some tough times.

Left without food and accommodation, following a strike by campus workers, a new crisis sees a strike by academics themselves — who have joined the workers in demanding salary increases.

SRC president Simpfiwe Gwamanda says the situation is chaotic... "as students, especially from outside the province, are now seeking refuge in town". "The SRC is trying to devise a plan

Gwamanda said although the SRC has pledged support for the striking workers, "we as the SRC have a moral obligation to students".

□ Meanwhile, exams and registration have been postponed and lectures cancelled until further notice.

The strike, which has been called by the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) and the white-dominated National Union of Technikon Employees of South Africa (Nutesa), came about as a result of a deadlock in wage negotiations.

The two unions have been involved in protracted salary negotiations since the end of 1996, and claim that no sincere attempt has been made by management to find a settlement with either union.

Nutesa chairman Tom McKune told City Press: "The unions were given the undertaking during the negotiations in 1996 that they would be involved in the formalisation of the technikon budget but management did not honour this commitment."

"We were left without any choice because management unilaterally implemented an 8 percent increase for all staff, while we the unions are demanding 12 percent," said McKune.

BY HANGWANI MULLAUZI

AN UNKNOWN Kwazulu Natal businessman has fallen prey to the bogus cheques in the name of the provincial government that are circulating in the province.

Local and Housing department assistant director-general Ria Strachan said the businessman was conned out of R3 400.

"The police have been alerted about the cheques and we have the utmost confidence that they will do their job."

Strachan said the source of the cheques was unknown. They had not

been issued by the provincial administration and the administration would not assume any responsibility if any bank or businesses negotiated such cheques.

"Such cheques will not be honoured but will be returned to the depositor when presented to the province's banker," warned Strachan.

□ The counterfeit cheques differ from official cheques in that the printing on the cheques does not match the computerised laser print of the Kwazulu-Natal administration, said Strachan.

The difference could only be detected by a trained eye.

Searching for the end of the SA rainbow

Star 21/9/97

(54)

By WIMBIE GRAHAM

The University of the Orange Free State (UOFS) has none of the architectural grandeur - or even scenic splendour -

The University of the Orange Free State is working through an array of transitional problems with remarkable honesty to become a university that is truly representative of the new South Africa. New rector Prof Stef Coetzee discusses the process

process has been completed

will it be free to carry the new name of the province. The refusal has not ruffled the new rector, Professor Stef Coetzee, who was inaugurated just two months ago.

"We still have a way to go," he admitted in an interview. "Not all our students feel at home yet and until such time that they do we will not be perceived to have transformed totally."

though "transformation" appears to have taken place effortlessly, the university has had its share of tension and heartache. It has not tried to conceal the occasional flare-ups but is dealing openly with them in a bid to find solutions.

"The changes were introduced almost overnight," the rector points out. "Our young people were not prepared for the radical transformation now taking place.

"Our black students are mainly from disadvantaged communities, while many of the whites are from rural areas. There was bound to be some conflict. However, both have one thing in common: they want the best possible education, and conflict leads to creativity."

Coupled with inhouse headaches, confused parents, worried about the rapid change, have threatened to remove their children - a problem the university has handled with tact and understanding. It was the previous rector, Professor Relief, who first realised the need to open the university to people of colour: With an 80% black population whose people speak a variety of languages, it was apparent to the Free State that it would have to share its resources. English would have to be the common denominator. Sections of the local Afrikaans constituency, who had always perceived the university as their own, were appalled at the willingness with which their much-loved institution relinquished its Afrikaner status. But the more pragmatic Professor Coetzee believes the university can hope to survive only through bilingualism.

Through a policy of free association and disassociation, some residences have become completely black. Unfortunately, people erroneously view this as apartheid regenerated.



Building foundations ... Orange Free State University's new rector, Professor Stef Coetzee.

Problems have, inevitably, arisen. At one residence the white women students moved out. The problem was relatively simple: they objected because the black students "spoke too loudly".

At a men's residence where first-year students traditionally do telephone duty, black students do not call white students, or white students their black colleagues. Why? Because someone made the mistake of mimicking mispronounced names. It is on such a flimsy

stage". Language is an issue, but not a major one - though some black students assert that certain white students "always speak Afrikaans" when they are around.

Yet despite the difficulties, Professor Coetzee finds that the mindset of people is changing.

"We are not an Afrikaans university anymore," he stresses. "Students are going through a new experience and, at times, they are confused, but I have been struck by the leadership of both black and white students are

base that misunderstandings start and grow. There is no easy path to transformation. But suspicion has not been allowed to fester. To overcome problems in the residences, the authorities have called a students' summit in August to discuss ways and means of eliminating misunderstandings and fostering unity. Students have already had preliminary meetings and have indicated that, perhaps, sport programmes would be a good starting point, "but not contact sport at this

displaying." One of the first problems they tackled was that of fee-paying. In February this year some 1 400 students were in arrears. They were given until June 30 to settle their debts. The university did what it could to help talented students from disadvantaged backgrounds - but it could go only so far. And disadvantaged students are not always black. There are an increasing number of white students - the "new poor" - struggling to cope

nity. Revitalisation is being planned in tandem with transformation.

Part of the process involves the identification of core competencies and certain faculties will be melded together. The "ivory tower" approach of yesterday is disappearing and an era of "borderless learning" is emerging.

"In future more emphasis will be placed on distance learning," Professor Coetzee said. "Costs have risen so substantially that it is inevitable that resourced-based learning which involves less direct teaching - and more tutoring - will take over. All these changes are bound to unleash forces that will create instability, but they have nothing to do with racism."

He has a special affinity for young people, many of whom, he says, encounter motivational problems because they enrol for courses the nuances of which are not always appreciated.

"Only a small percentage of students actually knows what they want when they start university."

In his view, young people deserve much more support and guidance.

Wither the university in the new South Africa? As an economist, Professor Coetzee, looks to the success of the Asian Tigers and predicts that the country can achieve the same success - if everyone pulls together as a nation.

With a sense of the poetic he adds: "This country will work when we finally come together at the end of the rainbow."

Govt may ⁽⁵⁴⁾ intervene in Unisa crisis

Star 22/7/97

Lack of transformation at issue

OWN CORRESPONDENT

The Government is considering the possibility of intervening in the transformation and management crisis at Unisa – and could set up talks with the university council.

Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu is reviewing the situation, following accusations of a lack of transformation at the institution, as well as financial difficulties and low morale among staff.

His decision as to whether the state should get involved is expected within the next two days.

The SA Human Rights Commission could also step in to probe the human rights record of Unisa management.

Commission chairman Dr Barney Pityana confirmed yesterday he had attended a meeting at Unisa to discuss complaints and would be studying formal complaints regarding alleged discrimination at the institution.

“I was informed that formal complaints would be submitted to us and these will be looked at to see how we can be involved,” he said after yesterday’s meeting.

Dr Pityana said the complaints were not limited to public relations director Dr Joe Diescho’s dismissal but that

this exemplified the problem.

Earlier this year the university council approved the appointment of an interim management board to take over some of the administrative functions of the university’s principal until the end of the year, when the situation would be reviewed.

Meanwhile, Unisa principal Professor Marinus Wiechers announced that he would retire at the end of 1997.

His retirement is in line with a pro-affirmative action policy where senior white staff members have been asked to retire at the age of 60 (as opposed to 65) to make way for new faces.

Tension at Unisa has been exacerbated by a disciplinary hearing in May when five students accused of violent and aggressive behaviour were suspended from campus for the rest of the year.

More recently, the firing last week of Dr Diescho, has added to the controversy.

But Education Department director-general of higher education Professor Itumeleng Mosala said although the Government might intervene, it would be reluctant to intervene in Dr Diescho’s specific case.

“We may intervene on the overall Unisa problem,” Mosala said. “We’re certainly looking at the matter.”

Sacked Unisa (54) staffer to appeal

Sowetan 22/7/97

By Josias Charle

A TOP black University of South Africa administrator, who was dismissed for "incapacity", is to appeal against his dismissal.

Dr Joe Diescho, former director of the university's public relations department, was summarily dismissed by Unisa principal Professor Marinus Wiechers last Thursday. The next day, when he went to clear his office, he found that the locks had been changed.

Diescho holds seven degrees, including three master's degrees and two doctorates, from local and overseas universities.

Speaking to *Sowetan* yesterday, he said: "I am disappointed - not for me but for what this represents." He said he was fired for differing with Wiechers and not for "incapacity" as the letter of dismissal states.

Diescho is an advocate of transformation at Unisa and had previously been criticised by management for allegedly

being on the side of the students. He had also been criticised for publicly speaking against racism at the university.

"A university should be the custodian of free thought. In South Africa this is also protected by the Constitution," Diescho said.

He also said he had never received any written warning from Wiechers, nor has a formal hearing ever been held into his alleged incapacity. "If it was a white person being accused of a similar thing, none of this would have happened."

Diescho's dismissal has caused a major row between management and various groups on campus.

The Unisa Black Alliance said Wiechers' action was motivated by racism rather than justice. "Unisa is a mini-apartheid state governed by a clique of white racists whose refusal to transform it has plunged it into its worst financial crisis," Professor David Mosoma of the alliance said.

The alliance called for Diescho to be reinstated and for Wiechers to resign.

UOFS aims for the end of its rainbow

(54) ET 23/7/97

THE UNIVERSITY of the Orange Free State is working through an array of transitional problems with remarkable honesty, to become a university that is truly representative of the new South Africa. In her ongoing series about the transformation process at SA universities, **WINNIE GRAHAM** discusses the process with the university's new rector, Professor Stef Coetzee.

THE University of the Orange Free State has none of the architectural grandeur — or even scenic splendour — associated with some of the country's top universities. There are no mountains or coastal resorts nearby, or even impressive buildings and great halls on the rather unprepossessing site in Bloemfontein. Just a selection of two-storey buildings that are the administrative block, the lecture halls and the hostels.

The lack, however, is hardly noticeable for the campus has a homeliness not often associated with universities. The water-colour loveliness of the surrounding countryside, with its mauve-washed winter skies and cream-coloured veld, coupled with the natural hospitality and friendliness of the Free State people, more than compensates for any lack of pretension.

Yet against this gentle background, a remarkable revolution is playing out. Here, more than anywhere in South Africa, the youthful population is caught up in the transitional process, where white and black alike are learning to live side by side — with all the

angst and pain that sometimes entails.

Consider this: in 1990 the university was largely white. Today, 42% of the students are "black", and the figure is growing annually.

The UOFS — for long totally Afrikaans — is now fully bilingual with lectures and notes duplicated in English. The university has made an enormous leap in transforming its particular society. In fact, it rightly believes it is a leader in the field.

Yet, despite this, the university was refused permission to change its name to "the University of the Free State". Only when the transformation process is complete will it be free to carry the province's new name.

The refusal, however, has not ruffled the new rector, Professor Stef Coetzee, who was inaugurated just two months ago.

"We still have a way to go," he admitted. "Not all our students feel at home yet and, until such time as they do, we will not be perceived to have transformed totally."

Behind the remark lies much of the anguish of transition, so dramatically reflected in the changes in the student body.

Though "transformation" appears to have taken place effortlessly, the university has had its share of tension and heartache. It has not tried to conceal flare-ups, but is dealing openly with them in a bid to find solutions.

Again, the rector reacts with understanding. "The changes were introduced almost overnight," he points out.

"Our young people were not prepared for the radical transformation now taking place. Our black students are mainly from disadvantaged communities while many of the whites are from rural areas. There was bound to be some conflict.

"However, both have one thing in com-

mon: they want the best possible education."

Coupled with the inhouse headaches, another has come from outside. Confused parents, worried about the rapid change, have threatened to remove their children — a problem the university has handled with tact and understanding.

It has had to be explained that the old order has gone and that the sooner adjustments are made, the better it will be for all in the new South Africa.

It was the previous rector, Professor Francois Retief, who first realised the need to open the university to people of colour. With a population that is 80% black in the Free State — and whose people speak a variety of languages — it was apparent that it would have to share its resources.

English, inevitably, would have to be the common denominator. Sections of the local Afrikaans constituency, who always perceived the university as their own, were appalled by the willingness with which their much-loved institution was prepared to relinquish its Afrikaner status.

Coetzee — more pragmatic — believes the university can only hope to survive through bilingualism.

Through a policy of free association and disassociation, some residences have become completely black. Unfortunately, people erroneously view this as apartheid regenerated.

Problems have, inevitably, arisen. At one residence the white women students moved out. The problem: they objected because the black students "spoke too loudly".

At a men's residence, where first-year students traditionally do telephone duty, black students do not call white students, and white students won't call their black col-

leagues. Why? Because someone made the mistake of mimicking mispronounced surnames. It is on such a flimsy base that misunderstandings start — and grow. There is no easy path to nation-building.

But suspicion has not been allowed to fester. To overcome problems in the residences, the authorities have called a students' summit for August to discuss ways and means of eliminating misunderstandings and fostering unity. Students have already had preliminary meetings and indicated that, perhaps, sport programmes would be a good starting point — "but not contact sport at this stage".

Language is an issue, but not a major one — although some black students assert that certain white students "always speak Afrikaans" when they are around.

Yet, despite the difficulties, Coetzee finds that the mindset of people is changing.

"We are not an Afrikaans university any more. Students are going through a new experience and, at times, they are confused, but I have been struck by the leadership both black and white students are displaying."

One of the first problems they tackled was that of fee-paying. In February this year some 1 400 students were in arrears. They were given until June 30 to settle their debts.

The university did what it could to help talented students from disadvantaged backgrounds, but could only go so far. There are also increasing numbers of white students — the "new poor" — struggling financially.

So it was that when the students created the Tswelopele bursary and loan fund, the university was among the first to contribute — with a gift of R500 000 over the next five years. Staff at the university, too, are doing their bit to help, contributing amounts rang-

ing from R10 a month, upwards to help deprived students pay for their studies.

Now an appeal has gone out to former students of the university to contribute. A fund-raising campaign involving the private sector is also being organised by students.

The rector believes that the university's bridging programme is among the best in the country, accommodating multi-language students from the Free State, the Northern Cape, Kwazulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape.

Transformation remains a top priority. The university has established a "transformation office" — the first of its kind — and appointed Mr Billyboy Ramahlele as the first transformation officer.

As if this were not enough, it is planning revitalisation in tandem with transformation. Part of the process involves the identification of core competencies, with certain faculties being merged. The "ivory tower" approach of yesterday is disappearing and an era of "borderless learning" is emerging.

"In future, more emphasis will be placed on distance learning," Coetzee says. "Costs have risen so substantially that it is inevitable that resourced-based learning, which involves less direct teaching — and more tutoring — will take over."

Whether the university in the new South Africa? As an economist, Coetzee, looks to the success of the Asian Tigers and predicts that the country can achieve the same success — if everyone pulls together as a nation. With a sense of the poetic he adds: "This country will work when we finally come together at the end of the rainbow."

□ Winnie Graham is an associate editor on the Star.

(54)
Sewetan 25/7/97

Bengu says Unisa must act

By McKeed Kotlolo

NATIONAL Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu has condemned the violence "provoked" by security personnel at the University of South Africa on Wednesday which left eleven students and a policeman injured. Speaking at a media briefing on the Higher Education White Paper in Pretoria yesterday, Bengu described the actions as "appalling".

He said the university authorities confirmed yesterday that the violence was provoked by the university security. About 200 students had staged a sit-in at the library protesting against the unfair dismissal of public relations director Dr Joe Diescho a week ago.

Bengu described the main cause of the problems at the institution as lack of transformation. He also said it was the responsibility of Unisa's management to act against its security. Regarding the White Paper the minister said higher education would be planned, governed and funded as a single national co-ordinated system with the broadening of the social base of the system of race, gender, age and class as a key feature. He said colleges would also be treated the same as other high education institutions, adding that "in the interim they will continue to be administered, controlled and funded by the departments under whose jurisdiction they presently fall while consultations with the Department of Education take place".

He also said higher education institutions would be empowered to determine their institutional language policies, subject to the Constitution. Bengu said the ministry would adopt goal-orientated incentives as an integral part of the funding framework. "This will be complemented by harnessing more private resources for higher education through various forms of employer contributions, donations, better management of institutional investments, contracts and consultancies as well as an expansion of properly regulated private higher education programmes and institutions".

Big changes to higher education announced

Star 25/7/97 (54)

Many institutions will have to 'come up with new missions and goals' and this could lead to 'mergers and closures'

By ADAM COOKE

Education Minister Sibiso Bengu has announced wide-ranging changes to higher education.

These include decisive steps towards rationalising the sector, establishing forums to drive transformation, and new funding policies.

Bengu released the White Paper on Higher Education in Pretoria yesterday. It will guide the country's post-matric study for decades to come.

Bengu's toughest words came when he stressed that many institutions would have to come up with new missions and goals: "This process could lead to institutional mergers and closures."

The Ministry and the Council on Higher Education, he said, would assess the optimal number and types of institutions that were needed.

But the most important shift

in the White Paper was the minister's insistence on the creation of "permanent institutional forums" that will advance the work of the Broad Transformation Forums (BTF).

Under the White Paper, the BTFs - which are representative governing structures that have begun to set the agenda for transformation at individual institutions - are seen as interim bodies to be formalised and eventually legislated through the Minister's new initiative.

"The BTFs have been important since 1995 and have been accepted by the sector as necessary for transforming from the old to the new," said deputy director-general, Trevor Coombe.

The new structures will, under the Higher Education Act, be established as a committee of the Council for each institution.

They will be responsible for,

among others, interpreting new policy, resolving conflict, setting the agenda on change and improving the institutional culture.

The White Paper expresses a serious concern at the evidence of "institutionalised forms of racism and sexism" and evidence of violent behaviour on many campuses.

It proposes the development of mechanisms to create secure and safe campus environments and set standards of behaviour.

The issue of funding is also put to rest with the White Paper stating that fee-free higher education is not an option.

Coombe said that in the context of an "austere fiscal policy" there was little chance of the sector receiving a funding boost: "As the economy grows, so resources put into the sector should grow. But we are not depending on that growth," he said.

Government says no to free tertiary education

Institutions to determine language policies

(54)

SABATA NGCAL
EDUCATION REPORTER

Students at tertiary level have had their hopes of a free education dashed by the long-awaited white paper on higher education.

The document, released in Pretoria yesterday, said free higher education was "not an affordable or sustainable option for South Africa".

It said the cost of higher education should be shared between the Government and students.

"The knowledge and skills acquired in the course of achieving higher education qualifications generate significant lifetime private benefits for successful students as well as long-range social benefits for the public at large," the document said.

"Although higher-education institutions admit an increasingly large

proportion of students from poor families, students from middle-class and wealthy families still tend to be disproportionately well-represented.

"For these reasons, the costs of higher education should be shared equitably between the public and private beneficiaries. It is important, however, that the direct cost to students be proportionate to their ability to pay.

"This (funding) will be complemented by harnessing more private resources for higher education."

The white paper said education should be planned, governed and funded as a single national co-ordinated system, in order to overcome the fragmentation, inequality and inefficiency which were a legacy of the past, and successfully address the present and future challenges of reconstruction and development.

It said the relative proportion of public

funding used to support academically able but disadvantaged students should be increased. However the document warned that increased access should not lead to a "revolving-door" syndrome for students, with high failure and drop-out rates.

"In this respect, the ministry is committed to ensuring that public funds earmarked for achieving redress and equity must be linked to measurable progress towards improving quality and reducing the high drop-out and repetition rates."

The document said institutions would continue to have the right to determine entry requirements.

"However, in exercising this right, they should ensure that selection criteria are sensitive to the educational backgrounds of potential learners."

The higher-education institutions would determine their language policies, subject to the constitution, the paper said.

APR 25/19/97

University orders students to leave

Vuyo Mvoko

(54)

BD 25/7/97

THE University of the Orange Free State yesterday ordered about 280 students owing money to leave the campus.

This prompted an angry response from student organisations which earlier agreed to the expulsions after a June 30 cut-off date.

"Universities in SA have reached a crossroads," rector Stef Coetzee said. "If we want to survive financially, we will have to act firmly and fairly."

The university was aware of its responsibilities and investigated every possible way of helping students.

Students having to suspend their studies are being advised on job opportunities and possibly resuming studies in the future.

He said provincial government bursaries for more than 300 students had still not been paid. The university would have to ask those students to leave if the money was not paid in the next 10 days.

A spokesman for the university, Hettie Human, said it "will not renegotiate", and confirmed a group of Azanian Students Convention members demonstrated outside the administration building yesterday.

SA Student Congress (Sasco) national general secretary Blessing Manale said it was planning mass action against the decision. Sasco was not convinced that the university was "in such a bad financial state" that it could not help the affected students, he said.

Stocks & Stocks

Continued from Page 1

Turnover increased 3% to R1,6bn (R1,56bn) while operating income dropped to R83,94m (R85,29m). Net interest almost halved to R14,68m (R24,39m), leaving pre-tax profit at R69,26m from last year's R60,9m.

The tax bill rose slightly to R2,45m (R2,34m), which left post-tax income at R66,76m compared to R58,56m in the period last year. Share earnings were 49c (69c) and the group declared a final dividend of 10c (15c) a share.

Dorrestein said although the results were disappointing, Stocks believed that the underlying fundamentals — underpinned by strong performances from its other operations and a R2,2bn order book — looked strong and

he was bullish about the coming year.

The construction division had benefited from a number of joint ventures and increased its contribution to segmented group income 48% despite an industry slowdown. Dorrestein said the civils and roads operations, with an order book of about R600m, had continued to show "more than satisfactory" growth. The group was also likely to benefit from the expansion of its activities in other parts of Africa.

Property operations had accounted for 43% of the group's segmented income, while the housing construction and development division had defied high interest rates and the failure of government's low-cost housing programme to get off the ground.

The separately listed Stocks Hotels & Resorts had lived up to expectations despite seasonal pressure on rates and occupancy, he said.

University granted interdict against students threatening to disrupt classes

(54) ~~8/28/77~~ 28/7/97

By TEO MOTHRELL

The Bloemfontein High Court has granted an urgent interdict brought by the University of the Orange Free State against a group of students who had threatened to disrupt classes at the volatile campus.

In terms of the interdict granted at the weekend, the students have been prohibited from engaging in any acts which could "impede, disrupt, postpone, delay or offend the orderly academic tuition, writing of tests or examinations, the administration and normal student activities on the campus".

The interdict also prohibits damage to university property or any other property on the campus.

The students, who are said to be members of the Azanian Students Conventions (Azasco), have threatened to render the university un-governable should any action be taken against students who owe the university tuition and hostel fees. The student movement is

also demanding that students be allowed to register for the new semester irrespective of their financial status.

Those who owe will be removed

made permanent. Verschoor said the university could not accede to Azasco's demands because "we can-

not afford to have that situation. We have to be financially sustainable in the face of subsidy cuts to tertiary institutions."

University spokesman Hette Human said yesterday the institution was compiling a list of the defaulting students. "Those who owe the university are going to be physically removed from the campus," she said.

She also said that because of past disruptions during examinations, the university had decided to take pro-active action to ensure that past disruptions do not recur.

Truth body faces deadline fracas

Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — Government's failure to amend the constitution to legalise the new cutoff date for those political offences that qualify for amnesty will mean that the truth commission's amnesty committee will still be taking applications a scant two months before it is supposed to complete its work.

The problem has arisen from Constitutional Development Minister Vali Moosa taking about six months to table a constitutional amendment in Parliament to formally change the cutoff date for political offences.

President Nelson Mandela approved the date change on December 13, but a simple three-clause amend-

ment to the constitution was only tabled in the National Assembly in the middle of last month.

Truth commission spokesman John Allen said acting chairman Alex Boraine had indicated that once the new cutoff date for offences had been amended in the constitution, the commission would allow an additional month before closing applications.

Although Justice Minister Dullah Omar had gazetted the new date, many applicants would not want to criminalise themselves by applying for amnesty before the deadline was law.

Allen said the commission was not expecting a large number of late applications, but he expected it to allow the extra month envisioned.

BD 28/7/97

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Venda campus lacks funds (54)

BD 28/7/97
Dustin Chick

A KEY challenge in transforming the University of Venda was the creation of funds to upgrade the facilities and infrastructure on campus, vice chancellor Gessler Nkondo said at the weekend.

He said tension between students and campus administration in the past few years stemmed from the lack of funds to buy what the university needed.

"Students blamed the university for not improving infrastructure."

He said that while students had been at the cutting edge of transformation both before and after the 1994 elections, they were now faced with the task of redefining their role "so they remain vigilant and serious agents of change".

However, in advancing the process of change some students had undermined the democracy they were trying to build. They fought only for students' interests, he said.

Surprises in race for top Wits position

(54)

Star 29/7/97

Candidates well matched in bid for vice-chancellor's post

By ADAM COOKE

When Wits University chooses its new vice-chancellor in September, one white male will lead that institution into the next century in a surprise choice that many believe bodes well for the troubled institution.

Professor Francis Wilson will begin the final stage in this selection process when he speaks in the Wits Great Hall at 1pm tomorrow. He will then face questions from the floor and later be interviewed in private by the selection committee.

The other candidate, Professor Colin Bundy, will speak on Monday at 1pm in the Wits Great Hall. The post will be assumed next year after the retirement of outgoing vice-chancellor Professor Robert Charlton.

A look at the CVs of the two shortlisted candidates, and comments from their colleagues, suggest that these two men have proved themselves as academics and innovators.

A significant feature of this year's selection process has been the lack of student and worker resistance to the candidates.

"The reasons for this are clear - they both have respect across the gamut of South African society. This is not because they have tried to please everybody, but because they have challenged at every step," said one University of Cape Town academic.

It is believed that Wilson was headhunted for the job, while Bundy has been in the running since Professor Sam Nolutshungu withdrew from the process for health reasons last year.

A Cape Town academic who has worked with Bundy described him as one of the few academics in the 1980s who consistently ran the risk of state prosecution for his work outside the universities of the Western Cape and Cape Town.

"Much of this came about because his work as an academic was so important in changing the way people thought about their country," the academic said.

Wilson has also been recognised for his role in bridging the gap between the university and the realities of society through his work in applied economics and commitment to building a democratic South Africa.

All their credentials



Colin Bundy

Born: October 4 1944
1965 University of Natal, BA
1967 Wits University, history honours

1970-76 University of Oxford, BPhil and DPhil

1974 Seconded to Manchester Polytechnic to set up an oral history unit there

1973-78 Lecturer and senior lecturer in history (Manchester Polytechnic)

1978-81 Editor, Journal of Southern African Studies

1979-80 Research fellow: Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford

1985-86 Convener, history commission, National Education Crisis Committee

1985-91 Project leader: Western Cape Oral History Project (UCT)

1987-90 Joint appointment to the chairs of history at UWC and UCT

1992-94 Director, Institute for Historical Research, UWC

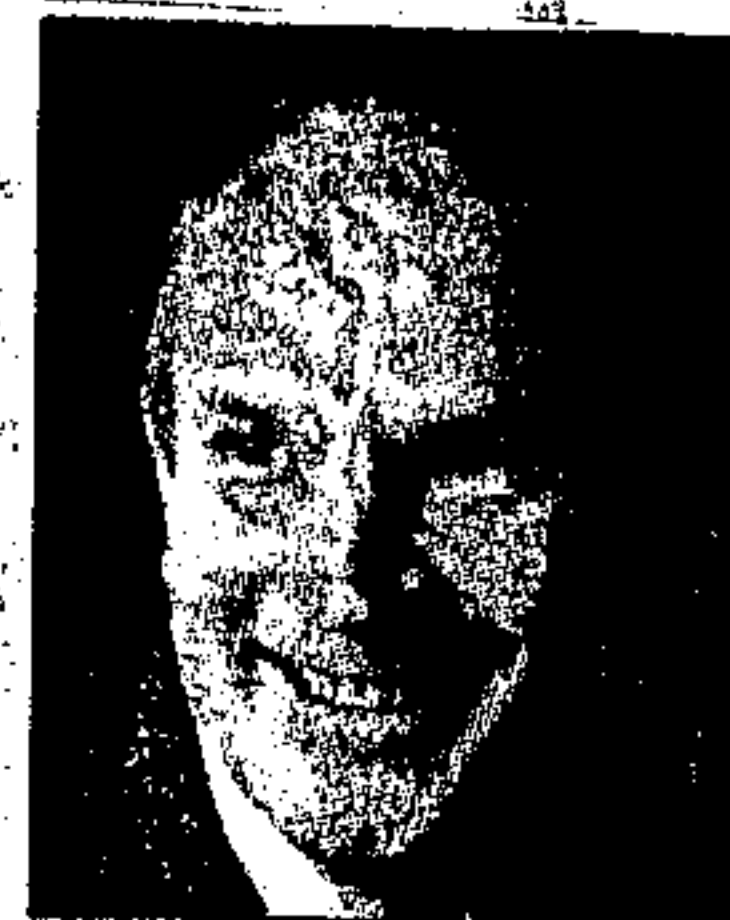
1992 Member of the board of directors, Khanya College, Cape Town

1994 Acting vice-rector, UWC

1995 Vice-rector (academic), UWC. His primary responsibility is to promote and manage an effective teaching and learning process. Member of the board of management of the Committee of University Principals (CUP). Member of the academic planning committee of the CUP. Member of the Rapid Response Group (joint CUP education committee and Joint Matriculation Board task group)

1996 Member of the CUP national qualifications framework reference group. Member of the drafting group, Green Paper on Higher Education Transformation

Publications: Several hundred publications and three books, including *The Rise and Fall of a South African Peasantry*.



Francis Wilson

Born: May 17 1939
1957-59 University of Cape Town, BSc

1960-66 University of Cambridge, MA and PhD in economics

1965-93 Editor, South African Outlook

1967 Lecturer, senior lecturer, professor in School of Economics, UCT. Served on academic planning committee and head of School of Economics from 1984-86

1974 Founder and director of Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit, UCT

1976 Visiting associate professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

1980/81 Visiting fellow, Balliol College and Institute of Economics, Oxford

1982-89 Director of the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development.

1990 Chairman of council, University of Fort Hare

1991-92 Member of Commonwealth Expert Group that prepared the report *Beyond Apartheid: Human Resources for a new South Africa*

1992-94 Member of the National Manpower Commission. As director of the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit and chairman of the inter-university steering committee, responsible for co-ordination of the Project for Statistics on Living Standards and Development

1994 Head of department of accreditation and logistics; monitoring directorate, Independent Electoral Commission

1996 Visiting fellow, All Souls, Oxford. Appointed chairman of the National Water Advisory Council

Publications: Several hundred publications and four books, including *Uprooting Poverty: the South African Challenge* (with Dr Mamphela Ramphele)

ARL 29/7/97

Ivory towers set to open doors

White Paper takes long, hard look at higher education

THE WHITE PAPER ON HIGHER EDUCATION AIMS TO TRANSFORM TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA FROM BEING IVORY TOWERS INSENSITIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE WIDER COMMUNITY INTO PEOPLE'S INSTITUTIONS, REPORTS SABATA NGCAI

The White Paper released last week by Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu envisages institutions that will use their skills for community development.

It calls on tertiary institutions to be responsive to the needs of the community and to prepare their graduates for service to others.

In the past, tertiary education was fraught with deficiencies where individuals studied only for their own benefit, either not caring about or overlooking a host of problems in their surroundings.

One of the goals of the White Paper on higher education is to make sure that institutions demonstrate social responsibility and commitment to the common good by making available expertise and infrastructure for community service programmes.

The document says South Africa's transition from apartheid and minority rule to democracy requires that all existing practices, institutions and values be viewed anew.

"Higher education plays a central role in the social, cultural and economic development of modern societies," says the White Paper.

"In South Africa today, the challenge is to redress the past inequalities and to transform the higher education system to serve a new social order, to meet pressing national needs, and to respond to new realities and opportunities.

"It must lay the foundations for the development of a learning society which can stimulate, direct and mobilise the creative and intellectual energies of all people towards meeting the challenge of reconstruction and development."

The White Paper outlines a comprehensive set of initiatives for the transformation of higher education through the development of a single co-ordinated system with new planning, governing and funding arrangements.

The White Paper says that, despite acknowledged achievements and strengths, the present system of higher education is characterised by the following deficiencies:

- There is an inequitable distribution of access and opportunity for students and staff along the lines of race, gender, class and geography. There are gross discrepancies in the participation rates of students from different population groups, indefensible imbalances in the ratios of black and female staff compared with white and males, and equally untenable disparities between historically black and historically white institutions in terms of facilities and capacities.

- There is chronic mismatch between the output of higher education and the needs of a modernising economy. In particular, there is a shortage of highly trained graduates in the fields of science,



COLIN DANIEL

A new order: Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu has a plan for tertiary education

engineering, technology and commerce (largely as a result of discriminatory practices that have limited the access of black and women students).

- Higher education has an obligation, which has not been adequately fulfilled, to help lay the foundations of a critical civil society, with a culture of public debate and tolerance which accommodates differences and competing interests. It has much more to do, both within its own institutions and in its influence on a broader community, to strengthen the democratic ethos, the sense of common citizenship and commitment to a common good.

- While parts of the South African higher education system can claim academic achievement of international renown, too many parts of the system serve teaching and research policies which favour academic insularity and closed-system disciplinary programmes.

- The governance of higher education at a system-level is characterised by fragmentation, inefficiency and ineffectiveness, with too little co-ordination, few common goals and negligible systematic planning.

Despite the negative consequences of the apartheid legacy, some higher education institutions have developed internationally competitive research and teaching capacities.

The nation is confronted with the challenge of reconstructing domestic social and economic relations to eradicate and redress the inequitable patterns of ownership, wealth, social and economic practices that were shaped by apartheid.

This has resulted in the emergence of a sophisticated urban core economy with a relatively well-developed technological infrastructure and an increasingly highly educated skilled labour force, co-existing with a peripheral rural and informal urban economy in which the majority of the population, previously denied access to education and training and restricted to unskilled labour, eke out a living.

Against this backdrop, higher education must provide education and training to develop the skills and innovations necessary for national development and successful participation in the global economy, says the White Paper.

The ministry's vision is of a trans-

formed, democratic, nonracial and non-sexist system of education that will:

- Promote equity of access and fair chances of success to all who seek to realise their potential through higher education, while eradicating all forms of unfair discrimination and advancing redress for past inequalities.

- Meet - through well-planned and co-ordinated teaching, learning and research programmes - national development needs, including the high-skilled employment needs presented by a growing economy operating in a global environment.

- Support democratic ethos and a culture of human rights by educational programmes and practices conducive to critical discourse and creative thinking, cultural tolerance, and a common commitment to a humane, non-racist and non-sexist social order.

- Contribute to the advancement of all forms of knowledge and scholarship and, in particular, address the diverse problems and demands of the local, national, southern African and African contexts, and uphold rigorous standards of academic quality.

The ministry believes the transformation of higher education should be based on:

- **Equity and redress** - the identification and abolition of existing inequalities in the education system.

- **Democratisation** - this requires the governance of the system of higher education and of individual institutions to be democratic, representative and participatory and characterised by mutual respect, tolerance and the maintenance of a peaceful community life.

- **Development** - the system should be transformed in such a way that it contributes to the common good of society through the production, acquisition and application of knowledge, the building of human capacity, and the provision of lifelong learning opportunities.

- **Quality** - by means of maintaining and applying academic and educational standards.

- **Effectiveness and efficiency** - it should lead to the desired outcomes or achieve desired objectives and make optimal use of available means.

- **Academic freedom** - this implies an absence of outside interference, censure or obstacles in the pursuit and practice of academic work.

- **Institutional autonomy** - this refers to a high degree of self-regulation and administrative independence with respect to student admissions, curricula, methods of teaching and assessment, research, establishment of academic regulations and the internal management of the resources generated from private and public resources.

- **Public accountability** - this implies that institutions are answerable for their actions and decisions not only to their own governing bodies and the institutional community, but also to broader society.

It requires that institutions receiving public funds should be able to report how, and how well, money has been spent. Secondly, it requires that institutions should demonstrate the results they achieve with the resources at their disposal.

'The challenge is to transform the higher education system to serve a new social order'

Wits wins fight for campus-dividing Yale Road to be closed to public

Star 30/8/97
After 14 years of negotiations, Wits University has finally won the battle to have Yale Road, which runs through its Braamfontein campus, closed to the public.

The road, which runs between Empire Road and Jorissen Street and divides Wits' east and west campuses, will be closed from August 10 as part of a six-month trial period.

Wits spokesman Peggy Jennings said while it was hoped that the road's closure would be permanent, the trial period was an attempt to check whether it would cause major traffic congestion. She said 80% of the road's use was Wits related.

The road has claimed the lives of two students since the university bought the old show-

(54)
grounds in 1983 and transformed them into the west campus. Wits then began negotiations with local authorities to close the road.

The university has been in consultation with the Greater Johannesburg Metro Council, which said yesterday there would be manually operated boom control points on Yale Road's north and south ends.

Staff and students will be expected to carry Wits parking stickers, while parents dropping off students will have to apply for a permit.

Wits academic departments will have to apply for permits on behalf of regular service providers or delivery vehicles that have to use Yale Road. - Staff Reporter.



Francis Wilson, economics professor from the University of Cape Town, delivers his speech at Wits University yesterday on the role of a city university in Africa. He spoke ahead of the selection process for the Wits vice-chancellorship.

Picture: CATHY PINNOCK

Wits 'needs to undergo triple transformation'

(54)

Vuyo Mvoko

BD 31/7/97

WITS University needed to undertake a "triple transformation" if it hoped to survive into the next century, Prof Francis Wilson, one of two short-listed candidates for the position of vice-chancellor at the university, said yesterday.

Francis, who is professor of the University of Cape Town's school of economics, was giving a public lecture at the university. He is scheduled to appear before the selection committee today for an interview.

The other candidate, University of the Western Cape vice-rector, Prof Colin Bundy, is scheduled to deliver his public lecture on Monday and to face the selection committee the following day.

The two are vying for the post which is to be vacated by Robert Charlton, who is retiring.

Francis said that if he were to be appointed to the post, he would focus on this "triple transformation" he thought Wits needed to undertake.

Firstly, the university would have to find "effective ways of overcoming as rapidly as possible the educational legacy of our racist and sexist history".

Wits would also have to spell out how it could "offer the immense intellectual resources of the institution for the country's transformation".

The third type of transformation entailed the university taking advantage of the "phenomenal growth of information technology" that came with the computer and the Internet.

Information and knowledge were bound to replace diamonds and gold as the basis of the economy in the 21st century, Wilson said. Wits would have to take the lead just like it did 100 years ago when it began as a mining college which trained engineers in Kimberly and Johannesburg for the gold mining industry.



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Bid to test Virodene again

BD 31/7/97

PRETORIA (S) Three Pretoria researchers who claimed to have developed a new treatment for AIDS were considering resuming clinical trials abroad after the Medicines Control Council last week rejected their application to con-

tinue, a spokesman said. Larry Heidebrecht said the researchers had presented their drug, Virodene P058, to medical authorities and doctors in several African and European countries.

"Many of them are interested in our work. One of our options is to continue our research in one of these countries," Heidebrecht said.

Researcher Olga Visser and Pretoria University cardiothoracic surgeons Dirk du Plessis and Callie Landauer in January asked government for R3,7m to continue their research.

The trio's claims about Virodene were widely rejected by AIDS specialists. — Sapa.

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Internet a boon for universities

OPINION

Star Tuesday July 31 1997 (54)

The implications of the information revolution are staggering, says Francis Wilson

Although I have spent most of my working life teaching economics at a sister university 1,500km from the University of the Witwatersrand, Wits (or rather Wits' values) has long been part of my bloodstream.

I first came into this Great Hall 40 years ago when I was a UCT first-year student, wet behind the ears. In 1957 Wits was host to a major nonracial (multiracial as it was then called) conference convened by the Inter-denominational African Ministers' Federation. Convened in the shadow of the Treason Trial then underway, the conference issued a powerful call for universal adult suffrage on a common voters roll, and was a strong statement against racism and discrimination at a time when such views were decidedly unpopular with the racist powers then in control of our land.

Where then do we begin? We begin with the obvious fact that here at the University of the Witwatersrand, here in Gauteng, here in South Africa, education really matters.

What, then, are the three dimensions of education on which we need to focus? First, on the fact that, fundamentally, education is about liberation. The second dimension of education that is important to us is recognition of the extent to which the legacy of inequality

inherited from apartheid is embedded in the new South Africa by virtue of the differential, discriminatory educational opportunities of the past.

The third dimension relates to what has become almost a cliché, namely the fact that education and training, the skills embedded in people, investment in human capital, are rapidly becoming the most important resource and source of growth of any national economy.

All three dimensions of education are crucial to bear in mind when we turn now to consider the kind of transformation required of the educational system if it is to serve adequately the needs of all South Africans in the new democratic society of the 21st century.

The first - primary transformation - involves finding effective ways of overcoming, as rapidly as possible, the educational legacy of our racist and sexist history. The second derives from the very legitimate pressures now being brought to bear on universities by wider democratic society whose tax-paying voters (and representatives) quite correctly want to be sure that their money is being spent not only wisely but also usefully, in a way that will improve their lives.

The third type of transformation does not receive as much attention as the other two, but I believe it is no less important. This transformation is focused not so much on redressing the past as on anticipating the future, and concerns the information revolution through which we are living. The heart of the infor-

mation revolution is the Internet, whose full potential burst fully upon the world in the same extraordinary year, 1994, which saw not only South Africa's first democratic election but also the establishment of the World Trade Organisation with its specific mandate to remove barriers to trade around the world.

Behind the information explosion lies the development of the PC, whose capacity has been doubling on an average of every 18 months for 30 years.

The implications are staggering and there is no question in my mind that they are going to necessitate a fundamental rethinking about how universities can best fulfil their function. To start with, as Neil Rudenstien, the president of Harvard, spelt out in his opening address, the Internet has immediate consequences for four key aspects of university education.

Here we list them simply as topics for further discussion: a complement to the research library, tutorial enrichment ... online case-study material, to facilitate energetic and widespread debate and discussion; and a shift from authoritarian teaching to do-it-yourself learning.

One of the changes that have already taken place at Harvard is the extension of the working day to 21 hours, with the only major slowdown (on the Net) occurring between 3am and 6am. At Harvard the num-

Moving beyond South Africa into the whole continent, the possibilities are enormously exciting. Wits has just appointed a new deputy vice-chancellor from Nigeria, Professor Ogunrinde, who will surely enable us to build on the huge opportunities for the contact and exchange which exist there and elsewhere on the continent in both Anglophone and Francophone Africa. Fort Hare, for example, has been forging very exciting links with intellectuals in Senegal (and Geneva) and doubtless members of this university, like others in the country, have been moving all over the continent. Thinking laterally: Brazil, India and more widely Latin America and Asia are places from which we have much to learn. My own visits to India in 1976 and 1996 were hugely fruitful for my own thinking and I would hope that Wits could develop many more such exchanges.

We return finally to where this talk began to reflect briefly on the goals of the education at which this university must surely be aiming. My vision is of a place where people grow as lifelong learners with open, inquisitive and well-trained minds. The university should not aim to train either academic clones nor cogs for the industrial economy, but thinking human beings equipped with a set of skills; a disposition and capacity to go on learning; and a set of moral values including respect for human dignity (as epitomised in our constitution, with which members of this university had so much to do), tolerance, integrity and a commitment to plough back into society something of what one has been given.

■ This is an edited version of a speech delivered yesterday by Professor Francis Wilson, a candidate for the post of vice-chancellor of Wits University.

ber of visits to the arts and sciences Web site increased in one year from 150 000 in March 1995 to 2,3 million in March 1996. In terms of the more familiar e-mail, the number of daily transactions on the arts and sciences network increased over the same period from 80 000 to 170 000, about 6,5 million a month. And there is no sign of any slowdown. In terms of global information communication, 1994 is going to be seen as the year of the big bang.

Another aspect of the change relates to administration, particularly of student records and of financial management. Harvard has recently committed itself to spending some \$50-million on new administrative systems. And universities round the world are following suit. At Fort Hare, for example, in partnership with an Australian company, we have just launched a hugely exciting Internet system for administration management.

Wits, of course, has been playing a leading role in these developments and has one of the most interesting Web sites (including sub-sites) in the country, but I think we would all agree that we are all still in the beginning stages of thinking through the full implications of all that is happening and of the opportunities and perils facing universities as a consequence.

There are three aspects which I find particularly challenging and exciting to think about: one is the increasing ease of access to the library resources of the world; second is the potential for increasing communication and sense of communication within large organisations (such as Wits) through imaginative use of the Intranet; third is the insatiable demand for well-processed information and for the development of software.

JOHN ROBINSON



Waiting in the wings ... Wits Technikon will enter a new era when Professor Connie Pretorius takes up her post as vice-chancellor on October 1.

(54)

Change in the air as tech gets new boss

Star 31/8/97

I just want to get in there and do my job, says the woman who's taking the helm

By ADAM COOKE

When a black woman takes over a historically white male institution, it's a sign that change is in the air.

And the person who's about to shake things up at Wits Technikon is Professor Connie Pretorius, who has recently been appointed vice-chancellor and principal of the institution.

But Pretorius sees it differently: "I'm not sure what all the fuss is about. I just want to get in there and do my job," she says.

If Pretorius' frantic schedule for winding down her current work at the department of industrial psychology at Unisa is anything to go by, Wits Technikon is indeed about to experience a shake-up when she takes over from acting vice-chancellor Herman van Eede on October 1.

Pretorius (52), who speaks six languages, serves on Unisa's Broad Transformation Forum and on Pace, a committee set up to redress the racial imbalances of university staff.

Pretorius will be joining an academic institution that experienced mild unrest earlier this year when student fees went up by 9% and workers held a wildcat strike over wages.

She feels that she has a clear grasp of the technikon's standing and areas that could do with improvement.

"This institution is not a historically disadvantaged one and the areas that need to be transformed are not the same as those pertaining to historically black institutions," she says.

Aside from a drive to increase access for disadvantaged students, her first line of fire will be the selection committee that appointed her: "This was a diverse group of stakeholders, such as the council, students and staff ... But it has also become glaringly clear to me that there was hardly a single woman on the panel except for the lady who performed a secretarial task.

"In this day and age you would agree with me that there is a place and a role for women in decision-making structures," she says.



Internet a boon for universities

OPINION;

54

31/7/97

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■ This is an edited version of a speech delivered yesterday by Professor Francis Wilson, a candidate for the post of vice-chancellor of Wits University.

Nominee handles tense Wits crowd well

Star 31/7/97 (54)

Launching into Xhosa in the middle of one's speech as one of two candidates punting for the Wits University vice-chancellorship is not the most conventional way of securing the post.

But then, judging by Professor Francis Wilson's address to the Wits community yesterday as the first of two candidates vying to lead that institution into the 21st century, higher education is all about freeing the individual and the institu-

tion from such constraints.

Taking questions from a crowd at the Wits Great Hall that bristled with tension, Wilson displayed a very real understanding of the workings of a university in SA today.

He showed himself to be a prolific thinker, a mediator who looks for solutions with a creative flair. - Staff Reporter.

► **Internet a boon**

Page 24

Student unrest at universities/technikon

*34. Mr T D LEE asked the Minister of Education: [Written Question No 580] **(54)**

How many cases of student unrest occurring on (a) university and (b) technikon campuses in South Africa were brought to his attention during the period 1 January 1996 up to the latest specified date for which information is available? N966E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

Information in this regard is available for the period 1 August 1996 to 9 July 1997 only. The cases of student unrest being mentioned, must be regarded as major incidents that the Department is aware of:

- (a) 9 cases on university campuses.
(b) 10 cases on technikon campuses.

Employees leaving service as result of voluntary retirement/packages/transfers

*35. Mr N J GOGOTYA asked the Minister of Defence: [Written Question No 589]

- (a) How many employees left his Ministry during the period 1 January 1996 up to the latest specified date for which information is available, as a result of (i) voluntary retirement, (ii) retirement packages, (iii) transfers from his Ministry and (iv) retrenchment packages and (b) what position did each of these persons hold? N975E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(a) Since 1 January 1996 thirteen members of the staff at the Ministry of Defence left the service of the Ministry.

- (i) One assistant private secretary and two drivers left the Ministry for other employment.
(ii) One assistant private secretary took a voluntary severance package.
(iii) Eight members were transferred back to their Arms of Service having completed their tour of duty at the Ministry.

(b) One member demilitarised to take up a post as Director Conventional Arms Control on the staff of the Secretary for Defence.

*36. Mr A WATSON - Finance: [Written Question No 595] [Removed.]

Provinces: houses built

*37. Mr J A RABIE asked the Minister of Housing: [Written Question No 600]

- (a) In 1996 and (b) during the period 1 January 1997 up to the latest specified date for which information is available, (i) how many houses were built in each of the provinces, (ii) what was the breakdown in respect of the various housing fund schemes which were used and (iii) how many individual ownership subsidies were granted? N986E

The MINISTER OF HOUSING:

(a) (i) and (b) (i) The Department, through its Nomvula system, collects statistics of houses completed or under construction in the provinces. The system does not differentiate between 1996 and 1997 figures and hence it is only possible to provide a holistic figure in respect of houses completed or under construction since the inception of the Government's subsidy system in 1994.

Since March 1994 until 30 June 1997 a total of 300 983 houses were already built or under construction in the provinces.

A breakdown for each province is as follows:

Eastern Cape:	25 727
Free State:	24 154
Gauteng:	81 425
KwaZulu-Natal:	40 921
Mpumalanga:	22 181
Northern Cape:	10 771
Northern Province:	22 079
Western Cape:	38 224

(a) (ii) and (b) (ii) The total rand value in respect of the various housing subsidy schemes since March 1994 until December 1996 and the period from January 1997 until the end of June 1997 is as follows:

Period	Project linked (reserved)	Project linked (beneficiaries)	Individual	Credit linked (savings route)	Consolidation (reserved)	Consolidation (Beneficiaries)	Institutional (reserved)	Institutional (Institutions)
15/3/94 - 31/12/96	352 130	90 498	39 386	35	29 513	5 155	1 042	13
1/1/97 - 30/6/97	242 675	36 023	18 311	1	4 128	6 956	1 076	320

(a) (iii) and (b) (iii) During 1996 a total of 106 692 individual subsidies (project linked and individual subsidies) were approved by the nine provincial housing boards in respect of beneficiaries that bought residential properties.

I would also like to indicate that since 15 March 1994 until 31 December 1996, 352 130 project linked subsidies have been reserved by the provincial housing boards in more than 660 projects that were approved by the PHBs.

*38. Mr K M ANDREW - Finance. [Written Question No 609] [Removed.]

*39. Mr J A JORDAAN - Public Works. [Written Question No 631] [Question standing over.]

SA Schools Act published in newspapers

*40. Mr R S SCHOEMAN asked the Minister of Education: [Written Question No 632]

- (a) In (i) which and (ii) how many newspapers did the supplement on the South African Schools Act, 1996 (Act No 84 of 1996), appear in April and May 1997, (b) what is the circulation of each such newspaper, (c) in which languages was the supplement published and (d) what did the costs of publishing the supplement amount to? N1072E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

(a) (i) and (ii) The supplement on the South African Schools Act, 1996 (Act No 84 of 1996), appeared in 14 newspapers, namely: The Star, Beeld, Cape Argus, Die Burger, the Daily News, the Volksblad, the Sowetan, Eastern Province Herald, Diamond Fields Advertiser, Daily Dispatch, Indaba, Chalk Line, City Press and The Teacher. Because of the costs involved, it was not possible to insert into all the major daily newspapers. A selection to ensure country-wide coverage within this constraint was necessary and it was hoped that this selection would meet that requirement.

*41. Mrs P W CUPPIDO asked the Minister of Health: [Written Question No 637]

- (a) How many cases of tuberculosis were reported in each of the provinces (i) in 1996 and (ii) during the period 1 January 1997 up to

Provinces: tuberculosis

Hansard

(ii) The Pretoria office is manned by one official, on a rotation basis, during sessions of Parliament.

(c) During the past 12 months an amount of R350 597 was spent on moving the staff between Pretoria and Cape Town.

Department: staff employed

*24. Mr C M GEORGE asked the Minister of Labour: [Written Question No 429]

(a) How many staff members were employed by his Ministry as at the latest specified date for which information is available, (b) how many of these staff members are employed in (i) Cape Town and (ii) Pretoria during the parliamentary session and (c) what was the amount spent by his Department in the latest specified calendar year to move its session activities back and forth between Pretoria and Cape Town? N692E

The MINISTER OF LABOUR:

(a) **Ministry:**
1 Private Secretary
1 Assistant Private Secretary
1 Media Officer
1 Administrative Secretary
1 Registry Clerk
2 Typists

(aa) **Parliamentary Office**
1 Parliamentary Officer
1 Personal Assistant to the DG
1 Secretary to the DG
1 Assistant Parliamentary Officer
1 Typist
1 Messenger

(b) (i) 13
(ii) None

(c) Movement of sessional activities between Pretoria and Cape Town for the 1996/97 financial year:

Item	1996/97
Containers	R 21 412
Move of Private Motor Vehicles	R 4 538
Air Tickets	Ministry R 234 492
	Parliamentary Office R 246 840
Total	R 567 282

Department: staff employed

*25. Dr T J KING asked the Minister of Education: [Written Question No 449]

(a) How many staff members were employed by his Ministry as at the latest specified date for which information is available, (b) how many of these staff members are employed in (i) Cape Town and (ii) Pretoria during the parliamentary session and (c) what was the amount spent by his Department in the latest specified calendar year to move its session activities back and forth between Pretoria and Cape Town? N729E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

(a) Thirteen
(b) (i) Eleven
(ii) Two
(c) R29 899

Universities: registered students

*26. Mr T D LEE asked the Minister of Education: [Written Question No 487]

How many students registered at each university in South Africa in 1997? N825E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

Number of students registered at each University in South Africa in 1997.

University	Number of Registered Students
University of Cape Town	15 296
University of Durban-Westville	9 315
University of Fort Hare	4 376
Medical University of Southern Africa	3 455
University of Natal	15 837
University of the North	14 435
University of the Free State	9 509
University of Port Elizabeth	5 643
University of Potchefstroom	9 963
University of Pretoria	25 183
Rand Afrikaans University	23 199

University	Number of Registered Students
Rhodes University	4 679
University of South Africa	126 344
University of Stellenbosch	15 662
University of the Western Cape	13 150
University of the Witwatersrand	17 013
University of Zululand	7 307
Vista University	28 289
University of Transkei	6 689
University of the North West	6 244
University of Venda	6 450

Universities: degrees awarded

*27. Mr T D LEE asked the Minister of Education: [Written Question No 492]

How many degrees were awarded in each of the disciplines at each university in the Republic in 1996? N834E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

The Department is in the process of collecting and editing detailed information on the number of degrees awarded in 1996.

This process should be finished within the next two weeks when the information will be made available to you.

Sporting bodies: funds/other assistance provided

*28. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Sport and Recreation: [Written Question No 496]

(1) Whether his Department provided (a) funds and/or (b) other specified assistance to any sporting bodies and/or persons in the 1996-97 financial year; if so, what (i) amounts and/or (ii) assistance in respect of each sporting body and/or person;

(2) whether in that financial year he and/or any members of his Department accepted invitations from any sporting body or administration to attend (a) local and/or

(b) international sporting events; if so, in each case, (i) from whom, (ii) to what sporting event and (iii) where did such event take place;

(3) whether his and/or such departmental members' attendance at any such events involved any expenses to the State; if not, who paid the costs involved; if so, what expenses were incurred in respect of each such event? N836E

The MINISTER OF SPORT AND RECREATION:

(1) Yes.

An amount of R16 491 754 was paid out by the Department of Sport and Recreation.

The amounts are as follows:

A. National Priorities

A.1 Affirmative Action

R1 430 000 was paid out to 12 national sport federations and macro bodies.

A.2 Development

R3 298 000 was paid out to 74 national sport federations and macro bodies.

B. Special projects

B.1 Major International Events

R3 417 133 was paid out for 103 events in which 77 national sport federations participated.

B.2 Major International Meetings

R245 698 was paid out to national sport federations for elected officials who attended 40 international meetings.

B.3 Membership Fees and Administration Grant

R632 015 was paid out for SCSA and Zone VI membership fees and towards the administration of the All Africa Games to be held in Johannesburg in 1999.

C. Infrastructure/administration

C.1 Macro Organisations

R2 800 000 was paid out to the macro bodies for infrastructure and administration.

the system; if not, who took the decision to implement the new system; if so, who was consulted in this regard? N337E

The MINISTER FOR WELFARE AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

(1) No, prior to 1 April 1994, there were fourteen computer systems in operation in South Africa. This resulted in inefficiency, fraud and corruption and as a result, the provincial welfare departments decided to adopt a uniform computer system. The provinces had to decide which of the existing fourteen systems would be used as the core system in each province. Incidentally all the provinces decided to use the SOCPEN system, which was used by the former provincial administrations. The amalgamated computer system is therefore not a new system, but the system had to be enhanced to provide for the needs of the different provinces.

The national Department of Welfare was appointed principal of the system by the Office of the Public Service Commission in terms of Chapter E of the Public Service Staff Code on transverse systems, with effect from 1 February 1996. In its capacity as system principal the Department has to ensure that the system meets the needs of the provincial welfare departments;

(2) no,

(a) not applicable and

(b) not applicable.

It has been mentioned in paragraph (1) that this was not a new system that was developed. However, the maintenance and minor enhancements of the system is conducted by a private contractor. The total annual cost in respect of this service amounts to approximately R2,8 million;

(3) yes,

(a) during the amalgamation process, several problems which could affect the payment system were encountered. Some of the major problems include:

- Identity numbers issued in the former TBVC states are duplications of South African identity numbers. The system rejects duplicates.
- Incomplete data, which did not meet the basic requirements of SOCPEN,

was received from some of the former computer systems. Different formats were used and in some cases the most critical data, such as identity numbers, names, addresses, paypoint number and children's particulars, was lacking. This resulted in the generation of inaccurate payment data.

- The data received from some of the former systems was of poor quality. This impacts on the accurate payment of grants.
- Converting paypoints to the new paypoint structures was problematic.
- Reconciliation not done in time is probably one of the most serious problems experienced. If data is not reconciled before the next payment generation, wrong payment information may be generated.

(b) Prior to the amalgamation process the Department decided that no beneficiary's grant will be suspended without prior investigation by the relevant provincial department.

Steps taken to stem problems include:

- The system generates identity numbers in cases where there is no identity number, or where duplicate or invalid identity numbers are detected. All beneficiaries will be reregistered and encouraged to apply for the latest identity document. The Department of Home Affairs will assist in this regard.
- Data was tested and interrogated before the final amalgamation. Where problems occurred, it was immediately followed up with the relevant provincial welfare department.
- The second phase of the amalgamation process will entail an extensive data clean-up process. Reports are provided to all provinces as a first step in the clean-up process, the process during which duplicates and invalid records will be removed from the system and the records of all beneficiaries will be reviewed.
- Workshops were held with provincial officials and problems were resolved timeously.

Hansard

Universities: first year students

*8. Mr R S SCHOEMAN asked the Minister of Education:† [Written Question No 2191]

(a) In March 1997, how many first year students enrolled at the (i) University of Cape Town, (ii) University of Durban-Westville, (iii) University of Fort Hare, (iv) University of Natal, (v) University of the North, (vi) University of the Orange Free State, (vii) University of Port Elizabeth, (viii) Potchefstroomse Universiteit vir Christelike Hoër Onderwys, (ix) University of Pretoria, (x) Rand Afrikaans University, (xi) Rhodes University, (xii) University of Stellenbosch, (xiii) University of the Western Cape, (xiv) University of the Witwatersrand and (xv) University of Zululand and (b) what, in each case, was the percentage increase or decrease in comparison with the corresponding period in 1996? N360E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

First year student enrolments (preliminary figures) at universities in the RSA in 1996 and 1997:

Universities	First Year Student Enrolment		% Increase/Decrease
	1996	1997	
Cape Town	2 703	2 553	-5,55
Durban-Westville	2 220	2 310	4,05
Fort Hare	1 530	*	
Natal	3 437	3 126	-9,05
North	3 800	*	
Free State	1 816	1 697	-6,55
Port Elizabeth	1 121	1 392	24,17
Potchefstroom	1 693	1 633	-3,54
Pretoria	3 789	3 982	5,09
Rand Afrikaans	2 334	2 120	-9,17
Rhodes	1 325	1 144	-13,66
Stellenbosch	2 960	3 119	5,37
Western Cape	2 036	2 240	10,02
Witwatersrand	2 590	2 742	5,87
Zululand	2 049	1 666	-18,69
Total	35 403	29 724	

*Awaiting information

Places of safety

*9. Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister for Welfare and Population Development: [Written Question No 231]

54

Forcing of double medium at Afrikaans universities

*15. Mr R S SCHOEMAN asked the Minister of Education:†

- (1) Whether it is his or his Department's policy to force all Afrikaans medium universities to become double medium universities; if so, why;
- (2) whether it is his or his Department's policy to force all English medium universities to become double medium universities; if not, why not;
- (3) whether there is space for inclusive Afrikaans medium universities in South Africa; if not, why not;
- (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter? NI173E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

- (1) No
- (2) No. It is not the policy of the government to "force" a particular language policy on institutions.

(3) I cannot predict what medium institutions South Africa will have because the legislation that deals with how language policy in Higher Education will be determined, is still going to be debated by Parliament, and the national policy framework within which institutional language policies will be developed, will come out through a process laid down in the White Paper on Higher Education. The hon member is therefore advised to put that question into those processes.

(4) A statement will be made when the processes I have mentioned above have reached a point where it will be necessary to do so.

*16. Dr B L GELDENHUYS - Foreign Affairs [Withdrawn.]

Denel's profit-sharing scheme: audit

*17. Mr J A JORDAAN asked the Minister for Public Enterprises:

- (1) With reference to the audit commissioned by

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

(1) The Department of Transport takes into account that drunken driving causes a major crisis on our roads and has received a considerable number of comments in this regard. Our main response has been to amend the prescribed statutory blood alcohol limit and breath limit as contained in the National Road Traffic Act, 1996 (Act No. 93 of 1996).

In terms of section 65 of the National Road Traffic Act, 1996 (Act No. 93 of 1996), no person shall drive a vehicle while the concentration of alcohol in any specimen of blood taken from any part of his/her body is greater than 0,05 gram per 100 millilitres, or in the case of a professional driver, greater than 0,02 gram per 100 millilitres. The new limits will enter into force once the National Road Traffic Act is implemented, which will take place during 1998. In the meantime a 0,08 level for all drivers is applicable.

Section 89 of the National Road Traffic Act, 1996 (Act No. 93 of 1996) makes provision for harsher penalties in respect of traffic-related offences. However, sentencing is at the discretion of the presiding officer in a court of law.

Section 165 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996), makes provision for the independence of the judicial system. Therefore the Magistrates' Commission which is the governing body of all the Magistrates' Courts in South Africa is responsible for giving guidelines to Magistrates for purposes of sentencing. The Minister of Transport has no jurisdiction to prescribe either minimum penalties or sentences.

In the very near future, in conjunction with provincial and local authorities, I will be formally announcing the launch of an intensive law-enforcement programme, to run from October 1997 to January 1998, which will, amongst other things, provide for strict roadside monitoring of drink driving offences and streamlined procedures for the disposal of such offences in the courts. Regular repeat campaigns will follow in the succeeding months and years.

(2)(a) Yes, I intend to take the following steps as disincentives to drunken driving:

- acceptance of breathalysers for evidential purposes, which will enhance law enforcement on drunken driving, and
- the introduction of mobile "booze buses" for speedy and effective testing and processing of offenders

(b) The Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences (AARTO) System, which is still under discussion between the Departments of Transport, Justice and other role players, makes provision for the endorsement of a driver's licence in providing for a Points Demerit System whereby the offender accumulates negative points for Road Traffic Offences. Upon reaching a predetermined maximum number of points the offender's licence will be suspended.

National Home Builders Registration Council Bill: consultations

*20. Mr J A RABIE asked the Minister of Housing:

(1) Whether in the drafting of the National Home Builders Registration Council Bill, 1997, any consultations have and/or debate has taken place with the relevant industry and the Building Industries Federation of South Africa (Bifsaf); if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) what progress has so far been made in respect of the drafting of this Bill;

(3) whether she will make a statement on the matter? NI1781E

The MINISTER OF HOUSING:

(1) The National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC) is not anything new. It has been in existence since 1995 at my Department's request. The NHBRC is a self-regulatory body which was established only after extensive consultation and debate with all relevant stakeholders.

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(1) (a) What is the current capacity at places of safety; (b) how many children are currently being held, in such places of safety and (c) in respect of what date is this information furnished;

(2) whether any persons escaped from places of safety in 1996; if so, (a) how many and (b) from which places of safety;

(3) whether there was an increase in the number of places available at places of safety in 1996; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;

(4) whether there was any improvement in (a) conditions and/or (b) security measures in places of safety in 1996; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?
N372E

The MINISTER FOR WELFARE AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

(1)(a) The current capacity at the 32 places of safety is 2 903 children.

(b) 2 413 children and

(c) end of March 1997.

(2) yes there were abscondments,

(a) 2 920 children absconded from places of safety during 1996. This figure does not reflect the number of children who absconded, it reflects the number of abscondments as some children absconded on a repeated basis. (See attached annexure for more details) and

(b) the places are

- Gauteng: Jubileum, Tutela and Van Ryn. The Walter Sisulu Child Care Centre was officially opened 29 April 1997.
- North West: Pabelo
- Kwazulu/Natal: Excelsior, Ocean View House, Valley View, Umlazi, Pata and Greenfields
- Free State: Tshireletsong and Monument
- Eastern Cape: Enkuselweni, Protea

and Erica House
 • Western Cape: Vredelus, Bonnytown, Outeniekwa, Tenderden, Rosendal and Lindelani
 • Northern Cape: Mimososa, Lerato and Galeshewe

(3) yes, there was a slight increase in the number of places available at places of safety in Eastern Cape Province. Enkuselweni has been upgraded to accommodate 60 children and the Walter Sisulu Child Care Centre in Gauteng has a capacity of 210. Some of the institutions decreased their numbers due to a shortage of personnel and/or renovations;

(4) the Ministry and the IMC is still in a process of working towards the implementation of Cabinet recommendations-

(a) In April 1996, the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Young People at Risk (IMC) was requested by Cabinet to investigate the availability and suitability of places of safety, reform schools and schools of industry. These recommendations include:

- Rationalisation of residential care services and placement of young people
- Appropriate programmes and eradication of abuse
- Control and management by one Ministry and department
- That the inter-sectoral Secure Care Programme of Action receive high priority from relevant departments and ministries
- that the appointment and/or redeployment of staff, as well as child and youth training receive high priority
- That additional probation posts be created, probation officers be appropriately trained and a sufficient 24 hour reception and referral centre be established
- That an interim monitoring group be established
- That an urgent capacity building programme be established at a national and provincial level
- Certain recommendations were made for medium and long term attention:
- Establish a duly constituted authority empowered to conduct inspections on a regular basis and to undertake unannounced inspections

- Child and Youth Care Legislation should reflect the international instruments and the principles of developmental care and discipline
- National standards for residential care should be developed
- A national working conference on the formal and informal schooling of children at risk be held
- Human and financial resources should be reprioritised, redesigned to address prevention and early intervention programmes.
- Some of the provinces such as Kwazulu/Natal, Eastern Cape, North West and Gauteng have improved their security measures by converting places of safety into secure care facilities and filling some security posts.

The Interim Report on the Transformation of the South African Child and Youth Care System is included for further information on progress of the IMC. (Report bound in Annexures of House — see M349/97).

Annexure A

Name: Place of Safety	Capacity	Occupancy as at 28-02-97	Absconded during 1996
Northern Cape			
Mimososa	92	74	16
Lerato	110	80	16
Galeshewe (Secure Care Facility)	100	80	23
Gauteng			
Jubileum	75	70	3
Norman House	85	68	0
Tosoloboso	120	120	-
Tutela	85	70	117*
Van Ryn	138	114	62
Protem	110	95	-
North West			
Pabelo	120	60	7
Kwazulu/Natal			
Excelsior (Upgrading to a Secure Care Facility)	70	69	1 168*
Zakhe	40	32	0
Ocean View House	80	74	40
Valley View	150	91	500*
Umlazi	125	119	2
Pata	70	55	21
Greenfields	72	36	8
Free State			
Tshireletsong Monument	108	108	25
Western Cape			
Bonnytown (Used as Secure Care Facility)	50	53	34
Total	2 903	2 413	2 920

Name: Place of Safety	Capacity	Occupancy as at 28-02-97	Absconded during 1996
Elises Rivier			
Faure House, Rosendal	621	644	861*
George House, Outeniekwa			
Koelenhof, Lindelani			
Nomzamo			
Tenderden			
Eastern Cape			
Siyalliga	100	89	-
Enkuselweni	20	19	3
Protea	56	38	12
House of Nerina	24	22	0
Erica House			
Northern	100	87	2
Pieterburg			
Mpumalanga	182	46	0
Total	2 903	2 413	2 920

*Some children absconded repeatedly.

Note: Since 28-02-97 Walter Sisulu Child Care Centre, with a capacity of 210, has opened, and Enkuselweni has been upgraded to accommodate 60 children

*10. Mr K M ANDREW - Finance. [Written Question No 235] [Question standing over.]

*11. Dr T G ALANT - Finance.† [Written Question No 241] [Removed.]

*12. Mr K M ANDREW - Finance. [Written Question No 261] [Removed.]

Universities: fees owed

*13. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Education: [Written Question No 340]

(1) Whether any fees payable to universities in respect of the 1996 academic year were unpaid as at 28 February 1997; if so, (a) what amount in respect of each specified university and (b) how many students at each university still owed money as at the latest specified date for which information is available;

(2) whether any of these students have applied for admission to universities for the 1997 academic year; if so, (a) how many in respect of each specified university and (b) what amount does each owe;

(3) whether any of these students have been enrolled for the 1997 academic year; if so, (a) how many in respect of each specified university and (b) what amount does each owe?
N549E

(64)

2

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Hansard.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

University	(1) (a) Rand	(1) (b) Students
Cape Town	7 430 000	2 719
Durban-Westville	7 118 638	2 500
Fort Hare		
Medunsa	31 040 967	2 536
Natal	4 840 000	3 495
The North	26 824 630	not available
Orange Free State	7 447 779	2 361
Port Elizabeth	1 955 655	298
Potchefstroom	6 500 000	not available
Pretoria	7 669 550	3 763
Rand Afrikaans	8 700 000	8 700
Rhodes	1 309 940	561
Unisa	749 777	828
Stellenbosch		
Western Cape	18 813 423	6 232
Witwatersrand	5 839 802	2 108
Zululand	10 700 835	2 622
Vista	9 000 000	3 000
North West	1 102 788	1 285
Venda	1 319 558	609
Transkei		

University	(2) (a) Students	(2) (b) Rand
Cape Town	1 260	1 090 000
Durban-Westville	917	1 391 733
Fort Hare		
Medunsa	1 504	19 619 551
Natal	0	nil
The North	0	nil
Orange Free State	465	1 046 418
Port Elizabeth	0	nil
Potchefstroom	0	nil
Pretoria	0	nil
Rand Afrikaans	8	12 000
Rhodes	0	nil
Unisa	0	nil
Stellenbosch		
Western Cape	4 848	13 385 147
Witwatersrand	504	918 034
Zululand	0	nil
Vista	0	nil
North West	0	nil
Venda	0	nil
Transkei		

School feeding scheme: corruption

*14. Dr W A ODENDAAI asked the Minister of Health: [Written Question No 351]

Whether any cases of corruption in respect of the Government's school feeding scheme were identified (a) in (i) 1994, (ii) 1995 and (iii) 1996 and (b) during the period 1 January 1997 up to the latest specified date for which information is available; if so, how many in each case?

N563E
[Signature]

University	(2) (a) Rand	(2) (b) Students
Cape Town	1 260	1 090 000
Durban-Westville	1 183	1 991 029
Fort Hare		
Medunsa	1 504	21 767 194
Natal	0	nil
The North	0	nil
Orange Free State	not available	nil
Port Elizabeth	0	nil
Potchefstroom	not available	nil
Pretoria	1 316	2 360 252
Rand Afrikaans	100	200 000
Rhodes	561	999 391
Unisa	not available	nil
Stellenbosch		
Western Cape	4 848	13 385 147
Witwatersrand	504	918 031
Zululand	305	772 502
Vista	not available	9 000 000
North West	not available	nil
Venda	not available	nil
Transkei		

The MINISTER OF HEALTH:
The following table reflects the situation per province:

Province	(a)				From Jan. '97	Comment
	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(b)		
Province	1994	1995	1996			
Northern Cape	0	0	0	0		
Western Cape	0	3	0	0		These cases were identified through a rapid financial audit completed in October 1995. The cases were not of a serious nature and the amounts involved were since refunded (1) accounted for by supporting documentation (2).
Free State	2	1	0	0		These cases were identified through routine control procedures. The 1994 cases are still under S.A. Police Services (SAPS) investigation. The Attorney-General refused to prosecute in the 1995 case because there was no sufficient proof.
Gauteng	0	0	0	0		
Mpumalanga	1	16	0	0		These cases were identified through a financial audit completed in April 1996. According to the SAPS report, only one case is still under investigation. One person was sentenced to pay R600 or 12 months in prison. The other cases were resolved through remedial action, refunding of amounts, submission of supporting documentation, etc.
North West	0	0	0	0		A forensic audit was completed in December 1996. No cases of fraud were identified.
KwaZulu/Natal	8	3	0	0		These cases were identified through routine control procedures. All the cases are still under SAPS investigation.
Northern Province	0	3	1	0		These cases were identified through routine control procedures. Three cases are still under SAPS investigation while the amount involved in the other case has been refunded.
Eastern Cape	0	9	0	0		These cases have been identified through a financial audit completed in October 1995. Court cases and SAPS investigations are ongoing.

Source: Provincial Departments of Health, April 1997

*15. Mr J J DOWRY asked the Minister for Welfare and Population Development: [Written Question No 362]

(1) Whether she or her Department has any statistics on the loss of income suffered by her Department as a result of corruption; if so, (a) how many cases of corruption were reported during the latest specified period of 12 months for which information is available and (b) what was the total loss of income suffered by her Department during that period;

(2) whether she or her Department is contemplating taking any steps to combat corruption; if not, why not; if so, what steps;

(3) whether she will make a statement on the matter?
N574E

The MINISTER FOR WELFARE AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

(1) No,
(a) one internal case,
(b) nil;

(2) yes, the Public Service Act (Act 110 of 1994) is

[Handwritten mark]

in place to guide the Department in addressing fraud and corruption of public servants and should there be cases the matter is forwarded into the judiciary system for criminal prosecution;

(3) no.

Department: losses resulting from corruption

*16. Mr A H NEL asked the Minister of Minerals and Energy: [Written Question No 365]

(1) Whether he or his Department has any statistics on the loss of income suffered by his Department as a result of corruption; if so, (a) how many cases of corruption were reported during the latest specified period of 12 months for which information is available and (b) what was the total loss of income suffered by his Department during that period;

(2) whether he or his Department is contemplating taking any steps to combat corruption; if not, why not; if so, what steps;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N577E

The MINISTER OF MINERALS AND ENERGY:

(1) No.

(a) None.

(b) None.

(2) The Department is able to prevent corruption by applying sound financial management and adhering to all control measurements.

(3) No.

Department: losses resulting from corruption

*17. Comdt A BLAAS asked the Minister of Labour: [Written Question No 368]

(1) Whether he or his Department has any statistics on the loss of income suffered by his Department as a result of corruption; if so, (a) how many cases of corruption were reported during the latest specified period of 12 months for which information is available and (b) what was the total loss of income suffered by his Department during that period;

(2) whether he or his Department is contemplating taking any steps to combat corruption; if not, why not; if so, what steps;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N580E

The MINISTER OF LABOUR:

Corruption cases for the period 1 April 1996 up to 31 March 1997. We assume that this refers to acts of dishonesty that involve staff of the Department of Labour. Therefore the following information relates to instances where officials of the Department were involved in dishonest activities. It does not relate to fraud, i.e. where members of the public committed illegal acts.

(1) (a) A total number of 14 cases of corruption were reported during the latest specified period of 12 months for which information is available.

(b) The total loss of income suffered by my Department during that period is R219 114.03 of which R49 702.60 was recovered, leaving an amount of R169 411.43 outstanding. (See attached schedule for a detailed breakdown.)

(2) The Department of Labour takes the following steps to combat corruption.

2.1 Officials who are suspected of corruption are suspended and criminal and disciplinary charges are laid against them.

2.2 Depending on the outcome of the criminal investigation, disciplinary steps are taken with a view to terminating the official's service.

2.3 Where possible, the amounts due to the Department are deducted from the official's pension, leave gratuities and/or salaries. Legal action is then taken to recover any amount which might still be outstanding.

2.4 The Internal Control Section of the Funds i.e. the Unemployment Insurance Fund and Compensation Fund, has representatives in all of the major centres in the Republic of South Africa. The internal auditors constantly apply control methods to combat corruption.

2.5 The Department has established an anti-corruption unit to look into fraud and theft in the Unemployment Insurance Fund in a pilot project. This has had a positive impact on tracking down corruption. We will be reviewing the work of this unit with the view to extending its functions.

2.6 The Department, the Unemployment Insurance Fund and the Compensation Fund are also subject to regular auditing by the Office of the Auditor-General.

(3) The above reply constitutes my statement on the matter.

Summary of corruption cases in the Department for the period 1 April 1996 to 31 March 1997

Component	Nature of Corruption	Amount involved
1. Directorate: Provisioning Administration	Issued a cheque on 25 September 1996	R 26 688,90
2. Provincial Directorate: Free State	Took cash for an advance refunded	R 600,00
3. Provincial Directorate: Gauteng South	False statements to claim abnormal subsistence allowance	R 8 125,90
4. Provincial Directorate: KwaZulu/Natal	Using the first auto Petrosard issued for Government vehicle for private purposes	R 4 187,92
5. Provincial Directorate: Gauteng South	UIF Benefits	R 1 140,00
6. Unemployment Insurance Commissioner	UIF Benefits	R 97 156,96
7. Provincial Directorate: Western Cape	UIF Benefits	R 80 000,00
8. Provincial Directorate: Free State	Misuse of Government vehicle	R 865,25
9. Provincial Directorate: Gauteng North	Took money from mineworkers in exchange for some services	R 350,00
	Total:	R219 114,03
	Amount recovered:	R 49 702,60
	Total amount outstanding:	R169 411,43

*18. Dr A P JANSE VAN RENSBURG asked the Minister of Education: [Written Question No 381]

What were the total amounts owed in loans, excluding long-term loans, by students at the (a) University of Cape Town, (b) University of Durban-Westville, (c) University of Natal, (d) University of Fort Hare, (e) University of the North, (f) University of the Orange Free State, (g) University of Port Elizabeth, (h) Potchefstroomse Universiteit vir Christelike Hoër

Onderwys, (i) University of Pretoria, (j) Rand Afrikaans University, (k) Rhodes University, (l) University of Stellenbosch, (m) University of the Western Cape, (n) University of the Witwatersrand, (o) University of Zululand, (p) University of Transkei, (q) University of Venda, (r) Vista University, (s) University of South Africa, (t) University of the North-West and (u) Medical University of Southern Africa as at 31 March 1997? N625E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

According to information provided by the universities themselves, a table has been compiled to reflect total amounts owed in loans, except long-term loans, by students at the universities. The absence of figures indicates that no reply was received from the university at the time of compiling this reply.

An annexure has been provided with the relevant information as provided by the Universities of Vista and Transkei.

University	Rand	Date
Cape Town	14 498 313	31 December 1996
Durban-Westville	*	
Fort Hare		
McMunsa	31 040 967	31 December 1996
Natal	58 064 000	31 March 1997
The North		
Orange Free State	11 502 839	13 May 1997
Port Elizabeth	2 524 100	31 March 1997
Pretoria	7 643 300	31 December 1996
Pretoria	Nil	
Rand Afrikaans	489 100	30 April 1997
Rhodes	554 297	31 March 1997
Unisa		
Stellenbosch	13 620 592	31 December 1996
Western Cape	12 342 305	2 May 1997
Witwatersrand	3 997 976	31 March 1997
Zululand	Nil	
Vista	Nil	See annexure W
North West	Nil	
Venda		
Transkei	See annexure	8 May 1997

Vista University does not have any loans to students on its books. The Tertiary Education Fund of South Africa allocates funds received from outside organisations to the various institutions to be utilised for loans to students and to be administered by themselves.

The University Council has however allocated an amount of R3 million during 1997 to TEFSA to be utilised for loans to Vista University Students. These loans are administered by TEFSA.

University of Transkei
Memorandum

To : Registrar Finance
From : Head: Financial Aid Bureau
Subject : Student Support 1995/1996/1997
Date : 08 May 1997

Herein is a schedule showing the amounts allocated to this institution by Tefsa and Kagiso Trust and numbers of students awarded those funds.

Sponsor	Amount	Student numbers
Tefsa	1995 R6,019,824.00	1 871
	1996 R9,064,914.00	2 458
	1997 ?????	???
Kagiso Trust	1995 R3,161,702.80	397
	1996 R2,613,630.00	324
	1997 ????????	???

Tefsa

Tefsa has allocated us R8,404,055.44 at the moment and we have already claimed R7,425,200.00 to be allocated to 1 721 students. We are still awaiting a 20% increase as already mentioned by Tefsa Executive Director (Mr Roy Jackson) at the Tefsa Workshop on 23 April 1997. This means we are not sure about the actual amount and students for 1997.

Kagiso Trust

We have already submitted a diskette containing a list of students recommended for Kagiso Trust Bursary 1997. We are still waiting for the list of approved students and amounts from Kagiso. Therefore we are unable to determine how much has been allocated for 1997.

Nelson M. Haram

*19. Mr L D CHUENYANE - Public Works.
[Written Question No 399] [Question standing over.]

Department: staff employed

*20. Mrs P W CUPIDO asked the Minister of Health: [Written Question No 415]

(a) How many staff members were employed by her Ministry as at the latest specified date for which information is available, (b) how

many of these staff members are employed in (i) Cape Town and (ii) Pretoria during the parliamentary session and (c) what was the amount spent by her Department in the latest specified calendar year to move its session activities back and forth between Pretoria and Cape Town? N668E

The MINISTER OF HEALTH:

(a) Nine.

(b) All of these staff members are employed in Cape Town during the parliamentary session.

(c) During the Winter recess (1996) five persons remained in Cape Town and four returned to Pretoria. For the end of year recess (1996), only one person remained in Cape Town.

The amount spent to move the session activities back and forth between Pretoria and Cape Town is as follows:

<i>Office of the Director-General</i>	R19 596
Air tickets and freight charges together	R19 596

Department: staff employed

*21. Mrs E J CHAIT asked the Minister for Welfare and Population Development: [Written Question No 416]

(a) How many staff members were employed by her Ministry as at the latest specified date for which information is available, (b) how many of these staff members are employed in (i) Cape Town and (ii) Pretoria during the parliamentary session and (c) what was the amount spent by her Department in the latest specified calendar year to move its session activities back and forth between Pretoria and Cape Town? N669E

The MINISTER FOR WELFARE AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

(a) 8 as on 31 July 1997

(b) (i) 8 and

(ii) 0 and

(c) ± R117 448 in terms of the 1996/97 financial year.

Department: staff employed

*22. Ms K W NOWEMESHA asked the Minister of Housing: [Written Question No 417]

(a) How many staff members were employed by her Ministry as at the latest specified date for which information is available, (b) how many of these staff members are employed in (i) Cape Town and (ii) Pretoria during the parliamentary session and (c) what was the amount spent by her Department in the latest specified calendar year to move its session activities back and forth between Pretoria and Cape Town? N670E

The MINISTER OF HOUSING:

(a) Five - As on 1 August 1997

(b) (i) Five - As on 1 August 1997
(ii) None

(c) R41 100 - As on 31 March 1997, including expenditure of Departmental Senior Officials.

Department: staff employed

*23. Col N G RAMAREMISA asked the Minister of Defence: [Written Question No 428]

(a) How many staff members were employed by his Ministry as at the latest specified date for which information is available, (b) how many of these staff members are employed in (i) Cape Town and (ii) Pretoria during the parliamentary session and (c) what was the amount spent by the South African National Defence Force in the latest specified calendar year to move its session activities back and forth between Pretoria and Cape Town? N691E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(a) There are presently 26 staff members in the employ of the Ministry.

During parliamentary sessions my staff is assisted by 3 members from the staff of the Chief of the National Defence Force and 5 members from the staff of the Secretary for Defence.

(b) (i) All the members mentioned are employed in Cape Town during sessions.

Concern over campus corruption

M+G 1-7/18/97 (54)

Mukoni T Ratshitanga

MANAGEMENT at the University of Zululand, facing a barrage of corruption allegations, has ordered its staff and students to shut up or produce evidence to back the claims.

The administration, already rocked by revelations surrounding fake degrees and fake financial credits to students, issued what amounts to an ultimatum on the campus last week.

The rector and vice-chancellor, CRM Dlamini, ordered "any person who has information in the form of evidence to bring it to my office within the next seven days.

"Any person who persists with unfounded rumours and allegations thereafter will ... be acting in bad faith and risking disciplinary action."

The warning came as the Ministry of Education voiced concern about the university. The department's tertiary education director, Itumeleng Mosala, said Dlamini "has closed the door to us ... He says we are interfering, and we are trying to persuade him. We can simply use the new Act [which, once passed into law, will empower the ministry to intervene on strife-torn campuses]."

Several of the allegations stem from the university's branch of the South African Students' Congress (Sasco).

The university initially denied the allegations out of hand. Docu-

mentary evidence handed to the *Mail & Guardian*, however, does raise some questions about events at the university.

One document details a probe last year by a Durban firm of chartered accountants which uncovered payments to an individual "outside the scope of normal business practice. Such payments were not authorised and could have been irregular," the firm, Ngubane and Company, said.

The auditors found that the university's catering manager, GJ Forte, received an untaxed management fee above his annual salary worth R330 000 over the two years to December 1995. The auditing firm warned that the university could be open to a tax liability of R145 000 if it did not recover this money from Forte.

Ngubane also said part of the management fee Forte received — a cut of the early settlement discount given by suppliers — should have gone into the university's coffers.

The university said this week a subsequent investigation headed by the university council's interim chairman, Dr M Tshabalala, and including members of Sasco, had cleared Forte.

Kagiso Trust, which provides bursaries to many of the university's students, also confirmed this week that it had received no audited statements from the university since 1991. The trust had received apologies from the university, said its director, Horst Kleinschmidt.

The university, which last week termed the allegations "absolute nonsense", this week said its finance division was too understaffed to respond in time for publication.

Other documents seen by the *M&G* show that the university spent more than R1,5-million between February 1995 and June 1997 on payments to a "curtain and fabric consultant".

However, a university representative said this week audit figures to date indicated that R600 000 had been spent on "linen items".

The university's government subsidy last year was R5,3-million.

The representative said an audit is currently being carried out into the purchase of curtains, mattress covers and other linen items.

This was occasioned by the wholesale theft from the residences of thousands of rands worth of these items, seemingly in November-December 1996. When students arrived for the 1997 year, they had to be supplied with these items.

The public protector last year investigated the issuing of fake degrees on the campus.

The university last month suspended five finance officials after an investigation found they had credited thousands of rands to students who owed fees. The initial probe suggested that at least R600 000 was involved in the scam.

Double university bursary bonanza

Angry MEC launches probe

PETER DICKSON

Grahamstown - Those in the battle for bursaries know how tough it is to get into costly South African universities these days.

But Bisho's Balisa Joni, 29, - seven years of study yet no degree - must have a special friend at the Eastern Cape's Finance, Provincial Expenditure and Management Services Department.

Angry MEC Shepherd Mayatula, who launched an investigation this week, wants to know why and how his department awarded Ms Joni R35 000 in bursaries to study at the University of Fort Hare and the University of the Western Cape simultaneously this year.

Professor Mayatula ordered the probe after a report that his permanent secretary, Linekaya Vanda, or a representative, had allegedly signed identical documents authorising UWC and Fort Hare to bill the department for Ms Joni's registration and tuition fees, accommodation, meals and study material.

Fort Hare, itself surprised that a clearly "below average student" had qualified for any kind of bursary, has already sent the first term's bill to his department and

Professor Mayatula is hopping mad about it.

"There is no way this department can pay two accounts - a student cannot attend two universities at the same time," he said.

"I have discussed the issue with the permanent secretary and will require more information," he said.

Pressed on how Ms Joni had managed to even qualify for one bursary, awarded on strict academic performance criteria, Professor Mayatula was reluctant to give an answer.

"I do not want to comment at this stage, but this is certainly an issue on which I am seeking further clarification," he said.

Professor Mayatula has good reason to ask.

Despite her studying for seven years, UWC and Fort Hare records paint a dismal picture of Ms Joni's exceptionally lengthy academic travails.

A Fort Hare spokesman said this week the university was "surprised" any bursaries had been awarded to her.

The spokesman said Ms Joni had first enrolled at Fort Hare in 1990 for a Bachelor of Pedagogics degree, but failed the crucial first-year English and education courses. She had then registered

for a Bachelor of Commerce degree, but again failed several subjects. The intrepid Ms Joni then enrolled in the economic sciences, but managed to get "excluded" from her first-year economics course in 1993.

Clearly, it was time to move on from a town like Alice, where Fort Hare is situated.

A spokesman for UWC said that Ms Joni registered for a Bachelor of Commerce degree at its Bellville campus in 1995 - but failed most of her first-year management subjects, including management information systems and, again, economics.

The persistent Ms Joni re-registered at UWC last year - and again failed most of her subjects.

And this year?

Armed with R35 000 in Bisho bursaries, Ms Joni changed her strategic tack and re-registered at both universities - for the same academic year.

Now her troubles have doubled with the news of Professor Mayatula's inquiry - and Fort Hare's first term bill.

One thing Ms Joni is studiously avoiding, though, is the media.

She went to ground after news of the scandal broke in the Eastern Cape this week and could not be reached for comment. - ECN

ARC 2/8/97 (54)

University tries to put brake on bankruptcy

BRETT ADKINS

ST 3/8/97

(54)

THE University of Fort Hare in the Eastern Cape employs 24 tractor drivers even though it has only six tractors — some of them broken.

Now most of them risk losing their jobs when the university goes ahead with plans to retrench more than 800 workers by the end of September in an attempt to prevent financial ruin.

Salaries for staff like the tractor drivers, who have been redundant since the day they were hired under a job assistance programme run by the former Ciskei government, is one reason why the university finds itself on the verge of bankruptcy.

Government subsidy cuts and an uphill battle to get students to settle unpaid fees have also added to Fort Hare's financial woes.

Vice-chancellor Professor Mbulelo Mzamane has warned that the university will go bankrupt and could be closed down if a solution is not found within the next two months.

Fort Hare lost R18-million in 1996 and this figure is expected to more than double this year. The university's wage bill alone will cost R111-million this year even though its total allocation for 1997 is only R91-million.

Tensions ran high on campus earlier this year after students were warned to pay arrears fees and some of this year's costs up-front or face being barred from

the university.

There has also been tension between the university and unions over the retrenchments.

Talks between the two began in May, but members of the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) called off negotiations after they failed to agree on terms.

This Wednesday, Nehawu members marched to the campus to protest against what they described as "management's attitude towards negotiations".

The union has warned that it will apply for a court interdict to stop the retrenchments if the university goes ahead.

However, the university said on Friday that talks with the union on "restructuring" were back on track.

"A memorandum has been handed to management by the union and the process of negotiating the restructuring of the university will continue," Fort Hare spokesman Mbeko Mnyateli told the Sunday Times.

Mnyateli would not be drawn on exactly what was being negotiated but confirmed that the university wanted to push ahead with the proposed staff cuts.

The university is offering affected staff a retrenchment package that includes one week's salary for each year of service.

Those facing the axe are from all university departments including catering, cleaning, security and administration.



Wits will face huge challenges

Changes combine to put the university, and indeed Johannesburg, on their toes, writes Colin Bundy

(54)

Star 5/8/97

It is worth reminding ourselves that many of the problems that Wits has encountered in recent years are challenges that recur in the history of the university. But it is equally important to recognise that such challenges are at different historical moments and in different contexts. How the challenges are met, how the concerns addressed, necessarily differ from one moment to the next.

When one thinks about the current context in which Wits must make decisions, conduct its debates, cope with the present and plan for the future, one aspect stands out above all others. The central, dominating feature of the context in which Wits now operates is change: the environment has never been more fluid, more complex, more demanding than it is at present.

What are some of these changes? Firstly, there has been a rapid expansion of student numbers - a phenomenon characterised as massification, or a transition from elite to mass higher education.

This is not just a question of admitting more students into universities, but has also involved changing the composition of the student body; the global pattern has been towards student bodies that are less male and less middle class, and that have higher numbers of first generation learners.

Secondly, and simultaneously, a clear international trend has been a decrease in state funding for universities - the growth in student numbers has been accompanied by a drop in the level of state funding per student.

A third shift that has very particular relevance for research, teaching and learning at universities has been the "information revolution" - the staggering expansion of knowledge and the developments within telecommunication and computer technology.

All of the global changes mentioned so far have also registered at the national level - South African universities are familiar with massification of access, declining state funding, pressure on our curricula and the impact of the information

revolution. But there are additional, distinctively South African environmental shifts that the University of the Witwatersrand must come to terms with and capitalise upon.

A whole set of changes derives from the new political dispensation which calls for, among others, higher participation rates for black South Africans and women.

The implications of these changes at the national level have been exhaustively discussed and workshopped in recent years and I believe that they are pretty well understood at Wits.

I would like to develop the concept of an urban university; to take close account of the City of Johannesburg in the 1990s; and make some tentative proposals for a different kind of relationship between Wits and the city in which it stands. For, make no mistake about it, this is an urban campus if ever there was one.

Johannesburg in the late 1990s is a metropolis in transition, a city pulsing with change.

Most obviously, there is an entirely new system of local government, with

its four substructures cross-cutting the old apartheid boundaries, charged with the enormous task of allocating urban resources more equitably while simultaneously preserving and developing those resources.

Secondly, there is the social dimension to this political change: the relatively rapid integration of a deeply segregated city. Massive changes have taken place in inner-city areas; there has been an eruption of lower-income housing schemes around the urban periphery; there has been a partial penetration of previously white suburbia by black home-owners; and the rate of private home ownership by Africans in the city is at about twice the national average.

Thirdly, those who administer and resource the city must try to defuse the mushrooming informal settlements which house perhaps three million people - backyard shacks, squatter settlements and land invasions.

Fourthly, there has also been a rapid growth of immigration by non-South Africans, making Johannesburg incom-

parably the most cosmopolitan city in sub-Saharan Africa.

Fifthly and finally, there is a complex, inter-related and crucial set of economic changes: at their heart is the transition from a manufacturing economic base to high-tech, communications and service industries.

Most immediately, the challenges presented by this metropolis-in-transition affect virtually every academic discipline offered on this campus. In many cases, they have already impacted: I know that many Wits academics are already engaged in grappling with the practical, applied and theoretical problems defined by these changes.

Fortunately for Wits - and for Johannesburg - the challenge is not unprecedented. Urban campuses in other societies have grappled with essentially similar problems, and come up with some compelling solutions.

Firstly, Wits must continue to transform itself in step with the broader transformation of our society. The diversity of its students, support staff and academic staff must come to reflect the demography of the nation at large.

Secondly, Wits must adapt to the combined logic of rising numbers and falling state subsidies.

Thirdly, Wits must pioneer new patterns of teaching and learning, adapt its curricula and syllabi, and think very specifically about what kind of graduates it produces.

Evidence from around the world indicates that graduates of South African universities will no longer be valued (and employed) merely on the possession of qualifications. Instead, they will win favour on the basis of the competencies that higher education has given them: the quality of their communication and problem-solving skills, their creativity, adaptability and capacity for independent thought.

Fourthly, Wits is superbly located, in the heart of South Africa's communications and computer industries, to be able to use the new technology for teaching, learning and research. Academics should not fail to recognise the transformative possibilities of new technology.

Fifthly, as I have already argued, there is a compelling need for Wits to establish a new relationship with Johannesburg; a relationship every bit as organic and reciprocal as that which the campus and parts of the city enjoyed in earlier decades.

Finally, I believe that there is a need for a different style of administration. If elected at Wits, I would commit myself and the entire executive team to a visible, accessible mode of management.

This is a shortened version of yesterday's public address by Professor Colin Bundy, one of the candidates for the vice-chancellorship of Wits University.



Universities owed R225m by students

Jacob Dlamini

BD 6/18/97
CAPE TOWN — SA uni-
versities were owed
more than R225m in stu-
dent fees last year, fig-
ures released by the ed-
ucation ministry in Par-
liament yesterday show.

Figures show that the
worst hit were historical-
ly black universities
with a debt of R156,7m
while traditionally white
institutions accounted
for the rest.

At the Medical Uni-
versity of SA, which
trains the majority of the
country's black doctors,
students paid only
R17,4m of the R48m re-
sulting in a R31m debt.

The University of the
Western Cape was owed
about R29m, the Univer-
sity of Zululand R24m,
Vista R16m while
R14,5m in fees went un-
paid at Fort Hare.

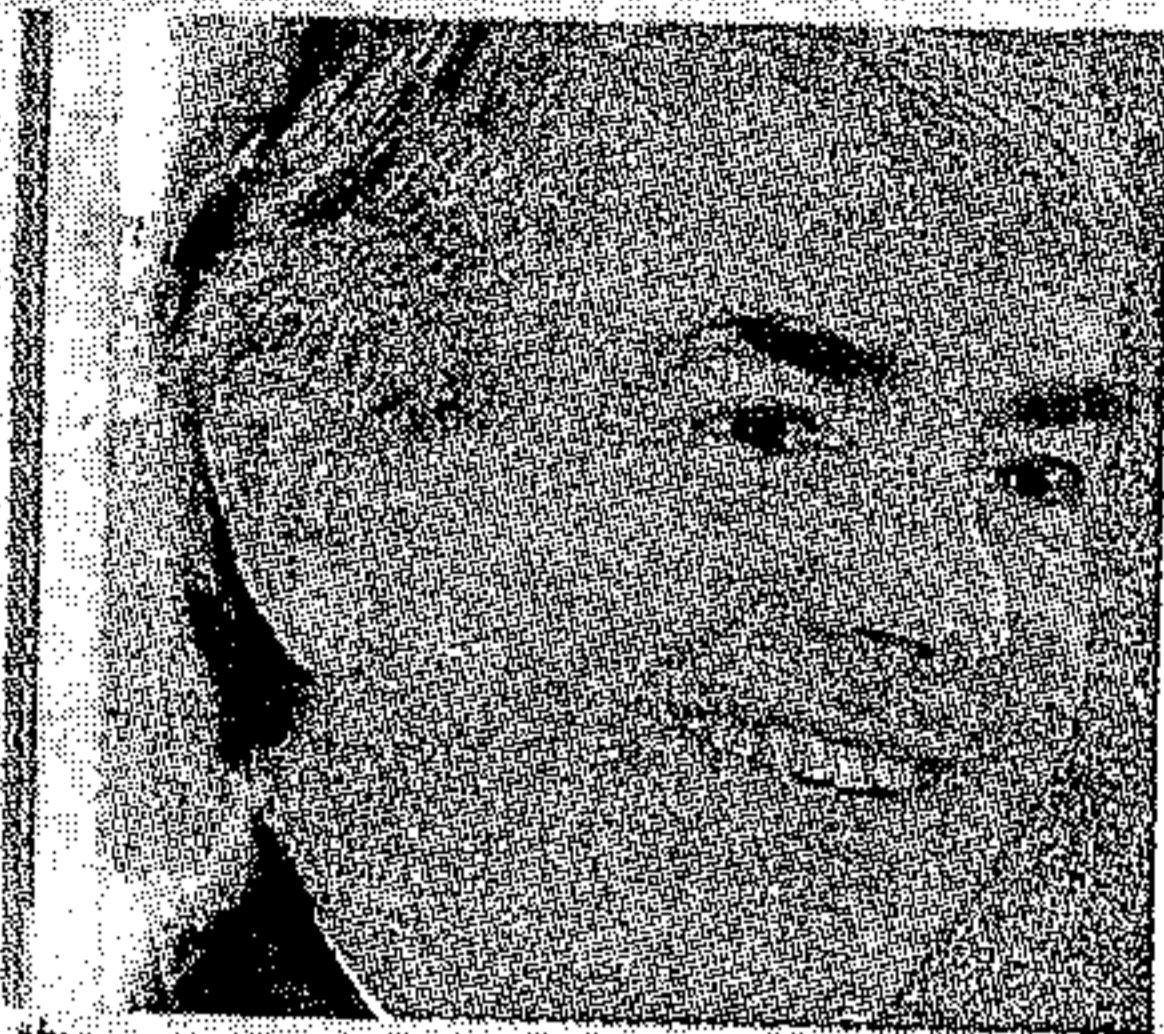
The University of the
North West was owed
just R1m while students
at the University of Ven-
da paid only R21m of the
R28m levied.

The levels of debt at
the historically white
universities also varied
significantly, with the
student debt as low as
R1m at Rhodes, R12m at
Wits University, R10,2m
at the University of Cape
Town. Stellenbosch was
owed R6m, Pretoria
about R11m and Potch-
estroom R6m.

The University of SA
(Unisa) was owed ap-
proximately R2m.

According to the edu-
cation ministry, the
withholding of students'
results to compel them to
pay their fees proved rel-
atively successful. More
than 18 000 students
were subjected to this
measure.

The ministry also an-
nounced that almost all
tertiary institutions
were subjected to distur-
bances. The reasons var-
ied from racial conflict,
protests against fee in-
creases to demands for
the registration of stu-
dents regardless of
whether they had settled
their debts.



Historian Colin Bundy takes lead in Wits race

Wits University's senior appointments committee last night recommended Professor Colin Bundy to take over from Professor Robert Charlton when he retires as vice-chancellor at the end of the year. Bundy, the 53-year old vice-rector in charge of student affairs at the University of the Western Cape, got the committee's nod ahead of economics professor Francis Wilson (58) of the University of Cape Town. The vote in favour of Bundy is still to be

ratified by two bodies - the senate, which must approve the recommendation and the university council.

The Forum for Further Accelerated and Comprehensive Transformation (FFACT) still has to comment on Bundy's selection, however.

After senate approval, the final vote will be taken by the university council, the institution's highest decision-making body, on August 22 - Staff Reporter.

Star 8/8/97

(54)

Bengu in angry row with Zululand rector

(54) M+G 8-14/8197

Mukoni T Ratshtanga

The Minister of Education, Sibusiso Bengu, has severely chastised University of Zululand rector Charles Dlamini for his "unfortunate insinuations" that the ministry is "worse than the worst of apartheid ministries" in running higher education.

Bengu said this week: "Professor Dlamini has a right to glorify apartheid if he wants to. He also has a right to mourn the good old days of the apartheid masters who ran universities better than the democratically elected nonracial government."

The war of words between the minister and the rector erupted in an exchange of statements through the *Mail & Guardian*.

It began with an angry letter from Dlamini to the *M&G*, complaining about a report last week that gave details of a probe last year into payments by the university to an individual that were "outside the scope of normal business practice".

The report also quoted Itumeleng Mosala, the ministry's tertiary education director, as saying that Dlamini "has closed the door to us".

In his letter this week, Dlamini said Mosala's statement was "balderdash", adding: "To say... that I have closed doors... is not only irresponsible but is mischievous."

Dlamini said he objected to members of his university's Broad Transformation Forum discussing certain issues with Bengu before doing so with the university council or management. "The [forum] is a committee of the council and not a committee of the minister," Dlamini said. What Bengu was doing was to "undermine the management of and discipline at the university".

Dlamini said the ministry "pays lip service" to institutional autonomy in the White Paper on Higher Edu-

cation. He said Bengu, instead of sending the transformation forum back to him, had "purported" to send a delegation to "interrogate me".

Bengu, asked for his reaction, said he had a right to meet the forum: "My ministry is answerable to the public, and must be accessible to that public."

He said the forum had told him they had "absolutely no recourse in the management and council structures". His job was to listen to them,

Mukoni T Ratshtanga

Armed security guards are patrolling the University of Verulam campus after an investigation by Military Intelligence (MI) apparently uncovered a "student plot" to torch the university.

The university's vice-chancellor, Gessler Nkondo, called in the private guards amid a long-running boycott of classes, which has cost students much of the academic year. Last week, Nkondo warned that the campus might be closed down for the rest of the year.

Students are demanding that Nkondo and the rest of his administration step down, while many of the university's academic staff this week called on the Education Ministry, the public protector and the Northern Province government for a commission of inquiry.

Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu's representative, Lincoln Mali, said the ministry had not been "officially informed" about the problems on Thohoyandou campus, but would investigate.

Nkondo said he had called police on to the campus in May, after the

he said. "There is no law, not even the apartheid one that Professor Dlamini glorifies so much, that says I will only listen to appeals that have been permitted by council to be made to me."

Bengu said he met stakeholders "in order to inform ourselves about the situation". If Dlamini took it for interference, "then I am glad I am interfering because I become better informed as a result... and able to perform my public duty to ensure that I

offices of the Students' Representative Council (SRC) were burnt down. This had happened the day before

Cyril Ramaphosa, chair of the industrial group Johnnic, was inaugurated as chancellor.

Nkondo said local police then brought in an MI agent, who reported that "we needed to know the background to certain things".

Nkondo said: "We were told there were plots to burn down the main administration building, the library, the car pool and the principal's house."

The agent recommended that Nkondo employ armed security guards. Nkondo chose Khulani Springbok Patrols — the company that recently handed a top job to Charles Landman, former head of the Brixton murder and robbery squad.

"Our security staff was unable to deal with this sort of conspiracy," Nkondo said.

He referred student claims that Khulani Springbok is charging R210 000 for a 10-week contract to the university's finance office; but no one was available for comment. Nkondo said he was unable to pin-

point the alleged plotters among the 7 500-strong student body.

Much of the opposition among students is being blamed on the university's decision to raise student fees by 13% earlier this year. It is believed the SRC offices were burnt after student leaders had initially agreed to the increase.

The Azanian Students' Congress and its sister organisation, the Pan Africanist Student Movement of Azania (Pasma), have led opposition to the fee increase. Pasma warned this week the campus would be disrupted unless Khulani Springbok was removed. "1997 might turn to be 1976," said a pamphlet issued in the movement's name.

It also emerged this week that the university has decided to award all staff a 10% salary rise; they received an 18% increase last year. At the same time, the university has frozen recruitment of new staff, saying it is cash-strapped.

Hundreds of students massed this week to demand that Nkondo and his administration quit. He faced a similar rebellion on the campus late last year, triggered by allegations of mismanagement.

Poison pen used against Wits candidate

(54)
Gaye Davis

A hoax letter "signed" by Professor Cecil Abrahams, rector of the University of the Western Cape (UWC), nearly put a spoke in the wheels of the selection of a new vice-chancellor for Witwatersrand University this week.

The letter, received by chair of the Wits council, Judge Fikile Bam, and circulated by him among members of the selection committee, looked authentic: it was written on a UWC letterhead and carried what seemed to be Abrahams's signature.

But the letter was less than flattering about Abrahams's colleague, the UWC vice-rector in charge of student affairs, Professor Colin Bundy, who is vying with the University of Cape Town's Professor Frances Wilson for Wits's top post.

Judge Bam said he had presumed the letter was genuine and so circulated it. "News of the letter, however, leaked back to Professor Abrahams and he contacted me early this week to say it was a fraud," Judge Bam said.

He would not divulge details of the letter, which is understood to have cast aspersions on Bundy's abil-



Colin Bundy: Defamed in letter

ities as an academic. The matter would not be taken further, Bam said.

Abrahams said: "I couldn't believe it — I was very shocked. I don't participate in other people's processes unless I am invited to."

He had no idea who could have written the letter but said he would not be launching an internal investigation. "I just want the whole matter to disappear as quickly as possible," he said.

● The Wits Council is due to take its decision about the new vice-chancellor on August 19.

MTG 8-14/8/97

Rhodes University under fire for not helping community

GRAHAMSTOWN — Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Jay Naidoo condemned Rhodes University during a working for water open day on Tuesday for "playing little role in helping Grahamstown communities".

"When I asked the question of those involved here about the role of Rhodes in this water project I was shocked at how little it was doing," Naidoo said. "A university should be a place where new ideas are developed. It must see itself

as a centre for the community."

However, Eastern Cape Nature Conservation project manager Mike Powell said that the Rhodes botany department had done "comprehensive research into the project at a reasonable price". Powell said he would soon consult Rhodes for more assistance.

Ted Avis, a senior lecturer in the botany department, hit back at Naidoo yesterday, saying: "It is disappointing that a government minister can make

strong accusations without attempting to get facts first and also ignoring information that was given to him concerning the university's involvement."

Meanwhile, Rhodes University will not be cutting back on staff numbers, vice-chancellor David Woods said at a special meeting of the University senate this afternoon.

"We are not cutting staff numbers, as we believe our numbers are not excessive," he said during the meeting of

(54)

senior academics held to discuss recommendations made in terms of the university's academic planning. However, Woods said that the university was having to plan in an environment of restricted government funding and resources would have to be reallocated.

It was recommended that about 17 academic posts be created in "growing areas" and there be a reduction of approximately the same number in "declining areas". — ECN-DMA

UWC lecturer flees threats over high failure rate

SABATA NGCAI
EDUCATION REPORTER

(54)
ARG 12/8/97 51

A law lecturer at the University of the Western Cape has been sent on special leave after being threatened with violence by students over the high failure rate in his department.

The university has appointed a three-man commission of inquiry to investigate its law faculty and a call by students for the expulsion of lecturer Fourie Kotze.

Rector Cecil Abrahams has asked the commission to investigate an "explosive situation", in which students have expressed concern at the high failure rate in the faculty of advanced private law, in which Mr Kotze lectures.

The vice-rector of student affairs, Ikey van de Rheede, said Mr Kotze had to be sent on leave "for his safety and that of other staff members".

According to a rector's bulletin circulated to the university community, "Advocate Kotze has been threatened with physical harm".

Mr Kotze refused to comment, saying the matter was "sub judice".

The commissioners are Krish Govender, Abrie du Plessis and Vincent Saldanha.

Professor Abrahams said he had appointed the commission in an effort to resolve the matter as quickly and amicably as possible.



Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu ... his Ministry promulgated the establishment of forums to set an agenda for change at institutions of higher education.

60/13/8/97
F9/8/31/10/09

BTFs still have most important role to play (54)

By Thandwa Mthembu

THE Higher Education Bill, 1997, promulgates the establishment of institutional forums as statutory and permanent bodies to "set the change agenda", among many other important functions.

There is currently an interesting debate on whether or not this new development will hamstring the management of our institutions of higher education.

In the early 1990s, South Africa took the road to a new democratic dispensation. However, the management and academics of most educational institutions tended to back-pedal on the transformation process that was unfolding.

Hence the ructions on many campuses. To date, very few, if any, institution can boast transformed structures of governance or transformed curricula. There are even institutions which still teach African languages in English.

Most, if not all, of the university senates are still elite clubs which resist all attempts to make them equitably representative as the Higher Education Bill promulgates.

Given this state of affairs, should we trust that the vice-chancellors and academics alone have been, and will ever be, proactive in transforming our institutions?

It is now a historical fact that Broad Transformation Forums (BTFs) rose out of a sense of public duty from the stakeholders to make our institutions fit in with the rest of the country and its broader transformative processes.

The BTFs had to exist simply because structures like the senates and councils had shirked this responsibility.

Sinister agendas

To insinuate as some do that the BTFs have sinister agendas, that the BTFs have no purpose any more, and that democratic processes of consultation are retrogressive, is a rubbishing of our new democracy.

Perhaps some have always had a say – through our votes and otherwise – in running sections of the past dispensation. But we are tired of hearing that now. Most are only three years in this business.

Change is a continuous and infinite process of self and institutional evaluation and redress. If you try to limit this

process, all you get is one implosion after another – as we have witnessed at our institutions.

So far, the BTFs are the structures on campuses that reflect the representivity and democratisation espoused in the White Paper. As such, only the BTFs can claim legitimate rights to the agenda of change.

To most believers of transformation as a finite process, the massification of structures with politically correct groups of individuals has been the ultimate goal.

This challenge is now passé to most institutions because they have done just this.

A tacit assumption has been that the politically correct people in the massified structures would necessarily carry the process of democratisation to its next logical steps. But, alas, problems have not diminished.

The new challenge is to interrogate the relevance, efficacy and democratic nature of the inherited structures and then modify or restructure them accordingly.

This exercise would go to the heart and essence of democracy. Very few institutions have done the latter. Our future challenge is to continually evaluate our institutions and make proactive adjustments. To me, this points to a job for the BTFs.

Trust of people

Perhaps once our senates, councils and other structures are fully democratised, not only quantitatively but also qualitatively, and once the managements and academics in those structures have done enough to develop and win the trust of the people, BTFs could cease to exist.

But then, and after a qualitative process of democratisation, our structures would have entrenched democratic principles and practices.

For now, and until our senates and councils are fully democratised and therefore trustworthy, the BTFs should stay.

We therefore applaud the Ministry of Education for a job well done in finally establishing BTFs as legal bodies. Condolences to those that parted after the Green Paper proclaimed the BTFs as interim and advisory bodies. (Professor Mthembu is the campus director of Vista University in Welkom.)

Uniyen shut after clashes

(54)
By Pule Molebeledi

The University of Venda was yesterday closed indefinitely after a day of violence in which two people were injured during clashes between protesting students and police.

Deputy vice-chancellor of the university Dr Ndoro Vera said the 8 000 students were ordered to vacate the institution with immediate effect.

Vera said the decision to temporarily close the institution was taken by the university management in consultation with the senate and council after a day of violence on campus.

He said an announcement on the re-

opening would be made through the media in due course.

Sowetan 13/8/97
Vera said the problem started on Monday after a group of students led by the students representative council marched on the administration block and demanded the resignation of vice-chancellor Gessler Nkondo. The students are also opposed to a 13 percent tuition fee hike.

They dispersed after they were told that Nkondo was not around.

"The students then manned the gate yesterday, barricading it with burning tyres.

"They stoned the police who arrived to maintain order. Teargas was fired and one student was injured by a rubber bullet."

GRAHAMSTOWN

The Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) claims that Fort Hare threatened to withhold benefits if the first 230 of about 931 workers to be retrenched by the near-bankrupt university had not signed dismissal notices by last Friday.

As National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) workers marched through Alice to the campus yesterday, Cosatu demanded the immediate withdrawal of the dismissal notices and the setting up of an urgent commission of inquiry "to investigate the misuse of funds by Fort

Fort Hare 'threatened to withhold benefits'

BD 13/8/97

(54)

Hare management".

Cosatu spokesman Bob Msutwana said: "Instead of Fort Hare consulting Nehawu, they decided to unilaterally implement their restructuring programme by issuing one month's notice of dismissal to 230 workers starting on August 1. Management has threatened to withdraw the workers' benefits if they fail to sign the letters of notice by August 8."

Fort Hare's management expressed regret

over the retrenchments and promised to try and assist those affected.

Fort Hare spokesman Vuyani Green said: "The question of the impending restructuring has been addressed by university authorities on various occasions in the recent past.

"Management also remains committed to considering other constructive and financially viable measures of dealing with the current problem," he said. — ECN.

'Favoured' Fort Hare flounders

Star 14/8/97

Grahamstown - For more than three years, the University of Fort Hare, described by its spokesman yesterday as in "dire financial straits", received a more favourable government subsidy than any other institution in the country.

Fort Hare workers, backed by Cosatu, marched on the troubled Alice campus this week as the embattled university's retrenchment exercise got under way. Cosatu and management are to meet in Alice tomorrow to discuss the crisis.

Almost bankrupt, Fort Hare plans to have retrenched more than 930 cleaning, catering,

**70% funded
while other
institutions
receive 64%**

grounds and security staff by the end of next month.

Appeals for financial help have been made to influential graduates such as President Mandela and Kenneth Kaunda.

Lincoln Mali, spokesman for Education Minister and former Fort Hare vice-chancellor Professor Sibusiso Bengu, said yesterday: "If workers must be retrenched at any institution, then they must - Fort Hare management clearly knows what their budget is.

"Over the past three years, Fort Hare received a favourable injection of funds. Fort Hare is funded 70% and other institutions receive 64%.

"The funds are there for the university to run properly. By no means are we saying it's enough, but they must make do with what they have." - ECN

Univen remains closed

Sowetan 14/8/97

(54)

By Khathu Mamaila

THE University of Venda was deserted yesterday after being closed down by management on Tuesday afternoon following violent clashes between students and security guards.

Management ordered all students to leave campus by late yesterday.

Some students sneaked into their rooms and slept, only to be arrested by police in the morning for trespassing.

They were later released.

At least three students and a worker were shot and wounded during clashes on Tuesday. Students had barricaded the main gate in a bid to prevent principal Professor Gesler Nkondo from entering the university.

National deputy president of the Azanian Student Convention (Azasco) Mr Boiki Tsedu said yesterday that the students had called on the Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bhengu to

intervene in the crisis.

"We have also called on the auditor-general and the public protector to investigate financial irregularities at the university. Our plea is that Nkondo should be suspended pending the investigation," said Tsedu.

Students had been boycotting classes for the past two weeks to force management to accede to their demands.

A spokesman for the university could not be reached for comment.

Tuks blacks' 'apartheid' plea

(54) Star 15/8/97
PRETORIA CORRESPONDENT

The SA Students' Congress, long a fighter for equality in education, is demanding the return of racially segregated hostels at the University of Pretoria.

Gauteng chairman Jacob Mamabolo made the call during a campus meeting, citing racial violence as the reason for the request.

This follows a number of alleged race-related incidents at campus hostels in which black students were apparently harassed.

These were isolated incidents in which black students were being beaten, harassed, or insulted by racist remarks, Mamabolo said.

"Initiation is also being imposed on black students. We have our own culture, so why the initiation?"

"And sometimes whites

call us 'kaffirs', spray us with fire extinguishers or throw food at us."

Mamabolo said Sasco considered it an option that hostels be segregated for two years and that hostels should also be mixed along gender lines.

He added that, at a meeting to be held within the next two weeks, Sasco intended to ask the university's management to segregate the hostels.

"We are not saying this is a correct decision because it defeats the objectives of nation-building."

University dean of student affairs Professor Flip van der Watt confirmed that isolated cases of racial incidents had occurred.

"There are incidents, but we're working on them."

Tuks spokesman Mike Smuts declined to comment.

East Rand hospital closes

(58) Star 15/8/97
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

Khayalami hospital is to close and Gauteng's health department will not attempt to keep it open, according to health MEC Amos Masondo.

Khayalami, previously called Kempton Park hospital, is one of the first institutions to be shut down in terms of the department's transformation plan.

The department had turned down a Khayalami Metropolitan Council (KMC) partnership proposal in June because it was out of line with basic principles for public health care.

Masondo said he had met several ANC councillors from the KMC in June and made it clear the closure would go ahead and the building would be sold.

"Whatever health ser-

vice may in future be run at the hospital by other organisations, the Gauteng health department will not be a partner," he said.

Given Khayalami's low utilisation and "inappropriate" location, the department judged that it had to follow other priorities, such as investing more in primary health care and under-resourced hospitals.

The closure of Khayalami was confirmed when the final announcement on the structural transformation plan was made in June this year. From July 1, people using the outpatient clinic were referred elsewhere, and the facility had closed by July 31.

Staff were busy moving to other jobs and others were carrying out tasks associated with closing a large institution.

UWC unveils new mission statement

STAFF WRITER

(54)

~~BA~~ CT 15/8/97

THE University of the Western Cape entered a new era yesterday with the launch of its new mission statement that, it says, will pave the way towards a "more inclusive democratic style of governance" at the "people's university".

The product of nearly two years' work, the mission statement was formulated and modified through months of research and consultation with all university community stakeholders.

UWC vice chancellor Professor Cecil Abrahams said during a lively unveiling ceremony at the university that UWC was "alive and well" and ready to enter the 21st century. Giving a brief historical overview of the institution, Abrahams said UWC was created by the apartheid government in the 1960s to be unsuccessful.

"The courses were of a very low standard and were designed as such so that students would not succeed in the job market," he said.

But, despite the stumbling blocks put in place by the National Party, students of that generation persevered to become successful professionals.

Abrahams said UWC's moment came in 1994 with the birth of the new SA which resulted in the establishment of a mission statement committee, with him at the helm.

The formulation of a new direction for the learning institution entailed a long process of public meetings and consultations. Finally, in May this year, all stakeholders adopted the document — of which the cornerstone is "a place to grow — a place of quality".

"UWC has a new direction but we are not giving up what we were," said Abrahams. "We still recognise disadvantaged communities who will remain the centre of our concerns but this place will be a quality place where students will do quality work."

US Prof who

turned Wits

down due to

illness will be

buried in SA

CP 17/8/97

(54)

By **BONGANI MADONDO**

THE BODY of one of South Africa's most revered academics in the diaspora, Sam Nolutshungu, will be flown home tomorrow. He will be buried on August 23 in East London.

The Rochester University, New York, professor of political science and head of African studies died a week ago of cancer. He is survived by his wife and two children.

His friends and fellow academics, notably Human Rights Commission head Barney Pityana, Professor William Makgoba and Human Sciences Research Council head Vincent Maphai, are among the well-known figures helping the Nolutshungu family in East London make arrangements to pay last respects to this world-class academic.

Nolutshungu's wife and children arrive from the US tomorrow.

Nolutshungu became a household name after his heralded address on transformation of academia during the Wits University vice-chancellorship hearings.

His academic and political standing was beyond question. A well-travelled teacher who worked and lived in Nigeria, England, Canada and finally the United States, he seemed the natural choice as Wits vice-chancellor.

He surprised academics, politicians, students and the press when he declined the coveted Wits post, just a few months before the appointment was to take effect, citing disease as the stumbling block.

His letter declining the nomination shook South Africa's tertiary education establishment and dealt the pro-transformation lobby a serious blow.

Since Professor William Makgoba

single-handedly challenged the liberal white academic grip on tertiary education, when he took on the Wits "gang of 13", tertiary education transformation efforts have steered a rocky road.

Nolutshungu was seen as another warrior in the fight against white liberal domination of tertiary institutions – until he shocked everyone by declining the post.

Stories that he had "chickened out" did the rounds as the issue of university transformation peaked. It became a worrisome dinner table and academic topic: Had Nolutshungu backed down from the challenge of facing the powerful Wits liberals alone?

Was he avoiding the storm raised by Makgoba taking on the Wits gang?

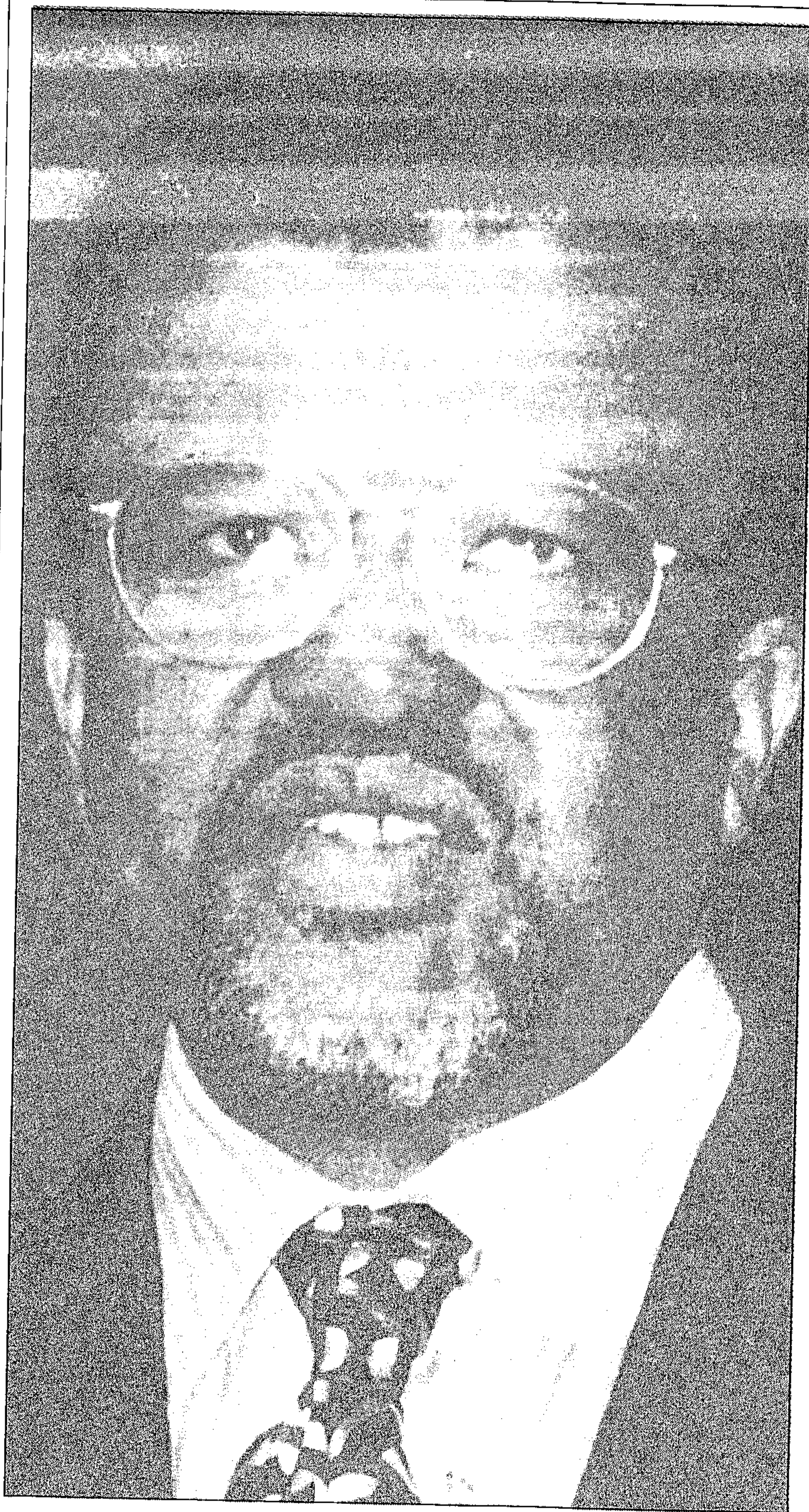
Even more damning were allegations that Nolutshungu was never keen on the Wits post, but wanted to use it as bargaining chip with his employers, Rochester University.

All along he remained tight-lipped and never replied to or disputed the rumours.

A man of impeccable dignity, his silence frustrated hard-boiled journalists and academic investigators. All he would say was health reasons prevented him taking up the Wits position.

City Press was among the papers which appealed to him to disclose more. But he stood his ground, for indeed health was the main reason why he never came back to South Africa, his country, to serve his nation. Tragic as it is, his death vindicated him and posed several questions about the doubting Thomases he left behind.

□ A memorial service will be held at the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Berea, Johannesburg, at 12.45pm on Thursday.



REVERED ACADEMIC . . . Professor Sam Nolutshungu was disbelieved when he turned down Wits because of ill health, but his death last week abruptly silenced the sceptics.

University 'must restructure R60m posts over five years'

Nicola Jenvey

DURBAN — Dramatic national government changes to higher education funding had forced the University of Natal to restructure more than R60m worth of posts over the next five years, vice-chancellor Brenda Gourley said at the weekend.

However, she said this challenge had created significant opportunities for multidisciplinary degrees.

The recent uproar caused by announcements that the university would close down its classics and Afrikaans and Nederlands departments had created "damaging impressions" on potential students. Both these departments were examples of how the university would restructure to "achieve more with less".

Gourley said neither department would close, but the facilities offered would be scaled down.

Similar considerations would be given to the European language departments — German, French and Spanish — whereby students planning to major in these courses would be

BD 18/8/97 (54)
forced to undertake distance learning in conjunction with the university curriculum. This approach was in line with government thinking whereby institutions recognised credits transferred between each other.

She acknowledged that long-term prospects could mean that nationally universities pooled smaller departments to a central distance learning institution from which students gained credits applicable countrywide.

Another option was international exchanges which afforded students the opportunity to gain credits not locally available. This was relevant to international language studies where the SA departments were too small.

Gourley said the flipside to this was that international students at SA universities attracted foreign exchange.

In Australia this programme brought in the second largest amount of foreign exchange after wool.

The University of Natal has 120 departments, of which nearly 50% have fewer than six students, and 14 faculties spread over its Durban and Maritzburg campuses.

No support for segregation call

OWN CORRESPONDENT

(54)

CT 19/8/97

PRETORIA: The ANC Youth League at the University of Pretoria has come out strongly against suggestions that residences be segregated along racial lines.

The league was responding to a call by Gauteng provincial chairman of the SA Students Congress (Sasco), Mr Jacob Mamabolo.

Mamabolo had said that although the move would defeat the objectives of nation-building, it was necessary for two years because of racial violence.

Yesterday, however, Mamabolo denied ever suggesting that residences be segregated along racial lines.

"It will be a violation of Sasco principles to suggest apartheid solutions for the problems at Tuks," he said.

Mr Mzandile Radebe, the youth league's regional treasurer, who was among the students who heard Mamabolo making the call for segregation, said: "We cannot support calls for the racial segregation of the residences. We defend the principle of non-racialism as enshrined in the Constitution."

Radebe said the short-term solution would be for the management to expose and deal with those responsible for the racial attacks. It should also ensure security for all students.

The long-term solution, he said, would be for the residence transformation forum to make sure there was representation on house committees so that all could voice their needs.

Student affairs dean Professor Flip van der Watt agreed that Mamabolo's suggestion would not provide a solution. "In a situation like ours where you are dealing with more than 5 500 people from different backgrounds, you must expect isolated cases. You must not encourage them by separating people."

Varsity quiet again after clashes with police

Kevin O'Grady

(54)

THE situation at the University of Venda (Univen) in Thohoyandou is back to normal after the institution was closed last week after violent clashes between students and police, university spokesman Rufus Kharidzha said yesterday.

Kharidzha said the university reopened for lectures on Monday after management declared it closed on Wednesday last week when three students, part of a group barricading the university and refusing staff access, were shot and injured.

20 2018/197
"Students are attending classes and there are no problems at all." Kharidzha denied rumours that a number of students had been shot by security officials.

He said the university would hold a "bosberaad" to discuss ways of dealing with declining state funding, which would leave the university with a deficit this year "for the first time in its history".

Like many other institutions, Univen would "have to tackle the thorny issue of rationalisation" which had resulted in retrenchments and other cost-cutting measures at other campuses, he said.

The university already had a "strategic plan" and any cost-cutting measures would be implemented in terms of this.

The plan identified new academic programmes likely to attract corporate funding, have the approval of government and produce more "marketable" students. Other less popular and profitable courses would need to be discontinued to make way for these.

"It does not mean we will have an immediately improved cash flow because we will be removing certain programmes and replacing them with others," he said.

Labour chief hits out at colleges over skills crisis

'Too many arts students' (54)

LENORE OLIVER
STAFF REPORTER

Tertiary institutions were criticised today by the Department of Labour because they do not teach the skills that industry needs.

Director-general Siphon Pityana said there were too many arts graduates and too few technically and commercially trained people.

Mr Pityana was speaking at the opening of the Job Scene World of Work exhibition, sponsored by Independent Newspapers and the Labour Department, at the Good Hope Centre.

He said the problem of inappropriate skills was compounding the unemployment problem. The sharp decline in apprenticeships had to be addressed by a new focus on technical skills training.

"A strong message must go out to young people and their parents that the country needs artisans, technicians, commerce graduates, scientists, agriculturists and all other skills we have shied away from, and which are so critical for the success of our economy and improvement of the standard of living," he said.

With an unemployment figure of 29% and extensive under-employment in a large segment of the labour force, job creation was the nation's biggest challenge.

Mr Pityana said 40% of employed people earned less than R970 a month.

"We do not only need jobs, but quality



ARG 21/8/97
jobs. We are challenged to confront the reality of poverty in employment and it is for this reason we argue for better quality jobs," he said.

"A significant proportion of our population is engaged in low productivity income-generating activities. Closely linked to that is the low skill base of the majority of the population.

"This gross under-use of our most valuable resource, namely our people; is socially undesirable and a hindrance to our economic development."

The challenge was to turn this potential resource into an asset to accelerate growth and development. Relying on market forces alone would not solve the problem.

"Drastic government intervention supported by our social partners is necessary and by this I refer to the need for more conscious efforts aimed at widening the range of employment opportunities."

Since April the department had spent R1,15 million on skills training in the Western Cape and 2 652 people had secured jobs since the beginning of the year through the department's placement office.

■ The Cape Argus invites young go-getters in search of jobs to submit CVs and resumés of their attempts to find jobs to the Cape Argus stand at the exhibition.

Ten jobseekers will be selected and Cape Argus will regularly highlight their attempts to find work.

The exhibition is open from 9.30am to 4pm until Saturday. Admission is free.

Technikon students disrupt classes

Angry black Vaal Triangle Technikon students, led by the students' representative council, have been disrupting classes since Tuesday, when a toyi-toying group of about 400 students marched through the campus and ordered their peers out of lectures.

Sugen Nair, the technikon's head of corporate communications, said he was optimistic that things would return to normal by today.

"Students have been staging demonstrations at the campus but there has not been any serious damage done to

the technikon's property," he said.

"Among other things, students are alleging that some lecturers, particularly in the applied-sciences studies, are giving them racist treatment," he said.

Nair said the presence of security personnel had helped to bring order to the campus, adding that management and students had already begun discussing the problems.

The disruptions have also affected the writing of semester examinations which began last week. - Staff Reporter

(54) Star 21/8/97

Univen to be examined for irregularities

M+G 22-28/8/97
Mukoni T Ratshitanga

The public protector has stepped in to examine whether there are financial irregularities at the strife-torn University of Venda (Univen). This follows a request by a member of the Student Representatives Council (SRC). (54)

Advocate Stoffel Fourie, a senior assistant to the public protector, said this week his office had received "correspondence" but added it was "insufficient". They were making a "specific enquiry" into the university's affairs.

Univen has been gripped by student unrest in protest against a 13% fee increase. Two weeks ago, students called for the resignation of the university's management. The academic staff joined the row and called for a commission of enquiry to investigate "the state and affairs of the University of Venda".

They called on the university council, the Northern Province government, the Ministry of Education, the public protector and the auditor general to convene the commission.

But provincial government representative Kenny Mathivha this week said Premier Ngoako Ramathlodi had "not yet set his mind" to whether he will intervene in the university crisis. However, tertiary education was administered by national government, not provincial.

The auditor general was this week unavailable for comment. But Northern Province auditor Steve Lekutle confirmed that his office had sent in a firm of auditors to conduct an annual audit.

"The audit is not as a result of the demand for an audit. It has to be carried out in terms of the requirement of the Constitution," he said. Lekutle added he did not "have a mandate" to conduct a commission of inquiry. "I'm sure that mandate lies with the Minister of Education."

Ministry of Education officials said this week said they plan to visit the university once they receive submissions from university management and stakeholders.

TERTIARY EDUCATION

Bengu tightens the screws on university autonomy ⁽⁵⁴⁾

Higher Education Bill would cut back tertiary institutions' freedom to choose how they spend their subsidies

FM 22/8/97

The autonomy of universities and technikons is threatened by government's new higher education policy, which promotes central planning and State intervention as it hastens to redress past inequalities.

Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu's plans to reform higher education are set out in the Higher Education Bill and the recently released White Paper on Higher Education. Both have Cabinet approval.

They provide for a new subsidy system which will make greater use of earmarked funds to "steer the development of the higher education system in accordance with national goals."

Earmarked funding will mainly support programmes designed to redress apartheid inequalities and meet the national skills shortage in technical fields.

It is a move away from a formula-based approach (where subsidies were determined by student enrolments) to a programme-based approach where government decides which programmes and institutions to reward.

"It gives government a powerful tool to influence what is taught," says Natal University professor of curriculum development Andrew Duminy. "It has the power to fund a programme at one institution but not at another and in this way it will be able to rationalise programmes and resources between institutions."

Given that the Minister will be able to close, merge or establish higher education institutions without reference to parliament, dramatic changes to the higher education landscape could be in the offing.

Anticipating the new order, universities are looking for ways to cut costs.



Bengu . . . would exercise more control over university spending

Natal University's worst case scenario is to axe 645 posts over five years if its prediction of a 15% real cut in its subsidy materialises.

It is considering closing the departments of Classics & European Studies and Afrikaans Nederlands. Rhodes University is considering closing German and Religion & Theology. The University of the Witwatersrand may close Comparative Literature, Classics, Religious Studies and possibly even Music.

"If universities don't co-operate among ourselves we may be doing serious damage to our

intellectual heritage," says Wits dean of arts Prof Gerrit Olivier.

As the education budget is unlikely to grow, any increase in earmarked funding (now 15% of subsidies) would necessitate a decrease in general purpose block grants — the mainstay of most institutions. Thus the White Paper relies heavily on the mobilisation of additional private funding to achieve its aims.

UCT senior deputy vice-chancellor Prof Wieland Gevers says the new system may mean a significant decrease in subsidies for institutions which cannot attract earmarked funds. Both traditionally white and black universities are at risk here.

White universities fear most of the funding will go towards redress, while black universities fear they will not be able to respond as fast as wealthier institutions to provide the kind of programmes that would attract earmarked funds.

Technikons are complaining that the system will encourage universities to offer technical training and thus impinge on their traditional preserve.

The Education Department says the new system will be phased in. It cannot yet say by how much the earmarked component will be increased.

The Bill empowers the Minister to impose different subsidy conditions on different institutions and he may add, amend or withdraw any condition at any time as long as it is "reasonable."

Gevers says this formulation would have lost UCT and UWC their successful court case in February 1988 against then Minister of Education F W de Klerk, who was seeking to cut the subsidies of universities who failed to crack down on student activists.

While accepting that academic freedom and institutional autonomy are "key conditions for a vibrant higher education system," the White Paper says they must be exercised "in tandem with public accountability."

Helen Suzman Foundation director Bill Johnson warns against the centralisation trend prevalent in the legislation.

"The feeling behind the Bill is that universities are still in the hands of white people who are going to try to resist transformation; therefore a central body is needed to jump on them," he says.

Issues of race and redress should not supersede standards in education, says Johnson. "Nowhere else in the world are these the dominant concerns, and we have to compete with the rest of the world."

The Bill stipulates the Minister may deviate from the council's advice only in set circumstances, and with reasons in writing.

"The underlying political purpose is to create a set of political shock absorbers between the ministry and the turbulent tertiary education sector — a new layer of bureaucracy to give the Minister more room," says a leading Wits academic.

To ensure student and staff participation, the Bill stipulates that every institution be governed by a Council and a Senate. It sets out their composition and ensures that Broad Transformation

Forums become permanent fixtures.

It also allows the Minister to appoint an independent assessor of any higher education institution at any time.

Bengu wants the Bill passed this year to allow the council to begin work early in 1998.

Claire Bissek

>>>If universities don't co-operate among ourselves we may be doing serious damage to our intellectual heritage<<<

Wits dean of arts Prof Gerrit Olivier

Dept: loss of income as result of corruption

396. Mr J J DOWRY asked the Minister for Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting:

- (1) Whether he or his Department has any statistics on the loss of income suffered by his Department, or by any component falling within his portfolio, as a result of corruption; if so, (a) how many cases of corruption were reported during the latest specified period of 12 months for which information is available and (b) what was the total loss of income suffered during that period;

- (2) whether he is contemplating taking any steps to combat corruption; if not, why not; if so, what steps;

- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N641E

THE MINISTER FOR POSTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING:

- (1) The Department of Communications has not suffered any loss of income due to corruption during the past 12 months.

- (2) and (3) Fall away.

The Chairperson of the SABC has informed me as follows:

- (1) Yes.
- (a) 7 cases of corruption have been reported during the past 12 months.
- (b) The total loss of income suffered amounts to approximately R740 856.

The culprits either resigned or were dismissed following disciplinary hearings.

The Managing Director of SAPOS has informed me as follows:

- (1) The South African Post Office has not suffered any loss of income as a result of corruption during the past 12 months.
- (2) and (3) Fall away.

The Acting Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Telkom Ltd has informed me as follows:

- (1) Yes.

- (a) 174 cases were reported to the South African Police Services in respect of the international telephone fraud scam in which 15 Telkom employees were involved during the past 12 months. 11 employees either resigned or were dismissed. Disciplinary measures are under consideration in respect of the remaining 4 employees. As a result of the court processes 9 employees were acquitted, the charges against 4 withdrawn while court cases against 2 are proceeding.

Another 7 Telkom employees made themselves guilty of minor incidents of corruption involving the following:

- * Receipt of an airticket to Europe from a Telkom supplier.
 - * Implementation of a slush fund by a Telkom employee and a supplier to circumvent procurement procedures within Telkom.
 - * Sale of used Telkom vehicles at lowered reserve prices.
 - * Despite the fact that Telkom vehicles were repaired at a Telkom workshop by Telkom employee and with Telkom equipment, Telkom was charged for the services concerned by an outside supplier.
- Six of the employees concerned have been dismissed while the outcome of the disciplinary hearing of the seventh employee is being awaited.
- b) The total loss of income amounts to approximately R204 million.

The Acting Chief Executive Officer of the IBA has informed me as follows:

- (1) No cases of loss of income as a result of corruption have been reported. In his report of April 1997 on the IBA, the Auditor-General made no mention of loss of income due to corruption. In the conclusion he notes: "the contents of this Report indicate a serious lack of management measures and financial controls to ensure that resources allocated are utilised economically, efficiently, effectively and with probity".

There have been three attempts at fraud being:

- (i) October 1996 - R167,000.00
- (ii) December 1996 - R800,000.00

No losses were suffered. These cases are being handled by the police.

Precautionary measures to combat corruption are part and parcel of the day to day running of the organisations concerned and employees are made aware of the serious consequences of such practices on a continuous basis. The action taken in the cases that came to light, as indicated above, serves as an example to others not to place their careers and future at risk.

In the first instance, R115,000.00 was withdrawn. The balance is still in the bank. The process is underway to recover the R115,000.00.

All three cases are being handled by the police.

Universities/technikons closed as result of disruptions

405. Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Education:

- (1) Whether any universities and/or technikons closed down as a result of

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

- (2) whether any damage was caused to buildings and/or property as a result of such disruptions or other abnormal events during the above mentioned period; if so, in each case, (a) which institution was affected, (b) what was the (i) nature and (ii) extent of the damage and (c) what was the cost of repairing the damage;

- (3) whether any action has been or is being taken against any persons in connection with this damage; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? N650E

Hansard

Universities and Technikons: Campus Disturbances (1 August 1996 up to latest specified date)

1(a) Institutions	Dates of Disturbances	1(b) Reason for closure	1(c) Period Closed	1(d) How issue resolved	2(b) Damage Caused	2(c) Cost of Damages	3 Action Taken
Technikon South Africa	22 March 1997 11 July 1997		Not closed	A Code of Conduct for students was agreed upon	The foyer of the administration building, as well as the gardens has been damaged	R176 000	The charges against the students were dropped after an agreement between Management and the Students were reached.
Technikon Eastern Cape	5 Mar to 7 Apr 1997	Students had taken control of the campus - taken staff members hostage and confiscated technikon vehicles	34 days	After the Technikon obtained a court interdict to remove the students from the campus, the Technikon engaged in discussions with the SRC as result of which some agreements were reached and the students were allowed back on campus	Minor damage	nil	No action were taken against students. A sub-committee of council was set up to investigate the causes of the unrest and came up with recommendations aimed at solving the students grievances.
University Fort Hare	11 Mar to 31 Mar 1997	Disruptions	21 days	Agreement of student fees were reached between Management and students	Nil	Nil	No student will be admitted into residence without a student card. Co-operation of all parents and students were requested
Technikon Wits	25 Feb 1997		Not closed	Attention to demands that the fee increase for 1997 be cancelled	Breakage and theft	± R20 000	
University The North	26 Feb 1997 18 March 1997		Not closed	Attainment of a compromise between students and Senate	Nil	Nil	
Technikon North-West	Mar to Apr 1997		Not closed	SRC members were evaluated and some found not suitable and discharged from their duties by student body	No damage to Technikon property occurred but a Coca Cola truck on campus was looted of its load	R29 000	The case is being investigated
Technikon Free State	Nov 6 Feb 1997 Mar 1997	Racial conflict occurred at Eendrag Male Hostel	Not closed	With the Court interdict in place and visible police presence, the campus damage as well as disruption on the campus was contained	Windows were broken, damage to structure of hostel	R32 000	A firm but reasonable action against persons that started mass disruptions

1713

TUESDAY, 19 AUGUST 1997

1714

Universities and Technikons: Campus Disturbances (1 August 1996 up to latest specified date)

1(a) Institutions	Dates of Disturbances	1(b) Reason for closure	1(c) Period Closed	1(d) How issue resolved	2(b) Damage Caused	2(c) Cost of Damages	3 Action Taken
Technikon Pretoria	7 Aug 1996	Management took this decision because of a national rally organised by SASCO which was to depart from the campus to march to the Union Building	1 day	A court order was obtained which prohibited students to engage in mass actions without the written approval of the Rector	Private property and Technikon property	R108 000	18 students were arrested because they did not obey the Court order
University Zululand	15 Apr to 29 Apr 1997	Registration for all students regardless of debt demand	15 days	Matter not yet resolved	Nil	Nil	
University Pretoria	Sept to Oct 1996		Not closed		Minor damage to plants	Nil	Interdict was granted
University Venda		Certain students protested against the fee increment	11 days	University council confirmed the fee increment	Breaking of doors Minor damage	± R2 000	The students appeared before the University Disciplinary Committee.
University Natal	24 Feb to 25 Feb 1997	Demonstrations, disruptions of lectures and intimidation of students by SASCO	2 days	Enforced the provisions of the Regulation of Gatherings Act	Damage was caused to glass panels in the Refectory, to audio visual equipment, to glass windows, some doors and fire equipment	± R44 000	Police presence on campus
UNISA	18 Feb to 20 Feb 1997	Student unrest - mass action and acts of violence	2 days	Situation resolved by an undertaking signed that no further mass action and acts of violence will be undertaken by students	Damage to glass doors and shopfront windows at the entrance to the University campus as a result of stone throwing	R22 367	Criminal charges laid against eight students at SAPS. Case presently with Senior Public Prosecutor for consideration
Technikon N-Tvl	19 Mar 1997		Not closed	Rescheduling and/or arrangements were mutually agreed upon between the Management and students	92 computers were looted, kitchen equipment damaged and stock looted or stolen	R1.426 million	Two students in whose room a computer was found have had a case of theft opened against them at the police station
University North West	19 Feb to 4 Mar 1997	Disruption of classes, looting of cafeteria, breaking of doors, intimidation of students and staff	14 days	Representatives from the Department of Education led by Dr Mosala intervened. They advised that Management and students should resort to negotiations	There were three doors which were damaged and the University lost 10 days of work	± R1 000 R3,5 million in salaries/ wages	Deed of settlement

1715

TUESDAY, 19 AUGUST 1997

1716

Hansard

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N1064E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

(1) Yes.

(a) 95% of R17,100 million will be utilized to transform the system of administration of Justice.

(b) The amount will be used for several projects and initiatives with a view to the transformation of the administration of justice.

(2) No.

Staff members employed at universities

627. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Education:

(a) How many (i) academic and (ii) non-academic staff members were employed at each university in the Republic on 1 January (i) 1994, (ii) 1995, (iii) 1996 and (iv) 1997, (b) how many (i) undergraduate and (ii) postgraduate courses were available at each university in each of those years and (c) what was the average cost of one year's study for (i) an undergraduate and (ii) a postgraduate (aa) science, (bb) arts and (cc) commerce degree at each university in each of those years? N1067E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

According to information provided by the universities themselves, tables have been compiled. The absence of figures indicates that no reply was received from the university at the time of compiling this reply.

(a) Academic / non-academic

University	1994	1995	1996	1997
<i>Cape Town</i> academic	833	842	788	786
<i>Cape Town</i> non-academic	2 155	2 075	2 034	2 018
<i>Durban-Westville</i> academic	500	512	562	not available
<i>Durban-Westville</i> non-academic	964	984	903	available
<i>Fort Hare</i> academic	223	287	295	283
<i>Fort Hare</i> non-academic	1 367	1 306	1 307	1 232
<i>Medunsa</i> academic	268	230	204	223
<i>Medunsa</i> non-academic	904	1 016	1 020	1 033

University	1994	1995	1996	1997
<i>Natal</i> academic	699	673	668	676
<i>Natal</i> non-academic	1 411	1 417	1 370	1 370
<i>The North</i> academic	432	477	538	571
<i>The North</i> non-academic	551	551	564	593
<i>Orange Free State</i> academic	836	771	726	726
<i>Orange Free State</i> non-academic	1 131	1 108	1 096	1 096
<i>Port Elizabeth</i> academic	243	240	241	251
<i>Port Elizabeth</i> non-academic	506	535	500	505
<i>Potchefstroom</i> academic	459	466	474	466
<i>Potchefstroom</i> non-academic	619	615	616	642
<i>Pretoria</i> academic	1 516	1 603	1 565	1 565
<i>Pretoria</i> non-academic	2 698	2 779	2 772	2 772
<i>Rand Afrikaans</i> academic	331	338	311	308
<i>Rand Afrikaans</i> non-academic	388	519	593	591
<i>Rhodes</i> academic	310	310	317	339
<i>Rhodes</i> non-academic	415	429	438	447
<i>Unisa</i> academic	1 624	1 680	1 747	not available
<i>Unisa</i> non-academic	1 256	1 492	1 281	available
<i>Stellenbosch</i> academic	847	835	803	700
<i>Stellenbosch</i> non-academic	2 061	1 717	1 800	1 228
<i>Western Cape</i> academic	465	493	586	596
<i>Western Cape</i> non-academic	1 100	1 160	1 210	1 272
<i>Witwatersrand</i> academic	1 510	1 510	1 503	1 492
<i>Witwatersrand</i> non-academic	2 951	2 978	2 938	2 885
<i>Zululand</i> academic	243	272	291	309
<i>Zululand</i> non-academic	755	840	896	932
<i>Visia</i> academic	528	596	604	625
<i>Visia</i> non-academic	632	776	780	756
<i>North West</i> academic	324	302	262	236
<i>North West</i> non-academic	899	873	794	756
<i>Venda</i> academic	not available	212	234	273
<i>Venda</i> non-academic	available	386	437	475
<i>Transkei</i> academic	not available	not available	245	not available
<i>Transkei</i> non-academic	available	available	831	available

(b)

University	1994	1995	1996	1997
<i>Cape Town</i> undergraduate	1 434	1 468	1 507	1 454
<i>Cape Town</i> postgraduate	712	740	760	709
<i>Durban-Westville</i> undergraduate	732	745	643	870
<i>Durban-Westville</i> postgraduate	450	472	495	530
<i>Medunsa</i> undergraduate	14	15	15	15
<i>Medunsa</i> postgraduate	9	5	9	9
<i>Natal</i> undergraduate	569	327	285	205
<i>Natal</i> postgraduate	526	532	549	495
<i>The North</i> undergraduate	110	110	110	110
<i>The North</i> postgraduate	75	75	75	75
<i>Orange Free State</i> undergraduate	402	417	435	435
<i>Orange Free State</i> postgraduate	170	214	212	212
<i>Port Elizabeth</i> undergraduate	38	38	42	47
<i>Port Elizabeth</i> postgraduate	37	37	42	42
<i>Pretoria</i> undergraduate	51	51	51	51
<i>Pretoria</i> postgraduate	91	91	91	91
<i>Rand Afrikaans</i> undergraduate	194	202	204	205
<i>Rand Afrikaans</i> postgraduate	529	541	541	598
<i>Rhodes</i> undergraduate	77	77	80	81
<i>Rhodes</i> postgraduate	92	93	92	92
<i>Stellenbosch</i> undergraduate	55	56	57	57
<i>Stellenbosch</i> postgraduate	114	117	120	126
<i>Western Cape</i> undergraduate	51	58	60	52
<i>Western Cape</i> postgraduate	68	64	67	65
<i>Zululand</i> undergraduate	225	225	225	225
<i>Zululand</i> postgraduate	225	225	225	225
<i>Visia</i> undergraduate	17	19	19	20
<i>Visia</i> postgraduate	13	13	14	14
<i>North West</i> undergraduate	17	17	17	17
<i>North West</i> postgraduate	26	26	26	26
<i>Venda</i> undergraduate	331	370	415	465
<i>Venda</i> postgraduate	247	265	280	299

(c)

University	1994	1995	1996	1997
<i>Cape Town</i> undergraduate science	7 650	8 250	8 950	9 675
<i>Cape Town</i> undergraduate arts	6 600	7 100	7 700	8 350
<i>Cape Town</i> undergraduate commerce	7 400	7 950	8 600	9 300
<i>Cape Town</i> postgraduate science	3 550	3 800	4 100	4 425
<i>Cape Town</i> postgraduate arts	3 550	3 800	4 100	4 425
<i>Cape Town</i> postgraduate commerce	3 550	3 800	4 100	4 425
<i>Durban-Westville</i> undergraduate science	4 400	5 080	5 880	5 880
<i>Durban-Westville</i> undergraduate arts	3 920	4 560	5 260	5 240
<i>Durban-Westville</i> undergraduate commerce	5 500	6 350	7 350	7 350
<i>Durban-Westville</i> postgraduate science	3 220	3 720	4 300	4 300
<i>Durban-Westville</i> postgraduate arts	2 910	3 370	3 890	3 890
<i>Durban-Westville</i> postgraduate commerce	3 460	4 000	4 620	4 620
<i>Medunsa</i> undergraduate science	5 180	5 930	6 850	7 670
<i>Medunsa</i> undergraduate arts	3 680	3 200	3 600	4 870
<i>Medunsa</i> undergraduate commerce	3 680	3 200	3 600	4 870
<i>Natal</i> undergraduate science	8 260	8 680	9 030	9 710
<i>Natal</i> undergraduate arts	6 990	7 340	7 660	8 240
<i>Natal</i> undergraduate commerce	7 580	7 960	8 280	8 900
<i>Natal</i> postgraduate science	6 060	6 370	6 630	7 130
<i>Natal</i> postgraduate arts	5 050	5 310	5 520	5 940
<i>Natal</i> postgraduate commerce	5 480	5 760	6 000	6 450
<i>The North</i> undergraduate science	not available	not available	not available	not available
<i>The North</i> undergraduate arts	available	available	available	available
<i>The North</i> undergraduate commerce	available	available	available	available
<i>The North</i> postgraduate science	available	available	available	available
<i>The North</i> postgraduate arts	available	available	available	available
<i>The North</i> postgraduate commerce	available	available	available	available

University	1994	1995	1996	1997
Orange Free State				
undergraduate science	4 952	5 498	6 090	6 881
arts	4 531	4 819	5 523	5 452
commerce	4 543	5 035	5 559	5 589
postgraduate science	2 370	2 574	3 055	3 264
arts	2 214	2 391	2 819	3 276
commerce	2 748	2 798	3 021	3 448
Port Elizabeth				
undergraduate science	4 950	5 700	6 450	7 100
arts	4 250	4 990	5 550	6 100
commerce	4 600	5 300	6 000	6 600
postgraduate science	4 100	4 720	5 340	5 870
arts	3 180	3 660	4 140	4 550
commerce	3 180	3 660	4 140	4 550
Pretoria				
undergraduate science	5 225	5 620	6 040	6 490
arts	4 795	5 150	5 535	5 950
commerce	5 100	5 480	5 890	6 350
postgraduate science	3 700	3 960	4 260	4 570
arts	3 700	3 960	4 260	4 570
commerce	3 700	3 960	4 260	4 570
Rand Afrikaans				
undergraduate science	5 000	5 500	6 000	6 500
arts	5 000	5 500	6 000	6 500
commerce	5 000	5 500	6 000	6 500
postgraduate science	5 000	5 500	6 000	6 500
arts	5 000	5 500	6 000	6 500
commerce	5 000	5 500	6 000	6 500
Rhodes				
undergraduate science	7 200	7 600	8 300	9 000
arts	6 700	7 100	7 800	8 450
commerce	7 200	7 600	8 300	9 000
postgraduate science	2 700	2 900	3 200	3 480
arts	2 700	2 900	3 200	3 480
commerce	2 700	2 900	3 200	3 480
Stellenbosch				
undergraduate science	5 420	5 990	6 770	7 400
arts	4 770	5 410	6 150	6 700
commerce	5 090	5 630	6 350	6 900
postgraduate science	5 420	5 990	6 770	7 400
arts	4 770	5 410	6 150	6 700
commerce	5 090	5 630	6 350	6 900
Western Cape				
undergraduate science	4 725	4 725	5 100	5 710
arts	4 200	4 200	4 750	5 240
commerce	4 200	4 200	4 750	5 240
postgraduate science	4 600	4 600	5 000	5 500
arts	4 600	4 600	5 000	5 500
commerce	4 600	4 600	5 000	5 500
Witwatersrand				
undergraduate science	5 970	6 650	7 330	8 190
arts	5 380	5 960	6 580	7 680
commerce	6 290	6 950	7 650	8 590
postgraduate science	not available	not available	not available	not available
arts	not available	not available	not available	not available
commerce	not available	not available	not available	not available
Zimbabwe				
undergraduate science	4 891	5 022	5 644	6 204
arts	4 731	5 162	5 794	6 374
commerce	4 931	5 382	6 044	6 654
postgraduate science	4 891	5 342	5 994	6 594
arts	4 761	5 202	5 844	6 434
commerce	4 761	5 202	5 844	6 434

Hansard

Projected State Expenditure (In Thousands of Rand) on Public and Private Ordinary School Education

Province	Projected State Expenditure on Ordinary School Education			Private Schools (R'000)
	Current Expenditure (R'000)	Capital Expenditure (R'000)	Total (R'000)	
Eastern Cape	4 563 901	297 910	4 861 811	9 488
Free State	1 943 061	99 630	2 042 691	18 442
Gauteng	4 657 725	116 500	4 774 225	158 534
KwaZulu-Natal	5 487 161	670 007	6 157 168	39 057
Mpumalanga	1 889 972	175 177	2 065 149	5 415
North West	2 114 360	143 803	2 258 163	7 139
Northern Cape	668 667	12 928	681 595	2 678
Northern Province	4 008 151	306 184	4 314 335	17 834
Western Cape	3 495 616	190 170	3 685 786	22 728

Minister: gifts given

630. Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Labour:

Whether he gave gifts to any persons in his official capacity in 1996; if so, in each case, (a) to whom was the gift given, (b) what gift was given, (c) what was the value of the gift and (d) on what occasion was the gift given?

N1070E

The MINISTER OF LABOUR:

No.

Therefore (a), (b), (c) and (d) fall away.

Provinces: literacy

638. Mr T D LEE asked the Minister of Education:

What was the literacy level in each of the provinces in (a) 1995 and (b) 1996?

N1078E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

No official classification of literacy is available.

Table I shows the percentage of the population, 20 years and older, according to the level of education per province. The information was obtained from the Central Statistical Services, October Household Survey of 1995. No information with regard to 1996 is available as yet.

628. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Education:

(1) What was the expenditure, (a) including and (b) excluding expenditure of a capital nature, on pupils at (i) public and (ii) private schools in each of the provinces in 1996;

(2) whether any estimates exist of expenditure in this regard for 1997; if so, what are these estimates in each case? N1068E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

(1) Earmarked State funds for private schools are not bound by conditions concerning the way in which private schools should use these funds. It is therefore not possible to provide any breakdown of the State subsidy to private schools. The projected State expenditure for 1996/97 on public and private ordinary school education is provided in the following table according to province.

(2) No.

Hansard

QUESTIONS

† Indicates translated version.
For written reply:

Riemvasmaak/Schmidtsdrieff: consultants

181. Mr A E VAN NIEKERK asked the Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs:†

- (1) Whether any (a) consultants have been appointed in respect of and/or (b) officials of his Department are involved with (i) Riemvasmaak, (ii) Schmidtsdrieff, (iii) the Army Combat School at Lohathla and (iv) Maheng; if so, what do the direct expenses in respect of such consultants and/or officials amount to date;
- (2) whether the consultants who have already completed their obligations in terms of their contracts, have released reports; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether he will make copies of such reports available to Mr A E van Niekerk; if not, why not; if so, when;
- (4) whether he will make copies of the contracts of each of the consultants mentioned in paragraph (1) available to Mr A E van Niekerk; if not, why not; if so, when? C194E

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND LAND AFFAIRS:

- (1) (a) (i) Yes
- (ii) Yes
- (iii) No
- (iv) Yes
- (b) (i) Mr Jesse Strauss
- (ii) and (iii) Mr Obed Mvula and Miss Pinkie Olfant.

The expenses amount to R121 509,16 in the case of Riemvasmaak, R667 591 in the case of Schmidtsdrieff and R231 800,64 in the case of Majeng.

- (2) No, contracts have not been concluded.
- (3) No, reports can only be made available after completion and with the consent of the communities and the consultants.
- (4) No.

Tertiary institutions: amounts owed by university students

251. Mr R J MOKOTJO asked the Minister of Education:

- What was the total amount in (a) tuition and (b) residence fees that was owed (i) in 1996 and (ii) during the period 1 January 1997 up to the latest specified date for which information is available, by students at the (aa) University of Cape Town, (bb) University of Fort Hare, (cc) University of Natal, (dd) Rhodes University, (ee) University of South Africa, (ff) Vista University, (gg) University of the Witwatersrand and (hh) University of the Orange Free State? C273E

University	1996 Tuition	1996 Residence	1997 Tuition	1997 Residence
Cape Town	1 520 000		1 520 000	
Fort Hare	not available		not available	
Natal	4 980 000		2 200 000	
Orange Free State	8 180 002	2 736 856	26 026 446	7 686 567
Rhodes	2 058 670		11 791 204	
Uitsa	1 769 586	Nil	12 194 637	Nil
Witwaters-rand	4 323 632	437 851	4 323 632	437 851
Vista	16 300 000	Nil	52 000 000	Nil

QUESTIONS

† Indicates translated version.
For written reply:

Drivers' licences in Mpumalanga: irregularities

128. Adv J R DE VILLE asked the Minister of Transport:

- (1) Whether there is any evidence to confirm that a certain Member of Parliament, whose name has been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply and whose name was mentioned in connection with irregularities surrounding the issuing of drivers' licences in Mpumalanga, has ever obtained (a) a learner driver's licence and/or (b) an official code 08 licence; if so, in each case, (i)(aa) where and (bb) when was such licence obtained and (ii)(aa) at which testing centre and (bb) by whom was such licence issued; if not,
- (2) The Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature appointed a commission to investigate all irregularities and reported all the facts to the government. The Department of Transport will not investigate the matter any further and accepts the Commission's findings. I believe that the Provincial Legislator has the whole matter firmly in hand and will take whatever disciplinary and other steps may be necessary.
- (3) The Department of Transport does not deem it necessary to issue further notices or statements regarding irregularities in Mpumalanga.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

- (1)(a) A learners driver's licence was issued to the Deputy Speaker, Ms Kgosisile, after she was subjected to an oral test for a learner driver's licence. C133E
- (b) A code 08 driver's licence was issued to her after she was subjected to a driver's test.

(i)(aa) Both the tests were done in Delmas, Mpumalanga.

(bb) Both the licences were issued to her on 1 October 1996.

(ii)(aa) The Deputy Speaker was subjected to an oral test for learner drivers in the magistrate's offices, Delmas.

The Driver's licence test was done in the central business district of Delmas and not at an approved drivers licence testing centre as prescribed in the Road Traffic Act, 1989 (Act 29 of 1989).

(bb) Both the tests were administered by Mr Brazier, the Chief of Provincial Traffic and Licensing of Mpumalanga.

SAPS: participation in Minnec

255. Mr J SELFE asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

- (1) Whether the South African Police Services participates in any (a) structures of the Forum for MECs for Local Government (Minnec) and/or (b) equivalent structures; if so, in respect of each such specified structure, (i) for how long has it been in existence, (ii) how frequently are meetings held, (iii) what were its estimated running costs from the date of its establishment up to the latest specified date for which information is available, (iv) what are its principal functions and (v) what is its anticipated lifespan;
- (2) whether any guidelines exist to evaluate the performance and cost-effectiveness of these structures; if not, why not; if so, what guidelines? C277E

Business shuns poor students

Andy Duffy

South Africa's business executives have shunned pleas from the Education Ministry that they help fund poor students.

More than a year of lobbying among business by a team of academics and businessmen appointed by the ministry has produced little more than demands from executives that the ministry show how it would fund poorer stu-

dents without private donations.

Members of the academic community say the initiative, led by businessman Nthato Motlana, has been a total flop, failing to raise any of the R300-million it had reportedly targeted.

"You can certainly say that the fund-raising effort was not successful," says task team member, Dr Stuart Saunders, former vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town. Motlana was not available for comment. The ministry, however, is putting a brave

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(54)

face on the setback, saying the initiative has been frozen rather than abandoned.

Deputy Education Minister Father Smailiso Mkhatswa says lobbying will resume once ministry officials have drawn up proposals for a new national student finance scheme. Business will then only be called on to provide seed capital for the scheme. The failure to raise funds represents another blow to plans to broaden access to tertiary education. Cuts in government funding

have forced universities and technicians to increase fees and slash financial aid, alongside axing jobs and departments.

The task team, formed in June 1995, was seen as a key tool in supplementing funds provided by government for poorer students. Team members, including University of Natal vice-chancellor Brenda Gourley, were also to have devised a policy for a self-sustaining student finance scheme.

But concerns emerged last year about the team's slow progress. Its efforts were further hampered after former deputy education minister Renier Schoeman — who spearheaded the fundraising — quit when the National Party left the Government of National Unity. Details of the new student finance scheme remain sketchy. Mkhatswa says he does not have the details of the fund's self-sustaining mechanism, but that he expects it to be launched next year.

News of the ministry's efforts surprised the Tertiary Education Fund of South Africa (Tefsa), the government's current mechanism for administering student loans and bursaries. Director Roy Jackson says he has not been informed of the group's efforts, but he expects Tefsa will still play a major role in any new scheme.

Tefsa last year disbursed R313-million — R300-million of which came from the government — to nearly 67 000 students. It has R350-million to disburse this year — R200-million from the government and the remainder from foreign donors, including the European Union.

UWC vice-rector to be offered job of Wits vice-chancellor (54)

Johannesburg - Colin Bundy will be the next vice-chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand from the beginning of next year, should he accept the job, it has been announced.

Wits spokeswoman Peggy Jennings said the Wits council had unanimously agreed to offer Professor Bundy the post of vice-chancellor and principal.

If he accepts the post he will take over from Robert Charlton when his term ends at the end of the year. Ms Jennings said Professor Bundy would now

ARG 23/8/97
formally be offered the position. He is currently the vice-rector (academic) at the University of the Western Cape.

Professor Bundy was recommended by the senior appointments selection committee and senate. The recommendation was supported by the Wits transformation forum, which met on Tuesday. "If he accepts the offer, he will work alongside Professor Charlton as vice-chancellor designate from November," Ms Jennings said. He will then become vice-chancellor and principal on January 1 1998. - Sapa

Technikon classes set to resume after protests

Star 25/8/97

(54)

BY TEFU MOTHIBELI

Classes are expected to restart at the Vaal Triangle Technikon in Vanderbijlpark today after week-long disruptions at the campus by angry black students.

They staged protests after alleging that racism was rife at the institution and that management was dragging its feet in transforming the technikon.

The students, led by the campus students' representative council, also voiced a long list of complaints, including the financial exclusion policy and late marking of examination scripts, which they said disrupted their studies.

After entering into negotiations with the student leadership, the technikon's management offered to create a committee to deal with reported cases of racism at various faculties.

On the issue of financial exclusions, management said all students who had performed well academically in accordance with the criteria of the Tertiary Education Funding of South Africa would not

be excluded. Special arrangements would be made with parents or guardians of senior students who owed the institution money, said Professor Piet Swanepoel, the technikon's academic vice-rector.

Examination results would be available two weeks after the last day of exams, and special arrangements would be made with the examinations office for a re-marked script to be reviewed by the student and the moderator.

The writing of tests, which were disrupted last week, has been rescheduled for this week.

SRC spokesman Ndalisa Jele said yesterday the student leadership was happy with the concessions made by management.

She said this was the first step in normalising and creating a conducive learning climate at the institution.

Jele said it was a victory for them to have management's commitment to the creation of a broad transformation forum at the campus.

"The forum is going to help in the speedy transformation of this institution," she said.

olster road fund

ducing claims against the fund would be to cut down the accident rate. Committee chairwoman Patricia de Lille gave notice of public hearings on the high accident rate from September 8-10.

Gordhan briefed the committee on his department's plans to restructure the department by creating independent agencies for roads, permits, maritime and aviation. This would hopefully be finalised by mid-1999, leaving the department to con-

centrate on policy formulation, planning and regulation.

A bill creating the roads agency, already approved by cabinet, would be tabled in Parliament in about six weeks.

He disclosed that over the next three to four months three 30-year concessions to build roads would be made available to the private sector — the N3 between Heidelberg and Cedara, the N4 (Pretoria to Rustenberg) and the N2 (Port Edward to Port St Johns).

Diamonds stolen at police office

RED-faced police officers from Carletonville's diamond and gold unit on the far West Rand yesterday discovered their high-security premises had been burgled, and R695000 worth of diamonds and cash stolen.

West Rand police spokesman Sgt Herman Esterhuizen said the theft was discovered when the police arrived at the office yesterday morning.

The theft had taken place over the weekend when the burglars dismantled burglar-proofing and forced open safes to get at the valuables.

Esterhuizen said the diamonds, worth R535 000, were exhibits kept at the station. The thieves had "struck it lucky" with the R160 000 in cash because it was unusual for such a large amount to be kept at the unit. — Sapa.

Stakeholders agree to reboot transformation at university

GRAHAMSTOWN — The transformation process at Rhodes University is back on track with students, staff and other key stakeholders committing themselves at the weekend to restarting the process that broke down five months ago.

Rhodes said yesterday this followed Saturday's meeting of the transformation forum — chaired by a mediator from the Independent Mediators Association of SA (Imssa) — the first since deadlock was reached at a plenary session in March.

The meeting was attended by Rhodes registrar Stephen Fourie, representatives of the East London campus, SA Students Congress, Pan Africanist Student Organisation, lecturers, the student representative committee, senate, the university council, Democratic Society Convocation, National Tertiary Education Staff Union, National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union, and the Rhodes University Staff Union.

The meeting had been called to report on a four-month long mediation process brokered by Imssa after a deadlock was reached at a plenary session of

the transformation forum in March. Imssa's Gary Koekemoer met with the role players several times to assist them in resolving their differences.

Most of the discussions during the mediation period centred on the structure of the transformation process and how it should be negotiated.

The 13 parties agreed on two main bodies to drive the process. The first is a plenary, and the second an executive which would utilise the various working groups.

The plenary's main function will be to give the executive committee a broad mandate and has the power to determine the agenda of the transformation by giving input on issues and monitoring its progress.

The executive will be the bargaining forum where parties will deliberate and decide on issues relevant to the transformation process.

"The relationship and overall progress will largely be dependent upon the good faith bargaining of all representatives on behalf of their respective constituencies," Koekemoer said. — ECN.

Taxi drivers refuse to work in permits protest

PRETORIA — Taxi drivers in the Mabopane/Garankuwa area near Pretoria refused to operate yesterday morning to protest against new legislation requiring them to display permit stickers on their vehicles.

Odi public order policing spokesman Supt Steve van Heerden said about 90% of taxis belonging to the SA Long Distance Taxi Association were not running. Saldta is the predominant taxi body in the area.

He said Saldta members were allegedly intimidating commuters into not using taxis belonging to other organisations. Reports have been received of taxis being pulled off the road and their stickers removed.

"It does not appear many

commuters were stranded," Van Heerden said.

"They made use of alternative transport." No violence was reported and the situation was calm by noon.

Van Heerden said Saldta representatives had not turned up for a scheduled meeting with police earlier in the day.

Police expected the protest action to continue for the whole week, he said.

Following a recent outbreak of taxi violence in the area, the governments of Gauteng and North West passed legislation forcing drivers to display permit stickers on their vehicles.

Taxi owners not adhering to the regulations would be given 14 days to pay an administration fee of R500 or face legal ac-

tion. Gauteng transport MEC Paul Mashatile's spokesman, Kate Bapela, said the deadline for the issuing of permit stickers was last week.

More than 8 000 taxis had been registered to date.

Van Heerden said 22 unregistered vehicles had been confiscated since last week, six in Gauteng and 16 in North West. This had been done at roadblocks manned by about 120 police, 30 army, and 70 transport department officials.

Violence erupted at Rietgat taxi rank in Soshanguve yesterday, only hours after a two-month ban on use of the rank was lifted.

The SAPS's Capt Mercia Fryer said five men apparently attacked the driver of a minibus

taxi belonging to the Federated Local and Long Distance Taxi Association.

"According to witnesses, the driver ran after his attackers and shot one of them in the foot," she said. All six men fled the scene.

The Rietgat taxi rank, closed since June 20 in an attempt by the Gauteng government to stop continuing violence involving rival taxi associations, was reopened earlier in the day.

Bapela said that if violence continued the rank could be closed again.

Van Heerden said Saldta was demanding the release of the 22 unregistered taxis confiscated by police in a crackdown which was launched last week. — Sapa.

UDW

gearing up for change

(54)

Laweetan 26/8/97

By Morgan Naidu

TWO YEARS ago destabilisation and unrest were the buzzwords at the University of Durban-Westville (UDW). These days the campus vocabulary has shifted to embrace words like transformation and development.

This is indicative of the changing "genre" of UDW from an action-filled, trouble-ridden saga to a drama with, hopefully, a happy ending.

Traditionally, UDW has been associated with the anti-apartheid movement, having nurtured many political activists who now hold senior government or business posts.

UDW has progressively transformed over the years from being an institution attended predominantly by Indians to its current healthy mixture of races and cultures.

Racial and ethnic differences, however, have been exploited by certain individuals on campus, culminating in a series of strikes, student boycotts, harassment of staff, vandalism, verbal attacks and two commissions of inquiry, one internal and the other a probe ordered by President Nelson Mandela.

When the internal commission of

'Survivor' Balintulo leaves university

inquiry released its findings earlier this year, UDW management acted swiftly on its recommendations, banning some members of staff and suspending others.

At the end of this month the curtain will come down on an era at UDW when Dr Marcus Balintulo, acting rector during much of the strife on campus, leaves to take up a post at Cape Technikon.

Balintulo, who withstood just about every act of pressure and harassment that was hurled at him, leaves behind a university that is now on a good footing.

At the helm

Until a university selection committee makes the choice of the new vice-chancellor and vice-principals, the individuals at the helm are acting vice-chancellor Professor John Kaburise and Professor Phikita Ntuli and Dr Dhiru Soni as acting vice-principals.

The three are visibly excited about the changing face of UDW.

Ntuli, who is in charge of student affairs, human resources and other significant sectors including campus security, believes ongoing consultations between management and students are paying off: "They have been frank, robust, hard-hitting and constructive."

Kaburise, who joined the management team last September, is equally optimistic: "There is a gradual reassertion of a collective commitment to the academic enterprise."

"In the face of small pockets of resistance which seek to use outdated tactics, everyone is interested in seeing that the academic programme becomes the priority."

Both men believe that as "student-centredness" is made a priority, the

"disruptive conduct of the negative minority becomes less tolerable".

With consultation and joint decision-making being the order of the day, UDW management wants to send a clear message that things are different.

Kaburise said: "We are introducing an internationalism and Pan-Africanism into our (campus) culture. The forces opposing this are rhetorically enlightened members with their Pan-Africanist xenophobia."

"Most of these (troublemaking) forces on campus are caught in a time warp and forget a very important quality of a revolutionary - to change and reflect the dynamics of the society in which they operate."

Ntuli is encouraging students to get actively involved in planning activities to integrate different cultures and ethnic groups: "The tapestry of culture that we are blessed with is unique - we are really a microcosm of South Africa."

In advancing academic progress, Kaburise and Ntuli want to build a research culture on campus and amalgamate "the small pockets of excellence that prevail".

"We have designed bridging courses for disadvantaged students and are currently also involved in a training programme to help put all our security staff on some sort of career footing," Ntuli said.

Kaburise believes the university is entering one of its most critical stages, with several financial constraints impacting heavily on the institution.

"We are faced with a stark political and economic reality that tertiary education is not free. Past irregular application of our resources to meet core demands have made us vulnerable in the current financial climate."

"We have chosen to adopt a strong and responsible approach. The uni-



Acting rector Professor John Kaburise and acting vice-principal Professor Phikita Ntuli are excited about the changing face of the University of Durban-Westville.

PIC: MORGAN NAIDU

versity council has set up a finance action committee with fully delegated powers to take all steps to restore the university to financial viability."

Regarding the findings of the UDW Commission of Inquiry, Kaburise believes some segments of the report make very constructive recommendations for the future management of the university's activities.

Reconciliatory elements

"Some people are spending far too much time on small portions of the report and I would like to see us quickly move away from a preoccupation with the conflict and conduct of a few individuals."

"There are, in fact, strong reconciliatory and building elements in the commission report."

Soni, who is a veteran UDW staffer and acting vice-principal in charge of fundraising, research and academic affairs, has a lot on his plate. Not that he is incapable of handling it.

However, as a 25-year veteran of the campus, he has seen the university

undergo a slow and often painful metamorphosis. He attacks his task of sourcing donors and funds with purpose and vigour.

"I think potential donors are not going to fund for the sake of research - they are looking for areas of excellence."

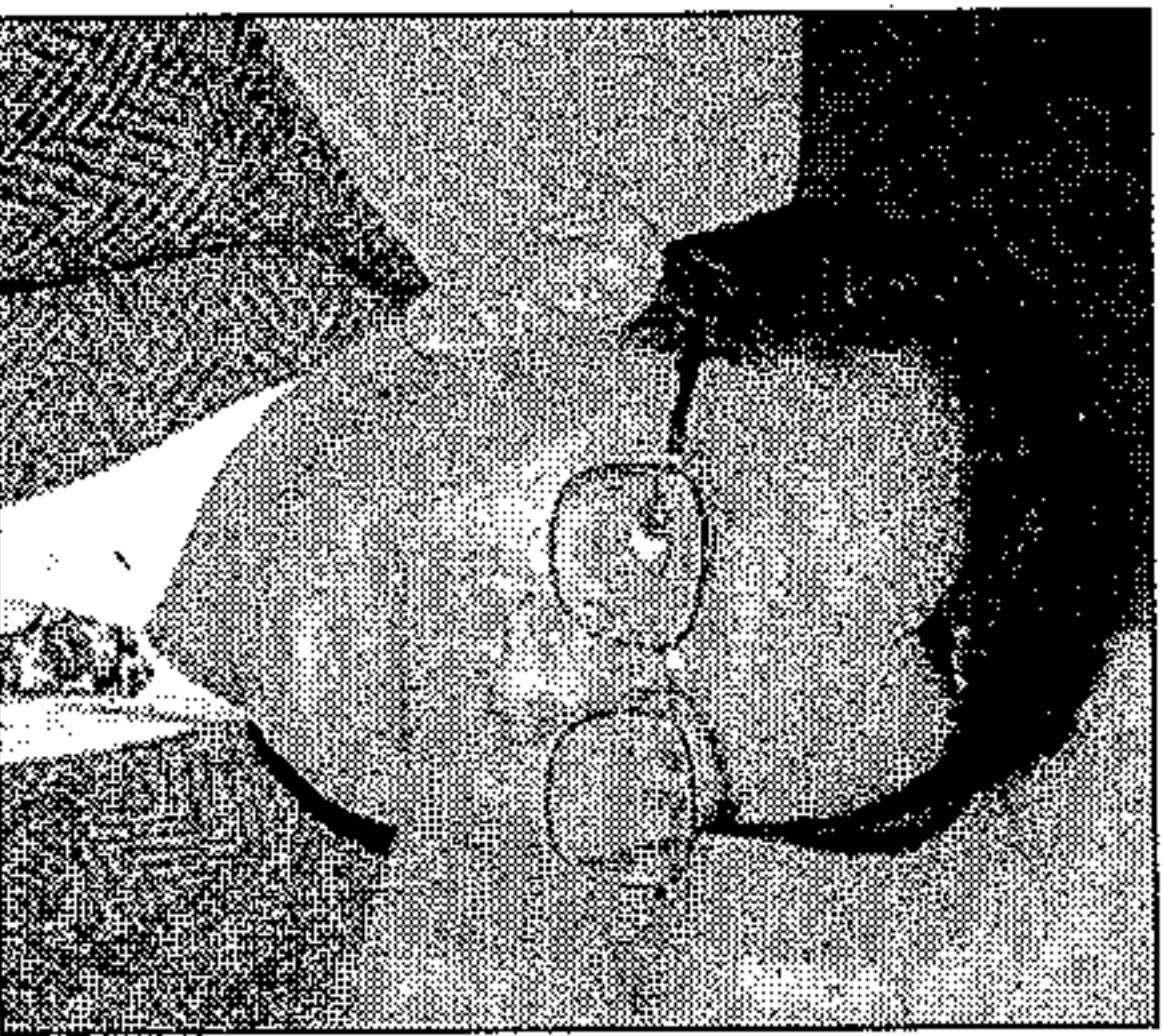
Part of Soni's new drive for excellence is a linkage programme with the United Kingdom's University of East London on geographic information systems.

Lecturers from that university are encouraged to teach at UDW, the idea being to aid students by building their research capacity and creating job opportunities.

"Various departments are also involved in RDP-type projects and are helping to develop facilitators in the townships, teaching them to write proposals and run projects."

He adds: "This is a difficult period of transformation but there is sufficient will for things to come right."

Soni regrets that nothing was actually done to put transformation policies into practice in the past.



Acting vice-principal Dr Dhiru Soni

(64)

State arrests UWC Marxist

M+G 29/8-4/9/97
Marion Edmunds

Home affairs officials burst into a lecture on Marxist philosophy at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) this week and arrested American lecturer Aaron Amaral in front of his surprised students.

The two officials, Gerhard Meder and Gideon Christians, took Amaral to three police stations on Monday before charging him at the Parow police station as a prohibited person. He is to appear in court on September 11.

Amaral and his colleagues claim that his arrest is politically motivated — after the active role he has played in organising UWC students against the South African Students' Congress (Sasco), which is ANC-aligned. Amaral is an outspoken Marxist and a member of the Socialist Students' Action Committee, which has challenged Sasco.

Before his arrest, Amaral knew he was under scrutiny. Ten days earlier, he had had a visit from Meder and Christians. They told him they were acting on instructions from Pretoria, but knew little about his details.

"It was clear that they were fishing, because they knew nothing about me. What was obvious about the intervention was that they wanted to get me off campus. They told me to fuck off campus and sit on the beach," said Amaral.

Amaral is still puzzling over his arrest. But he said he understands a little Afrikaans, and that he overheard officials describing him as a Marxist who was "confusing our people".

The head of UWC's philosophy department, Professor Andrew Nash, is equally concerned.

"These guys arrived with no knowledge of whether he was illegal or legal. All they knew was that they wanted him off campus. The whole thing smacks of victimisation. Who sent them there is the puzzle," he said.

Amaral has been in South Africa, on and off, since 1993. He applied for permanent residence earlier this year after marrying a South African, Lee-Anne Delport.

The Department of Home Affairs had not responded to questions from the *Mail & Guardian* by the time of publication.

Black students want segregation at Tukkies

M+C- 29/8-4/9 1977 (94)

Gustav Thiel

Black student leaders at the University of Pretoria are suggesting that all student residences on the campus be racially segregated.

They claim they suffer constant racial abuse in the white-dominated student residences, and accuse the university's administration of "maintaining apartheid".

At a mass meeting of the South African Students' Congress (Sasco) on the campus this week, more than 400 students and workers attacked the rector, Professor Johan van Zyl. Sasco-chairman Jacob Mamabolo accused him of "perpetuating racism and an unwillingness to accept the realities of change in South Africa". Mamabolo says some white students in residences carry guns and often threaten black students. Although he does not deny that black students have retaliated after being abused, he believes white students are responsible for most of the trouble.

Abrie Bothma, chairman of the Students' Representative Council (SRC), disagrees: "I know there are incidents of racial tension in the residences, but Sasco makes the problem way bigger than it really is."

The issue came to a boil last year when

right-wing white students fired several shots at participants in a Sasco and African National Congress Youth League march.

The university authorities, including Van Zyl and the SRC, together with Sasco and other student organisations, vowed to find a solution to the problem.

Up until then, Van Zyl had believed the system in place would work into the next century. That system sees two residences — Sonop for whites only and Karee for blacks only — operating on the principle of racial segregation. According to Mamabolo, the "mixed" residences operate along similar lines, because they are divided into corridors which are filled either by only black or white students.

When trouble again started brewing at residences in February this year, Sasco called for an interim measure whereby all residences would be totally racially segregated until a workable alternative could be found.

Sasco rejected the SRC's proposal that white and black students should have equal representation on residence committees, saying this was anti-democratic and against the spirit of the Constitution.

Van Zyl rejected Sasco's interim proposal, and instead formed a task group which compiled a lengthy document on the future struc-

tures of residences. This document, released on August 8, would, if approved, see the appointment of a residence board led by a senior residence chief to be appointed by the rector.

Mamabolo says this would "naturally see the appointment of another white person who will perpetuate white structures". This would spark more trouble, "possibly leading to bloody confrontation on the campus".

Sasco executive committee member Lucky Thsekiso, himself a victim of a racist attack in the Rubicon residence, says students are "getting fed up with the situation. The white authorities are forcing their traditions and cultures on us, and we are even expected still to take part in the ridiculous initiation rituals."

"The university management is collaborating with the house fathers who are all, except for one, white. The rector is extremely arrogant when he meets us, and says we are trying to sabotage the process of change at the university."

"What he doesn't realise is that my friends are victimised on a daily basis, and sometimes they are even attacked. That is why we are calling for an interim measure to segregate the residences to prevent further trouble. We also don't want to see more violence on campus."

Language big issue at varsities

(54) Semeton 29/8/97

By Rafiq Rohan
Political Correspondent

THE Department of Education will not coerce traditionally Afrikaans universities to become dual medium, Parliament was told yesterday.

But changes in this arena could soon occur. The issue has been the subject of heated debate within education circles.

While reasonable efforts are being made to level the language playing field, where Afrikaans held sway under apartheid, Afrikaners see these attempts as an onslaught on their language.

The issue was raised with the Minister of Education, Dr Sibusiso Bengu, by the National Party's Mr Renier Schoeman, who wanted the minister to explain whether it was his department's policy "to force" all Afrikaans medium universities to become double medium universities.

Bengu said: "It is not the policy of the Government to force a particular language policy on institutions."

However, he was not offering any guarantees that the situation would remain the way it is, with universities such as Stellenbosch and the Rand Afrikaans University being almost totally Afrikaans.

"I cannot predict what medium institutions SA will ultimately have because the legislation that deals with language policy in Higher Education is still going to be debated by Parliament," Bengu said.

He pointed out that the national policy framework through which institutional language policies will be developed will come through a process laid down in the White Paper on Higher Education.

Bengu said he did not want to comment any further but would do so once the processes have "reached a point where it will be necessary to do so".

Threats shut Vista's Bloemfontein campus

BD 29/8/97 (54)

BLOEMFONTEIN — Vista University's Bloemfontein campus was closed yesterday after two weeks of student unrest culminated in threats to staff and damage to property.

Senior spokesman Laurika Olwagan said the unrest arose from demands made by students regarding examinations and open-ended financing of their activities.

Their threatening posture towards staff and the damage caused to university property made it impossible to continue with reasonable discussions in pursuit of joint strategies, she said.

All academic, administrative and support staff at the Bloemfontein campus would be required to vacate the

campus by 2pm yesterday and to report back for duty on Monday.

The university would petition the High Court for a restraining order, to be enforced by the police.

Students reporting back to campus on Monday would have to be accompanied by their parents or guardians. After identification, the latter would be required to pay at least 75% of the outstanding study fees for 1997 at once, and immediately honour contractual obligations in terms of an earlier agreement for outstanding 1996 study fees.

Should harassment of staff continue after Monday's reopening, the campus would be closed for the remainder of the 1997 academic year. — Sapa.

Commission backs union officials' right to access

Farouk Chothia

DURBAN — The Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) has ordered the University of Durban-Westville to partially lift banning and suspension orders on two union officials so that they can act on behalf of the union on the campus.

The affected union, the Combined Staff Association (Comsa), represents about 70% of employees at the university. Comsa hailed the ruling as "progressive", saying that the new Labour Relations Act had "fundamentally altered the common law rights to private property of employers".

The university had suspended staff member and Comsa office bearer Prea Banwari pending the outcome of a disciplinary hearing into claims that he had been involved in acts of serious misconduct during campus conflict.

Heinrich Bohmke, a Comsa full-time organiser who was not a university employee, was banned from the campus on the grounds that he was an "undesirable person", a decision reached on the findings of a government-appointed commission of inquiry into campus conflict.

Comsa challenged the decision, saying the two union representatives were entitled to enter university premises to

conduct their official union duties. In preventing Banwari and Bohmke from doing so, rights conferred to the union in terms of the Labour Relations Act had been breached. The two wanted to attend the union's annual general council meeting on campus. The union also wanted them to be representatives in wage negotiations, but university management had refused to allow this.

Defending its position, the university argued that organisational rights were collective rights, and not individual rights. Comsa had not been deprived of these collective rights because of Bohmke's banning and Banwari's suspension.

CCMA commissioner E van Zuydam said the suspension and banning did not constitute an unfair labour practice. However, Comsa was entitled to exercise its organisational rights through its elected office bearers and appointed officials. Banwari and Bohmke should be given access to the campus, but only for the purposes of participating in wage negotiations and the annual general meeting.

Comsa said the finding meant the Act vested the organisational rights of unions in individuals. It was no longer possible for employers to exclude those whom they regarded as "undesirable" union officials from negotiating teams.

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Premiership election aborted

Vuyo Mvoko

THE Gauteng premiership battle took another turn yesterday with the announcement that all proceedings to date had been aborted after being found to have "generated a lot more heat than light".

Outgoing premier Tokyo Sexwale said he had now decided to "break the logjam" by first stepping down from the provincial chairmanship of the African National Congress (ANC) instead of

surances at the ANC provincial general council on August 18 the that premiership would be decided by election.

At that stage there were two candidates — provincial ANC treasurer Amos Masondo, favoured by the leadership, and deputy chairman Mathole Motshekga, the branch favourite.

Sexwale, addressing a news conference yesterday, said the ANC's branch had been consulted on Tuesday and had "in principle" accepted the new approach. He denied that

Ball reins in enthusiasm about Olympic bid

Tim Cohen

LONDON — Cape Town bid committee chairman Chris Ball yesterday put a damper on over-enthusiasm about Cape Town's chances, claiming not to be encouraged by a dramatic fall in the

odds on Cape Town hosting the 2004 games at British betting shops.

It was impossible to predict the outcome of the voting, which would take place next Friday in Lucerne, Switzerland, he said. Although Cape Town would put in a

strong bid, the race to host the 2004 Olympics was still wide open.

He said this round of bidding to host the games was one of the tightest ever, with all the cities having a chance.

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Can SA universities make govt's grade?

Universities are embarking on programmes of dramatic change as they tackle a series of challenges set by government, writes education reporter Kevin O'Grady

BD 29/8/97

AT FIRST glance, the current situation in the university sector reminds one of a scene in which errant tenants are hastily trying to get their abode in order before the landlord arrives. The lease requires a certain level of cleanliness and order, and failing to uphold it might lead to eviction.

The drawback for the tenants is that, despite being eager to please the landlord, they have recently been retrenched and, having lost their source of income, are unable to purchase the wherewithal needed for the clean-up.

Universities, like the tenants, have been told in no uncertain terms — in government's recent policy paper and draft legislation — that a certain kind of behaviour is expected and that failure to conform will not be tolerated.

But as Prof Colin Bundy, who is to become the new vice-chancellor of Wits University, lamented during a recent presentation, there are vast "contradictions between the goals they (government) are setting and the means available for achieving those goals".

The "goals" on the face of things, are sensible. They are primarily to rectify decades of neglect of "historically disadvantaged" institutions and convert the sector into a unified, co-ordinated one while, at the same time, making all institutions more responsive to SA's needs and "massifying" access to higher education.

The "means", despite Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu's belief that public funding of higher education should be maintained at the current percentage (about 1.5% of GDP), are inadequate.

Bengu strongly motivates his belief in his white paper, saying that rapid enrolment growth without extra expenditure has been shown internationally and locally to lead to overcrowded facilities, low morale, poor quality programmes and a fall in research output and quality.

And although Finance Minister Trevor Manuel might agree with Bengu's sound reasoning, it does not make it any easier for him to come up with the required goods. Manuel's last-minute about-turn on the budgetary allocations to universities in the face of widespread student protests this year is not likely to become a regular occurrence.

Universities, all of them facing drastically scaled-down funding despite Manuel's last-minute in-

creases, are now having to find ever more inventive ways of keeping themselves financially viable at the same time as fulfilling government's requirements.

The white paper provides some guidance on this but also warns other universities or technicians if they are not deemed necessary to "meet the goals of a transformed higher education system".

"Many institutions either require consolidation or re-tooling for new missions and goals. Narrow self-interest cannot be allowed to preclude planning which may lead to institutional mergers or closures and the development of new institutional forms where these are necessary," it says.

These are ominous words for universities struggling in the face of financial constraints and massive student debt to keep themselves "relevant" and, in response, many are looking to retrench staff, change the focus of the programmes they offer and scale down operations to — in the words of University of Natal vice-chancellor Brenda Gourley — "achieve more with less".

But, unlike the tenants belatedly cleaning up, most tertiary institutions have been planning for this situation for some time.

In some cases this has meant following the minister's advice, and possibly pre-empting any forced mergers, by developing regional consortiums to collaborate in the development and delivery of programmes and avoid cash consuming duplication of disciplines.

The consortium option is also in line with government thinking, expressed in its idea of a single, co-ordinated higher education system and in its National Qualifications Framework, in which institutions would recognise credits transferred between them in a move away from the compartmentalisation which characterised higher education in SA in the past.

According to Gourley, this approach could eventually see the smaller departments at all SA's universities and technicians pooled nationally at a distance

learning institution from which students would gain credits applicable countrywide.

One of the new consortiums is the Eastern Seaboard Association of Tertiary Institutions, which chairman Prof John Butler-Adams says has brought the universities of Natal, Zululand and Durban-Westville and the Natal, Mt. Sultana, Mangosuthu and Southern Africa technicians together to find ways of coping in the current climate.

Negotiations on the establishment of the association started in 1993 with redress and equity as the imperatives and with cost-cutting taking secondary importance.

Now, with subsidy cuts a reality, cost-cutting has come to the fore, Butler-Adams says.

The association's "bottom up" approach has resulted not only in the senior executives at the member institutions considering co-operation, but has prompted academic staff themselves to come up with cost-saving measures.

An example is the proposal by the institutions' music department staff to establish one department for the region instead of the current five — a move with clear financial benefits for an under-utilised and expensive discipline. According to Butler-Adams, similar moves are under discus-

sion for the teaching of drama, the health sciences, engineering and business administration — the latter idea having been greeted with "enormous enthusiasm and support" by the business sector in the province.

Other cost-saving initiatives in the planning phase are the establishment of a central applications office which would save institutions the "messy and expensive business" of processing applications, a single interactive catalogue of the institutions' libraries, a regional development unit and a regional access programme of tertiary distance learning to people without matric exemptions.

But Butler-Adams stresses that the initiatives are not part of a "master plan" to save tertiary institutions. "We have a very clear mission — but no master plan. Working on a project-by-project basis creates the climate for co-operation," he says.

As a result, individual institutions are still having to trim the fat. At the University of Natal R60m worth of posts over the next five years, scaling down courses that are the least profitable, such as the European language departments and the classics.

Fort Hare University at Alice in the Eastern Cape, one of the hardest hit by budget cuts, has already identified 930 service staff for retrenchment, and is now negotiating the futures of staff in the administrative and academic sectors as a way of helping secure the institution's financial future.

The University of Venda (Trenton), which started out in 1981 when the government of the day issued instructions for the establishment — without the benefit of a parliamentary grant — of a "push university" at a disused local high school, is also contemplating far-reaching changes.

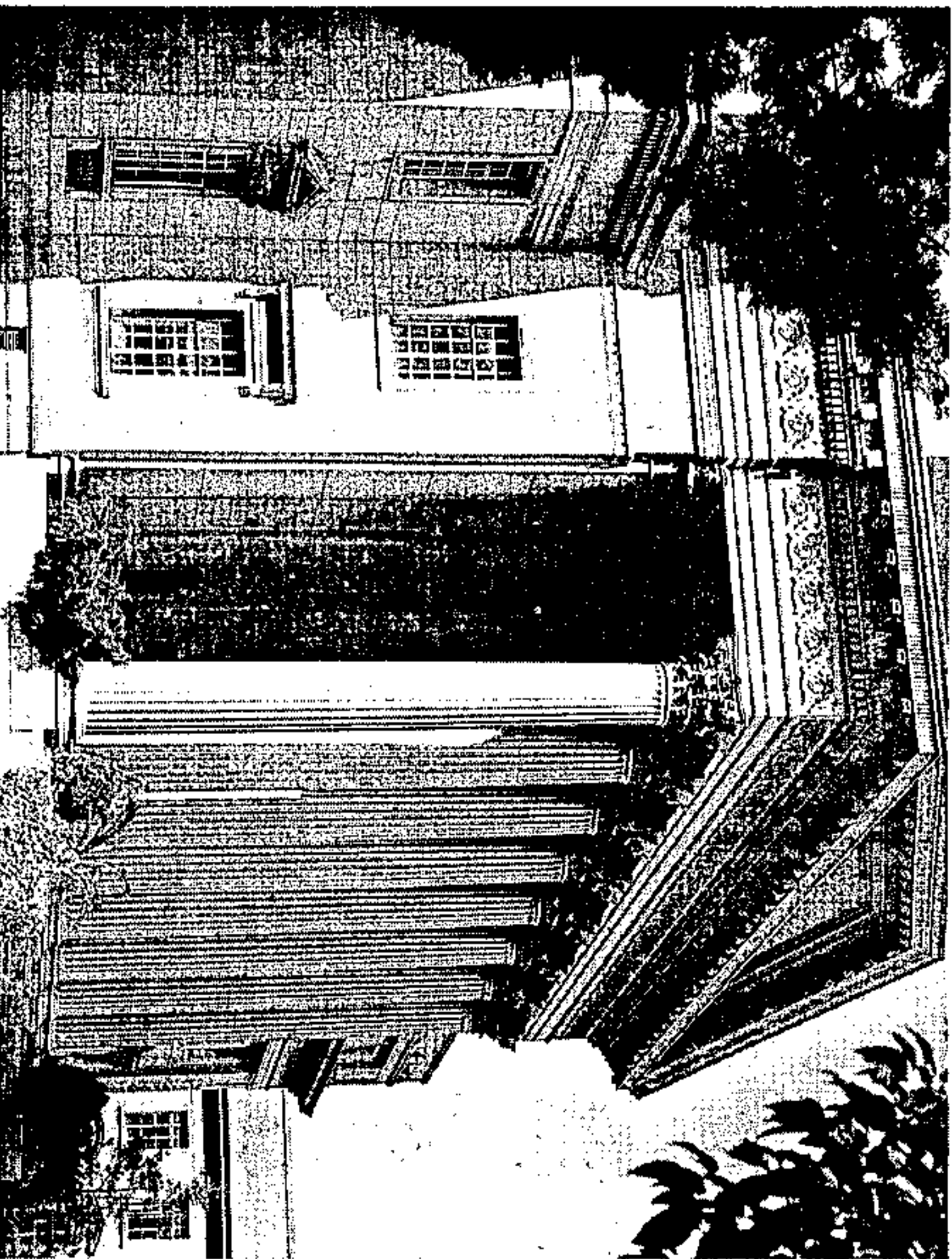
Vice-chancellor Gessler Nkondo has noted that the institution has a "disturbing preponderance" (70%) of students studying the human sciences, a fact which is unlikely to satisfy government's requirement for institutions to cater for SA's development needs, particularly a shortage of applied science graduates, when they apply for funding.

Univen spokesman Rufus Karidaha said the institution had identified several new programmes that would rectify this imbalance, at the same time attracting funds from the business sector, satisfying government's requirements and producing more marketable graduates.

The implementation of these programmes, though, would most likely require the discontinuation of others and the institution planned a "bosberaad" soon to discuss how to proceed.

Even this would not improve the university's financial situation substantially as it would be replacing some courses with other, only marginally more profitable, ones.

"But it is better to be poor and to do the right thing than to be rich and to do the wrong thing," Karidaha said.



Pillars of excellence? Universities, all facing drastically scaled-down funding, are having to find more inventive ways of remaining financially viable while fulfilling government's requirements.

IN BRIEF

University offers severance packages in bid to cut costs

THE University of Durban-Westville was offering voluntary severance packages to all its nonacademic staff in a bid to save money and bring about greater efficiency, acting vice-chancellor Prof John Kaburise said yesterday. (54)

The disclosure coincided with a work stoppage by about 900 staff members belonging to the Combined Staff Association. They said management had reneged on promises made in wage talks.

Kaburise said the wage issue was a "camouflage". The stoppage was linked to the completion of a discussion document on university restructuring by private company Dynamic Resource Solutions. The company was acting as an adviser to the university on its "diminishing resources". Acting public affairs director Prof Humphrey Gwar said the university was likely to run into a budget deficit during the current financial year, but hoped rightsizing would allow the university to break even from next year. 60 3/9/97

UNIVERSITIES & TECHNIKONS

Varsities & techs face the chop

(54)
FM 5/9/97

Closures seem inevitable for many universities and technikons as government realises it cannot afford to keep all of them

SA cannot afford its 21 universities and 15 technikons. The closure, downgrading or merger of some is fast becoming inevitable as pressure on the sector mounts.

Universities, reeling from years of underfunding, are trapped in a crisis of expectations: they must enrol rising numbers of disadvantaged students while receiving little or no rise in State or private funding.

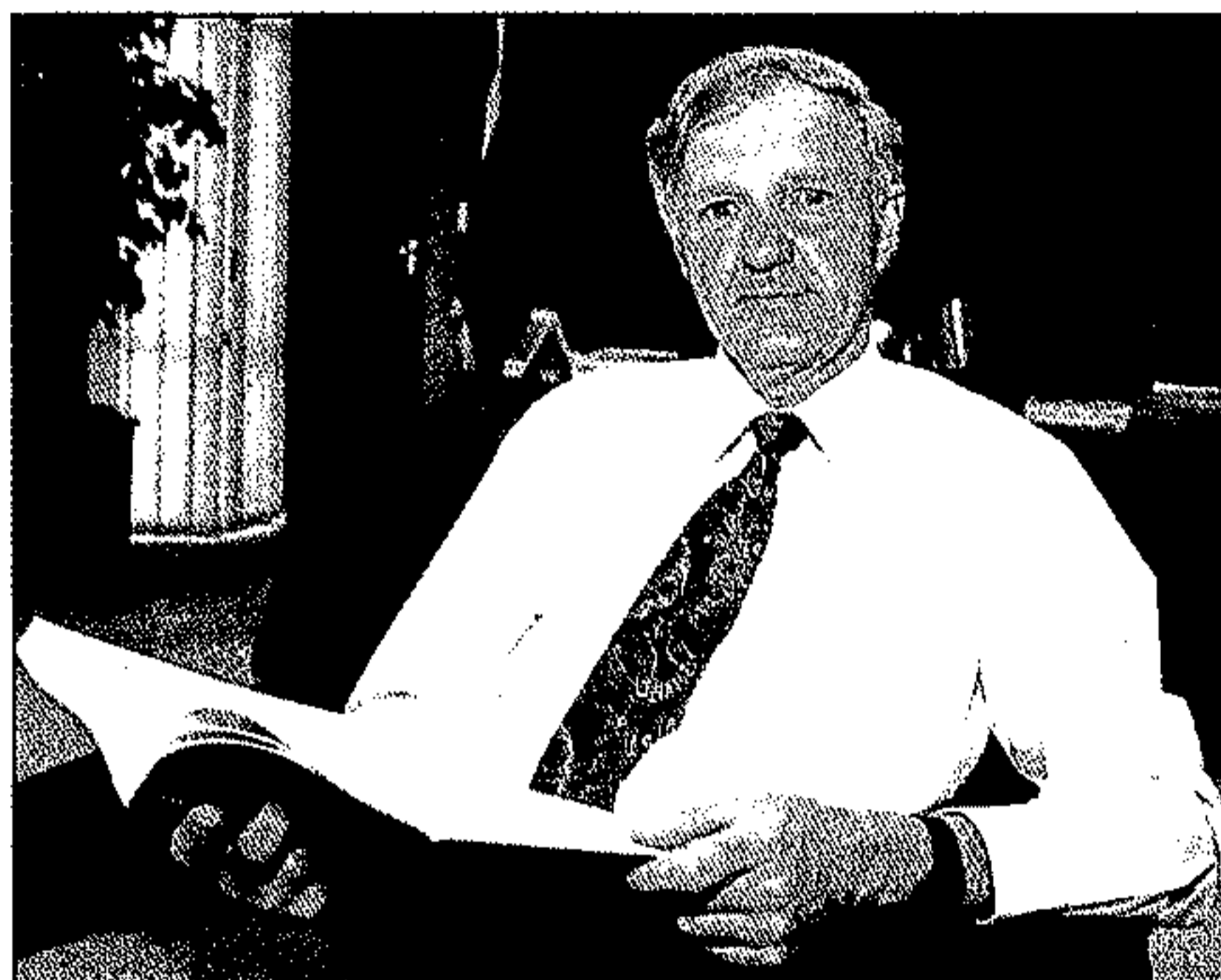
The latest blow to the sector — especially to former homeland institutions, many of which are in dire financial straits — is a realisation that government may not be able to provide the substantial funding needed to redress apartheid inequalities.

The Education Department was planning to make funds for redress available by restructuring its university budget, improving efficiency of systems and institutions and generating more private contributions.

But Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) chief executive Dr Rolf Stumpf says this lifeline won't materialise unless money is found outside the higher education budget. He rules out the likelihood of institutions achieving meaningful income from savings. This makes the prospect of closures and mergers inevitable.

Higher Education chief director Ahmed Essop says SA "cannot afford 21 universities and 15 technikons at the moment."

Many of the institutions were created for political reasons to serve ethnic groups and not according to a rational plan, he says. Government plans a major investigation to



HSRC's Rolf Stumpf . . . there simply isn't enough money

ensure that SA makes rational use of its higher education resources.

Essop says closure and merger of some institutions "would make sense based on a thorough investigation." But he acknowledges it is a politically charged issue, as historically black universities are most at risk. Fort Hare University, for example, is under "major financial constraints," as are many other former homeland institutions.

"We have to look at it with an open mind and ask: is it affordable? We have the choice of dividing the cake into smaller pieces or into new slices based on a new configuration," Essop says.

Stumpf finds that even a 5% saving on recurrent expenditure at all universities would generate only R180m for redress. This is less than 9% of the amount required to eradicate building backlogs for all universities, which in 1995 stood at R1,95bn.

He estimates that a further saving of R108m could be generated by greater co-operation between institutions and by eliminating unnecessary programme duplication, but this too is a drop in the ocean.

The option of "top-slicing" the university budget is hardly realistic, says Stumpf. Top-slicing means assigning a portion of the

budget to redress first, leaving a smaller budgetary "cake" for all the other needs. A top-slice of more than 2% or 3% would be inconceivable, he says, given the extent to which all universities are already underfunded. It would at any rate generate insufficient funds for meaningful redress.

Since 1989 all universities on average have covered "an inordinately large" part of costs from their own sources of income. Historically white universities are funding nearly half the costs of educating students compared to 40% for historically black uni-

versities.

University of Cape Town vice-chancellor Mamphela Ramphele says she is "concerned that top-slicing the limited higher education budget for next year would have disastrous consequences for the whole system. Redress funding must not be an additional burden on the constrained higher education budget."

Stumpf suggests a solution may be to access donor funding or resurrect the notion of a graduate tax, despite the negative signals thus far from the Katz Commission.

His warning has prompted the SA Univer-

sities' Vice-Chancellors' Association (SAUVCA) to establish a committee on redress which will include an investigation into the possibility of mergers, closures and converting universities into technikons.

However, SAUVCA chairman and University of the North vice-chancellor Prof Njabulo Ndebele believes SA needs more universities, not fewer.

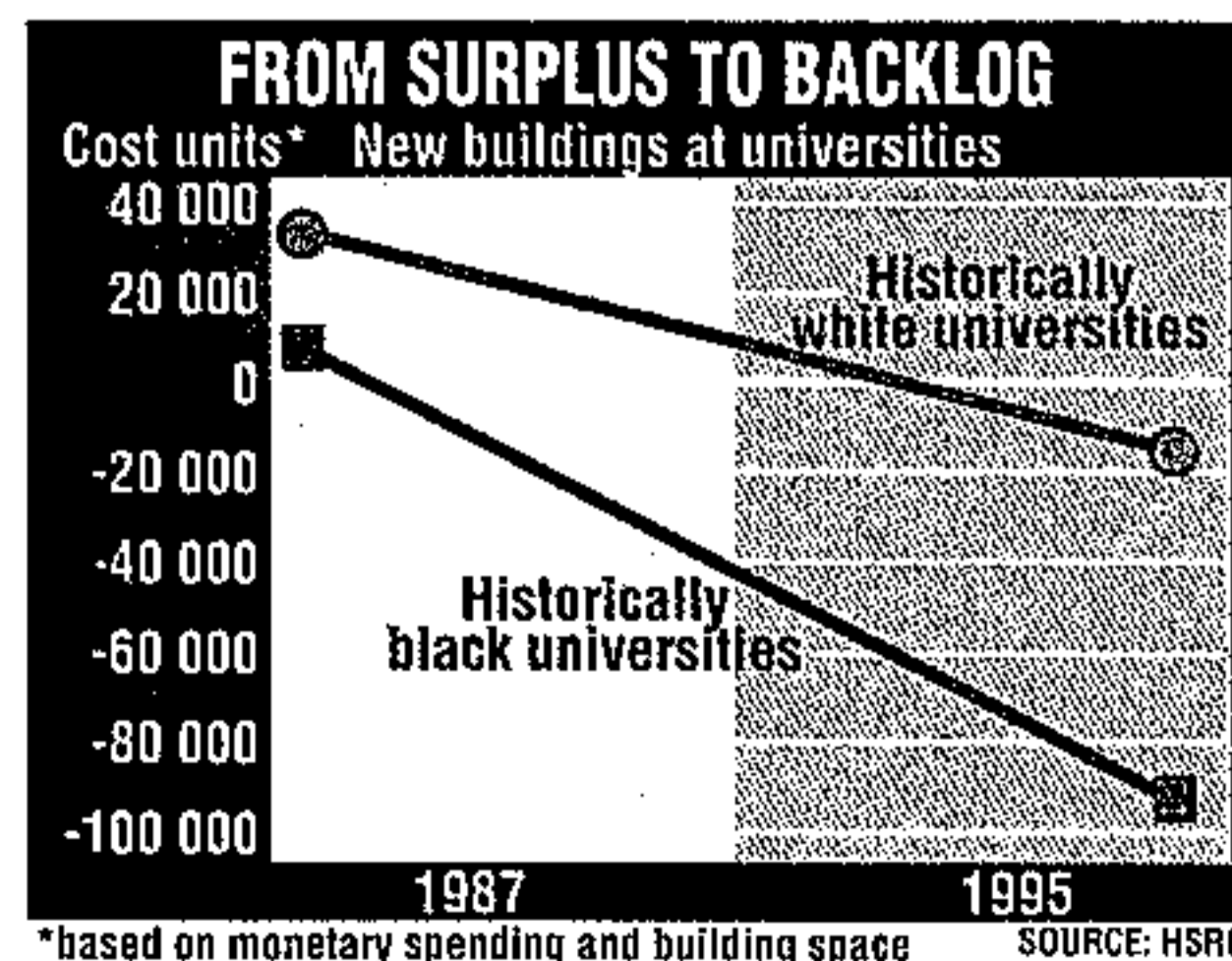
"We should view the higher education sector as a long-term national investment," he says. "To look at it merely as a budgetary cost item might be short-sighted," he says.

University of the Western Cape vice-chancellor Cecil Abrahams does not believe that certain historically black institutions should be graded down or that the savings from their closure would liberate funds.

"Instead of clamouring for the closure of some of them, it would be far more sensible and sensitive to call for proper funding and development of these institutions."

Ramphele says the institutions should strive to complement, not compete with, each other. This is already happening; around the country institutions are closing departments and co-operating with one another, in anticipation of the coming change.

Claire Bisserker



Beacon of hope beaming from the North

8th 8 | 9 | 97

(54)



Transformation is working at the University of Venda where, despite student unrest and financial concerns, the vice-chancellor, Professor Gessler Nkondo, is succeeding in defining a new image for the young institution, writes Winnie Graham

This newest institution of learning, which began life in an old high school, is now firmly committed to upgrading courses and becoming more relevant

The University of Venda has the distinction of being the newest university in South Africa. It is also the most disadvantaged.

People who visit the campus at Thohoyandou in the far Northern Province cannot but be struck by the enormous difference between the country's oldest universities (in Cape Town and Stellenbosch) and this young university in the most northerly corner of South Africa, just a stone's throw from the Zimbabwe border.



Prof Gessler Nkondo ... vice-chancellor of Venda University.

While the Cape has vineyards, wheatfields and mountains, Venda has forest-covered ranges, nature reserves and banana plantations.

Univen (as the University of Venda is called locally) is undoubtedly the most important educational institution in the region - yet it came into being almost by accident.

In fact, the government of the time did not even set aside the usual parliamentary grant to cover the establishment costs needed to provide a decent in-

frastucture. Way back in 1981, the new university authorities were simply told to make use of a local high school and "get started".

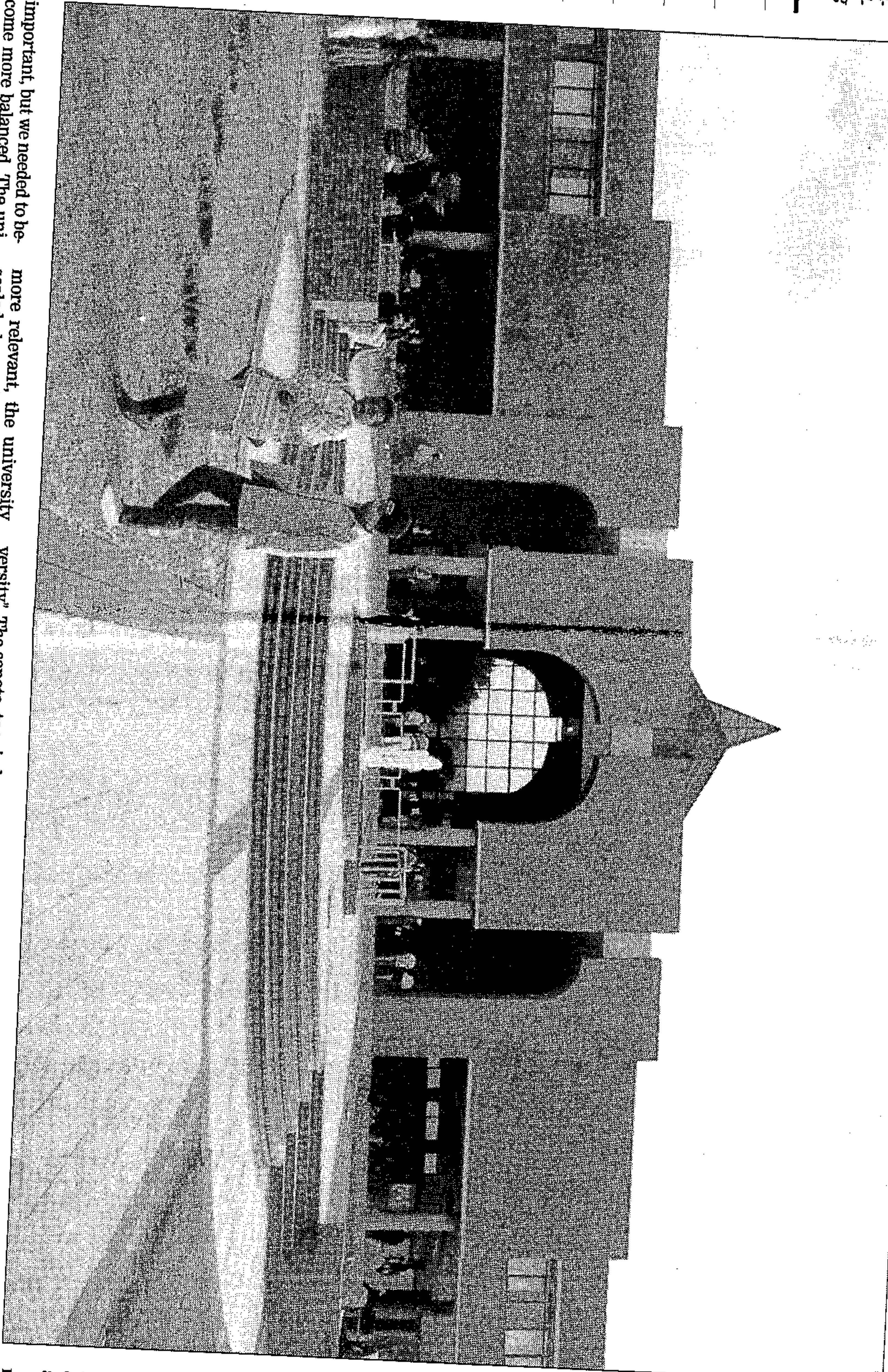
Yet, although the dice may have been stacked against Univen, it has survived against all odds, despite student protests, financial problems and many other transitional difficulties.

The turnaround has come largely because the man at the helm is determined to reform the university and make it work for the good of the region.

Professor Gessler Nkondo had been in exile for 17 years when he took over as the vice-chancellor and principal in 1994.

He faced an enormous challenge, for the university was illegitimate. Its finances were a mess. There were allegations of corruption and mismanagement and the quality of its teaching staff was not up to scratch.

Professor Nkondo said in an interview: "We were producing graduates who could serve the periphery of the economy, not the core. About 70% of the students were in humanities while the sciences were being neglected. The humanities are



important, but we needed to become more balanced. The university had been tailored to fit the needs of a Bantustan."

The vice-chancellor knew the university's mission had to be redefined.

First, a task team including members of the university senate, council, staff associations and students, spent the nine to 12 months canvassing opinion. The team quickly learnt that the people wanted education for empowerment - to be a national university with a regional focus.

The vice-chancellor explained: "We found we needed agricultural scientists to make our fertile valleys more productive. In the same way we needed health scientists who could deal with the multiplicity of diseases in our region and we needed environmental scientists to help us preserve our environment."

more relevant, the university scaled down the offerings of inessential courses. The University of Stellenbosch (which offers the only forestry degree in South Africa) agreed to help Univen set up a school of forestry. A school of health sciences is being planned, and next year the School of Environmental Sciences will produce its first graduates.

The changes made sense but were not necessarily popular. Some staff members feared their jobs were on the line. Students thought their choices were being curtailed. New tensions arose.

At the same time the university was looking at other structures in need of transformation. It realised that the broad transformation committee (BPTC) which had been pivotal in initiating certain changes, should make way for a committee which would serve as "the conscience of the uni-

versity". The senate, too, is being restructured, to bring in people who are not only intellectuals but men and women of integrity.

Professor Nkondo said he came to realise that being highly intelligent was not enough when he read the works

Increase in fees seen as new pressure for students

of German intellectuals and philosophers, who during the Holocaust of World War 2 remained silent when the Nazis perpetrated their atrocities. He said: "Traditionally, appointments to a university's senate are based on the intellectual skills of its professorial hierarchy. We, however, believe our intellectuals need to share

progressive values and are adopting the approach that membership of our senate will be by election. Our senate will be comprised of men and women who have been tested - and not found wanting."

When Professor Nkondo turned his attention to the university's finances he was appalled. He knew that if he was to obtain loans or gifts for the university, the accounting systems had to be in place.

To sort out the mess, he appointed a top firm of auditors and arranged for staff training. Then he approached the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for help. It took months to get the books in order but his efforts have been rewarded.

On August 8 this year, USAID was finally able to report that Univen now had "an adequate internal control and accounting system and was able to properly account for TSATN

funds". The university's money matters are finally under control.

Had these been the only problems the vice-chancellor would have had a full-time job but just a week or two ago he was forced to close the university after students went on the rampage, setting fire to the SRC building.

They were upset, Professor Nkondo said, by a number of issues, including an announcement that fees were to be increased by 13%, the penalty meted out to three students guilty of misconduct, and the demand for readmission of a student who, apart from making extremely poor academic progress, had ignored university rules and regulations.

"This particular student has been at the university five years and has not yet passed his first year," he said.

New on the block ... the University of Venda is situated in the beautiful countryside of the far North, and although having only opened in 1981, has managed to overcome many of its teething problems.

to continue?" I asked. It was a moral problem, the vice-chancellor explained. Because the university had not been in a position to offer students assistance (or bridging programmes) to overcome their educationally disadvantaged backgrounds, it felt obliged to allow them to keep trying. That, however, was set to change.

The question of fees is more tricky. In comparison with other universities, the costs of attending Univen are low. In fact, it is probably the least expensive university in South Africa, but then the annual income of the people of Venda is also low.

In most cases a 13% increase may represent not much more than R400 a year - but it is seen as a new pressure for the students. At the same time, the increase is an imperative for a university struggling on a tally inadequate budget.

The vice-chancellor understands the dilemma of his students but he will not tolerate vandalism.

"I have told the students that I am on the verge of finishing a loan for the construction of a 1,000-bed hostel to accommodate more students," he said. "How seriously will the university be taken if property is destroyed on campus?"

Transformation is no easier at Univen than at other universities but Professor Nkondo is intent on steering Venda through a troubled transitional era to a time, not far hence, when it will cater for 10,000 students all of whom will make a major contribution to the potentially rich Venda region.

"That is part of"

Student politics set to change with new SRC

SABATA NGCAI
EDUCATION REPORTER

Students at the University of Cape Town are set to elect a new student representative council that is expected to change the face of student politics at the university.

The new council is expected to steer students from the old order, when they saw apartheid as the common enemy, into the mainstream of South African politics. Even the name, SRC, which students believe is associated with the past, is expected to change to Student Union Council.

The expected changes in student politics were triggered by a refusal by the students to vote for a new SRC in 1995. This prompted the formation of a transitional structure and the appointment of the Commission for Student Governance.

The commission was formed to research student problems, and their refusal to

take part in the election.

The commission discovered that, since the change in the political scenario in 1994, there was nothing left to unite students.

The commission also found that student leaders were unable to serve the students effectively because of academic pressure and lack of skills.

In its final report, the commission proposed that there should be three full time student leaders who would be in the office most of the time, and accessible when needed.

It also proposed research, communication training and development to make sure there was effective, strong and well-informed leadership.

The new student council is expected to begin implementing the proposals as soon as it is elected.

An SRC official said the proposals of the commission had been accepted by the university's transformation forum and were expected to be approved by students in a referendum to be held in March.

ARG 8/9/97 (54)

Denigration of universities criticised

Pule Molebeleli

THE denigration of the achievements of black universities by the English-language press and liberal academics at historically white universities was a major obstacle to the new Higher Education Transformation Bill, University of the Western Cape rector Prof Cecil Abrahams said last week.

Abrahams, who is also the chairman of the historically disadvantaged institutions forum, said the attitude of these commentators needed to be radically transformed. Another two barriers to the im-

plementation of the bill, said Abrahams, were the separate black and white university systems and the need for financial help for thousands of eligible students.

Abrahams disputed the argument that the apartheid-created black universities should be closed or merged to deal with the funding problems of higher education. He also dismissed the idea that historically black institutions had outlived their social and political function.

"Nowhere in these arguments is recognition given to the fact that half of the students in the higher education (system) are enrolled at the

black institutions. With incremental growth and the discouraging admission policies of historically white institutions, it is difficult to tell where the students of black institutions would go," he said.

Abrahams said the black universities were underfunded, despite their high student enrolment.

"Corrective action is clearly needed if we are going to meet the bill's chief objective to create a single, unified system of higher education.

There should be a substantial injection of funds into black campuses for the next five to ten years, he said. "Since government is strapped for

cash, the expected new funding formula must ensure that equity and redress factors are included."

Abrahams said that to deal with students' financial problems — students had brought institutions to a standstill after being refused admission on financial grounds — the funding of the national bursary scheme had to be increased.

"The bill and white paper point us in the right direction. This is the time for us to embrace it and ensure that hardened attitudes and narrow sectoral interests do not undermine the ideals articulated in the legislation," he said.

Conservation college for region opens

(54) 
Pearl Seboto

BD 819197
SA's first wildlife college, which will train the subcontinent's conservation managers, was opened on Friday in the Timbavati area on the boundary of the Kruger National Park.

The Southern African Wildlife College, run by SA's branch of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-SA), was developed in consultation with the wildlife sector of the Southern African Development Community, the local community and training organisations throughout the subcontinent.

The college was a milestone for conservation in the region and would provide a catalyst for changes within conservation in southern Africa, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan said at the launch.

More holistic approaches to conservation, which involved the community and SA's neighbours, were needed for sustainable development, he said.

WWF-SA chief executive Ian Mac Donald said that as a regional initiative, the college was in a unique position to develop networking links with different organisations in the subcontinent.

"Among other things, we will collaborate with the Mweka College in Tanzania which is doing similar work," MacDonald said.

The construction of the college was made possible by a R25m grant from the German government, supplemented by grants from the Netherlands and Danish governments.

Student injured in police action on college campus

By RODNEY VICTOR

(54)

Star 10/9/97

Police used batons and rubber bullets to disperse students at Alberton College in Brackendowns yesterday after they disrupted classes to protest against the expulsion of a student who had stolen a dictaphone machine from the college.

Students said a girl was struck in the face by a rubber bullet during the police action.

Police spokesman Inspector Michelle Erasmus confirmed a student had been injured when Brackendowns police and members of the public order policing unit dispersed students who were disrupting classes and damaging property.

Only a minority of students was involved in the disruptions, which had been going on for a week, said college spokesman Jacob Kotsi.

The protesters had pulled other students from classes and demanded that lecturers stop teaching, he said. They had also destroyed property and threatened to burn the college down.

Kotsi said charges of malicious damage to property and intimidation had been laid with

the police.
He added that the college's governing board would meet on September 22 to review its decision to expel the student.

He did not know what advice to give parents who were unsure whether they should continue sending their children to college or keep them at home to study.

A student, who claimed to be the Student Representative Council president, said the demonstrators did not want to destroy the college, but would not renege on their demands.

"The police will have to shoot us until our demands have been met," he said.

A mother of a matric boy said matrics were due to start writing prelims on Monday.

Her son said the trouble started a week ago when a group of students called others from their classes to a meeting.

"They told us that blacks and whites must stand together and fight for this guy to come back, but most of us whiteys aren't into toyi-toying, so some went back to our classes and some went home."

Alberton College has 400 students doing standards 8, 9 and 10 and post-matric business studies.

Times a-changin' at the Technikon

First black rector aims to break stereotypes of the past

Argus 10/9/97 (54)

SABATA NGCAI
EDUCATION REPORTER

New Cape Technikon rector Marcus Balintulo says he wants to see an excellent academic staff that reflects the composition of the campus population.

Speaking to Cape Argus in his first interview after his appointment, Dr Balintulo said the tech's student population was already changing but that the staff remained largely white and male.

"We need role models across the board for students," he said. When Dr Balintulo presented himself with other candidates to the Technikon community in May, the contentious question of staff composition was raised by some black students.

They wanted to know what he would do, if appointed, to change the racial imbalance of staffing. Dr Balintulo, a former acting vice chancellor and principal of the trouble-torn University of Durban-Westville, conceded this was not an easy task.

He recalled an incident when the university was revamping the engineering department and advertised senior posts with the intention of changing the demographic composition of the predominantly white and Indian staff.

Instead, applications came from outside the country and the university was forced to recruit from other African countries. Dr Balintulo said that it was imperative that tertiary

institutions train and develop their own staff to avoid a repeat of that situation.

"We ought to identify more talented students and groom them to join the staff at a later stage."

He said the Technikon should, during admission of students, identify their future potential rather than look only at their immediate experiences: "Access should be linked to success and we should stop creating a revolving door policy."

Dr Balintulo, the first black rector at the institution in its 76-year history, is the second black academic to be appointed to a top management position after Mandla Tshabalala, appointed last year as vice-rector for student support services.

He is the sixth vice-chancellor and principal at the institution since 1929 when the Technikon was still the Cape Technical College.

The institution was established in 1920 and changed its name to Cape Technikon in 1979.

Dr Balintulo said he wanted to make sure that women and students from disadvantaged backgrounds were spread throughout various disciplines. "Engineering should not be seen as a discipline for men only."

He said he wanted to break the stereotypes of the past and bring everybody into the mainstream, encourage cultural activities on the campus, and fundraise and rationalise within the institution to make resources available.



JACK LESTRADE

All change: the new rector of the Cape Technikon, Marcus Balintulo, wants to concentrate on staff and student development

Body starts a project to improve education in SA

Kevin O'Grady

BD 10/9/97

THE National Business Initiative (NBI) has started a project intended to bring together the public and private sectors to improve the quality of teaching and learning at SA's schools.

Releasing a 37-page guide to its "education quality improvement programme" yesterday, NBI education and training operations director Glen Fisher said it was hoped the guide would inform schools, communities and companies about the programme.

The programme, which sought to create partnerships between individual schools and business, government and nongovernmental organisations, had been implemented at 47 schools in three provinces as part of a pilot project, he said. "The lessons learned in the pilot project (in Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng) will be carried forward as the project goes to scale," Fisher said.

The NBI recognised that government had "the major responsibility for addressing the inequities of the past and for building a new, high quality education system, but given the scale and complexity of the problems, govern-

ment cannot be expected to address the needs and challenges on its own," Fisher said.

The programme brought together the provincial education departments, business leaders and NBI representatives to encourage and support grass-roots school improvement initiatives.

NBI policy analyst Susan Meyer said the private sector had made large contributions to education development in the past "but they were never sure what impact these were having".

Because of this, once-off donations were increasingly being replaced by three- to five-year partnership programmes. This had the advantage of allowing companies to see the results of their involvement and "stimulated new dimensions of accountability in our schools", Meyer said.

NBI development executive director Brian Whittaker said education was "the Achilles heel of development in SA. We can't have a competitive economy without skilled people and we can't have a skilled workforce without a sound education base". Business should therefore become directly involved in programmes which improved the quality of education at SA schools.

Universities 'to be reorganised'

Jacob Dlamini

CAPE TOWN — A number of tertiary institutions could be closed down or merged as part of government plans to transform higher education, Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu said yesterday.

He told reporters at a parliamentary briefing one of the options being considered included regrouping some of the institutions and giving them common missions. This had already started with Pretoria University and the Medical University of SA merging their veterinary science faculties.

Referring to historically black universities, Bengu said many people had believed these would be turned into high schools when a democratic gov-

ernment came into power. However, these had proved to be assets, attracting large numbers of students and producing competent graduates.

Bengu said the education department would begin looking at historically black tertiary institutions to see what areas needed upgrading. However, Bengu said, action would not be "prejudicial" to the black institutions. There were also aspects of work at largely white universities which were "questionable".

Bengu said the education department would also meet the finance ministry to request more funding for the national bursary scheme.

The scheme was not fully functional and the R300m set aside for it had been inadequate, he said.

Do your job or quit, SRC warned

Cash for the needy a priority

SABATA NGCAI
EDUCATION REPORTER

ARG 11/9/97

The new Student Representative Council to be elected at the Peninsula Technikon next week must ensure student unity and see to it that needy students get financial aid, students say.

If it did not live up to these expectations, it would be kicked out of office, students warned.

Pentech students ousted their SRC in June when it failed, among other things, to resolve a crisis over financial aid for needy students.

This week students said the new SRC, to be elected on September 17 and 18, must see to it that there are no racial and ethnic clashes on campus, and promote student participation in tech activities. Some black students claimed there was little or no participation by coloured students in campus events, especially SRC activities.

They said that last year some Xhosa-speaking students had tried to incite an ethnic conflict by forming their own grouping, but this was stopped in its early stages by other students.

They said there had also been isolated incidents of racial clashes between blacks and coloureds, and words like "kaffirs" were often heard.

Claims of a low-intensity clash between Zulu and Xhosa-speaking stu-

dents have also emerged.

After the old SRC was ousted, a 10-member interim committee, predominantly black with only one coloured member, was elected to take over the duties of the SRC. The committee formed a student task team to ensure needy students received financial aid. It claims to have ensured the even distribution of cash from the Tertiary Education Fund of South Africa.

Senior students received R7,9-million from the fund this year. This was later supplemented by R1,5 million for first-year students who qualified.

Students' performance and parents' income were some of the criteria taken into account before funds were allocated. Committee chairman Itumeleng Nkadimeng said fruitless talks had been held with private companies, including banks, to secure loans for students.

The committee plans to form an Institutional Trust into which money raised by the incoming SRC will be paid to supplement financial aid from the fund.

Mr Nkadimeng said students at the Technikon were predominantly black and coloured and that there were "no racial tensions" on campus.

He admitted that last year Xhosa-speaking students had tried to form their own grouping, but said this had been "nipped in the bud".

New addition to UCT's Mathematics A-team

CT 11/9/97

(51)

THE UNIVERSITY of Cape Town boasts 21 of the 46 A-rated South African researchers, with five of them in the Mathematics Department. **CAROL CAMPBELL** reports.

WHAT is the difference between true and false, on and off, open and shut, or 0 and 1?

And why does thinking about this matter?

Professor Chris Brink, Head of the Mathematics and Applied Mathematics Department at the University of Cape Town, was recently awarded an A rating from the Foundation for Research Development for his work in trying to find answers to these and related questions.

A-rated scientists are recognised as international leaders in their fields. In South Africa there are just 46 researchers in the A team and, of these, 21 are at UCT.

The addition of Brink's name to the list brings the number of A-rated researchers in his department to five — the highest concentration of top mathematical minds in the country.

The others are Professors Guillaume Brummer, whose field of expertise is topology and category theory; Doug Butterworth, who develops mathematical models for marine resource management; George Ellis, a cosmologist; and Daya Reddy, who studies the deformation and motion of fluids and solids.

Brink's department by itself has more "A"-rated researchers than can be found in most South African universities.

So how does he explain devoting his attention to something as apparently simple as dealing with 0 and 1 — and getting world recognition for it?

"I am a logician. Ever since Aristotle, logicians have been interested in patterns of reasoning, and this is still the case. But over the past 30

years the subject has also become the basis of computer science.

Mathematician Mr George Boole reduced what he regarded as the logic of human reasoning to a simple form of algebra that deals with zeros and ones, over a century ago.

But it was only about 50 years ago that the world of mathematics began to appreciate that his work could be taken as coding a theory of switches, being either on or off. This became the mathematical tool for the development of computer hardware.

"Although the two-valued logic of computers is very simple, very complicated structures can be built from it," said Brink.

But this is only the beginning. Contemporary logicians have moved beyond Boole's two-valued system to build ones with many values, which have wide practical implications.

Take fuzzy logic, for example, which works with items having many values instead of only two. Household appliances, cars or cameras have some control mechanisms based on fuzzy logic.

There are also other fields of application such as the specification and verification of safety-critical systems — heart pacemakers, for example, or the emergency systems in a nuclear reactor.

And then, of course, there is the whole field of Artificial Intelligence. Will we ever have really intelligent computers?

Brink has clearly heard this question before.

"Look," he says, "think of it like this. Suppose I asked you if human beings can fly.

"Well then, of course, in one sense we really can fly, because we



GOVERNED BY LOGIC: Professor Chris Brink, head of the Mathematics and Applied Mathematics Department at the University of Cape Town has been named as one of the top maths minds in the world.

have made aeroplanes that move us through the air from point A to point B. But in another sense we cannot fly, because we cannot fly

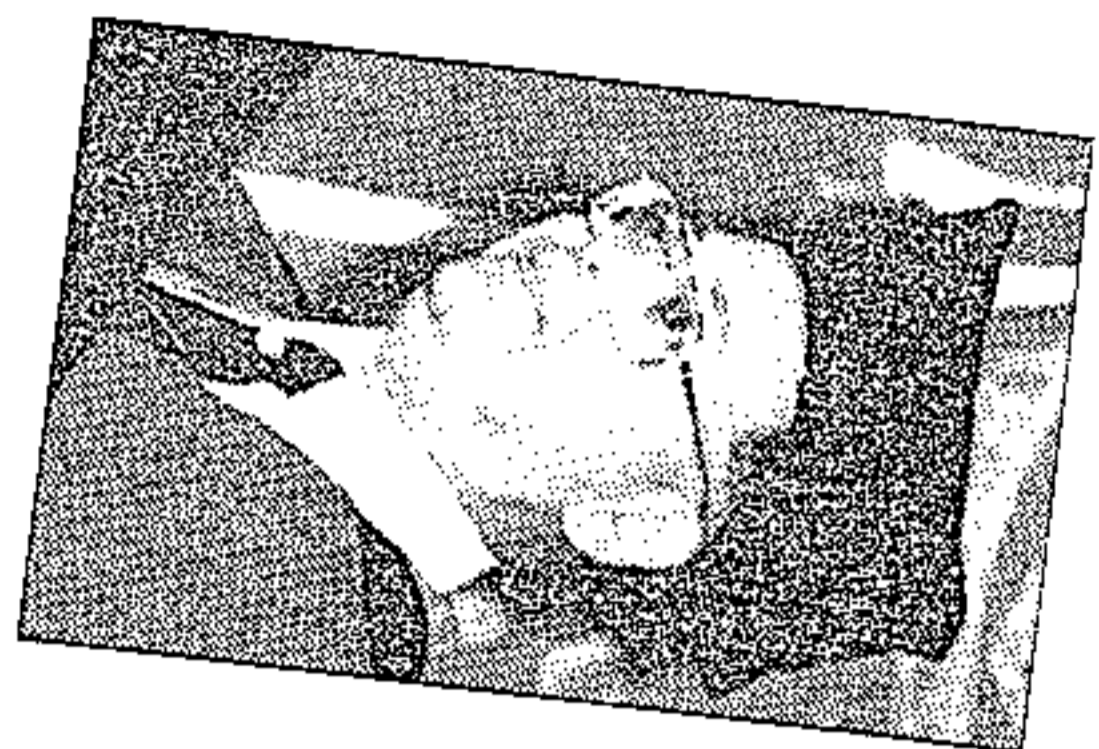
like a bird does, by flapping our wings. "It is the same with computers. In one sense they really can think

because more and more tasks that we have traditionally associated with thinking can be performed by computers.

"But in another sense computers cannot think at all — that is, they cannot think like us, with emotions and faith and leaps of

intuition and all the other things that make people human." "At least," he adds with a little smile, "I think so."

PICTURE GARTH STEAD



New steps in higher

New bill contains some progressive and far-reaching directions, writes Cecil Abrahams

May 12/9/97

(54)

After three years of extensive investigation and public consultation, the Government is about to submit to Parliament the Higher Education Transformation Bill.

Like so much legislation brought forward by Government over the past three years, this bill will contain some of the most progressive and far-reaching directions for higher education in South Africa. For the first time in the history of higher education, South Africans will be provided with clear directions in regard to important matters such as governance, accountability, funding, quality and size and shape of the system. Indeed, if the bill is implemented in the way that the authors of the legislation would like to see it happen, then those of us who work in the system can look forward to some exciting and challenging times.

In the view of the vice-chancellors of the historically black universities and technikons (that is, half of the higher education institutions), there are three formidable problems that must be overcome if the new bill is going to succeed.

Firstly many of our institutions are brought to a standstill because the responsible university officers refuse students admission on financial grounds. For the past two years, the Government has financed a loan and bursary scheme that has brought relief to some students. However, to deal with the size

First, there is a need for a radical transformation in the mindset of the press and liberal academics at historically white universities who frequently and frankly denigrate the existence and achievements of the black universities. These critics, which include a few black academics, argue for the closure or mergers of the apartheid-created black institutions as a way of dealing with both the size and the funding problems of the higher education system. They argue that the historically white universities (HWUs) represent or embody what is "good/excellent" about the higher education system; and that, conversely, the historically black universities (HBUs) have all the characteristics of what is flawed with the system: namely, poor quality, bad management, corruption and nepotism. In other words, HWUs are, and remain, the essence of "the university".

Furthermore, the argument goes, the HBUs have outlived their social and political function, having become superfluous appendages of the old apartheid order, and, because of their past and current

and demand of the student population, we shall have to greatly increase the funding of this scheme. No matter how some might try to insist on mergers and closures and alternative ways to "deliver the product", we shall not be able to shrink the system to deal with eligible students.

rent record, do not add value to the overall intellectual and academic landscape. In the context of funding cuts and a declining pool of available resources for higher education, the belief is that the money "saved" on the closure of the HBUs would then be available to be spent on the HWUs.

Nowhere in these arguments is recognition given for the fact that half of the students in higher education are enrolled at the black institutions. With the incremental growth and other discouraging admissions policies of the HWUs, it is difficult to tell where the students of the black institutions will go. Notwithstanding the possibility of realigning higher education institutions, the Higher Education Bill and white paper do not envisage such a drastic shrinkage of the black student population. Indeed, the call is for greater participation from the African and coloured population groups.

The second barrier to the successful implementation of the bill is the fact that we have white and black university systems that require unification. Not only did apartheid legislation create the two systems, but the rulers of that day underfunded the black system

The Higher Education Bill and white paper points us in the right direction. This is the time for us to embrace it and to ensure that hardened attitudes and narrow sectoral interests do not undermine the ideals articulated in the legislation. Finally, we can become a nation that has a higher education system that

so badly that many universities in the group have double the number of students planned for, inadequate classroom space, little or no library facilities, inadequate laboratory space, lack of proper computer facilities, inadequate and outdated computer equipment, larger than acceptable staff-student ratios, poorly qualified academic staff, and a lack of research capacity and output.

Yet these campuses remain the homes of the vast majority of black students from poorly equipped and staffed schools. Corrective action is clearly needed if we are going to meet the bill's chief objective to create a single, unified system of higher education. We shall require for a period from five to 10 years a substantial injection of funds into the black campuses. Since the Government is financially strapped, the expected new funding formula must ensure that equity and redress factors are included. The third and by far the most difficult barrier to cross will be how we assist financially the thousands of eligible South Africans who are at or coming to our higher education institutions. An

is equitable, of quality and worthy of international recognition.
Professor Cecil Abrahams is rector and vice-chancellor at the University of the Western Cape and chairman of the Historically Disadvantaged Institutions Forum

Backlash On Afrikaners Campuses

Young Afrikaners swing to the right or to Roelf as racial incidents rise, writes Gustav Thiel

MTG 12-18/9/97

Student leaders at Afrikaners universities across the country say the days of National Party domination of campus politics are over.

Both the Freedom Front (FF) and Roelf Meyer's New Movement Process (NMP) are gaining ground at Potchefstroom, Stellenbosch, Orange Free State (UOFS) and Rand Afrikaans University (RAU) — campuses which are also experiencing an increase in racist attacks.

The Freedom Front won last week's Students' Representative Council (SRC) election at the University of Pretoria, prompting the FF's Gauteng leader, Joseph Chiole, to say the results could be an important indicator for the future of white politics in the country.

The fact that the National Party did not draw a single vote at Pretoria could not have been good news for the party's new leader, Marthinus van Schalkwyk, although the NP said the results would have little bearing on its future.

But the Freedom Front has predicted the end of the NP and the dawn of a new conservatism amongst Afrikaners. The chairman of the FF's youth wing, Kallie Kriel, said trends on "Afrikaner" campus

es show that young Afrikaners are choosing the FF because the party works for the interest of Afrikaners.

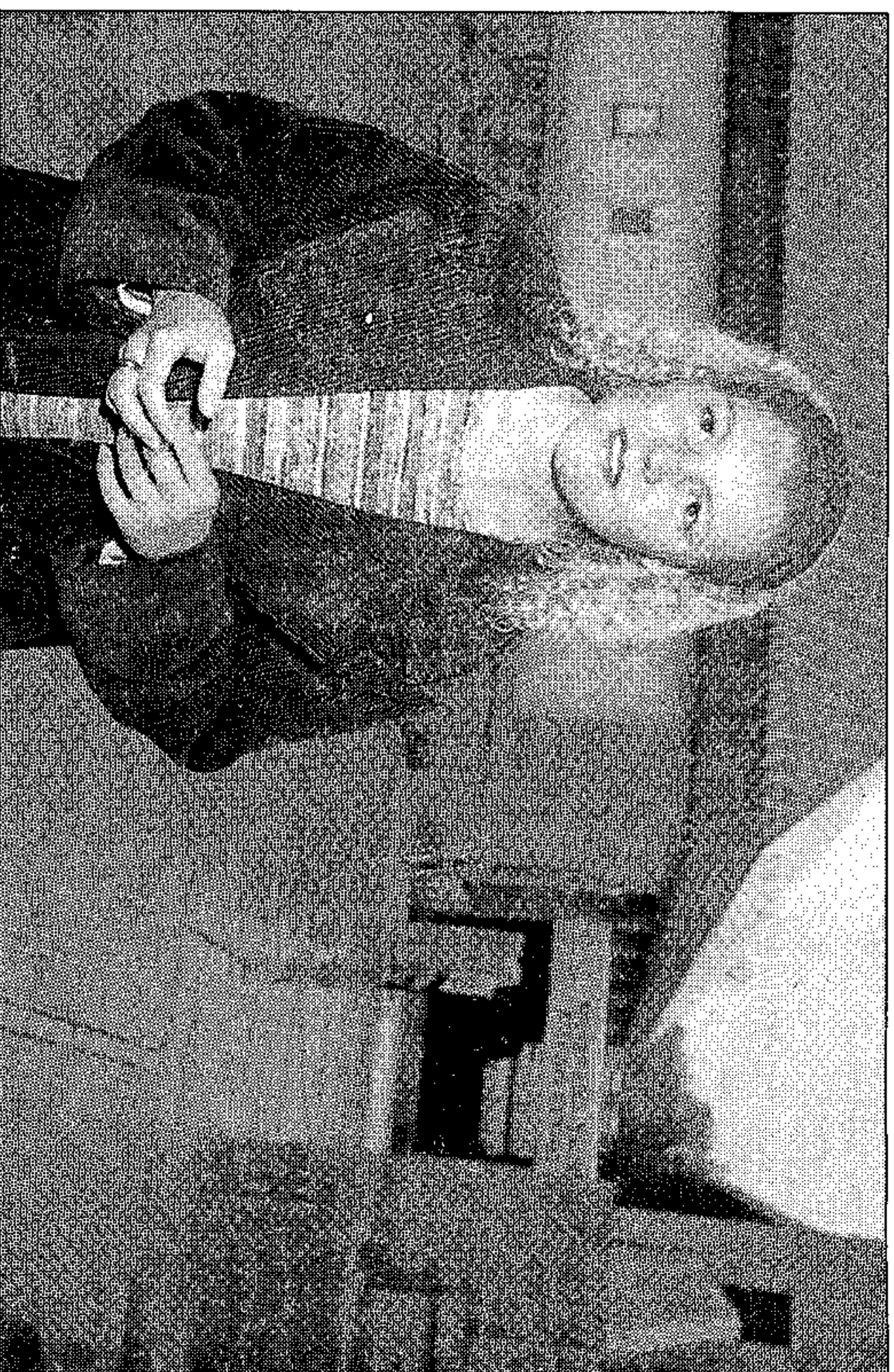
The FF's euphoria was tempered slightly by the strong showing of Roelf Meyer's new party in SRC elections at Pretoria, RAU and UOFS. The fledgling NMP now has student branches at all traditionally Afrikaners universities.

But dominant politics at historically Afrikaners universities is still white, despite growing enrolment of black students there.

Madelein Brand, leader of the African National Congress Youth League in Stellenbosch, who failed in her SRC election bid recently, said black student organisations continue to be marginalised at Afrikaners universities.

"I think that in particular, Stellenbosch is becoming more and more conservative as these people are confronted with the harsh realities of a changing South Africa," Brand said.

"While politics did not play a major role in our SRC elections, the candidates who made it are almost exclusively conservative whites. It is safe to say that this will have an effect on the performances of political parties on campus."



Racial incidents: Pretoria SRC president Andrea Naude. PHOTOGRAPH: SIDDIQUE DAVIDS

At Stellenbosch, 11 of the 12 SRC members are white. The picture at the other universities is much the same. Potchefstroom has an exclusively white SRC despite the fact that more than 10% of the students are black. At the UOFS, 13 of the 17 SRC members are white.

Progressive student leaders at these universities say the increase of violent racist incidents on campuses is an indication of the foothold gained by radical right-wing elements.

At Stellenbosch, said Brand, black and coloured candidates for the SRC elections were spat at and abused on several occasions. At the Dagbreek male residence, the only black candidate elected to the SRC, Winoma Michaels, was told by a group of men that they "would never vote for a kaafir".

At the Helderberg male residence, Brand and others received physical threats if they did not withdraw from the race.

A white SRC candidate said in the

election campaign that "Jesus called me to study at Stellenbosch because Jews and Muslims go to the University of Cape Town". He was elected.

Stellenbosch rector, Professor Andreas van Wyk, downplayed the incidents, saying it was "expected" for such episodes to take place during an SRC election.

At Potchefstroom, newly elected SRC president Gisela Horn said they were aiming to have black members on the council in 1999, but denied that race played a major role in campus politics. She also denied that violent racial incidents dominated campus life — even after a resident of the mixed residence, Isaac Tshaboeng, was assaulted by a former chairman of the house committee, GF Heyns.

Heyns was charged in the student court and will have to serve 10 days' community service.

At the University of Pretoria, South African Students' Congress (Sasco) member Lucky Thekiso was beaten by white students who bran-

dished weapons at him. Sasco chairman Joseph Marnabolo said this is a frequent occurrence.

Pretoria's SRC president, Andrea Naude, admitted that racial incidents were a problem. However, she insisted that the politicisation of the campus was necessary to ensure that minority parties, such as the FF, were represented on student structures.

UOFS SRC chairman, Naude de Klerk, said it is ironic that, while his university has traditionally been regarded as the most conservative in the Afrikaner community, there have been few racial incidents.

"More than 40% of our students are black and by next year this will exceed 50%. We simply can't ignore changes in society and we are addressing these," he said.

"This does not mean, however, that conservative white political organisations will become extinct. I can already see that they are mobilising to fight for the rights of the Afrikaner."

Backlash On Afrikaners

(54)

M+Q 12-18/97

Young Afrikaners swing to the right or to Roelf as racial incidents rise, writes Gustav Thiel

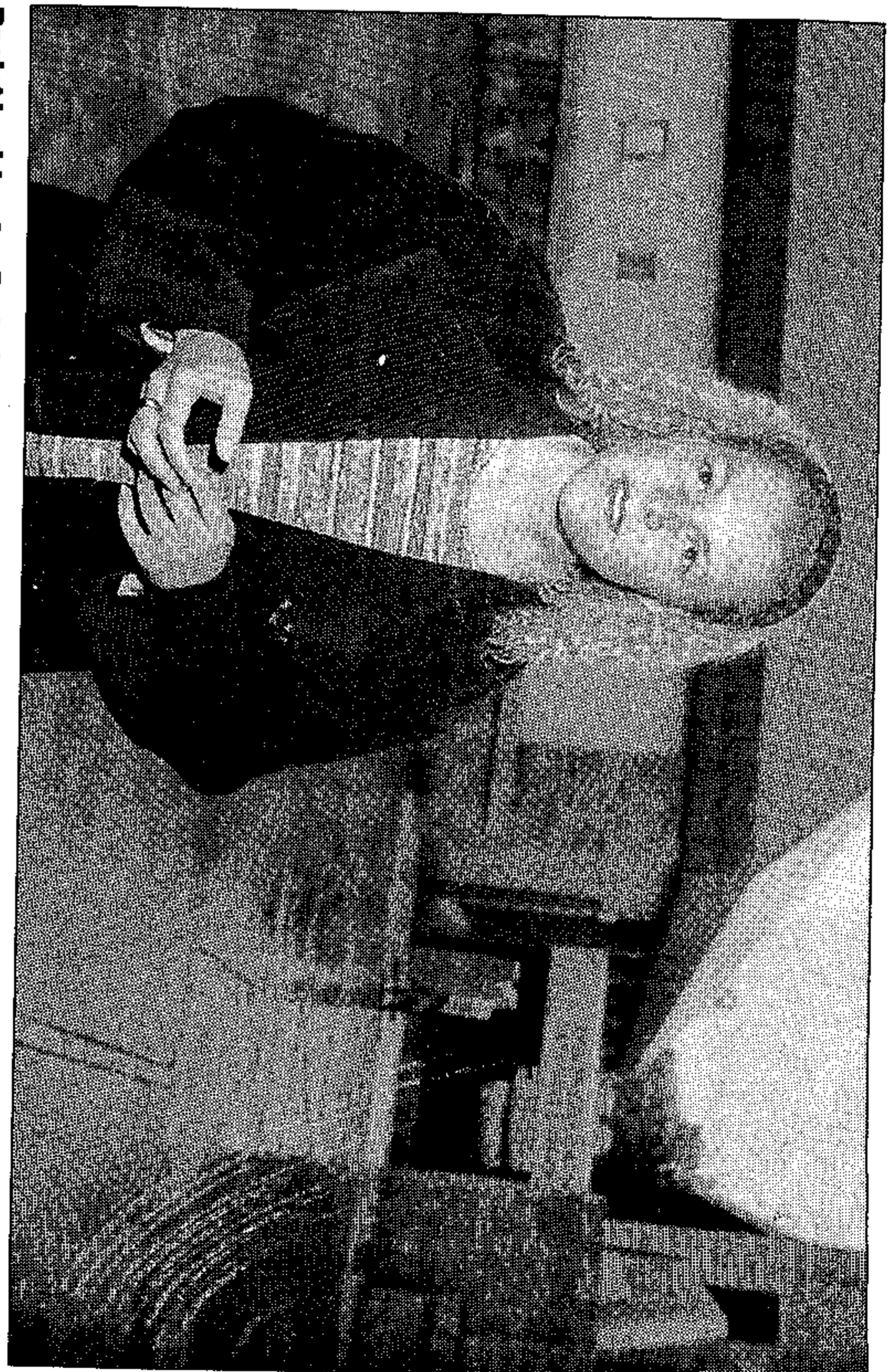
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Racial incidents: Pretoria SRC president Andrea Naude. PHOTOGRAPH: SIDDIQUE DAVIDS

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Two frustrating years for Elaine

BSc degree from UWC no help in finding a job

Argus 15/9/97

(511)

JUST THE JOB



LENORE OLIVER
STAFF REPORTER

Looking for a job for two years has been a frustrating experience for Elaine Visagie.

Ms Visagie, 25, of Mitchell's Plain, completed her BSc degree in 1995 majoring in biochemistry and medical microbiology at the University of the Western Cape.

But even with these qualifications she has found it difficult to enter the career of her dreams.

"At the beginning of last year I decided to further my studies

because I did not want to sit around at home doing nothing," Ms Visagie said.

"While I was doing my Honours I continued to look for a job and was even willing to discontinue my studies if I found one. But this did not happen," she said.

Ms Visagie got married last year and also successfully completed her BSc Honours.

"I still send out my curriculum vitae and I also watch the newspapers for job opportunities.

"The replies I receive from companies to which I apply range from

their posts being frozen, that there are no vacancies or that they will keep my CV for three months.

"It's almost as if I'm overqualified because employers do not want to pay me a salary which does justice to my qualifications," Ms Visagie said.

She said that the position she sought was an entry level one in a work place where her skills in microbiology and biochemistry could be used. "I am also available for administrative duties."

Ms Visagie is one of 10 job-seekers who the Cape Argus will focus on during the next few weeks.



Still searching: Elaine Visagie

Article did not tell truth

Sowetan
15/9/97
(34)

THE article which appeared in last Thursday's *Sowetan* under the title "Vista University suspends staff" contained inaccurate information.

Firstly, no staff member can be suspended for a protest. South Africa is a democratic country with constitutional guarantees for freedom of expression and assembly.

Four staff members, excluding Mr Malotle, were suspended for "disrupting" activities of the library of the Bloemfontein campus of Vista.

The university cannot pay salaries to staff to disrupt students and colleagues who are studying or conducting research in a library.

The National Education Health Workers Union (Nehawu) is not involved in any mass action for transformation at this institution.

The transformed management of this institution, together with three unions including Nehawu, is in the process of transforming the university. A new council was inaugurated this month.

We are very disappointed that a respected newspaper of *Sowetan's* stature should publish misinformation on the relationship of Nehawu and our university. What happened to *Sowetan's* excellent record of investigative journalism?

**PROFESSOR C
TSHEHLOANE KETO,**
Deputy Vice Chancellor
(Administration),
Pretoria

Tuks students will learn how to lodge complaints

(54)

Star 16/9/97

BY THEMBA SEPOTOKELE

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) will meet student leaders and the administration of the University of Pretoria again tomorrow to brief them on the procedure to lodge complaints.

This comes after the commission invited students and university administrations to lodge written complaints about alleged human rights violations at the institution last week.

SAHRC spokesman John Mojapelo said the investigation followed a request by some students. The commission met with the university administration and the students last week.

Notices inviting written complaints were posted on the campus last Wednesday. Ballot

boxes, where written complaints could be deposited, were also placed at strategic spots.

If the commission finds any fundamental human rights violations, said Mojapelo, they may hold a public inquiry or arbitrate to resolve the problem.

Meanwhile, the commission is expected to produce the country's first-ever report on the Government's implementation of socio-economic rights by May.

On Thursday Minister of Welfare and Population Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi will open a workshop at the DBSA building in Midrand aimed at monitoring of socio-economic rights.

Attending will be relevant state organs, parastatals, community based organisations and the business sector.

TAM

Minister warned of 'abuse'

Sowetan

17/9/97

54

Vice-chancellors worried about government power over universities

By Rafiq Rohan
Political Correspondent

THE Constitution gave the education minister too much power over universities and this could lead to abuse.

This claim was made by the South African Universities Vice-Chancellors Association (Sauvca) at the parliamentary portfolio committee on education's public hearings on the proposed Higher Education Bill.

In a document submitted to the committee Sauvca accepted that Parliament should have final authority and that the minister exercised this power.

"Nobody contests this fact," it said. "But the powers conferred on the minister of education in the Higher Education Bill can potentially lead to unintended abuse in the future."

Under these powers the minister can establish tertiary institutions, decide whether any university, technikon or college should close down, enforce partial or total mergers and "withhold money to enforce compliance with conditions laid down".

Clearly avoiding to upset Professor Sibusiso Bengu or his director-general, Mr Chabani Manganyi, Sauvca praised them for being "well acquainted with higher education".

"(But) there is no guarantee that the necessary knowledgeable influence will reside in a future Parliament to provide the necessary curtailment of an action by a strong-willed but uninformed future minister, causing irreparable damage," Sauvca said.

It was important, the vice-chancellors argued, that there "should be checks and balances" to powers invested in individual posts.

Instead, greater powers should be conferred on the Council of Higher Education (CHE) in order to balance ministerial authority.

Independent powers

"These powers should include independent decision-making on non-policy issues," Sauvca said.

The Committee of College of Education Rectors of South Africa (CCERSA) wants provision made for two principals to serve on the CHE.

It also wants the Higher Education Bill to tighten registration procedures for private higher education institutions in order to protect students from "fly-by-night" private colleges.

"CCERSA's concern stems from the harm done to innocent students who accept the *bona fides* of these institutions which are allowed to operate without having to register," it said.

Vice-chancellors slam proposed education bill

BD 17/9/97 (54)

Jacob Dlamini

CAPE TOWN — University principals slammed sections of the draft legislation intended to reform higher education yesterday, saying they would give the education minister powers which could potentially lend themselves to unintentional abuse.

Njabulo Ndebele, SA Universities' Vice-Chancellors' Association chairman and vice-chancellor of the University of the North, said the Higher Education Bill could be abused by a strong-willed but uninformed minister in the future.

Speaking at a parliamentary hearing on the bill, Ndebele said it would grant the minister powers to establish higher education institutions and to decide whether these were classified as universities, technikons or colleges.

Ndebele said the bill would confer on the minister powers to close down institutions or to force them into partial or complete mergers.

The bill contained provisions which would allow the minister to withhold government funding to universities and other institutions of higher learning to force them to comply with conditions laid down by government.

Ndebele said that while the association aligned itself with the thinking behind the white paper on higher education, it had strong reservations about a number of areas in the bill.

Ndebele said Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu was familiar with higher education, but there was no guarantee that future ministers would be just as informed as he was. The bill did not guarantee that a future Parliament would have the influence necessary to keep a strong-willed minister in check.

Ndebele called for checks and balances to be put in place to ensure future education ministers were not given unfettered powers.

In terms of the bill, a council for

higher education would be set up to advise the minister.

However, Ndebele said this would not be sufficient to guard against possible abuse.

Ndebele said the minister should always consult the council and publicly state his reasons if he disagreed with its advice.

He said the bill in its present form would allow the minister to act without getting the full support of the council.

He called for the council to be given greater powers on decision-making and nonpolicy matters to balance the minister's authority.

Ndebele said there was also a need for provisions regulating the admission of students. He said there was general agreement in tertiary education that entry and exit points in higher education needed to be flexible. But he warned that many students would be denied acceptance to postgraduate studies if the provisions were not included in the bill.

Race still splits students

UCT and Maties tell of fears, mistrust

SABATA NGCAI

EDUCATION REPORTER

Students of different races at the traditionally white universities in the Western Cape still relate to one another in racial terms because of fear and mistrust

This emerged from a spot survey of students at the universities of Stellenbosch and Cape Town as part of a look at the major challenges facing new students' representative councils.

At Stellenbosch, white students still view the South African Students' Congress as black and militant and there appears also to be a reluctance on the part of black students to join white student organisations.

Residences at the university are predominantly white with only one out of the 23 apparently occupied by students of all races.

But students say they live mostly

in harmony although "there might be some minor racial problems".

At UCT, black and white students still appear to group themselves separately on racial lines and they go to different social clubs and gatherings. Many choose friends from their race group.

The formerly predominantly white residences are now occupied almost entirely by black students. The influx of blacks apparently led to the exodus of whites, who chose instead to rent flats and houses in nearby suburbs.

The SRCs at both universities said this was the challenge they faced - to bridge the gap between black and white students.

Although Alexandra Gazendam, the new SRC president at Stellenbosch, acknowledged that the gap was probably caused by different backgrounds, she said barriers should be broken down and people brought together.

There had been some small incidents of racial conflict on the campus.

"As the SRC it is our role to bridge the gap. We try pro-actively to prevent racial conflict at the institution."

The gap could be bridged by engaging students in political dialogue through workshops and seminars. The SRC was already doing this at the university.

The SRC had various committees and commissions to look at stereotypes and racial and gender discrimination. "We have to understand that people are afraid of change and are also afraid of one another," Ms Gazendam said.

At UCT, although the students mingle with one another in the residences, the SRC said it was "not all rosy".

"There is still a sharp divide between students who come from advantaged and disadvantaged back-

grounds," said SRC president Mzukisi Gobo.

Although 49% of students were white, the majority who voted for the SRC were black. It was also mainly black students who attended SRC meetings.

"In the residences you find that white students are moving out to rent flats and houses in the nearby suburbs."

In the institution's 20 residences, white students lived in not more than four.

"Black students do not normally get flats in the suburbs. When they go for advertised flats they are told they are taken but when a white friend goes for the same flat, he gets it."

"We still live in a hostile environment and in a community where black students are not welcome."

Mr Gobo said those were the challenges facing the SRC and South Africa generally.

ARC 18/9/97 (54)

Universities lose out as gangsters invade 'Ivory towers'

MILLAN JACOBS AND ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

Crime has invaded the ivory towers of South African universities as campus security officers with meagre powers reported they were fighting a losing battle.

Although campus crime is increasing at an alarming rate, police have standing orders not to patrol universities.

While the most crime-prone campuses appear to be in Kwazulu Natal, the University of Cape Town, South Africa's most respected university, has reported heavy crime this year.

So far UCT has had nine robberies - four of them by gangsters with guns. There have also been 161 break-ins and 167 thefts from offices

and residences.

Property stolen was worth nearly R2-million.

In the latest incident at UCT, yesterday, robbers escaped with R8 000 after holding up a security official at the First National Bank branch on the upper campus in Rondebosch.

Police spokesman Mark Romburgh said the 35-year-old official had just removed a trunk containing the cash from his vehicle when he was confronted by three armed men. One held a gun to his head while the other two took the trunk and his gun.

Campus security agencies are as a rule not armed, have no powers of arrest and are largely toothless.

Acting-head of security at UCT, D G Blacker, said: "We are faced with the same problem

as the rest of the country.

"We're not immune to crime."

He said 75 security officers operating on three shifts struggled to cover four campus areas.

Mr Blacker said his main problem was that UCT was an open campus with no fencing and anybody could enter.

One of the problems he faces daily are students who refuse to wear identity cards.

"We don't know who is legitimate and that makes our problems worse," Mr Blacker said. His unit is not accepted by the police.

His staff do not have search powers and hand over suspects to police. "We can only police the area as best we can," he said.

This week the Campus Protection Society of Southern Africa held a conference in St

514 ARG 20/9/97

Lucia, Kwazulu Natal, on ways to curb escalating crime and violence among students. The society represents the security departments of all major Southern African universities and technikons.

Ken Mackay, outgoing president of the society and head of security at the University of Zululand, said many universities concealed campus crime.

"Nobody keeps proper statistics because universities want to play down figures which are rising rapidly. Educational institutions do not want to scare away students and funds."

Mr Mackay said his society would be pressing for legislation to be passed that would require universities to publish crime figures every year.

Students, Sowetan 22/9/97 staff warn (54) of boycott

By Coudjoe Amankwaa

THE council of Vista University should dissolve the present senate and restructure it in accordance with provisions of the new Higher Education Bill as contained in the National Transformation Forum (NTF) proposals on governance.

This formed part of a memorandum presented by students, staff and members of the university's management to the vice-chancellor Professor Hugh Africa on Friday.

Students declared a deadlock with management on two issues – restructuring of the senate and NTF representation on the council.

The deadlock is a culmination of several NTF representations to management on policy documents for discussion and implementation since May.

Chairperson of the NTF Dr Simon Kekana gave Professor Africa seven days to address the issues, or face a boycott of classes.

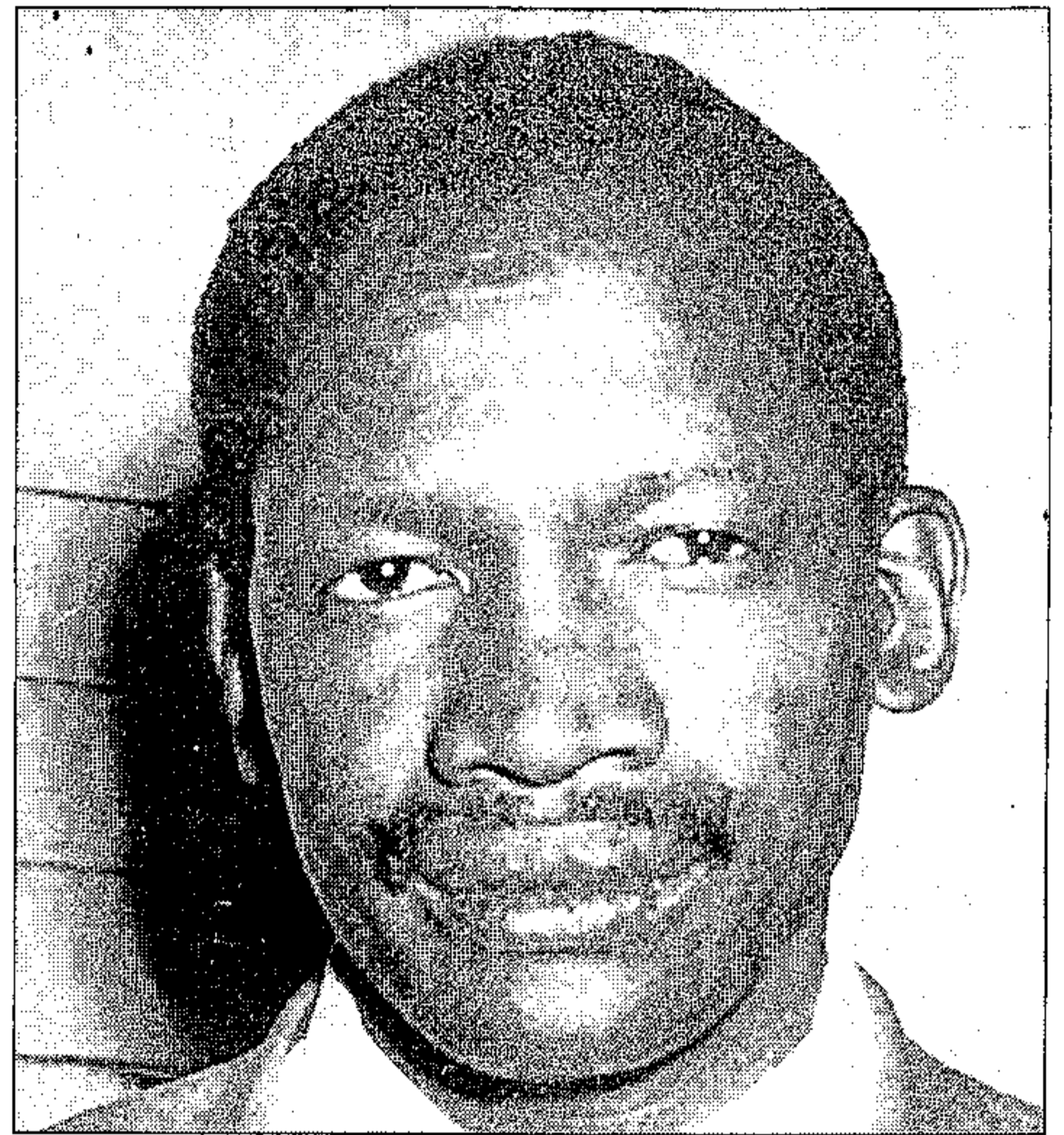
Meanwhile, Professor Africa accepted the memorandum and told students that the council would look into their grievances.

Among key issues raised in the memorandum are:

- Management's alleged stalling tactics on major transformation issues;
- Management's alleged insistent reference to apartheid legislation in stalling and refusing to allow the transformation processes from taking place within the university; and
- Management's lack of resolve and tenacity in mobilising the university constituencies to negotiate a coherent transformation framework.

The memorandum also urges management to provide the university with their strategic vision of the institution towards the next millennium which up to now they have allegedly failed to present.

"We also call on management to refrain from verbal and formal victimisation of staff members. We also call on it to make available a report on the financial mismanagement of the previous management," the memo says.



Black leaders honoured by the University of Venda at the weekend with posthumous degrees, Black Consciousness leader Steve Biko (left) and Pan Africanist Congress founding president Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe. President Nelson Mandela is also to be honoured.

University of Venda honours Biko, Sobukwe

Sowetan
22/9/97

54

By Khathu Mamaila

SLAIN Black Consciousness leader Steve Biko and the late Pan Africanist Congress founding leader Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe were awarded honorary doctorate degrees posthumously by the University of Venda during a graduation ceremony on Saturday.

Univen vice-chancellor and principal Professor Gesler Nkondo said the university decided to honour the two leaders because of their profound contribution to the liberation struggle.

He said the university would also award an honorary doctorate to President Nelson Mandela.

In his address, Azanian People's Organisation deputy president Pandelani Nefolovhodwe, who was the guest speaker, called on the graduates to play a role in improving the life of the poor.

"The problem with many of us who find ourselves lucky to study at these institutions is the individualisation of our learning.

"More often than not we think of our future as individuals, forgetting where we come from, forgetting that we are sons and

daughters of the poor.

"The easiest example I can give is the present debate about the would-be doctors who argue that it is not appropriate to serve communities in rural areas.

"The reason for this is that the study of medicine and the sciences is geared to the needs of large-scale industry, the urban environment and the rich," said Nefolovhodwe.

He said the Government should help the poor to enter the mainstream economy as the banks only accepted the savings of the poor but failed to grant them loans.

He also said the Government should champion the cause of the poor, adding that if the party elected by the poor failed to help the poor, the poor should elect another party.

Univen chancellor Cyril Ramaphosa urged the graduates to help their parents. He said parents expected the education of their children to have a positive impact on their lives.

In his message of goodwill, Northern Province Premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi said the posthumous degrees which were conferred to Biko and Sobukwe were long overdue.

Sasco hits out at universities for 'ignoring racial clashes'

Vuyo Mvoko

BD 22/9/97
THE SA Students' Congress (Sasco) yesterday lashed out at management structures of SA universities for "folding arms" while racial clashes between students on campuses continued unabated.

"Administrations are not doing anything about it and police are not dealing with cases as speedily as we think they should," Sasco national general secretary Blessing Manale said yesterday.

Speaking on the last day of Sasco's national executive committee meeting, held in preparation of the organisation's December congress, Manale warned if

(54)
the authorities continued to ignore the "volatile situation", students who were otherwise nonviolent could have no other option but to take the law their own hands.

Sasco also wished to make it clear to Bantu Holomisa, Manale said, that for as long as his National Consultative Forum was associated with Sifiso Nkabinde, who had been implicated in the murders of African National Congress activists, and Roelf Meyer, who had not collaborated with the truth commission on the National Party's role in human rights abuses, Sasco would continue to protest against the forum's presence on campuses.

Venda university faces up to change

IN HER SERIES about the challenges facing South Africa's universities, **WINNIE GRAHAM** spoke to Professor Gessler Nkondo, vice-chancellor of the University of Venda, about his plans to transform that institution.

THE University of Venda has the distinction of being the newest university in South Africa. It is also the most disadvantaged.

People who visit the campus at Thohoyandou in the Northern Province cannot but be struck by the enormous difference between the country's oldest universities in the Cape and this young university in the most northerly corner of South Africa, just a stone's throw from the Zimbabwian border.

However, the University of Venda has one thing in common with the southern universities. It, too, is in a ruggedly beautiful province. What the university may lack in imposing buildings, it makes up for in the tropical lushness of its surroundings. The Cape has its winelands, wheatfields and mountains; Venda has its forest-covered ranges, nature reserves and banana plantations.

Univen (as the university is known locally) is undoubtedly the most important education institution in the region, yet it came into being almost by accident. In fact, the government of the time did not even set aside the usual parliamentary grant to cover the establishment costs needed for a decent infrastructure. In 1981, the new university authorities were simply told to make use of a local high school and "get started". The dice may have been loaded

against Univen from the start, but it is doing quite well now despite student protests, financial problems and an array of transitional difficulties. The turnaround has come largely because the man at the helm is determined to reform the university and make it work for the good of the region.

Professor Gessler Nkondo had been in exile for 17 years when he took over as vice-chancellor and principal in 1994. He faced an enormous challenge. The university's finances were a mess, there were allegations of corruption and mismanagement, the quality of its teaching staff was not up to scratch and the structure appeared to be in a state of collapse. Worse, the curriculum offered by Univen was seen as soft and not relevant to local needs.

Nkondo said in an interview: "We were producing graduates who could serve the periphery of the economy, not the core. About 70% of the students were in humanities. The sciences were being neglected. The humanities are important, but we needed to become more balanced. The university had been tailored to the needs of a bantustan." He knew the university's mission had to be redefined.

First, a task team, comprising all the stakeholders including the university senate, council, staff associations and students, spent a year canvassing opinion. The team learnt that the people wanted education for empowerment, a national university with a regional focus.

Nkondo explained: "We needed agricultural scientists to make our fertile valleys more productive ... we needed health scientists who could deal with the multiplicity of diseases in our region and we needed environmental scientists to help us preserve our environment."

To make the curriculum more relevant, the university had to scale down on non-essential courses.

The University of Stellenbosch (which offers the only forestry degree in SA) agreed to help Univen set up a school of forestry. A school of health sciences is planned and next year the School of Environmental Sciences will produce its first graduates.

The changes made sense but were not necessarily popular. Some staff members feared their jobs were on the line. Students thought their choices were being curtailed. New tensions arose.

At the same time, the university was looking at other structures in need of transformation. It realised the Broad Transformation Committee, which had been vital in initiating certain changes, should make way for a committee that would serve as "the conscience of the university".

The senate is being restructured and intellectuals, men and women of integrity, are being brought in. Nkondo said he realised that being highly intelligent was not enough after he read the works of German intellectuals and philosophers, people who, during the Holocaust, remained silent when the Nazis perpetrated their atrocities.

Nkondo: "I am on the verge of finalising a loan for construction of a 1 000-bed hostel ... How seriously will the university be taken when property is destroyed on campus?"

He said: "Traditionally, appointments to a university's senate are based on the intellectual skills of its professorial hierarchy. We, however, believe our intellectuals need to share progressive values and are adopting the approach that membership of our senate will be by election. Our senate will comprise men and women who have been tested and not found wanting."

When Nkondo turned his attention to the university's finances he was appalled. He knew that, if he was to obtain loans or gifts for the university, the accounting systems had to be in place. To sort out the mess, he appointed a top firm of auditors and arranged for staff training. Then he approached the United States Agency for International Development for help.

It took months to get the books in order, but his efforts have been rewarded. On August 8, USAID reported that Univen now has "an adequate internal control and accounting system and was able to properly account for USAID funds".

Had these been the only problems the vice-chancellor was expected to resolve, he would have had a full-time job, however, just a week or two ago, he was forced to close the university after students went on the rampage, setting fire to the SRC building. They were upset, Nkondo said, over a number of issues including the announcement that fees would be increased by 13%, the penalty meted out to three students guilty of misconduct and the readmission of a student who, apart from making extremely poor academic progress, had ignored university rules and regulations.

"This particular student has been at the university five years and has not yet passed his first year," he said. "Then why was he allowed to continue?" I asked.

It was a moral problem, the vice-chancellor explained. Because the university had not been in a position to offer students assistance (or bridging programmes) to overcome their educationally disadvantaged backgrounds, it felt obliged to allow them to keep trying. That, however, was set to change.

The question of fees is more tricky. In comparison with other universities, the costs of attending Univen are low. In fact, it is probably the least expensive university in SA (the annual income of the people of Venda is also low). In most cases, a 13% increase may represent not much more than R400 a year, but the students see it as a new pressure.

The increase is an imperative for the university struggling on an inadequate budget. The vice-chancellor understands the dilemma of his students but he will not tolerate vandalism. "I have told the students that I am on the verge of finalising a loan for the construction of a 1 000-bed hostel to accommodate more students" he said. "How seriously will the university be taken when property is destroyed on campus?"

Transformation is no easier at Univen than at other universities but Nkondo is intent on steering Venda through a troubled transitional era to a time, not far hence, when it will cater for 10 000 students, all of whom will make a major contribution to the potentially rich Venda region. "That is part of our five-year strategy," he said.

Winnie Graham is an associate editor of *The Star*.

Parliament has gone into recess. Masu's Parliamentary Record column will resume when Parliament reconvenes in October.

ET 22/19/97 (54)

Pretoria Tech is mostly

on track

Sowetan

By Josias Charle

23/9/97

MOST of the major parties involved in the transformation process of the Pretoria Technikon have expressed their satisfaction at progress made so far in attempts to transform the institution.

Much progress has been made since the process started and it is hoped that a new restructured council will be inaugurated early next year.

Technikon spokeswoman Willa de Ruyter told *Sowetan* the institution's new council would boast a number of firsts.

"For the first time the new technikon council will be made up of, among others, community role-models, technical experts and representatives of organised business and industry.

Example

"An excellent example was set of how different groups can work together to ensure success and a better future for all when the broad transformation forum stakeholders approved the draft constitution for a new transformed technikon council.

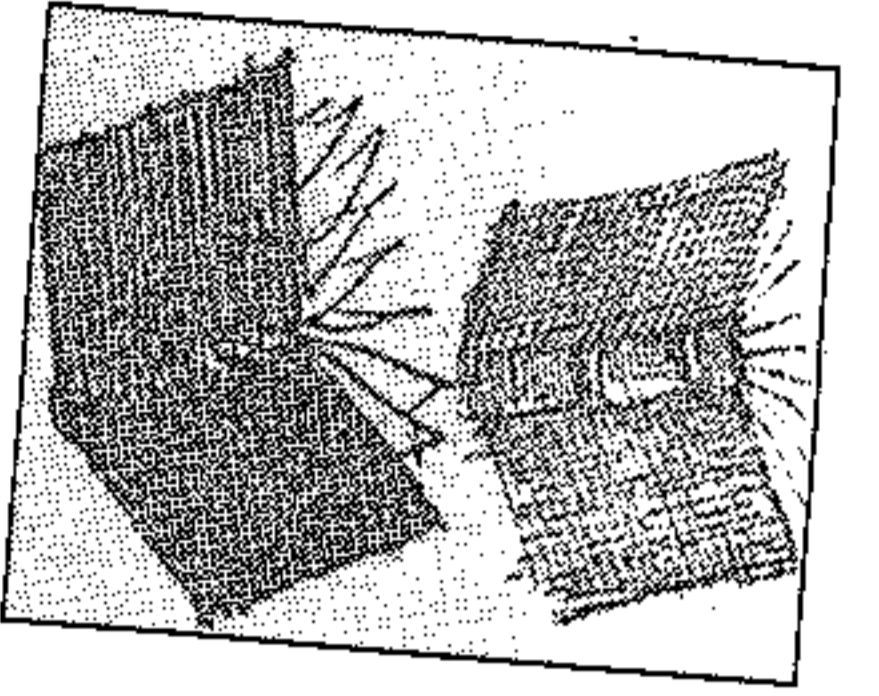
"According to the majority of stakeholders its formulation was open, democratic and transparent."

While the technikon was beset by ugly racial clashes between black and white students last year, the process of transformation seems to have proceeded with little conflict.

Commenting on the process so far, Mr Isaac Mahlangu of the South African Students Congress said: "We were impressed by the document on the transformation of the technikon council.

"We are now involved in an extensive lobbying campaign for the implementation of the contents of that document."

But two involved bodies, Azanian People's Organisation and the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union, have expressed reservations about some of the aspects of the transformation process.



Worrying developments for higher education

Right to educational autonomy is belied by the political agenda, writes Mike Ellis

(54)

Stew

The importance of a healthy tertiary education system to the health of a country is difficult to underestimate. In the words of Professor Bill Johnson, the consequences of the collapse of this sector will be as disastrous for South Africa as the Aids epidemic.

The Higher Education Bill is due to come before Parliament later this year, and the white paper which outlines the philosophy behind the bill was published in July. Although these two documents recognise the right to academic freedom and institutional autonomy, the recognition is belied by the political agenda which pervades them.

Both contain the expectation that universities will conduct their activities in accordance with government-defined pri-

orities - both what should be taught and to whom it should be taught. These conflicting signals make it difficult to take the commitment to autonomy seriously. South African universities are dependent on government funds and the white paper takes advantage of this to enforce its objectives through its proposed funding system. The paper makes funding allocations "goal-oriented" and "performance-related" and describes how the national ministry will adopt explicit incentives "to steer the development of the higher education system in accordance with national goals".

Thus the ministry has assumed for itself the power over what universities should teach. The bill mimics the white paper, with provisions which dilute the

authority of universities over their internal affairs and simultaneously reinforces the role of the state. In terms of the bill the minister will determine the needs and priorities of higher education in consultation with the Council on Higher Education. The composition of this council is problematic. The bill provides for the appointment to the council of only two university principals out of a total of 25 members. Furthermore, it does not provide for the appointment of any university principal to the council's executive. So it is quite possible that decisions which will make a crucial impact on universities could be made without any contribution from academics.

The power of the minister to close down institutions or marry institutions with each other without their consent is another cause for concern. The bill

makes no provision for the minister to consult with or hear the objections of the universities he or she intends closing down or merging.

The only obligation on the minister is to "consult with" the council on higher education and publish a notice in the government gazette. He or she will thus have *carte blanche* to toy with the existence of any higher education institution without needing to heed any other viewpoints or being subject to any restrictions.

Not only the traditionally white universities share the DP's concerns. Njabalo Ndebele, vice-chancellor of the University of the North and chairman of the SA Universities' Vice-Chancellors' Association, stated at public hearings held in

Cape Town recently that the bill could be abused by a strong-willed but uninformed minister. He called for checks and balances to ensure future education ministers were not given unfettered powers. Hasty government intervention will hamper the ability of universities to manage the need for redress successfully while continuing to offer a high quality education. It will also create a dangerous precedent for other intervention. Universities will not be able to produce competent research or graduates if their ability to research and teach independently is constrained by political agendas.

If universities are forced into becoming RDP research units for the Government, there will be little scope for the critical thought and independent research which is fundamental to their existence.

Mike Ellis is a Democratic Party MP

in bill
23/9/97

Sasco has doubts about Higher Education Bill

Star 23/9/97

(64)

By FIKILE-NTSIKELELO
MOYA

Leaders of the South African Students' Congress (Sasco) yesterday expressed mixed reaction over the Government's plan to restructure universities, technikons and colleges.

Speaking after their national executive committee meeting at the weekend, Sasco secretary-general Blessing Manale said they were happy with the Higher Education Bill because it forced the education minister to consult with stakeholders before making decisions that could affect tertiary institutions.

In terms of the bill, the minister must meet the Council For Higher Education (CHE), a body of academics, students and others with a stake in education at universities, colleges and technikons before decisions on closure, or the building of more institutions, or any other issue related to higher education, can be decided.

Manale feared, however, that the clause in the bill allowing the minister to close cam-

pus the minister feels are not meeting education needs, could see the closure of predominantly black campuses.

He said if the Government went ahead and closed those campuses, it would be bowing to pressure from big business which wrongly believed there was an oversupply of people skilled in the social sciences.

"We do not see the clause as just an innocent piece of legislation, but as a real threat that could target black campuses," said Manale.

He also criticised the bill for not giving the minister enough powers to intervene when there was a crisis on individual campuses.

He said because the minister needed to consult with the CHE before making a decision, it could mean there would be a delay in the transformation of campuses.

Sasco also announced their backing for Mathole Motshekga as the man to replace Tokyo Sexwale as the new Gauteng Premier, saying they believed that Motshekga was the only man who could unite the ANC in the province.

SA employers prefer local business schools

Business Day Reporter

(54)

BD 25/9/97

THE 1997 Professional Management Review survey of institutions offering an MBA equivalent in SA indicate that SA businesses continue to prefer established local business schools over the many new entrants boasting an overseas accreditation.

The Wits Business School (WBS) and the University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business (UCT GSB) emerged with top overall scores of 8,11 out of the possible 10, denoting "excellence".

In tied second place were the University of SA's (Unisa) graduate school of business leadership and Stellenbosch University's graduate school of business. The highest score from an overseas accredited business school, Technikon Witwatersrand (Wales) is 6,84 — the same as that of the sixth ranked local school, Pretoria University's business school.

The WBS was found to be the most admired business school. Perceived to be "liberal" and a "leader in the field of human resource development" it is admired as "seeing the way ahead to meet the demands of a democratic society".

WBS director Nick Binedell was voted the most "admirable" individual in the business school world. He was regarded as not only highly knowledgeable and skilled, but also possessing a clear and dynamic strategy for the future of the WBS.

The survey showed that companies preferred to employ graduates from the WBS over any of the other schools, with Unisa GSBL in second place and UCT GSB third. Again, the overseas business schools fell far behind in the rankings.

Student bodies slam RAU over racial bias

(54)

Star 26/9/77

EDUCATION REPORTER

Student organisations at Rand Afrikaans University have criticised the institution for its racial bias in dealing with students and for its exclusive language policy.

Student leaders said at a press conference yesterday that the university's management had not followed up a number of cases of assault on black students by white security guards.

"We black students are under constant check. It appears that we are being seen as a threat to the security of the campus," said South African Students' Congress executive member Mzi Ntulwana.

He said black students were constantly searched and questioned in a form of harassment which showed that security guards thought "all blacks were thieves".

Sasco, together with the Pan Africanist Students' Organisation, the Student Union for Chris-

tian Action and the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union, plan to hold a march next week.

The students said the university's predominantly Afrikaans medium of instruction meant certain students were excluded.

"There is no clear language policy - it is left up to the departments to decide whether they will teach in Afrikaans or English," said Sasco chairman at RAU, Sethula Ramabu.

A university spokesman said that while the institution would maintain and promote the culture of its Afrikaans-speaking support base, it did not exclude English as a parallel medium of instruction.

Students' representative council president Brand Pretorius said the university senate had recently approved a timetable which created opportunities for each department to duplicate classes.

CT 26/9/97

(54)

Students slam RAU for racism, language policy

JOHANNESBURG: Student groups at the Rand Afrikaans University have criticised the institution for its racial bias in dealing with students and for its exclusive language policy.

Student leaders said yesterday that the university's management had not followed

up on a number of cases of assault on black students by white security guards.

"It appears we black students are being seen as a threat to campus security," said South African Students' Congress member Mr Mzi Ntulwana. — Own Correspondent

CT 26/9/97

(54)

Bundy needs his Wits about him



WITS UNIVERSITY'S new vice-chancellor is determined to see the institution remains a world leader. Education Writer **TROYE LUND** reports.

TAKING on the vice-chancellorship of Wits University is a daunting prospect and Professor Colin Bundy is harbouring no illusions: it's not going to be plain sailing.

But the lover of mountains, who is also a chess fanatic, believes the work he has done in the past 11 years in guiding the University of the Western Cape through rapid transformation will stand him in good stead.

"It would be naive of me to underestimate the gulfs created by the passionate factions at

Wits. It would be naive to presume that there is no scar tissue.

"The deep sense I have of how demanding it is going to be is coupled to the relief of knowing what outstanding academics are loyal to the institution," said Bundy, adding that turning negative energy into positive is the key to handling politics on campus.

He has no doubt that he will succeed in this new mission, as well as overcome the negative publicity the university gained during several bruising episodes

in the process of selecting a new vice-chancellor.

"I am privileged to have been part of a remarkable chapter at UWC. It has been fascinating to be involved in the changes that the institution underwent during the late 1980s and early 1990s. Remarkable is the fact that three major changes happened simultaneously — the university doubled in size, re-orientated itself politically and socially, and improved the quality of its publications and research."

He will take up office at Wits on October 4, three days before his 53rd birthday.

Bundy's inauguration takes place in January next year when the present vice-chancellor, Professor Robert Charlton, retires.

"An urban university like Wits will have different challenges because it has a relationship with

its urban setting. Wits has always had a close relationship with the mining houses, business and white people of the city. The real challenge will be to maintain this and establish an equally close relationship with other sectors of the community."

Restructuring Wits to put it in a position to respond to societal change and contribute to the development of the country is imperative for Bundy.

The task is made daunting by the reality that transformation and improving quality have to be achieved with far fewer resources as a result of dwindling government aid and the growing demands for financial assistance by talented, disadvantaged students.

Aside from redressing the inequalities of the past, Bundy is determined that excellence be

maintained and that the university becomes more entrepreneurial in generating income and becoming self-sufficient.

Although reform strategies are in place at Wits, Bundy intends to steer the university body towards more adept strategic planning and making decisions that give priority to the institution's most important functions.

Bundy admits that this reform, building on existing strengths and finding new niches, may involve scaling down or closing certain activities offered at Wits.

"This has to be done if we are going to produce knowledge, generate skills and train people," says Bundy.

He is "absolutely dedicated" to having Wits remain what it has been — a leading university in a world context.

DAUNTING TASK: University of the Western Cape vice-chancellor Colin Bundy is to take up the office of vice-chancellor at the University of the Witwatersrand next month.



Dramatic new plans for

UCT

IN THE University of Cape Town's new planning "no student will pass without the specific and generic skills required for lifelong learning". Education Writer **TROYE LUND** reports.



CT 11/10/97

(262) (54)

A REVOLUTION is under way at the University of Cape Town to ensure that by the new millennium a world-class university with a distinct African stamp, on African soil, will exist.

The senate and university council have accepted a new strategic plan for UCT — negotiated over four years and 26 days — that will see drastic changes in the way UCT runs its courses, what courses are offered, and how the institution is managed.

Over the next five years a special African flavour will be added by tackling research to solve African problems and by giving scholars from other continents access to African understandings and situations.

Vice-chancellor Dr Mamphela Ramphele said yesterday: "We must show the world that Africa can succeed on its own ground."

Professor Wieland Gevers, senior vice-chancellor and co-ordinator of this quest, said UCT must become a gateway to Africa, attract scholars from Africa and ensure a steady flux of scholars from across the globe.

He believes UCT can and should go much further than a transformation purely aimed at wiping out the distortions and inequalities left by apartheid.

"The whole university must change and become better. By the year 2005, it must be as though the distortions never happened," he said, adding that the changes would be revolutionary.

From next year there will be a revolutionary change in the way degrees are structured.

As documented in the United Kingdom's Graduate Standards project of last year, South African graduates have been entering the workplace only to find a mismatch between the disciplinary knowledge they acquired at university and what employers expect.

Communication director at UCT Ms Helen Zille said: "The concepts of graduate-ness have been assessed — what compe-

tence, skills and values make a degree worth having."

General degrees like Bachelors of Arts or Social Sciences will still require students to choose a major subject but during their studies they will specialise in a specific area such as Development Studies.

Instead of choosing arbitrary combinations of subjects to make up the required points for graduation, students will select other subjects that support and add depth to their major. Each combination will focus on a specific area.

An engineering major, for example, could be combined with management and economics as at Oxford University in Britain.

Every UCT degree will also require at least one course that involves intensive problem-solving, like logic or statistics. Students will also have to take courses or modules that focus on communication and mastering writing skills.

Final-year exams for all degrees will involve a single integrated test on the entire "programme" that the student has taken — as in the case for final integrated exams for medicine anything could be asked on any of the courses that have made up the degree.

Gevers said: "No students will pass without the specific and generic skills they require for lifelong learning. Finally we will test in one exam if students have put it together."

The way in which UCT's present 10 faculties are set up will have to be completely reconfigured to accommodate the new degree structure that will require students to take subjects across faculties.

The Strategic Planning Framework (SPF) proposes that the existing 100 departments and 10 faculties be consolidated into five or six.

Although this will result in many existing courses disappearing, the re-organisation of educational activities will end in

□ Turn to Page 3

UCT aims at redressing (54) inequalities

CT 1/10/97
□ From Page 1

many new courses being offered.

The final number of faculties has yet to be finalised but according to the current proposal five are: Commerce, Political Economy and Management Studies; Creative and Performing Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; Health Sciences; Law; Science and Engineering.

Increasing access to university education for bright, disadvantaged students, is one aspect of redressing inequalities that the university will be committed to over the next five years.

The alternative admission programme — designed to supplement the formal educational testing to assess natural aptitude and ability — ensures that only students with potential to graduate are accepted and offered financial assistance when necessary (which it often is).

A new division of Higher Education Development (DHED), operating as a sixth faculty, will also be created to focus on the academic development of all students.

Intrinsic to UCT's new mission is making university education accessible to talented students who do not have the funds or are products of one of apartheid's inadequate education systems.

However, Ramphela said the demand for financial aid was growing to the point that the university could no longer meet this need without assistance.

Given that government aid was more likely to dwindle than increase, the process of getting better and increasing access had to be done with fewer resources. It was therefore imperative for the university to become as self-sufficient as possible.

Last year 2 700 students were given financial assistance with R20 million available in bursaries and R18 million in loans.

An internal audit that began recently will assess every service and function that happens on campus. Every activity will be assessed to establish where more could be done with less.

University courses can be 'offensive' to blacks

Stephané Bothma

BD 21/01/97 (54)

PRETORIA — Black university students were not only hampered in their studies by a history of substandard schooling, but also by the "sometimes offensive" content of university courses, African National Congress (ANC) Gauteng chairman Mathole Motshekga said yesterday.

Addressing an ANC Youth League meeting at Pretoria University, Motshekga told the 120 students present not to be disheartened by the content of courses.

"The course content cannot be changed unless you transform those who impart knowledge at universities," he said, urging ANC Youth League members to mobilise lecturers and white students to join the organisation. He said the ANC's adherence at Africanism had nothing to do with race or ethnicity — it was about being part of Africa. "We have so much in

common and we have to start mobilising among Afrikaner students to join our organisation."

The fact that no white students attended the league's campus meeting was criticised by Motshekga, who told students to practise political tolerance.

He said the transformation of tertiary institutions was a priority, but had to be managed carefully.

Warning students that a university degree did not automatically qualify a person to do a job, Motshekga proposed that student leadership discuss with university management how to help students prepare for a career.

"Arrangements must be made for students to work at parastatals and other organisations during university vacations so they get valuable hands-on experience."

Motshekga said that students would get much more education by taking part in existing structures than through reading.

Mbeki drawn into Medunsa row

Andy Duffy

The Medical University of South Africa (Medunsa) is seeking to drag Deputy President Thabo Mbeki into a squabble with the Department of Education.

The incident, provoked by queries from the *Mail & Guardian* about Medunsa's future, points to intriguing political dynamics surrounding the university, which enjoys close links with the deputy president.

Medunsa's administration contacted Mbeki after the higher education chief director, Professor Itumeleng Mosala, told the *M&G* how the government's plans to reform tertiary education funding would affect the cash-strapped institution.

The university's unusual course of action stung Mosala into issuing a statement — one that sought to tone down his earlier comments, while accusing the *M&G* of "pursuing some other agenda". Mosala also sent the statement to Mbeki.

The Department of Education also issued a statement after a hasty meeting with Medunsa, implying that Mosala had not made the comments.

Mbeki has a special interest in Medunsa. His representative says the deputy president has raised funds for it offshore. Its vice-chancellor, Professor Ephraim Makgokong, is a member of Mbeki's consultative council, an exclusive advisory group of politicians, businessmen and academics.

Medunsa is responsible for training half the country's black doctors and dentists, and currently has 3 600 students. But it has been struggling financially, forcing the government to bail it out.

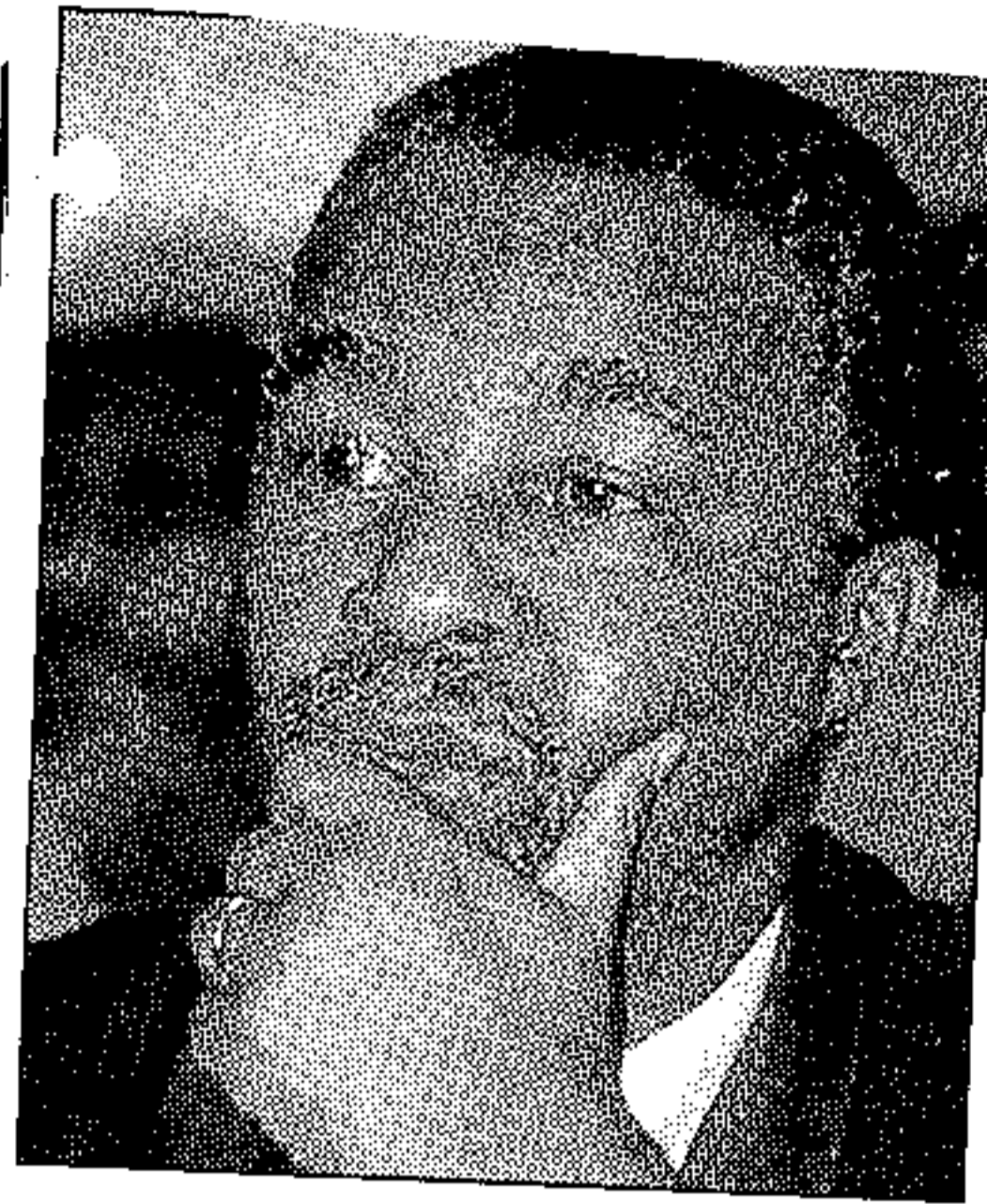
It got R50-million last year, in addition to the government's annual subsidy, which was just under R100-million this year. The government has also been called on to guarantee Medunsa's R25-million

overdraft, which it needs to cover its operating expenses.

Minister of Education Sibusiso Bengu said earlier this month that Medunsa would merge its veterinary faculty with that of the University of Pretoria, in a bid to cut costs. Mosala told the *M&G* Medunsa's financial difficulties stemmed from its narrow course focus.

Most institutions cross-subsidise costly medical faculties with funds from courses such as arts and humanities — courses Medunsa does not offer.

"We have not been able to get Medunsa to become multi-faculty. They



Thabo Mbeki: Has a special interest in Medunsa

haven't been able to balance their books," Mosala told the *M&G*. "We've been trying to bail them out every year, but it's a hopeless case. We really need to rethink the whole thing, and the Cabinet is going to blow the whistle soon."

Approached by the *M&G* for a response, Medunsa's vice-principal for administration, Professor Thabo Masihleho, demanded to see Mosala's comments. He then sent Mos-

ala's statements, the *M&G*'s questions and a call for explanation to Mosala, Bengu and Mbeki.

"I asked Mosala to clarify these issues because they are libellous," Masihleho says. He declined to say why the university wants Mbeki involved. "Do I need a reason?" he adds. "Many people are friends of Medunsa."

In its joint statement with Medunsa, the department says: "The

comments ... purportedly from an official of the Department of Education, do not represent our position.

"The insinuation you attempt to make, that there are divisions between the department and Medunsa, is totally unfounded."

Mbeki's representative says the deputy president often receives such correspondence, but that Mbeki prefers to stay out if the matter relates to general policy issues.

M&G 3-9/10/97 (54)

Turfloop student poll presents shock results

CP 5/10/97

STUDENTS at the University of North in Pietersburg have expressed overwhelming preference for former ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa to succeed President Nelson Mandela, who will be vacating his seat at the end of the year.

This was established in a survey conducted by the university's political science department.

Ramaphosa polled 54 percent support as the future president, compared to 28 percent support for Deputy President Thabo Mbeki.

Former deputy president FW de Klerk polled 14 per-

cent, well ahead of Mpumalanga Premier Mathews Phosa - who got less than 10 percent of the votes.

The only woman in the race, the controversial Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, received less than one percent support, even though large numbers of women students took part in the opinion poll.

For the position of premier of the Northern Province,



POPULAR ...
Ramaphosa is still liked by students.

(54)

Premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi drew little support compared to the 65 percent vote for Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Peter Mokaba as possible successor to Ramatlhodi.

The survey showed that 30 percent of the respondents believed that the provincial government had a positive effect on their lives, while half

felt central government should also govern the province.

The police services came under fire in the survey. 68 percent of the students believe the police were involved in criminal activities, and more than 66 percent expressed distrust for the police.

Political scientist Piet Croucamp said the lack of recognition and legitimacy of the SAPS put enormous strain on democratic governance in peripheral communities, and also encouraged vigilantism.

-HANGWANI MULAUDZE

Tech SRC pushes for black lecturers

(64) ARG 6/10/97

SABATA NGCAI
EDUCATION REPORTER

Students at the Cape Technikon are spearheading an initiative to see black academic staff members teaching on the campus.

The Technikon staff is largely white and male-dominated, newly appointed rector Marcus Balintulo confirmed.

Gladwin Letsoalo, the vice president of the outgoing Students' Representative Council, said black students would identify more with black lecturers.

Student structures had taken up the issue for discussion with the Technikon Transformation Forum and this would be one of the major challenges facing the new SRC expected to be voted in by the end of the month.

Mr Letsoalo said although there were some problems at the Technikon, the institution was changing.

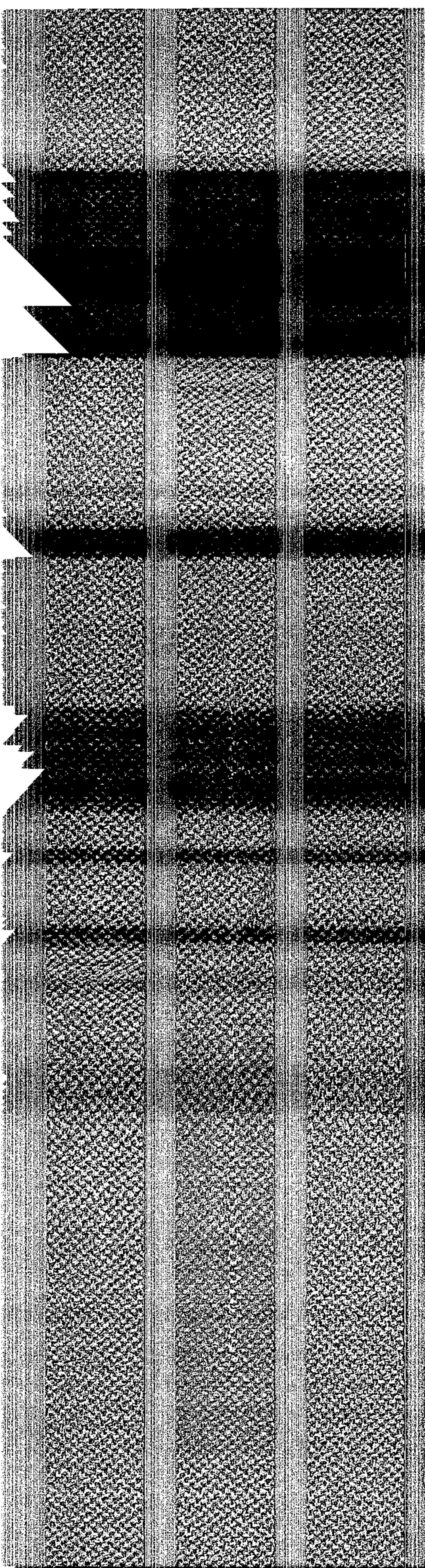
Black students were elected to the executive of the outgoing SRC for the first time in the Technikon's history. They were previously ordinary SRC members.

He attributed the change to the changing composition of the student population at the institution.

Mr Letsoalo said the first black students enrolled at the institution, established in 1920, in the mid-1990s.

Now even white students were starting to accept the South African Students' Congress (Sasco) as a non-racial student organisation for all, he said, although only one white student was a registered member of the traditionally black student movement.

He said he hoped the white member's registration last year would help break down the stereotype that Sasco was only for black students.



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Hot work... a Malaysian firefighter beats smouldering undergrowth in an Indonesian forest yesterday. Hundreds of forest fires have caused a smoky haze to spread over most of south-east Asia, including Malaysia, which has sent firemen to help local servicemen and volunteers. Together they are trying to stamp out the fires and lessen the effect of what is already an ecological disaster.

Higher education faces shake-up

Transformation bill tries to balance competitiveness with demands for equity, writes Gavin Lewis

(514)

SRM 6/10/97

The Higher Education Transformation Bill is now before Parliament. It embodies the Draft White Paper on Higher Education (Government Gazette, No 17944, Vol 382) and the Education White Paper 3 (Government Gazette, No 18207, Vol 386).

Turning its gaze from the former focus on primary and secondary education, the Department of Education is determined to transform the tertiary education sector, particularly universities and technicals. Not surprisingly, this is not without controversy.

Essentially, both the white paper and the bill give the minister of education overriding powers in a unified national tertiary education system to ensure maximum utilisation of existing resources and to meet the Government's priorities. The minister, in terms of the bill, has the power to close, merge or establish new tertiary institutions to meet these goals.

In this, the minister will be aided by a Council on Higher Education, comprising representatives of students, academi-

mic and non-academic staff, labour, the public, the department and education experts.

A subcommittee of the council of the higher education quality committee will liaise with the SA Qualifications Authority to oversee standards and performance. While the minister has the final say, he will have to give his reasons in writing for deviating from the council's decisions - although he does not have to account to Parliament for his decisions.

Furthermore, the bill allows the minister to appoint an independent assessor to investigate maladministration or malpractices. This led to fears of the invasion of university autonomy - although both the bill and the white paper emphasise a commitment to academic freedom "within the bounds of public accountability".

The bill reflects the white paper's attempts to balance the country's global competitiveness with domestic demands for equity. Training and education should meet the needs of society and the economy. But these have to be bal-

anced by increasing student enrolments, to reach standards of gender and racial equity, to eliminate past inequalities, and to democratise governing structures of tertiary institutions. The question is whether all these goals are compatible.

Besides the powers of the minister and of the Council on Higher Education, the transformation process is further buttressed by other provisions of the white paper and the bill. Every tertiary institution will

range of "earmarked funds". These earmarked funds speak for themselves - the Government will reward tertiary institution programmes that meet transformation criteria. They include the redress of inequities in access to tertiary institutions; financial assistance for students; staff, curriculum and research development and increased capacity (libraries, computers, capital works).

Funds will be shifted from block grants, formerly based on student enrolments, to earmarked funds - and progress will also be monitored on students passing through the system successfully.

To meet these targets, tertiary institutions will have to implement three-year plans, outlining their missions, targets and performance indicators. Equity of access also has to be balanced against equity of outcomes, to prevent high student dropout rates.

Success in these areas will mean more government funding. Linked to this will be performance improvement plans. Redress of the past is a central

element of the policy. Financial assistance for needy students is another area of significance. While the minister rejects the principle of free tertiary education as a right and endorses the user-pays approach, it also accepts the need for financial aid for poor students and for a student financial aid scheme.

This will be part of the earmarked funds approach to meet national skills shortages in technical fields. Not surprisingly,

the ideals in the ministry's vision. It is the means, not the ends, that are in question. Foremost among these are concerns (from black and white university leaders alike) as to the extensive powers the white paper and the bill give the minister to close or merge institutions or to withhold funding from non-compliant institutions.

Then there are the fears of former "homeland" universities that they could be closed down in the interests of fiscal efficiency - which raises the question: Do we have more tertiary institutions than we can afford (21 universities and 15 technicals) - or too few to meet our skills shortages?

And can traditionally black universities mobilise private sector funds as effectively as formerly white universities, given their location?

Linked to this are concerns about academic freedom. The white paper is quite clear in recognising the principle of academic freedom. But it is equally clear in linking this to public accountability, in that institutions have constitu-

encies to which they are responsible and that those receiving public money must be accountable for the expenditure of this money. The problem is when accountability becomes subservient to politically motivated goals. The line is a fine one, and not easily dismissed.

Other areas remain unclear. For instance, with more than 70% of students opting for human sciences, and with the huge deficiencies in technical and scientific skills, can "massification" be reconciled with the needs of the state and the private sector, and if so, how?

Tertiary institutions are already co-operating on a regional basis to avoid duplication and to rationalise courses offered. It would also help if students repaid their study loans - SA universities were owed more than R225-million in student fees in 1996, most of it to historically black universities. Withholding certificates, degrees or diplomas is having some effect.

Dr Gavin Lewis is editor of the two independent monthlies, the RDP Monitor and the Tourism Info Brief.

Change in funding formulas

be governed by a council and a senate. Broad transformation forums will become permanent fixtures.

Perhaps even more persuasive will be the changes in funding formulas to encourage transformation. A new subsidy system is introduced, moving further away from the old block grant system to a new category of reduced block grants plus a

marked funds approach to meet national skills shortages in technical fields. Not surprisingly,

the ideals in the ministry's vision. It is the means, not the ends, that are in question. Foremost among these are concerns (from black and white university leaders alike) as to the extensive powers the white paper and the bill give the minister to close or merge institutions or to withhold funding from non-compliant institutions.

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Cross-party consensus urged on new education bill

(54)

By JOVIAL RANTAO

Political Correspondent

Star 7/10/97
Cape Town - ANC MP Professor Selby Ripinga has called for cross-party consensus on the Higher Education Bill, which aims to transform tertiary education in South Africa by creating conditions for equity in access to institutions of higher learning.

"The Higher Education Bill will usher in a new era for South African higher education, transforming the fragmented, racially and ethnically divided system we inherited into a co-ordinated and planned system, which is vibrant, flexible, effective and relevant to the needs of the new SA," Ripinga said.

In an address to Parliament's portfolio committee on education, he said the old system was characterised by severe racial, gender and institutional inequalities which created historically disadvantaged black institutions and lacked coherent co-ordination and planning.

"Notions of autonomy and academic freedom, in reality only existed for select institutions and operated to the virtual exclusion of any notion of public accountability. This bill created the conditions for equity access and the opportunity to reverse the legacies of apartheid past. The bill provided for initial and on-going life-long learning, scholarship and research and development oriented to the particular, economic, social, cultural and intellectual needs," Ripinga said.

He said the bill recognised the importance of academic freedom and the autonomy of institutions and creatively balanced those factors with the need for transparency and public accountability.

It also provided for co-operative governance through the Council of Higher Education, which would embrace all higher education stakeholders.

Unpaid fees at UWC balloon to R50-million

ARG 9/10/97
CAROL CAMPBELL
STAFF REPORTER

(54)
Students at the cash-strapped University of the Western Cape owe more than R50-million in fees - more than a third up on last year.

Campus leaders have again called for a national summit of institutions serving poor communities to address the debt crisis.

In 1995 UWC's debt stood at R22-million and last year rose to R37-million.

The UWC Student Representative Council has acknowledged the problem and will launch a Masakhane-type campaign to encourage students to pay their fees when they return in the new year.

"We will be knocking on doors in university residences asking people to pay and finding out whether we can help students with real financial problems," said Good-enough Kodwa, the new SRC president.

He said the SRC's drive to encourage students to pay had come under fire from opposing political groups on campus.

"They say we have become the university's debt collectors and a government tool because we support the Masakhane idea, but we will not give up. Students who can afford to pay must pay and those who can't must be helped."

Mr Kodwa said many students arrived on campus at the beginning of the year with their fees but used the money for accommodation and food while student leaders and the university debated how much students should pay.

To avoid this, student leaders would try to sort out a "minimum instalment" for students to pay earlier so the academic year could start unhindered.

The deadline for students to pay their final fee instalment was September 30 but, for most, the day passed unnoticed.

Vice-rector of students Ikey van de Rheede said yesterday that he was at his wits' end trying to find a way to make the

To page 3

Students owe UWC R50-million in fees (54)

From page 1

ARG 9/10/97

institution liquid. One hint of respite was a letter from the Education Ministry last Friday calling for applications for "redress funds" from the Government.

The money is available only to institutions short-changed under the apartheid government because of the race of their students.

"We don't know how much money is available but it will be for science laboratories, information technology, computers and the library."

The university would launch an intensive campaign to parents and families of students to ask them to pay their children's fees.

Students who did not pay would not get their results at the end of the year.

"At the end of the year some students will pay," Professor Van de Rheede said.

On October 18 the university administration will meet student leaders and labour unions to reassess an earlier agreement with the SRC proposing that students pay a minimal amount, depending on how much they owe.

"We will reassess parts of the agreement which are not working and affirm those which are. It will be a time to relook at how we can sort out this problem," he said.

Poor youngsters from every corner of South Africa arrived at UWC every year in search of tertiary education.

"They come because they know education is the only way to escape their poverty and change their situation," said Professor van de Rheede.

They came clutching bedrolls and books and lived in every available space in the residences because they wanted, more than anything, to study.

Although they had no money, they were registered because UWC's philosophy was to live up to its reputation of being the people's university.

The universities of Cape Town and Stellenbosch insist that all students make arrangements to pay fees before they are registered.

NP halts Higher Education Bill

ET 9/10/97

(54)

TROYE LUND
EDUCATION WRITER

THE promulgation of a bill that will change the face of higher education in South Africa was stopped yesterday by the NP.

The NP objected to an amendment that it believes gives Education Minister Dr Sibusiso Bengu too much power over universities' language policy.

The Higher Education Bill aims to create a single, co-ordinated higher education system for the country.

Unchanged, the Bill — which is being debated by the National Assembly's education committee — allows the council of a public higher education institution, with the agreement of its senate, to decide its language policy.

The amendment that the Education Department tabled on Tuesday proposes that this be "subject to the policy determined by the minister".

A further amendment will require the proposed Council on Higher Education to advise the minister on language policy in this sector.

NP MP Mr Dirk Bakker said there had not been proper or transparent consultation on the proposals which contradicted the Bill's preamble.

The preamble, he stressed, stated that it was desirable for higher

education institutions to enjoy autonomy in their relationship with the state, within the context of public accountability.

Bakker suggested the committee adjourn to allow the NP to hold informal discussion with the ANC and to consult its own structures and roleplayers in education.

Although the NP was concerned about Afrikaans, he said the amendments affected all the official languages.

The Freedom Front said the party had feared at the time of the constitutional negotiations that there were no guarantees on language in education.

Education committee chairman Dr

Blade Nzimande said yesterday the government had to meet its responsibilities and could not leave language policy to individual institutions in a country that had historically been wracked by division.

"It is crucial that this bill be passed because higher education institutions need something positive and guiding towards transformation."

Nzimande said that national policy had to cater for those who feared continued discrimination, adding that there was no reason for the committee to adjourn — parties knew where they stood as the issue had been dealt with in the constitutional talks and in the Schools Act.

The committee will meet today at 2pm to discuss the way forward.

'No proper consultation on the proposals.'

— NP MP
Dirk Bakker

NP stops bill that may change language policy

(54) Star 9/10/97

University plan would be subject to minister if bill passes

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Cape town

The promulgation of a bill that stands to change the face of higher education in South Africa was stopped yesterday by the National Party.

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Although the NP was concerned about Afrikaans, he said, the amendments affected all official languages in South Africa.

The Freedom Front said the amendment came as no surprise.

The party had feared at the time of the constitutional negotiations that there were no guarantees on language in education.

At a press conference yesterday education committee chairman Blade Nzimande said the Government had to meet its responsibilities and could not leave language policy to individual institutions in a country that had historically been racked by division.

"It is crucial that this bill be passed because higher education institutions need something positive and guiding towards transformation."

Nzimande stressed that national policy had to cater for those who feared continued discrimination. The committee will meet again at 2pm today to discuss the way forward.

Higher education draft legislation approved

(54) - DD 10/10/97

CAPE TOWN — Draft legislation paving the way for transformation of higher education in SA was approved by the National Assembly's education committee yesterday.

However, the National Party (NP), the Freedom Front (FF) and the Democratic Party (DP) said they would vote against the measure — the Higher Education Bill — when it came before the full assembly on October 28.

They argued that it would give Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu unacceptably wide powers on a range of issues, including language policy.

The bill provides for the establishment of a single co-ordinated higher education system under the aegis of a council for higher education.

Committee chairman Blade Nzimande said its decision on the bill was "quite a historic moment" because for centuries the majority of South Africans had been deprived of decent education, particularly higher education. The overwhelming majority of South Africans would welcome the bill.

Dirk Bakker of the NP said it gave the minister excessive powers over language policy and would affect universities' autonomy and academic freedom.

DP education spokesman Mike Ellis said he regretted it could not support the legislation, which had many positive aspects and was in many respects essential for improving higher education in SA. Because it gave wide powers to the minister, the DP would reluctantly have to vote against it.

FF education spokesman Leon Louw said his party had been unable to vote for the constitution because of language provisions in its education clause, and was seeing its fears realised in the bill. — Sapa.

Comment: Page 11



OBED ZILWA

Congratulations: Marcus Balintulo, left, shakes hands with Sibusiso Bengu

Technikon makes history with its first black rector

ARG 10/10/97 (54)

SABATA NGCAI
EDUCATION REPORTER

The Cape Technikon has a black rector for the first time in its 76-year history.

Marcus Balintulo was installed as head of the institution last night.

He was the third non-white academic to be appointed to a top academic position at the college.

Peter Swartz was made chancellor two years ago and Mandla Tshabalala became vice-chancellor for student affairs last year. Dr Balintulo is the sixth vice-chancellor and principal of the technikon, formerly the Cape Technical College.

Dr Balintulo said the divide between historically disadvantaged

and historically advantaged institutions was the manifestation of apartheid.

The political miracle of South Africa would certainly founder in a sea of expectations if meaningful change was not seen to be forthcoming, he said.

Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu said the nation would be looking to Dr Balintulo for the leadership needed at the institution.

"We are looking forward to leadership that will make the institution responsive to the needs of the broader community.

"I have no doubt that the person you have chosen to lead you is the right person for those tasks," Dr Bengu said.

Warnings as Higher Education

Bill gets nod

(54)

TROYE LUND
EDUCATION WRITER

ET 10/10/97

A MOMENT hailed as historic in the reformation of South Africa's education system has been clouded by warnings that the proposed legislation gives unchecked power to the education minister.

Educationalists said that the Higher Education Bill, which was approved by the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee yesterday, allowed the government to impose centralised control over universities, technikons and colleges to force them to conform to an ideological vision of higher education.

The NP, the DP and the Freedom Front voted against the draft legislation because they feared that centralised powers vested in the minister allowed for government interference and would rob higher education institutions of their autonomy and academic freedom.

The parties also objected to the minister being given overriding power over language policy.

However, ANC portfolio committee chairman Dr Blade Nzimande said the bill did allow for consultation. He dismissed concerns about possible abuse of power, saying the majority of the country would welcome the bill. It meant that the majority of South Africans had reached the greener pastures that Dr Hendrik Verwoerd declared were "only for white people to graze in".

No longer did the majority have to live by deliberate strategies that forced them to consume knowledge produced exclusively by the minority, he said.

The bill, which will be tabled in the National Assembly later this month, will form a basis for a planned system of higher education.

Under the bill, an advisory Committee of Higher Education (CHE) will be formed. However, the minister will be able to disregard its views and is only required to state publicly why its recommendations were not adopted.

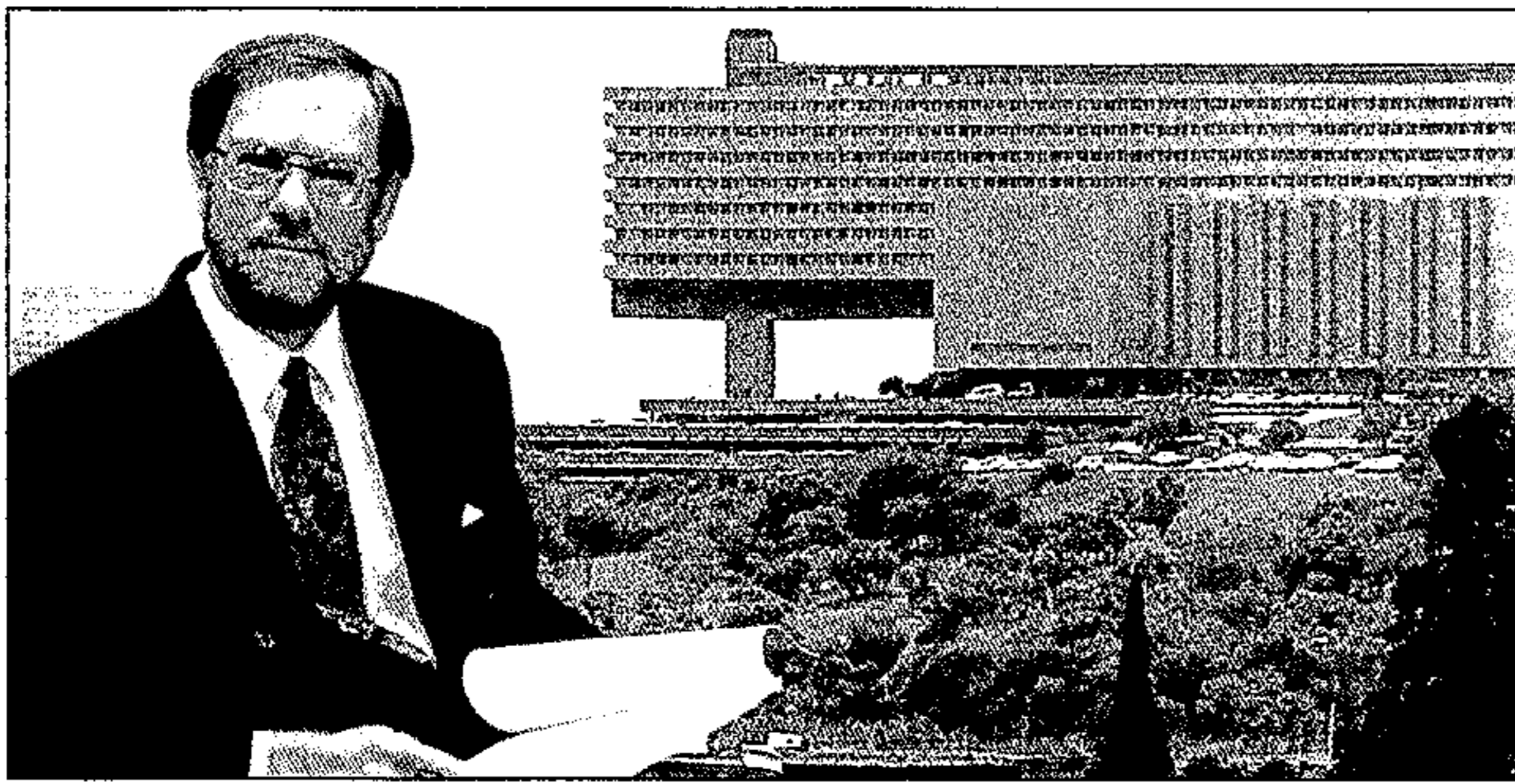
The minister will also appoint eight of the 28 CHE members.

Other ministerial powers that are considered potentially detrimental include the power to establish higher education institutions, decide if institutions should be universities, colleges or technikons, close down institutions and enforce partial or total mergers.

The minister will be able to withhold money if institutions do not comply with prescribed rules.

The South African Vice-Chancellors Association (SAUVCA) said that uniform actions could cause "irreparable damage".

"But, we are not negative about the bill. We will have to see how it all works out," SAUVCA said.



Marinus Wiechers . . . taking early retirement after authority undermined

UNISA

(54)

Pay spiral comes home to roost

AM 10/10/97

Top job not for the squeamish as university faces tough cost-cutting choices

The University of SA (Unisa) faces a R100m deficit and is soon to elect a new principal who will have to initiate substantial staff and course cut-backs to solve the financial crisis.

Meanwhile, Deloitte & Touche has been appointed to conduct a full managerial and financial audit of the once-prosperous institution. It must recommend ways to restructure SA's largest correspondence institution into a modern, efficient university.

University Council chairman Dr Theo Rood says the salary increases voted last year "have had a far more crippling effect than we anticipated."

The academic staff union negotiated increases of up to 24% in 1996 and 17% in 1997. The council staved off mediation earlier this year by agreeing to pay the increases "though it could not afford them," a university spokesman says. "It underestimated their snowball effect."

According to an internal financial report, one of the main reasons for the R100m deficit is that salary expenditure is R28m more than anticipated. (Salaries account for more than 75% of Unisa's budget, which this year topped R800m.)

Other contributing factors are a cut in the State subsidy of 9% (R33,4m) and a levelling

off of student numbers which resulted in fee income falling R4,6m short of target.

In an effort to redress the R100m deficit (12,5% of Unisa's operational budget) almost all vacant posts have been frozen. Every post has been reviewed in an internal investigation dubbed Programme Optimum, aimed at identifying areas of duplication.

Programme leader Prof Antony Melck says Unisa has to find "different and cheaper ways of doing things" without sacrificing academic excellence. He says Unisa has not responded well to the funding constraints facing higher education as a whole, "with the result that unmanageable deficits are beginning to emerge."

Unisa is one of several universities which must cut costs to balance their books. Natal University faces a worst-case scenario of having to axe 645 posts over the next five years. Natal, Rhodes and Wits universities are all considering closing departments.

SA Institute for Distance Education (Saide) director Jenny Glennie says Unisa must cull courses that are not cost-effective. She says Unisa's cost structure is out of sync with many comparable in-

ternational correspondence universities, which offer 100-350 courses or modules, compared to Unisa's 1 500 or more. Saide's preliminary investigations reveal that 30%-40% of Unisa's courses or modules are subscribed to by fewer than 10 students.

Chief director of Higher Education Ahmed Essop says government is not aware of Unisa's financial crisis, but he plans to look into the situation. "We would get involved only if they approached us. Institutions are responsible for managing within their subsidy allocations, but we wouldn't want Unisa to go down the drain."

Government is fully aware of Unisa's strategic importance as an educational resource given that it caters for over 124 000 students, of which 62% are black. It also absorbs a lot of State funding for a correspondence institution — about two-thirds of the State subsidy allocation received by full-time universities.

Unisa has been governed by an interim management board since June, after principal Marinus Wiechers' announcement that he would retire at the end of 1997 and council's loss of confidence in the university's management.

Wiechers' term expires only at the end of 1998 but his authority was undermined by a year of perpetual and sometimes violent conflict over the slow process of transforming what many regard as one of the last bastions of Afrikanerdom.

Unisa is at a crossroads — financially and politically. The new principal faces stark choices on both these fronts and, given the history of campus conflict, can expect an uphill battle.

The creation of a broadly representative selection committee is almost complete and the post of principal should be advertised in November. Rood expects the election to be concluded by next March.

Unisa's two vice-principals are the obvious candidates: Prof Melck, an economist, and Prof Simon Maimela, a theologian.

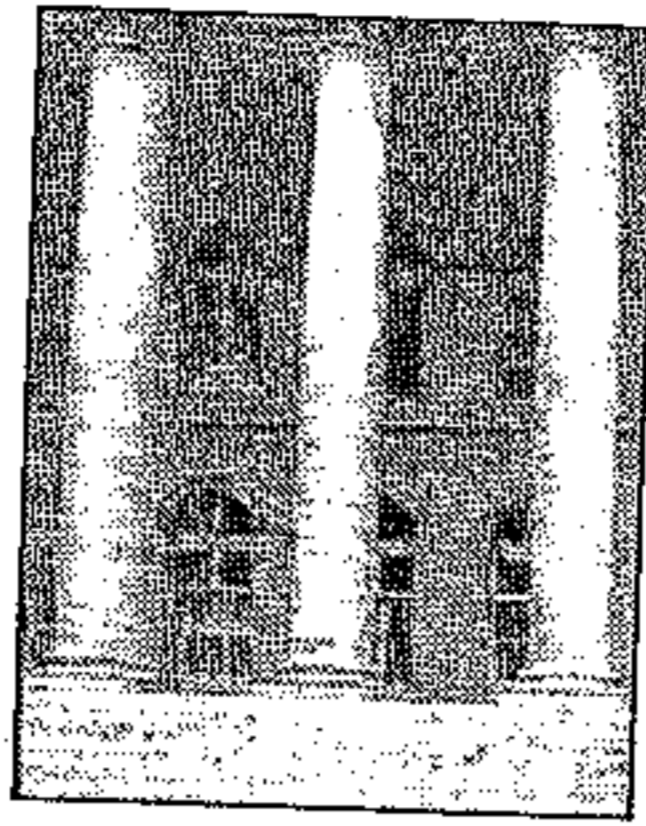
Melck (48) is a Cambridge graduate. For the past two years he has been on secondment to the Finance & Fiscal Commission. Insiders say he is "too nice" for the unforgiving post of principal.

Maimela (53) obtained his PhD at Harvard in 1978. Once a favourite of black staff and students, he is now dismissed by some as "too autocratic, politically naive and unable to withstand pressure."

This means the post is wide open for suitably qualified candidates who are politically adroit and able to drive the hardest of bargains.

Claire Bissek

UNISA'S STATE SUBSIDY	
Year	Subsidy allocation (R000)
1993	223 746
1994	252 118
1995	277 283
1996	349 637
1997	330 863



Education Bill is a threat to autonomy

Star 13/10/97 (54)

New law threatens integrity of universities, not just languages, writes Mike Ellis

The Higher Education Bill debated in Parliament's education committee has been criticised for clauses relating to language. There are, however, far more significant problems with the bill which have taken second place.

The bill will lead to greater government interference in universities, with inevitable consequences for quality and quantity. South Africa cannot risk damaging its universities, which produce the graduates on which our economy depends.

Yet the Government's approach threatens to limit the production of these graduates.

The bill and the corresponding White Paper recognise the right to academic freedom and institutional autonomy - but they also expect universities, in their teaching and in admissions, to act in accordance with government priorities.

These conflicting signals make it difficult to take the commitment to autonomy seriously. Universities are dependent on government funds.

The White Paper takes advantage of this, and aims to enforce its objectives. It makes funding allocations "goal-orientated" and "performance-related" and describes how the national ministry will adopt explicit incentives "to steer the development of the higher education system in accordance with national goals". Thus the ministry gives itself the power to determine what universities should teach.

The bill follows the same track as the White Paper, with provisions which dilute universities' control over their internal affairs and reinforce the role of the state. It empowers the minister to determine the priorities of higher education, in consultation with the proposed Council on Higher Education.

Professor Carole Lewis of the faculty of law at the University of the Witwatersrand, speaking on this clause at a DP-sponsored conference, said: "We must not be complacent about the good intentions of anyone in Government. Legislation which permits interference with academic freedom, through whatever means, opens the doors to abuse."

Another concern is the power of the minister to close down institutions or combine them without their consent. The only obligation on the minister is to "consult with" the Council on Higher Education and publish a notice in the Government Gazette. He or she will thus have carte blanche.

The minister is also empowered to appoint an in-

dependent assessor to investigate an institution when there have been allegations of maladministration or the institution's functioning is undermined by "circumstances".

These are loosely defined conditions and they constitute another attack on autonomy. Autonomy is little more than an empty shell if the minister can intervene whenever normal functioning is disrupted.

It is not only the traditionally white universities which share the DP's concerns. Professor Njabulo Ndebele, vice-chancellor of the University of the North and chairperson of the South African Universities' Vice-Chancellors' Association, has stated at public hearings that the bill could be abused by a strong-willed but uninformed minister.

The documents largely justify their proposed intervention by the need for redress. The Government has stated that it is not happy with the number of black students admitted to tertiary institutions. This is legitimate, but the suggestion that it is the fault of universities, and the conclusion that Government intervention is the solution, are not.

Universities were at the forefront of opposition to apartheid and they have admitted increasing numbers of black students. Hasty government intervention will only hamper their ability to manage this process while continuing to offer high quality education. It will also create a dangerous precedent.

If university teaching and research is constrained by political agendas, they cannot be expected to produce competent research or graduates.

Universities do not exist to fulfil the objectives of government. Rather, they serve long-term needs of society.

Their current problems cannot be solved by affirmative action and RDP ideology, and until the Government recognises this, tertiary education institutions are in grave danger.

■ Mike Ellis is a Democratic Party MP

Technikons want to be universities

Several technikons plan to upgrade to university status, writes Sandile Ntshakala

Everything goes according to plan, when the Vaal Triangle Technikon opens for the new academic year in early 1998, it will be known by another name — the Vaal University of Technology or Institute of Technology.

The technikon is one of several in the country that plans to take advantage of the new Higher Education Transformation Bill now before Parliament — and expected to become law next January — to upgrade its status to that of a university.

Acting vice-rector Professor Piet Swanepoel pointed out that while the technikon would have to apply for university status, the granting of this request appeared a foregone conclusion after the Minister of Education, Sibusiso Bengu, gave his blessing to the move during a ceremony at the technikon last month. Bengu described the upgrading bid as an essential part of the transformation process affecting most of South Africa's tertiary institutions.

A representative of the South

African Qualification Authority in Pretoria confirmed that some technikons had already made their intention to upgrade themselves known. None of the 15 technikons in the country had, however, yet submitted an official request.

But the trend toward seeking university status looks set to sweep across many technikons in the coming years. As Wijs Technikon deputy vice-chancellor Herman van Ede argued, it has become a "matter of urgency" that technikons meet the new challenges facing institutions of higher learning in the global economy: "The world technikon commands no respect outside our own borders as it has no international currency. Global accreditation of our qualifications will give them more weight and credibility as well as attracting more students to our campuses," said Van Ede.

Aside from formal name changes, these pressures have already come to bear on the kind of certificates offered by South African technikons. Many, including Wijs and Durban's



University status? Vaal Technikon's Piet Swanepoel

ML Sultan Technikon, have already moved beyond the constraints of technikon diplomas of old to offer degrees to their students.

The Vaal Technikon, which has its main campus in Vanderbijlpark in the Vaal, already offers three degree programmes — bachelors, masters and doctorates. It is one of 12 other technikons, who following the promulgation of the Technikons Act of 1993, began awarding degrees in

1995. In 1996, there were 8 132 students registered for degree studies at technikons and degrees were awarded in some 64 fields of study.

Vaal Technikon's Swanepoel predicted that when the technikon is finally granted university status next year, it will attract more students.

A master of business administration degree, ear-marked for the 1998 academic year and running for two years (full time), is expected to attract more than 100 students. The programme will be accredited by the University of Wales. The technikon — like others — has already formed ties with overseas universities in France, Germany, China, Japan and the United States where student exchange programmes and research fellowships will be undertaken.

"Our programmes, even those at postgraduate level will continue to be career and vocationally driven, according to the needs and requirements of the markets. We will attempt to juggle the demands of global competitiveness with domestic demands for equity. Training and education should meet the needs of society and the economy," said Swanepoel.

But the funding challenges faced by technikons — challenges which are

likely to be compounded as the institutions attempt to expand — also mean that international linkages have become more important to survival.

Since technikons are subsidised and funded in the same way as universities, they will not expect further funding as the R5-billion received from government is already considered too much by world standards.

So the Vaal technikon is looking elsewhere for the extra backing it needs. Principal Aubrey Mokadi left for the US last week on a fund-raising campaign. In addition, the new trend will see greater linkages between existing technikons and universities. The Committee of University Principals is enthusiastic about the prospect of working with technikons.

Professor Jos Grobbelaar, the committee's executive director, said a great skill shortage exists in the country, and technikons could fill that gap. This can best be achieved by technikons and universities working together. "Universities have to do away with the condescending attitude towards technikons. Horizontal lines rather than vertical ones will have to be drawn between the two, where skill and student transference is possible," said Grobbelaar.

MTG 24-30/10/97
(514)

New maritime course sets sail for port

MHA 24-30/10/97 (54)

Ann Eveleth

South Africans will no longer have to study overseas for a career at a local port, if the University of Natal has its way.

The university's maritime initiative is expected to be up and running by next year, offering a maritime-based master of business administration (MBA), maritime law (LLM) and coastal engineering courses centred around Africa's busiest port. Initiative co-ordinator Professor Dan Archer said the still-to-be-named maritime institute or institute of maritime studies would be the first of its kind in Southern Africa.

"Its about time the university poised on a ridge overlooking the continent's busiest port offered courses related to it," said Archer.

A joint venture between the university's development budget, First

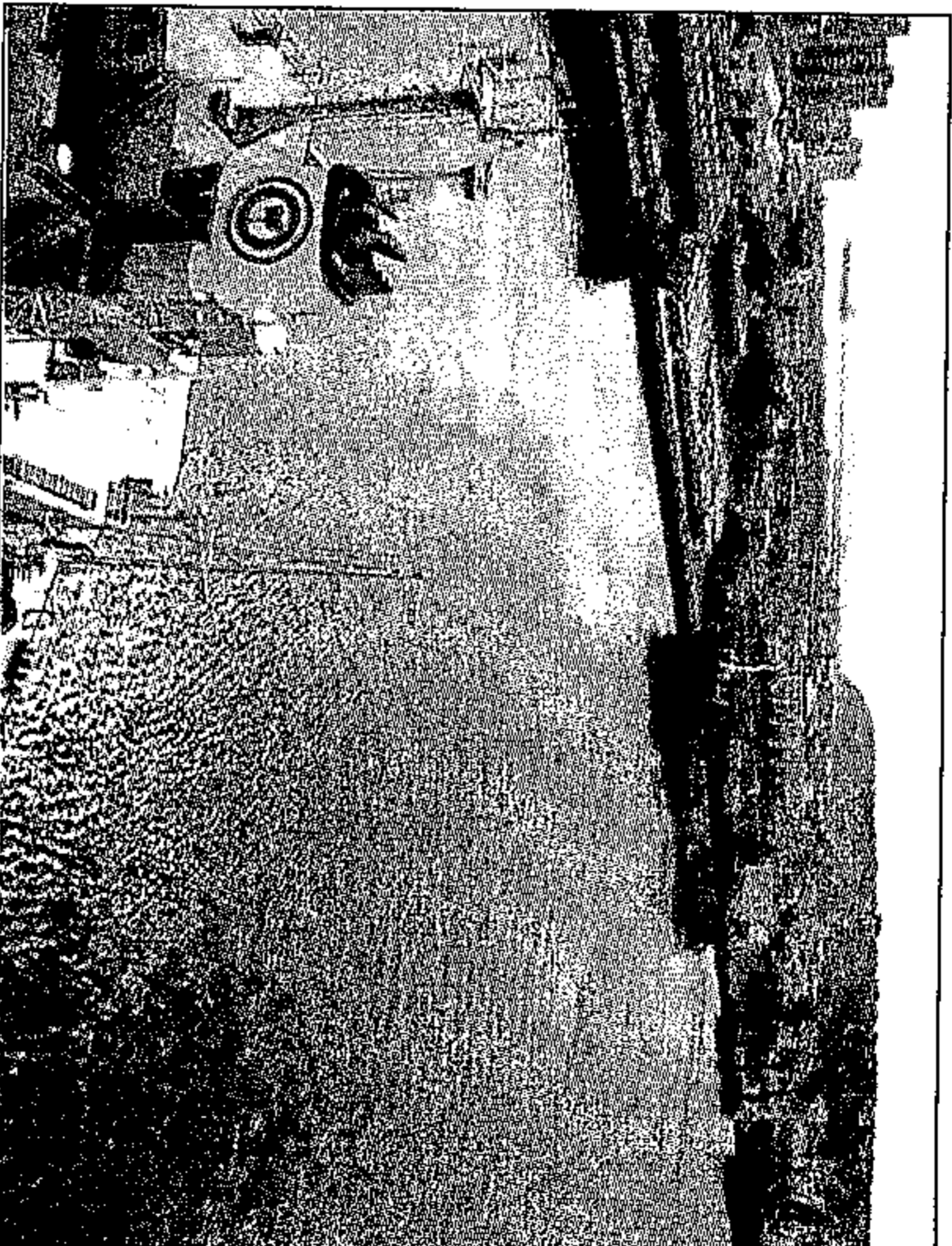
National Bank — and possibly the Department of Transport — the initiative aims to provide a centre of expertise for all maritime-related activities. "It will be an interdisciplinary approach, with courses situated within existing faculties, but coordinated through various studies of the port. Although formal degrees will begin with the fields of business, law and engineering, I don't think there will be a single faculty that won't have some interest in the initiative over time," he added.

Archer said the MBA programme would offer courses on maritime transport, economics, maritime law, international trade, and management of marine and coastal environment. The LLM in maritime law would include subjects like carriage of goods by sea, marine insurance, law of the sea, international trade, admiralty law and incidents of nav-

igation. The MSc Engineering in coastal engineering would offer courses like oceanography, coastal processes, harbour design, environmental engineering, and the marineland transport engineering interface.

"I have had discussions with other disciplines who are also interested in getting involved. The medical school, for example, has an interest in the port as an entry for contagious diseases and pests, and recently did a study on hearing impairment in the shipping industry," said Archer.

The initiative hopes eventually to become the focal point for maritime and marine-related studies in Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean Rim. "We are ideally situated to become the strategic hub of the Indian Ocean Rim, and this offers vast potential for collaborating among like-minded institutions, providing training and skills develop-



Port ahoy: New maritime education is afloat. PHOTO: ADAM WELZ

ment, supplying services to maritime industries and seaboard communities and assisting with business development and trade," he said. In keeping with the National

Qualifications Framework, the initiative is looking at involvement in everything from operating a crane to managing a port or shipping company.

Social sciences under pressure

M+G 24-30/10/97 (54)

Mukoni T Ratshitanga

The high cost of tertiary education accompanied by budget cuts is forcing institutions to rationalise courses on offer. The process involves placing more emphasis on the natural rather than social sciences as well as the merger of faculties among tertiary institutions.

The move will be formalised when the Bill on Higher Education is passed into law by Parliament later this year.

The Bill proposes that the government adopt what is called "programme-based funding" — a model which prioritises mathematics, science and business courses needed to empower the workforce with technological skills.

And the slow pace of curriculum change is likely to have social science courses slowly elbowed out of

budget considerations. Some like the South African Students' Congress are already questioning the relevance of courses like biblical studies and anthropology.

"Why has anthropology remained a discipline that just regurgitates the old colonial garbage of tribes and how this or that tribe behaves? Why can't it assist us in solving ethnic feuds?" asks the congress's Blessing Manale. "We need to consider the overall cost implication of those courses to which we can't find links with human resource development."

But some academics warn against the total rejection of social sciences. Social sciences, they say, help us to understand society and the social consequences of policy decisions. However, with this qualification tempered by the lack of employment opportunities for many social science graduates, some uni-

versities are considering freezing student intake in the social sciences. Though the number of tertiary education applicants with social science backgrounds makes this difficult, the eventual scrapping of some of the social sciences cannot be ruled out.

Some historically black institutions are already considering downgrading departments of Afrikaans into mere subjects to supplement a general degree.

A University of South Africa student who spoke to the *Mail & Guardian* says courses like biblical studies and anthropology must be concentrated in one or two institutions rather than strewn across several as is presently the case. "Neither should we create many departments for them in one institution," says the student.

Placing the same courses in one institution is similar to a recent move

by the education ministry that merged the veterinary departments of the University of Pretoria and the Medical University of Southern Africa.

Students, who face increasing financial pressures amid shrinking government-funded bursaries, advocated similar plans for other institutions — such as the University of the Witwatersrand and the Rand Afrikaans University in Gauteng, the universities of Cape Town, Western Cape and Stellenbosch in the Western Cape — in close proximity to each other.

The move could increase the access of disadvantaged students to institutions that have otherwise been slow to change.

Higher education chief director Ahmed Essop says many students see social science courses as an inevitable fall-back mechanism because secondary education did not adequately prepare them for the natural sciences.

Essop adds that programme-based funding will not preclude social sciences "because education has a broader role than narrow eco-

nomics concerns. It is a balance between broader national needs and what institutions need. There has to be a national plan and institutions have to see how they fit into the broader national development plan."

The push toward greater promotion of natural sciences also begs the question whether natural science students should not also study the social sciences, at least as far as the philosophy of their respective disciplines.

One institution pondering this question is Vista University. Past imbalances saw to it that few social science courses were offered to black students. In the new era, however, rather than simply expanding its faculties to include the full spectrum of social sciences, Vista has moved to integrate social science courses into the curriculum offered to natural science students.

Vista's Soweto representative, Peter Maher, said such students are now able to take one social science subject and plans are afoot to include it as a major subject for natural science students.

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Research role for the technikons highlighted

~~(S)~~ (54) BS 30/10/97
BLOEMFONTEIN — The Foundation for Research Development (FRD) believed that technikons had a contribution to make to the generation of knowledge and human resources of SA, FRD acting president Gerhard von Gruenewaldt said at the signing of a R1,5m memorandum of understanding with Technikon Free State in Bloemfontein yesterday.

The agreement will focus on research in science, engineering and technology. Specific areas are industrial electronics, agriculture, manufacturing, renewable energy use, water quality management, food land nutrition and occupational health and safety.

Von Gruenewaldt said the technikon should take its rightful place among research institutions in the higher education sector. This meant giving staff and students the room and encouragement to develop.

Although the FRD had had a budget for a dedicated technikon programme since 1989, an evaluation of the first five years had highlighted varying levels in establishing a research culture, he said.

Vice-chancellor and rector, Prof Bertus Koorts, said it was time that technikons became part of research in SA and that recognition was given for what they were doing. The technikon's council had recommitted itself to making a financial and material contribution to extending research, he said. — Sapa.

Financial scandal rocks Qwa-Qwa campus again

By JIMMY SEEPE

THE UNIVERSITY of the North, Qwa-Qwa campus, has once again been rocked by a financial scandal, this time involving money given to it by the Independent Development Trust, City Press can reveal.

According to information received by City Press, several officials within the university have allegedly misappropriated R54 881 of IDT's funds on projects which were never part of the original budget.

The IDT has now written to the university demanding to be paid back the amount in full.

The IDT was alerted to the alleged misappropriation after the university submitted an allegedly "falsified statement", accounting for the expenditure of a R233 000 grant in 1995 to the Academic Development Committee. CP 2/11/97

The grant was to be used to launch a Language and Communication Skills Project on campus but it is understood that the project never began as originally planned.

Members of the university development committee were alerted to the alleged misappropriation after the university submitted a financial statement to the IDT showing that the ADC had spent a total of R94 000 on the project.

The members of the development committee felt that the figure was in-

flated. On investigation, they are said to have discovered that some of the R54 000 had been paid to a certain professor without their or the authorised officers' approval.

Their investigation revealed that:

□ Major expenditure included items and projects not connected with the Language and Communication Skills Project;

□ The incurred expenditure had neither the sanction of those involved in the project nor its authorised members;

□ Moneys were transferred to projects which or individuals who, to the best of the ADC members' knowledge, were not in any manner connected to the project, and

□ The ADC was not aware of the existence on campus of any report accounting for the official existence of the project in 1995/'96.

It is alleged that one of the professors who was given money had not undertaken any academic development on campus at all or even participated in the project.

Former member of Turfloop development committee, Dr Mashupye Kgapola, said the alleged unauthorised expenditure of the R54 000 came as a shock to him.

University officials, at the time of going to press, had still not responded to City Press's inquiries, despite undertaking to do so.

Students who don't pay fees may be barred

CP 2/11/97

(54)

By CHRIS HLONGWA and JIMMY SEEPE

TERTIARY institutions, mainly universities, are bracing themselves for yet another fight with students over outstanding fees for 1997 - and many students might find themselves barred from enrolment next year, City Press has established.

And some universities could find themselves too bankrupt to give out bursaries and student loans.

Figures given to City Press this week by universities show more than R300 million is owed by students for the 1997 academic year.

Individual universities are said to be paying daily amounts of interest of between R6 000 and R9 000 on the outstanding fees.

The situation is said to be so severe for some universities that unless they can recover the money before the year's end, certain faculties may have to close.

The worst-hit universities are:

- The University of Natal, where student debt is thought to be well over R150 million (university officials dispute the figure but confirm that R100 million could be realistic);
- The University of Zululand, which is owed R66,8 million;
- Vista University, which is owed R36,3 million;
- The University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), which is owed R30 million; and
- The University of Cape Town, which is owed R22,3 million.

Officials for other universities, such as the Medical University of Southern Africa (Medunsa), the University of the North (Turfloop), the University of the Western Cape and the University of Natal-Durban declined to specify how much they were owed.

They would only confirm that the figures run beyond R20 million for 1997.

Spokesperson for the minister of Education, Thami Mseleku, told City Press that Professor Sibusiso Bengu did not intend to stop any measures that universities might take against the students.

Mseleku said the department would not condemn denying entry to those students next year.

But he said: "We expect universities to act fairly in assessing the financial position of each student."

He said the government's financial aid scheme, which has been running for the past two years, has alleviated what could have become an explosive situation at tertiary institutions.

The above figures could be just the tip of the iceberg, as other universities which City Press contacted this week refused to give information on outstanding fees for fear of embarrassment or antagonising students at exam time.

But most of the universities are adamant that students who do not settle their fees will not be admitted next year.

The students will be allowed to write their exams, but will have their results withheld.

Wits media liaison officer Peggy Jennings said Wits was hopeful that students would settle their debts before the end of the year.

Several universities are said to be fearful of taking tough measures against students, being mindful of the effects such actions could have on the smooth running of the institutions.

One official told City Press that "this is not the right moment to start talking about students' outstanding fees. We are currently focusing our energies on the completion of exams and will start looking into outstanding fees once students have finished writing".

Are blacks making the right career choices?

CP 2/11/97

THE VALUE of the degrees black students have studied for was questioned in the media recently under the headline: "Degrees for blacks: tickets to nowhere"

Several questions need to be answered: How can value be added to the degrees studied by blacks without establishing what influences their career choices? How can the rising unemployment of black graduates be reduced without aligning the profile of graduates with the demand and supply of skilled labour? How do you ensure that pupils understand the link between career choice and realistic career goals in relation to employment opportunities in the labour market?

A research report shows that long term career goals and economic needs, that is, distribution of job opportunities in the labour market, are least influential in the career choices of black students.

A sample population comprising 218 first, second and third year students enrolled for study programmes in the general sciences, mechanical, mining, and electrical engineering, medicine, nursing, the arts in general, social work, education, human resources, accounting, law, administration, and business and financial management, was used.

The finding that long term career goals and economic needs do not receive sufficient consideration, highlights the reason why so many black graduates and diplomates enrol for the traditional disciplines such as education and the social sciences. It is not a coincidence that black graduates

A shocking report shows that long term career goals and economic needs are the least influential of the factors affecting the career choices of black students. These were the findings of research conducted by **BARRY NGOBENI**, who recently qualified with a Master's degree in Management from Wits Business School.

(31 246) constitute 7,5 percent of the total number of South African graduates (411 353) in 1996, with 23,3 percent (7 275) of these graduates unemployed compared to 8 198 unemployed white graduates out of a total of 345 462.

The results suggest that black students are mainly interested in acquiring degrees, and that life beyond campus seems not to matter.

These statistics were obtained from the Human Sciences Research Council and the Central Statistics Services, and presented

choice decisions by post-matric students. The majority of respondents only decided on their tertiary studies after writing their matric exams.

Role models had an influence on the career choices, especially on those of female respondents.

It is significant that most black female professionals are teachers, nurses and social workers.

Should the current trend on mass production of teachers and social science graduates continue, the skills shortage resulting from lack of alignment be-

Factor No out of 10	Factor Description	Rotated Factor Loading
1.	My parents advised me not to pursue a career of my choice	4,258
2.	My parents wanted me to have the same qualification/career as theirs	4,217
3.	It is advisable for children (Matric pupils) to let their parents make career choices for them	4,169
4.	My parents made a career choice for me	4,138
5.	My friends advised me not to pursue a career of my choice	3,997
6.	My present field of study links well with my long term career goals	3,982
7.	I was advised by my parents to study through a University instead of a Technikon or Technical College	3,909
8.	My friend persuaded me to pursue my present field of study	3,865
9.	Economic needs and job opportunities influenced my career choice	3,798
10	My long term career goals influenced my career choice	3,676

by Nkabinde, who is President of the South African Graduate Development Association.

The table above presents ten factors which had the least influence on the career choices of the respondents. The third column indicates the significant level of influence that each factor had on the choices. The degree of influence is as follows: The lower the number, the least influential the factor was.

It is disturbing that job opportunities and long term career goals emerged as the least influential factors. Another disturbing finding is the timing of career

tween demand for and supply of skilled labour will cause a serious strain on the economy.

Companies with sincere employment equity policies will find it difficult to meet their equity targets due to an undersupply of black graduates in areas such as information technology, operations, manufacturing, engineering, finance and so on.

A better understanding by pupils of the link between demand and supply of skilled labour is most likely to provide a long term solution towards increasing the employability of graduates and people with diplomas.

BLOEMFONTEIN — The nine faculties of the University of the Free State were likely to be reduced to five, rector Prof Stef Coetzee said last night.

This was one of the recommendations of the senate in connection with the revitalisation of the university which would be considered at the council meeting on December 1, he said.

Coetzee said the university had entered another phase in the transformation process. Staff had negotiated in task teams and provisional decisions were continually tested to ensure that the eventual decisions would be acceptable to everyone.

The senate approved that a new faculty of humanities be formed from the faculties of arts, social sciences and education. Schools would be established in the new faculty to co-ordinate the subject

Free State university may shrink to five faculties

The first phase of the consolidation would happen by March 31 next year, or as soon as possible thereafter. When phase one was completed, a full-time dean would be recommended for the new faculty. The position of present deans, affected by the consolidation, would be resolved by negotiations.

Phase two of the consolidation would involve the faculty of theology becoming a school in the new faculty, after negotiation with the NG Kerk and the NG theological faculties of other universities.

Phase three recommended that a new faculty be created from the present faculties of natural sciences and agriculture. The nature and timing of the

consolidation would depend on the government's final policy on the location of agricultural faculties.

Law, and economics and management sciences would remain independent, but consolidation of these two faculties would be considered.

The faculty of health sciences, established earlier this year with three schools, would remain an independent faculty.

Coetzee said the changes would be the most drastic that the university had yet experienced. There was no doubt the process would be painful for some. However, the new thinking and replanning also spurred staff to think innovatively. — Sapa.



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GROUP RESULTS AND DIVIDEND DECLARATION — YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1997



Robert Tshabalala

Connie Mogale . . . aims to make Wits Technikon into "SA's best tertiary institution"

TERTIARY EDUCATION

(54)

Technikons split over varsity status

FM 7/11/97

"We'd rather be a first-class technikon than a second-class university," snorts Cape vice-rector at Gauteng techs' varsity bid

Several technikons are considering upgrading to fully-fledged universities of technology — including Wits Technikon, whose new principal Prof Connie Mogale says she wants to turn it into "the best higher educational institution in the country."

Pretoria and the Vaal Triangle technikons are also keen on the idea; an international trend, especially among polytechnics in the UK and New Zealand. In Australia it is currently the subject of intense debate.

SA's Higher Education Bill, which is expected to be enacted early next year, allows tertiary educational institutions to change their designations with the Education Minister's permission.

Vaal Triangle Technikon spokesman Sugan Nair says Minister Sibusiso Bengu has already given the technikon his blessing to upgrade and it will apply for permission as soon as the legislation is in place. A source close to the technikon says Bengu has promised to expedite its application, but the technikon's bold stance has surprised many educationists.

Cape Town's Peninsula Technikon vice-

rector Prof Johan Tromp strongly opposes the notion of upgrading. "We would rather be a first-class technikon than a second-class university," he says. "Our feeling is that if you become a university you lose your career focus and become theoretical which is not in the interests of the country. The only advantage is the gain in status."

Higher Education chief director Ahmed Essop shares these sentiments. He doesn't see any advantage to technikons in upgrading. "I'm not sure what motivates this move. I suspect it's an assumption that universities are better placed, better resourced and have better status."

Essop says the department will not rush into changing the designation of tertiary institutions as it wants to preserve their diversity. It also wants to guard against a systemic upgrading where technical colleges all want to become technikons and technikons want to become universities.

He says the yet to be appointed National Council on Higher Education will advise the Minister on how the educational landscape should be restructured. All upgrading decisions will be taken in this broad context.

Pretoria Technikon rector Prof Denis van Rensburg is against technikons rushing to change their names before they have effected the required improvements.

He says technikons' existing qualification structures will suffice and they will not change their vocational focus, but they will have to raise their capacity to undertake advanced, applied technological research projects for industry. This is the traditional preserve of universities who could find themselves competing with technikons for a limited pool of research funds.

Van Rensburg says Pretoria Technikon will probably qualify for university of technology status only in four to five years. Meanwhile it is taking steps to reposition itself as a centre of technological research excellence. Unlike many developed countries, SA has twice as many students enrolled at universities as at technikons. But this may be changing. Over the past five years, technikon enrolments have grown by 18% compared to 5% for universities.

Technikons began offering degree courses in 1995, a move pioneered by polytechnics in the UK. Now most local technikons offer the BTech degree across a wide range of programmes. The Vaal Triangle Technikon had more than 8 000 students registered for BTech degrees last year in 64 fields of study.

A BTech degree is conferred on students who pass a fourth year in any accredited programme after completing a three year National Diploma in that subject. MTech and DTech degrees are equivalent to university masters and doctorates.

The advantage of a degree to technikon graduates is that they are eligible for middle management positions as some companies see diplomas as insufficient.

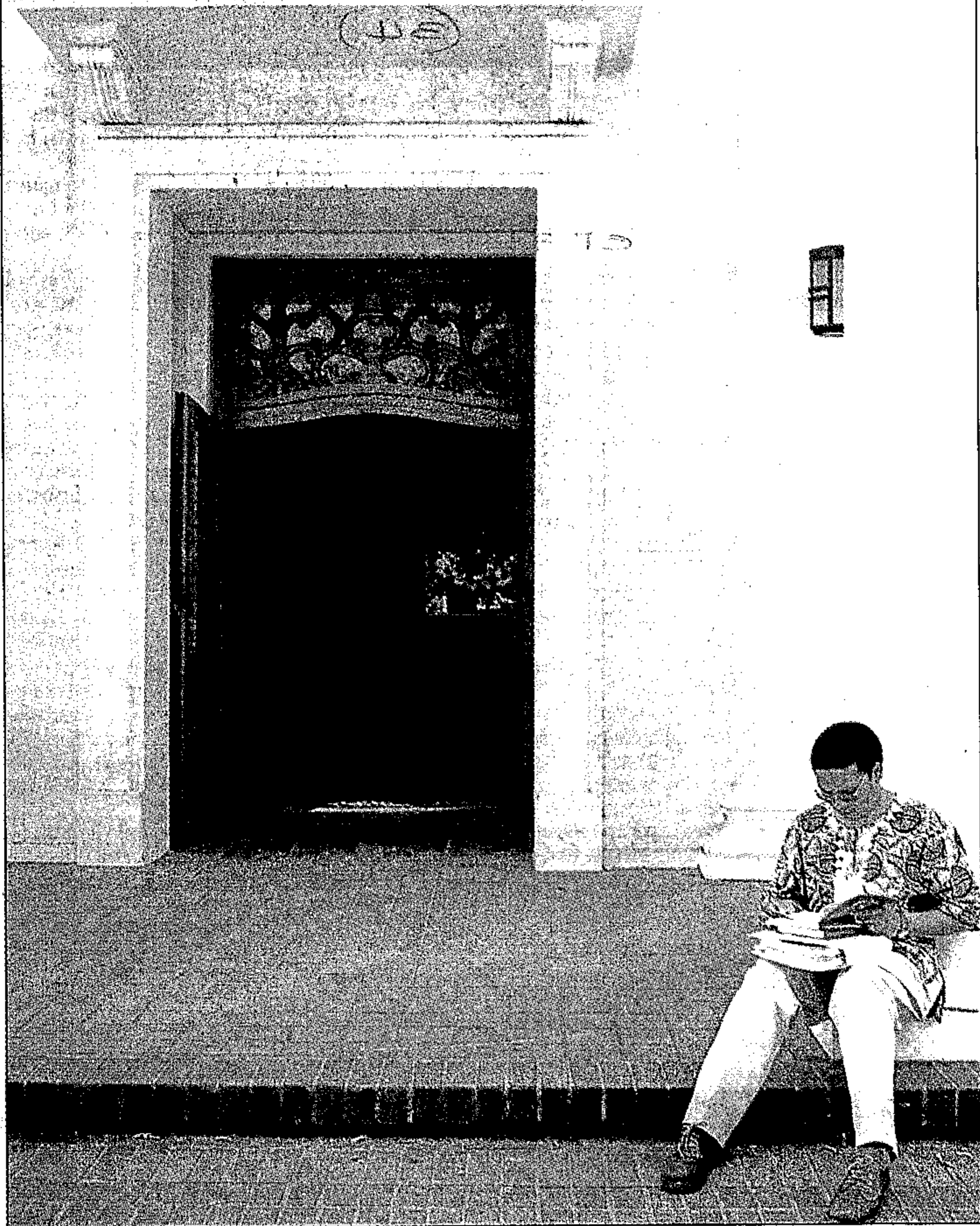
Mogale says Wits Technikon wants to upgrade to a university of technology but has yet to make a final decision. Her immediate priority is to turn it into an internationally recognised research and vocational education institution. This will involve reappraising courses, curricula design, governance and management structures, and race and gender equity issues.

The dilemma facing all technikon principals is to increase student access and to improve the quality of science and technological education at a time when funding is declining. For Mogale to do more with less means that all the technikon's existing practices must be re-examined and new activities developed to generate income.

"This will place great demands on our ingenuity, including what to continue doing, what to stop doing and in what directions to redirect our energy," she says.

Claire Bisseker

H.F. VERWOERDGEBOU



WHAT'S IN A NAME? Ivan May, a lecturer at Stellenbosch University's School of Public Management, said yesterday the names of university buildings made some people on the campus uneasy. **PICTURE: BENNY GOOL**

Names of Matie buildings stay — for now

ROGER FRIEDMAN

(54)
ET 7/11/97

THE University of Stellenbosch had no immediate plans to change the names of its buildings, some of which honour former white rulers such as Mr B J Vorster and Dr H F Verwoerd, the university's communications head, Mr Hans-Peter Bakker, said yesterday.

He was reacting to recent reports

that the university council would discuss the matter next week.

Bakker said he had heard recent reports which created the impression that the council of the arts faculty had decided unanimously that the name of the faculty building be changed from B J Vorster to something more politically acceptable.

"The true situation is that the dean of the faculty, Professor Izak

Van der Merwe, spoke to the rector, Professor Andreas van Wyk, some time ago to say that some of his colleagues in the faculty wanted the name changed."

The rector, however, felt that the issue could not be approached in the context of just one building, but should take the names of all buildings into account. He referred the matter to the university's

strategic planning committee, which is responsible for driving the university's transformation process.

Once the planning committee has made a recommendation, it will be referred to the university council, which has the authority to take such important decisions.

SRC members were unavailable for comment.

'Coup' against Vaal Technikon vice-chancellor

By SIFELANI MLAMBO (54)

SUSPENDED VAAL Technikon rector and vice-chancellor Professor Aubrey Mokadi has accused colleagues of staging a coup against him while he was overseas on business.

Mokadi was this week served with a letter stating he had been suspended on full pay, pending the outcome of an investigation into allegations made by staff and students.

He said he felt he had been stabbed in the back by those who supported the decision to suspend him.

Mokadi said the coup against him was hatched by colleagues while he was overseas on technikon business.

No reason was given for his suspension.

"I was simply told to stay at home and never to set foot at the technikon unless called upon to do so," he said.

He said he was not formally told of the reasons for his suspension, but could only speculate that it was racially based because there were some people who were not comfortable with changes he was instituting at the technikon.

Mokadi said he had tried in vain to get the Technikon Council to shed some light on his suspension.

He said apart from being told he should be available during normal business hours for the purpose of investigations, he was in the dark.

"They are talking about an investigation, but I don't know what they are investigating," he said.

Mokadi said he had been told that students, and the technikon's academic staff, who are 95 percent white, had supported his suspension.

□ A spokesperson for the college was not available for comment, but a hearing on Mokadi's suspension will be held this week.

Varsity, Tech fees set to rise

ARCT 10/11/97

Debt-ridden campuses eye 1998 subsidies

SABAYA NGCA

EDUCATION REPORTER

University and Technikon fees could go up as much as 14% next year, forcing parents to dig deeper into their pockets to pay for their children's education.

The institutions are still in the dark as to how much their annual Government subsidies for next year will be.

Even the Tertiary Education Fund of South Africa - which manages and administers the National Students' Financial Aid Scheme - said it did not know how much would be made available for student loans next year.

One institution indicated that it could increase fees for next year from the proposed 8% to as much as 14.5% if the subsidy was lowered.

At Stellenbosch University, tuition fees will be increased by nine percent next year and residence fees will go up an average 8,6%.

Enrolling for a BA degree will cost R7 300 next year, while it will

cost R7 500 for a BComm and R8 100 for a BSc.

Medicine and dentistry will cost R11 800 for second to final year students.

Men's hostel fees will cost between R4 765 and R5 880 a year and fees for women's hostels between R4 620 and R5 375. For three meals a day from Monday to Friday students will pay between R3 250 and R3 260.

Meanwhile, the university is battling to recover more than R6-million owed by students.

Stellenbosch University's public relations officer Douglas Davis said students who did not pay their fees in full during the first year were not allowed to register the following year.

"A final-year student can graduate and even attend the graduation ceremony, but won't get a certificate," he said.

Course fees at the University of the Western Cape were R5 500 this year.

Next year BComm and BA degrees will each cost R5 765 a year

and a BSc R6 300, increases of between 4,8 and 14,5%.

The average cost for single rooms in residences was R7 250 and will go up to R7 500 next year.

A double room cost R6 750 this year and will remain the same price in 1998.

UWC is struggling to recover more than R50-million owed by students.

In 1995 student debt stood at R22-million, rising to R37-million last year.

The student representative council at the university plans to launch a Masakhane-type campaign in the new year to encourage students to pay.

Increases in fees at the University of Cape Town, where student debt stands at R22-million, are expected to be released early next month.

At Cape Technikon tuition and hostel fees are expected to increase by eight percent next year.

The Technikon said this was a conservative increase which was

still one percent below the inflation rate.

The institution had not yet been notified of its Government subsidy for next year.

Should it remain the same as 1997 or be decreased "the proposed eight percent will have to be re-examined and probably increased".

Students at the Technikon have run up overdue bills of more than R5 million this year, almost 60% more than what they owed last year.

The Technikon said almost 15% of annual fee income was outstanding at the end of each year.

The outstanding amount was handed over to lawyers but it took two to three years to recover 70% of what was owing.

At the Peninsula Technikon, where the accumulated debt for 1997 is about R13-million, fee increases are still being negotiated.

Vuyisa Mazwi-Tanga, vice-rector of student affairs, attributed the huge debt to the fact that some students made their payments only after they had finished their exams.

Medical research budget 'is inadequate'

(54) (R)
PRETORIA — The Medical Research Council's budget was far below the ideal minimum if required, council chairman William Makgoba said yesterday.

He said in his annual report released in Pretoria that the council's budget of R75m was only 0,15% of the amount its US counterpart received.

The council received 6% of SA's science budget. Similar bodies in the US and UK were granted 35% and 25% respectively.

If the council was given 23% to 25% of the science budget, its budget would be about R250m, Makgoba said.

"We believe that is the minimum ideal for medical research in SA."

BD 11/11/97
Makgoba said the council's scientists had made significant contributions to international medical research in the past year.

They had discovered the gene responsible for porphyria, a disease characterised by an abnormal metabolism.

They also pioneered studies which would make it possible to grow new bone.

Makgoba said the percentage of blacks in the council's staff had risen from 41% to 47% over the past three years.

The council's programme to encourage black students to do research during their academic studies had resulted in 73% of bursaries going to black students last year, compared with 43% in 1993. — Sapa.

Students 'caused damage of R4m'

Jacob Dlamini

CAPE TOWN — Tertiary institutions lost 100 days and suffered more than R4m in damage as a result of disruptions caused by students over a 12-month period from July last year, Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu said yesterday.

Figures released by Bengu show that the Eastern Cape technikon lost 34 teaching days between March and April after students seized the campus, took staff members hostage and stole the institution's vehicles.

In the same period, Fort Hare University lost 21 days after students disrupted lectures in protest at moves by the administration to increase fees.

The disruptions occurred mainly at the formerly black institutions, while the historically white campuses suffered minimal damage.

At Venda University students demonstrating against a fee increase broke down doors and forced the closure of the campus for 11 days.

North West University lost 14 days and suffered the worst damage when students went on a rampage, disrupting classes and looting the cafeteria.

There was widespread intimidation of students and teaching staff.

The disruption resulted in a loss of

R3,5m in salaries and wages.

Technikon Northern Gauteng outside Pretoria suffered R1,426m in damages when students looted 92 computers, destroyed kitchen equipment and stole various stock. The technikon has since laid theft charges against two students in whose rooms some of the stolen computers were found.

Fifteen days were lost at the University of Zululand when protesters demanded the registration of all students, including those who owed the university money.

Pretoria Technikon incurred damages estimated at R108 000 and lost one teaching day when students defied a court order and gathered on campus for a march to the Union Buildings without the rector's permission.

The universities of Natal and SA lost two days each and suffered damage of R66 367 as a result of student mass action.

Bengu also said that government had issued 66 940 loans and bursaries for tertiary study last year and 52 684 this year.

This year's packages, financed through the Tertiary Education Fund of SA, were worth R263,7m.

Government expected to finance more than 80 000 students next year to the tune of R500m.

Fawu leaders reject suspension

Reneé Grawitzky

TRANSVAAL branches of the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) have rejected a national executive committee decision to suspend regional leaders after violating the union's constitution, sources said yesterday.

On November 1 Fawu's national executive committee suspended the Transvaal regional leadership after it called for members' subscriptions to be diverted from the union's head office and put into a special account, pending the outcome of an investigation into the union's financial position.

Sources said the region had also questioned Alexander Forbes' assistance to the union in resolving its financial position and establishing proper financial administration systems.

The resolution also called on the Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) to intervene in the current tensions over financial mismanagement.

The national executive committee decided to take strong action against the Transvaal regional leadership for allegedly acting unconstitutionally by trying to divert union funds from head office.

Union sources indicated the subscriptions from the Transvaal region accounted for close to half of the union's monthly income of R1,2m.

Fawu head office advised Transvaal branches and regions that the suspension of the regions' leadership "was taken in the interests of protecting the funds of our members against any form of corruption or fraudulent actions".

Union sources said the national office bearers had briefed the branches about the suspensions and would effectively put the region under the control of the Cape Town head office pending an investigation to ascertain how this resolution had been reached.

Suspended Transvaal leaders intend to meet today or tomorrow.

Threat of strike at Vaal

(54)

Technikon

Star 11/11/97

BY TFO MOTHIBELI

Enraged staff and students at the Vaal Triangle Technikon in Vanderbijlpark have threatened to go on a strike and to boycott classes over Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu's intervention in the suspension of rector Professor Aubrey Mokadi.

Mokadi was suspended on full pay on October 31 by the technikon council. A string of allegations against him are being investigated.

On Friday Bengu and Mokadi met Chrizaane van Eeden, chairman of the technikon council and her deputy, Shirley Tsepetsi. At that meeting Bengu asked that Mokadi's suspension be reviewed.

"We believe that the minister is interfering unfairly in the matter," said a member of the staff who did not wish to be named. "His involvement so far leaves much to be desired compared to how he dealt with the allegations against the former rector of the institution, Professor Pieter du Plessis."

Said another staff member: "We believe that a legal process should go ahead in probing the

**Minister
Bengu is
accused of
unfair
interference**

allegations against him and then his fate should rest on the findings and not the discretion of the minister, whose friendship (with Mokadi) is common knowledge."

However, Thami Mseleku, Bengu's adviser, said yesterday that Bengu had requested the meeting with Van Eeden because he was concerned that the proper legal procedures were not followed before Mokadi was suspended.

Meanwhile, Mokadi has accused his colleagues of "staging a coup" against him while he was overseas on an official technikon trip.

Mokadi claims his suspension is a conspiracy with racial overtones, orchestrated by people uncomfortable with the changes he has initiated at the institution.

According to documents submitted to the Technikon council, Mokadi has been accused of giving the institution "a banana-republic image" by allegedly involving members of his family in the affairs of the institution.

He is also being accused of ordering "abnormal salary raises" for certain staff members and of increasing his own housing allowance without following proper procedures.

Last night Mokadi refuted all the allegations levelled against him..

Inquiry into rector to get underway

See item 12/11/97 (54)

Mokadi, however, says most of the charges against him were approved by council

By Victor Mecoamere

ADVOCATE Lionel Lapidos is expected to conduct a formal investigation, starting Friday, into allegations by the staff and students of the Vaal Triangle Technikon against its suspended rector, Professor Aubrey Mokadi.

Attorney Anastasia Vatalidas started with the preliminary investigation on Monday and is expected to assist Lapidos in the matter.

Rector and vice-chancellor Mokadi was suspended with full pay by the technikon's council on October 31 pending the outcome of the investigation. Professor PA Swanepoel has been appointed acting rector.

Technikon spokesman Mr Sugan Nair has declined to comment on the allegations.

However, a disgruntled staff representative in the National Union of Technikon Staff Association (Nutesa) said the allegations include unhappiness by the staff and students over the transformation process at the institution, the involvement of Mokadi's family in the technikon's affairs, allocation of technikon security personnel to the rector, his overseas trips, his acquisition of a second car, and nepo-

tism.

The staffer, who is also a Nutesa executive committee member and has asked to remain anonymous, claimed staff and students were also unhappy about maladministration, intimidation of staff and unfair labour practices.

Mokadi has refuted the allegations and has counter-charged that the council itself needed to be investigated because "most of the things the union is complaining about were approved by the council".

The staffer said Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu was alleged, "against procedure", to have met Mokadi and two council members last Friday.

Bengu's spokesman Mr Khume Kangala said yesterday that he understood that the meeting was in fact procedural.

The National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union is apparently opposed to the suspension and has reportedly written to Bengu to intervene.

Meanwhile, the technikon's chancellor, Gauteng Premier Tokyo Sexwale, is only expected to comment when the investigation is complete.

UCT'S historic language merger

Afrikaans and African departments to combine

(54) ART 12/11/97

SABATA NGCAI
EDUCATION REPORTER

The University of Cape Town's departments of Afrikaans and African languages are planning a historic merger.

It will be the first South African tertiary institution to bridge the language divide when it formally merges the departments of Afrikaans Netherlands and African languages and literatures in the next

two years. The merger was announced at a joint press conference yesterday by the heads of the two departments, Sizwe Satyo and Henning Shyman.

Professor Satyo and Professor Shyman said the initiative would help to promote multilingualism at UCT and in the country as a whole and end black-white divisions. The departments were linked by their roots in Africa and by a common striving towards multilingualism.

The initiative was taken by the African languages department, which felt that Afrikaans was an African language and should be given the same status as other African languages.

"Since Afrikaans is an African language, it makes sense for it to be taught and researched with other African languages in a department of languages in Africa," said Professor Satyo.

"Already plans are afoot for the two departments to offer joint honours courses."

He said the significance of the initiative would be "to expose our students to the multilingual nature not only of UCT but of the country as a whole".

To Professor Shyman, the significance of the initiative was a clear message that Afrikaans was not the language of the oppressor and that UCT recognised it as a language of Africa. The plan was also significant

as a catalyst to bridge the racial divide.

"We want to tell the students that we are moving towards a nation where black and white divisions will gradually fade away," Professor Shyman said.

He emphasised his department was not cutting ties with Dutch. The department still got students from the Netherlands, England and America who were interested in Afrikaans and African languages.

SABATA NGCAI

The merger of the departments of Afrikaans and of African languages at the University of Cape Town has met mixed reaction from other universities.

"It is interesting to me, as well as disturbing, to hear about a proposed merger," said Wannie Carstens,

head of Afrikaans at the University of Potchefstroom.

"Language departments are autonomous and should remain so, because every language has its scientific content.

"We don't have any plans to combine our departments at the moment. This has nothing to do with racism. Combining them won't work

at this stage.

"In order to improve the scientific standard of each department we had better remain apart.

"I know the merger of the African and Afrikaans languages could make sense politically, but I am against it academically."

Professor Carstens said that to label Afrikaans a language of the

oppressor was old hat. Maybe in the past this made sense, but it had no meaning nowadays.

The present situation was the other way around. "Afrikaans is the language of the oppressed," he said.

"It is getting a lot of pressure from the government. Even on television the use of the language is being scaled down."

Spokesmen for other universities said that there was growing co-operation between their language departments, but that mergers were not on the cards.

Stellenbosch University was not considering a merger, but there was growing co-operation between the two departments, said Rufus Gouws, acting head of Afrikaans.

We'll co-operate but we won't unite, say other universities

Cape Town University set to merge language departments

Linda Ensor

CAPE TOWN — Cape Town University is to merge its Afrikaans and Nederlands studies department with that of African languages and literature, to create a department devoted to all African languages.

The merger, which had the strong backing of vice-chancellor Mamphele Ramphele, was likely to take effect from 1999, but still required the approval of the university authorities, a university spokesman said yesterday. It follows plans to change the

boundaries of faculties and departments and to develop a network of academic programmes at the university.

African languages departmental head Prof Sizwe Satyo said: "Since Afrikaans is an African language, it makes sense for it to be taught and researched together with other African languages in a department of languages of Africa. Already plans are afoot for the two departments to offer joint honours courses."

Afrikaans department head, Prof Henning Snyman said that the new department

recognised that Afrikaans, while having its roots in Europe, developed in Africa and should therefore be seen as one of the languages of Africa.

The departments would continue teaching all their present courses and were working on additional courses in literature, having discovered a variety of common themes. Other possibilities included courses in translation and post-graduate courses on Africa as a literary topic.

Dutch would continue to be taught, Snyman emphasised.

(54)

BD 12/11/97

Afrikaans comes in from the cold

54

TROYE LUND
EDUCATION WRITER

AFRIKAANS has come into its own in Africa. At least it has at the University of Cape Town, which has decided to recognise *die taal* (the language) as an African language.

"Afrikaans has a legitimate place in South Africa, it is an African language and mother tongue to many Black South Africans. It must no longer be seen as the language of the oppressor," head of UCT's Department of Afrikaans en Nederlands, Professor Henning Snyman said yesterday, stressing how the role of Dutch in the Afrikaans language had been over-emphasised.

Instead of being a European language, UCT will preserve and develop Afrikaans as a language that belongs to Africa. This will be done

by marrying the departments of Afrikaans and Netherlands and African Languages and Literature.

After a controversial proposal earlier this year to reduce the status of Afrikaans at UCT, academics from both departments described the merger as symbolic in that it finally placed Afrikaans in a context that it should always have been an African one.

Snyman said that UCT was no longer prepared to pay lip-service to South Africa being a multi-lingual country.

"The merger will guarantee the upkeep and development of Afrikaans, it will bolster the language and open it up after having been closed for so long," he said.

The idea to link the two departments and highlight their common African roots as part of a drive for

multi-linguism in South Africa was the brainchild of the Professor Sizwe Satyo, head of the African Languages and Literature department.

He said: "If we continue to condemn each language for its political baggage, we would end up being a silent multi-lingual country."

"It makes sense for Afrikaans to be taught and researched as an African language in a department of languages."

"Already moves are afoot to offer joint honours courses."

Despite its new identity, the ties of Afrikaans with Europe will not be severed completely — Dutch will still be offered to students.

Snyman said: "By maintaining our links to Europe, we will also attract foreign students who have shown a great interest in studying the languages of Africa and coming

to grips with the African mystique."

Other gains that the merger holds include the possibility of combining common interest in themes relating to Africa, and the possibility of developing new areas of study between the departments.

Expertise will also be shared between the departments and the repetition resulting from identical courses being run in both departments will be eliminated.

The merger is in line with the restructuring of UCT to become a world-class African university.

It is also in line with plans to change the boundaries between faculties and departments, so that a network of academic programmes can be offered to students instead of rigidly constructed degrees that are limited to a single faculty or department.

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UCT to bridge the language gap

Star 12/11/97
OWN CORRESPONDENT

The University of Cape Town's departments of Afrikaans and African languages are planning a historic merger.

It will be the first South African tertiary institution to bridge the language divide when it formally merges the departments in the next two years.

The merger was announced at a joint press conference yesterday by the heads of the departments of Afrikaans, Netherlands and African languages and literatures, Henning Snyman and Sizwe Satyo. They said the initiative would help to promote and encourage multilingualism at UCT and in the country as a whole, and end black-white divisions.

The initiative was taken by the African languages department, which felt that Afrikaans was an African language and should be given the same status as other African languages.

54

Rector to contest his suspension

(54) Sowetan 11/11/97

By Russel Molefe

THE DECISION to indefinitely suspend Vaal Technikon rector Professor Aubrey Mokadi was taken a day before the institution's council met to deliberate on his fate, according to documents in *Sowetan's* possession.

Deputy chairwoman of the council, a Mrs Sefetsi, and representatives of the white-dominated National Union of Technikon Staff Associations (Nutesa) met on October 30 and agreed to suspend Mokadi the following day.

This was after Nutesa threatened to go on strike if the rector was not suspended.

Mokadi, who became the first rector of the technikon in July last year, was overseas on business when Nutesa raised allegations against him.

He came back on October 31 – the day the council was to convene an emergency meeting and found his office locked and files removed, *Sowetan* was told.

Mr Segal Nair, a spokesman for the technikon, declined to comment, saying the matter was *sub judice*.

Nutesa officials also refused to speak about the matter.

After the council meeting on October 31, a letter was hand-delivered to Mokadi informing him of the suspension.

Mokadi refutes allegations

However, the letter did not stipulate the reasons for his suspension.

It is believed that Mokadi was suspended on the basis of allegations raised by Nutesa in a memorandum sent to the council on October 21.

The allegations included unhappiness over transformation and involvement of the rector's family in technikon affairs.

However, Mokadi refuted the allegations, saying the council was aware of all the affairs at the technikon such as salary increases.

"I'm receiving legal advice with the view of taking the council to court. The council needs to be investigated as well on these allegations because most of the things the union is complaining about were approved by the council.

"I'm also not going to cooperate with the council in the investigations because of the manner it handled this matter. I will only cooperate with an independent body," Mokadi said.

The National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union has written to Education Minister Professor S'busiso Bhengu asking for his intervention.

ROBBERIES BETWEEN LECTURES

UCT students arrested for car hijackings

C.T. 13/11/97 (54)

POLICE BELIEVE three student yuppies went on a rampage of violent crime between their University of Cape Town lectures, in an amazing "cowboys and crooks" game that lasted for six weeks. **DAN SIMON** reports.

THE two brothers were unlike most of their fellow students at the University of Cape Town. They lived like young executives, with fast cars, a trendy apartment and flashy clothes.

To their social sciences classmates, they probably came across as confident, sometimes brash young men who breezed through life without a care in the world.

Little did they know.

Last Tuesday, the brothers were arrested in connection with a recent spate of car hijackings in which seven luxury vehicles worth nearly R1 million were stolen over a six-week period.

A Cape Technikon optometry student was also held, as an alleged accomplice.

They were arrested at a luxury flat in Claremont, soon after allegedly hijacking a BMW 316i at gunpoint from a Mowbray car salesman.

Members of the SA Police Service's hijacking unit tracked the three to upmarket Cavendish Heights, where the brothers shared a R290 000 apartment belonging to their father, who is a prominent medical doctor and district surgeon in Durban.

They lived rent-free in their plush digs, and each drove a Nissan Maxima and received a monthly

Armed hijackings:

CARS taken from salesmen at gunpoint.

- September 23: BMW 328i, R163 000, Waterfront.
- October 9: BMW 328i, R240 000, Durbanville.
- October 15: Audi A4 2.8, R145 000, Bellville.
- October 16: VW Golf GTi, R100 000, Goodwood.
- November 1: VW Golf GTi, R85 000, Wynberg.
- November 1: VW Golf GSX, R47 000, Milnerton.
- November 4: BMW 316i, R115 000, Mowbray.

allowance of R800.

In the flat, police found a .38 Special snub-nose revolver, a number of wigs, several smart suits and cellphones allegedly used in the hijackings.

A stolen BMW 328i that had been hijacked a few days earlier was found hidden in a private lock-up garage.

The brothers appeared in court last Friday in connection with schedule five offences — for which they could receive life imprisonment if found guilty — and were granted bail.

They are due to appear at an

identity parade either today or tomorrow.

When UCT received inquiries about the students' arrests, vice-chancellor Dr Mamphela Ramphele issued a provisional order barring them from campus until the conclusion of their case.

"We view this in a most serious light. Students involved in hijackings are not wanted on campus," said UCT communications director Ms Helen Zille.

The vice-rector of student support services at the Cape Technikon, Dr Mandla Tshabalala, said the technikon was unaware of the criminal case pending against one of its students. He said the technikon would decide what steps to take once it had looked into the matter.

Details of the trio's alleged six-week crime spree unfolded yesterday when police said the spate of armed hijackings began on September 23 and ended on November 4.

Some of the seven luxury vehicles stolen over this period had been sold for as little as R5 000 to members of a national car theft syndicate operating a chop-shop in Reservoir Hills, Durban, from where they were sold as spares or smuggled out of the country.

The police allege that the students carefully planned and coordinated the hijackings, most of which were carried out between lectures.

The three allegedly used cellphones to keep in touch during

□ To Page 10

Took girlfriends for rides in stolen cars

□ From Page 1
their operations.

Wearing wigs and posing as import/export businessmen from Dubai, the students would be dropped off at various car dealerships to test-drive cars.

Once away from the showroom, they would pull a gun and tell the dumbstruck salesman: "This is a hijacking. Get out."

In one incident, one suspect allegedly test-drove three cars belonging to a Waterfront car dealer before forcing the salesman out at gunpoint.

One hijacked salesman said: "He shook my hand and introduced himself as Faizel Patel. He said he was looking for a BMW 328i convertible and wanted the Montreal blue model with beige interior ... The wig looked quite real."

The salesman said the hijacker settled for a maroon model, which he stole 15 minutes after they met.

A detective said: "I think they were playing cowboys and crooks, motivated by greed, even though they did not need the money."

"They drove Maximas which were paid for by their father and they each got R800 a month pocket money. Even the flat was paid for."

The detective also said that the suspects took their girlfriends for joyrides in the stolen vehicles before driving them to Durban. Once money changed hands, they flew back to Cape Town.

"They would hijack between classes, around 2pm."

But there was a different side to the brothers. Neighbours in the block of flats said they were neighbourly, and even helped to push-start cars in the complex when they failed to start.

● Mr Ravindren Naidoo, 21, Mr Yoshen Naidoo, 20, and Mr Jayesh Laloo, 20, have appeared in the Bellville Magistrate's Court in connection with seven charges of car hijacking. They were released on bail of R15 000, R10 000 and R5 000 respectively.

UDW wage agreement

Farouk Chothia

SD 14/11/97

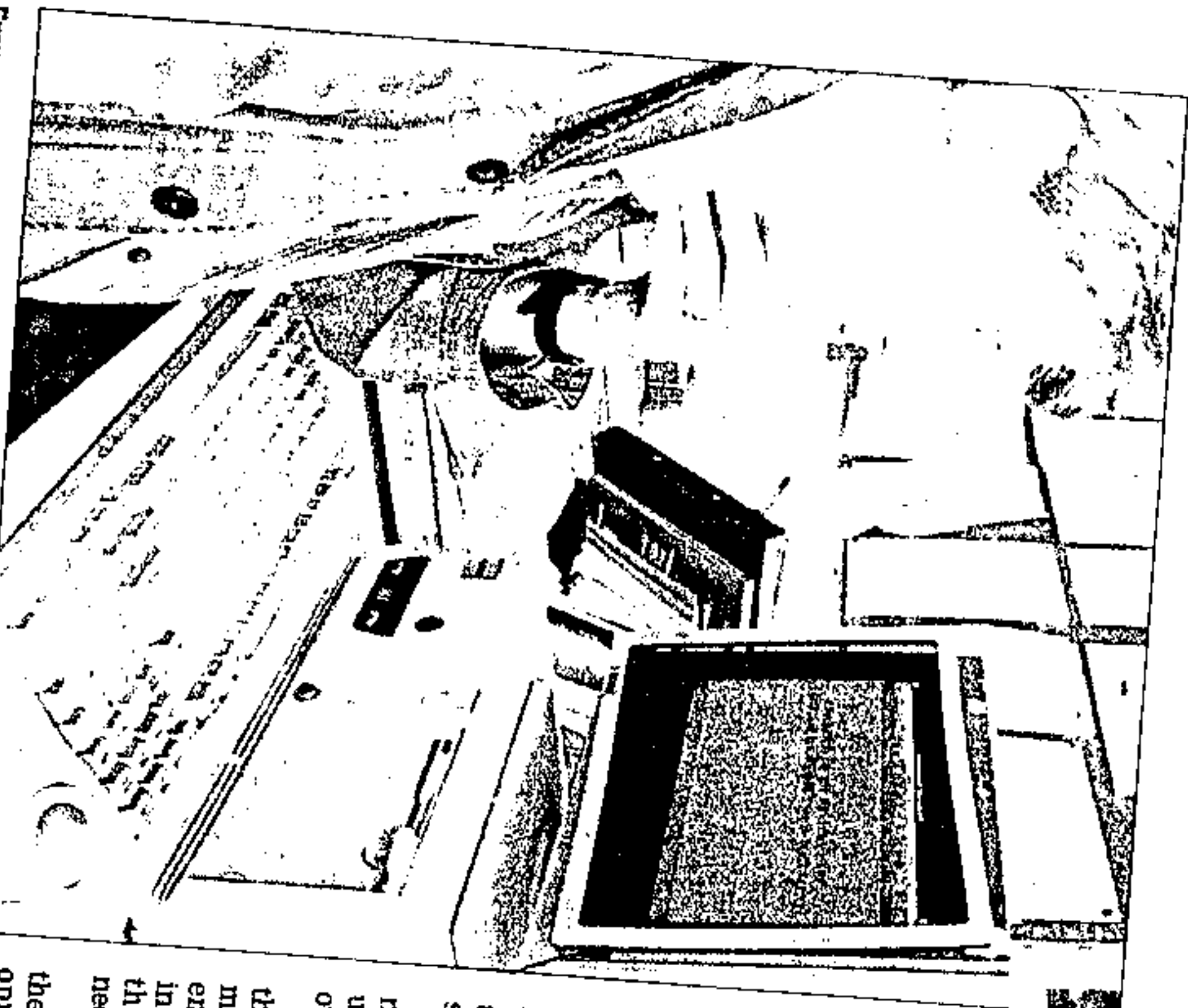
(54)

DURBAN — A landmark agreement which guarantees all staff at the conflict-ridden University of Durban-Westville Consumer Price Index (CPI)-related salary increases until 2000 had been negotiated, the staff union and management announced yesterday.

The agreement would be renegotiated if at any stage over the next four years the CPI, a measure of inflation, value fell below 6% or exceeded 10%.

The union, the Combined Staff Association, hailed the agreement as a framework for "salary-related industrial peace" on the campus and as a "trailblazer" for other tertiary institutions.

The university's acting public affairs director Kiru Naidoo said the agreement ruled out the possibility of annual salary-related disputes.



Empowering amaXhosa: Terry Volbrecht, who is keen to enhance the status of Xhosa at the University of the Western Cape

Tackling the language nettle

Universities working out own policies

WENETTE HETTERLI
STAFF REPORTER

All students have the right to choose their language of learning, according to Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu, yet no South African universities offer mother-tongue lectures for black students.

However, in anticipation of national guidelines to change this, universities are working out their own language policies.

In the case of the University of the Western Cape, individual staff members are trying to find ways to empower Xhosa-speakers in the interests of what they believe are the country's future academic needs.

Terry Volbrecht, chairman of the university's Academic Development Centre (ADC), is one of them. Elevating Xhosa to an academic standard is of great concern to him because he believes that using English to conduct classes handi-

caps Xhosa-speaking students, who make up more than half of the student body.

"Research suggests that students benefit from discussing their work in their own language and that in having to write in English they are confronted with difficulties they would not have when using Xhosa," Mr Volbrecht says.

"We see how students suffer when using a language that isn't their own."

Mr Volbrecht argues that if the ideal of classes conducted in Xhosa is an overly ambitious goal, lecturers should at least be capable of speaking fluent Xhosa to enable them to translate complicated aspects of study, or give examples, in the language.

In May this year the ADC organised a workshop for lecturers and students to share ideas and experiences about multi-linguism at UWC.

So far, this has resulted in a few lecturers using Xhosa in class, some of whom have had to learn

the language themselves. Marike du Toit, a history lecturer, is experimenting in teaching in Xhosa, while learning the language herself. Most of her students are Xhosa-speaking, and she tries to speak to them in their mother tongue when she sees them individually or in small Xhosa-speaking groups. The students speak Xhosa to her.

Dr Du Toit thinks this method makes a difference that goes beyond helping students on an academic level.

"It is not only about language, it is about culture. Using their first language means the students can bring their own identity to class in a way they wouldn't otherwise do."

Dr Du Toit believes that using English only obstructs discussion of certain cultural issues "because the language simply is not rich enough."

"I ask a student to define a concept in his own language and a whole different way of thinking enters the class."

Dr Du Toit is one of a mere handful of lecturers working in this way. Mr Volbrecht estimates that no more than five out of more than 450 lecturers use Xhosa as a medium of instruction.

"The biggest obstacle is resources," Mr Volbrecht says. "The university's governing body is not enthusiastic about the idea of multi-linguism. They consider it too complicated and too expensive."

Social attitudes towards Xhosa is another obstacle, according to the researcher. He claims that even Xhosa-speaking students themselves see English as the language of power. Others are suspicious of promoting Xhosa as a medium of instruction since the apartheid government did the same.

It is not until social attitudes change, Mr Volbrecht believes, that language policy itself will be an effective agent of change. "Linguistic change will follow social change, not the other way around."

ART 20/11/97 (54)

Academics must admit their guilt

The higher education sector that laid the basis for a racially discriminatory curriculum inexplicably fails to appear before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to right its past wrongs. **William Makgoba** comments...



A WIDE cross-section of South African society has witnessed and made submissions to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Some have been shocking and others posed more questions than answers.

Whether they constitute the truth or are a simple catharsis of our past, only history will judge. However, there can be no doubt that the TRC for many years to come will remain a voice of conscience to our society.

It has made a seminal contribution to understanding our society, its past and its transformation dilemmas in a dispassionate manner. As a nation we should take pride in it.

Many have graced the TRC stage – from senior politicians, media owners, the judiciary, the medical profession, business and churches to individual citizens who suffered, participated consciously or witnessed the tortures of our past.

Our curriculum has produced racists

Major sectors of civil society made their submissions largely to contribute to a better understanding of our past, to apologise or to say they did not do enough to oppose the brutal institutionalised racism of our society.

But one major sector that is critical has remained totally silent and this is worrying. This is the sector that constitutes the common thread and foundation of all our civil institutions.

It is the one piece that completes the jigsaw puzzle: this is the education sector, particularly the higher education sector as represented by universities, technikons and colleges of education.

This is the sector that laid the foundations of a racially discriminatory or apartheid curriculum.

What is common between a judge, a doctor, a politician, a policeman, a priest, a journalist and the ordinary citizen is the type of education they received or the curriculum that provided the foundations of their education.

Why is the curriculum such a critical issue? The curriculum of a nation is a statement and fingerprint of its values, its cultural orientation, its patterns of behaviour and it trains its citizenry.

The curriculum systematically guides the transmission of information and knowledge, reinforces the desire to learn/know and, most importantly, encourages the internalisation of certain types of behaviour or attitudes.

Any distortion, falsehood or misrepresentation of these three principles will lead to the desired product.

If, for example, the curriculum is centred on Africa, the internalisation and adoption of behaviour and attitudes will be that of Africans. If it is centred on Europe, the respective adoption of behaviour or attitudes will ensue.

More significantly, if the assumptions underlying the curriculum are false or distorted in terms of race, gender or power relationships, the citizens who are the products of the system will

mirror these distortions.

In a country where the citizen mistrusts and lacks confidence in the judiciary, churches, police, the media, academics and the medical profession, there must be a common structural factor that cuts across all of these.

That common thread is our curriculum. Our curriculum has produced a society of racist, gender-insensitive, educated crooks and criminals.

That is why education remains such a critical and contested issue in any society for the invisible effects on the minds of people are profound by their visibility later on and the sort of choices, biases and ethics they practice.

The seeds of the racially discriminatory curriculum were laid by the British and their missionaries. The Afrikaners, through Dr Hendrik Verwoerd, not only refined the curriculum later but also implemented it openly and ruthlessly under the apartheid regime.

A historian summarised the history of 200 years of British imported ideas in education: "Schools for Africans were founded throughout South Africa by English-speaking missionaries.

"These schools sought to mould black Christian communities along European lines, in the process often alienating them from their own people.

"In English-language schools, the emphasis on British values inhibited the growth of a common South African culture ... Dutch, and later Afrikaans, was scorned and African languages were ignored.

"The private and more elite government schools tended to foster both a class and a race consciousness." These are the assumptions that have guided the curriculum and education of our citizens for over 344 years.

While the British and their descendants did not constitutionalise this curriculum, they nevertheless continued to practise it quietly. Because it was practised quietly, it was often confused with "liberal" education.

Is it not time that this sector makes a submission to the TRC

This is known as quiet diplomacy or the British way. An honest historical analysis of most English-speaking institutions would confirm the rampant racism and sexism that is still prevalent.

It will also often show how some of these institutions were even more advanced than the apartheid regime itself in seeking discriminatory practices.

The seeds of all our woes were sown in the curriculum of the last three centuries. All that the new dispensation has done is provide the fertile environment for the phenotype to flourish.

The historical function of our curriculum was to mould the African psyche along European lines, to ensure that the educated African was alienated

from his roots.

Through this education an African could compete from a position of weakness. This was meant first to discriminate, then produce unequal power relationships that became the basis of apartheid.

As products of colonial powers and later apartheid, our institutions of learning continued to refine, promote and support white supremacy to varying degrees. This is consistent with one fundamental characteristic of primate behaviour: hierarchical dominance.

Education under the British and recently Christian education under the National Party shared these features. The British used civilisation, the Afrikaner Christianity as slogans to disguise the real intentions or assumptions of the curriculum.

The curriculum of a nation is a statement

The most important sector that drove these ideas and theories of our curriculum were academics and intellectuals who ruled universities, technikons and colleges. They are in the business of knowledge/information production and dissemination. The order of the day relied on these experts to arrive at our curriculum.

They laid down the foundations of race relations, accorded privileges to certain sectors while confining the majority to the dustbins of history.

They provided the theoretical assumptions and moral justifications that became the basis of our education in all spheres.

They trained teachers, other academics and the professional class. And, directly or indirectly, their teachings and actions contributed significantly to human rights abuses that arose from these abnormal behavioural patterns.

Their choices are what determined the content of our curriculum. They were the gatekeepers of what is good or wrong in our education.

In short their decisions and subsequent education determined to a large extent the internalised behaviour of our citizens.

Is it not time that this sector now makes a submission to the TRC and spells out its role during what can only be described as the dark days of our country?

The Committee of University Principals and Committee of Technikon Principals were responsible for guiding our higher education during this period.

Some of our universities even defended the standards of this pernicious education. Many academics used pseudo-science and pseudo-religion to support racial discrimination.

This sector owes the nation a full disclosure of how their shortsighted activities and curriculum contributed, directly or indirectly, to gross human violations against the oppressed members of our society.

(The writer is a professor of molecular immunology at Wits University.)

Higher educational institutions are the only major bodies that have not given evidence before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, but they have much to answer for, writes William Makgoba



Academia should also be made to face the music

A wide cross-section of South African society has witnessed and made submissions to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Some of the submissions have been shocking, others illuminating, others posing more questions than answers and others even questioning the truth itself.

Whether the submissions constitute the truth or are a simple catharsis of our past, only history will judge. However, there can be no doubt that the TRC will for many years remain a voice of conscience for our society. It will become the archive from which a better history and future of our society will emanate. The TRC has made a seminal contribution to understanding our society, its past and its transformation dilemmas in a dispassionate manner. As a nation we should take pride in it and its process.

That is why education remains such a critical and contested issue in any society for its invisible effects at the level of people's minds are profound by their visibility later on in their behavioural patterns and the sort of choices and ethics they practice. Excellent bad education breeds excellent bad citizens. The seeds of racially discriminatory curriculum were laid by the British and their missionaries, and not the Dutch settlers as is often be-

lieved. The Afrikaners, through Dr Hendrik Verwoerd not only refined the curriculum later, but also implemented it openly and ruthlessly under the apartheid regime. The historian Lambert made the following salient comments: "Schools for Africans were founded throughout South Africa by English-speaking missionaries. These schools sought to mould black Chris-

only come as a shock to those who were under the illusion that they were receiving "liberal" education. What escaped them is that there can be no liberal education in an illiberal society, and South Africa has been such an illiberal society for over three centuries. However, what our curriculum has proven with singular success is how easy and possible it is through "education" to produce national psychosis, madness, laziness or even corruption. The seeds of all our

Party shared these features. The British (English-speaking) used civilisation, the Afrikaner Christianity as slogans both to disguise the real intentions or assumptions of the curriculum. The Afrikaner was overt about his discrimination while the English were covert. Those who drove the ideas and theories of our curriculum were the academics and intellectuals who ruled our universities, technicians and colleges. They are in the business of knowledge/information production and dissemination. The order of the day relied on these experts to arrive at our curriculum. They provided the theoretical assumptions and moral justifications that became the basis of our education in all spheres of our lives. They had the authority to interpret and filter all incoming forms of information/knowledge and other influences in order to decide what constituted knowledge and information for education for the nation.

Seeds of racially discriminatory education laid by British missionaries, not the Dutch

Education under the British and recently Christian national education under the National Party shared these features. The British (English-speaking) used civilisation, the Afrikaner Christianity as slogans both to disguise the real intentions or assumptions of the curriculum. The Afrikaner was overt about his discrimination while the English were covert. Those who drove the ideas and theories of our curriculum were the academics and intellectuals who ruled our universities, technicians and colleges. They are in the business of knowledge/information production and dissemination. The order of the day relied on these experts to arrive at our curriculum. They provided the theoretical assumptions and moral justifications that became the basis of our education in all spheres of our lives. They had the authority to interpret and filter all incoming forms of information/knowledge and other influences in order to decide what constituted knowledge and information for education for the nation.

These are the assumptions that have guided the curriculum and education of our citizens for more than 344 years. A detailed and honest historical analysis of most English-speaking institutions would not only confirm the rampant racism and sexism still prevalent, but would often show how some of these institutions were even more advanced than the apartheid regime itself in seeking discriminatory practices. This can

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compete from a position of weakness. This was meant first to discriminate, then produce unequal power relationships that became the basis of apartheid - the "baas-boey" or "madam-girl" relationships. As products of colonial powers, and later apartheid, our institutions of learning continued to refine, promote and support white supremacy of varying degrees. This is consistent with one fundamental characteristic of primate behaviour: hierarchical dominance and a tendency to imitate.

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Keeping you in the picture
Every Friday...
...the Truth and Reconciliation Commission...
...will be...
...of William Makgoba...
...W/S/SALMR.

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Star 21/11/97

HEMBA HADEBE



Coming clean ... educationists provided a theoretical basis to the dark days of the past, says Makgoba, who believes that academics should make submissions to the Truth Commission.

'Worst possible rector' for Maties

Gustav Thiel

A strong lobby of lecturers and students at the University of Stellenbosch is calling for the head of rector Professor Andreas van Wyk, who they accuse of being autocratic and defeating efforts to transform the university.

Van Wyk, who has been embroiled in a number of controversies since taking charge of the university in 1990, is described by a member of the university's 1996 Students' Representative Council, who dealt with him on a daily basis, as "a highly immature person who constantly allows personal feelings to influence his better judgment, which ultimately could destroy the image of the university".

In June 1996, Van Wyk angered senior lecturers when he personally approved windfall cheques of between R127 000 and R200 000 for himself and five senior administrative staff members. The payouts were in lieu of sab-

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batical leave, he said. Van Wyk was later cleared of any wrongdoing.

Van Wyk then angered lecturers in the arts faculty when he told them that 58 posts would have to be cut this year. While the matter is under discussion, some lecturers say they do not approve of the way he announced his unilateral decision.

Students say while Van Wyk professes that he supports free speech, he makes it very difficult for a culture of openness to prevail at the university.

A senior staff member of the student's newspaper, *Die Matie*, says Van Wyk regularly calls writers to complain about articles in the paper and to ask them to explain their actions.

A senior lecturer in the arts department says: "It is absolutely scary how much Van Wyk knows about the personal affairs of students."

The transformation process at the university, for which Van Wyk is responsible, was put under a spotlight

this week when six lecturers — Annie Gagiano, Ermien van Pletzen, Sue Nuttall, Rob Gaylard and Edwin Hees of the English department and Mhlobo Jadizweni of the African languages department — raised concerns about the process.

In a letter addressed to the university's strategic planning committee, the lecturers — who say they have the support of the majority of staff in the arts faculty — raised "urgent questions" about "the working of and the inter-relationships among the committee, the management of the university generally and the university council specifically".

They say the biggest stumbling block in the way of making Stellenbosch's transformation process credible is that the planning committee "omits certain important and highly relevant groupings and persons".

"Stellenbosch is still ruled by a white clique controlled by Van Wyk, who is a relic from the past and is con-

sidered by many open-minded people at the university as the major stumbling block for change," Gagiano says.

"It is extremely unfortunate and inappropriate that the strategic-planning committee is so overwhelmingly white. As far as public image is concerned, the way it is presently constituted undermines its avowed aims. Additionally, a much better gender balance is required... the hierarchy of the power to implement decisions remains shrouded in obscurity."

Gagiano says that while Van Wyk is only an *ex officio* member of the committee, he "sabotages" its meetings by "manipulating" members to agree to his plans.

"It is common knowledge that Van Wyk gets what he wants at the university. The problem is that he is the worst possible rector for the university at this time of change," she says.

Van Wyk says he only attended three of the five meetings of the committee and denied manipulating them.

He added that the committee "is a working committee which can only operate if numbers are kept small. The institutional forum to be established

will enjoy wider representation."

Werner Scholtz, the rector's personal assistant who works in the rectorate, replied in a scathing letter to Gagiano.

He calls her a "prima donna" who "snipes from the side, causing disparate feelings and reactions".

Scholtz adds: "University colleagues enjoy sniping at each other, that being a prima donna seems to be a desirable state rather than a lamentable one; and that the mountains around us have some claustrophobic influence among staff members."

Gagiano says Scholtz's letter shows how little concern the rector has for his opponents. "It is not as if we only raise these concerns now. We have been concerned with Van Wyk's actions for some time and think he should go. Our only concern is that Stellenbosch transforms in line with what is happening in the rest of the country."

Van Wyk says he is not aware of a lobby calling for his head, but adds that Scholtz's views "certainly do not represent those of the rector or the university" since Scholtz is only a personal assistant to him.

'Creative uncertainty' over cuts

Andy Duffy

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Universities and technikons are bracing for the worst as they await news of how the government plans to spend its money on campuses next year.

Several institutions warned this week that they expect a cut in their government funding, and are already making plans to axe staff, scrap courses, and hike student fees.

Such moves could trigger a fresh round of the protests that disrupted campuses across the country earlier this year. Some principals also warn that their cash-strapped institutions may find themselves unable to accommodate thousands of would-be students.

The Department of Education, which over the next few days will be briefing institutions individually about their 1998 subsidies, remains resolutely optimistic, saying it hopes cuts can be avoided. But newly appointed deputy director general for higher education, Nasima Badsha, says funding at best will remain at current levels. The main obstacle to more funding is the belt-tightening forced by the ambitious targets of the state's Growth, Employment and Redistribution strategy (Gear).

"In the current climate I'm not optimistic about any increase," Badsha says. "Maybe we can maintain at current levels. We wouldn't like to see a drop."

Government subsidies are the major funding source for tertiary education, with the rest drawn from student fees and the private sector.

MTG 28/11-4/12/97
The total subsidy this year stood at R4,88-billion — an average funding level of 65,6% (a percentage of the total subsidy due under a long-running funding formula). Many universities and technikons have drawn up budgets and cost-cutting plans on the assumption that the funding level will be cut to 60% for 1998.

"Most of them would dearly like to see funding maintained at current levels," says Jos Grobbelaar of the South African Universities Vice-Chancellors Association. "But there is a fear funds will drop. There will be greater and greater pressure on campuses and it will be totally impossible to meet demand."

Wits University is cutting staff through natural attrition but does not rule out retrenchments. It is also reviewing courses. "The bottom line is that there comes a time when you have to analyse whether you can afford to keep a course that is nice to have," a representative says.

Stellenbosch is hoping for the same level of subsidy as last year, but is budgeting for 60%. "Any decline in subsidy must be balanced by an increase in student fees," operations vice-rector Christo Viljoen says. "This could ultimately put university study, because of high student fees, beyond the means of the average South African."

Stellenbosch is two years into a four-year job-cutting programme, focussed mainly on non-teaching staff. The university is also planning to share library facilities, laboratory equipment and part-time teaching staff with other Western Cape ter-

tiary institutions. The University of the Western Cape, saddled with a R50-million student debt, is increasing fees by 10%. But most of its efforts will focus on cutting staff costs, which account for 70% of its spending.

The University of the North is basing its 1998 budget on its current subsidy level. But vice-chancellor Njabulo Ndebele says the campus is considering reducing its faculty, overhauling its curriculum and farming out non-core operations. "We're all responding to creative uncertainty," he adds.

The current funding formula is due to be replaced in 1999 with a new mechanism outlined in the higher education White Paper. It will include a formula component which broadens the classification of courses, and an "earmark" component, rewarding institutions for projects that open up tertiary education to the previously disadvantaged.

Future funding will hinge on a national higher education plan, where government will attempt to tie institutions to its own targets on courses and student numbers.

The department is to set up a new section in January, under chief director Ahmed Essop, to drive the national plan. The first step will be an exhaustive campus audit.

But institutions, already unnerved by the powers granted the government in the White Paper, are worried about more encroachment on their turf. There are fears that those that stray from the national plan will find their funds cut.

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University loses case to optometry professor



Ndebele: Set up committee

M+G 28/11-4/12/97

Mukoni T Ratshitanga

The University of the North lost a four-year dispute this week when the Pretoria High Court ruled that an academic fired by the university should be reinstated.

Sipho Ndelela, former head of the optometry faculty, was fired in March last year after more than two years of internal strife over his appointment as acting head of the faculty. Ndelela, who has worked at the university for 21 years, was appointed acting head of optometry in 1991.

The exact nature of the university's problem with Ndelela is unclear. His appointment was followed by a spate of resignations by white academic staffers, some of whom were reported as saying they did not "want to work under a black head of department". In 1992, students joined the row, demanding his resignation.

A meeting of students, management, staffers and Ndelela appeared to resolve the issue. But in November 1993 the university demoted Ndelela from his position as head of optometry without giving him reasons. He continued receiving his old salary, and the university later called him to a disciplinary hearing in an attempt to recover the funds.

Ndelela claims it was only after he

wrote to Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Kader Asmal that the university management listened to him. Asmal was then chair of the university council.

"The rector [Njabulo Ndebele] appointed a two-man committee to sort out the mess," Ndelela said in court papers.

But the committee failed to resolve the dispute, partly, says Ndelela, because "while we were dealing with the matter, the university appointed Professor Joubert, who had vacated the position when I took over."

Ndelela then went on a one-man strike — he abandoned lectures and refused to mark the 1994 end-of-year examination scripts. The disciplinary hearing found him guilty of insubordination.

He was suspended and ordered to apologise to the university's management. Ndelela refused, choosing instead to appeal against the findings of the hearing. University management rejected his appeal and fired him in March last year.

Ndelela responded by refusing to vacate his university residence. He reconnected his electricity when the university had it cut off earlier this year. Ndelela's lawyer, Gilbert Ngoepe, said this week that the university now owes his client back pay.

Black Management Forum on campus

BD 4/12/97
Business Day Reporter

UNIVERSITY of Port Elizabeth's Institute for Development Planning and Research had entered a partnership with the Black Management Forum, the university said this week.

The forum will have offices at the university from this month. The institute will make its resources and networks available to the forum, helping it to establish itself locally.

Forum spokesman Les Bucwa said the university would be represented on

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the forum's management board and offer development and training back-up.

"This will enable us to consolidate our administration and serve our members better and give us access to the university's expertise," he said.

Institute director Deon Pretorius said the forum would be able to mobilise the university's resources to the benefit of its members and the emerging business community. The partnership made sense because the university and the forum shared the objective of economic development.

Needy students to get increases

Andy Duffy

The Department of Education is pushing for a hefty increase in government funding to poor students next year.

At a meeting earlier this week, department officials surprised campus stakeholders with a proposal to raise the government's funding to the National Student Financial Aid Scheme far above the R200-million pumped in for 1997.

The increase is being kept under wraps until Cabinet has cleared the proposal, but it is understood it easily outstrips inflation.

Plans to attract donor funding for the aid scheme have still to be finalised. Last year, the government committed itself to raising R100-million from donors. In the end, R131-million was raised from funders such as the European Union.

The education department is hoping to better that performance this year, but questions linger about whether international donors will again come to the party.

Fund-raising effort — a team of academics and businessmen dubbed the Eminent Persons Group — has attracted little if any cash since it was formed in June 1995. Bengu, however, has requested that the group be retained until the report on reshaping the aid scheme is finalised.

Tefsa is also keen to be more involved in fund-raising — a proposal that enjoys some favour in the education department. Tefsa director Roy Jackson says it will be a tight squeeze if the or-

ganisation has to begin raising donor funds in time for the scheme's new financial year next April. However, deputy director general for higher education Nasima Badsha says that fund-raising is a constant process. "Clearly the depart-

ment would co-operate with Tefsa and work with them to raise resources. We certainly hope [the amount raised from donors] will be higher than this year."

The department is also in the process of finalising its proposed subsidy allocation to universities and technikons for 1998. Many campuses are budgeting for less money, but the department says it hopes to maintain funding at current levels.

Widening the aid scheme is crucial in the government's drive to bring more students from disadvantaged communities on to campuses.

The Tertiary Education Fund of South Africa (Tefsa), which administers low-interest loans and bursaries under the scheme, says close to 60 000 students benefited from the programme this year.

However, actual demand is believed to be closer to 80 000 students a year. The average loan of R5 062 barely covers tuition and accommodation fees.

Many institutions offer their own loan schemes to supplement support provided by Tefsa, but these have been knocked by recent falls in government subsidies — the institutions' primary source of income.

Student fees are also expected to climb an average 9% to 10% this year, as institutions seek to compensate for lower government funding. The financial aid scheme is due for a major reorganisation, following a review by the education department and outside experts carried out over the past few months.

The department's recommendations are expected to go before Minister of Education Sibusiso Bengu before the end of the year. The department wants to reshape the scheme so that it becomes self-sustaining, and to revise methods to raise funds among donors.

A former high-profile

RE MHG 5-11/12/97

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Mother's pride: Ali Nqotole is congratulated by his mother Nomutile after receiving his degree at UCT's graduation ceremony

OBED ZILWA



Celebrating: Langa Masinga sweeps fellow graduate Maba Matube off her feet

UCT hears plea for arts

STAFF REPORTER

ARG 9/12/97

The critical challenge to the survival of the arts in South Africa is to coax young South Africans to appreciate art.

This is the view of Richard Stumpf, president of the Human Sciences Research Council, speaking at a University of Cape Town graduation ceremony yesterday.

Dr Stumpf said: "The notion that cultural industries are an expendable luxury dies hard.

"Historically, societies turn to the arts even in the worst of times, to give them a sense of community and a vision of future possibilities.

"The arts not only provide a mirror of what we are but also of what we can be."

But for the arts to survive, audience development was vital.

Dr Stumpf said he was concerned about the demise of cultural subjects at school level in favour of technology.

Because of the previous "debased educational system" there were few role models for involvement in the arts for young people.

■ Among the names of graduates at the ceremony, for students of the faculties of social science and humanities, was that of Nomnqophiso Mbingelwa, whose social science degree was awarded posthumously.



See ya! professor Johann Maree is swamped by freshly capped graduates

Campus youth leagues set to square up

(54) Star 10/12/97
By EDWIN MAZOU

Tertiary institutions are set to become a hotbed of political activity next year when ANC-aligned students battle for political turf among themselves.

The South African Students' Congress (Sasco) announced yesterday that it was spearheading the formation of the Young South African Communist League at the same time that the ANC Youth League wants to open branches on campuses. The YSACL would be attached to the South African Communist Party.

Sasco general-secretary Tshilidzi Ratshitanga said the organisation's move should not be seen as a reaction to the ANC Youth League but an addition to the "progressive alliance". Sasco would remain a strong ally of the ANC, he said.

However, student sources

said the call by Sasco for the formation of the SACP youth league was a direct response to the ANCYL's plans to establish branches on campuses.

Although Sasco has supported the ANC publicly, it is perceived to be left of the ANC and is said to be concerned that the ANCYL will erode its support base.

The first public rift between Sasco and the ANCYL occurred during student elections at the University of Pretoria this year when Sasco turned down the ANCYL's alliance offer.

SACP general-secretary Charles Nqakula said the youth league would not be in opposition to the ANC or its youth league but would become part of the tripartite alliance.

ANCYL publicity secretary Thabo Masebe said a communist youth league could complement the ANC.

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The Star

EDITORIAL

SWITCHBOARD

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Technikon sends 1 670 into job market

Graduates told region has potential to be SA's economic leader

ARG 11/12/97
(64)

STAFF REPORTER

The Cape Technikon has awarded 1 670 degrees and diplomas, including two doctorates and seven masters in technology, at its five graduation ceremonies.

The awards were presented this week to students from the schools of architecture and building; civil, electrical, mechanical and process engineering; design; teacher education; management; hotel and catering studies; life sciences and business informatics. Proud students collecting

their awards were applauded loudly by friends and relatives who gathered at the campus to wish them luck in their future careers.

One of the main speakers, past president of the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ali Gierdien, focused on the economy of the Western Cape and told graduates the region had the potential to be the country's economic leader because of a diversified economic base.

Mr Gierdien said this was especially so because the region was not hostage to a major industry such as

exports last year." Mr Gierdien said the area's workforce had a high standard of education because it was home to major educational institutions.

Most head offices of the insurance, retail and oil industries were also in the Western Cape. Central statistics revealed that 18,2% of the country's retail sales were generated in the Western Cape and 18,5% of all factories were in the province.

"We have been described as the 'envied' province and I am sure you will agree we are fortunate to live in

an area that includes so much," Mr Gierdien said.

The two recipients of the doctorates in technology were:

■ Hannes Esterhuysen, awarded his doctorate for mechanical engineering, who has been a lecturer at the School for Mechanical and Process Engineering at the Technikon since 1992 and has a Masters degree in technology.

■ Eric Cloete who was awarded a doctorate in information technology and is due to take up a lecturer's post at Technikon RSA next year.



COLIN JOOSTE
Well done: Cape Technikon rector Marcus Balimulo, left, looks on as vice-rector Mandla Tshabalala congratulates Hannes Esterhuysen on his doctorate in technology

Unisa facing bankruptcy – report

Star 15/12/97 (54)

PRETORIA CORRESPONDENT

Unisa is staring bankruptcy in the face.

It is highly probable that the huge distance-learning institution could be bankrupt within the next two to four years if current trends continue, according to a confidential report by the Deloitte & Touche consulting group to the university council, dated November 1997.

“Our overall conclusion on the financial position is that Unisa, although not currently bankrupt, will be bankrupt in the medium term (two to four years) should current trends continue,” the report reads.

It gives a number of reasons for the problem, including cut-backs in government subsidies, financial mismanagement and a lack of planning.

The university has taken the report seriously and is looking at ways to cut back on expenses – something Unisa principal

Professor Marinus Wiechers says the entire higher education sector needs to do.

He said the report did not come as a shock.

“I think the report is timely. It was sought to say exactly the things we’ve been saying for the past couple of years. It is valid for the whole sector – some other universities are in a dismal situation.”

Among the key issues identified in the report are:

- A lack of belief within the university that Unisa is facing a financial crisis;
- The cost of implementing affirmative-action targets (R65-million over the next three years);
- Funding the Unisa Retirement Fund out of the university’s asset-replacement fund;
- Potential subsidy cuts by the Government;
- Costs which appear to have spiralled out of control.

Unisa’s reserves dropped in

real (inflation-adjusted) terms by 16,2% between 1993 and 1996, while current fund reserves fell by nearly half (47%), the report states.

One of the recommendations is that Unisa immediately initiate consultation with the staff unions on possible rationalisation, or discussion of alternative proposals.

It also appears to have become common practice to create departments and posts to deal with personality differences. This has resulted in a proliferation of departments, often resulting in a fragmented and inefficient service.

Considerable criticism is levelled at the lack of a policy on human-resource management. The current budgeting procedures do not allow for the efficient management of resources, the report reads.

Organisational structures within Unisa seem simply to have evolved over the years.

Revamp planned at UCT

Some deans of faculties could lose jobs

ARG 15/12/98 97 (54)

JENNY VIALI
STAFF REPORTER

Deans of faculties at the University of Cape Town may lose their jobs next year when faculties are restructured and deans chosen in terms of academic and managerial qualifications.

No existing deanships were guaranteed, but nobody would be retrenched and deans would be given other positions if they were not re-elected, said Helen Zille, director of communications at UCT.

New criteria for deans, a reduction in the number of faculties from 10 to six and a new centre for higher education development were part of the restructuring process.

Proposals also included a new faculty of humanities that would bring together a wide range of disciplines in the arts, social sciences and humanities, which at present operated in separate faculties.

A framework for the selection of deans had been proposed and would go to the University Council today for final ratification. Deans would be required to be academic leaders with administrative skills.

Ms Zille said there had been no set criteria for appointment to deanships to date.

Dean of the faculty of medicine J P Van Niekerk welcomed the process. The medical faculty was unique in that its deanship was a post funded jointly by the provincial

health department and the university. Unlike other deanships, which were often rotating, the medical dean was a career post.

Because of this relationship a task team would be elected next month to look at the special requirements of a dean for the faculty. The faculty would also change its name to the health sciences to embrace all health professions.

Professor Van Niekerk has been dean for eight years and was deputy dean for 12 years.

The new faculty structure to be implemented by January 1999 will be:

■ Commerce, consisting of the current faculty of commerce.

■ A yet-to-be-named faculty consisting of the faculties of engineering, the school of architecture and planning and the department of construction economics and management.

■ Law, consisting of the current faculty of law.

■ Health Sciences, consisting of the faculty of medicine.

■ Humanities, consisting of the current faculties of arts, education, music and humanities and the Michaelis School of Fine Art.

■ Science, consisting of the current faculty of science.

The proposed new centre of higher education development would focus on all mat-

ters concerning academic development. It would consist of the current academic development programme and its projects, the professional communication unit, the multimedia education unit and the career office.

The faculties of engineering and science would not merge as originally proposed, but would pursue collaborative ventures. Ms Zille said UCT was now planning in three-year cycles.

Plans for 1998 included a university-wide audit, beginning with administrative and support activities, and moving into academic areas.

The audit would rigorously examine how the university used its resources to ensure that everything it did supported its academic priorities.

■ Stellenbosch University began an academic strategic planning process three years ago, said spokesman Douglas Davis. Non-viable departments had been restructured, closed or consolidated. French and German had been consolidated into the department of modern foreign languages, the department of library sciences restructured into information sciences and the departments of Afrikaans cultural history, archaeology and anthropology might be closed.

"We have, for example, developed a number of structured post-graduate degrees and are developing modernised curricula in the department of forestry," said Mr Davis.

Ramphela outlines UCT future

'Vision needs to be implemented rapidly'

STAFF REPORTER

University of Cape Town vice-chancellor Mamphela Ramphela says that if the university wants to realise its mission and vision as a world-class African institution, it has to move rapidly towards "implementation".

Dr Ramphela's views are contained in an interview with the university's publication, UCT News.

She said that the university needed to identify what it should be doing (at the level of the best institutions everywhere) and what it should not

be doing.

It needed to take deliberate, careful decisions about faculties' needs because it would have to rely less on state subsidies and more on its own creative strategies to achieve greater "self-resourcing".

Dr Ramphela said the institution's first step in that direction was to set up an integrated planning system to ensure financial and physical plans served UCT's academic priorities.

Referring to major milestones for the university this year, she said the completion of the strategic planning framework, which set the parameters

(54) AR 16/1794

for planning, had been welcomed by all. It set out concepts, assumptions, principles, goals and choices required to realise the university's mission.

"The point of departure for our framework is our understanding of a university's key purpose; to offer opportunities for students to develop the advanced skills a society needs for development and progress in a rapidly changing environment, and to undertake good research."

Another milestone was the additional work on the academic planning framework, particularly its

focus on strong degree programmes.

Faculty restructuring had also reached an advanced stage and the Senate had approved the latest proposals for re-configuring the number of faculties from 10 to six, and establishing a new centre for higher education.

Ratification of the proposals would be sought this week.

Dr Ramphela outlined other major plans for 1998, including a university-wide audit to examine how the university used its resources to ensure everything it did supported its academic priorities.

Island aids heritage studies

STAFF REPORTER

The Robben Island Museum and the universities of the Western Cape and Cape Town have joined forces to offer post-graduate students a diploma in heritage and museum studies from March.

The universities have for some time developed academic interest and expertise in public history and museum science.

This, combined with the museum's involvement, has created the incentive for the new post-graduate diploma.

Students may be based at either campus and get the benefits of combined resources in addition to on-site field work at the Robben Island Museum.

The course offered will be equivalent to post-graduate level and some

components will be taught in common, and cross-credited with, honours courses at UWC and UCT.

The core module of the programme will include the history of collection, museum and heritage institutions with special reference to Africa, representation and display, the politics of repatriation and the ethics of collecting, commercialisation of the heritage and tourist industry, museum and heritage policy issues, analysis of contemporary displays and heritage representations.

The one-year diploma is open to graduates of all disciplines or non-graduates who have at least a year's practical experience, or who are employed in the museum and heritage sector.

A limited number of bursaries are available and the closing date for applications is January 22.

UCT boffin goes to top of class

STAFF REPORTER

(54) 26/12/97 ARG 28/12/98

University of Cape Town professor Johann Lutjeharms has been named an A-rated scientist by the Foundation for Research Development.

This is one of the highest honours that can be bestowed on a South African scientist.

Professor Lutjeharms works for UCT's Department of Oceanography, the only university department south of the Sahara that conducts open-ocean oceanography.

Professor Lutjeharms's rating means that UCT now has 22 A-rated scientists, almost half the total number in South Africa.

A-ratings, conducted by international peer review, place scientists among the world leaders in their fields.

Professor Lutjeharms said he

saw his rating as an honour both for him, his colleagues and students. It was also an acknowledgment of Cape Town's crucial geographical position.

"Since the ocean influences climate, it is vital that we at UCT go into the 21st century with the knowledge and skills to conduct long-term research in how the ocean affects the country's climate."

Professor Lutjeharms received his first two degrees at UCT before doing his Ph D at the University of Washington in Seattle.

He worked for the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research before becoming head of ocean climatology at UCT.

His field is establishing the large-scale circulation patterns of South African oceans and their effect on the weather.



A-rated: UCT scientist Johann Lutjeharms

UCT faculty 'too white' - dean may go *ARG 29/12/97* *Medical school probe*

(54)

CHENÉ BLIGNAUT
STAFF REPORTER

The dean of the medical faculty at the University of Cape Town could be asked to step down amid concerns that there are not enough blacks and women on his staff.

J P van Niekerk, 61, who has been dean for the past eight years, will know by the end of March if he will serve the rest of his 12-year term. Professor van Niekerk said his position was being reconsidered as "part of the general restructuring of the university", which would include new responsibilities for deans and the "bringing in of young blood".

He said he had been criticised over the composition of his staff by people inside and outside the faculty.

"Concerns have been expressed internally and externally that the composition of the staff and, to a lesser extent, the students does not reflect the demographics of the country."

The faculty's staff were still predominantly white and male because the reality was that there were not enough "competent" affirmative action candidates of a "high enough

calibre" to qualify for leadership positions in the faculty," he said.

"There certainly is no clear-cut candidate to replace me as dean."

Professor van Niekerk said the staff demographics were "changing slowly", but "we require time to grow our own timber".

The demographics of the students had changed "quite dramatically" since the university started taking African students in 1986, but those graduates were still too young to qualify for leadership positions, he said.

The intake of African students was more or less the same as the intake of white students in the faculty, while African, coloured and Indian students outnumbered white students.

A task team will be appointed in January to investigate the faculty's restructuring. It will make recommendations by the end of March.

If he were asked to step down, he would devote more time to his "national and international connections", Professor van Niekerk said.

These included his responsibilities as president of the Association of Medical Students of Africa and president of the Medical Association of SA.