

EDUCATION — UNIVERSITY

1998

Graduation row breaks out at Vista

(54) Sowetan 3/4/98

By Dan Fuphe

A MAJOR row has erupted at the East Rand campus of Vista University where 10 students who are due to graduate with BA Education degrees tomorrow have been told they cannot do so because they do not have Psychology III as one of their courses.

This is despite an assurance by the dean of arts at the university, Professor Sol Chaphole, to campus director Dr Ngoato Takalo that the students can graduate.

Sowetan is in possession of a copy of a message in which Takalo sought clarity from Chaphole on whether the students could graduate or not.

In the message Takalo writes:

"Thanks for your e-mail. However, it does not give me the answer – a no or yes. I cannot see from this whether you approve that the students should graduate or not.

"We are under pressure to give a straightforward answer to the students and it would be very helpful if you could give us a straightforward answer from your side."

In a reply, Chaphole writes: "Permission is granted for the students to graduate the BA Ed degree."

However, Chaphole's approval for the students to graduate was apparently overruled by a letter from by Professor Piet Steyn, who is the dean of education at Vista University in Bloemfontein, which oversees the education faculty at the East Rand campus.

In a letter dated March 27, Steyn says: "I think we all understand the plight of the nine students and it is always unfortunate if wrong registrations by students are not detected.

"However, I find it very strange that students are not aware of the national professional requirements that psychology is regarded as a school subject only if it has been passed at the third-year level. It is repeatedly mentioned in calendars.

"As I understand the evaluation done by the provincial department of education, a BA Ed qualification as a school guidance teacher, without Psychology III, will in any case not be recognised by the department."

A spokesperson for the students, Ms Peggy Maluleke, said the group was shattered by the controversy.

Goba spells out his vision

By PERCY
MAKHARAMEZHA

PROFESSOR Bonganjalo Goba, the new vice-chancellor at ML Sultan Technikon, Durban, wants to see the institution's administrative and academic staff changed to reflect the demographic composition of the South African population.

He also wants the institution, which — like the University of Durban Westville — was originally a centre of Indian education, to develop strategic alliances with other institutions through the Eastern Seaboard Association of Tertiary Institutions (ESATI), with commerce, industry and community leaders.

This is a vision very close to his heart, Goba told students, parents and educators attending his inauguration at the Durban City Hall this week. Stressing the need to formulate strategic plans together with other institutions, Goba reflects that ML Sultan is likely to merge with its neighbour, Natal Technikon.

Although the matter still needs to be fully discussed, he says he is delighted that the question of consolidating resources and exploration of areas of mutual collaboration is under way.

Goba, who was born in Johannesburg and raised in the mining community of Ventersport, Westonaria, says he believes ML Sultan will distinguish itself as an

New vice-chancellor has

plans to transform ML Sultan Technikon



MEETING THE CHALLENGE... Professor Bonganjalo Goba, who wants the technikon to show equal representation.

institution of higher education.

Goba says he believes his vision is shared by all those who are committed to transformation and embrace the spirit of the new democracy.

He adds: "I believe the challenges to explore this vision are a response

to the critical issues raised in the white paper on higher education as well as in the new act of higher education which is designed to reshape the character and management of higher education in this country."

Goba says that as ML Sultan was historically an institution established to serve a particular community, the challenge now was to demonstrate that it is an inclusive institution to serve everybody.

"One of the real challenges is the composition of administrative and academic staff. The majority of our staff still comes from one sector of our community (Indian). Hence the critical need for an affirmative action policy.

"I believe with the new Equity Bill, this discrepancy in terms of staff will have to be addressed vigorously."

He says he is committed to addressing the issue as sensitively as possible while at the same time responding creatively to the demands of the law.

"My goal is to ensure that over time, persons from other communities, for example, Africans and women, are appointed to senior positions at the technikon.

"This means a process to identify qualified staff with proven professional profiles will have to be accelerated," he says.

He says ML Sultan's transformation process had already started with senior management and would continue until "our staff is representative of all our communities."

Goba adds that another challenge confronting ML Sultan, a 70-year-old institution originally created through a gift from a businessman, Mr ML Sultan, will be to develop a new institutional culture that will demonstrate its commitment to the process of transformation.

However, the former conflict mediator in the war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo (former Zaire) and Angola, is pleased that the institution's student population is starting to reflect the demographics of South African society.

The technikon now has student percentages of 61 African, 36 Indian, one coloured and two white.

"We have already developed a policy on access and in terms of our admission policy we believe this is a priority on which we cannot compromise," says Goba.

An ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ who was educated at the Federal Theological Seminary in Alice, Eastern Cape and in the United States' Chicago Theological Seminary and University of Chicago, Goba believes South Africa has a problem of a lack of a work ethic. He says there is a strong perception that when blacks take on the responsibility of any institution, things begin to fall apart.

Goba believes this perception must be challenged. He adds: "We can begin to do this by being competitive, by working harder than everybody else."

"I know for a fact that when I was appointed as the executive secretary in our church's New York office, as the first African, I had to work harder than my colleagues. But beyond that I had to introduce innovative programmes in addressing the plight confronting many of our communities in Africa. Being competitive means we must lead in what we do — but performance must be driven by an exciting vision."

Unitra to cut staff as part of restructuring

M+G 3-8/4/98

Andy Duffy

(54)

The University of the Transkei (Unitra) is to embark on a massive reshape involving widespread job losses after a drop in its government funding.

Management plans include rebuilding and streamlining the university's academic programme, merging operations, farming out non-core activities and cutting staff perks such as housing allowances.

The proposals follow a large cut in the subsidy Unitra is due to receive this year from the government — the main source of income for universities and technikons.

The university received a R112,4-million subsidy last year — 83,9% of its needs, according to a long-standing funding formula.

The Department of Education is aiming to keep tertiary institutions' total subsidy level for 1998 on par with 1997's figure, allowing for inflation.

But the department has told Unitra its subsidy this year will fall to just 64,3%. Unitra is waiting for the department to confirm the cash value of the new subsidy.

The department has limited additional funds available to Unitra, but these will only be released once the university has tabled a convincing academic and financial plan.

"We were concerned that we didn't just give them the money without some commitment from them to do something," one department insider says.

The department is adopting the same funding strategy for other former homeland campuses.

Unitra's restructuring plans are being discussed with senior education department officials, and were released on the Umtata campus this week.

Unitra's management says it has still to finalise retrenchment plans among its 1 300-strong staff. It wants to draw up cost-saving targets with individual departments.

But personnel costs account for more than 75% of its expenditure, and some departments are more than 30% overstaffed.

"Wages and salaries have consumed a disproportionate slice of our budget," vice-chancellor Alfred Moleah told staff in a recent memo.

"[This] is unsustainable and untenable. Unless the restructuring process is instituted as a matter of extreme urgency, Unitra will be faced with a financial crisis within the next few months."

Management negotiations with unions over the reshape and retrenchments will run for the next three months, with job cuts going through from June. Unitra wants its new academic programme finalised by October.

Moleah adds that Unitra management will consider alternative proposals tabled by affected workers during the negotiations.

"Not all aspects of our enterprise will be altered," he told staff. "Some will be refocused, others will be improved."

The institution was established in 1976, originally as a branch of the nearby University of Fort Hare.

It now operates six faculties, with 5 500 students expected to register for 1998.

Its planned reshape is in line with restructuring initiatives by universities and technikons across the country.

Years of decline in government subsidies have forced campuses to pull in their belts.

Heavy student debt, particularly among previously disadvantaged institutions, has also piled the pressure on management.

Unitra is carrying student debt of R11,8-million.

The government, however, has also recently raised the stakes, insisting campuses justify their claims to taxpayers' money with evidence of long-term academic, management and financial planning.

Campuses engaged in reshaping include the universities of Pretoria, Natal, Stellenbosch, Cape Town, Zululand and Fort Hare.

Minister of Education Sibusiso Bengu has also said some campuses will be closed or merged as the government undertakes a radical rethink of tertiary education needs.

Fort Hare, which has been restructuring in negotiation with the education department, has previously indicated it was considering merging operations with nearby institutions. Unitra management said this week it is not involved in any merger plans.

Whistleblowers put their jobs on the line

'School for scandal' trio risk everything

(514) ARK 8/4/98

INSIDE STORY

If you came across them in the staff canteen, you'd not readily tell Smith, Neethling and Peters from their colleagues. In that sense, outwardly, they are unexceptional civil servants. The measure of exception lies elsewhere.

True to the civil service pattern, they are not big earners, nor high-flyers in any sense.

They are, archetypally, the men and women who run the country, the vast middle-management of the national enterprise. You can picture them at their plain, government-issue desks, with, at most, a calendar - or a hardy pot plant leaning to the little available light - competing for attention in the spartan milieu of forums and files and slightly mishapen "in" and "out" trays that, superficially, characterise the bureaucratic world.

But appearances are probably especially deceiving in the public sector: the spartan looks belie the scale of this multi-billion rand exercise.

Individual officials, like Peters, Neethling and Smith, might handle budgets of upwards of R2-million or more, and their daily lives have, collectively, more to do with turning South Africa into a prosperous, equitable society than those of clerks and secretaries and junior managers in the private sector.

For all that, though, their lives are marked by an unmistakable modesty. They earn no more than R30 000 to R40 000 a year and will, at some point, have had to choose between buying a car or a house. To have both will have been, and likely still is, unaffordable.

And, after that, there is not much left to spend on clothes, furniture, entertainment or luxuries. "Coming out," as they say, requires discipline and care. Of course, it needn't. They could probably double their earnings by unscrupulous means. And get away with it. Others do.

John Smith, Cynthia Neethling and Wilfred Peters are not their real names. To name them could well end the careers of these principled and vigilant civil servants. Special Writer **MICHAEL MORRIS** meets three modest paragons

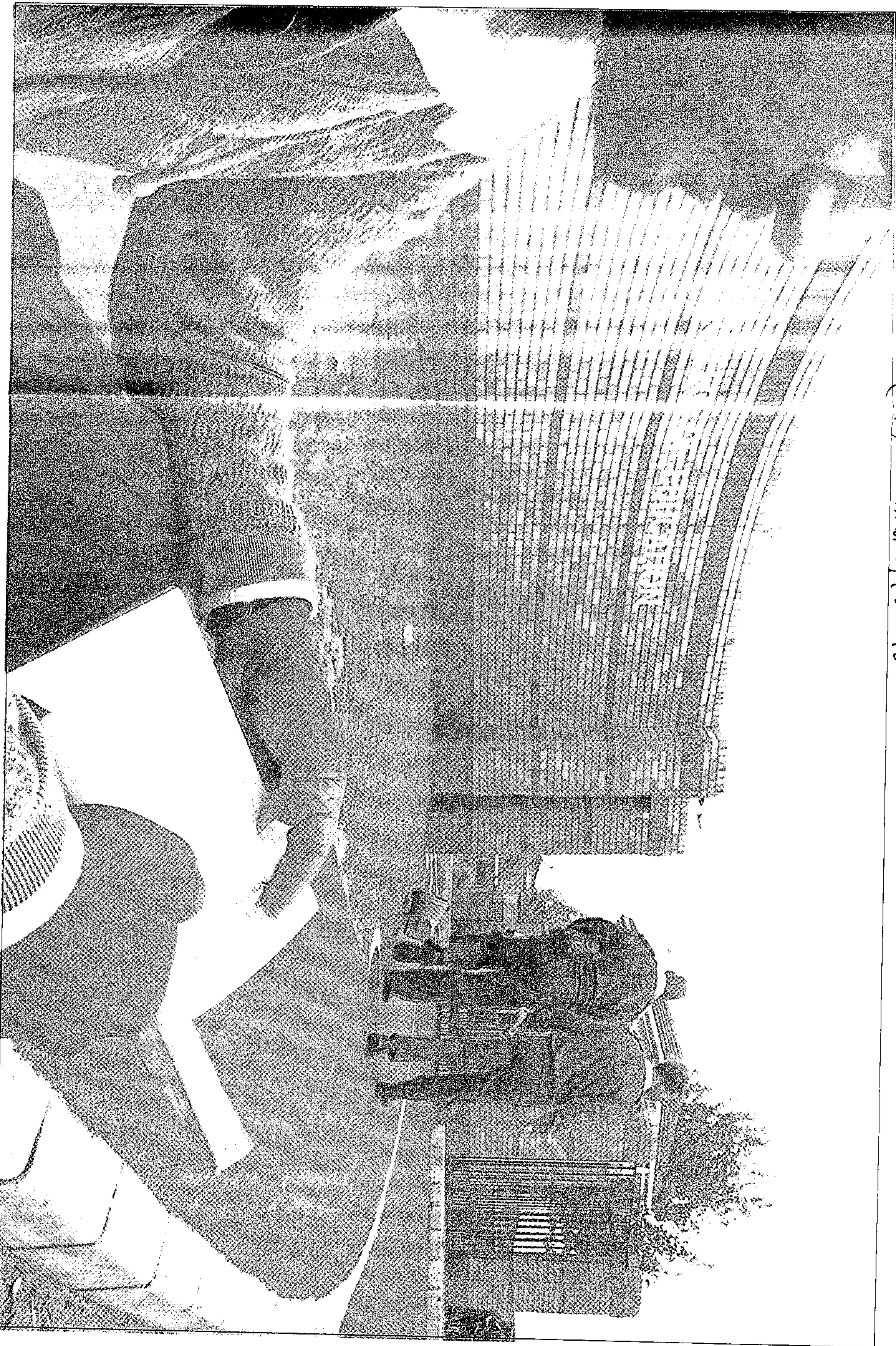
that it would be easier to "go with the flow", perhaps even earn a little ill-gotten cash on the side, and keep their mouths shut. It is not just their unostentatious commitment to clean administration that marks them, but that they are prepared to risk their jobs to see it achieved.

Earlier this year, these frustrated officials read a report in the Cape Argus on Gordon Sibuya, deputy director-general of the Department of Minerals and Energy and the man who doggedly pursued and ultimately exposed what he believed was the irregular appointment of foreign consultants on a staggering R3-million contract.

They were frustrated because they had helped expose corruption in their own circle... and nothing had come of it. In spite of lacking both Mr Sibuya's seniority, and the protection implied by his association with key public and political figures, the officials were emboldened enough to tell their own story.

When their first telephoned Cape Argus, their voices carried that edgy, urgent tone, almost of exhilaration, that expressed something of the risks being taken.

I have met them a number of times since, and I have come to know them as considered individuals whose sense of caution has been almost overwhelmed by an impatient, possibly even reckless, determination to see justice done, and corruption



School of contention: students browse outside the Western Cape College of Education in Kuls River. The provincial education department has confirmed it is investigating financial irregularities at the campus

curbed. It is less a crusading passion than a clear-headed zeal to see things done the right way.

It is hard to think of anything which better defines the essence of a trusted bureaucracy, since that is almost its sole reason for being.

The question, if there comes down to that, will probably have to do with the grass. That, at any rate, will be the exercise. As Smith says: "The risk is enormous, the risk of being

ostracised. They will force you out. Basically, you're yourself."

"It would have been far more lucrative joining them," Peters adds. "You'd have no worries about your overbill."

They say there is "immense pressure to work as efficiently", and that if you do not join the gravy train, "you are ostracised". Neethling notes: "People regard us as 'not wrong'... because they say the Government

steals from us in any case."

The Cape College of Education saga raises the grotesque contrast between young, talented teaching staff - products, conceivably, of this college - facing retrenchment while avaricious officials rake off thousands of rands in shady deals.

However, as the Government moves to make it easier for honest civil servants to speak up, corrupt officials will find themselves in an

increasingly precarious position.

President Mandela sounded more like a fractious opposition politician when he noted recently that "the very men and women we put into the civil service) have become as corrupt as the elements we wanted to drive out".

This candid assessment of his administration's failings is also, arguably, an indication of how seriously he would wish corruption to be taken. Encouraging whistle-blowing is

part of it. The proposed Open Democracy Bill due to be tabled this year will protect those who report corruption, illegality, dishonesty or serious maladministration.

As long as they use official channels of reporting, they will be protected from civil or criminal prosecution - and from losing their jobs.

Such protection does not exist now, and officials who speak out are taking huge risks.

The forensic audit is done, but the fallout is nowhere to be seen ...

MICHAEL MORRIS

In the end, it was a lunch at a Waterfront fast-food outlet a little short of a year ago that began the unmasking of the deceivers.

Here, over hamburgers and coffee, two men contemplated a body of information that, by the time the meal was over, was the foundation of an intensive investigation of civil service fraud.

One of the men was Colonel Peet Nel of the Heath special investigating unit set up last year to combat public sector corruption and fraud.

The other was a middle-ranking official from the Western Cape Department of Education, a determined, if frustrated individual who had spent the preceding few months briefing every fraud investigation agency he could think of on what he believed was rampant corruption at the Kuils River campus.

Finally, he had found a keen and cooperative audience:

Colonel Nel promised swift action. Within weeks, during the mid-year recess, auditors swooped on the college and three days after their preliminary probe, a forensic audit team, including a senior

official seconded from the Department of Finance, moved on to the campus.

Over the next four or five weeks, they dug deep, studying the institution's financial records, interviewing staff closely - uncomfortably in many cases - and taking statements.

They then withdrew to collate what is believed to be a damning report with firm recommendations guaranteed to see justice done, and end costly fraud.

It was delivered to the Western Cape education department on December 2. But the odd thing is that virtually nothing has happened since.

Some officials fingered in the audit reports are either still at their desks, or have been allowed to go scot-free, taking packages into secure retirement.

The department has told Cape Argus it is fully aware of what it calls "the severity of the situation", but says further investigation is needed before it can "consider what steps to take".

The whistle-blowers, who risked their careers to uncover the irregularities, suspect a cover-up.

One of them commented this week: "There has been massive fraud and that's clear from the extent of the evidence they (senior department officials) are sitting with. We have copies of everything, so they cannot destroy it. But they must explain why this thing is being suppressed. It looks as if they are letting all the key people quietly take packages."

The department has not responded to this specific concern.

Until January last year, the Western Cape College of Education in Kuils River was the home of the Bellville College of Education, one of three teacher-training institutions in the Peninsula.

All three - the Bellville, Good Hope and Roggebaai colleges - were amalgamated at the beginning of last year.

It was when staff from the Good Hope and Roggebaai campuses took up posts at the former Bellville campus that irregularities came to light.

One watchful official noted: "We found the procedures being used were totally inconsistent with the regulations. Hundreds of thousands of rands were involved in all sorts of irregularities."

As their frustration mounted, some of the newly-transferred officials, backed by a number of lecturers, took the matter to higher authorities.

After much toing and froing, a meeting with national education authorities opened the way to the Heath special investigating unit. That triggered the forensic audit. What has actually been going on at the college?

Audit attention focused, for example, on one official who was paid, over and above his salary, a sum of R24 103,15 (in one of several instances of extra payments) for "services delivered".

He allegedly used some of this money to buy hardware supplies, and then had work done on the campus by two other staff members, one of whom received payments of R2 160, R3 585 and R1 000 for "services delivered", and the

other a sum of R2 000. It is claimed the first official would inspect the premises and identify what needed to be done - "and then tender for the job himself".

Two of the officials have taken packages, and the third has applied for a package. In another instance, an invoice without adequate details, or VAT number, was submitted and later approved for a staggering R52 000, purportedly for a variety of major repairs to the air conditioning and hot water plant - using second-hand material.

A man known to be a "close friend" of some of the campus management worked for the company brought in to do the work. Another "management friend" worked for the company that installed new laundry equipment at the college. As soon as the plant was commissioned, this man formed his own company, and was allegedly given the maintenance contract, worth between R30 000 and R50 000.

Sources said he would buy spares from the first company, his former employer, and sell them on to the college "with a massive mark-up". A provisions administration clerk allegedly breached state contract terms by channelling an order or orders for cleaning equipment worth R5 800 to a family member.

Auditors were astonished not just by the fact that the sum had been paid on the basis of an invoice handwritten on a Croxley pad with no reference to a VAT number, but that the address of the company was a residential address in Milton Avenue, Belhar.

The official involved in this apparent scam has put in his application for a "package" and is to leave the civil service soon. Another item picked up by the auditors involved a sum of R615 for metal plates. Again, the invoice had been handwritten on a Croxley pad, and there was no VAT number.

But the intriguing thing was the existence of two other quotes, for R1 600 and for R1 200. What puzzled the auditors was that the telephone numbers on these quotations turned out to be the numbers for Telkom in Tygervalley and

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Telkom in Bellville.

Officials say the college management, at best, overlooked irregularities, or were too weak to stop them. Auditors expressed concern about three funds.

The Bursary, College and Facilities Funds are apparently managed by the college, and audited by a private firm of auditors. A Government audit report last year observed: "From the latest available figures on December 31 1995 and March 31 1996, it is noted among other things that the bursary monies from the Western Cape education department, class fees from students, and the hiring out of the hostels are finding their way into these funds."

Instructions in the audit report hint at the concern they raised: "Kindly provide details as to the authority for establishing each of these funds; deposits into each fund; withdrawals from them; and who controls the funds."

One of these funds relates to what officials disparagingly refer to as "Equity Hotel", the E block of the campus residence complex. No students stay there but it is frequently used as lodgings at weekends for people who pay a bed-and-breakfast rate.

They might be, say, members of a political party youth league holding a conference at the campus or members of a church group attending seminars.

On one occasion last year, an invoice was submitted for R18 000 for bedding for E block. Some officials held this to be insupportable since no students stayed there and, therefore, argued that the money could not be drawn from state coffers. However, the sum was allegedly approved and paid.

It is also claimed that a senior clerk has lived in a flat in the block for several years, at the state's expense. There are also instances, it is claimed, of expensive luxury items belonging to the college ending up in the homes of present or former staff members.

In the light of all this, honest officials are wondering why, when the final audit report was delivered to the education department's head office late last year, nothing has come of it.

In the light of this, honest officials are wondering why nothing has come of the final audit report

The College of Corruption

Fraud probe rocks teacher-training campuses

MICHAEL MORRIS
SPECIAL WRITER

Fraud and corruption, possibly running into hundreds of thousands of rands, is being investigated at the Western Cape College of Education in Knolls River.

But there are fears some perpetrators may have got off scot-free by taking early retirement packages.

The Western Cape Education Department confirmed the probe in a statement acknowledging the "severity of the situation".

Scams in which corrupt officials have been making thousands of rands at a time came to light last year.

According to information in the possession of the Cape Argus, the preliminary investigation last July highlighted shady deals in which, for example, irregular invoices - many of them hand-written on Croxley notepaper without VAT numbers - were used to rake off thousands of rands.

Whistle-blowers put jobs on line, page 12

Sundry officials have been paid huge sums in addition to their salaries for "services delivered".

Block E, mockingly called "Equity Hotel", by some staff.

Instances involving four officials mentioned in an interim audit total more than R47 000.

Questions relate to three special funds set up by the college management for purposes which the auditors were unsure of.

Government auditors also asked pointed questions about the hiring out of campus facilities, including one of the residences,

It is understood the facilities fund contained more than R2-million in September

It said: "A preliminary investigation was conducted at the Western Cape College of Education into numerous irregularities which had been brought to the attention of the department by the Auditor-General. "The report of this investigation has been analysed by officials of the department and resulted in further investigations having to be conducted, given the severity of the situation." Confirmation of the investigation of irregularities at the college follows close on the heels of student protests on the campus over demands that they be allowed to remain in the hostels during the holidays.

The department declined to answer this charge directly, but indicated in a brief response to extensive questions from the Cape Argus that investigations are continuing and that once the results are known, "the department will consider what steps to take".

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college fraud

fears over

Cover-up

News 3

Call to widen Cape fraud probe

MICHAEL MORRIS
SPECIAL WRITER

Political pressure is mounting on the Western Cape Education Department to widen its corruption probe and take legal action if necessary to recover stolen money.

Calls by opposition parties in the Western Cape for tougher, quicker action from the department follow yesterday's Cape Argus reports confirming a big fraud and corruption probe at the Western Cape College of Education in Kuils River.

The department acknowledged the "severity of the situation" and said it had launched its own investigation after an audit last year exposed extensive irregularities.

Politicians suggested yesterday that even if alleged perpetrators of frauds had taken early retirement, civil action should be taken as soon as possible to recover misappropriated funds.

African National Congress education spokesman Yusuf Gabru is to call for an urgent meeting of the provincial legislature's education standing committee as soon as work resumes next week after the Easter recess.

He said yesterday: "Given the acute shortage of financial resources, we can least afford to waste money.

"In view of this, we will insist on a full report and encourage the department to take

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Pressure to widen corruption inquiry

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vigorous steps to stop irregularities."

The ANC was committed to "rooting out all forms of corruption at all levels of government", but he was concerned that under the National Party, the standing committee had not met as regularly as it should have "and the department does not have the opportunity to be accountable".

Democratic Party education spokesman Daniel Silke said the results of audit investigations were "symptomatic of an education department that is in financial crisis" and there were doubts about whether there were sufficient internal management systems to keep irregularities in check.

"I think this may be an indication of what's going on in many institutions and we would like to see the investigation widened."

The waste of resources was "horrendous" at a time when there was such pressure on basic services.

The African Christian Democratic Party called on the department to "speedily complete the investigation and bring the perpetrators to justice without delay".

Scams highlighted in last year's audit of the Western Cape College of Education include shady deals in which, for example, irregular invoices - many of them handwritten on notepaper, without VAT numbers - were used to rake off thousands of rands.

(54) ARG 9/4/98

UCT brain-power

University boasts nine of the 14 SA scientists regarded as

LAURICE TAITZ

ST 12/4/98

(54)

blitz

world's best in their fields

THE University of Cape Town has emerged as South Africa's undisputed leader in scientific research, with more scientists recognised as world leaders than in all the other universities in South Africa combined.

The Foundation for Research Development says nine of the 14 scientists in South Africa regarded as the best in the world in their fields are from UCT.

The university now boasts 21 of the 48 A-rated researchers in the country.

"The honour of being in this category is reserved for those who are among the world leaders in their research fields," said Dr Khotso Mokhele, the foundation's president.

The University of the Witwatersrand, with eight A-rated academic researchers, was beaten into second place.

Next in line were the University of Natal, with five top scientists, and Rand Afrikaans University and the University of Pretoria, with four each.

The University of Stellenbosch has three A-rated scientists and the universities of the Free State, the North West and South Africa each have one.

UCT also has South Africa's highest concentration of A-rated scientists in one department: the department of mathematics and applied mathematics, which has an A team of five.

The nine UCT scientists regarded as world leaders in their fields are:

Professor William Bond, botany; Professor Maarten de Wit, geological sciences; Professor George Ellis, applied mathematics; Professor John Gurney, geological sciences; Professor John Martin, engineering; Professor Bob Millar, chemical pathology; Professor Lionel Opie, medicine; Professor Brian Warner, astronomy; and Dr Robert Zartman, geological science.

"We at UCT are fortunate to have access to this enormous resource to build a foundation as a

world-class African university," said UCT vice-chancellor Dr Mamphela Ramphele.

She said it was also an important indication of "how we as a country have to be extraordinarily careful with the process of transformation, and in keeping what is good from our past".

The deputy vice-chancellor responsible for research at UCT, Professor John Martin, said the university had, over many years, fostered and developed a supportive environment for research.

"Scholarly achievement is highly respected and prized," he said.

Martin, who gained his A rating in the field of applied and computational mechanics, said UCT owed its success to the prominence given to postgraduate teaching and supervision.

The only A-rated woman scientist in the country is Unisa mathematics professor Kieka Mynhardt.

Professor Peter Tyson, Wits University's deputy vice-chancellor in charge of research, said that despite the decrease in the institution's number of A-rated scientists, "we are excited about our P-rated scientists — young researchers who show exceptional potential — who are likely to become the A-rated scientists of the future."

The 48 researchers were evaluated by their international and local peers on their research output over the past five years.

The rating is bestowed on scientists in tertiary institutions and is valid for up to five years.

SA in booming arms trade with 91 nations

BD 14/4/98

(54)

Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — SA has sold arms and ammunition worth R3,3bn to 91 countries across the globe since the April 1994 elections.

This information emerged recently when Deputy President Thabo Mbeki replied to a written parliamentary question from James Selfe, a Democratic Party (DP) member of the National Council of Provinces.

Not included in the transfers figure is the recent controversial R173m sale of equipment to Algeria. The decision to proceed with this sale was approved by the national conventional arms control committee, and endorsed by the full cabinet in mid-February.

Prior to the creation of the committee in August 1995, there were arms transfers to countries with questionable human rights records, but Mbeki said United Nations (UN) arms embargoes in place from April 1994, or instituted since then, had been respected. The committee had also voluntarily declined to conclude arms deals with 10 other countries "according to the rationale and principles of the (committee)" since its establishment.

The UN arms embargoes observed by SA have been against Iraq, Yugoslavia, Libya, Somalia, Unita forces in Angola, and nongovernment forces in Rwanda, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The restrictions on Yugoslavia were lifted in April 1997.

The committee did not consider transfers to Turkey (lifted in February last year), Sri Lanka, Sudan, Rwanda (lifted in July), Burma, Nigeria,

Afghanistan, Congo, Burundi and Papua New Guinea.

The largest arms transfers have been to India, with equipment worth more than R637m sold. Transfers valued at more than R100m have been made to Colombia, Congo, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Taiwan, Singapore, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates.

The smallest transfers were to Eritrea for R620, Zambia for R21 697 and the Democratic Republic of Congo for R31 380.

In a separate reply to a question from Freedom Front MP Pieter Groenewald, Defence Minister Joe Modise said that arms sales in the first nine months of last year showed a 34% increase. Modise said he assumed that the reason for rising weapons sales was political change since 1994 and the high quality of SA defence products.

Mbeki also told the DP's Colin Eglin that the committee was satisfied the decision to sell arms to Algeria complied with its rationale and principles.

"Contractual applications pertaining to countries where the political, social, cultural, religious and legal rights of its people are seriously and systematically violated by the authorities of that country will be considered in a negative context.

"The cabinet and the (committee) are sensitive to all aspects of the situation in Algeria. However Algeria's government is internationally recognised. The government therefore has a legitimate democratic mandate which is why it was decided to approve arms sales to Algeria."

Vryburg High flies SA flag

Source: Sow 16/4/98 (54)

THE first day of the winter term at Vryburg High School in North West ended without incident yesterday.

However, although most pupils said the first day was fine, a small group of black pupils said they were disappointed that only one of the task team's recommendations had been implemented.

Shortly before the first break, the new South African flag was raised after a long absence from the school flagpole, but black pupils interviewed called it an act.

School governing body vice-chairman Mr Frik de Bruin said plans to sing Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika at assembly in the morning were abandoned because the sheet music and the projector for the words were not available. He said the anthem would be sung from Monday.

These were the first steps to implement recommendations made by a task team investigating racial conflict at the school, De Bruin said. The recommendations include integration of all school facilities.

Matric pupil Andrew Pippin said: "I enjoyed being back at class, but the Premier (Pope Molefe) and the MEC for education (Zachariah Tolo) haven't done anything." He said the governing body had not been disbanded and still had no black representation. He was also disappointed that there was no black deputy principal as suggested in the task team's report.

"We still don't have an English teacher but are expected to write exams," said Clifford Shoarane.

De Bruin said five black pupils at the centre of the conflict which erupted in February were back at school. - Sapa.

Black and white pupils at Vryburg High in North West stay apart on the first day of school yesterday after the Easter break. Racial clashes had forced authorities to close the school early. Black pupils and government officials are pushing for change at this previously all-white school. PIC: AP



Turfloop prepares for 21st century

Star 17/4/98

(52)

This new mall-like educational complex will consist of self-funded facilities

By MATTHEW BURBIDGE

ANDREAS VLACHAKIS

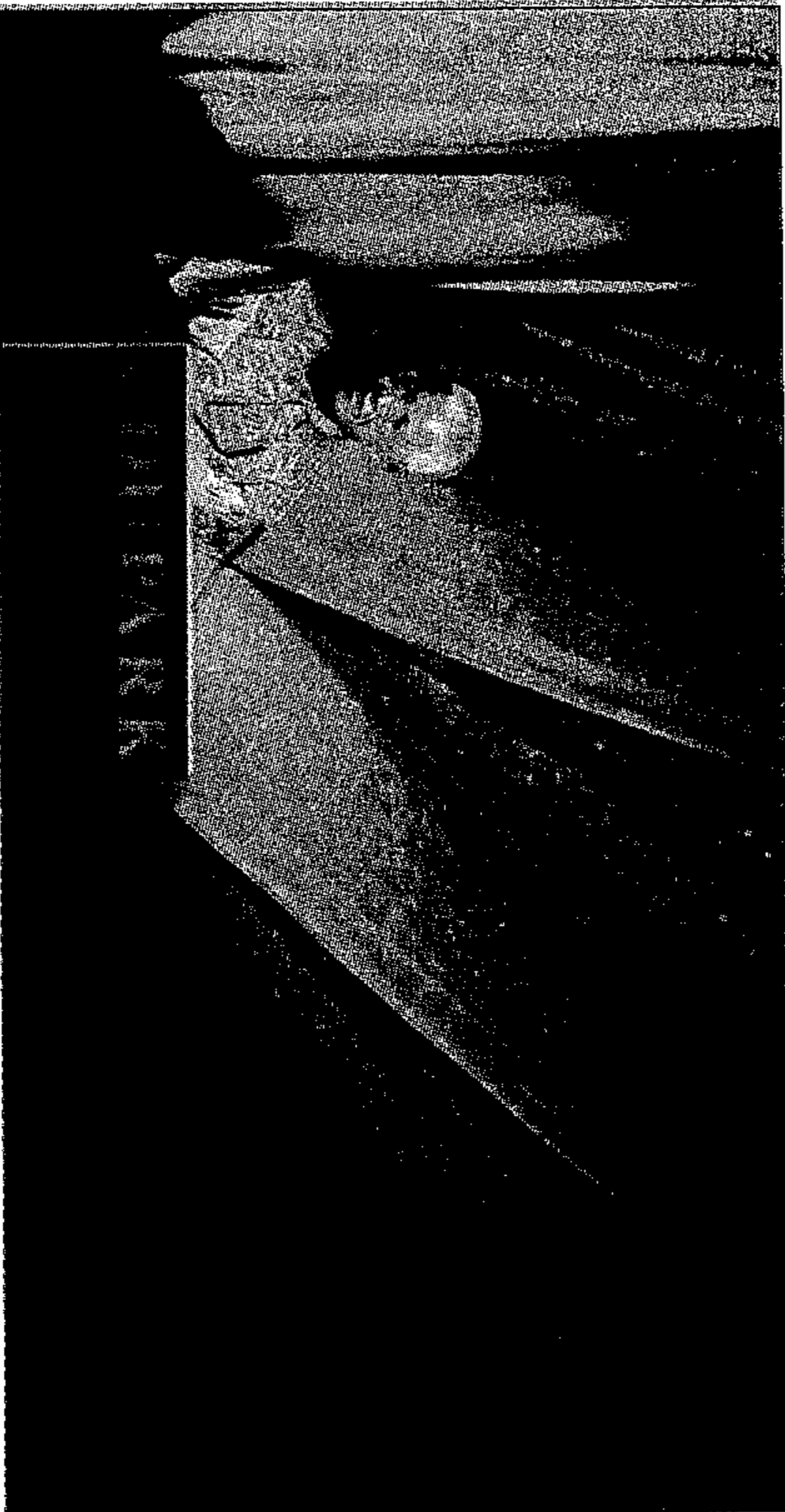
A new "mall-like" educational facility being built near the University of the North's campus near Pietersburg has been given the presidential seal of approval by President Nelson Mandela.

Mandela, the chancellor of Turfloop, as the university is known, launched a foundation and a chancellor's fund to support the facility - called Edupark - through corporate sponsorship at a function in Midrand.

Edupark will consist of self-funded educational institutions which will buy or lease property on the campus.

It is expected to be completed by 2005 and will include a language centre, a sports science institute, a legal school and a water and sanitation training school. There are also plans for a library, lecture halls, campus village and sports fields.

Mandela said apartheid had created a crisis in education and train-



High hopes ... President Mandela launched the University of the North Edupark foundation this week.

ing of immense proportions and that Edupark would cut across the duplication of education systems. It is eventually intended to be

self-financing, but needs R80-million to ensure that it will open on time. The University of the North has underwritten a loan of R17-million for the first phase of building and has secured limited aid from the South African, Irish and United States governments.

Matie rector's claim disputed

TROYE LUND

(94)

LT 17/4/98

HALF the students at the University of Stellenbosch will be black by the year 2000, the rector, Professor Andreas van Wyk, said this week in reply to claims that he had engineered re-election to pursue the university's white Afrikaner tradition.

But some staff and students believe this was merely an extension of the "lip service" the university management has paid to transformation.

Van Wyk addressed students after the Students' Representative Council asked him to give his vision of the future, but only 200 students attended. The SRC said this showed how apathetic the students were because the university did not have a comprehensive transformation programme.

Van Wyk, who was elected for a second four-year term by a simple majority of the university's senate and council, said that if the number of black students continued to grow as it had in the past three years — from 5% in 1995 to 18% this year — his projection was accurate.

English lecturer Ms Annie Gagiano said: "Given the pace of change at the university, it is difficult to see how the 50% will be achieved. Is Van Wyk's statement intended to alert the old guard, or to allay criticism?"

She said the university had "been clever at managing" political change. "Management may make superficial changes and use black people in things like distance learning to boost statistics, but little will have changed."

SRC and Student Alliance for Transformation representatives doubted whether the 50% would be achieved because the university screened applicants according to their marks and language of tuition — Afrikaans.

Lecturers giving three-week Afrikaans bridging courses for the faculties of engineering, science and social science, said they were a "farce".

Students with no schooling in Afrikaans could not be brought to the academic level of lectures in a few weeks. The Afrikaans policy was used as an excuse and a filter.

In an official statement, Van Wyk's office said the medium of instruction was being reviewed.

Ugandan prof hits out at UCT 'arrogance'

CORNIA PRETORIUS

ST 19/4/98

THE Ugandan head of the Centre for African Studies at UCT believes the university has violated his academic credibility.

Professor Mahmood Mamdani's five-month battle with UCT will continue this week when he presents a paper on the campus complaining that the university has "made a vote of no confidence" in his competence.

He said the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities had rejected the course he was asked to design for first-year students and had replaced it with one he believed was "not up to standard and racially biased and colonial".

"It is a poisonous introduction for students entering a post-apartheid university," Mamdani said.

He also claimed he had been suspended from involvement in the course and said he was stunned at the arrogance of the faculty.

"Transformation in South Africa is very important and I want to make a contribution. I was innocent about how privilege would be defended in institutions. I did not understand when I arrived; now I do," said Mamdani, who is from Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, and also taught at US universities.

Rejecting Mamdani's claims, a UCT statement said that Mamdani had not been suspended from involvement with the course, but there had merely been a postponement until 1999 as Mamdani was to go on research leave.

On March 19, Professor Chuck Wana-maker, deputy dean of the faculty and convenor of the course, and Professor Ian Bunting, the faculty dean, apologised to Mamdani.

UCT vice-chancellor Mamphela Ramphele said: "If they were arrogant they wouldn't have apologised. Mamdani is a highly valued scholar."

She explained that planning courses was no longer the responsibility of department heads but of special teams.

DA Campuses learn

to pay their own way

(54) Star 21/4/98

With their heads bowed, engrossed in conversations on the metaphysical poets, erudite professors walk along oak-lined avenues passing buildings with Latin names chiselled above granite entrances.

Suddenly, the metaphysical is overtaken by the material as the startled professors scuffle past the MacDonalds Golden Arch, trip over a trolley from the campus superette and bash into a dolled-up student as she rushes out of the nail salon to make her 1.30 classics lecture.

Could this be the university campus of the future? In the United Kingdom this is already the university of the present and South African tertiary institutions are beginning to understand why. It is estimated that South African students owe their colleges and universities R500-million - one-third of the combined budget of the country's 21 universities.

Beak-tightening strategies are seeing fewer government subsidies available for tertiary education and the responsibility is falling on students, parents and the institutions themselves, to make their campuses financially viable.

Building a university that can stay in the black while offering high quality education has become a reality for some by making the institutions work. People, buildings, resources and brain-power are being harnessed to turn campuses into "earners".

The University of Warwick in the United Kingdom began the 1996/7 financial year with a budget of £220-million (about R 1 870-million). Of this £134-million (about R1 139-million) was "earned" by the university.

This is the highest percentage of earned income of all universities in the United Kingdom.

This commitment to using additional funds to develop the institution has paid off. In 1996/7 the "Times Good University Guide" rated Warwick the eighth best university in the UK, the fourth best for research and the top business school in the country. As with the Wits Income Generation Programme, no firm overall policy was developed or applied at War-

wick, for several years. Wits began looking at programme options as early as November 1996 but only set up the department late last year. Lee believes Warwick University's decision to maintain short lines of communication and to develop links between management teams is crucial.

"These projects only work when the departments and faculties really believe in them and are willing to invest in them with time and effort so it is essential that everyone feels they have a part to play in the project," he said.

The programmes also create employment opportunities for students. Lee said that while students are also able to supplement their income with the programmes, the goal is to keep the student's money on the campus.

Academically oriented programmes are based largely on the concept of "lifelong education" for all walks of life.

Fields such as law and medicine lend themselves to regular "top-up" courses for graduates but additional courses in commerce, engineering and languages are also proving to be good moneyspinners for Wits. Courses are often tailor-made for companies and can be made part-time, block courses for a few weeks, or weekend classes.

"We structure the courses to suit the employer and to go with his or her needs," Lee said.

The section dealing with health services is also investigating the expansion of their services through the Internet and home learning.

"Professionals, like doctors, have their practices during the day, their families in the early evening, but also have to find time for studying. This way we can offer them some information and some questions to answer which they can then just send right back," Lee said.

Wits is also targeting the patenting of products designed at the university and securing a percentage of the product's profits. The university provides

the resources for the research and helps in initial patenting costs and details and secures some rights on the product.

"This use of technologically skilled men and women by institutions of higher learning has already paid off handsomely in Britain.

Academics-turned-entrepreneurs have developed a growing tribe of "millionaire dons" with Cambridge University at the forefront followed by Leeds, Oxford and Edinburgh.

Philip Beresford, a financial journalist who compiles an annual "Rich List" for the London Sunday Times, said Britain now boasts at least 120 millionaire dons who

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have struck it rich with the help of their university.

The University of Cape Town has also broadened its money-earning scope, by drawing on the tourist potential of the city and the university's prime location at the foot of Table Mountain, with the "Vac Acc" (Vacation Accommodation) project.

UCT has 16 formal residences around Rondebosch and Mowbray which become affordable holiday spots for visitors during the winter and summer holidays.

Self-catering flats, complete with cooking facilities, crockery and cutlery are on offer, housing between four and six adults. Ian Marchitosh, UCT's director of housing, said the Vac Acc project had not been widely marketed in the past but said more attention was now being paid to "aggressively" selling the accommodation.

The "Ivy League" look of the UCT campus is also becoming a selling point for the university. Film crews and advertising agencies are now finding themselves having to pay for the use of the beautiful environment.

The university has also cornered the market in research contracts and grants and had a research budget last year of R120-million.

The University of Durban West-

ville has more than 20 major money-earning projects over and above its students' fees. "These include diverse projects such as the use of their printing services for private contracts, a campus hotel, language laboratories, dental and optometry clinics and student health services.

Universities are, however, not the only institutions finding new ways to make themselves financially viable.

Leon Storm, the director of the newly established Business Management Services wing of the Technikon Witwatersrand, said tertiary education was becoming an exceptionally competitive field that required innovative thoughts.

"Partnerships between TWR and external groups will give industry and commerce access to advice, technical support and research facilities on the campus," Storm said.

He said that funds raised from these ventures will be ploughed straight back into the technikon.

Taking a lead from the University of Warwick, Wits may soon see some of the most innovative ideas in self-financing in the country. A campus supermarket, serving the self-catering residences and staff who work on the campus, hair salons, and a post office are some of the ideas being considered.

Lee said Wits has also opted for the "flexible branding" approach of programmes and facilities bearing the name of the university.

"When you tell people you are going to a conference at a university and will be staying in campus residences people think of dingy student accommodation. While the facilities may be superb you have to break away from these set ways of thinking and try something else," he said.

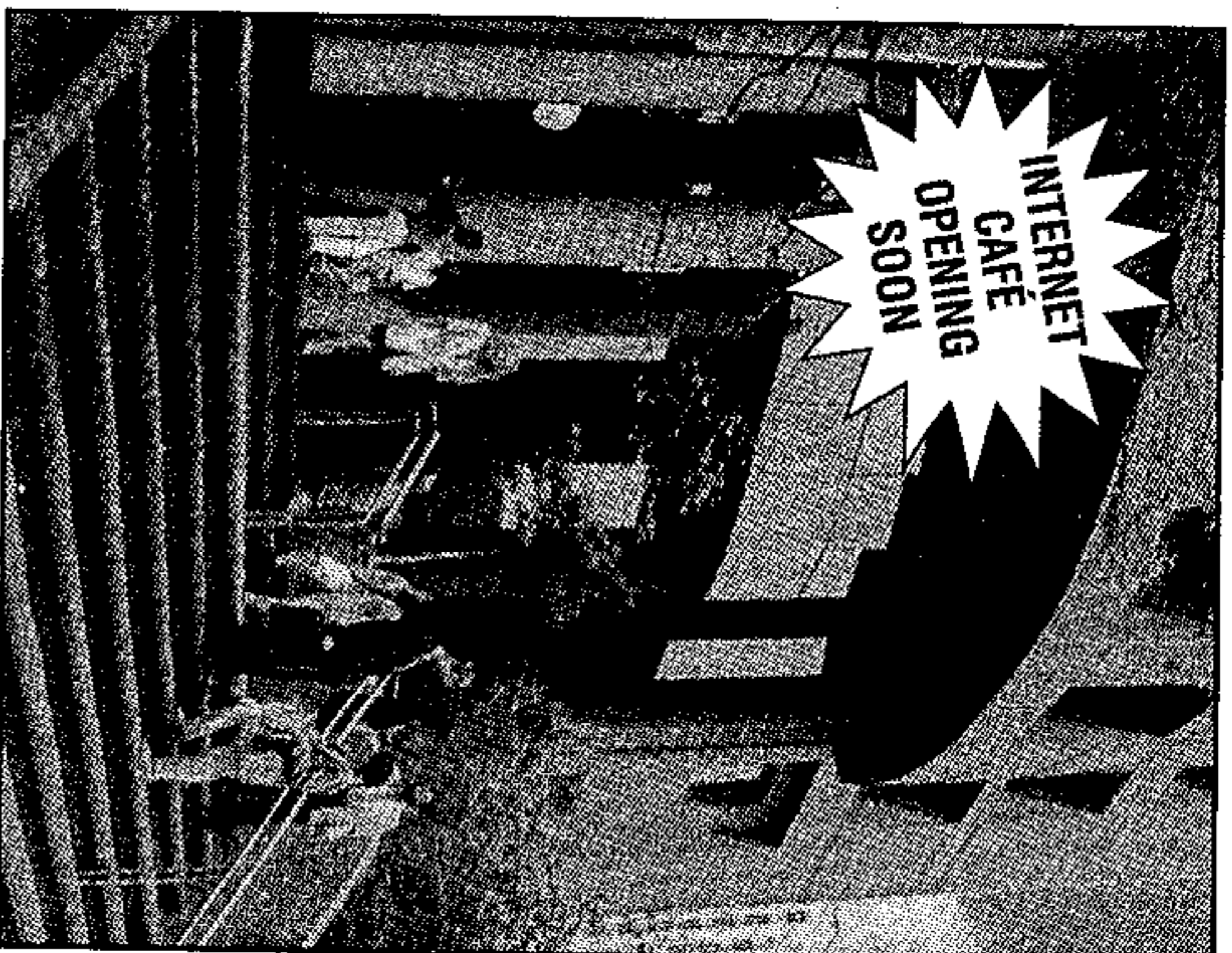
This has been tried and tested at the University of Warwick where more commercial activities are branded simply "Warwick" and accommodation branding also has no link to the university - with a name such as "Radcliffe House".

Wits already has 44 income-generating programmes up and running. Perhaps the future is not quite so bleak after all.

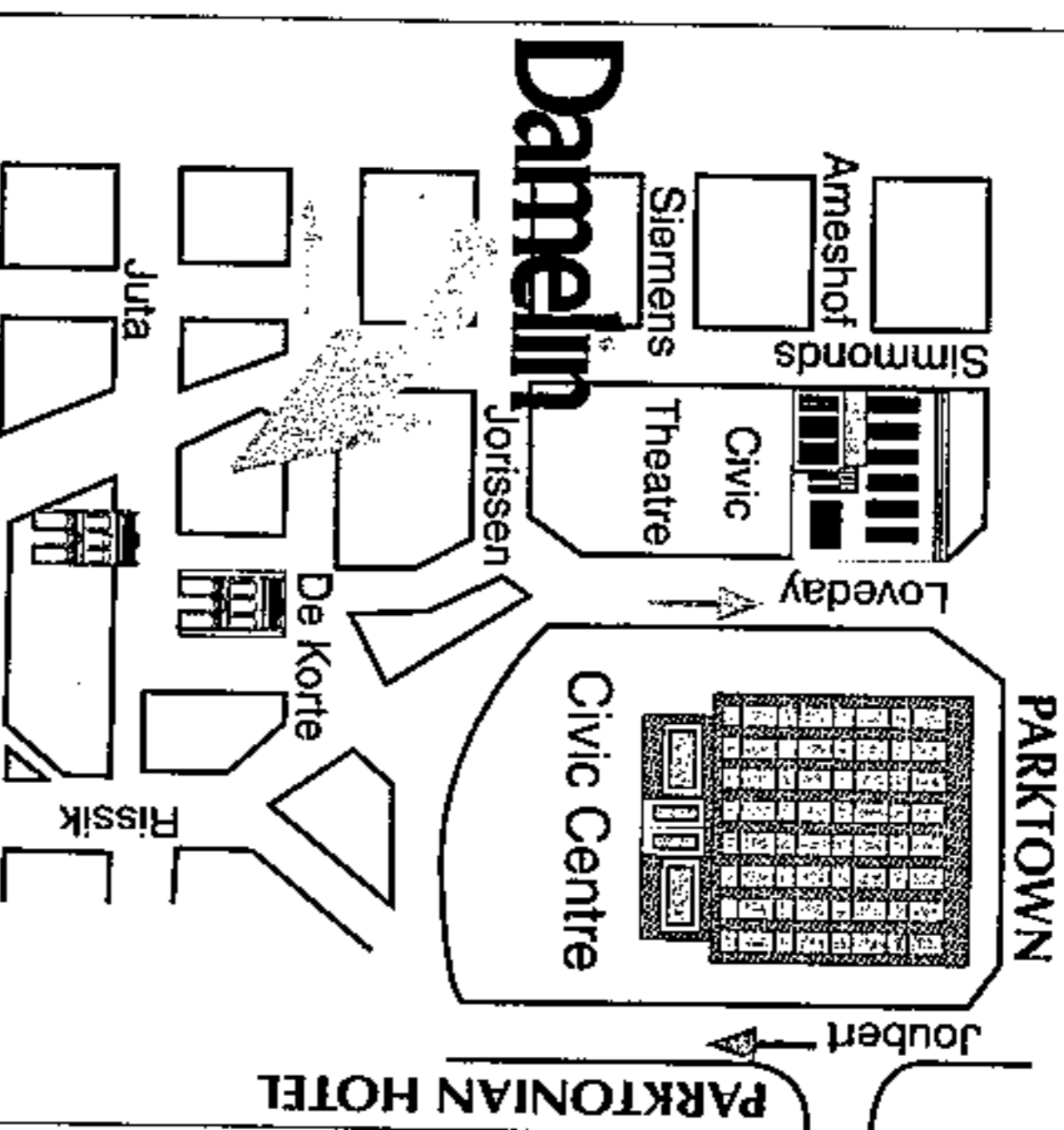
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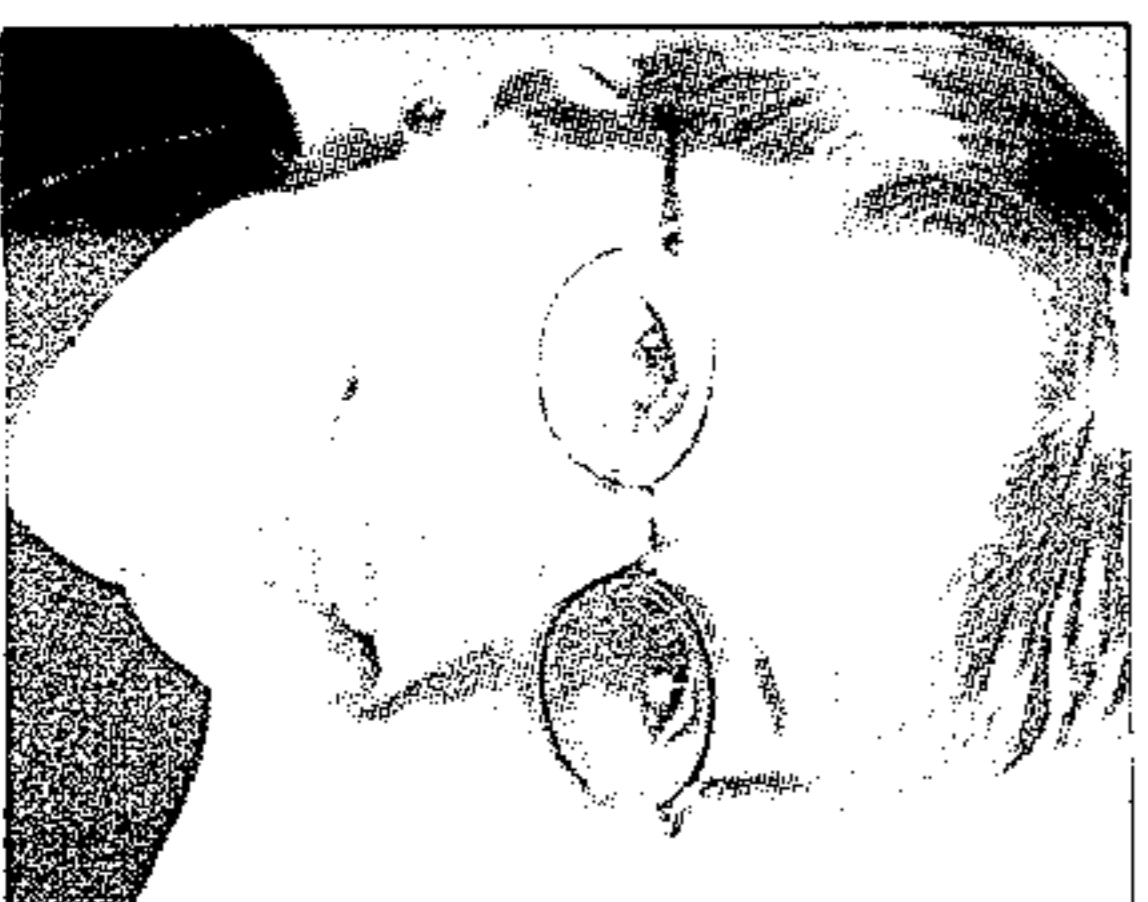
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No longer the way ... universities are having to look beyond simply making demands to government for more money and find innovative ways to make themselves financially viable.



In the United Kingdom, programmes to put universities on the right financial footing have paid off handsomely and South Africa, with its record of non-payment of fees, is taking steps to follow the British example, writes Education Reporter Jacqui Reeves

Thousands leave UWC over fees

ARG 21/4/98 (54)

Hard line slashes debt

CAROL CAMPBELL
SPECIAL WRITER

There has been a heavy drop-out of students from the University of the Western Cape this year as those who cannot afford to pay fees give up studying and return home, mostly to rural communities.

Another reason for a drop in numbers is that many failed students have not returned to campus because they know they will not be taken back.

The university administration confirmed yesterday that enrolment this year was 2 200 lower than last year's, putting the student tally at 11 002.

University spokesman Alwyn van Gensen said the decline "was anticipated", and he expected the figure would stabilise once new, fee-paying students began enrolling.

"We were at full capacity before, but the drop in numbers has given us some breathing space.

"Our immediate concern this year was the financial sustainability of the institution," he said.

UWC was thrown into turmoil when

rector Cecil Abrahams said the institution might be closed if students did not pay their fees. He adopted a hard-line approach, refusing to register students who did not pay.

In spite of vociferous student protest, Professor Abrahams stood firm and student leaders eventually signed an agreement committing students to paying 40% of their outstanding debt and an upfront payment of R2 000.

The tough approach worked. The university is now owed R17-million in unpaid fees, reduced from R60-million four months ago.

Mr Van Gensen said: "We had a very successful national campaign in which our staff visited centres around the country to speak to parents about paying fees. They proved to be very willing to contribute."

The outstanding R17-million had not been written off and would be collected by the the university's newly established debt collection unit.

But the student representative council president, Goodenough Kodwa, yesterday criticised the university administration for "always putting out fires" and not looking at the issue of student debt from the

THE ARGUS, TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 1998

SRC warns on debtor drop-outs

(54)

From page 1

ARG 21/4/98

perspective of the long term. "This is all going to happen next year and the year after when the next generation of students come to university. We must find a long-term solution which involves the Government, the community and the university," he said.

Mr Kodwa said the SRC had suggested that the university and students work together on a Masakhane-type (paying for services) campaign and fundraising drive, but the administration had shown no interest in pursuing the ideas.

Koos Mahlangu, a spokesman for the Western Cape branch of the South African Students' Congress, said yesterday that about 200 academically deserving students who were too poor to pay fees were still waiting for financial assistance from the Government so they could register at UWC.

"This is a national issue which must be resolved by the Ministry of Education. Students who are academically deserving must be allowed to study even if they have no money."

Mr Mahlangu, a final-year science student, owes the university R24 000 - a debt his unemployed father and domestic worker mother will never be able to pay.

To page 2

Vaal students out on bail

(54)

Sowetan
By Victor Mecoamere

EIGHTEEN students arrested during and after protest action at the Vaal Triangle Technikon last Thursday were released on R5 000 bail each on Monday.

The students were arrested on charges of vandalism, damage to public property and looting which stemmed from a demonstration reportedly sparked off by dissatisfaction over a course at the institution.

Irate students demanded their money back while others demanded a separation of the course into two.

They claimed that the courses were presented separately at other institutions such as the Pretoria Technikon.

The arrested students appeared in the Vanderbijlpark Magistrate's Court last Friday and on Monday this week.

27/4/98
Those who have not been released, mostly because they cannot afford bail, are currently locked up at the local police station.

Sowetan has also learnt that most of the stolen goods were recovered during a search on Monday.

The provincial and branch executive councils of the South African Students Congress (Sasco) and the local committee of the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) have called for the immediate reopening of the technikon.

They have called for an independent commission of inquiry to investigate events leading to the demonstrations.

The technikon was closed at the weekend because of the unrest at the school, said the technikon's council chairperson Dr Chrizanne van Eeden yesterday.

Reopening of Vaal Triangle Technikon postponed

Vanderbijlpark - The Vaal Triangle Technikon, which was rocked by student protests last week, would remain closed until further notice, the institution said yesterday.

The technikon said in a statement the decision followed the assessment of the current situation, which necessitated postponing the originally stated reopening date of April 29.

The closure was intended to

restore a situation conducive to learning after the protests, which resulted in damage to property.

The technikon put the blame on the students' representative council, saying its leadership did not heed advice given by the technikon council and management regarding mounting tensions.

"The technikon expresses disappointment in the leader-

ship of the SRC inasmuch as it was unable to command student support and to exercise control," the statement said.

Management said it was in control of the situation, adding it was committed to investigating all protest incidents and to bringing the culprits to book.

Assessors were determining the extent of the damage and an Independent Mediation of South

Africa facilitator would be involved in further discussions.

Meanwhile, the Pan Africanist Congress in Gauteng has denied it was involved in the unrest at the technikon. The PAC said an impression had been created that it was involved in the unrest.

The technikon said it distanced itself from the impression that the PAC was involved in the protests. - Sapa

Star 22/4/98

(54)

IN BRIEF

University students (54) granted bail after sit-in

THIRTY-eight students were granted bail of R100 each by a Bloemfontein magistrate when they appeared in court yesterday on charges of trespassing and contravening an interdict that prevents mass action on the Free State University campus.

They were arrested on Monday after they refused to leave the administration building and demanded a further postponement of the cut-off date for the registration of students who owed the university money.

The final cut-off date was April 3 and the university has refused to readmit defaulters for the second term.

The case was postponed to May 5.

Meanwhile, 19 cars were damaged on the campus in the early hours of Tuesday. Their tyres were slashed and some had their windscreens smashed.

Groups of students ran around the campus to disrupt classes and tests yesterday, and 33 were arrested.

Prof Teuns Verschoor, dean of student affairs and transformation, said students who had been prejudiced would be given an opportunity to rewrite their tests. Verschoor said the university was not prepared to negotiate any further on the readmission of students.

Those whose provisional registration had been cancelled were given notice yesterday to vacate the hostels and campus.

Any student, whether registered or not, would be arrested if they contravened the provisions of the interdict, which has been in force since last year.

The police are maintaining a strong presence on the campus and have said they will not withdraw until the situation has stabilised.

R15 landmine costs R5 000 to lift

82/17/98
80/22/4/98



R1,7m spent on campus curtains

(54) M+G 24-29/4/98

Mukoni T Ratshitanga

The University of Zululand — one of the hardest hit by government subsidy cuts and student debt — spent more than R1,7-million on curtains in three years.

However, university representative Carl de Villiers said this week a preliminary report on the linen spending spree “does not show any criminal activity”.

The probe that produced this report appears to have hit rocky ground. Three weeks ago, the university claimed there was no report because “much of the original documentation could not be located”. But then on the same day De Villiers said documents had been found, and the investigation would proceed.

The figure the university says was spent on curtains is R600 000, but this is contradicted by documentary evidence in the *Mail & Guardian's* possession showing R1 719 194 was spent between April 1995 and June 1997.

A requisition slip to the university's purchasing office dated November 1995 asks for authorisation for a packet of penlight batteries. The office issued a payment of R2 193 to Curtain and Fabric Consultants using the same requisition number.

Curtain and Fabric Consultants was the only supplier of curtains to the university.

During 1995, the largest amount paid out by the university was R91 000. The requisition was for R5 000 for the printing of *Unicom*, an internal student publication. But the requisition number was used to pay Curtain and Fabric Consultants R91 000 for mattress covers.

But three weeks ago De Villiers said the university does not buy mattress covers. “Students supply that [mattress covers] along with their bedding,” he said.

Staff and students contacted by the *M&G* this week said new curtains arrived only last month and did not appear to have been worth R600 000.

“Some buildings don't have curtains; if they have curtains, they are old. The question is, where are those curtains that were bought since 1995?” asked a staff member.

Both staff and students mentioned their disquiet about the probe dragging on for so long. The probe began last July after the *M&G* made inquiries about the astronomical curtain account.

Said the staff member: “When we raised these matters last year, someone — whose name I won't mention for the sake of your secu-

rity and mine — threatened to take people to all sorts of forums, internal and external.

“We waited patiently and still the investigation is not complete, ostensibly because the documents could not be found. I smell a rat.”

The university last year suggested the large purchase “was occasioned by the wholesale theft from the [student] residences of thousands of rands worth of [curtains, mattress covers and other linen items], seemingly in November to December 1996. When students arrived for the 1997 year, they had to be supplied with these items.”

But this did not explain why large amounts had been removed from university coffers since 1995, before thieves cleaned out the student residences.

The South African Students' Congress (Sasco) branch at the University of Zululand said last year that there were no new curtains in student residences. “Where are the curtains?” it asked in a pamphlet distributed on campus. “The student residences are using old and rotten rags for curtaining.”

The university said last week: “Sasco's claim was looked into and found to be correct. The residences affected were then fitted with new curtains.”

New Catholic varsity gets off the ground

By WINNIE GRAHAM

A Catholic University – to be known as St Augustine College of South Africa – will open in Johannesburg next year.

This new private university is already operating as a register Section 21 (not for gain) company as it prepares its application for formal registration. The Ministry of Education has given the proposed establishment its full support.

The university's main aim will be to develop leaders with "the moral and social responsibility to treat their fellow beings with dignity and respect".

A Catholic nun Professor Edith Raidt, retired professor of Afrikaans and Historical Linguistics at the University of the Witwatersrand, has been appointed the chief executive officer of the new institution.

The university will be launched at a winter school next month, with fulltime university courses being offered from 1999. Initially only post-graduate courses will be offered such as, for instance, a master's degree and a post-graduate diploma course in the

(54) Nov 28/4/98
fields of philosophy, applied ethics, theology and religious education.

A panel of eminent scholars, theologians and politicians, both from South Africa and abroad, have offered their services to the new university. Academic exchange agreements have already been offered by prominent overseas universities.

The new college will be launched next month

The establishment of St Augustine is a lay Catholic initiative. However, it is being launched with the full co-operation of the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference.

The concept of a Catholic university in South Africa was first mooted about four years ago. The idea was taken up by a group of academics and theologians who have worked tirelessly to get the university off the ground. A trust fund has

been established to ensure its viability.

Professor Raidt said this week that the university would be Catholic in ethos but open to anyone with the appropriate academic qualifications (a minimum of a four-year bachelor's degree or equivalent).

"The ultimate goal is to create an independent, private Catholic University to meet the perceived need for value-based teaching and research in South Africa," she said. "Character formation does not normally form a significant part of a programme to which most university students are exposed."

The founders are looking for suitable accommodation – probably east of Johannesburg – and may rent rather than buy in the immediate future. Raidt is adamant that people, not buildings, will be the top priority.

"We are not about to create a university for the elite," she said.

The winter school will provide a taste of what the university will offer and the university's first students are expected to be drawn from the

winter school enrolment.

Academics such as Dr Augustine Shutte, senior lecturer in philosophy at the University of Cape Town, Professor Deon Rossouw, head of the department of philosophy at RAU, Professor Josef Stegmann of Bochum University, Germany, Professor Paulus Zulu, deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Natal, Dr Ben Ngubane, the premier of KwaZulu Natal, Dr Emmanuel Katongole of the Katigondo National Seminary in Uganda, Professor Oliver Williams of the Notre Dame Centre for Ethics and Religious Values in Business in Indiana, United States, and Professor Johan Verstraeten, director of the European Centre for Christian Ethics in Leuven, Belgium, are some of the top academics who will conduct courses at the winter school.

The college will aim to teach disciplines necessary for true human development.

"It will aim to underpin ethical values in all its educational programmes and thus produce graduates who remain sensitive to current moral issues," Raidt said.

University student numbers diminish

Primarashni Pillay

FEWER matric exemption passes, a high unemployment rate and limited access to funding has resulted in drops of up to 21% in student numbers at SA's tertiary education institutions over the past year.

Worst hit are former black universities. The University of Zululand registered a 21% drop in enrolments this year compared with last year, the University of the North recorded an 18% decline and the University of the Western Cape a fall of 15%.

By contrast, student numbers over the same period at Wits and Cape Town universities rose slightly.

Ahmed Essop, chief director for higher education planning in the ed-

ucation department, said the decline had been greater at universities than at technikons and that historically black universities have been worst affected. Among the reasons for the latter trend was the movement of students from historically black to historically white institutions.

Prof Cecil Abrahams, rector of the University of the Western Cape and chairman of the Historically Disadvantaged Universities Forum, said that 10 such universities had experienced a drop in student numbers this year, as students had to settle their outstanding fees from previous years within a certain time. UWC's 1998 intake was 11 400 against 13 400 last year.

Abrahams said several former black universities were shifting their pro-

gramme interest from the humanities to job-related programmes.

He said black universities had built up student numbers at a time when their staff numbers and resources were low. "However, the present drop in student numbers means that we can grow student numbers in line with staff numbers and infrastructure."

The University of Zululand's student intake this year of more than 6 000 is down from last year's 7 600. Media officer Carl de Villiers said some students were moving to historically white universities, where the environment was more stable.

Campus rector Prof Charles Dlamini said there was also a tendency for

Continued on Page 2

Students

Continued from Page 1

students to opt for a technikon education, which improved their job prospects. "We are concerned about the drop in student numbers," he said. However, he predicted that the situation would stabilise.

Turfloop University's student numbers have dropped from 10 600 to 8 700 this year, while the University of Durban Westville's student intake of about 10 000 has remained constant.

At the historically white Natal University, student numbers have fallen 5% from 17 300 to 16 500. Trevor Wills,

dean of student services, said white student numbers were about 13% lower while black student numbers were down by less than 1%. "We are not growing and face competition from private tertiary institutions," he said.

The University of Cape Town has increased its intake from 15 380 to 15 790 while Wits University's intake is about 17 130 and is expected to increase to last year's figure of 17 990.

□ Vuyo Mvoko reports Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu told Parliament that students owed tertiary institutions at least R457,8m. The University of the North was owed R70m, the University of Zululand R55m, University of the Western Cape R50,3m, Medunsa R52,5m and Vista R33,3m.

Campuses of the future set to become centres of commerce

JACQUI REEVES
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

(54)

ART 1/5/98

Johannesburg - With their heads bowed, engrossed in conversations on the metaphysical poets, erudite professors walk along oak-lined avenues, passing buildings with Latin names chiselled above granite entrances.

Suddenly, the metaphysical is overtaken by the material as the startled professors scuttle past the McDonalds Golden Arch, trip over a trolley from the campus Superette and bash into a dolled-up student as she rushes out of the nail salon to make her 1.30pm classics lecture.

Could this be the university campus of the future? In Britain, this is already the university of the present and South African tertiary institutions are beginning to understand why.

It is estimated that South African students owe their colleges and universities about R500-million - one third of the combined budget of the country's 21 universities.

Belt-tightening strategies are seeing fewer government subsidies available for tertiary education and the responsibility is falling, often very damagingly, onto students, parents and the institutions themselves, to make their campuses more than just academic centres of excellence, but ones that are also financially viable.

Building a university that can stay in the black while offering high-quality education has become a reality for some by making the institutions work. People, buildings, resources and brainpower are being harnessed to turn campuses into "earners".

The University of Warwick in Britain began the 1996/97 financial year with a budget of £220-million (R1,8-billion). Of this, £134-million (R1,1-billion) was "earned" by the university - a whopping 60% of the university's budget.

This is the highest percentage of earned income of all universities in Britain. All this income is ploughed back into strengthening teaching and research. This commitment to using additional funds to develop the institution has paid off handsomely.

In 1996/97, The Times Good University Guide rated Warwick the eighth best university in Britain, the fourth best for research and the top business school in the country.

As with the Wits income generation programme, no firm overall policy was developed or applied at Warwick for several years.

Wits began looking at programme

options as early as November 1996, but only set up the department late last year.

Director of the income generation programme Robin Lee believes Warwick University's decision to maintain short lines of communication and to develop links between management teams is crucial.

"These projects work only when the departments and faculties really believe in them and are willing to invest in them with time and effort, so it is essential that everyone feels they have a part to play in the project," he said.

The programmes also create employment opportunities for students, giving them experience in their chosen fields.

Professor Lee said that while students were able to supplement their income with the programmes, the goal is to keep the student's money on the campus.

Academically orientated programmes are based largely on the concept of "lifelong education" for all walks of life.

Fields such as law and medicine lend themselves to regular "top-up" courses for graduates, but additional courses in commerce, engineering and languages also are proving to be good money-spinners for Wits.

Courses are tailor-made for companies and can be made part-time, block courses for a few weeks, or weekend classes.

Wits is also targeting the patenting of products designed at the university and securing a percentage of the product's profits. The university provides the resources for the research and helps in initial patenting costs, details and secures some rights on the product.

This use of technologically skilled men and women by institutions of higher learning has already paid off handsomely in Britain. Academics-turned-entrepreneurs have developed a growing tribe of "millionaire dons" with Cambridge University at the forefront closely followed by Leeds, Oxford and Edinburgh.

Philip Beresford, a journalist who compiles an annual "Rich List" for the London Sunday Times, said Britain now boasted at least 120 millionaire dons who had struck it rich with the help of their universities.

The University of Cape Town has also broadened its money-earning scope by drawing on the tourist potential of the city

and the university's prime location at the foot of Table Mountain, with the "Vac Acc" (vacation accommodation) project.

UCT has 16 formal residences around Rondebosch and Mowbray which become affordable holiday spots for visitors during the winter and summer holidays.

Self-catering flats, complete with cooking facilities, crockery and cutlery are on offer, housing between four and six adults.

Ian MacIntosh, UCT's director of housing, said the VacAcc project had not been particularly widely marketed in the past, but said more attention was being paid to aggressively selling the accommodation.

The magnificent "Ivy League" look of the UCT campus is also becoming a selling point for the university.

Film crews and advertising agencies are finding they have to pay for the use of the beautiful environment. The university has also cornered the market in research contracts and grants and had a research budget last year of R120-million.

The University of Durban-Westville has more than 20 major money-earning projects over and above their students' fees.

These include diverse projects such as the use of their printing services for private contracts, a campus hotel, language laboratories, dental and optometry clinics and student health services.

Universities are, however, not the only institutions finding new ways to make themselves financially viable.

Leon Storm, director of the newly established business management services wing of the Technikon Witwatersrand, said tertiary education was becoming an exceptionally competitive field that required innovation.

"Partnerships between TWR and external groups will give industry and commerce access to

advice, technical support and research facilities on the campus," said Mr Storm.

He said funds raised from these ventures would be ploughed straight back into the technikon to help maintain and develop their standards of excellence.

Taking a strong lead from the University of Warwick, Wits may soon see some of the most innovative ideas in self-financing in the country. A campus supermarket, serving the self-catering residences and staff who work on the campus, hair salons and a post office are just some of the ideas.

Wits has 44 income generation programmes up and running and as many as two suggestions a week for new projects. Perhaps the future is not quite so bleak after all.

**Britain now boasts
120 millionaire dons
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**UCT has over 16
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spots for visitors**

'Vandals are non-students'

By MOSES SHIBA

(54) CP 3/5/98

"NON-STUDENTS" were behind protests that led to the closure of Vaal Triangle Technikon.

Nine of the eighteen protestors who were charged in a Vanderbiljpark court for vandalism and theft, are said by management to be "non-students".

This was confirmed by Students Representative Council (SRC) president Moloantoa Makhunga, who said "some of the protestors were no longer students".

The technikon was closed last month because of unrest, following several SRC demands.

However, management plans to reopen the technikon tomorrow and although this move has the support of the ANC, the SRC remains defiant, saying they "will prevent the campus from being reopened" until they have reached agreement with the institution's management.

Gauteng MEC Mary Metcalfe told City Press she "was happy with the planned reopening tomorrow".

□ Damages to the campus residence and cafeteria are estimated at over R1 million.

A lawyer, Tefo Raditapole, has been appointed as mediator to look into the technikon's problems.

Technikon spokesperson Andrew Strauss said: "Police will patrol the technikon to protect students and staff."

Highly placed sources at the technikon told City Press that some staff members would not return to classes because they feared for their safety and would only return if the SRC was disbanded.

They also said staff who claim they were kidnapped "intended to sue the SRC and press for criminal charges against them".

However, City Press understands that efforts will be made by the technikon council and management to dissuade them from doing so.

The SRC appears to be unfazed by the threat of court action.

"They are at liberty to do so. This is a free country.

"Nobody was assaulted or taken hostage and I'm prepared to put my head on the block to defend our students," the SRC president said.

"But people must not get us wrong, we will not interfere in this week's court case," the SRC president added.

□ Sattelite campuses in Kempton Park, Secunda, Klerksdorp and Highveld Ridge, in Western Cape, have been functioning normally.

Disabled woman in UCT job row

(54)
AYESHA ISMAIL

A DISABLED Cape Town woman and the University of Cape Town are at loggerheads after the woman was overlooked for a job in favour of a "better qualified" Zimbabwean applicant.

Fadila Lagadien, who was appointed as acting head of the university's disability unit on a three-month contract, was informed by UCT that her application for the permanent post was not successful. The position had been offered to "an outstanding, well qualified and experienced candidate, who is also black, a woman and disabled", said the university.

Lagadien this week reported the matter to the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) and has laid a

ST (CM) 2/5/98

complaint of unfair labour practice against UCT. She said she was offered the job in an acting capacity in January while UCT advertised the post.

She was short-listed, interviewed and then told she was not successful. However, she was asked to extend her contract while UCT awaited a work permit for the successful applicant.

When Lagadien made enquiries, UCT told her she was not "the best applicant" for the job.

UCT spokesperson Helen Zille said the selection had followed all the proper procedures.

Lagadien said: "Not only is this insensitive towards the new vision of our country regarding corrective action, but it is also not in line with UCT's own restructuring vision which is to 'grow their own timber', to quote Dr Mamphela Ramphele (UCT vice-chancellor)."

Media changes boosted by new Chair at Rhodes

AACT 5/5/98

Transformation tackled

STAFF REPORTER

Independent Newspapers is to establish a Chair of Media Transformation at Rhodes University in Grahamstown.

The announcement by the head of the department of journalism and media studies, Guy Berger, coincided with International Press Freedom Day at the weekend, which Professor Berger said symbolised the importance of the initiative for South Africa.

The chair will be sponsored by Independent Newspapers for three years.

Chief executive officer Ivan Fallon said transformation was the highest priority for the media in South Africa, and Independent Newspapers was pleased to be able to make a contribution to benefit the industry and, therefore, the country.

"We're all engaged in transformation, and we will all benefit," he said.

Professor Berger said the new post would hold up a mirror to South Africa's media, and added: "The chair will research the successes and problems in transforming journalism – and journalism training – in line with our

changing society. South Africa's context has changed and our society now enjoys free and independent media.

"This chair will give back-up to the changes taking place within the media."

A board representing a range of media companies would act as reference for the chair. Its members included Independent Newspapers editorial director Shaun Johnson, Sowetan editor-in-chief Aggrey Klaaste, Irene Charnley of Times Media, Midi Television head Nomazizi Matshotshisa, author Anthony Sampson and representatives of the SABC, Primedia, Penta and Kagiso Media.

Mr Fallon said that Independent Newspapers had insisted the company exercised no control over the chair.

"Transformation is bigger than inter-company rivalry," he said.

The challenge to achieve properly representative and relevant media companies, producing journalism of the highest quality, was a national priority.

The Chair of Media Transformation would be advertised in May and he expected it to be filled by August.

(54)

(24)



SA Students' Congress education and transformation officer Makhukhu Mampuru, left, and general secretary Tshilidzi Ratshitanga address a briefing on the need for a new student funding system.

Picture: TREVOR SAMSON

Sasco calls for overhaul of funding system

Primarashni Pillay

THE SA Students' Congress (Sasco) called for a major overhaul of the student funding system yesterday.

Sasco said the Tertiary Education Fund of SA should be replaced by a stakeholder body accountable to the national education ministry and which covered the funding needs of all students in a uniform manner.

Sasco made the call after participating in a weekend funding and governance summit attended by government officials including Deputy Finance Minister Gill Marcus and representatives of students representative councils countrywide.

The closest SA has come to a proper student funding scheme is the Tertiary Education Fund, which has granted loans to more than 100 000

disadvantaged students since 1991. It receives most of its funding as an annual grant from government and distributes and administers loans to needy students on behalf of most universities which also allocate subsidies to the students.

Sasco secretary-general Tshilidzi Ratshitanga said yesterday that Sasco "is concerned that (the fund) continues to fail many students that have put their trust in it ... and ... the problem lies in its structure and management".

Ratshitanga said students in colleges did not benefit from the fund and the national student financial aid scheme and postgraduate students were also affected. He called on the education ministry to replace the fund with a newly created body that had advisory powers to the ministry.

BD 6/5/98 (54)
The body should be "duplicated in various institutions throughout the country. To close currently existing loopholes we call for the nationalisation of the means test used to determine students' neediness", he said.

He stressed that the ministry should have a final say on matters of student funding. Sasco also called for a student trust fund which should have the "blessing and recognition" of government.

Ratshitanga said that with the privatisation and restructuring of government's assets, "there must be a stake that serves as a contribution to this trust fund. After all, people involved in these institutions ... benefit from graduates".

Sasco plans to participate in mass action on May 14 to demand the restructuring of the fund.

Govt deducts unpaid fees from parents' salaries

ET 6/5/98

(54)

JOVIAL RANTAO

THE government has begun to clamp down on parents who have not paid university fees for their children by deducting monies due to the institutions from their salaries, Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Education has been told.

During the past financial year, the Tertiary Education Fund of South Africa (TEFSA), which manages the National Student Financial Scheme, recovered money at an average of R1 million a working day, it was revealed yesterday.

At total of R24,8m was collected last year.

Mr Roy Jackson, chief executive of TEFSA, told the committee that repayments, expected to substantially reduce the R5 billion owed by students to tertiary institutions, were being received in the form of electronic transfers, stop orders, debit orders, postal orders and cheques.

TEFSA expects to collect another R35m in the 1998/99 financial year.

The non-payment of loans has

led to turmoil and violence in tertiary institutions around the country. Students at the University of Transkei have lost two weeks of academic work through demonstrations linked to the non-payment of fees.

Jackson said the turnaround came after the government recognised TEFSA as a company entitled to recover loans at remuneration source.

In a report tabled before the committee, Jackson said that after protracted discussions and negotiations with government departments, employer associations and other interest groups, the Provision of Special Funds for Tertiary Education and Training Act was promulgated in 1993.

The act provides for the Minister of Education to identify on application, recognised companies whose sole business would be to obtain and receive funds to make loans to individuals for tertiary education. It also provides for the recovery at remuneration source of loans made by such recognised companies. TEFSA is SA's only recognised company.

Med-schools fail to train disadvantaged

JOYAL RANTAO

MEDICAL schools with a low or non-existent intake of black students could face penalties that may include reduced state subsidies, the Department of Health has warned.

Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba, the deputy director-general in the department, told Parliament's Health Committee that the government was unhappy about the number of black medical graduates produced by South Africa's eight medical schools.

"The pace (of admission) is not fast enough. When you look at the admissions, instead of improving they're getting worse," Ntsaluba said.

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Of the 22 000 medical doctors in South Africa, only 3 000 are black.

Responding to questions from ANC MPs Francis Baloyi and Essop Jassat, Ntsaluba said discussions were being held with the Department of Education, which issues the subsidies, to ensure that institutions received subsidies that would be congruent with their outcomes in terms of national policy and priority.

"There will be very clear and coherent links between a subsidy given to the institution and their output in terms of the national objective. There must be some recognition and commitment to national priorities," he said.

Ntsaluba said a task team had been established to deal with the problem.

He did not respond to questions on whether the government would consider introducing a quota system as a way of forcing medical schools to increase their intake of black pupils.

Jassat suggested that in the light of reports that 50% of students who qualified at Wits University left the country after graduation, the government should consider shifting more resources to fund students who remained in South Africa. Institutions such as the Medunsa should be considered, he added. Wits' subsidy was increased from R274-million to R319m.

12 will not be prosecuted for campus riot

(64) BD 7/5/98

Farouk Chothia

DURBAN — KwaZulu-Natal attorney-general Tim McNally has declined to prosecute more than 12 people for alleged incidents of violence at the University of Durban-Westville partly out of fear it could reignite campus violence.

McNally's decision means that he has rejected the recommendation of a presidential commission of inquiry that charges related to kidnapping, public violence and intimidation be brought against staff and student leaders embroiled in campus conflict.

He has told the office of the president and Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu that the commission's report was "one-sided", though through no fault of its own.

The combined staff association and students representative council declined to co-operate with the commission.

McNally said that if one read between the lines, it also became apparent that the then "vice-chancellor and other very senior people are not without blame".

Former sociology department head Prof Ranaldo Munch had been "abused". While criticising this, McNally said Munch tended to attract abuse because of his apparently authoritarian management style.

The commission had essentially studied "yesteryear's problems", he added. Violence might be provoked if a decision to prosecute was taken. It did not seem to be in the public interest to burden

the new leadership with the resurgence of past violence.

McNally said police had made no arrests at the time of the UDW campus unrest, and it was doubtful whether they would have greater success now.

A staff association spokesman said McNally's decision was a vindication of the "struggle" against privatisation and retrenchments on the campus, and the rejection of transformation based on "narrow political sectarianism" and the "building of careers".

A university spokesman said they were still trying to verify the attorney-general's decision, and therefore could not comment.

Internal disciplinary action against those implicated was continuing, the spokesman said.

University fees deducted from pay

(514)
BY JOVIAL RANTAO
Political Correspondent

John 7/15/1998
Cape Town - The Government is taking drastic steps against people who have not been paying their children's university fees.

It has begun deducting money from the parents' salaries, Parliament's portfolio committee on education has been told.

During the past financial year, the Tertiary Education Fund of South Africa (Tefsa), which manages the national student financial scheme, recovered money at the average of R1-million per working day, it was revealed.

A total of R24,8-million was collected last year.

Roy Jackson, chief executive of Tefsa, told the committee that repayments, expected to substantially reduce the R5-billion owed by students to tertiary institutions, were being received in the form of electronic transfers, stop orders, debit orders, postal orders and cheques.

Tefsa, which has been recognised by the Government as the company entitled to recover loans, expects to collect a further R35-million in the 1998/99 financial year.

The non-payment of loans has led to turmoil at tertiary institutions around the country. Students at the University of Transkei have lost two weeks of academic work as a result of demonstrations.

Quiet history professor guides Wits into its millennium bit

From 26/5/98 (5/1)

South African universities find themselves in the throes of change and transformation as waves of subsidy cuts and students' debts rush over them. Professor Colin Bundy is the new vice-chancellor of Wits University and is the man who will lead the institution into the new millennium. Education Reporter Jacqui Reeves spoke to him.

The office occupied by the new vice-chancellor of Wits, Professor Colin Bundy, has dull oak panelling on the walls, carpets that have obviously seen more than a few vice-chancellors come and go, telephones that never stop ringing and access via the notorious Wits lifts.

It is ironic that Bundy has not only inherited a rather bureaucratic-looking work environment, but he himself is male and pale, something of a contradiction at a traditionally progressive university like Wits.

This soft-spoken history professor does not even flinch at the "male and pale" phrase and gears up for a well-executed argument when challenged on the issue of affirmative action.

blood cancer. Nolutshungu died last year.

"If Sam had not passed away you would not have needed to ask that question but I think there is a lot more to this job than simply colour," Bundy said.

Bundy believes both he and Nolutshungu were considered for the job because of the university's policy of appointing progressive leaders who are in step with change.

"I truly believe that both Sam and I fall into that category but we must remember that he was the man initially selected for the job," he said.

Though Bundy refers to Wits as a complicated and huge institution, he compares it in the same breath, to reorganising a corner cafe.

"There is always resistance to change, whether you are restructuring something as large as Wits, or just putting groceries differently on the shelves of a corner cafe," he said.

The 53-year-old academic has a youthful demeanour and is quite believable when he speaks about his affinity to students and student life.

"I like students, I like student life and have written about students as an intellectual interest, anyone in higher education has to like students," he said.

Graduates of some other, perhaps more conservative universities, will be able to attest to the fact that students are, to some university bureaucrats, nothing more than a

necessary evil which comes with the job. For this reason Bundy's statement is quite refreshing.

Though Bundy has been in office since January this year, his official installation took place just a month ago, attended by President Nelson Mandela, outgoing vice-chancellor Robert Charlton, as well as many rectors of other universities and colleges.

The ceremony may have been steeped in the pomp and circumstance of the academia but Bundy is determined to see his way down from his eleventh floor, ivory tower.

"You have got to make a conscious effort to try to keep in touch with students and what is happening on the campus," Bundy said.

So far this year, Bundy has met numerous societies and student organisations, has taught a few classes and has had a debate with Professor William Makgoba in a first-year politics class.

The challenges facing Wits, along with other tertiary education institutions in South Africa, are huge. But what they really boil down to are two things - transformation and money.

"Crucial to the survival of universities is diversifying our funding base and using what we have as efficiently as possible," Bundy said.

The transformation of Wits into a more representative and democratic institution is multifaceted and has, according to Bundy, required the

careful identification of priorities. Changes to curricula and examination policy have been highlighted as a major issue requiring change, as well as how a university will fit into the new National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

"The university will have to decide how we will respond to this new policy and how to create a system with flexible exit and entrance points," Bundy said.

The NQF will promote what has been termed "lifelong learning" by allowing students, both recent high school graduates and adults, to continue their learning through a system of credit transfers between institutions.

Bundy also believes Wits has to lead the way in developing a new generation of black academics.

"We have to take responsibility for building this new generation of academics that more closely represent our society than what we have produced in the past," he said.

It has been a concentrated effort on the part of Wits to increase the number of black students studying on the campus. Bundy does, however, admit that boosting the number of black students has recently required careful consideration.

"In the past we had a revolving door system that saw black students coming into the university, but dropping out because they didn't have the foundation on which to build a

further education," he said.

"We now have foundation courses, academic development courses and partnerships with 20 high schools, to try and assist future Wits students."

Compared with town-based universities like Stellenbosch, Rhodes or Potchefstroom, the Wits community is an urban one. Bundy believes the university has a crucial role to play in the city of Johannesburg.

A battle-weary inner city and the business district of Braamfontein which has little life after 6pm is of concern to Bundy. He believes the university has a responsibility to help with the regeneration of the CBD.

"I would like to see Braamfontein filled with people, bookshops, music stores and coffee shops, not only for our 3 500 students in residence, but also for the community of Johannesburg."

Bundy remained tight-lipped about details of the universities' regeneration projects, which are still in the planning stage, but has made a university office on Jorissen Street available for a community police station.

With a packed diary waiting and the interview over Bundy has to start his day. Money needs to be raised, curricula redesigned, students need to be attended to and the lifts aren't working - so the vice-chancellor is called.



Transformer ... Colin Bundy wants his institution to play a key role in the regeneration of Johannesburg.

Maties to elect their first woman chancellor

ARC 9/5/98 (54)



NEW CHANCELLOR: Elize Botha

STAFF REPORTER

Elize Botha, a former Afrikaans lecturer at the University of South Africa, is expected to become the first woman chancellor at the University of Stellenbosch.

Well-placed sources said this week that the Matie council would elect Prof Botha as the university's 12th chancellor at a special meeting today.

Prof Botha, who is a member of the university council, will replace Jan van der Horst, a former managing director of Old Mutual, who retired as chancellor earlier this year.

Prof Botha was also the first

woman to serve on the Nasionale Pers board of directors.

The council is also expected to elect a new chairman today to replace Gys Steyn, whose term has ended.

Insiders expect the battle for chairman to be a classic "verligte-verkrampte" struggle as more liberal-minded council members are positioning themselves to wrest the chair from their conservative colleagues.

It is believed that Naledi Pandor and Jakes Gerwel - two new council members appointed by Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu - could well sway the balance of power in favour of the "verligtes".

'No instant answers to imbalances'

Business Day Reporter

THE problems faced by historically black educational institutions, particularly universities and technikons, could not be solved in the immediate future because of desperately scarce resources, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said at the weekend.

He was speaking at the installation of Prof Mapule Ramashala as vice-chancellor of the University of Durban-Westville, in KwaZulu-Natal, where he praised the appointment of a black woman to the post. He said while government was ex-

pected to address apartheid education-al imbalances by way of disbursements from the national budget, revenues flowing into national public accounts were little changed from those collected by the previous government.

This revenues shortage was exacerbated by the fact that there was "absolutely no social need in our country which is not both massive and pressing... we are immersed in a long-term national emergency out of which we cannot escape unless we adopt emergency measures". He called for an urgent "national mobilisation" in which decision mak-

ers, including the business sector, recognised the seriousness of the emergency and devised "bold and original ways" to eliminate it.

Ramashala said the debate about maintaining the quality of tertiary education should not be used as a "smoke screen" to deny disadvantaged students access to such learning.

She said many universities, particularly historically black institutions, were plagued by student protests primarily because of the fee issue.

The financing of access to tertiary education was one of the most crucial issues that government as well as the

private sector should address given the large numbers of students previously denied the right to education.

"The challenge facing historically disadvantaged institutions is to enter the debate... not as victims or slow starters, but as vigorous participants in defining the needs of a new social order," she said.

Academics needed to "re-orientate" their roles and functions to bring them in line with a transformative vision while at the same time prepare students for the impact of the information revolution and global market of the next century, she said.

23 Vaal technikon students arrested after riots

Primarashni Pillay

POLICE arrested about 23 students from Vaal Triangle Technikon on charges of stealing, looting and damaging the campus, acting public affairs director Andrew Strauss said.

Trouble broke out at the technikon a few weeks ago when students, who were protesting over a course-related matter, trashed and looted the campus. The campus was then closed for about two weeks and re-opened last Monday.

Strauss said some of the university

equipment, which included computers, had been "found dumped in the veld", and that assessors had worked out the cost of the damage.

Furthermore, the technikon management had obtained a court interdict which prohibited staff and student meetings of any kind on the campus. "The interdict... will be in force for an indefinite period," Strauss said. Strauss said management would not be intimidated by "sinister forces operative on campus, and that police were monitoring the campus and strict access control was still in force."

Kruger's curio sellers unite and boost income

BERG-EN-DAL — The familiar bands of curio sellers that line the roads to the Kruger National Park have organised themselves into a high-powered alliance earning R40 000 a month from curio sales.

Elizabeth Mhlongo, manager of the Kruger Park's social ecology department, said at the weekend that the 69 curio sellers initially eked a living on

fixed, competitive prices at specific gates to the park.

The former Mhala woodcarver's association and Nyongane arts and crafts group, for example, worked the Kruger Gate near Hazyview. The former Lubambiswano arts and crafts group worked the Numbi Gate, near White River. Mhlongo said the Kruger Park was



Dark rumblings at Wits and UCT

(54)

Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu is shortly expected to announce the members of the Council on Higher Education charged with speeding up transformation of tertiary education.

Despite some rumblings, tertiary institutions throughout South Africa have enjoyed a relatively trouble-free start this year. However, the signs of a bubble about to burst are growing ominously.

Beneath the surface at two of the country's top universities, the University of Witwatersrand (Wits) and the University of Cape Town (UCT), lurks what could become as painful an issue as the high-voltage Makgoba affair at Wits three years ago.

Support for Professor William Makgoba is alleged to be among the factors that prevented Professor Shadrack Gutto becoming director of the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at Wits.

David Unterhalter was appointed to the post last month. Gutto, deputy director of the centre, wants an inquiry or he says he will go to court.

Vice-chancellor of Wits, Professor Colin Bundy, chaired the high-profile selection committee which decided on a replacement for Professor Dennis Davis, who left last June. The committee of 24 comprised four judges, four deans and senior council members.

Gutto believes, according to a recent report, that some committee members were chosen to ensure that Unterhalter was handpicked. Another complaint – and a valid one – is that there were only two blacks, both of them non-academics, on the committee. Meanwhile, the outspoken head of African Studies at UCT, Professor Mamood Mamdani, has withdrawn from the programme claiming that the syllabus reproduces the notion that Africa lies between the Sahara and the Limpopo – an idea produced and spread in the context of colonialism and apartheid.

In the foundation course, drawn up by other academics after Mamdani left, none of the recommended authors is African, which Mamdani says “encourages the idea that Africa has no intelligentsia”. His criticisms have sparked fiery debate at UCT. Whatever the truth of Gutto and Mamdani's claims, it would seem there exists a deep-rooted problem at these two institutions: one inextricably linked to transformation.

At the heart of the problem, according to academics, is the wide gulf between the “old brigade and the new upstarts”. The latter (black intellectuals)

Bengu is shortly expected to make an important move in an attempt to speed up the transformation in tertiary education, writes Edwin Naidu

Star 11/5/98

have soaring reputations throughout Africa and internationally. Many of them come with the skills required to change the paradigms created by the past. It is felt the rising tide of qualified black scholars does not enjoy equity with the old brigade when it comes to influence and power.

A number of academics claim there is a reluctance to give black intellectuals the freedom to harness change. Transformation, they say, is not linked to the running of institutions, but the willingness by the old guard to give up their gatekeeping roles of the past. That is why the likes of Gutto, Mamdani and Makgoba find themselves stymied in their efforts to change curricula. The Council on Higher Education (CHE) could be an effective way to overcome the problem.

Sibusiso pledged last year to appoint a 20-member Council on Higher Education as a statutory body to advise the minister on matters relating to transformation of higher education. Although nominations closed on February 13, it seems resolving the chairmanship has been a stumbling block.

Issues being discussed are whether any current university head could be given the role? What about technikon principals? Will the heads of any learning institution be faced with a conflict of interest, for instance, favouring their own institutions?

Makgoba and Human Sciences Research Council head Professor Roelf Stumpf were among the early front-runners for the post. It now seems that Bengu will recommend to Cabinet that academic-turned-businessman Professor Wiseman Nkuhlu should be the CHE chairman. He is seen as a neutral player with the right contacts. But the sooner Bengu breaks his silence on the identity of CHE members, the swifter that progress can be begun towards transformation of our higher learning institutions.

Students plan march to demand funding

BD 14/5/98 (54)

Primarashni Pillay

THOUSANDS of students countrywide are expected to participate in protest marches today over issues such as the funding of students at tertiary institutions.

Tshilidzi Ratshitanga, secretary-general of the SA Students' Congress, said students would demand the restructuring of the Tertiary Education Fund of SA, which administered loans to students, as well as the establishment of a redress fund for historically disadvantaged universities.

He said students would demand the intervention of Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu to ensure the protection of students who could be excluded from institutions because they had not yet settled outstanding fees.

Ratshitanga said depending on the outcome of the mass action today, further protests could be held.

Dustin Chick reports that classes at Pretoria Technikon were disrupted for the second day yesterday as students marched to protest against what they called "a unilateral decision" by management to impose a R1 charge on bus trips.

Sources within the Student Representatives' Council said the council had not been consulted about the charge, which was introduced at the start of the semester on April 15.

The same sources said the technikon had offered the council 10% of the R1 charge "to compel it to support the move".

The protesting students also called for the resignation

of the vice-rector for student affairs, Prof Reginald Ngcobo, because of his alleged inability to address so-called "black issues".

Yesterday, students were locked out of buildings as the police maintained a heavy presence on the campus.

The technikon said it had originally introduced free bus trips for resident students attending classes in the Pretoria city centre. However, it said day students had abused the system and made it financially unviable.

Technikon management said it supported students "expressing their wishes" but would not allow the disruption of classes.

In 1996, racially motivated riots broke out at the technikon, forcing the administration to close the campus for about a week.

RAU records a sharp increase in student numbers

(54)
Primarashni Pillay
BD 14/5/98

RAND Afrikaans University had shown a sharp increase in student numbers this year and the university would have to consider restricting student numbers next year, rector JC Van der Walt said yesterday.

He said that at undergraduate level for both day and night programmes, almost 2 500 new students had been enrolled, representing a 5% increase on last year's intake. At postgraduate level, almost 4 400 students had been registered — a 15% increase.

"The total number of enrolled undergraduate and postgraduate students is almost 12 800 ... an increase of almost 6% on last year's total. This sharp increase compels the university to investigate the possibility of restricting student numbers in specific fields in the future," Van der Walt said.

He said 52% of new full-time day programme students were Afrikaans-speaking while 48% spoke English. Furthermore, 80% of these students were white and 20% were black.

"If we combine the day and night programmes, 45% of the total student component (undergraduate and postgraduate) are Afrikaans-speaking, 55% are English-speaking, 70% are white and 30% are black.

Reasons for the increased student intake included perceptions that the university had high standards.

Van der Walt said the number of Afrikaans-speaking students was expected to decline. "We want to have Afrikaans-speaking students and English-speaking students and we want to provide for both," he said.

The university is historically an Afrikaans-medium institution and earlier this year it introduced a parallel stream of lectures in English and Afrikaans.

Private school plans Sandton university

Primarashni Pillay

PLANS by a top Johannesburg private school to establish a private university have moved a step closer to reality with the school's purchase of land in Benmore, Sandton.

Renney Plit, MD of Advtech Education Holdings, which owns Crawford private schools, said yesterday the university would be a joint venture with Monasch University in Australia, which

has an A-plus certification across all disciplines.

"We want to offer degrees in information technology, computer science, commerce and probably in the arts."

Plit said government was supporting the project.

The fees would be in line with Crawford private school fees.

There was a "huge growth in the demand for private education" as many people in the upper income group were

moving towards private education.

The university would be built at a cost of more than R20m and would cater for about 500 students in its first year of operation.

It would open in January next year.

The Lonehill Country Club and Golf Course north of Sandton had been purchased for almost R2m and would accommodate another phase of Crawford schools.

BD 14/5/98

Lighting up 'darkest' Africa

(54) MTC 15-21/5/98

Swapna Prabhakaran

Students at South African universities are planning a major expedition into Africa in the hopes of recovering lost knowledge about the continent.

The initiative started at the University of Durban-Westville (UDW), where students are planning to trek through Africa, visiting universities, museums and cultural centres, to revive relationships between South Africans and other African people.

"South Africa's history has left it isolated from all Africa," says Alex Mmethi, a UDW student. "We need to reintroduce ourselves to the rest of the continent in a way that will make a lasting impression."

Mmethi and other UDW students aim to leave during the September holidays so they don't miss too much of their course work. Their itinerary includes Zimbabwe, Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Egypt.

Other academic institutions and businesses have endorsed or sponsored the trip, and Deputy President Thabo Mbeki added his approval to the project last week. Other universities are also sending students.

UDW is also planning to build a multi-disciplinary Centre of the African Renaissance. Staff and students have pinned their hopes on it fulfilling a brief from the Department of Education to transform UDW into a "truly African" university.

Those involved in the centre are going all out to establish much-needed

links with the continent to enrich local knowledge of its language, history and heritage, science and technology.

Co-ordinated by academic and artist, Professor Pitika Ntuli, the centre also aims to offer students courses in "African renaissance" theory.

"In South Africa there is a general perception that Africa has no history and that Africans have no technology," Ntuli says. "What 'African renaissance' teaches is that each culture has its own forms of science, culture and art. There are many indigenous technologies."

Ntuli wants to introduce modules of "African renaissance" learning into every UDW degree, from the "hard sciences like engineering" through social sciences and humanities.

He believes every student needs to learn something of the history of the black peoples of South Africa, to regain a sense of the country's identity.

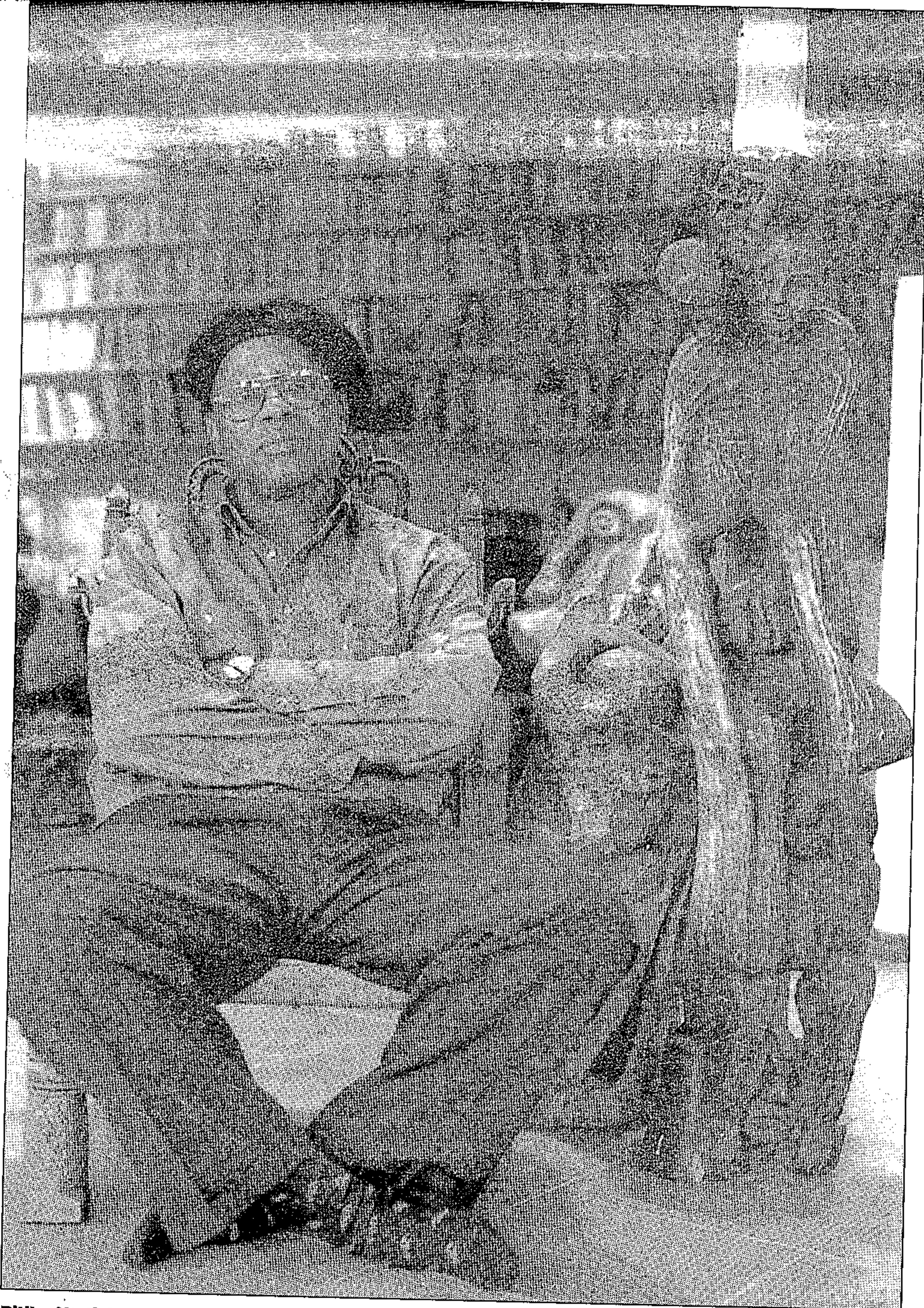
Also on the cards is an elaborate mentoring programme. Elder members of local communities — who may be illiterate in a Western sense — will mentor senior staff at the university, teaching them what has been passed down through oral tradition. The staff will then pass this on to students, who in turn will take the knowledge back to their own communities.

Ntuli says the range of knowledge covers science, health care, architecture and art — subjects which have been a part of African life since 2000BC.

The centre has been designed to fill the gaps left by apartheid and Western curricula.

"Through research we can retrieve history that was obliterated by colonialism," he says.

"We are trying to restore the dignity of people whose history has been denied them."



Pitika Ntuli: Wants to introduce modules of 'African renaissance' learning into every UDW degree.
PHOTOGRAPH: RAJESH JANTILAL

Matie students in march over rape

(54) CT 20/5/98

TROYE LUND

EVERY week a woman is date-raped on Stellenbosch campus, claim students who held a candlelight march last night in support of rape victims who keep silent, and as a show of a changing mood on campus.

The march followed controversy over the way university authorities have handled the rape of a first-year student in Simonsberg men's residence two weeks ago. The popular slogan of this residence is: "If at first you don't succeed, give her another beer."

Residence T-shirts depicting a nude woman and the words "Avoid unwanted pregnancies, sterilise your pet" were also donned by Simonsberg students this year, but these have been confiscated.

The recent rape complaint is the first official rape allegation ever to have been lodged at Stellenbosch University, and it has unleashed a consolidated attack against eight decades of conservative patriarchy at the university.

In the case's latest developments this week:

- The alleged Simonsberger rapist spent the day after the alleged rape bragging how he "scored two women", friends and residence mates of his have revealed.

- The first-year victim has decided not to

press charges and to let the university deal with the matter internally.

Although no public statements have been made by her or her family, word on campus has it that her father, a senior advocate, advised his daughter that a public court battle would probably only get the accused's name cleared and be another humiliating experience for her.

This is mainly because of precedents upholding defence arguments that alcohol provides an environment of consent.

Campus sources close to the case are prepared to testify in the first-year student's favour. They are in no doubt that she was raped.

University spokesperson Mr Kobus Visagie said rape was regarded as one of the most traumatic and serious violations, but the university could take no action until it had completed a full and fair investigation.

Student Representative Council (SRC) spokesperson Ms Wynoma Michaels said: "Date-rape is a huge problem on campus. The message that is being sent out is that a woman who gets drunk deserves to be raped.

And men who do this will think they can get away with it, and women to whom it happens will be even more reluctant to come out."

The SRC, which pioneered the sexual harassment policy now being drawn up for the university, also objected that the Tugraad/student affairs disciplinary panel was

investigating the case because "rape goes far beyond a lack of discipline".

Michaels called for a sexual harassment court, similar to the one at the University of Cape Town, to be established at Stellenbosch.

Rape Crisis' legal adviser Ms Bronwyn Pithey found it most objectionable that the case was being handled internally.

"This just takes the decision to press charges out of women's hands even more. It seems to be the result of trying not to make a public scene that would taint the institution."

Pithey said that women had to stop steering away from pressing ahead with cases because they would be tricky to prove or fight. She urged rape victims to challenge the existing system that perpetrated violence against women.

SRC objects to the case because 'rape goes far beyond a lack of discipline'

Transkei students granted bail

Primarashni Pillay

(54)

BO 21/5/98

FORTY-six University of Transkei students appeared in court yesterday after their arrest on Tuesday for defying an interdict barring them from holding mass meetings at the university.

The university management had obtained a court interdict which prevented student gatherings, following weeks of student protests which resulted in damage to university property.

Sapa reports the students were given bail of R150 each and the case postponed to July 13.

On Tuesday students held a mass meeting which was believed to have focused on student finances and exclusions. The meeting was disrupted by police, who arrested students.

Campus principal Prof Alfred Moleah said that a section of his office and a car belonging to the finance registrar had been fire-bombed this week.

Moleah explained that close to 200 students had been excluded from the

university this year and that there was a "close correlation between high student debt and nonacademic progress. Students are demanding to be registered when in some cases they have been registered for between seven and 11 years. One student owes the university R32 000." Moleah said the university was taking strict measures to recover outstanding fees.

Meanwhile, Kiru Naidoo, spokesman for the University of Durban Westville, said that if students failed to settle their fees within the agreed time, the university would deregister them. The same warning was issued by the University of Zululand.

Sapa reported that students protesting against racism continued disrupting classes yesterday at the University of the North in Northern Province. The students had been demonstrating since Monday to demand dismissal of staff whom they accused of racist conduct, university spokesman Nthambeleni Budele said.

Vandals set room alight at university

Umtata – Vandals have petrol-bombed the principal's dining room at the University of Transkei.

Professor Alfred Moleah said in an interview he was convinced that the executive dining room was set alight by the people responsible for vandalism of lecture halls and other university buildings recently.

"We are talking about a small clique of people who are bent on disturbing all forms of academic activity on the Unitra campus," Professor Moleah said.

He said the vandals managed to get on top of the roof and shattered a glass through which they hurled the petrol bomb.

A wide range of historical articles were also destroyed in the blaze. He said if it had not been for a quick response from the police, who were on 24-hour standby on campus, many cars and the great hall would have been destroyed.

Professor Moleah hoped that a fact-finding team appointed by education minister Sibusiso Bhengu to investigate problems at Unitra would help resolve the crisis. (54)

He said the team was expected to submit a report to Professor Bengu soon. ARG 21/5/98

Time to accept change

(54)

RECENT reports in the press pertaining to the scholar Professor Mahmood Mamdani have once more brought South African universities to the centre stage of debates on change and transformation.

He was allegedly sidelined by his superiors at the University of Cape Town (UCT) when he attempted to provide an African thrust to a foundation course in African Studies.

This debacle underscores the resistance of some South African universities to the process of social change and transformation sweeping across the country.

Since universities comprise of intellectually adept individuals, one would expect a rational reaction towards novel scenarios unfolding in the academic world and in the country.

Furthermore, it would also be expected that intellectuals would embrace the unfolding changes and transformation wholeheartedly and pioneer effective strategies to manage and interpret the changes.

But this feat has proved very elusive in academic circles. More often than not, fears of the unknown constantly preoccupy academicians in South Africa, which have resulted in petty squabbles in university departments.

It is worth noting that the upheavals in academia must not be treated as intrinsic and organic only to university environs, but mirrors the larger society.

South Africa has suddenly found itself catapulted into the international arena after years of isolation and inward-looking socio-political, economic, psychological and cultural interaction.

Constellation of beliefs

Indeed, South Africa has undergone a paradigm shift since 1994 – a constellation of beliefs, values and ideologies of the former apartheid order have been rejected.

But what needs to be taken into consideration is that paradigm shifts are not easily welcomed by all sectors of society.

In academia, as old and ritualised approaches become outmoded, the natural reaction from their proponents is to become belligerent; thus the Mamdani saga.

The integration of South African society into one common identity, not typified by the past definition of groupings along racial and ethnic lines, has unsettled some segments in the country.

The inability of the past socio-political and economic order to engender meaningful and positive intercourse between South Africa and the rest of the world, specifically Africa, has also led to a narrow appraising of the world from most of the South African citizenry.

Africa was treated with suspicion and presented as a landscape epitomised by civil strife. Many South Africans were therefore not afforded opportunities to broaden their horizons.

Only those progressive forces involved

South African universities continue to resist the winds of social change and transformation. **Ndangwa Noyoo** explains why...



Flashback ... Wits University students in protest in demand for transformation at tertiary institutions.

in the collective struggle against apartheid like in the liberation movements, labour movement, grassroots and mass democratic movement, and those in exile were able to so. These were exposed to different world viewpoints.

The rest did not benefit from a cross-pollination of ideas and attitudes, thus the condescending attitude of white academics towards black colleagues such as Mamdani, and the general xenophobia amongst the general populace towards Africans from sub-Saharan countries.

Many African countries, on the other hand, did experience different cultures, especially those that gave sanctuary to various liberation movements from southern Africa.

steady economic growth

It must further be borne in mind that sub-Saharan Africa was not always in a state of economic and political regression typical of the '90s, but did in fact have steady economic growth and some forms of good governance, especially in the '60s and '70s.

There were favourable conditions in which many African universities produced African scholars of the highest calibre, who have researched and published widely on African issues.

It is therefore ludicrous to assert that there are no tangible authorities on African history as purported by Mamdani's colleagues.

Eurocentric discourses revolving about African history must be shelved in academic museums, and not be imparted to South African students who are still battling with a servitude consciousness that was entrenched by apartheid.

Contending with societal change is very hard and quite painful to individuals, groups and communities – especially those that were beneficiaries of the old *status quo*.

Accepting change becomes very difficult to parochial citizens. Presently, in South Africa, societal change has become very vexing to even those who purported to be liberal during the days of apartheid.

It is for this reason that the changes in South Africa require universities not only to be prudent, candid and open to a number of issues that impinge not only on academic excellence, but also on the question of how they could better serve their communities.

Communities that were marginalised in the apartheid era must be prioritised. Universities should also be leading actors in the search for concrete ways and means of cultivating a culture of learning that is lateral and embracing.

It must critically interrogate the broader issues of racial, ethnic and gender intolerance as well as the pernicious legacy of distorted development in South Africa.

(The writer is a lecturer at Wits University's School of Social Work.)

Mosala, Baqwa get top technikon posts

Sowetan 21/5/98 (54)

By Mokgadi Pela

TWO leading academics are to be inaugurated to the chancellorship of Technikon North West (TNW) in Garankuwa, near Pretoria, tomorrow.

Advocate Selby Baqwa, SC, and Professor Itumeleng Mosala will be officially inaugurated as chancellor and vice-chancellor respectively.

The event, scheduled to take place at the TNW at 6pm, will be attended by many eminent figures, among them chairman of the TNW Council and leading neurologist Professor Sam Mokgokong.

Those expected to deliver the main speeches are Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu and North West Premier Popo Molefe.

According to media relations officer for the institution Mr Ricky Oliphant, the event, which will include a procession by academics in their regalia, will further serve to demonstrate "our determination to become the best institution in South Africa and to be on par with similar outfits internationally.

"We want to ensure that students compete for places at TNW and do not just land up here," Oliphant said.

He said: "The inauguration ushers in a new era as regards stability and sound leadership at our institution. The duo comes at the time when we have a democratically elected council under the leadership of Mokgokong."

TNW was established in 1976 offering courses that included brick-laying, carpentry, electricity, motor mechanics and laboratory technology.

It was upgraded in 1979 with the introduction of a fashion design diploma and a diploma in commerce. The institution now offers a total of 17 courses, among them a B Tech Degree in Chemistry.

Medical schools against quotas

Primarashni Pillay

(54) (48)
DAA/5/98

SA's medical universities yesterday made an impassioned appeal to government to fund bridging programmes that could boost the intake of black students and so make the student population racially representative instead of penalising the institutions.

The health department has told Parliament it plans to draw up a racial quota system for the intake of first year medical students at SA universities.

Health department director-general Olive Shisana said no legislation would be passed to enforce a quota system but state subsidies to the universities would be in proportion to the number of black medical students enrolled.

Jan Lochner, the dean of the Medical Faculty at Stellenbosch University, said that while the health department was insinuating there was something wrong with the university selection process, the problem lay in the school system.

"Politicians should spend money to get the level of schooling up instead of promoting the lowering of standards. Universities have to admit students most likely to succeed. They owe this to the taxpayer and to the government."

Lochner said that bridging courses would allow more black students to be admitted to medical universities and to achieve results in line with the standards of the medical and dental council.

ET Mokgokong, the principal of the Medical University of Southern Africa said yesterday that if government wanted to introduce quota systems, it should fund bridging programmes so that the universities could tap into the potential of black students who showed signs of being academically gifted.

"Bringing in numbers of black students could end up destroying young people," Mokgokong said.

He said that government had to provide the money for these programmes. Only then could government force universities that did not want to increase their black student intake to do so.

University of Cape Town communication officer Helen Zille said: "We accept that it is important to train a significant number of black doctors and that increasingly the student body should reflect the demographic profile of SA."

Instead of a quota system, there should be a commitment to broaden access to universities by identifying students who were capable of succeeding and not relying en-

tirely on matric results, she said.

William Saunderson-Meyer, the spokesman for the University of Natal, said there was no point in pulling in a "huge" number of black students who could end up failing their first year.

"The government has not been forthcoming in funding bridging programmes. If funds were allocated, universities could do more," he said.

He said that quota systems would be counter productive and that while the university was trying to redress racial imbalances, "there are only so many students who are suitable and other universities are chasing the same students".

Mike Ellis, the Democratic Party's spokesman on health, yesterday expressed concern that students who were less likely to succeed could be admitted to universities to meet racial targets.

"It will not benefit the students who may find themselves admitted as quota fodder but who may never really cope with the demands of their course. It will not benefit medical education in SA if we create confusion about what our qualifications mean," Ellis said.

Comment: Page 15

'High-living' academics investigated

(74)

The allegedly outlandish perks of the University of the Western Cape's rector have sparked a probe into top academics' salaries, reports Andy Duffy

11th Dec 1998

A staff memo that values University of the Western Cape (UWC) rector Cecil Abrahams's pay and perks at close to R1-million a year has helped trigger a government probe into top academics' salaries.

Abrahams and the chair of UWC's council, Gilly Thomas, dismiss the staff's salary estimate as wildly inaccurate and "preposterous".

But it is understood the rumour gained enough currency to surface in meetings last week between Minister of Education Sibusiso Bengu and campus stakeholders. Bengu promised to investigate the general issue of academics' salaries.

The minister currently has no power to determine academics' salaries — even though they come from the public purse — nor to order them to disclose what they earn.

His interest was sparked, however, when the South African Students Congress and others at the meeting raised their concerns about the alleged

package. Abrahams was not mentioned by name.

"The whole salary structure has got to be transparent. There should be no secret about it. The minister wants to look at the matter," said Bengu's representative.

Last week's meetings also included deputy director general of higher education, Nasima Badsha, and representatives from the South African University Vice-Chancellors' Association, the Committee of Technikon Principals and various unions.

It was called to discuss the government's progress in drawing up a new funding formula for tertiary education, and its plans to reshape the sector. The proposals, which include the merger and closure of some campuses, are expected to be finalised over the next three months.

The issue of senior academics' salaries has long been controversial, with calls for disclosure traditionally swatted by nonplussed rectors and their councils.



Pomp and pay cheques: University of the Western Cape rector Cecil Abrahams (right) is being pressured to disclose his salary. PHOTOGRAPH: RODGER BOSCH

But the vice-chancellors' association believes rectors and councils can no longer ignore growing pressure for transparency. It is trying to persuade its members to release salary bands, rather than individual figures, to serve as guidelines in recruitment.

Basic pay for vice-chancellors is thought to range from R300 000 to more than R700 000, excluding perks such as houses on campus, cars and entertainment allowances.

Abrahams says he would disclose his salary, but in a "responsible way" and as part of a process co-ordinated by the vice-chancellors' association. The patience of his staff, however, snapped at the end of last month.

In its memo, UWC's Academic Staff Association says: "As far as we can judge, and it is only guesswork, since in spite of promises of open-

ness ... the figures have not been revealed, figures for administration from dean up are as follows: deans R300 000 a year, vice-rectors R440 000 a year, rector R660 000 a year."

The memo also claims that Abrahams receives a car, a chauffeur, a house, three housekeepers, two gardeners and an entertainment allowance of R150 000, "which we understand as a job-related necessity, even if it is a lot higher than we would expect".

UWC is on the brink of a huge reshape, prompted in part by funding cuts. The university management wants to lower staff benefits — including bonuses and housing subsidies — and freeze salaries at 1997 levels in a bid to cut its projected R14-million deficit. Retrenchments are not ruled out.

Academic Staff Association insiders say they accept the figures are not accurate, but believe they are intelligent guesswork. They also say there has so far been no formal denial from management, even though the memo has swept across the campus.

Thomas dismisses all the staff association's salary estimates, saying Abrahams actually earns less than R400 000, and that his entertainment allowance is just R50 000. "He's worth far more."

Abrahams says he has no gardener and his wife does all the housework. "This is absolutely preposterous," he adds.

Abrahams says the briefing note he received from the vice-chancellors' association about the meeting with Bengu did not mention the salary issue.

Technikon refuses Sasco's demand to sack academics (7/4)

By MOSES SHIBA

THE DEMAND by the South African Student's Congress (Sasco) at the Pretoria Technikon last week that two professors should resign, was flatly rejected by the institute this week.

Media officer Willa de Ruyter said that Sasco only represented a minority of the 22 137 students, and that the other students all supported Professor Reginald Ngcobo and Professor Denis van Rensburg.

Meanwhile, tension was building up at the technikon with many students carrying baseball bats, sticks and batons as Sasco held its meeting to demand the rectorate's resignation.

"The library has been closed and students who have to write examinations this week are worried about ongoing disruptions," De Ruyter said.

Francois Nel, spokesperson for the Arts Students' Organisation, said they opposed the forced resignation of the two professors.

Nel said: "We do not agree with the reasons given that the professors are unsuitable."

However, he denied that non-Sasco students had armed themselves to defend technikon property. He said that was a job for technikon security and the police.

"We are against confrontation between students like the incident in 1996, when black and white students fought each other," he said.

Sasco has demanded that Ngcobo and Van Rensburg be fired because they claim the two professors are against transformation at the technikon.

"If Sasco have problems about Professor Ngcobo and Van Rensburg, they should take it up at the Broad Transformation Forum meetings, in a democratic way," said De Ruyter.

She said Sasco had unfairly labelled Ngcobo "a black token."

"Prof Ngcobo has the required knowledge and leadership qualities for the job," she said.

De Ruyter said it was for the technikon council and not the students to decide whether the

two professors were incompetent or should be fired.

Professor Van Rensburg denied that he was a member of the Broederbond, as Sasco has claimed, and that there was no transformation at the technikon.

"We already have more than 11 000 black students here."

However, Sasco president, Jacob Mamabolo, swore to 700 Sasco members from Technikon Northern Gauteng, Vista University Mamelodi and Pretoria Technikon that Sasco would fight to the bitter end to "change the technikon".

He also demanded that Isaac Mahlangu be installed as SRC president of the Pretoria Technikon and called for the withdrawal of the "exclusion moratorium" that caused the expulsion of Mahlangu.

Mahlangu said he was seeking legal advice to force the technikon to re-admit him.

Among the demands made to the technikon management are that:

- The Tertiary Education Funds and the Broad Transformation Forum be restructured;
- The management of the technikon be restructured so that it is no longer dominated by white males;
- The one rand increase in bus fares be scrapped and a commission of inquiry be appointed to examine bus fares.

This week Sasco said they would continue with their demonstrations at the technikon when they re-open.

Mamabolo said they were aware that at the institution Sasco members were being targeted for organising the demonstrations.

□ Meanwhile, Vista Universities this week did not write their examinations after their SRC asked for a postponement of mid-term examinations and the resignation of the Vice-chancellor, Professor Hugh Africa.

□ Meanwhile, University of Transkei in Umtata held its graduation ceremony at the weekend with a heavy police presence after the SRC threatened to disrupt the ceremony if some of the "disadvantaged students" were not registered.

Jail may greet insistent SRC members

By MOSES SHIBA (34)

SEVEN Students' Representative Council executive members may have their bail rescinded and find themselves back in jail if they contravene their bail conditions and insist on writing their exams at the Vaal Triangle Technikon.

This threat was made by Vanderbijlpark Senior Prosecutor Mariet-

ta Venter this week when she was informed that Pan Africanist Student's Movement (Pasma) president Ignatius Molapo had refused an offer by the technikon for the seven students to write their exams outside the college.

In reaction, Molapo said that if the seven were not allowed to write at the technikon, Pasma would disrupt the examinations.

A court order was obtained a fort-

night ago to prevent the seven from entering the technikon property because they allegedly abducted staff members.

The seven executive members who are supposed to write their June examinations include SRC president Moloantoa Makhunga, his deputy Gordon Rampelokeng, Samuel Shakes Tshabalala, Lebohang Lydia Theletsane, Fetsi Thipe and Owen Sipho Ndlovu.

UCT students held 'after girl attacked'

(74)
JOHAN SCHRONEN

CRIME CORRESPONDENT

ARG 25/5/98

Three University of Cape Town students were arrested minutes after they allegedly tried to gang-rape a teenage girl in Mowbray.

Police said three civil engineering students, two in their first year and one in his third year, attacked the 17-year-old girl early yesterday, only metres from the police station in Main Road.

The students allegedly threw her down and ripped her clothes from her, but the girl broke loose, pulling a leather jacket off one of them.

She covered herself with the jacket and ran to the Mowbray charge office.

Police immediately gave chase, on foot and by car, and caught two of the students. Minutes later the third called at the charge office to ask about his "lost friends", pretending to know nothing about the incident.

The girl said she recognised the student, and he was also arrested.

The students, who are from mining towns in the Free State, appeared in Wynberg Court later on Saturday and were each granted R800 bail.

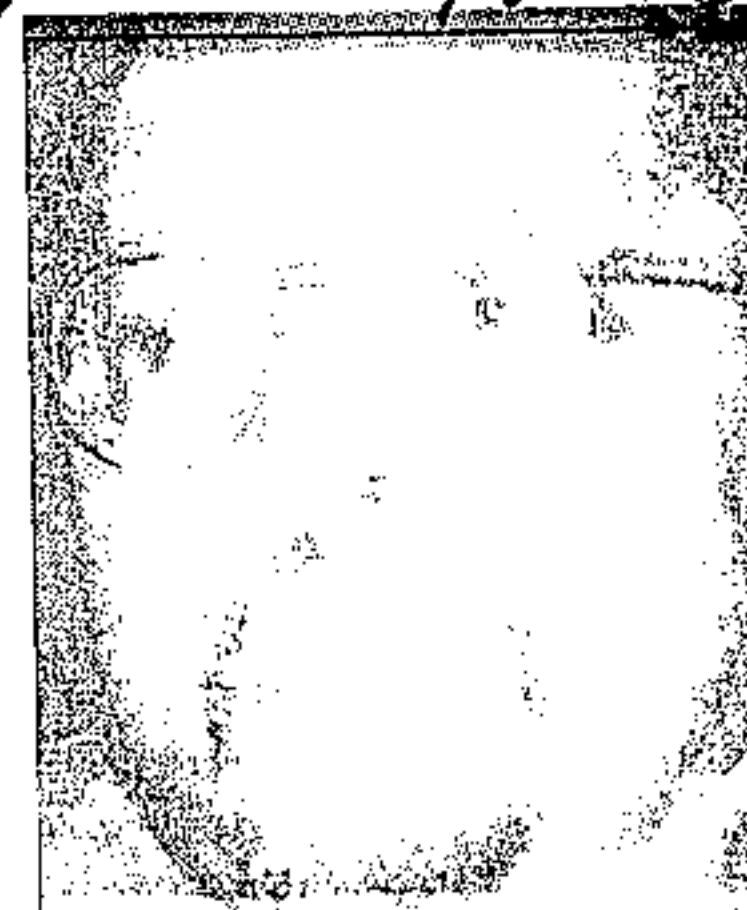
They remained in custody, however, because they could not raise the money.

'Mobilise national resources, skills'

(54) CT 25/5/98

VUYO MNTUYEDWA

Millions of South African youngsters are at stake in how private and public financial resources and skills are mobilised collectively to address the inequalities that characterise all aspects of social life. Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu says



During the launch of the Nelson Mandela Scholarship in the city at the weekend by the Unilever Foundation for Education and Development, he said the private sector had to mobilise extra financial resources to complement the fiscal efforts of the government in redressing inequalities of the past.

The scholarships would be offered to students from disadvantaged backgrounds for a year of post-graduate study at an institution of their choice in the UK.

Bengu said narrow commercial interests and potential marketing opportunities "cannot be the *raison d'être*" for private sector involvement in education and training.

LAUNCH: Sibusiso Bengu

Varsity students owe R500-

(54) Stop

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It's a slow business, but higher
education authorities are 25/5/98
bringing in the money by degrees

By EDWIN MAIDU

Despite attempts to clamp down on debtors, cash-strapped tertiary institutions are still owed more than R500-million in fees.

The crisis over unpaid fees – an annual occurrence – is set to continue until the Government decides on a new aid scheme.

Although the problem has not begun affecting facilities, it is feared that if it is not solved it could force institutions to cut back on departments and hamper research capabilities.

Problems over non-payment and exclusion of students boiled over at the universities of Transkei and the North (Turfloop) last week.

Students at Turfloop protested against "racist lecturers" last week and also demanded that their colleagues who were unable to pay should be allowed to continue their studies.

The Department of Education said figures provided by tertiary institutions showed that the decrease in debt seemed minimal. Universities alone were owed about R457-million as of December and the situation did not seem to have improved much since then.

Chief education specialist Dr Khehla Ndlovu said the department was about to launch an investigation into student debt and how it was managed.

He said institutions had been asked to provide monthly statistics on their debt recovery, but not of them all had complied with the request.

Institutions were not keeping recordings in a unified manner, with some universities adding the 1998 fees to the outstanding debt, which did not provide a true reflection of the

amounts owed.

According to the department, universities were owed the following amounts by December 31: Cape Town (R25-million), Durban-Westville (R25-m), Fort Hare (R23-m), Free State (R15-m), Medunsa (R52-m), Natal (R8-m), North (R70-m), North West (R13-m), Port Elizabeth (R2,8-m), Potchefstroom (R4,8-m), Pretoria (R18-m), Rand Afrikaans (R2,9-m), Rhodes (R1,2-m), South Africa (R1,2-m), Stellenbosch (R7-m), Transkei (R12-m), Venda (R14-m), Vista (R33-m), Western Cape (R50-m), Witwatersrand (R18-m) and Zululand R55-million.

However, various institutions said money was collected after agreements were reached with parents. Peggy Jennings said Wits' debt for 1997 had dropped substantially since December to R6,3-million.

UCT deputy-vice-chancellor Professor Martin West said students who registered last year owed the university R7,4-million.

"As far as next year is concerned, no student will be permitted to re-register if that student owes more than R400 to UCT."

Venda's Professor Gessler Nkondo said no students had been turned away and that the figure owed was now less than R2-million.

UDW's spokesman Kiru Naidoo said students not honouring undertakings to make payments by June 30 and settling all outstanding debts by September 18 would be deregistered.

Carl de Villiers of Zululand said the institution had recovered R14-million and was still owed R41-million. "The university is struggling," he said.

► More reports
Page 5

Pay of varsity heads should be made public, says Bengu

Star 27/5/98 (74)

Call follows debate over discrepancies in salaries of vice-chancellors

By EDWIN NAIDU

Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu has called for the salary packages of senior management at tertiary institutions to be made public so that taxpayers know how the R6,5-billion the Government spends on higher education subsidies is used.

The Star understands that Bengu told about 35 heads of tertiary institutions at a closed meeting recently that there should be greater openness regarding their earnings, since the salaries of all ministers and government officials were public.

His comments followed a debate among vice-chancellors about discrepancies in salary packages. Some are believed to

earn more than R1-million a year.

Bengu told the vice-chancellors, rectors and principals that because the state spends R6,5-billion of taxpayers' money on higher education through subsidy allocations, their salaries should not be kept secret.

Earlier this year, Bengu told university council chairmen they should hold institutions more accountable and also ensure transparency regarding salaries.

The issue of salary packages has provoked fierce debate at the University of the Western Cape, where the academic staff association has distributed a controversial document to its members.

The document, according to the association's acting chairperson Riekie Wandrag, was

aimed at provoking debate and obtaining honest answers.

She said that when Professor Cecil Abrahams was appointed rector and vice-chancellor at the university in September 1995, he promised to be transparent, even with regards to his own salary and those of senior management.

Wandrag said the association estimated Abrahams' annual package was in excess of R800 000. This was made up of a R660 000 salary, a house, a car, a driver, two gardeners, three housekeepers, a telephone and electricity.

According to the document, deans at the university earn R300 000 and vice-rectors R440 000 a year. This is substantially higher than the salary of a senior professor.

Another senior staffer said

Abrahams told a meeting, recorded on camera, that he would be prepared to reveal his and senior management's earnings.

But Abrahams said last week he had not seen any document and believed it was being used as a ploy to prepare the staff association for its annual wage negotiations.

Abrahams said he would be happy to divulge details of his package once the university council gave the go-ahead to submit his and senior management details to the SA Universities Vice-Chancellors Association.

"I am not against transparency. When the time comes for us to make the information available, I will have no problems with doing so," he said.

Turfloop and unpopular principal to part ways

By EDWIN NAIDU

The vice-chancellor and principal of the University of the North (Turfloop) in Pietersburg could soon be out of a job after the institution's council rejected three demands he made to it earlier this year.

The university, which is owed around R69-million in outstanding students' debts, has decided not to renew Njabulo Ndebele's five-year contract, which ends on July 31.

Ndebele, rumoured to be among those in the running for outgoing SABC chief executive Zwelakhe Sisulu's post,

has become increasingly unpopular on campus, with students and staff criticising him for stalling transformation.

Broad Transformation Forum secretary-general John Mavanyisi confirmed that, in January, Ndebele had asked the council to consider three options: renew his contract, give him a senior post in a department, or let him reapply for his job.

But, after it emerged that the council would not consider any of his options, Ndebele has since told the university that he would not be available.

Ndebele, who was unsuccessful in the race for the vice-chancellor's post at Wits University, came under pressure last week from students who listed several grievances in a memorandum to the principal.

The students representative council said it no longer had any confidence in the university's management and would request Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu to appoint a commission to investigate various allegations, including misappropriation of funds.

Ndebele has refused to comment on his job and referred queries to the university's public relations department.

Public relations spokesman Alan Budeli confirmed that Ndebele would be unavailable for the vice-chancellorship.

The university's council met late last week to draw up a shortlist, which is believed to be headed by Truth and Reconciliation Commission chief executive officer Dr Biki Mnyuku, a former registrar at Turfloop.

Other names believed to have been shortlisted include Dr Vincent Maphai of the Human Sciences Research Council, and Professor Itumeleng Mosala, who is vice-chancellor of North West Technikon.

University to lay off about 800 workers

Kevin O'Grady

ALMOST 800 University of Pretoria workers are to be retrenched as part of the institution's plan to restructure or outsource support services and focus on its core business of education and research.

The university's announcement yesterday follows an investigation by a management consultant last year which found that the unit cost of certain support services was high in comparison to accepted practices and that service levels were relatively low.

Johan Hendrikz, the university's marketing director, said yesterday that not all of the 800 workers identified as affected by the move would necessarily be retrenched. However, university sources said the figure was likely to be close to 800.

Hendrikz said some workers could be placed in other departments or hired by contractors who would

be brought in to do jobs previously carried out by the departments that were being rationalised.

Negotiations with unions were continuing this week and it was hoped all affected workers would be informed of their individual positions by Friday, he said. The talks would aim to finalise issues such as the date of termination of services, selection criteria, staff support and severance packages.

Divisions that would be affected by the restructuring programme were campus control, technical services, residence cleaning services, building cleaning services, estate services, marketing services, the bureau for cultural affairs, student affairs and the sports bureau.

Hendrikz could not immediately say what savings would be achieved by the restructuring and outsourcing. Details of savings and the exact number of retrenchments would be provided after negotiations

had been concluded.

Savings were not the only motivation for the changes. "Although we talk about money, the aim is also to deliver more effective services to the university," he said. In line with a worldwide trend, the university planned to focus its resources on education and research, leaving non-core activities to specialist contractors.

The university said it "laments the fact that many of its staff and their families will be affected by this inevitable step". A support centre had been set up to give emotional support to affected staff, as well as to give them financial advice, and "support them in finding of another job".

The National Education Health and Allied Workers' Union said it was "totally against (the retrenchments) as a union" but would "continue to engage management until we reach an amicable solution".

ED 26/5/98

(54)

Students set Venda varsity campus alight

ARG 26/5/98 (54)

Johannesburg - Students at the University of Venda set fire to buildings at the campus after vice chancellor Gessler Nkondo refused to give them R500 000 for a student ball.

Professor Nkondo said students had refused to accept R380 000 for the party and also demanded that the suspension of the Students Representative Council be quashed.

He estimated damages at R100 000.
- Argus Correspondent.

Students face expulsion over huge debts (54)

Star 26/9/98

Tertiary institutions will take tough
measures against defaulters

OWN CORRESPONDENT
Cape Town

Close to 20 000 students stand to be kicked out of universities and technikons before the end of this year because they have not settled outstanding fee accounts.

This follows six months of talks between universities and students on how to accommodate poor students, what terms of payments would be acceptable, and how to distinguish truly indigent students from those who can pay but don't.

Despite strict attempts to clamp down on their debtors, universities have recovered only about R100-million of the R500-million that was owed to them in December last year. The national Department of Education said the decrease in debt seemed minimal.

Financial pressures at 21 universities and 15 technikons, which affected institutions at the start of the 1998 academic year, will continue if student debt is not settled. The department's Dr Khehla Ndlovu said an investigation into student debt was about to be launched.

Most institutions have warned that those students who have not met the final payment deadline will be kicked out.

Wanga Sigila, students representative council chairman at the University of the Western Cape, said more than 2 000 UWC students could be kicked out this month.

The university was owed more than R50-million by December, and half of those owing money had not made appointments to see the university administration by yesterday.

"If it is the remains of a culture of non-payment, then they must be deregistered. This kind of culture has to be removed,

while truly needy students have to be helped," said Sigila.

Vista University students, who still owe the university about R33-million, set fire to a car that was said to belong to their rector because those who had not settled fees were not allowed to write exams yesterday.

University of Cape Town deputy vice-chancellor Professor Martin West said students who registered last year owed the university R7,4-million.

"As far as next year is concerned, no student will be permitted to re-register if they owe more than R400 to UCT".

Venda's Professor Gessler Nkondo said no students were

turned away, and the figure owed was under R2-million.

Kiru Naidoo, spokesman for the University of Durban Westville, said students not honouring a decision to make payments by September this

year would be deregistered. The 9 600 UDW students have reduced their debt from R40-million to R24-million this year.

Debt at the University of the Free State has increased from R11-million to R15-million.

About 1 000 students were deregistered in April after failing to meet the payments deadline.

University of Zululand said it had recovered R14-million and was now owed R41-million.

Fort Hare's Professor Nzimande Mzamane said the university had signed agreements with parents to ensure that R26-million in fees would be settled.

Technikon Witwatersrand, which is owed R4,6-million, has handed over unpaid accounts to lawyers and debt collectors.

Turfloop spokesman Nthambeleni Budeli said payments were phased in to ensure the recovery of as much of its R83-million debt as possible.

“
**This kind
of culture of
non-payment
has to be
removed**
”

Bill aims to open colleges to Std 8 pupils

ANDREA BOTHA
STAFF REPORTER

Pupils who have passed grade 10 (standard 8) will be able to go to a technical college in terms of a bill to be tabled in Parliament today.

The Further Education and Training Bill, aimed at getting young people trained and into the workplace as early as possi-

ble, will be tabled by Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu. He will also table the Employers Educators Bill and announce the names of the members of the new Council on Higher Education.

Meanwhile, a nationwide strike by the South African Democratic Teachers' Union is looming over Dr Bengu's decision to give provinces autonomy in appointing teachers.

The union gave him until tomorrow to respond to its demand that the decision be withdrawn. If he refused, a strike was likely to be called, said union spokesman Don Pasquallie.

The Further Education and Training Bill proposes that a general education training certificate be awarded to pupils after grade 10. This certificate will be recognised by colleges

and training facilities and enable young people to have tertiary training.

The certificate is aimed at giving a large number of young people the qualifications and training to get jobs and become productive members of the workforce.

Almost 52% of matriculants struggled to get jobs after matric, said Bhekiki Khumalo, spokesman for Dr Bengu.

"The national Education Department is spending R10-billion on pupils from Grade 10 to 12, most of whom cannot get jobs or who take the wrong subjects, which aren't job related," he said. "This way they can exit school earlier and go to college."

The matric qualification will become known as the Further Education Training Certificate.

(54) AR 4 28/5/98

Budget cuts take toll on universities

Star 28/5/98 (54)

Tertiary institutions react differently, some sharing staff, others closing departments

By Edwin Naidu

Debt burden and subsidy cuts have forced retrenchment and streamlining at cash-strapped tertiary institutions throughout the country.

Several universities and technikons have already begun plans to reduce staff, trim down courses offered and investigate ways of cutting down on administrative costs.

On Monday the University of Pretoria announced it would retrench at least 800 support staff employed in campus control, cleaning services, cultural affairs, marketing services, student affairs, technical services and the sports bureau. The move is part of the university's restructuring programme.

Last year the University of the Witwatersrand launched a major programme to reduce

staff and cut down on duplication by merging departments. It was feared at the time that the decrease in subsidies would lead to a drop in student/staff ratios, courses being discontinued, library services declining, equipment being hard to replace and research adversely affected.

However, Wits' Peggy Jennings says special committees investigating ways of trimming departmental budgets have so far only cut back on a comparative literature course which is to go because of poor demand. Two full-time staff, including a professor, will remain at the university until the course is completed, Jennings said.

University of Natal (UND) spokesman William Saunderson-Meyer said financial circumstances had forced UND to freeze posts when people left or took early retirement,

contract services from outside companies and merge departments. Only one department, a European languages study, had closed.

"There is a lot more sharing of secretarial services between departments," he said.

University of Zululand spokesman Carl de Villiers said taking into account inflation, the university had received considerably less in subsidies during the past three years. He said facilities at the universities were old and in need of replacement. Compounding the problems, he said, was the decline in student numbers.

Last year the university admitted 7 400 students. The figure was down by 900 this year. "Facilities and equipment are deteriorating. At one stage we were going backwards, but we are now trying to do all we can to ensure learning goes ahead," he said.

Technikon North West's Ricky Oliphant said reducing subsidies had meant the institution could not develop its library to handle growing student numbers, was unable to purchase computer equipment and provide better staff facilities or sports complexes.

University of Venda (Univen) vice-chancellor Professor Gessler Nkondo said his institution had received only R82-million - just 60% of its required budget - as its share of subsidy allocation this year.

Rhodes University's Linda Haschick said the institution was coping with limited resources and also stepping up international fundraising efforts. One of the results of the academic review process embarked on by Rhodes last year was a decision to consolidate all language departments into a School of Languages.

Tension high at Vaal Tech

By TED MOTHEBELI

Star 28/5/98

The Vaal Triangle Technikon was quiet this morning despite threats that Student Representative Council (SRC) members would defy a court interdict which barred them from entering the campus today.

The student leadership was arrested and released on bail following protests, looting and damage last month which led to the closure of the institution.

Students were not happy with certain courses offered at the institution.

The provincial and national leadership of the Pan Africanist Student Movement of Azania is to accompany one SRC member to the campus today so that he can write his examination in defiance of the court order.

The restricted individuals run the risk of having their bail rescinded should they present themselves to the campus before the end of the case.

TERTIARY EDUCATION STANDARDS

IN SEARCH OF A MIDDLE ROAD

Balancing pressures for equity with international recognition (54) FM 29/5/98

SA's higher education standards are not slipping — yet — though universities and professional bodies are under immense pressure to increase the output of black graduates despite declining funding and other new demands.

Local graduates are still highly rated overseas and they will continue to hold their own as long as universities submit their courses to international review and have the resources to maintain their teaching and research standards.

The fear is that in the future, SA will be able to afford only islands of excellence in a sea of mediocrity. Cracks are already beginning to appear in academic medicine that in time could damage the international standing of SA doctors.

"Academic medicine (which includes research and teaching) in SA is like a supertanker — it is slowing down so slowly that nobody will notice until it stops altogether," says Prof Ralph Kirsch, a Medical Association of SA (Masa) trustee and professor at the University of Cape Town.

SA medical schools are publishing less research in internationally recognised journals and the failure rate among post-graduates sitting for the national physicians' exam is increasing (see graphs).

"SA medical schools have had among the highest standards of competence in the world, partly because we have always had such good teachers," Kirsch says, "but all that is being eroded and we are battling to train our postgraduate students."

The profession is maintaining standards through its exams, which are set to international standards, but it is witnessing a higher failure rate at postgraduate level because students have to work under pressure in public hospitals — leaving them less time to study and be taught specialist disciplines on the job.

To make matters worse, the freezing of hospital posts has left many specialist posts vacant, preventing students from being rotated through all the disciplines.

SA has also lost some of its best academics to more attractive research po-

sitions overseas. In SA, research funding has not kept pace with the fall in the rand exchange rate, which has made imported medical equipment and chemicals more expensive. It is hardly surprising that medical schools' research output in internationally recognised publications has fallen from about 675 papers in 1990 to less than 600 last year.

Kirsch argues that SA needs to retain world-class academics, teachers and researchers in order to best equip the future doctors they are training. "This can be done despite the need to shift funds to primary health care, but it requires better management of resources and the devolution of autonomy to the academic hospital complexes."

SA Committee of Medical Deans chairman Prof Max Price agrees. "Only in this way will academic hospitals again become more efficient and attractive to private paying patients. There is no other way of protecting these islands of excellence while still improving access for the worst-off."

Prof Graham Mitchell, vice-dean of health sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand, says: "If we don't do something in the next five to

10 years about the environment in which our students learn, the conditions of service of staff as well as the resources available in universities for teaching and

learning, then the outlook is bleak."

To ensure that the quality of graduates is maintained, Wits is considering purchasing its own private hospital (*Current Affairs* February 6).

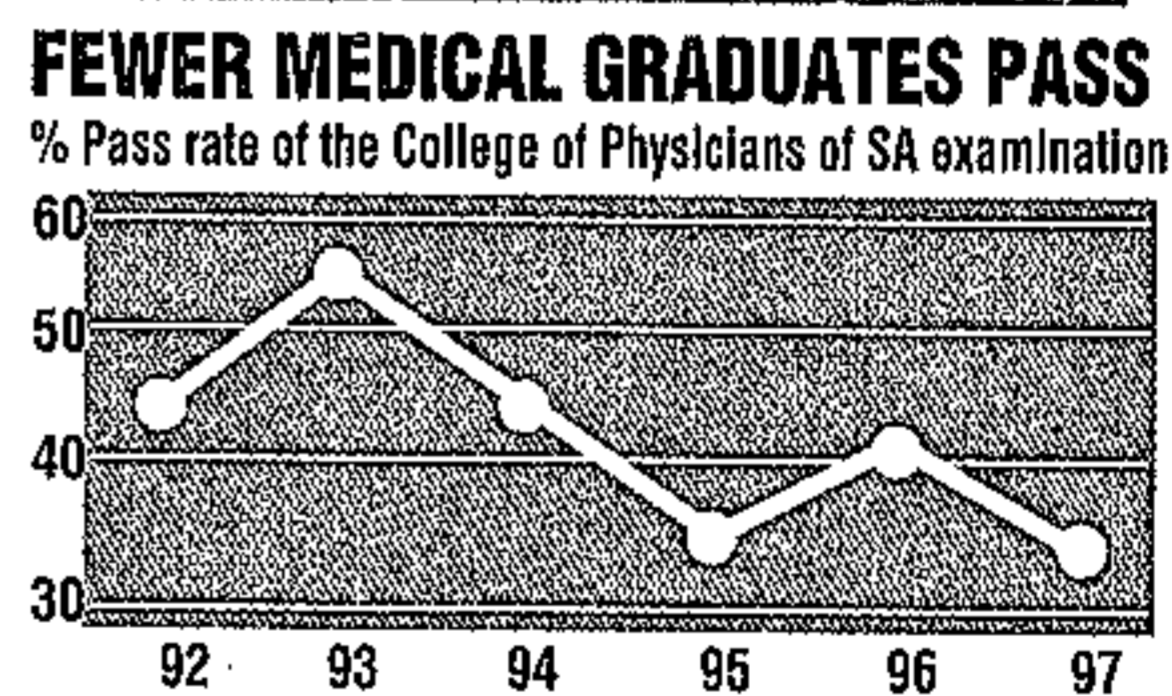
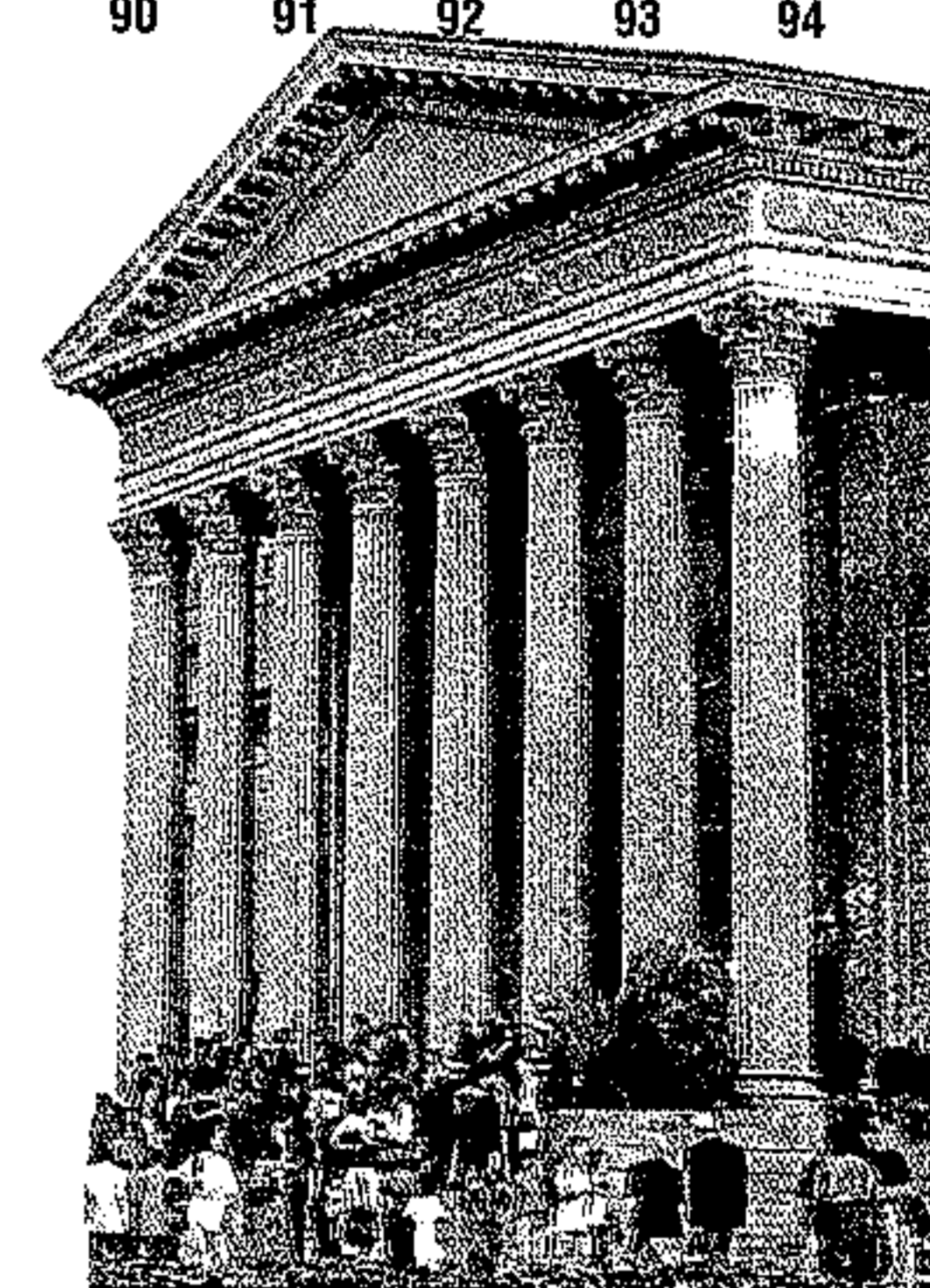
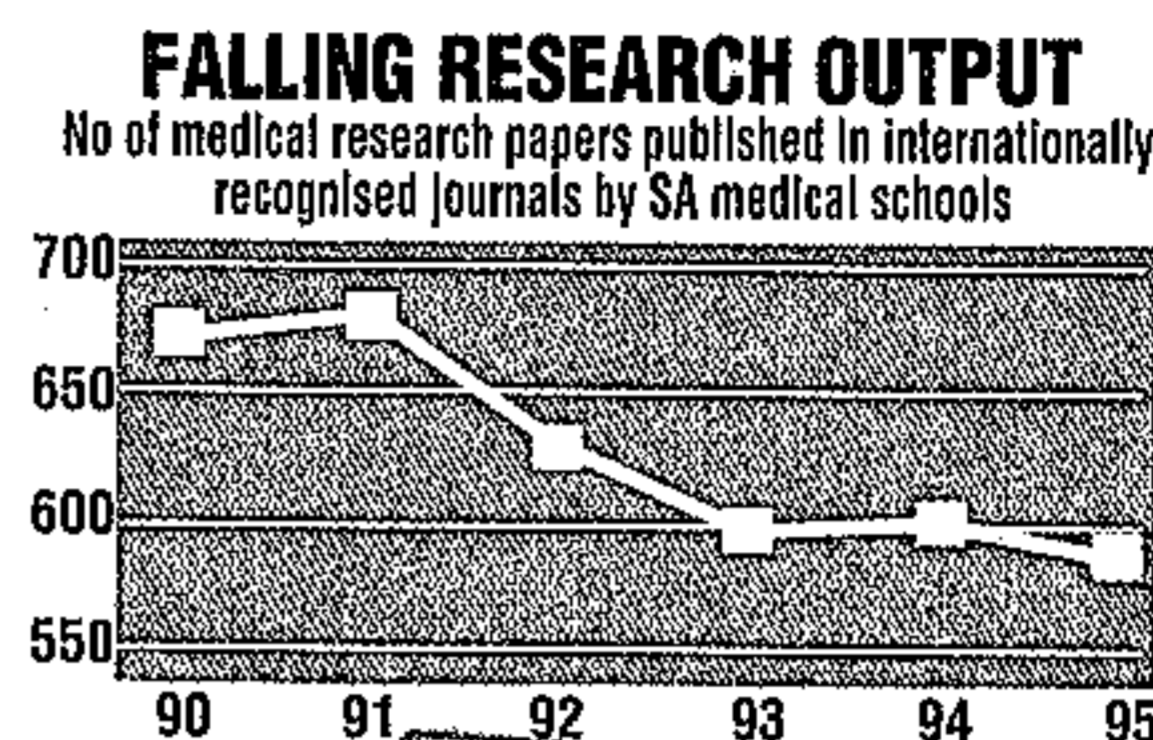
But not all universities are as farsighted. The University of the Western Cape (UWC), for example, has chosen not to renew its dental school's accreditation with the British General Dental Council (BGDC) for the first time since the school's inception.

UWC vice-chancellor Prof Cecil Abrahams says the university wants to discourage its dental students from going to the UK.

"We feel that too many of SA medical personnel are being trained for the overseas market and we feel we should be paying attention to our own population, especially poor communities," he says.

UWC's dental faculty is confident it meets international standards and feels that accreditation to the BGDC is unnecessary since the SA Interim National Medical & Dental Council (SAINMDC) ensures that standards are maintained at an international level anyway.

However, Prof Wynand Dreyer, chairman of the Committee of Dental Deans, sees accreditation with the BGDC as an important form of international quality control. SA's four other dental schools — Stellenbosch, Pretoria, Wits and Medunsa — agree. They invited the BGDC to conduct detailed investigations of their pro-



»»The supertanker is slowing down, so slowly that nobody will notice until it stops««

grammes last year and all have had their accreditation renewed. This means that their graduates don't have to write additional exams to be registered in the UK and are accepted by other countries as being among the best in the world.

There is no international scoreboard from which SA can determine whether fewer of its degrees are internationally recognised now than in the past, nor is there any scientific research to substantiate the perception that our higher education standards are slipping.

UCT senior deputy vice-chancellor Prof Wieland Gevers says SA graduates in science, medicine, engineering and probably commerce are ranked by international employers near the top along with Asian students. The country's best Arts and Social Sciences students are also as good as those anywhere in the world.

Until now, each university has had to guarantee and safeguard its own standards and qualifications, but this will change once the SA Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and the Higher Education Council are up and running.

"For the first time in SA all qualifications will have to be nationally registered, giving us a national perspective and the opportunity to emulate the good in the system and to deal with any weaknesses," says Human Sciences Research Council president Dr Rolf Stumpf.

SAQA must ensure that SA university qualifications are internationally comparable and report regularly on its achievements to parliament. In addition, the Higher Education Council must establish a committee to promote and maintain the quality of higher education.

The council's newly appointed chairman, Prof Wiseman Nkuhlu, says SA must have first-class tertiary institutions so that it can absorb new knowledge and the advanced technology needed to drive the economy. The council will advise the Education Minister on how to achieve this, given the need for equity and resource constraints.

Nkuhlu says it can be done if each institution focuses on developing centres of excellence, rather than trying to excel in everything.

Many universities have begun to adopt this approach by closing poorly attended

language and classics courses.

SA universities and professional bodies ensure local degrees are internationally comparable by forging links and signing agreements with their foreign counterparts.

International professional bodies conduct regular inspections of SA universities' faculties of architecture, engineering, accounting and medicine to ensure they are maintaining international standards.

Exams are moderated by external examiners, in addition to which professions like architecture, law, accounting, engineering and quantity surveying require

stitute will pass an inspection from the highly rated Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants next year with flying colours.

Mulder says Saica is under pressure to increase the output of black chartered accountants, of which there are 130 in the country out of a total of 17 000.

"As long as there is no interference from pressure groups we will be able to maintain standards," she says. "The profession has made it its mission to increase the black student intake and we are doing our utmost, but there is no quick fix. It takes seven years to become a fully fledged chartered accountant.

By the year 2005 we hope to have 3 000 black chartered accountants, but if you want to see change today then you will have to sacrifice standards. That is what we're fighting against."

Like the other professions, engineering is under pressure to increase the output of black graduates. At the same time the Engineering Council of SA (Ecsa) is being forced



»» The fear is that in the future, SA will be able to afford only islands of excellence in a sea of mediocrity ««

graduates to pass a professional exam to be registered.

As a result of these measures, SA graduates generally fare well in international professional exams and are accepted in postgraduate research programmes all over the world.

But local institutions will have to work harder to have their qualifications internationally recognised in future. A shift is occurring away from reciprocal agreements between countries to a situation in which government evaluation centres conduct constant global reviews to ensure that foreign universities' courses keep pace with the rapidly changing requirements of the market place.

The SA Institute of Chartered Accountants (Saica) recently made changes to the way universities teach, train and examine accountancy students in order to comply with evolving international norms. For example, from January 1 next year, postgraduate students will no longer be able to complete the professional exam unless they have undergone at least 18 months of practical training.

Saica education and training director Chantyl Mulder is confident that having made the required changes, the 15 accountancy faculties accredited by the in-

to beef up its professional review system in order to meet international requirements.

From January 1 every civil engineering graduate will be interviewed and have to write essays under exam conditions before being registered with Ecsa. In the past only doubtful candidates were interviewed.

"We're just using a finer sieve, we're not jacking up standards," says Ecsa registrar Paul Roux, who is sensitive to the criticism that this will make it harder for black graduates to enter the profession.

He says the move has the support of industry and without it "the chances are good that we will not achieve international recognition".

Of all the professions, medicine is under the greatest pressure to increase black enrolments. Deans have expressed outrage at Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma's suggestion that government subsidies to medical schools be contingent on them meeting racial admission quotas.

"We admit our students on the basis of clearly defined academic criteria," says Mitchell. "If equity and affirmative action become the only basis of the admission of students and the appointment of staff, then I have no doubt that standards will fall."

Claire Bissek

Cops to stay on troubled Umtata campus

(54) ARU 29/5/98

Umtata - University of Transkei (Unitra) vice-chancellor Professor Alfred Moleah said police and security guards would not be withdrawn from the campus until the situation at the university had returned to normal.

Last week a meeting in East

London between the Unitra's council and National Education Minister, Professor Sbusiso Bhengu resolved that:

■ All charges of trespassing or holding illegal gatherings on campus during three weeks of unrest would be withdrawn.

■ Police and security guards should be withdrawn from the campus.

■ A high court interdict barring students from holding meetings be cancelled.

■ The entire suspended SRC be reinstated.

Since the meeting some students - 80% of the student body according to university authorities - have been attending classes. Another faction of students has called for a boycott of classes until police and guards have been withdrawn. - Sapa

Vista in exam turmoil

Mukoni T Ratshitanga

Vista University was plunged into crisis this week as students continued a boycott of their mid-year examinations while management reacted by shutting several of the campuses.

Two weeks ago students demanded that the examinations scheduled to have begun last Monday be delayed by a week, saying they were unprepared and the timetable was "congested".

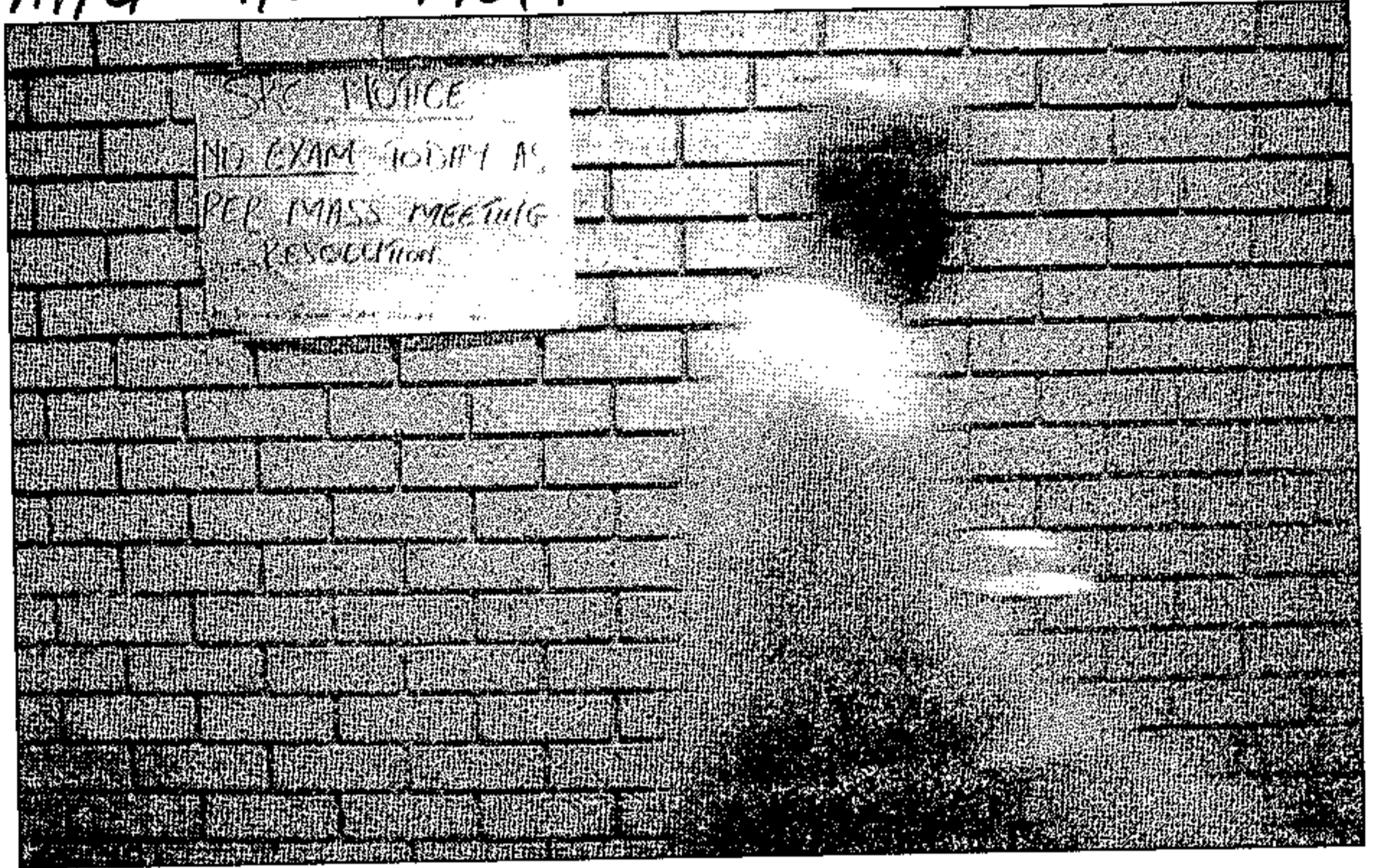
"We were expected to write between two and three papers a day. If not, some students were to write four days in succession. Vista is not a residential institution and we are saying issues like transport must be taken into account," says Soweto Student Representative Council (SRC) member Max Mothlake. He claims lecturers were not ready to examine students last week.

Management refused to accede to student demands and instead brought in the police to guard exam halls. On Monday, 10 students were injured in a tussle with police at the Mamelodi campus.

Vista's vice-chancellor, Hue Africa, summarily closed the Sebokeng campus on Monday after students deflated his car's tyres and damaged its paintwork.

The Soweto campus was "closed to all students until further notice", although no violent incidents were reported. Campus prin-

M+G 29/5 - 4/6/98 (54)



No show: Exams at Vista's Soweto campus have been delayed by more than a week. PHOTOGRAPH: RUTH MOTAU

icipal Professor D Rangaka said in a memorandum: "No student is permitted to be on or to get on to campus for whatever reason and under any circumstances whatsoever. All academic, administrative and other activities not involving students will proceed as scheduled."

But students held a mass meeting in the

main hall on Wednesday.

The Bloemfontein and Welkom campuses were also closed and the police brought in. The only campus that went ahead with examinations was in Port Elizabeth. An SRC member who spoke on condition of anonymity said they did not understand the demands of the other campuses: "You cannot all of a sudden say you are not ready for exams when you knew of them throughout the year. It is ridiculous and people are trying to be heroes for nothing."

But Mothlake says Port Elizabeth "betrayed us because we agreed about this in the national SRC meeting. When they got back to their campus, they had their own arrangement."

Directors from five Vista campuses last week tried to broker a deal with their SRCs. The agreement — which did not hold — committed the parties to begin examinations on Monday. But on the day the deal was struck, Africa angered students by issuing a circular saying exams would go ahead as scheduled, and warned disruptive students: "Management will have no option but to exercise its fullest authority and apply the laws of the land to the fullest extent possible."

Management has now scheduled examinations to start next week.

Students demand beer

Mukoni T Ratshitanga

Two University of Venda buildings were burnt down this week, causing more than R500 000 worth of damage. The student affairs block was torched during the early hours of Monday morning, while the office of the South African Students' Congress (Sasco) was destroyed the next day.

A group of Azanian Students' Congress (Azasco) members held university radio staffers hostage and vandalised a door and equipment. They also looted the university kitchen and attempted to burn down the house of the dean of students. So far, 29 students have been arrested for public violence.

The university has been strife-torn since last year, when students demanded the scrapping of a 13% fee increase. Another demand is that the university re-admit Azasco national president Boiki Tsedu.

Tsedu was excluded on grounds of academic performance after passing only four courses in four years. He was enrolled for a BProc degree of 20 courses.

Azasco is also demanding that each student be given 30 cans of beer for the annual fresher's ball ceremony. The university has budgeted only R355 000 for the ceremony.

Management this week imposed a curfew between 10pm and 6am. The university is under armed guard.

Technikon takes to the streets in need of lift

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

ARG 2/6/96

(54)

Durban - Mangosuthu Technikon has launched an innovative self-help scheme designed to raise R1 million to provide bursaries for poor students.

The Zenzele Education Project was started after technikon officials came across a similar scheme that had been successfully tried and tested by the University of Texas-Brownsville in the United States.

The US project raised about R15-million which was used to finance the education of disadvantaged students.

Mangosuthu Technikon, set in the poor Umlazi township, aims to raise the R1-million over three years from the local community - parents, students, alumni, staff and community leaders.

The project emphasises the involvement of the community and the importance of every contribution, however small. Zenzele means "let's do it ourselves".

The funds will be managed by the Mangosuthu Technikon Foundation, the fundraising arm of the institution. Contributions will be invested and the income will finance Zenzele bursaries.

Current government financial aid to

the technikon and funds received from donors fell far short of the demand for assistance from disadvantaged students, said public relations officer Sue Smith.

Last year there were 3 660 applications for bursaries or loans but only 1 447 students were successful.

Annamia Main, the director of the technikon's Foundation, said at the launch this week that the provision of financial aid to students was a major problem.

"We can sit around waiting for someone to solve it but we would have to wait forever. Or we can do something ourselves to solve our problems," Ms Main said, adding that students should engage in fundraising activities to boost the fund.

The project, she said, would send a clear message to business and to the world at large, that Mangosuthu Technikon was committed to finding solutions. Durban Metro mayor Obed Mlaba said the initiative followed a number of others that had distinguished KwaZulu Natal from other provinces.

He made a plea to staff and parents to make whatever contributions they could afford.

Tax ⁽⁵⁴⁾ error may hit staff at Wits

By EDWIN MAIDU

Academics at the University of the Witwatersrand may have to pay out hundreds of thousands in unpaid taxes for a car finance scheme which the university failed to collect.

The South African Revenue Service (SARS) is investigating the possibility that Wits may have misunderstood how to collect tax on fringe benefits, and paid the Receiver far less than it was supposed to as a result.

SARS spokesman Christo Henning said employers, including universities, technikons and colleges, as well as companies in the private sector and Government, were monitored closely for breaking the rules when it came to fringe benefits.

While he did not wish to disclose information, Henning said defaulters could be given stiff fines and charged interest. "We are quite concerned and strict when it comes to fringe benefits, an area open to abuse."

Wits' deputy vice-chancellor (finance), Professor Alan Kemp, said this week the university had gone to the Receiver after finding out they owed money.

Their findings emerged while they were looking at extending the existing scheme to other staff members.

Kemp refuted claims that the university had evaded tax payments. There was "an unpaid tax liability" for an

200 may owe cash to taxman over car purchases

amount he would not divulge.

As many as 200 senior Wits' staff members may have to pay the taxman thousands.

Kemp said the problem arose because the university may have withdrawn less than it was supposed to have from staff deductions for its car finance scheme.

Tax payments would be the responsibility of individuals although the professional advice given when launching the car scheme may have been misinterpreted.

Kemp said he was unable to provide more details since the matter was being investigated by the Receiver.

Academics told The Star there was uncertainty and anger among some, who felt that since the university had made the error, it should be liable for the amounts.

At first the academics considered legal action against the university, but decided that a group should mediate to resolve the problem.

One academic, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he would have to pay R7 000 while another said he was "in the dark" and unaware of how much he would have to find.

Henning said: "Lately we have been looking at institutions, companies and Government very closely to see how they structure their fringe benefits packages."

The SARS would recover any money owed from employees, who then had the right to recover it from employers.

The universities of Cape Town, Venda and Zululand said they had no problems with the revenue service and staff sometimes received rebates.

26/9/98
SARU 4/6/98

College fraud report out today

Teacher training facility in spotlight after audit

(54) Arts 4/16/98

MICHAEL MORRIS
Special Writer

A major fraud investigation at the Western Cape College of Education in Bellville - highlighted in the Cape Argus in April - comes to a head today with the tabling of a report in the provincial legislature.

It is expected to deal with irregularities brought out in a preliminary audit at the teacher training facility in July last year and will be presented to the standing committee on education, cultural affairs and sport. Scams allegedly included the use

of irregular invoices - many of them handwritten on Croxley notepaper without VAT numbers - to rake off thousands of rands.

Various officials had been paid huge sums in addition to their salaries for "services delivered". Instances involving four officials mentioned in an interim audit total more than R47 000.

The audit report warned that "it is abundantly clear that internal procedures and control regarding the acquisition of provisions and services leave much to be desired and drastic steps must be taken to place this on a healthy footing".

It referred to "procedural lapses .. (which) could be responsible for a greater number of irregularities than the audit might reveal" and called for an "urgent investigation".

It said that "serious irregularities" appeared to be the result, in part, of the "chaotic condition" of financial records and documentation.

Auditors found that "various firms' invoices have been written by hand on privately-bought invoice books, with no VAT or registration numbers indicated, and street addresses given for firms are residential addresses.

In addition, many of the invoices have been faxed and the originals have not been provided".

The report also noted that there was no record of proper tendering procedures for supplies and that "there is no clarity on the composition, powers and decisions of the tender committee".

It said there was "no stock control using procedures required by the Treasury"; that it "appears that no annual stock-take in terms of Treasury instructions has been undertaken"; that suppliers' files were "not kept at hand for enquiries or follow-up purposes" and that the

"remittance register as well as the daily deposits are not regularly monitored".

When nothing appeared to have been done by the first term this year, officials blew the whistle on what they claimed was continuing fraud and corruption. They say the first sign of any serious attempt to get to the bottom of the problem followed reports in the Cape Argus in April.

The week after the reports, three officials were seconded to the college for a few weeks to investigate the claims.

Opposition parties in the legislature called for swift action.

BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING

Black schools need fixing first

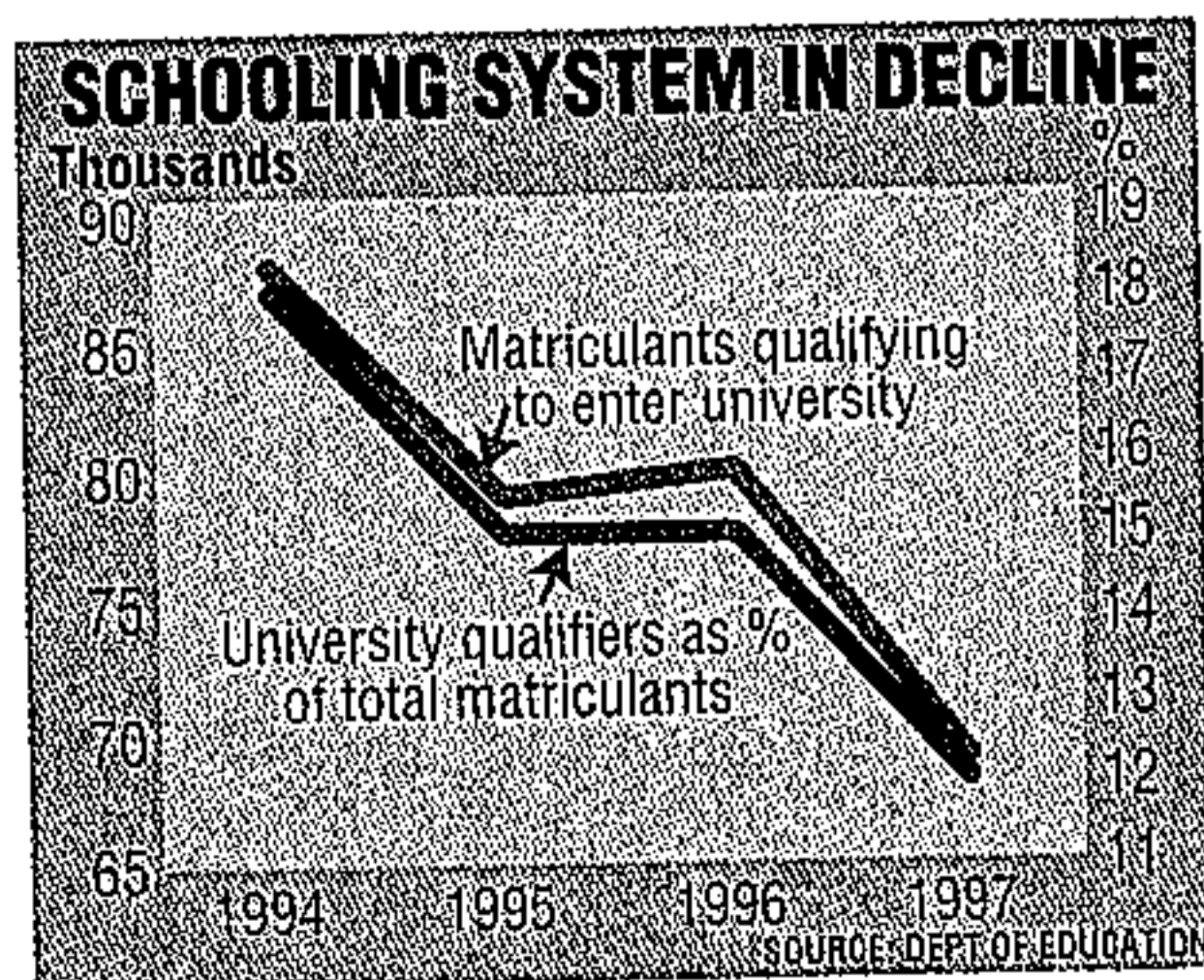
RM 5/16/98
Wits University's new vice-chancellor Colin Bundy hides a cutting edge behind his academically deferential exterior. Asked about Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma's declared intention to pressure medical schools into applying racial quotas to their student intake, he questioned her commitment to "producing the best possible kind of medical care and medical science that SA deserves."

The problem with getting more black students into medical school, he says, is that those doing well at matric maths are choosing engineering or business studies over medicine. This is "because they can graduate at the end of four or five years with considerable earning power instead of having to do six years of medical training, an internship — and now, possibly, a year of community service."

The reality confounding black professional advancement is that during the Nineties the public schools system has produced fewer matriculants academically strong enough to win university exemption (acceptance) for any kind of degree course, even though the number of matriculants has steadily grown. In 1994 it was 88 000, last year 69 000 (see graph). With black pupils comprising 80% or more of all matriculants, the decline has to be explained by the failure of black schools.

Bundy says Wits hopes to increase the number of black students academically acceptable to its medical school by developing a foundation year in health sciences. It remains to be seen how feasible that would be.

Many black maths and science teachers are so ill-equipped to teach their subjects that research by the Human Sciences Research Council in 1995 shows that grade 7



and 8 pupils taking them knew little more than those who aren't. The Foundation for Research Development noted in 1996 that in 1993 three quarters of all black matriculants didn't take maths. One in five black matriculants took maths and failed, even at standard grade. In other words, only one in 20 black matriculants was achieving anything in maths. And only 1,2% of the 366 000 black pupils sitting matric passed higher grade maths, against 19,6% of the 65 000 white matriculants.

The question facing the Wits health sciences faculty, therefore, is whether its foundation year of tuition in maths and physical science would adequately prepare black students for medical school.

Bundy denies that standards at SA universities have declined because of having to cope with academically underprepared students. Their standards of teaching have, he says, risen to meet the challenge and now include activity-based learning and other interactive styles of teaching. Rapid development of computer and information technology also, he believes, offers "transformative possibilities."

That may be so. But if lecturers have less time to do research because they are having to spend more time interacting with struggling students, many of them may decide to abandon an academic career since research is what primarily attracted them in the first place.

Their commitment to academe is already under attack. Bundy says salaries of university teaching staff have fallen substantially behind those offered in the public service and private sector. That, he observes, is "the real challenge to university standards."

Universities would no doubt be able to improve salaries by rationalising departments to cut costs. Bundy mentions that in the Western Cape there are three music schools — labour-intensive academies because of the one-to-one nature of their tuition — within a half-hour's drive of each other; in Durban there are three technicians.

There is also the problem of unpaid student fees, currently totalling R500m at SA's 21 universities. Bundy's solution is a national loan scheme. Unfortunately, students who failed their courses would be unlikely to repay their loans because their employment prospects would be so poor. Given enough of them, the scheme would soon founder.

In short, the future viability of SA's higher education institutions depends on massive improvement of the public schooling system. Until that has been achieved, government's policy of higher education "massification" needs serious revision.

John Collings

Cape education officials set to face fraud charges

MICHAEL MORRIS
SPECIAL WRITER

ARG 5/6/98

(54)

Charges are being prepared and disciplinary proceedings have begun against Western Cape education department officials suspected of fraud involving more than R870 000.

And the Heath Commission has been called in to continue the investigation of scams at the Cape College of Education in Kuils River – among other training facilities – that could involve millions.

Details of the scandal, exposed by the Cape Argus in April, shocked members of the provincial standing committee on education, cultural affairs and sport last night, when it emerged that key officials, who were not identified, were raking off thousands of rands through shady business deals.

Some had set up private businesses, often allegedly using State stores and provisions, or were supplying thousands of rands worth of goods and services to match invoices they had written out themselves. In some cases,

officials were paid – in addition to their government salaries – huge sums drawn from three college funds for work done during working hours.

The funds were supposed to have been closed in 1995, but the bank accounts were kept open, allegedly to pay corrupt officials what was often tantamount to three extra salaries.

Disenchanted officials and lecturers approached the Cape Argus earlier this year about the fraud, and expressed concern that little was being done about it and that some of those involved could be getting off scot-free by taking early retirement packages.

But provincial accountant Theo Gildenhuys told the standing committee yesterday that tough measures were being put in place to correct the “chaotic” state of affairs in the administration, and that steps would be taken to recover public money siphoned off through irregularities.

A police docket had been opened and dis-

To page 3

Education officials 'raking off thousands'

From page 1

(54)
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disciplinary action was to be taken, but "certain allegations (particularly relating to businesses allegedly set up by corrupt officials)" could not be investigated fully because of a staff shortage in the department.

It had, therefore, been decided to pass the matter to the Heath Commission.

Half the finance department's 183 posts were vacant, he said.

Mr Gildenhuis said the alarm was sounded by a report from the Auditor-General's office last year.

He then sent an audit team to the campus in July, and their preliminary report was submitted on December 1.

The full report, completed on May 15, was the basis of charges of misconduct against key officials at the college.

He said the top management of the department had met to discuss tough measures to halt corruption, and "we are having a follow-up meeting next week to keep track of progress".

Time limits had been set for action to be taken against officials, and for the implementation of new procedures.

In addition, a special team had been set up to conduct spot inspections at all educational institutions to curb irregularities and make sure money was not being lost to fraud.

Responding to questions from African National Congress education spokesman Yusuf Gabru, Mr Gildenhuis said: "You have my assurance ... this (corruption) is being firmly dealt with."

Mr Gabru and the committee chairwoman, the National Party's Annette Reinecke, were at one in commending the action being taken, and in stressing the importance of decisive steps against corruption.

Committee members said that at a time when education was under such financial pressure, waste through fraud and corruption could not be tolerated.

The committee was to be given copies of the final report, which would be discussed in greater detail at its next meeting.

SRC blows R1,3m on cars, catering and clothes

M+G 7 - 11/6/98 (54)

Andy Duffy

An independent probe has found that the Student Representative Council (SRC) of the troubled University of the North (Turloop) spent more than R1,3-million last year on items such as hired cars, catering and clothes.

Poor controls had also left the SRC accounts open to fraud — more than half the expenditure probed lacked supporting documentation.

Accountants KPMG, which investigated the SRC's finances as part of an annual audit, refused to sign off the accounts — for the year to last September — because of the gaping holes.

“We could not obtain supporting documents for a substantial portion of total expenditure and were thus unable to verify the validity of all

expenses incurred,” the firm's Pietersburg office notes. “Due to the significance of [these] matters ... we do not express an opinion on the [SRC's] statement of receipts and payments.”

The SRC stands by its accounting efforts. Ishmael Malale, adviser to SRC president Gilbert Kganyago, says the auditors failed to trace all the information available. He says SRC expenditure is cleared with the relevant structures — including the university's student affairs department. Department officials confirm they check the SRC's financial activities.

Malale says the SRC's main difficulty is not its overspending, but its lack of funding. Total income last year was nearly R1,7-million; R1,6-million from a student levy provided by the university. But it spent more than R2-million.

The SRC was R1,36-million in the red at the end of September 1997, including a nearly R1-million loss from the previous financial year. Malale says the SRC should be given a budget of R2-million a year.

The release of the report, leaked from students, follows last week's disclosures about the SRC's apparently cavalier attitude to its finances. Documents from the university claimed the SRC had blown more than R6-million in the past three years, and was running the campus as its own private business.

Malale dismisses the allegations. The KPMG report also does not support the allegation that over-expenditure last year was R2,5-million. Some campus insiders say this is merely because KPMG is unable to trace all the spending.

Mandela comes (54) down on students

STAR 6/6/98

By XOLISA VAPI

Get tough with idle black students who fail their exams, for they are a disgrace to the nation, an angry President Nelson Mandela said this week.

He urged education authorities to tighten the grip on black students who failed their exams and still expected financial assistance under the illusion of "entitlement".

Students who had not paid fees had no place at tertiary institutions.

Organisations (including the SA Students' Congress, Pan-Africanist Students' Organisation, Azanian Students' Congress and students' representative councils) have demanded that financially disadvantaged students should be allowed to register without paying fees.

Mandela told students at the University of Zululand that black university students should realise that while the Government was sympathetic to their poverty, it could not extend financial assistance to those who failed their exams.

"The culture of entitlement prevalent among blacks is to be condemned." More than 3 000 students in one year at a black university had failed their examinations recently.

"White students do menial jobs in their vacations to support their studies, while black students generally regard waiting at tables for a low wage as demeaning," he said.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki fired the second salvo in Parliament this week, lashing out at University of Venda students who burnt down offices, demanding that the institution should give them R500 000 for a "freshers' ball".

The students, Mbeki said, further demanded that each of them should have 30 cans of beer at the party and that the university should readmit the president of the students' representative council who, in four years, had completed only four courses.

Mbeki said the time had come to impose a halt to the abuse of freedom in the name of entitlement, arising out of people having been the victims of apartheid.

Primarashni Pillay (54)

UNIVERSITIES and technikons in deep financial trouble have been forced to spend about R3m to repair damage done by rioting students over the last two years.

The students were protesting over issues such as the financial exclusion of those who had not settled their outstanding fees.

Research done by the national education department for the period August 1996 to July last year showed that in March last year, rioting students at Technikon Northern Gauteng damaged about R1,426m worth of campus property.

The protesters stole about 90 computers, vandalised kitchen equipment and pilfered stock.

Last year students at Technikon SA caused damage estimated at about R176 000 after they ransacked the foyer of the administration building. Students at Technikon Pretoria

Campus riots cost R3m

BD 8/6/98
damaged about R108 000 worth of campus and private property, the research showed.

Detailed figures on this year's damage costs were not available but they were expected to run high.

In April, Vaal Triangle Technikon lost about R300 000 in damage after students protested against a course-related issue and two weeks ago campus property at the University of Venda was burnt down. Venda University deputy vice-chancellor Ngoro Vera said it cost R200 000 in repairs. Students were demanding that they be allowed 30 cans of beer each at a dance on which the university had spent about R380 000.

He warned that the university could lose its academic staff if it could not sustain a safe working environment and that it could also be blacklisted by

insurance companies.

"In the final analysis, damages to campus property could result in us providing poor services to students. This action gives the university a poor image especially to donors."

Vera appealed to parents to restrain their children from engaging in campus violence.

He said there was a need for a presidential inquiry into campus violence. "This problem is not peculiar to this university but it happens at Fort Hare and the Transkei. It is a pattern and the government should intervene," he said.

Meanwhile, education ministry spokesman Bheki Khumalo condemned the criminal activities of students and warned that money that should be used for research and teaching at these campuses would end up being used for repairs.

Fund which extends loans for education has huge recovery rate

By EDWIN NAIDU

As universities, technikons and colleges struggle to recoup millions in unpaid student debts, the Tertiary Education Fund of South Africa (Tefsa) has recovered R56,6-million in loans given to thousands of students.

In the past financial year Tefsa has collected an average of R100 000 a day. In the past eight years it has distributed more than R500-million.

Chief executive officer Roy Jackson said Tefsa, which manages the Government's National Student Financial Aid Scheme, has produced many successes. He said Tefsa was successful in handing out and collecting loans, not because it was "a smart organisation" but because "we came later than everyone else".

"We studied models from all over the world in 1991 and then looked at what our country needed, and worked at the time with former ANC education head John Samuels.

"Our mission was to impact on the racially skewed profile of South Africa's tertiary student population by providing financial assistance to academically deserving but financially needy students who have been disadvantaged by apartheid," he said.

He added that while Tefsa had worked as a conduit for government funds since 1995, there had been little public information on how the organisation worked.

In its founding year the fund distributed R21,4-million, enabling 7 240 students to further their education. By the end of the 1996/97 financial year Tefsa had made 171 471 awards to a total of 113 288 students.

Tefsa not only distributes cash to needy students, but it vigilantly monitors repayments and academic progress. Students who received loans had a

71,6% pass rate in 1996. There was an improvement last year when Tefsa-funded students achieved a 75,25% pass rate.

So far, 44 857 students assisted by Tefsa have graduated. The carrot ensuring good performance is an incentive scheme which allows students to have up to 40% of their loans converted into bursaries.

Loans are given only to needy students. Until three years ago, only Africans, Indians and coloureds were given loans. Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu then made the funds available to all needy students.

Each institution currently uses a means test to determine gross family income, size of family and family circumstances. A national means test will be

A major success story

launched next year.

Jackson said the association between Tefsa and students receiving loans starts with the completion of a loan agreement and registration of the loan. Contact is maintained through regular statements from Tefsa, which is informed when students graduate.

Unlike financial institutions, which charge high interest rates, Tefsa's philosophy is that the loan repayment should not be a punitive measure.

Loans are granted at 9% interest, and repayments start when the graduate earns R26 300. At this point, students who received loans pay 3% of their salary, rising on a sliding scale to 6% at R59 300.

Under the Special Funds for Tertiary Education and Training Act, Tefsa has been given legislative powers to recover loans from employers.

Government sources have said that, because of its successes, Tefsa might remain in charge of the aid scheme. Bengu is expected to make an announcement on this within two months.

■ When Nolundi Puzi was growing up in the Eastern Cape she had dreams of working with computers someday. After matriculating, along with her brother Zolani, she almost gave up on plans to get online with her studies.

Zolani enrolled for a teaching degree at the University of the Western Cape after obtaining a loan from Tefsa, while Nolundi stayed at home and pondered her future.

"I come from a poor family who grew up in a rural home at Qugqwala location in King William's Town and I knew my parents would be unable to send me to study," Nolundi said.

Nolundi, the daughter of a chef, initially worried about where the money was going to come from, but she never gave up on the idea of enrolling at a technikon.

Her dream took shape the following year after she received a R5 000 loan from Tefsa which covered half her tuition fees and boarding. She began a bridging course in secretarial studies for business computing in 1991, and three years later obtained a diploma.

Nolundi now works at Tefsa as a data-capture supervisor, and owes more than R2 000 of the original loan. "I believe that the more people pay for their studies, the better education is served," she said.

She was supposed to pay R100 a month but has doubled the amount because she wants to be able to pay for further studies from her own resources.

Her advice to students: "Never give up on your dreams and do not stop studying."

SWA 8/6/98 (54)

Taxman tackles technikon

Star 8/6/98 (54)

By EDWIN NAIDU

In a test case that could have far-reaching implications for tertiary institutions throughout the country, the Receiver of Revenue is taking the Cape Technikon to court to recover hundreds of thousands of rands it claims it is owed in taxes.

The South African Revenue Service has indicated that, pending the outcome of the case, the Receiver could pursue similar action against other universities, technikons and colleges. The court action is scheduled for August.

Vice-chancellor and rector of Cape Technikon, Dr Marcus Malusi Balintulo, said that in 1991 the technikon had - in consultation with its auditors and with the agreement of management and the various staff associations - agreed to implement a salary sacrifice in respect of medical aid contributions.

Balintulo said the Receiver had conducted an investigation a few years later and announced that it would be charging the Cape Technikon for the loss of PAYE deductions resulting from the salary sacrifice.

He said that after various correspondence between the technikon's lawyers and the Receiver of Revenue, it appeared that the matter had been dropped because staff at the Receiver's office in Pretoria had advised the regional offices that although they did not approve of the practice, it appeared to be within the letter of the law.

Balintulo said that nothing further was heard on the matter until the technikon was advised late last year that the Receiver of Revenue intended making a test case of the issue.

"There are other institutions that have been investigated, and pending the outcome, other institutions might also be subject to similar action," he said.

High-profile figures refuse to run for top Unisa post

By EDWIN MAIDU (54)

Nov 10/6/98
A confidante to President Nelson Mandela, a diplomat, and a cabinet minister have all turned down the chance to run for the vice-chancellorship of the country's biggest university.

Director-general in the office of the president, Jakes Gerwel, South Africa's ambassador to Washington, Franklin Sonn, and Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister, Pallo Jordan, were asked to apply for the vacant position at the University of South Africa.

The university is looking for a "transformation-minded" replacement for Professor Marinus Wiechers who retired last year after 38 years' service, the last three as principal.

Chairman of the search committee, Mandlaka Mabuza, said 12 applications have been received and the committee will meet on Friday to draw up a shortlist of five. He refused to divulge the names of the applicants.

A group at Unisa lobbied for Gerwel, former University of Western Cape vice-chancellor, to throw his name into the hat. The group was disappointed when Gerwel, the first choice of many constituencies at Unisa, declined.

There was also strong support for Sonn, a teacher and former rector of Peninsula Technikon in Cape Town, who reportedly turned down



Rebel with a 'just' cause ... Mandlaka Mabuza, with the bust of first vice-chancellor Professor Johannes van der Walt, says the old guard at Unisa should make way for the new.

the offer.

Media spokesman for the ambassador, Daniel Ngwepe, said Sonn was busy rounding off his four-year term which ends in December and would give the university an answer shortly. However, The Star has learnt that Sonn has refused the nomination.

There was also strong support for Jordan, who was also

nominated for the job at the University of Witwatersrand, but he too, refused the nomination.

Gerwel told The Star he turned down the opportunity because he had already contributed to the development of tertiary education during his time at UWC.

While it is believed Gerwel wants to concentrate on writing, he said he had no future

plans once his term in the president's office ends.

Ka Mabuza would not divulge any names but said the candidates chosen would be asked to make presentations to the university on June 22.

The selection committee will then interview all candidates and select three for the university council's consideration on August 3.

The university's chairman of council and selection committee, Dr Theo Roodt, did not divulge the names of those who had applied. He said the university was awaiting late applicants for the post.

"We are well on target at this stage of the process. I would not even think of revealing any names until the shortlist is drawn up," he said.

Young man of vision seeks to transform university

By EDWIN MAIDU

Around this time last year Mandlaka ka Mabuza was *persona non grata* at the University of South Africa. He was among a group of students, dubbed the "Gang of Ten" who were charged by the university's administration for disturbances on campus.

The 10 were barred from campus for a year. But once the charges fell away, the tall and burly rebel with a cause, set about asserting his leadership qualities on a campus desperate for someone with vision.

As a boy, the third-year law student who grew up in Kwa-

Guqa, Witbank, wanted to become a teacher but his leadership skills and desire to play a role in uplifting disadvantaged people, led him to law.

Ka Mabuza, just 22, is president of the Students' Representative Council. He is also chairman of the university's broad transformation forum, responsible for driving the transition at the institution.

But, probably his toughest task yet is as chairman of the search committee looking for a replacement for former vice-chancellor Professor Marinus Wiechers.

Talking to Ka Mabuza, one gets the impression the univer-

sity is looking for a candidate with the strength and charm of Superman.

"We are looking for a person with vision, someone with national stature, commitment to the theme of African Renaissance, a scholar of impeccable standing, a person who is sensitive and above all someone who is transformation-minded," he said.

He said Unisa was a national asset which did not reflect the country's demographics; it had a campus made up of 65% black students, and the staff composition was at least 70% "white, Afrikaner male".

"The status quo cannot be

maintained," he said.

Drawing heavily on the dictum "action speaks louder than words", Ka Mabuza said the student leadership was trying to introduce a new culture at Unisa.

"We are trying to get people to formulate policies. The only way to achieve success is to ensure people take part. And you cannot take part without a good plan," he said.

Referring to his activities as a student leader, Ka Mabuza said his and other students' suspensions came about because of the hostile manner in which blacks were treated.

"We said we could no longer take such behaviour. I lost a

year of my studies through suspension, but I have no regrets.

"Those who suspended us, are no longer here because they could not sustain their right-wing agenda. Our view is that the institution belongs to all. Unisa is not a university of whites only," he said.

Ka Mabuza said the transition to democratic rule in 1994 provided the platform for change throughout society.

"As we graduate, we should not forget where we came from. I want to plough my skills back into the community and embellish my training and skills abroad. But, I will never forget where I came from."

Student victory at Turfloop

(54)

M+G 12-18/6/98

Andy Duffy

Students and workers at the University of the North (Turfloop) have staged a remarkable coup, barring their academics and management from any role in the appointment of the university's new vice-chancellor.

Professor Njabulo Ndebele's five-year tenure expires at the end of this month. A shortlist was presented as a done deal to the university's senate earlier this week.

The senate, staffed by senior academics and student representatives, would normally play a key role in senior academic and management appointments. It has been told that no academics or management will be allowed to sit in on the selection interviews for Ndebele's office.

The coup echoes Turfloop's often turbulent life under the apartheid government — a revolutionary period when the campus turned out radical young leaders such as Cyril Ramaphosa, Mathews Phosa and Patrick Lekota.

Some insiders, however, believe the exceptional power students and workers have now seized leaves the current government little choice but to intervene. Turfloop is thought to be bankrupt, and months from collapse.

One shortlisted academic, Turfloop's deputy vice-chancellor, Sevit Mashego, has just been sacked as its acting principal.

The university's Broad Transformation Committee (BTC), which helped compose the shortlist, has replaced him with a lecturer who will run the university until Ndebele's successor comes in.

A long-running power struggle between some student leaders and management has virtually crippled the campus. The BTC, led by the Student Representative Council (SRC) and the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union, believes it must hold sway.

It claims management, led by Ndebele, has stalled transformation and that senior academics — some of whom they have marched off campus — are old guard. Its current proposals include allowing students to stand in elections for faculty heads — positions generally reserved for senior academics.

Ndebele, meanwhile, has relied on his academics and the university's senate and management to back him up.

The university's council is supposed to include representatives from the state education, academics and business. It is understood, however, that few parties, apart from the students, attend its meetings.

The procedure the university is following to find Ndebele's successor suggests the BTC has virtually demolished normal management structures. The senate only discovered who was in the running this week from a gen-

eral campus memorandum from the council.

Two of the academics shortlisted to succeed Njabulo Ndebele have legal action pending against the university.

The shortlisted candidates — who also include Truth and Reconciliation Commission CEO Biki Minyuku and Turfloop's dean of management sciences Peter Franks — are to address the campus next Friday.

The council dropped other nominees such as former national education director Itumeleng Mosala (now principal at Technikon North West) and respected University of Zululand academic Herbert Vilakazi at a meeting two weeks ago involving BTC members.

The council has decided that no academics will be allowed to sit in on the interviews, though BTC members will go along as observers. "Council does not seem to envisage any role for the senate in the appointment of the vice-chancellor who, among other things, will be the chairperson of the senate," registrar Peter Malgas wrote to council chair NP Phaswana earlier this week.

Malgas said it was not clear what process the council was following, and whether it had told the wider campus community. "Transparency and consultation ... should be the hallmark of such an appointment process."

He also questioned the council's approach to rewriting the university's act, under which senate was granted most of its one-time authority.

Other documents show that the BTC, sitting in the senate's chambers one weekend two months ago, was already well at work drafting a new act, using submissions from its constituents.

The council's shortlist choice is a curious one. The BTC has already judged Mashego incapable of standing in for Ndebele. They also previously opposed Franks's appointment as a deputy vice-chancellor, apparently on racial grounds, which triggered a still unresolved labour relations battle.

Minyuku is also still suing Turfloop for the retention of his post as registrar. Minyuku left Turfloop without notice in 1996 after 18 months to join the truth commission. He then applied for secondment, which the university refused. Some insiders question Minyuku's academic credentials.

But the SRC strongly supports Minyuku and has lobbied strenuously for him. The BTC's documents show Minyuku was the most common name put forward by its constituents.

"He has the management skills and leadership qualities," says Ishmael Malale, adviser to SRC president Gilbert Kganyago. "He commands absolute university support."

The fourth name on the shortlist is Professor MO Filani, from a Nigerian university.

UWC obtains interdict to restrain rampaging strikers

RONALD MORRIS
JUSTICE WRITER

MID-YEAR examinations ground to a halt at the University of the Western Cape yesterday as striking workers blockaded the entrance, staged a sit-in at the administration building and threatened university staff.

The strikers, all members of the National Health and Allied Workers' Union, demanded that the cash-strapped university start wage negotiations immediately.

But the university moved swiftly and obtained a wide-ranging interim interdict in the Labour Court restraining the strikers from calling for a strike, taking hostages, assaulting or threatening staff members, unlawfully interfering with university property or blockading the entrance.

Aubrey Redlinghuis, vice-rector: human resources and services, said the strikers blockading the entrance yesterday morning, had handed out pamphlets "peppered with

ET 16/6/98 (54)
inaccurate and false information".

"It is clear the strikers have embarked on an illegal industrial action without following the required procedures," he said.

Cecil Abrahams, the rector, told the strikers the university could not start wage negotiations because its financial crisis had to be resolved first.

The strikers have embarked on an illegal industrial action without following required procedures

The strikers then occupied the administration building and brought work to a standstill, stormed into the library, intimidating and harassing staff, and calling on students to join them in harassing workers who refused to take part in the strike.

"The disruption has also continued in other parts of the university, causing students and

staff to fear for their safety and leave the university," Redlinghuis said.

The university is conducting mid-year examinations and the exam set for yesterday had to be postponed. If the strike continues UWC would have to postpone other exams, he said.

Work begins on a national student financial

Primarashni Pillay

WORK was being done on developing a national student financial aid scheme and the integration of colleges of education into the higher education system, Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu said this week.

He was speaking in Pretoria at the inauguration of the Council on Higher Education, a body which has been set up to advise government on the transformation of higher education. An announcement on student fund-

ing and college restructuring will be made soon.

The council was appointed a few weeks ago and members include University of Cape Town vice-chancellor Mamphele Ramphele, Wits University academic William Makgoba and Peninsula Technikon rector Brian Figaji, who is also a former National Commission on Higher Education member.

Other voting members include former student leader Kenny Diseko and Vista University vice-chancellor Prof Hugh Africa, while

nonvoting members include Nasima Badsha, the deputy director-general of higher education in the education department.

Members were nominated by stakeholders and are serving in their individual capacity. They do not represent the interests of the institutions they come from.

Chaired by Wiseman Nkublu of the Development Bank of Southern Africa who is also a former rector of the University of Transkei (Unitra), the council is the first of its kind in SA and will assist Bengu in integrat-

(54)

Ed 17/6/98

ing the higher education system into a unified national system.

SA's higher education system is fragmented and there is a duplication of programmes being offered at institutions. Course standards vary and inequalities still exist.

The council is also charged with the task of quality assurance in higher education, as well as making an input into the development of mechanisms for implementing a new funding framework.

Bengu said that he was "waiting to consult

(with the council) on the establishment of a panel of independent assessors to investigate problems in institutions experiencing serious problems such as Unitra".

He said that the council was "almost adequately funded to function this year". However more money was still needed and the finance ministry would have to be approached.

The council would have to articulate a long-term plan that was linked "to where this country is going ... and to the country's human resources development needs", he said.

aid scheme

Bawa favoured to head Unisa

Star 17/6/98

(54)

Leading black academic with an activist past impresses the selection committee

By EDWIN NAIDU

Award-winning scientist Professor Ahmed Bawa has emerged as the favourite for the vice-chancellorship of the University of South Africa.

Sources say Unisa's selection committee, which met for 12 hours on Friday to decide on a shortlist, were impressed by Bawa's credentials.

The committee failed to receive the expected applications from Jakes Gerwel, director-general in the Office of the President; SA's ambassador to Washington Dr Franklin Sonn; and Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Pallo Jordan.

The university is looking for a "transformation-minded" replacement for Professor

Marinus Wiechers, who retired last year after 38 years' service - the last three as principal.

Bawa, the deputy vice-chancellor at the University of Natal, is widely favoured because of his management skills and international reputation. He won the Foundation for Research and Development's Presidential Award from 1991 to 1994. This is given to exceptional scientists making their mark nationally and internationally.

He also sits on the board of Sanlam and was former dean of the faculty of engineering at the University of Durban-Westville.

Bawa, a former student

activist and founding member of the United Democratic Front, was the first black academic appointed to a senior post at the University of Natal.

Others on the shortlist are

the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Biki Minyuku; Vista University's Mamelodi campus principal Dr M N Mboya; Dr Cynthia Marivate, chief executive of the Pan South

African Language Board; and Unisa's acting principal Dr Anthony Melck.

Minyuku has received strong support for the vice-chancellor's post at the University of the North (Turfloop), where he had an 18-month stint

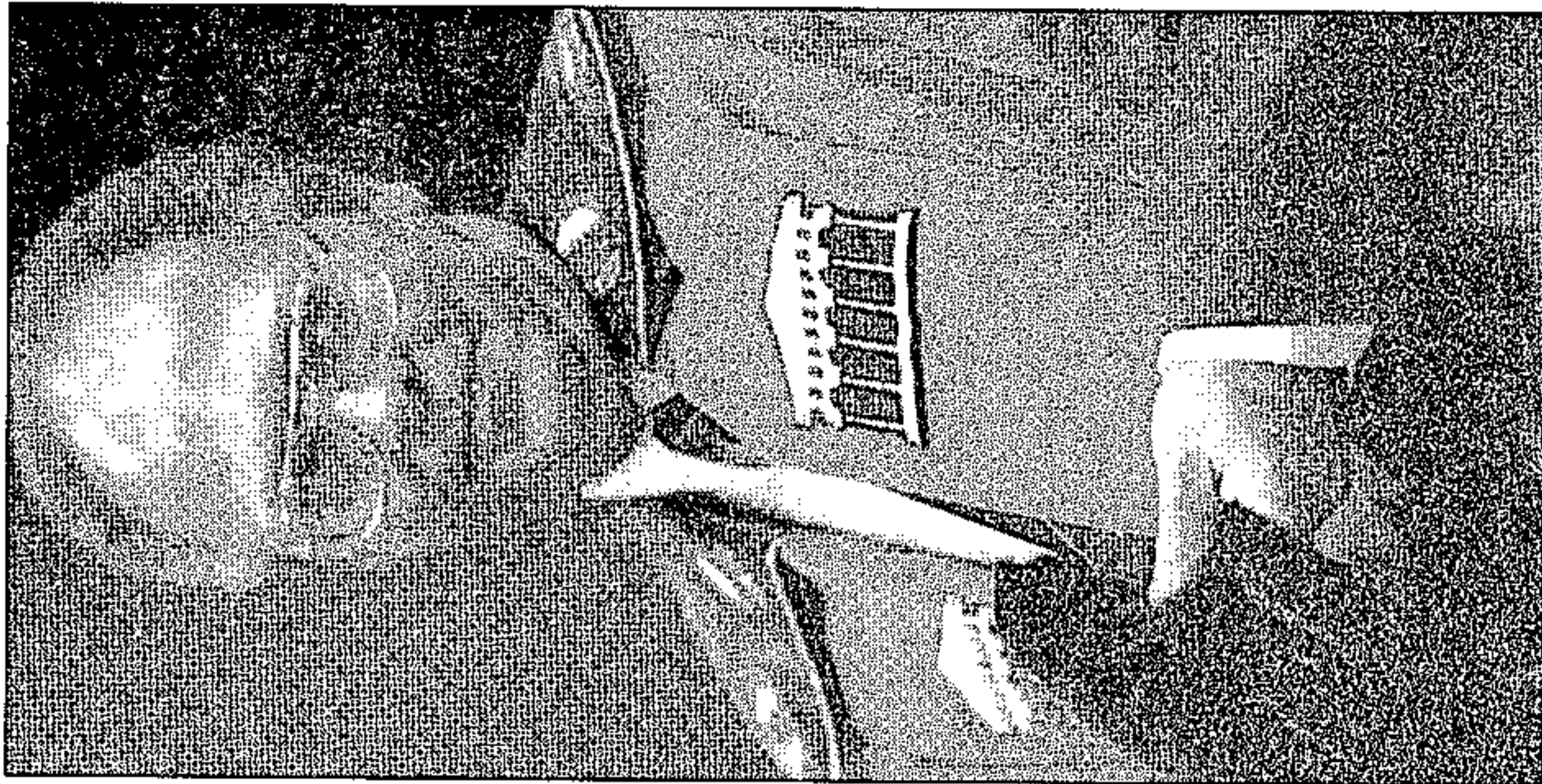
as registrar. He is being pressured to accept that post when Professor Njabulo Ndebele, whose contract has not been extended, leaves.

A selection committee member said Melck had edged onto the shortlist by a single vote.

He does not enjoy widespread support at Unisa. Some say he left Unisa to take up a post with the Financial and Fiscal Commission two years ago, "when his expertise was most needed to solve Unisa's financial problems".

Chairman of the selection committee, Dr Theo Roodt, said all five candidates would speak at Unisa next Monday, outlining their vision for the institution - one of the 10 biggest universities in the world - and their plans for alleviating its financial woes.

Shortlisted candidates to outline their plans and vision



Cutting the budget: Cecil Abrahams has presented staff unions with a menu of money-saving options. PHOTOGRAPH: RODGER BOSCH

Uprising snuffed out at UWC

(54) M+G 19-25/6/98

Andy Duffy

The University of the Western Cape (UWC) slapped a court order on its workers this week to snuff out an uprising sparked by its management's cost-cutting proposals.

The Labour Court in Johannesburg issued an urgent interdict against the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) and its UWC representatives, after dozens of workers blockaded the Bellville campus, occupied offices and allegedly assaulted and threatened other staff.

The union's UWC representatives deny the assault allegations, but concede its members' whirlwind industrial action was illegal and largely out of their control. The court also ordered the union to pay UWC's costs — an estimated R18 000.

The stand-off follows a long-simmering dispute between the union, representing 700 of the 900 non-academic UWC staff, and management, led by vice-chancellor Cecil Abrahams.

Abrahams two weeks ago presented the union with a menu of cost-cutting options — ranging from slashing medical aid benefits to scrapping housing subsidies — to cut the university's R16,4-million deficit.

The alternative is forced retrenchments

among its 1 300 academic and non-academic staff.

Abrahams was unavailable for comment this week. But unconfirmed reports suggest one in six jobs at UWC could be under threat, with the service staff bearing the brunt. Abrahams's menu enraged the union because until it was tabled, Nehawu's main talks with management had been about annual wage negotiations.

But Abrahams's list also includes staff forgoing increases. "This will not affect the current deficit," a management memorandum notes, "but avoid a further increase in this deficit."

Another proposal is to cut salaries. A third is to scrap bonuses — a 13th cheque paid on employees' birthdays — which would save R9,5-million.

"Not all the above options," the memorandum notes, "are necessarily viable from a financial, academic or managerial perspective." It is also not clear whether the belt-tightening extends to senior management.

Further unnerving the union, Abrahams last week called on non-union staff for their cost-cutting ideas, apparently undermining Nehawu's position as the workers' sole bargaining unit.

"They are not cost-saving mechanisms," the union says. "They ... require staff to give up their contractual benefits in order to avoid retrenchments."

"Workers are being asked to bear the brunt of this rectorate's mismanagement."

UWC's cost cutting is symptomatic of initiatives on campuses across the country. Declining government subsidies and rising student debt have snookered many institutions. UWC has already clashed with its students, after it took a similar hardline stance against debtors at the start of the year.

But Abrahams has also been under pressure from non-academic and academic staff to disclose details of his package and those enjoyed by his senior lieutenants.

Many on the campus also support Nehawu's claims that his cost-cutting menu is just a stopgap, in the absence of a firm, long-term survival plan.

The union spent much of this week trying to persuade Abrahams to lift the interdict — without success.

The two sides have now agreed to go to the Council for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration.

These are not cost-saving mechanisms. Workers are being asked to bear the brunt of this rectorate's mismanagement'

Wits to charge some in dollars

BD 22/8/98

(54)

Primarashni Pillay

WITS University will next year charge international students from countries outside the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in dollars.

Currently, local and international students are subsidised at the same level by government. However, new policies are in the pipeline to withdraw these subsidies to undergraduate SADC students.

Postgraduate international students will still be subsidised.

This year the University of Cape Town charged its SADC undergraduate and honours students between \$5 200 and \$5 400.

Wits University has about 800 international students, of whom about

100 are from outside the SADC. It will charge undergraduate students a flat fee of about \$7 500.

Derek Swemmer, academic registrar of the university, explained that international students did not contribute to the tax base of SA and that when government withdrew its subsidies this would mean a loss of income to universities. By introducing a new fee system "we can recover the costs. Students must recognise that if they wish to get a tertiary qualification they must contribute towards it."

Swemmer conceded that some African students from non-SADC countries might not be able to afford the fees. However, it was still relatively cheaper to study in SA than in Europe, America and Australia.

Woman chancellor ends an old Stellenbosch tradition

(514) cr/2a/6/198

CHAMPION of the Afikans language and daughter of a staunch old Mattie, Elize Botha is determined, after she is inaugurated as the first woman chancellor of the University of Stellenbosch today, to speak on behalf of an academic world that reflects the changing society it serves. TROYE LUND spoke to her.

FOR "a blue stocking academic who studied at the university half a century ago, this appointment is an inexpressible reward", Elize Botha said from her Pretoria home after having her family round for a dinner cooked by her husband.

"He is a very good chef. I am just the skivvy," she exclaimed. Afikans linguist chuckled in the throaty tone for which she is famous at Stellenbosch University.

"When one looks at the facts, there is a huge misconception about how the university receives multi-lingual students. Although the administration is Afikans and tuition predominantly in Afikans, students of other language groups are accommodated by a multitude of programmes.

"There is not, and has never been, any attempt to exclude by means of a rigid system," said Botha, who stressed how the university had fashioned the indigenous language of Afikans into an academic tool, a usable instrument of communication to achieve academic and cultural excellence in all fields. Stellenbosch University, she says, is in essence "the fountain of all that is good in South African life."

"Stellenbosch has a nurtured many of the great intellects of our time, and they have not all been Afikans. The painters, musicians, scientists and scholars who have come out of Stellenbosch have con-

tributed greatly to this country."

And, after five years on the university council, Botha is satisfied that "massive changes" have been planned and executed, so that the university will continue to contribute to the "fabric of the society it serves."

"So many fibres are woven into the fabric of the university. Changes in that fabric must be and are being reflected in the way in which the university is ordered and the way it serves, receives and accommodates students," said Botha, who believes that no institution can exist without responding to change in a nuanced way.

As a woman, her appointment as chancellor is indicative of what is considered to be a radical break with the traditionally white, male world of the university.

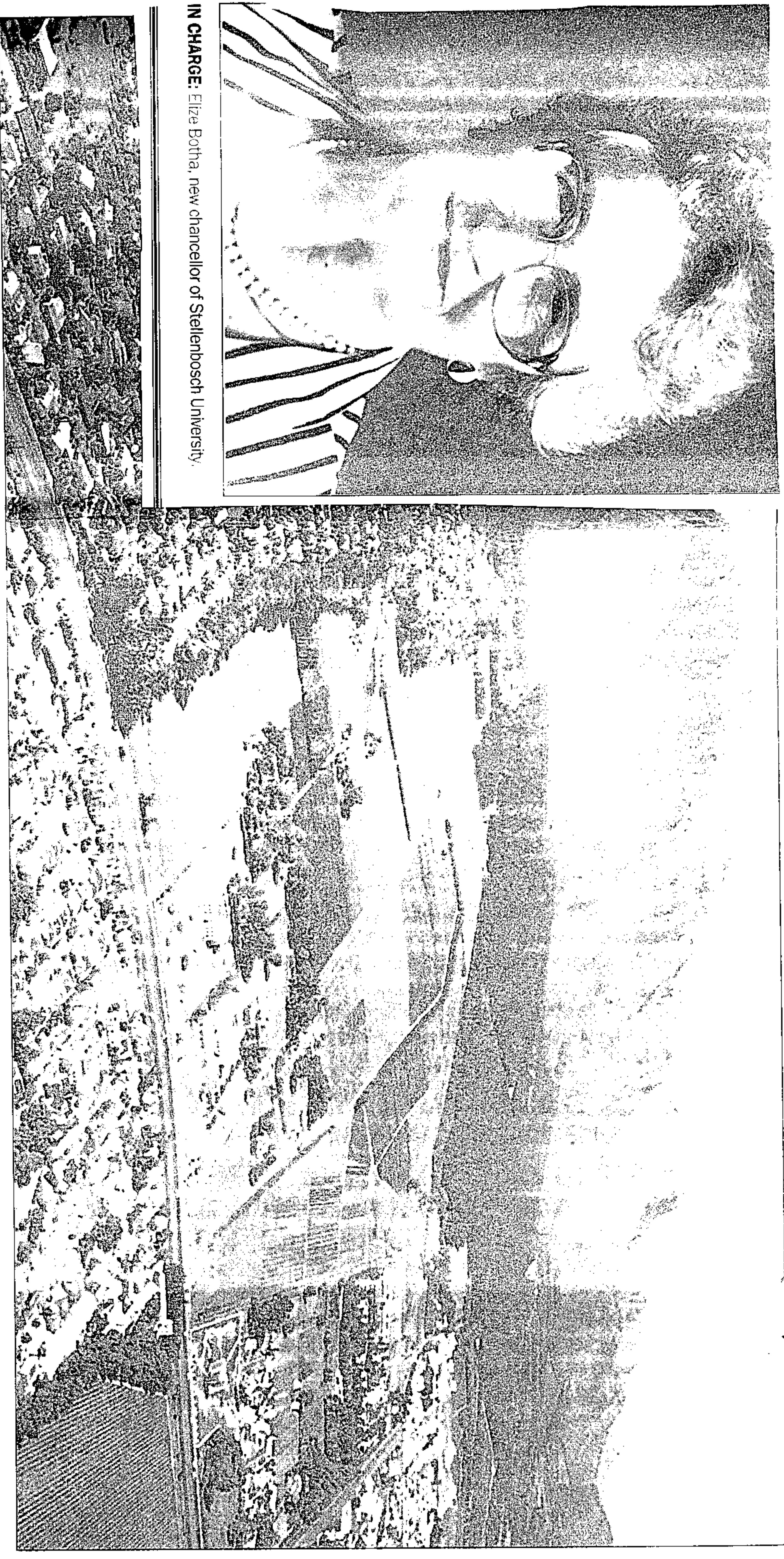
But Botha places no significance on the fact that she, as a woman, has been appointed.

"I grew up in a family that never found it strange or eccentric when a girl achieved academically. One does one's work and if it is rewarded it is because it is well done," said the mother of three, for whom the past 40 years have been "a balancing act" between her chosen career of marriage and her career as an academic making a contribution to the Afikans language and literature.

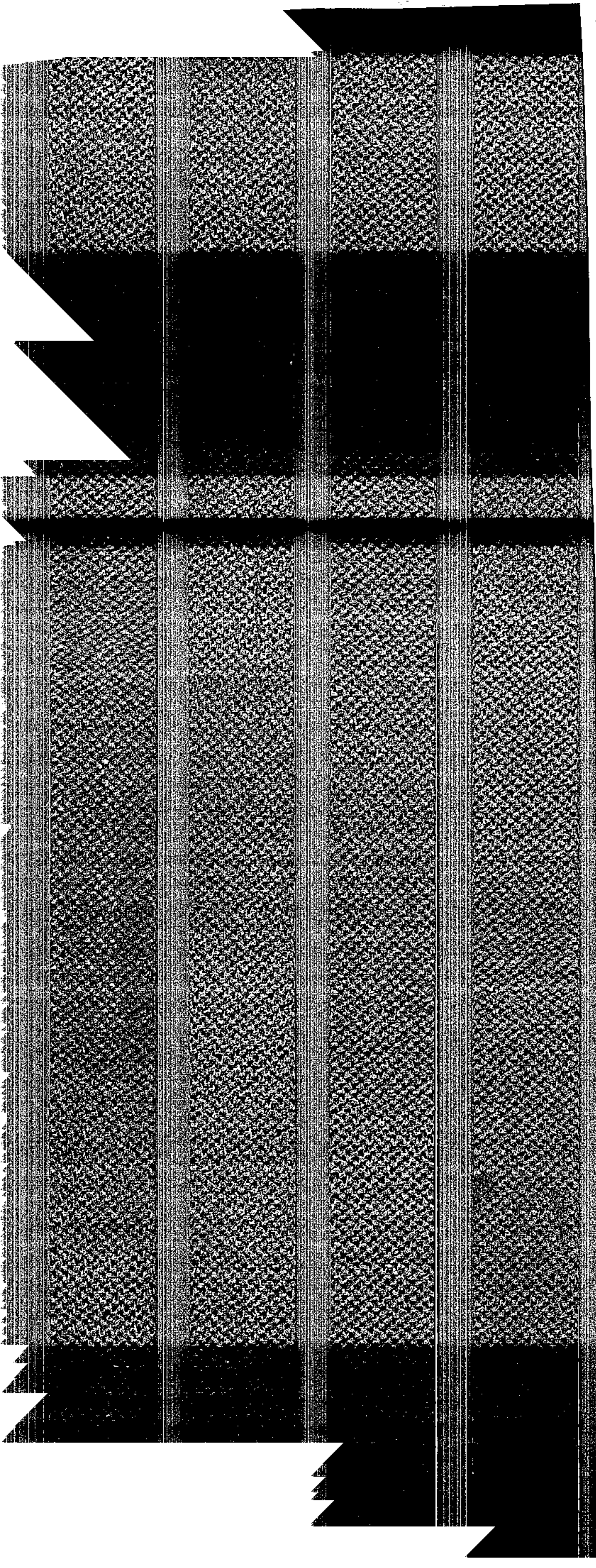
"Marriage certainly complicates other careers. But I love family life. It is the most valuable part of living."



IN CHARGE: Elize Botha, new chancellor of Stellenbosch University.



INNER STRUGGLE: Surrounded by the beautiful mountains and vineyards in its rural Eoland setting, Stellenbosch University is wrestling to come to terms with the new South Africa.



Whites struggle to deal with enforced change

(54) CT 22/6/98

VELLED by an oak curtain and white-washed university walls, pharisees of the new academia plot to protect white, Afrikaner nationalism.

In view of radical transformation at tertiary institutions countrywide, this has been the popular criticism of the University of Stellenbosch. But critics are mistaken, says a statement from the university.

"Dramatic change has already been achieved," reads the statement, which also declares opposition to all discrimination.

"Recruitment drives aimed at black students are proof of sincere efforts to correct racial imbalances."

The statement adds: "But that does not mean we agree with views that every organisation in South Africa needs to mirror precisely the racial composition of the country. Every organisation in every region has its own set of racial, demographic and economic realities."

"Every institution is unique. It would be a serious error to force every educational institution to change into the same product. Every institution is different ... change must occur at a sustainable rate."

According to the university's rector, Professor Andreas van Wyk, the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) that has been established represents students, staff and management and is focusing on issues such as what is offered academically, access and accessibility (including the issue of language), finances and student affairs.

"The SPC working groups are nearing completion of a comprehensive review of the internal and external environment," said his statement. But the demographics of this universi-

ty, arguably the most well resourced in South Africa, show it to be predominantly white and male. Of the 16 327 students, three percent are African and 15% are coloured and Indian.

No women or blacks occupy any of the institution's top 20 management posts.

In comparison, the University of the Witwatersrand has increased its black student complement from less than 20% a decade ago to 48% last year and an expected 51% this year. Holders of the top 24 management posts include five black women and one white.

Another traditionally white, Afrikaners university, the Rand Afrikaans University (RAU), embarked on an aggressive recruitment campaign in 1996 when a transformation committee was established.

Since then, a programme aimed at making the campus more representative has been spearheaded by an alternative admission policy/potential testing programme for black students. This means that 22% of the full-time students are now African and five percent are coloured and Indian.

In the part-time, evening courses 46% of the students are African and 10% are coloured and Indian.

Most concerning about Stellenbosch University, say academics at Wits, RAU and the University of Potchefstroom, is the absence of an overall plan for fundamental change, a vision of what a transformed Stellenbosch University will look like.

These concerns are exacerbated by the university continuing to make strategic management plans for the next five years without a broad vision to guide it.

This is to limit the impact of any transformation policies, claim some students and academics on campus.

At the universities of Cape Town and Witwatersrand the end result of transformation was agreed on first, and then strategies were planned to meet this goal.

Progressive student leaders at Stellenbosch also claim that finding a candidate to represent them on university decision-making bodies is problematic — representatives with "left-wing" views are marginalised and moderate representatives end up toeing management's conservative line.

Stellenbosch University English lecturer Annie Gagiano, who is campaigning for pro-transformation pressure groups to be represented on the SPC, said: "The university has not been able to ignore the political change altogether, but they are very clever at managing it."

The idea of fundamental change loses legitimacy by the exclusion of visibly alternative points of view — the membership of the SPC central committee represents mainly the old guard.

"University management may make superficial changes and use black people involved in things such as distance learning to boost statistics. But, at home, little will have changed."

Lecturers presenting Afrikaners bridging classes, which are part of three-week bridging courses in engineering, the sciences and social science, declared these to be a "farce".

The lecturers did not wish to be named, but they said it was impossible to teach students with no previous schooling in Afrikaans to achieve the academic level required within weeks.

"Some courses are starting to be offered

in English, but the Afrikaners policy is used as an excuse and a filter. The crucial change is language," said one lecturer, adding that few black faces on campus were undergraduates — most were post-graduates from other universities or countries.

Retired lecturer Professor Sammie Terblanche said: "There is a huge internal struggle in university ranks."

Even if the SPC does propose radical changes, could the 25-member university council halt or limit the proposals?

The council's power to act as an impenetrable hierarchy was recently illustrated by the controversial re-election of Van Wyk.

An initial high-handed decision by the council to re-elect Van Wyk was reversed when the senate complained it hadn't been consulted.

But a majority in the senate eventually went along with the council's plan to elect the incumbent using the university's "short election method" — a simple majority vote by the senate and council.

Liberal factions on campus suspect that holding a "non-democratic" election six months before the terms of Van Wyk and nine other councillors expired this month, was a move to keep an old guard at the helm.

Three of the new councillors will be appointed by Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu, one will be chosen by the ANC town council of Stellenbosch, one by the provincial government, three by alumni and one by the university's donors.

This is expected to bring the old guard

numbers down to 13 and raise the anti-establishment benches to 12.

But enemies and fans of Van Wyk agree: If subjected to interviews and popular vote, he would probably be re-elected by a majority.

Could this be because the student body is becoming more conservative?

White students, who perceive transformation at other universities as leading to international discrimination and low standards, are flocking to Stellenbosch, administration staff said.

About 50% of students are now white, English speakers.

But a new law has come into effect this year. The Higher Education Act prescribes change for tertiary education institutions, insisting they become representative and give poor black students maximum access to a multi-lingual environment.

Universities risk having their subsidy withdrawn if they refuse to toe the line.

Stellenbosch's subsidy has decreased in the past three years — it used to get 75% of its income from the state, but this has been cut to 35% of the university's income of R644 million for the last financial year.

"Our very survival depends on change," said a statement from the university.

But Bengu has warned Stellenbosch that its language policy and identity need urgent review, and that it had made no effort to change. And President Nelson Mandela has cautioned the university against the use of language to resist transformation and to pursue divisive agendas. Financial and political realities considered, it appears the days for any pharisees that still exist are numbered.

Stellenbosch has no choice but to change. It is question of how fast.

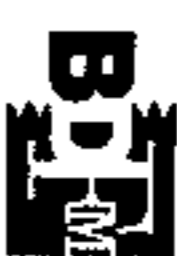
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Funding plan to give government tight control of tertiary education

Primarashni Pillay

A NEW funding system for tertiary education institutions will be phased in from 2000 and will move from funding institutions on the basis of student numbers to funding student places in subject areas, giving government tight control of student qualifications.

Ahmed Essop, the education department's chief director of planning in higher education, said yesterday that this system of funding would be responsive to the needs of the country

and that funds would be earmarked for the redress of historically disadvantaged institutions.

Institutions are currently subsidised on the basis of student numbers, while the higher education system is fragmented, programmes are duplicated and inequalities still exist. However, last year's white paper on higher education stated that the system needed to be restructured and that government should implement grid subsidisation — the funding of a specified number of places in subjects or

fields at an institution — as opposed to lump sum funding.

Government will also set targets such as funding more students in science than in arts, funding short courses as opposed to degree courses or funding on the basis of race and gender. "We will provide targets, not quotas. The basis of funding will be linked to these guidelines," Essop said.

In 2000 funding would be based on a combination of the present system as well as funds set aside for redress purposes and for institutions offering new

initiatives such as pilot programmes. "We will phase in the new funding system to allow for stability," he said.

In 2001 institutions would be funded on the basis of earmarked funds as well as grid subsidisation.

"Priority areas will be identified. We are not offering a free for all funding. It means that not everybody will be able to do certain courses. We may not fund the same number of students as in the past. We will have to identify key areas," Essop said. To implement this first phase, the

department released a document earlier this month which asked institutions to submit a three-year rolling plan for 1999-2001, indicating its student projections, staff recruitment, equity and development plans, business plans, and student development plans. During this planning phase the department is to produce a national higher education plan including financial forecasts and enrolment targets.

The department will also set targets to ensure enrolment and output profiles start to reflect SA's demographics.

RD 23/6/98

(54)

Student union calls for career path schemes

Primarashni Pillay

THE SA Students' Congress (Sasco) said yesterday government had to introduce career path programmes at schools to complement plans to subsidise student places at tertiary institutions.

This comes in the wake of the release by the education department of a document this month explaining a new funding system to be phased in from 2000. Government will move away from funding institutions on student numbers, to student places in subject areas (grid subsidisation), giving government tighter control of graduates at each faculty.

The document stipulates also that during the planning phase — 1999-2001 — the department will formulate a higher education plan that includes financial forecasts and enrolment targets. Each institution has to submit a three-year rolling plan for the same period, indicating its student projections, staff recruitment, equity and development plans, business plans, and student development plans.

Sasco secretary-general Tshilidzi Ratshitanga said the implementation of career path programmes at schools would give pupils insight into the needs of the job market, and they would have direction when applying to study at tertiary institutions.

Helen Zille, communications officer for Cape Town University, said the education minister consulted university and technikon principals and this plan was going to be "a valuable contribution to the planning of higher education".

Ndoro Vera, spokesman for Venda University, said the plan would make institutions plan and focus. The department was deploying officials to run workshops on the document.

Colin Bundy, Wits University principal, said he hoped "data made available to the education minister from the labour market and the institutions was accurate, to make the system work".

ML Sultan Technikon's vice-principal Anshu Padayachee said a rolling plan would give institutions direction.

(54)

BO 24/6/98 Comment: Page 13

Police remove college protesters

Police were called to the Johannesburg Technical College in Doornfontein yesterday when protesting students disrupted classes.

The students were demanding that they be refunded R100 they had paid for an additional course. They said the course had been imposed on them. (B/L)

College management summoned campus security and the police after a window was smashed. Students were then removed from the premises, but continued to protest outside.

Students claim the Students Representative Council, the Senate and the Board of Studies were not consulted when a "fifth course" was implemented by the college management.

Senior vice rector Desmond April said the course was introduced as a pilot project to help students with communication, entrepreneurial skills and computer literacy. - Staff Reporter

Star 24/6/98

Vice-chancellor search could start afresh

(54)

The University of South Africa's search for a vice-chancellor could begin from scratch, according to the chairman of the committee charged with finding suitable candidates for the job.

Search committee chairman Mandla ka Mabuza said several options were considered at an emergency meeting of the selection committee yesterday.

The meeting was called after Professor Ahmed Bawa, who had been considered the favourite for the position, withdrew his application earlier this week.

Ka Mabuza said the meeting addressed whether the current selection

process should continue, if the seven who failed to make the shortlist should be considered again, or whether the search should start afresh.

In another development, Ka Mabuza confirmed that Unisa's Professor Simon Maimela had threatened legal action unless he was given reasons for not making the shortlist.

"We are compelled to provide all unsuccessful candidates with reasons why they did not make the shortlist and have already responded to Professor Maimela," he said.

He said the Broad Transformation Forum, the senate and management would make a decision after holding several meetings. - Staff Reporter

Star 26/6/98

'Rapid response' for troubled Unitra

MGT 26/6 - 2/7/98
(54)

Andy Duffy and Megan Voss

The government is to send independent investigators into the University of the Transkei (Unitra) — the first time it has wielded the powers of intervention recently created through higher education legislation.

The probe, due to start this weekend, will focus on what government officials have termed a "police state" allegedly operating on the Umtata campus, run by vice-chancellor Alfred Moleah.

Student clashes with management over unpaid fees have plagued the campus for months, prompting a recent crisis meeting between Minister of Education Sibusiso Bengu and the various Unitra stakeholders.

Bengu has now turned to his newly created Council for Higher Education to appoint an independent assessor to go on to the campus. The assessor — a "rapid response" mechanism set up under the higher education Bill — can recommend suspensions or dismissals. The

final decision, however, lies with the university's council, as the direct employer.

Bengu's office says the ministry is concerned about Moleah's alleged dictatorial, autocratic style. But Moleah says Bengu has told him the assessor will look at general management and governance style on the campus, including that operating before Moleah was appointed vice-chancellor in July 1994.

"People have accused me of having an autocratic style of governance which is not consultative," he says. "I consult as much as I can, but they're saying I can take no decision without calling a meeting. I'm supposed to be a chief executive."

The Student Representative Council, which has led opposition to Moleah and levelled many of the charges against him, was unavailable for comment this week.

Bengu's decision caps a troubled 18 months for Moleah. The university's previous council suspended him in March 1997 for insubordina-

authority," one department insider says.

Bengu wants the entire Turfloop council summoned to meet him before the end of next week. Vice-chancellor Njabulo Ndebele, who asked Bengu to intervene, officially steps down at the end of the month. He is going overseas.

Moleah says he does not know of any vice-chancellor at a "historically disadvantaged institution" who wants to renew the contract. "We meet all the time," he adds. "We cry on each other's shoulders and compare horror stories."

Latest figures show a sharp fall in student numbers at many of these institutions. The decline is likely to form part of the ministry's thinking as it plans the restructuring of tertiary education — a process that includes closures and mergers.

Turfloop's student numbers are down more than half since 1994, to just 8 877 this year, the University of the Western Cape has fallen nearly a quarter over the same period to just 10 832, and student numbers at Unitra and the University of Zululand have also dropped.

Pundits say students are more interested in going to "established" universities, such as the universities of the Witwatersrand, Cape Town and Rhodes. Facilities are generally better and the degrees are assigned a higher value.

tion. The suspension was lifted when Bengu intervened to rule that the council was actually defunct and had to be replaced, following a change in Unitra's statute late in 1996.

Moleah has been battling since then with his second-in-command, vice-principal Justice Noruwana, over alleged insubordination, prompting an investigation by the new council.

Meanwhile, a steep drop in government funding this year has forced Unitra to reshape its academic programme, cut operations and seek retrenchments among its 1 300-strong staff. The often violent run-ins with students over unpaid fees brought police in Casspirs on to the campus earlier this year.

Unitra is not the only troubled campus on Bengu's plate. He is also mulling over the findings of a preliminary investigation at the University of the North (Turfloop).

The probe uncovered serious problems in the performance of Turfloop's council. "There has been a complete breakdown of

Bawa quits race as past resurfaces

(54)

M+G 26/6-2/7/98

Tangeni Amupadhi

One of the candidates for the highest position at the University of South Africa (Unisa) has pulled out of the race at the 11th hour in what his critics say is an attempt to escape his shady political past.

Professor Ahmed Bawa, currently deputy vice-chancellor at the University of Natal, this week made a surprise withdrawal from the shortlist of candidates for the position of vice-chancellor at South Africa's largest university.

He says he has realised he would have missed out on becoming a researcher in physics, something he always wanted to do. Bawa withdrew a day after attending a public grilling as one of five shortlisted candidates.

Unisa representative Doreen Gough says Bawa did not give any reasons for his withdrawal. She added that he was a strong contender for the post.

Critics say Bawa got cold feet because his political past was beginning to resurface. Jacob Mahlula, acting vice-secretary of Unisa's Students' Representative Council, says students had planned to question Bawa about his past at the public interview, but were not given a chance to do so.

As a teenager Bawa testified against his comrades in the trial of nine South African

Students' Organisation (Saso) and Black People's Convention activists in 1975 and 1976. Among those on trial for "participating in terrorist activities" were Saths Cooper and Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo) deputy president Tandelani Nefolovhodwe.

Black Consciousness leader Steve Biko was the defence's star witness in what was to become one of his last public appearances before being bludgeoned to death by police.

The "Saso nine", as the accused were known, were arrested after making speeches, writing poetry and organising "Viva Frelimo" rallies to celebrate the Marxist take-over by Samora Machel's movement in Mozambique.

Among those arrested were Selby Baqwa (now public protector), former trade unionist Cyril Ramaphosa and Barney Pityana (now South African Human Rights Commission chair).

Bawa was one of three activists who cracked during solitary confinement and, after being tortured, agreed to testify for the state. Bawa's erstwhile comrades say Judge J Boshoff relied heavily on his evidence, as one of the three principal state witnesses, for a conviction. The Saso nine served prison terms from 1974 to 1982.

Bawa's former comrades now say he is not the right man to lead an institution desperately

in need of change. "He testified against the same essence of what Unisa wants to get into — transformation," remarks Nefolovhodwe. "He wants to lead an institution that must still go through the process that he testified against. That is a position of responsibility, and some of those people whom he wants to lead are our members."

Cooper says most disturbing is the fact that Bawa did not have the courtesy to apologise to his comrades. But Bawa says he did explain his position to their defence team.

Another state witness, Harry Singh, committed suicide in September 1984 — exactly 10 years after they were arrested, and two years after the release of the Saso nine.

"I was 18 years old at the time," Bawa said this week. "I spent 11 and a half months in solitary confinement, under Section six of the terrorism Act. I was in a confused state of mind."

Bawa says his past should not be used to gauge whether he can lead an institution in need of a facelift. "I'm playing a transformational role at [the University of] Natal."

Nkwenkwe Nkomo, the former national organiser of the Black People's Convention, says he believes it is unfair to use Bawa's testimony to block him from holding high office. "If he is the right man and knows where the country is going and can deliver, then we should give him a chance."

Students threaten to step up protests

Primarashni Pillay

AFTER a second day of looting at Johannesburg Technical College campuses yesterday, student protests could intensify with the SA Students' Congress (Sasco) warning that action could spread to colleges countrywide.

Sasco national organiser Peter Se-futhi said Sasco would support student protests as "nothing much" had happened in the transformation of management structures countrywide.

If campus management refused to meet Sasco, the organisation could call on its branches to embark on protest action at their individual campuses next week, he said. Students from other technical colleges might be bused

in to show solidarity for Johannesburg Technical College, he said.

Students at the college protested over the inclusion of a fifth compulsory subject, for which they had to pay R100. On Tuesday they looted the cafeteria of the Currey Street main campus and owner Barbara Scular was seriously injured.

Both the Currey Street and Smith Street satellite campuses were closed yesterday but about 200 protesting students forced their way into the satellite campus. A small group broke away and looted the cafeteria, damaging cash registers, refrigerators and a pool table, said Juri Botha, campus head of department.

Police fired rubber bullets to

disperse students. No one was injured and no arrests were made.

Students were also demanding the transformation of the college council and the finance department, and access to documents that govern the campus. They also protested against the suspension of students' representative council president Wilson Ramotlou.

A source said there was "documented proof" that a decision had been taken at a national student congress earlier this year to target the college for national mass action, pushing for transformation.

Gauteng education MEC Mary Metcalfe is scheduled to meet campus management and student leaders tomorrow to try to resolve the problems.

BD 2/4/98

(54)

Jo'burg Tech closes both campuses after students go on the rampage

(514) Mar 21/7/98

By RAPULE TAVANE
Johannesburg Technical College students disrupted classes again yesterday, this time at its Bramfontein campus, leading to its closure.

The college closed its Doornfontein campus on Tuesday after students rampaged, looting the cafeteria and injuring the owner, and damaging college property. Damage worth R60 000 was

caused by the students. Both campuses will be closed until Monday. Students are demanding refunds for a compulsory course they believe is unnecessary and want the manage-

ment to lift student representative council (SRC) president Wilson Ramotlou's suspension unconditionally. Ramotlou was found guilty during a disciplinary hearing on Monday of inciting vio-

lence, aggressive behaviour and undermining authority. SRC member Eddie Magoodi said the SRC would meet Education MEC Mary Mecalfe tomorrow to ask her to intervene.

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Interdict issued against rioting college students

Primarashni Pillay

(54)
20 3/7/98

THE Johannesburg High Court issued an interim interdict yesterday against seven Johannesburg Technical College student representative council members, including president Wilson Ramotlou, to prevent them from disrupting academic and administrative activities.

This followed an urgent application by the college after the campus cafeterias were looted during two days of student protests.

On Tuesday, cafeteria owner Barbara Scular was seriously injured when she was attacked by a group of students looting her cafeteria.

The students were protesting at the introduction of a compulsory course for which they had to pay R100, and were demanding

the transformation of the college council.

They also accused college principal Shirley Steenkamp of nepotism and racism.

Sources said earlier this week that the college had been targeted for national mass action as a means to push for the transformation of all technical colleges.

The SA Students' Congress (Sasco) said on Wednesday that it supported the protest.

A college spokesman said the interim interdict prevented the seven students from entering the campus without written permission from the college's management and from blockading the college's entrances.

The interdict also prevented the students from damaging the premises or interfering with or intimidating college staff and students.

The spokesman said college manage-

ment had agreed in principle to allow these students to write their exams, which are three weeks away. "However, if they want to enter the campus before that, they must apply to management in writing."

The students will appear in court on August 25 to argue against the interdict being made final.

Sasco secretary-general Tshilidzi Ratshitanga said that if no agreement was reached today at a meeting between students, college management and Gauteng education MEC Mary Metcalfe, the organisation would mobilise support at technical colleges countrywide and would embark on a campaign of mass action.

He said technical colleges had not been transformed and still had rectors who were conservative.

SA's higher learning down in the dumps, says report

AN INDEPENDENT study of South Africa's 36 universities and technikons warns of devalued degrees, growing chaos and mediocrity.

Peter Buchanan, a US education expert, said in a report released this week that the government had to take tough political decisions now. "It should proclaim higher education as a basic infrastructure need of the nation and provide state-funding guarantees for every tertiary institution for a three-year period."

Buchanan is president emeritus of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, which serves the education and training needs of about 3 000 higher education institutions worldwide and 20 000 of their employees.

Buchanan, at the request of Unitech, the SA association representing institutions' marketing and communications employees, assessed tertiary institutions' marketing abilities. He found marketing to be "barely functional" at institutions that lacked well-trained personnel and money.

"We just don't have enough money for any administrative functions" was repeated by the 36 vice-chancellors, Buchanan said.

A rapid decline in state funding for institutions — from 80-100 percent to only about 50 percent — in the wake of an explosion in student numbers in the past few years had exacerbated student unrest at most of South Africa's 21 universities and 15 technikons.

Buchanan said to save money the government should merge tertiary institutions of the same type in the

same area to stop the duplication of courses and needless competition for student numbers.

"Across-the-fence mergers (universities merging not only with universities, but with technikons, and vice versa) should be mandated by the government on the grounds of sheer economic efficiency, regardless of all other factors," he said.

Buchanan warned that the continued existence of historically black universities and technikons was at risk because of factors only the government could change.

The most pressing factor was competition for students as that determined institutions' future state funding. This was complicated by the process whereby technikons and universities increasingly offered the same type of education and training qualifications — universities offering technical courses and technikons adding humanities courses.

"If this process continues, the weakest institutions academically and fiscally will steadily deteriorate. The best students who used to attend these institutions will vote with their feet to go elsewhere, aggressively recruited by advantaged institutions, including technikons, with their more practical curricula and promises of employment."

The report further suggested

that a second-class sector within higher education, awarding devalued degrees, would inevitably be created.

Buchanan said there had to be different types of institutions that offered different types of courses. Also, efforts had to be made to ensure that the quality of education was similar among institutions offering the same type of qualifications.

The government had to decide what the majority of people needed, and design a system accordingly, he said. This meant it should establish a large number of institutions to provide immediate training in the skills the economy needed, and a smaller number of in-between collegiate institutions of which a handful should be research institutions. Non-major metropolitan area universities would, in effect, become technikons, and collegiate institutions would, in some cases, be created out of the merging of universities and technikons in major metropolitan areas.

"Instead, the government is creating a free-for-all, in which institutions compete as best they can for students nationwide, regardless of institutional capabilities. The result is chaos, and the outcome is almost certain to be mediocrity across the board. A system of education that creates mediocrity will create a society of mediocrity."

Buchanan's report also said the government had an obligation to tell students "without the will and/or the ability to pay for their education" that they must pay for it and not abandon that responsibility to vice-chancellors. It also recommended a change in labour laws that force institutions to retain people who are incompetent.

(64) ST 5/7/98

JTC students take courses — in disruption!

(54) CP 5/7/98

Blocked streets, boycotts and marches



FREE LUNCH? . . . Johannesburg Technical College students trashing the campus cafeteria.

■ Pic: KAREL PRINSLOO

By MOSES SHIBA

PRESIDENT NELSON Mandela's plea to students to stop trashing technikons, universities and colleges and to take their academic work more seriously seems to have fallen on deaf ears.

Mandela recently came down hard on students when he advised that institutions of higher learning should get tough with students who idle away their time and then fail their exams. He said their behaviour was a disgrace to the nation.

He said this while addressing students at the graduation ceremony of the University of Zululand. He said that while the government was sympathetic to those experiencing poverty, it could not offer financial assistance to the more than 3 000 students who had failed their exams at university.



The following day they marched to Braamfontein campus "to involve other students as they were together in the struggle".

Police fired teargas and rubber bullets to disperse them and the Braamfontein campus was closed for the day as classes were disrupted.

□ Students' Representative Council (SRC) media officer Harold Mashishi has defended the students' actions.

"We were told to pay a hundred rand for a subject that was added to each course, so we fought that.

"In the process they targeted SRC president Wilson Ramotlou and decided to suspend him for fighting for the rights of the students," said Mashishi.

He said the college's management was "not transformed" and accused the institution's principal, Shirley Steenkamp, of nepotism, racism and mismanagement.

Molefe jolts students doing studies in nice times

By DAN DHLAMINI

NORTH WEST Premier Popo Molefe's announcement that his government would not subsidise students who believed that tertiary education was one long, extended party, has jolted the province's youth to reality.

Speaking during the second Premier's Youth Awards function held in Potchefstroom last Friday night, Molefe said the notion that the state and society should subsidise the education of the youth - when these youths considered education a means to self-enrichment and aggrandisement - was a luxury the country could not afford.

Molefe said those who had had the privilege of being educated with taxpayers' money also had a responsibility to the community and

their country.

He commended the North West Province Youth Commission, under the leadership of chairman Moeti Molloa, for mobilising the youth into action regarding community service.

Molefe said it was essential that the commission finalised its plans regarding community service.

He said community service might be the answer to the fees crisis in that students could pay their debt to universities through community service.

Molefe said young engineers and technicians could assist the Public Works Department with housing, clinics, classroom and infrastructural development.

Similarly, young doctors could assist in making health services available to the poor and rural

communities.

Young educators must assist community colleges in the training of the unemployed youth.

He said teachers who had graduated but could not find jobs should develop home-based community and private education and training facilities.

In this way, Molefe said the unemployed teachers could expand learning opportunities for the youth while creating jobs and income for themselves.

Molefe was applauded by the more than 300 guests when he announced that the University of the North West had become the first in the country and perhaps even Africa, to train youths in nuclear science.

Molefe told the guests at the glittering occasion, where the

province's outstanding youths who participated in various categories, were given awards as incentives, that South Africans must unite and see to it that democracy succeeded.

He also called upon the youth to guard against drug abuse and pointed out that forces of apartheid had produced drugs to neutralise the youth and eventually destroy them.

Molloa said the duty of his commission was to ensure that the needs of the youth were addressed. He called on the government to remove barriers that prevented the youth from active economic participation.

Molloa said access to credit facilities were some of the obstacles that barred the youth from participating actively and vigorously in the economy.

Technical college students back in class after protests

Primarashni Pillay

(54)

DD 7/7/98

LECTURES at Johannesburg Technical college resumed yesterday after the college was closed for three days last week as a result of student protests which led to the destruction of campus property.

The students were protesting against the introduction of a compulsory subject for which they had to pay R100.

Yesterday campus principal Shirley Steenekamp said students had been informed about agreements reached at a meeting on Friday between the college management, student leaders and Gauteng education MEC Mary Metcalfe.

She said damage to campus property had amounted to about R220 000 and that the college would have to "dig into its limited reserves" to pay for repairs.

However, student representative council president Wilson Ramotlou said national mass action was still being planned to push for transformation at technical colleges.

New Wits degrees incorporate internships

Primarashni Pillay

BD 9/7/98 (54)

WITS University is introducing a range of masters degrees which link arts and humanities students to the workplace by incorporating an internship or work-study component.

The Graduate School for the Humanities and Social Sciences, which will be launched at the end of this month, will offer masters degrees next year in pre-colonial studies, culture studies, heritage studies and rock art. In 2000 it will also offer a degree on forced migration.

The director of the school, Prof Carolyn Hamilton, said yesterday a need for the new degrees arose out of the notion that "arts students are typical strategic thinkers", and that their skills were seldom well tailored for a particular area in the job market.

With the new degrees, "we are trying to orientate students in such a way through vocational aspects that we can link the school and the workplace more closely". She said part of the programme included internships and business and university links. By participating in internships, students would gain experience in the "real world".

Prof Gerrit Olivier, dean of the university's arts faculty, explained that graduate students would enter a terrain where subject boundaries would no longer be seen as important.

The pre-colonial studies degree, which is believed to be a world first, is interdisciplinary and draws on an extensive menu of courses. It equips students to deal with issues such as customary law, traditional authorities and ethnic and cultural identities.

The heritage studies degree will offer opportunities for combining heritage specialisations with business, electronic technology or education skills.

Sasco 'to fight against exclusion of students'

(54)
Primarashni Pillay

SD 10/7/98
THE SA Students' Congress (Sasco) said yesterday it would "do everything possible" to ensure students were not excluded from tertiary education institutions for not paying their fees.

Sasco's branch representatives are at a three-day political and education seminar at Technikon Northern Gauteng in Soshanguve, where the future role of Sasco was debated yesterday.

Concern was expressed over the imminent exclusion of students who had not yet settled their fees at institutions. Universities and technikons experiencing financial hardships as a result of having millions outstanding in student fees, have taken a hard line against students who have not settled their debts.

Deposits

Students were required to pay deposits at the beginning of the year and in most cases monthly instalments until the end of the first semester. As a result student numbers at certain institutions dropped this year.

Since several students who had not yet settled their fees stood to be excluded in the next few weeks, Sasco said it would "intervene in the struggle for access to higher education".

The congress said in most cases negotiations with institutions' managements "did not deliver desired results"

as managements did not respect the demands of students and did not negotiate in good faith.

Sasco president Jacob Mamabolo said that should institutions exclude students, the organisation would "engage" with management. If the institution did not have a strong Sasco presence among students, Sasco would mobilise support from other nearby institutions. "We will flex our external muscle," he said.

He said no rector had the authority to determine which students should be registered or not, and stressed that certain institutions had been targeted for mass action.

Meanwhile, Sasco had agreed to represent the aspirations and needs of "the working class and the poorest of the poor", he said.

Mamabolo said that the organisation had not become a self-appointed spokesman of the poor, but the needs of the poor deserved attention and that was the role the congress was gearing itself for.

It was agreed that each of the more than 150 Sasco branches should establish election brigades which would be involved with, among other activities, voter education and voter registration among communities.

There was agreement that if students could assist with preparations for next year's elections, then the notion of students being involved in community work would follow.

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54
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Campus row over Ntsebeza's letter

Andy Duffy

Truth and Reconciliation Commission chief investigator Dumisa Ntsebeza was fighting a rear-guard action this week after a confidential letter he wrote to University of the Transkei (Unitra) principal Alfred Moleah swept across the troubled campus.

Ntsebeza is chair of Unitra's governing council.

He says the lengthy letter — which begins "Dear Bro Alf" — does not undermine his integrity, and that he barely knows Moleah.

However, the missive has raised questions on and off the campus about Ntsebeza's relationship with the embattled vice-chancellor. Ntsebeza and his council are Unitra's highest internal governing body, and Moleah's employer.

Moleah is also the target of two investigations — one by the council itself, the other by the Ministry of Education — that could force his dismissal.

In his letter, however, Ntsebeza assures Moleah of his backing, and even advises him on tactics to confound his opponents. Ntsebeza also discusses with Moleah his tactics in response to the council's probe, and briefs him on talks with the students representative council — which is leading opposition to Moleah. The letter was dated June 19.

"I am going to make an outrageous proposal to you — outrageous because I agree with you 100% that your position thereon is correct," Ntsebeza writes.

"It will be so unpredictable, so unexpected, so surprising that it will leave your adversaries confused and unable to come at you on anything in the future."

Ntsebeza suggests that Moleah propose to council that the university pay a long-standing legal bill, left over following Moleah's battle with former council members early last year. "It will enhance your prestige and it will strengthen the hand of those who are supportive of you," Ntsebeza writes. "For me it would

just be the thing to strengthen your hand and, of course, the hand of your supporters."

Moleah was unavailable and the Ministry of Education was also unable to discuss the government's investigation. One former council member, speaking on condition of anonymity, claims Ntsebeza had a record of supporting Moleah "right or wrong. It was always so blatant."

Another, however, says the letter is a classic example of Ntsebeza's diplomatic skills — that he is trying to cajole and flatter Moleah, rather than badger him.

Ntsebeza concludes the letter by asking whether Moleah should consider advertising for his successor "just so that anyone should realise that you are not clinging to the hot seat for dear life".

Ntsebeza declines to discuss the letter's con-

(514) Mt G 10 -16/7/98

tents and says he only knows Moleah because their wives met years ago in the United States. "There is a view that he does not consult and his rule has been characterised as autocratic," he adds. "As chair of the council I cannot comment on those views."

In the letter, however, he tells Moleah that he seems "to be occupying a moral higher ground ... Bro Alf, keep up the good work. Hold your head high and remain the 'cool cat' you usually are in the face of trials and tribulations."

Moleah's tenure at Unitra, now into its fourth year, has been remarkable mainly for his explosive clashes. Minister of Education Sibusiso Bengu resorted to new legislative powers to send investigators on to the Umtata campus, amid fears about Moleah's style of management.

The council's probe, led by deputy chair

Nonku Tshombe, is looking at long-standing tension between Moleah, his vice-principal Justice Norwana and other senior managers.

Moleah fought the previous council from his first year in office, at one stage resigning because he felt his authority was undermined. The council suspended him last March for insubordination. But that decision fell away following legal action — for which the bill is still unpaid — and the council disbanded. Ntsebeza took over as chair of the new council.

Ntsebeza adds that even if the new council's probe does recommend Moleah's dismissal, some sort of compromise should be adopted. "To leave at this stage would amount to him leaving under pressure," Ntsebeza adds. "If the report were to suggest that I do not know if I would be quick to say it is the solution for us to follow."

Snubbed Unisa professor fights back

CORNIA PRETORIUS

(54)

UNISA's deputy vice-chancellor has threatened to take the university to court after failing to make it onto the short list for the selection of a new head of the institution.

ST 12/7/98

Unisa advertised the position in April. Fifteen people either applied or were nominated. A selection committee which included students, labourers, lecturers and management voted and short-listed five of the candidates.

The deputy vice-chancellor, Professor Simon Maimela, and at least

two other unsuccessful applicants are dissatisfied with vague reasons given for their not being shortlisted and about alleged irregularities during the selection process.

"The matter is in my lawyers' hands now," Maimela said.

The original short list was made up of Professor Ahmed Bawa, deputy vice-chancellor of the University of Natal; Dr Cynthia Marivate, chief executive officer of the Pan-South African Language Board; Professor Antony Melck, Unisa's acting vice-chancellor; Professor Mzobanzi Mboya, principal of Vista University's Mamelodi campus; and Dr Biki Minyuku of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Minyuku withdrew and was replaced by Professor Annél van Aswegen, acting registrar of human resources at Unisa.

Then Bawa, who was a favourite, pulled out.

Higher education experts believe that, if all the groups do not agree on a vice-chancellor, the institution that trains 34 percent (124 000) of South Africa's 375 000 students could collapse.

Students, workers and the black forum, which represents black teaching and admin staff, meet this week to decide whether they want the selection process abandoned.

Efforts to recruit candidates like Dr Franklin Sonn, the South African ambassador to the US, and Dr Pallo Jordan, Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs, were unsuccessful.

"The most troubling thing is that we couldn't get credible applicants from outside the university," a selection committee member said.

82

UDW programme will prepare school pupils for university

By CHRIS HLONGWA

IN AN attempt to reduce student failure rates of up to 70 percent, the University of Durban-Westville is introducing a pioneering programme in July next year. The programme will prepare students for university studies while they are still at school.

About 2 000 high school pupils will be prepared for degree study at the university, three years later.

Last year the university lost R25 million in government subsidies because of the failures of students who couldn't solve problems, write or count.

Some students have been studying for 10 years without completing a three- or four-year degree.

Now the institution is

adopting a model used to cater for inner-city students in the United States.

"A large number of students come to us lacking language, numeracy and critical thinking skills - which contributes to the high failure rate," said vice-chancellor Mapule Ramashala.

In addition to this crisis, the university has to meet national student targets set by the Department of Education.

"This has a devastating effect on both the students and the university.

"We were in a double bind of having to admit large numbers of students but facing high failure rates because they were unprepared," said Prof Ramashala in a statement.

The university recently had an audit of all its 66 academic departments and "found the stark effects of the apartheid

legacy typical of most historically disadvantaged universities", said Ramashala.

The new programme was called "Upward Bound", she said. "Three years preceding university entrance, 2 000 selected children from disadvantaged schools will be brought to the university during the winter and summer vacations, and stay at the residences.

"In their first and second year, they will participate in academic enrichment programmes and socialisation."

At the end of the two years their success and that of the programme will be assessed to gauge their readiness to be introduced to university disciplines. During the third year the pupils will choose the discipline they wish to study, and final-year and post-

graduate students will act as their mentors.

"This is an attempt to catch up after the past 30 years' lack of development," said Ramashala.

"It's a qualitative intervention in the school system and we need private sector support as it opens up a range of careers for students, moving them into the science field and facilitating capacity building.

"Introduced to inner-city children in the US, the programme accomplished a significant and successful impact," she said.

Explaining how UDW had lost R25 million in subsidies last year, Ramashala said according to the funding formula the government paid half of the subsidy for every student enrolled and the second half when the student passed the year.

Students demand full probe of exam paper scam

By PERCY MAKHARAMEDZHA

THE SALE of examination papers has rocked one of the country's world-ranked centres of learning, the University of Natal in Durban, and students are demanding a full investigation into a

network that might include more faculties than the two uncovered to date.

The scam was cracked by the university's investigation division and the police. Three administrative staff members have been suspended and about thirty students are facing expulsion. Police said the exam paper racket had

been in operation for six months and exam papers had been sold to students for R4 000 a copy. About R120 000 may have exchanged hands in the scam, said the police - adding that one of the suspects made up to R15 000.

One of the suspects has been working at the university for 15 years.

SP 12/7/98 (574)

Student debt rules out pay rise for university staff

(54) 15/7/98
Primarashni Pillay

UNIVERSITY of Zululand staff would not receive salary increases this year as a result of a R52m student debt, university spokesman Carl de Villiers said yesterday.

The university's financial woes mirror those of other historically black universities which are on the brink of financial collapse as a result of outstanding fees.

De Villiers said early this year the university was owed R55m in outstanding fees but the amount dropped to R41m as fees trickled in.

The university had toughened its entrance policies by registering students only if they had settled their outstanding fees from previous years and had paid a deposit for this year's fees.

However, several students had thus far not paid their second fee instalments and the amount owed had risen to R52,25m, which included the fees owed by excluded students. Registered students for this year had yet to pay about R28,25m.

He said the non-payment of fees had resulted in the university paying inter-

est on bank overdrafts: it had to borrow money to pay staff salaries and to maintain infrastructure.

Earlier this year each of the university's 60 departments had experienced budget cuts of about 40%, he said.

"We can't replace old laboratory equipment and lecture halls are run down," he said. The university could not attract top academics because of financial constraints. No salary increases this year could mean that the university's academics could be tempted to leave for greener pastures.

De Villiers warned that the student culture of non-payment had to be turned around.

Bheki Khumalo, a spokesman for the education ministry, said: "Students and the community must realise if fees are not paid standards will decline and good academics will leave."

Meanwhile, Naledi Pandor, chairman of the Tertiary Education Fund of SA, which administers financial aid to students, said yesterday the fund had helped nearly 150 000 students since its inception seven years ago. In the past financial year, about 70 000 awards worth R351m had been made.

37 held in Vaal Tech protest

Star 15/7/98

(54)

BY TEFO MOTHIBELI

A group of 37 students and staff members were arrested after trying to disrupt classes at the Vaal Triangle Technikon yesterday.

Campus spokesperson Andrew Strauss said the protest, led by members of the students representative council and the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union, was staged in defiance of a court interdict against mass gatherings at the technikon.

"This interdict was instituted to restore law and order on the campus to protect the right of students to be educated," he said.

Strauss said the protesters, among other things, were demanding the reinstatement of suspended campus rector Aubrey Mokadi.

The technikon council suspended Mokadi on full pay on October 31 pending the outcome

of an investigation into a string of allegations against him.

The enraged workers and students also demanded the disbanding of the technikon council and the withdrawal of charges against SRC members arrested in connection with unrest at the campus in April.

The toyi-toying group also called on the management to reverse the disputed accelerated transformation scheme and refund any money paid out.

SRC president Moloantoa Makhunga said last night that lawyers acting on behalf of arrested students and staff members were trying to secure their release on bail.

He also launched an attack on Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu for not intervening in the campus impasse.

"Two weeks ago we wrote to the minister asking him to help resolve troubles at the institution. To date, there is no response from him," he said.

Technikons told to collect debts

By **EDDIE JAYIYA**

Technikons throughout South Africa, owed about R245-million in tuition fees, are under heavy pressure to act against non-paying students and also to review their debt-recovery systems.

Several technikon officials, who did not want to be named, have told The Star the Government was putting pressure on them to reduce the debt which, along with amounts owed by university students, adds up to more than R500-million.

Officials from several technikons said that although they had made arrangements with defaulting students to settle their accounts through monthly instalments, this had failed to reduce the debt.

Department of Education chief education specialist Dr Khehla Ndlovu confirmed that SA's 15

technikons were owed about R245-million.

He said the department was concerned about the debt, which "seems to escalate annually". The department could not assist the technikons in recovering the money "because technikons are autonomous".

"When they experience problems, they come to us for help. We want the debt reduced and proper records kept," he said.

The ML Sultan Technikon in Durban, which is owed R5-million, has started legal action against students.

It has also hired a debt-collecting company to recover outstanding fees. Vice-chancellor Professor Bonganjalo Goba said the technikon had "reluctantly" opted to use harsh measures to recover outstanding fees because students were "simply not paying up".

(54) Star 15/7/98

Charges in curtain case

M&G 17-23/7/98

(74)

Mukoni T Ratshtanga

A University of Zululand employee is facing 82 internal fraud charges ranging over two years.

The university "charge sheet" alleges that Anna Platt, an assistant buyer in the stores department, defrauded the university of R1,5-million between February 1995 and June 1997.

Platt allegedly made out false orders for curtains and mattress covers from a Richards Bay company, Curtain and Fabric Consultant, owned by Farida Moosa.

"[Platt] would induce ... wardens to sign vague or fictitious invoices where no goods were ever supplied. [Moosa] would provide invoices to facilitate the ultimate issue of the cheques," the charge sheet reads.

The amount still falls short of the R1,7-million allegedly spent on curtains, according to invoices in the possession of the *Mail & Guardian*.

During 1995 a requisition was made for R5 000 to print *Unicom*, an internal student publication. But the requisition number was used to pay Curtain and Fabric Consultants R91 000 for mattress covers.

Last year the *M&G* uncovered the

spending spree, prompting the university to start probing in August last year. When the *M&G* made inquiries this year, the university said "much of the original documentation could not be located". But on the same day university representative Carl de Villiers said the documents had been found and the investigation would continue.

Three weeks later, a preliminary report was produced that found no "criminal activity". The report states that R600 000 was spent on curtains and linen items. The university said the purchase was prompted by "theft from the [student] residences of thousands of rands worth of curtains, mat-

tress covers and other linen items] ... in November 1996". But large amounts had been withdrawn since 1995, before thieves cleaned out the residences.

In April, De Villiers told the *M&G* that students supply their own mattress covers and bedding.

University staff are unhappy that Platt is not facing police charges. "If they are saying she is the one responsible ... why not take [it] to the police?" asked a staff member.

University rector Charles Dlamini said the matter had been referred to the police. But this week De Villiers said they would only refer the charges to the police "if there is evidence for a criminal case".

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Heath probes alleged abuses by Venda university vice-chancellor

Kevin O'Grady

ALLEGATIONS that University of Venda vice-chancellor Gessler Nkondo was guilty of credit card abuse and gave jobs to people against the orders of the university senate and council are being probed by the Heath special investigating unit.

The official go-ahead to investigate Nkondo was given in a proclamation by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki in last week's Government Gazette, along with instructions to investigate several

state institutions, including the SA Rail Commuter Corporation (SARCC) and 17 town councils.

The unit has investigated about 1 000 cases involving state assets or public funds worth more than R10bn, since it was established at the beginning of last year.

Mbeki's proclamation asks it to investigate Nkondo's "conduct... with regard to the appointment and promotion of persons contrary to the interests of the university, standing orders of the senate and council and other uni-

versity prescripts". It also authorises a probe into allegations against Nkondo of the "unauthorised and/or irregular use of a credit card issued to him by the university and the unlawful, unauthorised or irregular payment for furniture for the institution.

Unit investigations manager Frank Vos confirmed yesterday that part of the probe related to a personal credit card that Nkondo allegedly authorised for himself without the council's approval. The card was issued with a R150 000 credit limit.

(514) PD 21/7/98

He could not give details about the alleged irregular appointments and promotions. However, the investigation is understood to relate to consultants appointed by Nkondo in 1995 at a cost of hundreds of thousands of rand.

Allegations about the appointments and the credit card were raised at the time. Staff members asked the education department to institute an independent inquiry, but this did not take place. Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu's spokesman, Bheki Khumalo, defended the failure to appoint an in-

quiry, saying Bengu did not want to "micro-manage" universities.

Vos said the allegations were brought to the unit's attention by a university academic when nothing came of a request for an investigation by Public Protector Selby Baqwa.

Nkondo has been embroiled in controversy before. He left the University of the North in 1993 when it emerged the doctorate from Yale University he quoted on his resumé had been with-

Continued on Page 2

Heath

Continued from Page 1

drawn because of irregularities. Nkondo and university spokesmen could not be reached for comment yesterday.

In terms of Mbeki's proclamation, the unit will also investigate allegations of wrongdoing at several state institutions, or their legal predecessors, going back to 1976. They include the Eastern Cape Development Agency, the Mpumalanga Development Corporation (MDC) and the SARCC.

The unit will investigate payments made by the MDC to its former MD,

Patrick Mogorosi, and the "irregular manner" in which Campbell Bomela executed his duties as CEO of the Eastern Cape agency.

Allegations that the SARCC awarded contracts for the upgrading of security services and facilities at Gauteng railway stations to companies in which SARCC employees had an interest and for which they received commission would also be probed.

Most of the towns under investigation are in the Eastern Cape, where councillors and employees are accused of "failing to pay and/or collect rates and taxes or to take the necessary steps to ensure the payment and/or collection of rates and taxes".

Unisa student bodies ask for new vice-chancellor shortlist

(64) Star 22/9/98
By EDWIN MATDU

The search for a vice-chancellor for the University of South Africa may have to start from scratch because the shortlisted candidates do not enjoy widespread support on campus.

The hunt for a successor to Professor Marinus Wiechers, who retired last year, has been embroiled in controversy since the man favoured for the job, Durban aca-

'Majority must decide but no party must be excluded from the process'

demic Professor Ahmed Bawa, pulled out of the race.

This week, three groups on campus - the students' representative council, the Black Staff Forum, and the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) - requested that the university council restart the search for a replacement.

The shortlisted candidates - acting principal Dr Anthony

Melck; Vista University's Mamelodi campus principal, Dr M N Mboya; the chief executive of the Pan South African Language Board, Dr Cynthia Marivate; and Professor Annel van Aswegen, acting registrar of human resources at Unisa - are said to be unpopular choices.

The troubles began when complaints arose over Bawa's late inclusion among the applicants. However, Bawa pulled out after learning of dissension over his candidature among staff members.

It emerged that he was a state witness in a trial which resulted in Patrick "Terror" Lekota and Saths Cooper being jailed in 1975.

Furthermore, theology professor Simon Maimela instituted legal proceedings against the university for not being shortlisted. He was added to the list last weekend.

Mandla ka Mabuza, chairperson of the search committee, said he believed the request by Nehawu, the Black Staff Forum and the students' representative council should be respected.

"But it requires constructive engagement with all stakeholders. The majority on campus must decide but no party will be excluded from the process. Any decision must be in the interests of transformation," he said.

Number of university entrance passes drops

PD PD 27/7/98 (54)

Primarashni Pillay

THE number of university entrance passes among matriculants had dropped from 88 000 to 69 000 between 1994 and 1997, despite a 5% increase in the number of matric pupils, according to a report published by the Centre for Development and Enterprise.

The report was released this week and focused on the topic: *The Future of South African Universities: What Role for Business?*. It followed a round-table discussion held earlier this year and attended by senior university academics, education department officials and the business sector.

The report said "a huge bulge" in potential university entrants was predicted in the early 1990s but this had not materialised. "Overall student numbers are declining, particularly at historically black universities. The bulge has developed at the level of school-leavers who do not qualify for university entrance."

Black students now comprised at least 25% of the intake at all historically white universities, with the exception of Stellenbosch where the figure was lower. "At some of these institutions — of which Natal University is a good example — African students

now outnumber white students."

The number of black students at this university in 1996 was 5 274, compared with 5 133 white students.

However, some historically black institutions did not have a single white student. Others had very few like Vista university which in 1996 had 30 237 black students and 82 whites.

The report asked whether two different sets of universities were emerging — one group consisting of multiracial institutions and another of single race institutions.

In 1994 information on 18 of SA's 21 universities disclosed that human sciences accounted for about 75% of full-time equivalent enrolments compared with 25% for natural sciences. In the human sciences, black enrolments exceed those of whites.

"Less than 30% of African full-time equivalent enrolments are in natural sciences.... Within the natural sciences the very low proportion of female students (42% in comparison to 58% for males) is further cause for concern."

In contrast with the racial profile of the student population, a high population of staff at universities and technikons were white and even historically black institutions continued to be staffed by whites.

ROW OVER Ntsebeza's B&B

(54)
M+C 24-30/7/98

Andy Duffy

The University of the Transkei (Unitra) has paid nearly R530 000 to a guesthouse owned by the university's council chair, Dumisa Ntsebeza.

The White House Bed and Breakfast charged Unitra up to R50 000 a month to provide rooms, meals and laundering for foreign doctors who work at Unitra's medical school. Ntsebeza's wife, head of the Film

and Publications Board and a former Unitra lecturer, Nana Makaula, organised the guesthouse contract with university officials on his behalf.

The Umtata inn's room rate — R250 a night for a couple sharing — would buy a double room in Cape Town in the holiday season, according to the Cape Tourism Authority. Ntsebeza, chief investigator at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, denies any conflict of interest. Other university officials have also

played down the issue, but it has widened the rift between Ntsebeza and various groups on the campus: a rift opened by Unitra's cost-cutting and Ntsebeza's relationship with embattled principal Alfred Moleah.

Ntsebeza has told the Unitra council he plans to sue Photo Magwentshu, the council representative from the National Education Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) for defamation. Magwentshu allegedly claimed on radio that the White House con-

tract had "compromised" Ntsebeza's position as head of Unitra's council.

Ntsebeza has also accused Nehawu and the Student Representative Council of distributing a personal letter he wrote to Moleah.

Moleah's administration is already the target of a government investigation. Moleah and Ntsebeza are shouldering much of the blame for unpopular cost-cutting policies.

"There is a persistence here to develop a story that suggests I'm a

person of no integrity, that I'm corrupt, that I'm not the sort of person who lets an opportunity go by if I can profit therefrom," Ntsebeza says. "It was an annoyance but now I need the protection of the law."

The doctors who stayed at the White House are some of the 24 Cubans working at Unitra and Umtata General Hospital. They came to South Africa last year under the Ministry of Health's programme with Cuba to shore up rural health services.

Dean of the medical school, Professor Lizo Mazwai, says Unitra subsidises their accommodation. The ceiling on such subsidies is normally R2 000 a month. But he says few houses were available, so the Cubans were put up at hotels and guesthouses. Five are still living in a hotel.

The university received quotes from various guesthouses, Mazwai says, and the White House quote was among the lowest. At the time Ntsebeza was the academic staff association representative on the council. He took over as chair in April 1997.

"I knew the White House was owned by [Ntsebeza]... but it is of no consequence. The bid was an open thing," says Mazwai.

However, Makaula, former acting director of Unitra's financial aid bureau and an associate professor, ensured that the White House was high on the medical school's accommodation list. As Ntsebeza's representative at the White House, Makaula briefed its former managers, Darene and Theresa Puttlergill, and in-

roduced them to the official responsible for ordering the accommodation, FN Potelwa. The Cubans stayed at the White House from March 1997 to January 1998. An invoice for 16 days in May 1997 totalled R25 864. That month, Potelwa drew up a requisition for R665 000 to pay for a year's stay at the White House. Unitra accounts show it was still paying the White House last month, bringing its total payment to R527 671. The management and owners of the White House fell out over the spoils of the contract, however. The Puttlergills paid Ntsebeza R7 500 rent a month and a variable cut of the profits. Makaula says the White House did Unitra a favour. "I wouldn't say it was a conflict of interest," Makaula adds, "Dumisa was certainly benefiting from it, but he could have rented that place out to anyone." Ntsebeza says he has "no regrets" about the White House contract. "I'm not going to let [the house] stand empty just because [Nehawu] says no one linked to the university can stay there because it is a conflict of interest." Moleah, Potelwa and Magwentshu could not be reached.

Subtle racism at UCT, says Ramphele

By EDWIN MAIDU

Racism is alive at tertiary institutions throughout the country. This includes the University of Cape Town, Vice-chancellor Dr Mamphela Ramphele said.

However, while it was not on such an open scale, it was more subtle and had significant undertones, she said.

The former medical doctor said in an interview with The Star that although race was enforced under very subtle terms, the standard image of the academic in the country was that of a white male who is English speaking. "Everybody has to emulate them," she said.

Ramphele, recently appointed by Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu to the Council on Higher Education (CHE) set up to advise him on matters relating to higher learning, said racial problems have to be dealt with in a serious manner.

Referring to the alienation of

students and academics, she said: "There are real problems of racism that remains even in my own university," she said.

Ramphele said dealing with institutional cultural issues during transformation was essential and that this includes understanding core values such as integrity, truth and respect for one another. "We may share different backgrounds, but we are all human beings. By focusing on values, we can nurture talent," she said.

Ramphele said it were inevitable that most white students entering higher education institutions came from good schools and better financial backgrounds, while blacks came from poor backgrounds, although with the emerging elites there were now wealthy black people.

She said it was crucial to develop a core culture in the higher education sector that everyone could feel a part of and that a university education should be seen as an enrichment process. Ramphele said black students felt un-

Star 24/7/98 (5A)
dermined and undervalued because English was the main teaching medium at most institutions. "You cannot change the student profile without changing the staff profile," she said.

Ramphele said changing the composition of staff at UCT was a major challenge but they had a five-year plan which was being implemented. "The attitudes of white staff have got to change."

Ramphele said the top researchers at UCT and other institutions had a responsibility to be disciplined and to serve the country.

Regarding higher education, Ramphele said the country was fortunate to have a national policy which was very progressive.

Ramphele said the CHE was a vehicle for informed opinions to focus on a number of issues in higher education. "We need to discover how to build a system that focuses on excellence, that is accessible to all and promotes the development of the young into citizens who can build the country," she said.

Controversial Unisa decision 'legal and fair'

PRETORIA: A controversial decision by Unisa to exclude white academics from applying for promotion is legal and fair — and experts say similar moves will become widespread once new affirmative action laws are passed.

The university's plan to boost the seniority of its black staff members was announced to staff in an internal e-mail this month which read: All permanent black academic employees of Unisa (ie including all race groups except white) are invited to apply for promotion.

Unisa management indicated that applications would be considered across all six faculties and would apply to employees currently occupying permanent posts.

Labour experts were reluctant to give official comment on what they describe as a highly sensitive matter, but say that, while it is a morally debatable issue, such a move is legal and fair in terms of the Constitution and Labour Relations Act.

"It is reverse discrimination, but is fair in terms of the law," one consultant said. However, the decision, which was worked out in conjunction with the academic staff union on campus, was met with a mixed reaction.

Labour experts believe similar measures will soon be adopted by other institutions.

In terms of the bill, anyone who employs more than 50 people or makes an annual turnover of over R10-million is obliged to implement affirmative action policies in favour of non-whites, women and the disabled.

Unisa's reconstruction and development manager John Nkwana said the plan was seen as an interim measure.

"There is a moratorium on appointments and not enough money to promote everyone, so it was decided that black academics who qualify will be promoted," he said. — Own Correspondent

'ATTITUDES OF WHITE STAFF MUST CHANGE'

Racism alive at UCT — vice-chancellor

ET 24/7/98

(54)

JOHANNESBURG: It is crucial to develop a core culture at universities that everyone can feel a part of, UCT's vice-chancellor says. EDWIN NAIDOO reports.

RACISM is alive at tertiary institutions throughout the country, including at the University of Cape Town, according to vice-chancellor Mamphela Ramphele.

It is not on such an open scale as before, but is more subtle and has significant undertones, she said.

The former medical doctor said in an interview that the standard image of an academic was still that of an English-speaking white male.

"Everybody has to emulate them," she said.

Ramphele, appointed by Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu to the Council on Higher Education that was set up to advise him on matters relating to higher learning, said racial problems had to be dealt with in a serious manner.

Referring to the alienation of students and academics, she said: "There are real problems of racism that remain even in my own university. They are subtle."

Ramphele said it was essential to deal with institutional cultural issues during transformation.

This included core values such as integrity, truth and respect for one another.

"We may share different backgrounds, but we are all human beings. By focusing on values, we can nurture talent," she said.

It was inevitable, she said, that most white students entering higher education institutions came from good schools and better financial backgrounds, while most



CALL FOR CHANGE:
Mamphela Ramphele

blacks came from poor backgrounds, although with the emerging elites there were now wealthy black people.

It was crucial, she said, to develop a core culture in the higher education sector that everyone could feel a part of and that a university education should be seen as an enrichment process.

Ramphele said black students felt undermined and undervalued because English was the main teaching medium at most institutions.

"You cannot change the student profile without changing the staff profile," she said.

Ramphele said changing the composition of staff at UCT was a major challenge, but they had a

five-year plan which was being implemented.

"The attitudes of white staff have got to change."

Ramphele said the top researchers at the University of Cape Town and other institutions had a responsibility to their discipline and the country.

"The best among those are excited and are fitting in with change," she said.

Regarding higher education, Ramphele said the country was fortunate to have a national policy that was progressive.

"It's something that has been fought and we must be proud of," she said.

Ramphele said the Council on Higher Education was a vehicle for informed opinions to focus on a number of issues in higher education.

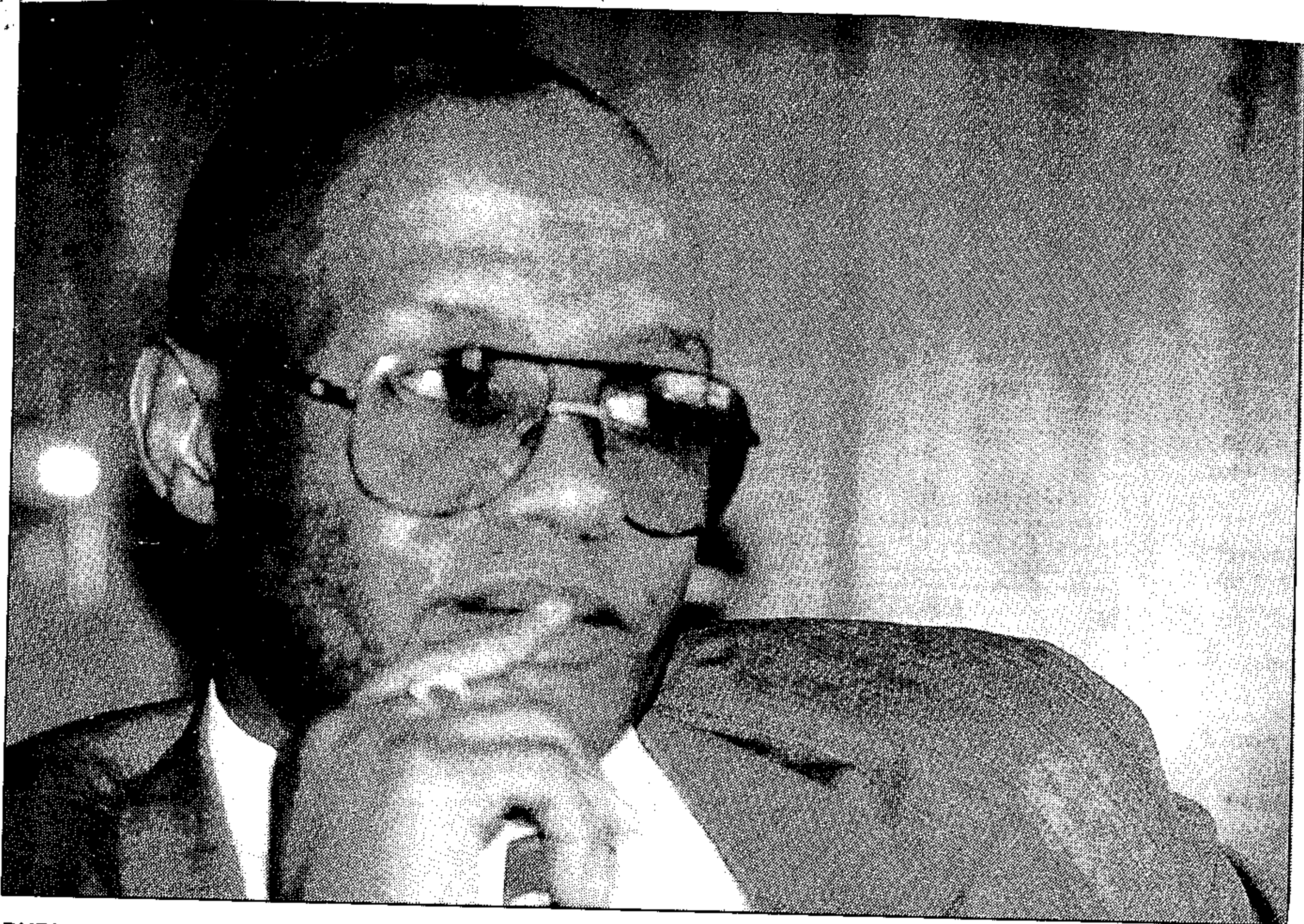
"Our duties are to find out how to make a system that focuses on excellence, that is accessible to all and promotes the development of the young into citizens who can build the country.

"We are all now first-class citizens, all having to cope with the legacy of being disadvantaged.

"Some people at higher education institutions are focusing on what society is going to do instead of what they can do to make a change," she said.

Regarding her future plans, Ramphele dismissed speculation of her becoming a future education minister.

"I am not a member of any political party and cannot see how I can get such a job. In any event, I have a job which is big and challenging enough. It is enough," she said with a smile.



PUBLIC PROTECTOR . . . Selby Baqwa, who proposed measures to stop Richmond violence.

Public protector to investigate retirement allegation at VTT

By MOSES SHIBA

(54)

CP 26/7/98

PUBLIC PROTECTOR Selby Baqwa has been asked to investigate an allegation that eight members of the Vaal Triangle Technikon (VTT) staff are to be paid R4,6 million for taking early retirement.

The allegation has been made by the Technikon's Students Representative Council who are waging an ongoing war against the management of the institute.

This week VTT council's chairperson Dr Chrizanne van Eeden denied the SRC's allegations that they paid the eight staff members R4,6 million as a golden handshake.

She said they would be paid between R2 million and R2,5 million from their pension funds.

"The Technikon is involved in a transformation process and an early retirement plan where we identified the eight as suitable retirement candidates.

"All figures were verified with the office of the Auditor-General and the process can be scrutinised because it was open and transparent," said Van Eeden.

The SRC has also sent a letter to Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu claiming that the early retirement of staff members "was intended to bankrupt the institution".

Spokesman for Baqwa, Tinus Schutte, said the matter would be heard in three or four weeks' time.

The SRC's complaint follows last weeks' arrest of 37 members of the National Education Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) and VTT students for contempt of court - they defied a court order forbidding them from demonstrating at the institution.

The court order was granted after thousands of rands of damage was done to the institution when a group of demonstrators went on the rampage.

The 37 were granted bail of R3 000 each on condition that they did not enter the Technikon premises until the case against them was heard. A total of 62 people have been arrested since April when students trashed the campus.

Students had alleged a course at the Technikon was not recognised and demanded that certain lecturers resign.

Seven SRC members who were arrested in May will appear in court in August. Similar bail conditions apply to them as well.

Bengu's spokesperson Bheki Khumalo condemned the arrest of Nehawu members and students for gathering at the Technikon in spite of the court order preventing them from doing so.

He called on the VTT's management, the unions and students to debate issues and come to "a common understanding".

Unitra in dire financial straits

Primarashni Pillay (54)

50 27/7/98
THE University of the Transkei (Unitra) would not have the funds to pay salaries after September unless there was a complete administrative revamp, warned Ralph Jefferies, the university's finance registrar.

Unitra is one of several institutions in dire financial straits as a result of R34m in outstanding student fees and overstaffing.

It is believed that the university is aiming to shed about 500 nonacademic posts.

The University of Zululand also announced recently that there was no money for salary increases this year and that low morale among academics could result in them moving to the private sector.

Round table discussions arranged by the Centre for Development and Enterprise highlighted the lack of a coherent national vision for tertiary education, as well as a myriad of other problems, writes **Winnie Graham**

Tough choices face our universities

(54) MAN 27/9/98

The many problems facing South Africa's cash-strapped universities as they struggle to meet the challenges of a changed society have been brought to light in a round table discussion arranged by the Centre for Development and Enterprise (CDE).

The discussions were the first of two round table sessions at which top academics, industrialists, businessmen and human resource managers met to look at the future of South African universities and the role of business. The second round table is scheduled for the second half of the year.

A number of key points highlighted concerns about the crises in tertiary education which one speaker described as being hampered by "a lack of clarity about funding, duplication and lookalikes ... and a shambles in governance".

Speakers stressed the importance of creating a coherent national vision for universities. Others talked about the deficiencies of the school system, the declining number of school-leavers qualifying for university entrance, the large number of under-prepared students, the drift of talented staff to the private sector and even the "lack of political space" to discuss issues relating to the crises in tertiary education.

Issues ranged from joblessness and the need to develop entrepreneurial skills, to the importance of opening up the "fantastic resources" of universities to schools, communities and non-university learners.

The document points out: "In many cases students are on expensive campuses for only 28 weeks a year. Plant is under-utilised, as well as accompanying infrastructure, including maintenance staff. Elite institutions and all their facilities should be open 18 hours a day for 365 days a year."

The state secondary school system was described as "the gravedigger of black aspirations". From 1994 to 1997, the matric intake grew by more than 5% a year, but university entrance passes dropped from 88 000 to 69 000.

African enrolments were concentrated in the human and social sciences, with Africans accounting for less than 30% of enrolments in the natural sciences - a broad category which includes medicine, dentistry, agriculture, architecture and others.

Also mentioned was the fact that some 400 000 students were at South African universities - the most expensive form of higher education - and only about half that number at technikons.

Ann Bernstein, executive director of the CDE, said the higher education sector had not yet recognised the inescapable need for tough choices.

"There is much talk of redress in higher education, both for individuals and for institutions," she said. "Redress for individuals in particular contexts is clearly necessary but what does redress for institutions mean? Throwing money at them?"

In the same way she queried "co-operative governance", describing it as a woolly concept. It was misguided to imagine that co-operative governance would solve all the prob-

lems and challenges.

Dr Jairam Reddy, chairman of the National Commission on Higher Education (NCHHE), pointed out the need for the higher education system to deal with globalisation.

Not only had tertiary education to respond to the inequalities between the developed and the developing world, but it had to look at the negative consequences of globalisation - a growth in joblessness - and the prospect of "the end of work for 80% of any country's population in the next century".

He added: "In South Africa there has been a modest upturn in the economy but very little evidence of growth in employment opportunities."

He pointed out, too, that South Africa has large numbers of under-prepared students who often take six

or seven years to complete a three-year degree "which is certainly not cost-effective".

Dr Nico Cloete, director of the Centre for Higher Education Transformation, felt the overarching problem was that Government did not have a human resource development policy. Gear (the growth, employment and redistribution strategy) focused on fiscal policy and neglected human development issues.

"No big business organisation in this country expects to increase its employment," he said. "This puts a huge onus on the smaller new enterprise sector.... The education sector must respond appropriately to joblessness. We have to teach people to think about taking their careers into their own hands."

Professor Charles Simkins of the Department of Economics at the

University of the Witwatersrand pointed out that universities everywhere were now in a period of fiscal austerity and had to diversify their sources of income... "Drawing down on students' future earnings through various loan schemes."

Dr Mamphele Ramphele, vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town, raised the question of university staff profiles, where something like 90% of full professors were white men.

In the discussion which flowed from her talk, whether there were effective strategies in place to bring talented black people into the economic environment was raised.

Given the shortage of top-level skills and the fierce competition for black academics among universities, business and government, it was suggested that salary differenti-

ation might be the only solution.

Another question asked was whether South Africa could continue to sustain 21 universities and 15 technikons. The size and shape of higher education has to be re-appraised, but the National Commission on Higher Education avoided this controversial issue and has not made recommendations on the number of universities.

Dr Rolf Stumpf, president of the Human Sciences Research Council, said alarmist expectations that "a huge bulge of students was about to arrive at our universities" had not been borne out. Some analyses suggested that enrolments had actually decreased from 1996 to 1997.

"It seems unlikely that the projected growth of student numbers in higher education will materialise by the year 2005," he said. "Who

could have foreseen the collapse of our secondary school system?"

He pointed out that African students now comprised at least 25% of the intake of all so-called historically white universities, with the exception of Stellenbosch. At some institutions - Natal University was a good example - black students now outnumbered whites.

Professor Anthony Melck, acting vice-chancellor of Unisa, noted that the current subsidy formula for universities was inappropriate. It was largely demand-driven and not proactive, with resources being channelled into areas of greatest demand in terms of weighted student numbers.

He said the NCHHE had recommended a radical change in the approach to funding "in effect a manpower planning approach where

targeted numbers would be identified in the different forms of education and financed specifically." However, it seemed no further work had been done on this concept.

Dr Nick Segal, the public affairs manager of Anglovaal, called for a "thumbnail sketch of the tertiary education system" and the issues confronting it, along with the direction in which it was developing.

"Business wants a stable, modern society which works efficiently in all spheres," he said. "A precondition for this is the quality of our people and the quality of our education system. The output from the system is of crucial importance to business's own competitiveness."

"The next step may be to move towards a meaningful forum in which business and universities can address issues of mutual concern."



With the support of the tent show, a group of would-be students around the country workshop, which is open South African universities, which has opened its fine facilities to adult learners after hours, a practical workshop should be encouraged.

Bengu appoints assessors to probe tertiary institutions

By Vuyo Mvoko

CAPE TOWN — Education Minister Sibusiso Bhegu has appointed two independent assessors to investigate the University of Transkei (Unitra) and the Vaal Triangle Technikon, the most striking examples of where "governance has broken down" at some of the country's tertiary institutions.

The two assessors, one for each institution and nominated by the Council for Higher Education, would be chosen from advocate Louis Skweyiya and professors Jaap Durant and Stuart Saunders.

In November last year Vaal Technikon rector and vice chancellor Aubrey Mokadi was suspended by the technikon council amid allegations of corruption and maladministration. Bhegu said yesterday the governing council had since been given time "to sort itself out" but had failed. Now "problems have got worse", he said.

Unitra rector Alfred Moleah has been accused of "undemocratic governance", but there were also other "wide-ranging issues" at the university. Bhegu refused to elaborate for fear of pre-empting the pending investigations.

The assessors, who still had to be informed of their tasks and of the terms of their appointments, would have 30 days to do "a fast job" with minimal staff as the government was "strapped of cash".

The terms of reference were still being finalised and he wanted the council, which had recommended the names, to forward the names of further investigators to look into other troubled tertiary institutions.

The minister has overall control of higher education. Schools fall under provincial education departments.

Explaining why he had waited so long

to set the investigations in motion when he could have done so earlier, Bhegu said the legal prerequisite for such an action was the establishment of the council, which took place only last month.

Asked whether there was any progress in the processes initiated last month to avert a strike, Bhegu said much had been achieved with the participation of the educators.

He said that "right-sizing" was set to begin after August.

Government and teacher unions had agreed to determine jointly the future of retrenched and redeployed teachers.

BD 28/7/98

Students slammed for chasing new vice-rector

Star 28/7/98 (54)

KwaMhlanga - Mpumalanga Education MEC David Mabuza yesterday slammed students at Marapyane College of Education as "shortsighted puppets" after they chased their new vice-rector off college grounds last week.

An estimated 500 students forced new appointment Solly Ranamani out of the college on Friday after accusing him of playing truant with his Tswana language classes and of spending more time on his duties as mayor than on his teaching duties at the college.

Students also complained that they had not been consulted over his appointment earlier this month and said the education department had ignored their requests for student representation on interview panels for the position.

Mabuza said yesterday he refused to be pressured into changing the appointment and warned that criminal charges would be laid against anyone

who again disturbed the peace at the college.

"Ranamani is the new vice-rector and has signed a legal contract with us to that effect... (he) may be the mayor of Moretele but is contractually bound to working full day at the college and we will only consider replacing him if he breaks his contract," Mabuza said.

He also criticised the 40 college lecturers who joined students during their protest on Friday and suggested that disgruntled lecturers who had applied for the vice-rector post were behind the demonstrations.

"We believe that the students have been manipulated by these lecturers and are shortsighted puppets being used for personal agendas," Mabuza said.

He warned that lecturers would be charged with misconduct if they did not co-operate fully with Ranamani. - African Eye News Service

SA blind to the true education solution

HIGHER education in SA is in crisis. The crisis goes far deeper than headline stories about student fees, institutions on the verge of financial collapse or wrangles about Africanisation, although these are significant indicators of a system under stress.

What is at stake is nothing less than the extent to which the tertiary sector will be able to equip South Africans to confront the challenges of global competition in the 21st century.

There is a great reluctance to spell out the dimensions of this crisis publicly, and far too little political space in which to discuss the critical issues.

Honest discussion is precluded all too often by the "politically correct" assumption that all of SA's universities are or should be institutions of the same kind. We pretend to have 21 universities while the heart of the matter is that there are too many so-called "universities" but not enough institutions to respond to the country's development needs.

The central problem is that SA does not have a national vision for its higher education sector.

This was identified as the key issue at a recent round table discussion on the future of South African universities, organised by the Centre for Development and Enterprise.

Participants included university leaders, government policy makers and advisers and top business people involved with this sector which resulted in the publication of the document "The future of South African universities: What role for business?"

The size and shape of the higher education system must be reappraised. Does the system meet SA's needs? What can we afford?

Current economic constraints mean even less funding for the education sector overall. Universities must find alternative sources of income; and public funds must be used to make the system more

efficient as a whole.

The tertiary sector still reflects the inefficiencies of the apartheid era, with costly duplication and triplication of facilities and an overemphasis on university education, at the expense, quite literally, of technicians and other forms of further education.

Ironically, in the field of higher education, some of the fiercest critics of apartheid seem determined to preserve one of its most wasteful legacies.

What is the country trying to achieve? Despite all the policy documents — including the report of the commission on higher education, and the white paper (published a year ago this month) — there is little clarity of purpose for the system as a whole. Some individual universities have outstanding leaders, but nationally there is an enormous vacuum.

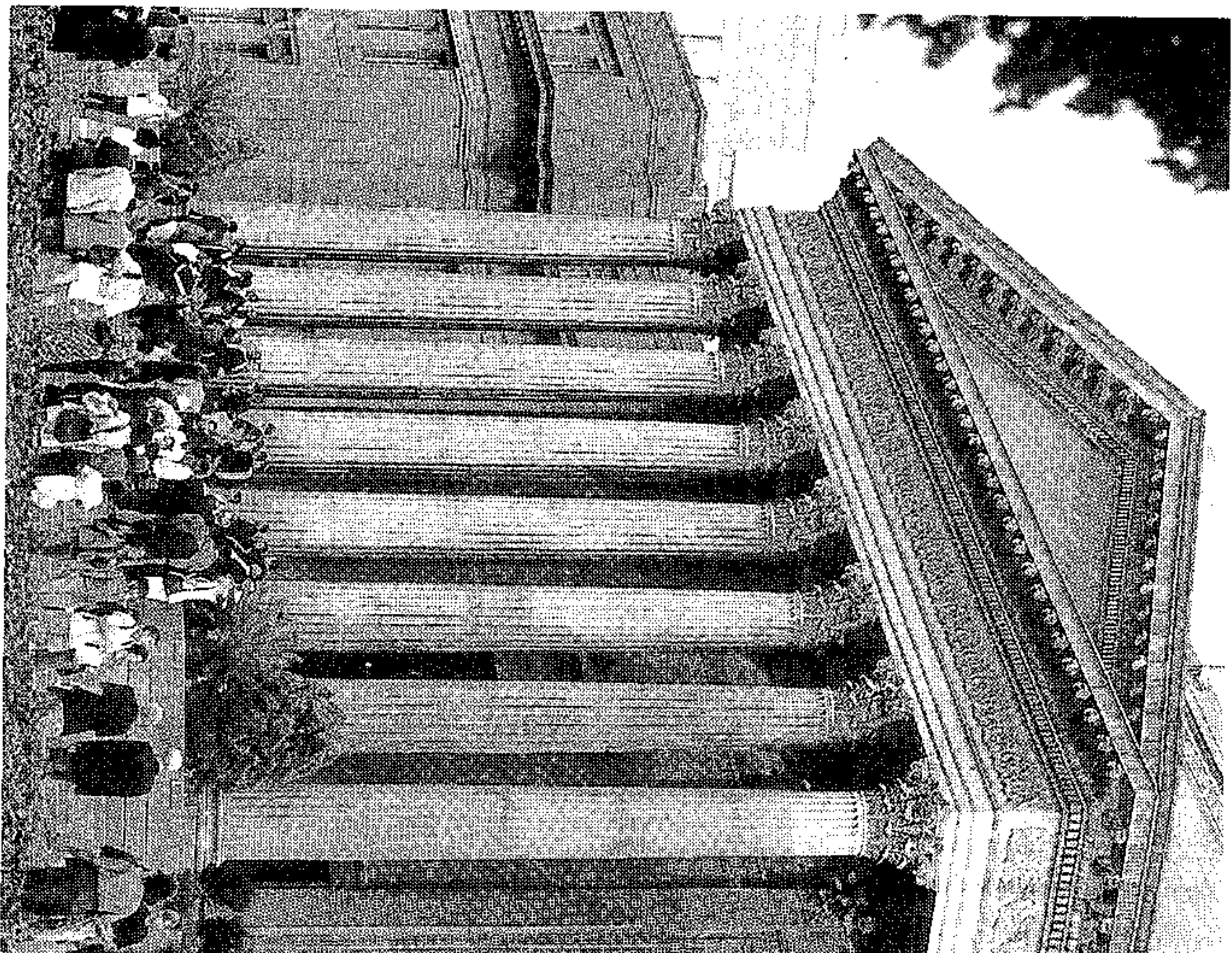
Leadership from the government side is extremely weak. It remains to be seen whether the newly constituted council for higher education set up to advise the minister will be part of the problem, or will help to shape some much-needed tough policy choices. With its broadly based composition, which draws extensively on the existing configuration, the council may find it difficult to look at the problem objectively.

Clearly we need excellent universities to build a globally competitive nation. Successful performance in the world economy increasingly depends on acquiring and processing new information efficiently.

However, excellent universities cost money. They also require clear policies, great leadership and highly competent academics.

Until SA works out a national vision for its higher education sector, it cannot make the difficult choices that are needed to address the current crisis, argues Douglas Irvine

(54) ~~BA~~ BA 29/7/98



The size and shape of the higher education system must be reappraised

on higher education set out comprehensive proposals for the "transformation" of institutions in this sector.

The guiding principles are laudable — equity, redress, democratisation, quality assurance, efficiency, academic freedom combined with public accountability, and so forth — but when government sources speak about this as "the most ambitious transformation plan in the world", the CDE gets nervous.

SA has neither the resources nor the capacity to implement over-ambitious policies. For the foreseeable future, policy makers should always underestimate the state's capacity. That is the hard reality. It might not be what we want; but what needs to be done must be adjusted to the actual context, and reconciled into realistic and modest policies. It is essential to build on what already works in the university system.

Education seems to be a sector which has not yet recognised the inescapable need for tough choices. For example, we need a thorough debate about excellence and equity.

What do these terms mean in a university context? Can they apply not only to individuals but also to institutions? Does a commitment to equal opportunities really mean that money must be poured into universities of poor quality?

It is not a question of abandoning or closing down some universities but of reinventing them. For example, as outlying campuses in a more effective distance education system; or rural development institutions; or undergraduate colleges concentrating on bringing students up to appropriate levels

of academic competence.

It is enormously wasteful for all universities to try to make good the school system's deficiencies, with all the associated problems and costs. Increasingly large numbers of under-prepared students often take six or seven years to complete three-year degrees.

The state secondary school system is in fact the real grave-digger of black aspirations. From 1994 to 1997, while the matric cohort was growing by well over 5% a year, university entrance passes dropped from 88 000 to 69 000.

More black students came into higher education during the last few years of apartheid than during the first three or four years of the new democratic regime.

The massive growth in potential university entrants which was predicted in the early 1990s has not materialised. Overall student numbers are declining, particularly at historically black universities. At the cost of school leavers' thwarted hopes and aspirations, universities and technicians have gained some breathing space.

This unexpected respite must be used creatively.

The Higher Education Act passed last December gives the Minister the power to reshape the institutional landscape. A national vision is not to be confused with rigid, centralised planning and prescription. There must be opportunities for institutions to carve out their own niches, fulfilling different needs, aiming at different markets.

But we need to see rapid progress towards a realistic framework for higher education in terms of which the Minister can steer the system, demand accountability, and use both stick and carrot as instruments to rationalise tertiary education in SA.

The crisis is real and leadership and tough choices are needed.

□ Irvine is senior associate at the Centre for Development and Enterprise.

Students plan protest march at Vaal Tech

(54)

BY TEFU MOTHIBELI

Members of the South African Students Congress (Sasco) in Gauteng are planning a protest march at the Vaal Triangle Technikon on Friday in defiance of a court interdict prohibiting mass gatherings on the campus grounds.

Sasco president Mamabolo Jacob said yesterday: "It is deeply disturbing that four years into democracy draconian measures such as police harassment and unjustifiable court interdicts are being used to suppress the constitutional rights of the students to embark on a peaceful demonstration to express their aspirations."

The technikon management said the interdict, which has been in effect since April, was instituted to restore law and order at the campus.

Sasco is demanding the release of 37 staff members and students arrested two weeks ago when they attempted to defy the order. The 37 are due to appear in court again on Friday.

Government has appointed assessors Louis Skweyiya and Professors Jaap Durand and Stuart Saunders to look into the affairs of the technikon.

SAW 30/1/1988

Students evicted from college campus

(54) *SVAR 31/7/98*

Burgersfort - All 589 students at the Sekhukhune College of Education in Northern Province were evicted from the campus by police yesterday after failing to pay their second-term fees.

Police were called in yesterday morning to enforce a college management order that all students had to go home until Monday.

Acting rector Charles Kekane said the college had been forced to evict the students after 530

of them refused to pay their second-term tuition and hostel fees.

"Only 59 students paid their fees when the college opened on Monday and the rest simply ignored our pleas for the rest of the week," he said.

The students have been told they will be allowed back onto campus property on Monday morning only if they pay their R525 hostel fee and R210 tuition fee at the college gates. - African Eye News Service

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R16-million Swiss aid for SA students

Switzerland's President Flavio Cotti, who doubles up as his country's foreign affairs minister, signed a R16-million student aid agreement with South Africa's Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo at Tuynhuys today. (54)

The object of the agreement is to enable the South African government to establish the National Student Financial Aid Scheme for needy students. ~~ARG~~ 3/8/98

A second agreement signed by Mr Cotti and Mr Nzo at the ceremony, watched by President Nelson Mandela, was a declaration of intent between the two foreign affairs ministers on joint actions and projects on issues of common interest between their departments.

The ceremony followed about 40 minutes' talks between Presidents Mandela and Cotti.

Briefly answering questions from reporters, Mr Mandela said Mr Cotti's state visit was "one we have looked forward to very eagerly".

Switzerland was the fifth largest investor in South Africa and the two countries were looking to further improving their good relations.

On arrival at Tuynhuys, Mr Cotti was given a full ceremonial welcome at the start of his three-day state visit.

He was greeted by Mr Mandela and a number of cabinet ministers, and inspected a guard of honour while the Swiss national anthem was being played and the Swiss flag unfolded next to the South African flag. A 21-gun salute reverberated from Signal Hill. - Sapa

Student protest curb to be reviewed (h4)

Primarashni Pillay

20 4/8/98

THE continued use of a court interdict preventing student protests and gatherings at Vaal Triangle Technikon will be reviewed over the next two weeks, technikon spokesman Anne Naidu said yesterday.

The interdict was issued in April after students walked out of classes in protest against a course-related matter and damaged campus property.

Naidu said the technikon sought the interdict to "safeguard life and property".

However, students and workers defied the interdict last month when they held a demonstration to demand that the investigation into the conduct of former campus rector Aubrey Mokadi be speeded up.

Thirty-eight workers and students were arrested and bail was set at R5 000 for students and R3 000 for workers.

Many failed to pay and were detained for about two weeks.

Suspended

Mokadi was suspended almost a year ago, pending the outcome of a probe into allegations of mismanagement by him.

Last week the SA Students' Congress (Sasco) demonstrated at the technikon, demanding the withdrawal of charges against the students and workers. It also called for the technikon's council to be dissolved and replaced by one that was democratically elected.

Naidu said the technikon would give "serious" consideration to withdrawing the charges against the students and workers as soon as the interdict was lifted. Once that happened, the technikon would ask the attorney-general's office to stop investigating the workers and students allow them back on campus. However, the workers and the students would be disciplined if they took part in further disruptions.

Sasco secretary-general Tshilidzi Ratshitanga said yesterday that his organisation was "happy" with the arrangement as the "campus cannot be run as though there is a state of emergency.

"We'll continue pressuring management as currently students can't attend religious or political gatherings on campus," he said.

ANALYSIS

Black universities are needed, but must help themselves

The student debt at historically black universities has spiralled over the past few years, almost crippling these institutions. Should they continue to exist, asks Primarashni Pillay

DURING the apartheid years, SA's black universities were a refuge for students who wanted a higher education, despite their inferior facilities when compared with white universities.

As white universities built on their financial reserves as a result of fee income, donations from alumni and business, black institutions stagnated.

Today SA's technicians and universities are owed about R500m in outstanding fees, and black institutions are in the worst predicament.

Zululand University is owed R52m. Durban Westville R14m; University of the North North R83m; and Transkei University about R34m.

Zululand University spokesman Carl de Villiers says that the nonpayment of fees has resulted in the university paying interest on its bank overdraft as it borrows money to pay staff salaries, a practice which does not make economic sense. Furthermore, with staff not getting salary increases this year, the university could lose academics to the private sector or to other universities.

The university, which De Villiers concedes draws in the bottom end of matriculants who would not gain admission to top, historically white, universities such as Wits, is in a catch 22 situation. It needs to keep academic staff and attract top academics to get top students, but there are insufficient resources.

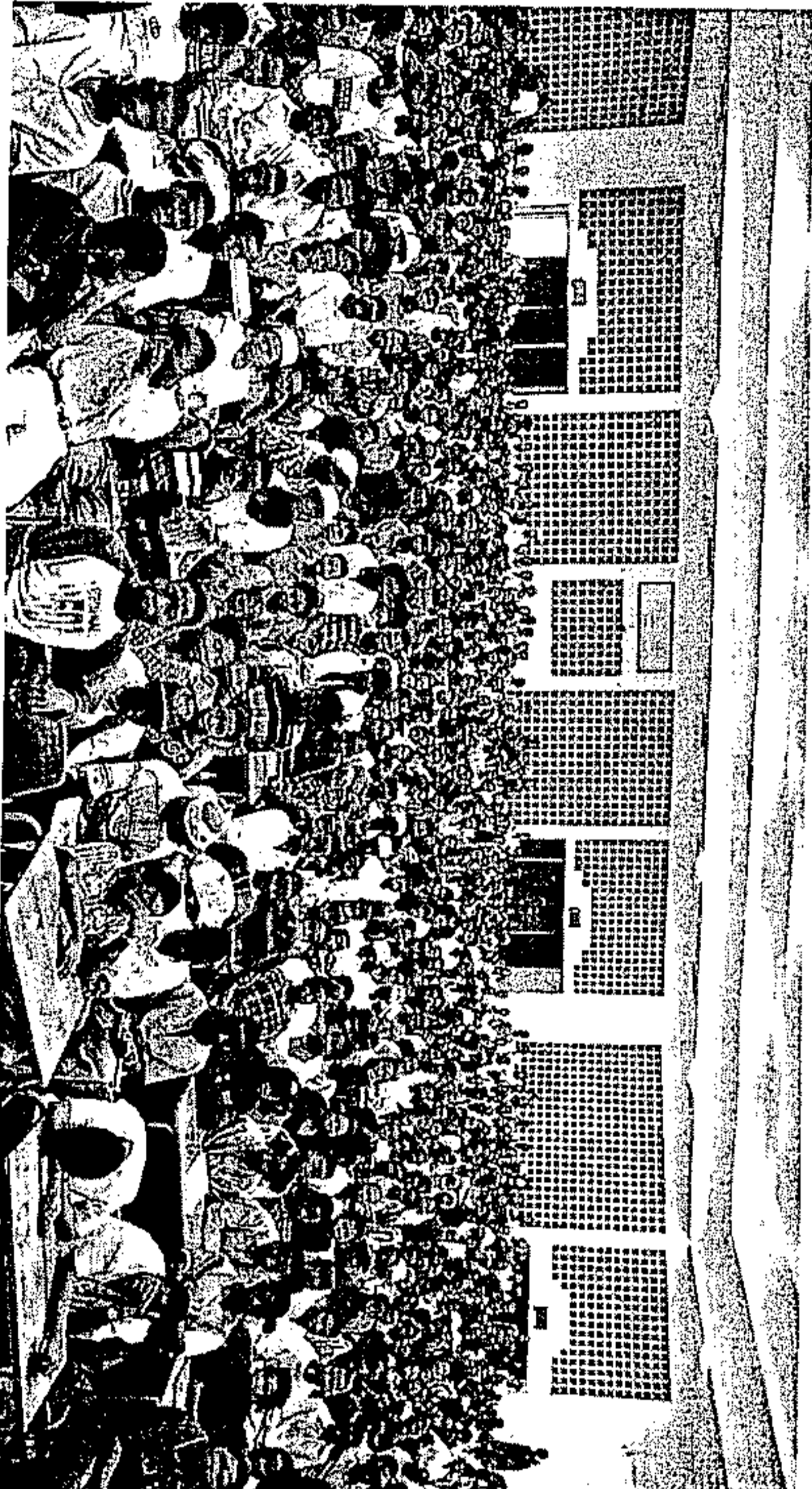
This university is a microcosm of a broader picture of historically black universities which, because of their financial status, are hovering on the periphery of mainstream quality education. There is general consensus among these institutions that their subsidies from government are not enough to help them with capital and operational costs.

However, government has already spent close to R6bn this year on subsidies to tertiary institutions.

Despite their fragile economic position, institutions such as Venda University have been severely criticised for not using their finances carefully.

In 1996, the university allocated R700 000 for a students' dance. There are allegations from students, too, that top management at certain universities rake in inflated salaries.

De Villiers believes Zululand University is well suited to serve the employment



Historically black universities may not be financially viable in the future

needs of nearby Richards Bay, which is a hive of economic development. "I cannot agree the university should close down. We can fulfil a need."

He believes the university's emphasis needs to shift to the sciences.

Ndoro Vera, spokesman for Venda University, defends the university's existence as it is targeting the needs of communities.

"Where can you teach forestry except in a rural setting? We have the appropriate ecology for that. We are going to offer a degree in tourism and culinary science next year. This is appropriate as we are 150km from the Kruger National Park."

Vera says the university has performed "miracles" with students by creating bridg-

ing courses. "We are not elitist. We are not poaching the best students. The reconstruction and development programme entails penetrating the entire society."

"How many people can go to universities in the city?"

Some academics, who work at these institutions and do not want to be named, say these universities have been slack in their administration.

"Every year these universities would announce they would be strict about retrieving outstanding student fees but never implemented structures. The danger signs were there years ago."

It is argued also that some of these institutions employed administrative staff who did not have the skills for the job. How-

ever, rather than train them, the university would simply employ more staff to assist in getting the job done.

One senior administrator says: "At the end of the day everybody is guilty. Universities are guilty as they are not applying stricter fiscal measures. Students are guilty as they are not paying."

He said that rationalisation of non-academic staff could contribute to the institutions' economic upliftment, and outsourcing services would be an alternative.

Vera, meanwhile, contends that government is not doing enough to assist these institutions, as it has not allocated redress funds. "We are owed millions in redress funds. They should increase the education budget, which is too small, yet the military

budget is big."

He says that the management of each institution needs training. "Every person who is a worker needs some period of training," he maintains. Institutions have a sense of solidarity, as their problems are not unique; they can share resources and trade staff. "We are in the same pool."

However, the role of the private sector should not be excused. Businesses should endow chairs. Alumni, too, can channel back resources.

Prof Hugh Macmillan, president of one of Transkei university's staff associations, says that even if institutions' top management is replaced, there are weaknesses in middle management. "Government should not just throw money into institutions without making them accountable for their expenditure," he warns.

Macmillan says: "Universities need to get accountants to help sort out the basics. They also need to upgrade the curriculum and improve the speed at which students get through university."

Macmillan stresses that government may have to put more money into these universities for a longer period to bring about a turnaround. Putting them under financial pressure to reform while they are fragile could be dangerous.

Jacob Mamabolo, president of the SA Students' Congress (Sasco), believes that while it is government's responsibility to strive to make these universities as good as Stellenbosch or Rhodes, there is a need to monitor spending. Furthermore, he believes government has to help build the management capacity of universities.

"You cannot tell these institutions that they must lobby funds from the private sector, which does not recognise their programmes," says Mamabolo.

While Sasco is not advocating free higher education, it says that government must take responsibility for assisting students who cannot pay their fees. Government erred when it outsource the National Student Financial Aid Scheme to the Tertiary Education Fund of SA, which "has loopholes" and can be exploited.

Mamabolo says measures need to be put in place to retrieve funds from students who can afford to pay. This entails having student participation in formulating a means test to determine whether a student qualifies for financial assistance, as well as getting parents to declare their income and

sign affidavits where they undertake to repay loans.

For Bheki Khumalo, spokesman for the education ministry, part of the problem lies with the management of institutions which need to ensure that students pay their fees. Government set aside R27m this year for redress fund and projects it will have R100m for the same purpose next year. Institutions would have to submit business plans to qualify for these funds.

Khumalo concedes that these disadvantaged universities have produced graduates of outstanding calibre and it is simplistic to say that they are not relevant to the needs of communities.

"We are looking at rationalising universities and are pushing for regional co-ordination between institutions," Khumalo says that institutions need to recruit people from the private sector to help them manage their resources.

Ahmed Essop, chief director of higher education planning in the education department, says the department wants to look at the needs of SA and then at what institutions are needed. "The newly appointed council on higher education will assess whether institutions service the needs of the country," he says.

There is, therefore, a need to reconfigure the higher education system in such a way that it serves the skills requirements of the country, he says.

Essop says that while the department has a role to play in mobilising technical and financial support for these institutions each institution has its own council as management and a responsibility to develop its own capacity.

Already the department has facilitated support projects funded by the European Union and the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

He is adamant that while discussions on the restructuring of the higher education system continue, institutions should not back and wait for help.

He says major local companies continue to fund white universities in areas, including research. "Local companies need to think this as the funding of black universities is not happening on the same scale at white universities."

In the broader picture, companies would gain from the research output, the graduate pool and they would be contributing also to achieving stability in SA, he says.

PHOTO BY GUY LAWRENCE FOR BUSINESS DAY

Fortress security for SA's campuses

(54) ARG 5/8/98

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

Johannesburg - Universities and technikons across Gauteng are adopting fortress-like mechanisms to protect students against campus crime.

Video surveillance, regular guard patrols and tight security at entrances and exits are some of the techniques employed to fight theft and rape.

Technikon Pretoria recently boosted its student protection campaign, after a series of rapes in the Pretoria West area. It now has a video surveillance system.

Technikon spokesperson Willa de Ruyter said: "We warn students not to walk alone after dark or accept lifts from strangers. The video system has improved our security department's ability to monitor the campus."

Control booms, monitored by security staff at all entrances, have been set up at Rand Afrikaans University in Johannesburg. A card access system operates after midnight at women's hostels to limit entrance to residents only.

Wits University recently implemented a multimillion-rand security system with access control for

both pedestrian and vehicle traffic.

Concern over the safety of students on Unisa's Pretoria campus has come to light in the past two weeks.

Mick Maake, secretary of the Pretoria branch of the SA Students' Congress (Sasco), has called on university management to react to alleged abductions from the campus of two female students.

Both women claimed their abductors took them to an area near Soshanguve where they were threatened with rape. They escaped, but the first alleged her abductors stole R900.

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Salary structure sets staff on edge

TROYE LUND

(54)

CT

5/8/98

ACADEMICS at the University of Cape Town have questioned whether a document outlining a plan to restructure staff salaries is aimed at improving performance, or a mechanism to change the politically incorrect profile of the predominantly white, male academic staff complement.

The document advocates performance-based increases and academics believe the underlying message is: Perform or get out.

Commenting on the discussion document, academics say they welcome any move to reward merit and make salaries more market-related.

But they are fighting tooth and nail to ensure there is no "devil in the document's detail".

Director of human resources management Joy Fish described the aim of the discussion document as a move away from a "bureaucratic-type" notch system that rewarded long service because of across-the-board annual increases.

By the year 2000, the university aims to attract and retain the best academics because of competitive packages and merit awards. UCT academics are notoriously underpaid compared to academics at other institutions. For example, their A-grade scientists are paid around R180 000 a year compared to the R600 000 some technikons are offering their academics. Two years ago, UCT's staff association members took a step in this direction when they moved from a system of automatic, annual notch increases to match increases with good or better performance.

"Some of the problems with the automatic notch system was that when one got to a maximum notch in a payclass, one just stayed there. The system also lacked the ability to differentiate between high and low achievers," said Fish.

When the notch system is abolished, it is envisaged that the majority of staff will move through the scale to a standard maximum level, and only super-performers — an estimated 15% of academic staff — will advance to a number of specially created levels. These upper levels will be in the top 25% of private practice salaries in that field.

Staff will also receive different

annual increases and merit awards, depending on how they have performed.

The proposed new system will also augment academic salaries in certain departments in order to attract academics in fields that are in demand, like information technology.

Fish added: "While it would be ideal to have standard remuneration across all faculties, the working group that is discussing this acknowledges that market forces will inevitably leave us with no choice but to augment salaries in certain areas for certain individuals."

Of most concern to academics asked to comment on this change was what criteria would constitute acceptable, good or high performance.

Performance criteria under discussion include all aspects of academic life like student evaluations, reviews by peers, teaching results, research, involvement in the administrative life of UCT and contributions being made to different communities.

The academic association on campus stressed that the biggest point of contention in talks was the instrument for assessing performance. It had to be fair and neutrally applied.

Other academics agreed, saying they wanted to have their assessments reviewed if they were deemed to be unfair.

Other complications include how to assess academics of disciplines in differently resourced departments — which have different teaching loads — fairly and equally. "Will the university have the administrative capacity to do all this? Have they considered the problems, resentment and fractious actions that will result among academic peers if they believe the system is unfair?" asked one academic who was, like many, sceptical about the motives behind the remuneration document.

Although the university had a clear employment equity plan, deputy vice-chancellor John Marais said it was not in the interests of the university to allow the performance-based pay document to drive employment equity. It was, he said, in the interest of the university to attract top academics and identify those who were not performing.

Campus crime puts students under siege

(54) (~~77~~)

Authorities are forced to establish fortress-like security and surveillance

BY JACQUI REEVES
Education Reporter

Universities and technikons across Gauteng are adopting fortress-like mechanisms to protect students against campus crime.

Video surveillance, regular guard patrols and tight security at entrances and exits are some of the techniques employed to fight theft and rape.

Technikon Pretoria recently boosted its student protection campaign, after a series of rapes in the Pretoria West area. It implemented a video surveillance system monitored from a central control room. Monthly hostel meetings and a newsletter are used to brief students on how to keep themselves safe on campus.

Technikon spokesperson Willa de Ruyter said: "We warn students not to walk alone after dark or accept lifts from strangers. The video system has improved our security department's ability to monitor the campus."

Control booms, monitored by security staff at all entrances and exits, have been set up at Rand Afrikaans University in Johannesburg.

And bi-monthly meetings between security staff, students and university management identify problem areas. A card access system operates after

midnight at women's hostels to limit entrance to residents only.

RAU spokesperson Lize Hattingh said there had been no rapes reported on the campus in the past year.

Wits University recently implemented a multimillion-rand security system with access control for both pedestrian and vehicle traffic.

Concern over the safety of students on the Pretoria campus of the University of South Africa have come to light in the past two weeks.

Mick Maake, secretary of the Pretoria branch of the SA Students' Congress (Sasco), yesterday called on university management to react to alleged abductions from the campus of two female students.

Both women claimed their abductors took them to an area near Soshanguve where they were threatened with rape. They escaped before they were attacked, but the first alleged her abductors stole R900.

Maake said: "These cases are being handled by the police, but Sasco feels university management needs to do more to warn students about security."

He added that theft of learning materials from students in the Unisa campus library was a serious problem.

University officials were not available for comment at the time of The Star's queries.

Undercover security for university

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Durban - Undercover campus security officers will infiltrate the University of Durban-Westville as part of beefed-up anti-crime measures.

This follows a warning to staff and students, especially women, to be more vigilant on campus following two recent incidents.

Two men tried to sexually assault a woman member of staff in a toilet, apparently using chloroform in the attack.

The university's chief director of administration, Malcolm Stewart, said the victim was able to escape unharmed.

He said identikit photos of the assailants had been prepared by the SAPS and would be posted around the campus.

In the second incident, a staff member was hijacked at gunpoint when he stopped to give people posing as students a lift. He was not injured.

Joint head of campus protection services Canaan Ndlovu said several measures were being taken to reduce criminal activity on campus.

These included plans to fence it, to guard every gate at the university, to install closed-circuit television and for security officers to patrol on motorcycles.

Senior protection officer Manoj Hardeo said younger security officers, both male and female, would be dressed in plainclothes to patrol the grounds and act as a crime prevention force.

In the first six months of the year there have been 55 thefts, seven cars stolen, 10 thefts from cars, 27 assaults, one rape, three attempted rapes, two cases of sexual harassment, 10 malicious injuries to property, four housebreaking incidents and 26 other crimes.

Campuses struggle to cope with in-house rapes

Staff members acknowledge an ongoing problem and stress that efforts are made to educate and warn women

By JACQUI REEVES
Education Reporter

Universities and technicians are fighting an enemy within their walls as campus rape and sexual assault continue despite bolstered security controls at many Gauteng campuses. Boosted security has diminished the criminal threat from

the outside, but sexual assaults, often by students, continue.

Responding to The Star's report on "Tuesday on Gauteng's 'fortress-like' campuses, callers to the newspaper and Radio 702 claimed rape was still happening on Wits University's campus. Wits dean of students Naziemna Jappie said the reports of rape and sexual assaults on campus were not new.

"These things are happening on campuses throughout the country which is why Wits has adopted such an intensive campaign to protect our students," she said.

Although most institutions had very few reported cases of campus rape, the problem had not been solved, Jappie said. "Instances of student rape are often in the form of date

rape, and the culture of silence around this means that the victim rarely speaks up."

Wits has a student crisis centre, a gender committee, a sexual harassment committee, and a health and wellness centre, all equipped to deal with cases of sexual assault against students. Jappie warned that setting up structures was not enough. She said educating students

about their rights and creating an awareness were crucial.

Minki Raphiri, sister-in-charge of the student clinic at Medunsa University in Ga-Rankuwa, described the problem of assaults on female students as "serious". "The rape and general assault of female students is usually worst with first-year students," she said.

Raphiri said seniors often took advantage of first-years who were naive and not used to their new-found freedom. To combat this, Medunsa runs orientation programmes for first-year students, as well as workshops throughout the year. Technikon Witwatersrand, with its inner-city campuses, has had no reports of rape in the past 18 months.

AMW 6/8/98 54

Black students accuse RAU management of racism

Staw 10/8/98 (54)

By TEFO MOTHIBELI

Black students have accused Rand Afrikaans University management of racism after they were denied permission to hold a party on Saturday. They were also not allowed to receive visits from parents and friends.

South African Students Congress chairman at the campus, Vusi Zwane, claimed that black students were made to feel as though they were not welcome to study at the institution.

"What is happening at RAU is really frustrating. It is like a Nazi camp for black students," he said last night.

Zwane claimed that white students were allowed visits in their hostels from their parents and friends at any time during the weekend, but black students were denied the same privilege.

He said that black students had organised and been granted permission to hold a party on the campus on Saturday, but were only told at the last

minute that they could not have the party. "We were surprised when we found many security guards on the campus on Saturday, telling us the planned bash was off," he said.

Zwane added that any black person without a student card was refused entry onto the campus on Saturday.

RAU academic registrar Professor Paul von Staden last night denied the allegations of racism.

"I beg to differ with that view. That is a totally unfair comment to make," he said.

Von Staden said the students were informed earlier in the week that they had been refused permission to hold the party.

"As for visits, students know that there is a procedure that has to be followed if anyone is expecting any visitors, and it was not followed. That is why some visitors were not allowed access onto the campus," he said.

Zwane said students were considering their next step.

Probe into college after cheques go missing ⁽⁵⁴⁾

By Dan Fuphe

A SENIOR member of the Gauteng Department of Education Investigating Unit has been appointed to probe the financial position of Daveyton College of Education following the disappearance of cheques and computers worth thousands of rands.

Confirming the scandal and the investigations at the weekend, GDE public relations officer Mr Aubrey Matshiqi said the department had already appointed someone from their investigating unit to work on the case.

He added that the matter was also being investigated by members of the South African Police Service.

An insider at the college told *Sowetan* that a group of concerned heads of departments had unearthed the scandal.

"The scandal, which involves the disappearance of cheques amounting to R37 000, was apparently communicated to the GDE by staff members," she said.

During a visit to the college, a member of the academic staff showed *Sowetan* several cheques with various amounts ranging from R3 996 to R10 500 for the alleged purchases of audio and visual material from companies across the country.

One such cheque which is in dispute because of two signatures was made out in favour of a Cape Town-based company trading as Hicor Trading Ltd. It was made out for R3 996 and was dated March 23 1998.

Members of the Student Representative Council said they were disturbed by the attitude of the college authorities to attempt to sweep the scandal under the carpet.

"About a year ago, when members of the SRC were accused of having misappropriated student funds and came before the same authorities, two of them were expelled. As we speak to you today they are without diplomas.

Crystal Park police who initially handled the case have now referred it to the Brakpan Fraud Unit.

Crisis deepens at Vanda University

By Khathu Mamaila

THE strife-torn University of Venda has been plunged into deeper crisis with the arrest of 65 students who were allegedly part of the crowd that went on the rampage on Thursday afternoon, destroying buildings and looting the cafeteria.

The students were apparently angered at the postponement of the meeting between the Azanian Student Convention (Azasco) and the education department, led by deputy director-general for education, Dr Nasima Badsha.

Student leader Matodzi Mushweu told *Sowetan* that the students had expected the education minister to intervene in the impasse between the students and the university.

"We were quite confident that this matter would be resolved through the intervention of the education ministry," he said.

Students only learnt in the morning, a few hours before the scheduled meeting, that the delegation from the education department was no longer coming.

"We were told that management had requested a postponement of the meeting until the disciplinary committee appointed by the university had ruled on charges of misconduct.

"When we requested the ministry to intervene, we wanted to normalise the situation on campus because valuable time was being lost," said Mushweu.

The disciplinary hearing is expected on August 26.

Police spokesman Captain Ailwei Mushavhanamadi yesterday confirmed that 65 students had been arrested for public violence. They made a brief appearance in Thohoyandou magistrate's court and were all remanded until August 20.

The university could not be reached for comment at the weekend.

Sowetan 10/8/88

(54)

Universities breeding 'intelligent crooks'

Star 12/8/98 (54)

Professor William Makgoba slates British-based higher education and says radical Africanisation is the way forward

By KATHY MOLONEY
Education Reporter

Higher education is producing a society of racist, gender-insensitive, intelligent, educated criminals in South Africa.

This warning came from Professor William Makgoba of the University of Witwatersrand, who was speaking at Natal Technikon in Durban yesterday.

Makgoba stressed the urgent need for a radical transformation of university curricula, which are based on British colonial education systems.

The Higher Council of Education, of which Makgoba is a member, had already begun overhauling the curricula but there was still a need for people in leadership positions to push for this change, he said.

Makgoba said South Africa was a country where "corruption and unethical behaviour have become the order of the day".

There was a lack of trust and confidence in the judiciary, the churches, the police, the media, the academics and the medical profession, and the common factor that cut across all of these was the curricula.

The invisible impact of education, he said, manifested itself later in people's behavioural patterns, the choices they made, their biases, and the ethics they practiced.

"If the curriculum is based



William Makgoba ... corruption due to corrupt curricula

on corrupt ideas only, corruption will become the product of such a system," he said.

South African universities had faithfully reproduced British curricula in many fields and had in turn been rewarded with British recognition.

"Most South Africans would find it easier to practice the medicine they were taught at medical schools in South Africa in the United Kingdom than they would here, for the curriculum is a true replica of the British system of health care.

"The textbooks, journals and the role models are almost exclusively British-American," he said.

"We have transplanted

European education into South Africa under the pretence of internationalising ourselves."

The reality was, he said, that university education was dislocated from African society, its reality, history and consciousness.

"We need to find our own uniqueness and originality in our education system."

"The reason why countries such as America, Britain and Germany have achieved super-power status is because their education systems are completely adapted to the country's environment and society rather than imitating another country's.

"The choice of what to teach, who to teach and how to teach and what to research has to be driven by Africans themselves."

A successful university, he said, was one that developed its own clear identity, that was original, that had students and academics who were not plagued by feelings of guilt, dependency and fear, as ours were.

"Universities should create people who at the end of their degree do not expect to look for a job but rather to create jobs."

The products of a university should be talented, independent-thinking people who had a strong sense of environmental and social responsibility and who fostered leadership rather than an administrative and bureaucratic ethos, he said.

(64) BD 13/8/98

University rector criticises protest

EMPANGENI — University of Zululand rector Charles Dlamini criticised a protest by about 3 000 students demanding his resignation yesterday.

Dlamini called the protest "utterly unacceptable if not irresponsible.... It shows people who have no commitment to learning."

Students marched and presented their demands to university management yesterday. They demanded the investigation of a recent degree scandal where unqualified students were awarded degrees, the reinstatement of retrenched teachers, the reversal of a fee increase and Dlamini's resignation.

Dlamini said the university had not retrenched staff but lecturers' contracts had ended and were not renewed, based on financial constraints. Staff members could be reinstated if students were prepared to pay extra for their salaries.

The fee increase was based on in-

flation over which the university had no control. He said the degree scandal was being investigated.

"I wish to call upon those students who are serious about their learning to resume lectures because that is what they are here for and not to manage the University. ... Failure to resume lectures could lead to further action."

Students Representative Council president Godfrey Ntombela said no progress was made at a morning meeting between management and students' representatives. He said Dlamini did not attend the meeting.

Students asked Keith Kunene, the chairman of the university council, to mediate for them and were waiting for his reply, he said.

University spokesman Charl de Villiers said there were 46 degrees incorrectly awarded. The university was investigating whether they were administrative errors or fraud. — Sapa.

Institutions 'corrupting student council members'

Primarashni Pillay

THE SA Students' Congress (Sasco) has accused management officials within tertiary institutions of involving student representative council leaders in corruption and the misappropriation of funds.

Sasco has appealed to the education ministry to probe allegations of corruption against the management and the councils at a number of institutions.

Sasco secretary-general Tshilidzi Ratshitanga said yesterday Sasco had observed a "level of corruption and mismanagement of funds in tertiary institutions which has reached unprecedented heights", and that student representative councils had been reduced to the level of "puppets and tokens of management".

Sasco believed managers at certain tertiary institutions involved council leaders in acts of corruption in order to "save themselves from pressure put upon them to transform their institutions rapidly", he said.

Ratshitanga said reports included allegations about the misappropriation of more than R20 000 of student funds at Vista university in Sebokeng in the Vaal by council members, who were suspended, but were apparently reinstated by management.

There was also the alleged granting

BD 14/8/98 (54)
of a tender for cleaning services at this institution to an executive member, without following proper procedures.

Ratshitanga claimed that the "improper" administration of registration fees by the management of this institution had resulted in the possible deregistration of students who held invalid receipts.

Other allegations concerned Rand Afrikaans University and Pretoria University spending more than R1m and R1,5m respectively on honorariums for council members, which Sasco said could have been invested in development projects for students.

Ratshitanga said there were allegations about the creation of a R4,6m scheme which would benefit a few members of Vaal Triangle Technikon's management.

However, Vaal Triangle Technikon's spokesman Anne Naidu denied such a scheme had been set up. Naidu said while certain key staff positions had been identified for the purposes of early retirement, in line with the technikon's transformation initiatives, no money had been set aside for this.

Rand Afrikaans University student council president Brand Pretorius said he earned R816 a month and that the salaries of other executive members were lower. The total figure did not reach R1m.

Call for new probes into technikon fraud

MHG 14-20/8/98 (54)

Godfrey Thabo Makhubedu

The National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) has asked that criminal charges be laid against staff members of Technikon South Africa accused of corruption and fraud. This follows a series of internal disciplinary hearings against senior staff.

In one of the worst instances, Herman Putter, employed at the centre for courseware design and development, was accused of selling the technikon a book, *Flexible Learning*, written by someone else, with his own name on the cover as the author.

Nehawu branch chair Chris Serumula says Putter was found guilty before a disciplinary hearing, but management never took the matter to court.

Technikon representative Louise Stimie says Putter was dismissed in May. He appealed against the decision, however, and another internal hearing has been scheduled.

Nehawu also claims the technikon's provisioning manager, Andrew Hough, was a director in a computer company awarded a R7-million training contract by the

technikon. Hough was one of three directors at a computer company called Werludu, which was registered in May 1995, one month after he left his position as the technikon's training manager. A year later, he took up the position of provisioning manager.

Stimie says the awarding of contracts to companies is done by a representative panel. Werludu has been contracted to provide computer training for this year only and the technikon will invite new tenders for next year, she says.

The technikon's former vice-principal Emil Kilpert resigned in May. He was suspended in October 1995 after investigations by internal auditors.

Kilpert appeared before two disciplinary hearings on charges of sexual harassment and financial mismanagement. He was found guilty and was dismissed.

He appealed to the high court, which ordered the technikon to give him a second opportunity to advance arguments in mitigation of sentence.

The technikon agreed to accept Kilpert's resignation, but is continuing with civil litigation against him to recover R3-million.

Tertiary heads 'shy' to reveal salary packages

EDWIN NAIDU

CT 17/8/98 (54)

JOHANNESBURG: Despite a loud call by Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu for transparency from the heads of tertiary institutions, all but one of the 21 heads of universities in South Africa were shy to reveal their salary packages.

However, the vice-chancellors and principals collectively agreed on divulging that their gross salary packages varied from between R632 000 to R841 999 a year. The disclosure was made to the South African Universities Vice-Chancellors' Association (Sauvca) following calls for more transparency.

Deputy vice-chancellors receive a gross income of between R474 000 and R631 999, registrars between R355 000 to R473 999 and deans received between R268 000 and R354 999. The gross figure also includes benefits such as housing and car allowances, but excludes a bonus or 13th cheque.

A recent separate survey of the 21 heads of universities regarding salaries by the *Star* yielded only one positive response. All university heads, except for one, said that they would make their salaries available through Sauvca.

Professor E T Mokgokong, former vice-chancellor of the Medical University of South Africa, revealed his package was R350 000.

Earlier this year Bengu called for the salary packages of senior management at tertiary institutions to be made public so that taxpayers could know how the R6,5 billion the government spends on higher education subsidies is used.

Bengu told about 35 heads of tertiary institutions at a closed meeting that there should be greater openness regarding their earnings, since the salaries of all ministers and government officials were made public.

His comments followed a debate among vice-chancellors about

discrepancies in salary packages. Some are believed to earn more than R1 million a year.

The issue of salary packages provoked fierce debate at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) where the Academic Staff Association has distributed a controversial document to its members.

The document, according to the association's acting chairperson Riekie Wandrag, was aimed at provoking debate and obtaining honest answers.

She said that when Professor Cecil Abrahams was appointed rector and vice-chancellor at UWC in September 1995, he promised to be transparent, but has not yet revealed any salary details.

The association estimates that Abrahams' annual package is in excess of R800 000, made up of a R660 000 salary, a house, a car, a driver, two gardeners and three housekeepers, telephone and electricity.

Woman lodges complaint after flasher exposes himself on campus

By EDWIN NAIDU

(54)
 A clean-shaven, blond flasher, who has shown a shocked student at Rand Afrikaans University his bare essentials, is still on the prowl more than a month after parading himself in front of a female student.

The mystery flasher, who is about 1,7m tall, also told the married student he wanted to have sex with her.

The student has lodged a complaint of sexual harassment with the university authorities.

Andre Meier, director of protection services at RAU, said the flasher had not been caught.

However, he said the description of the person who harassed the student in July did not match that of offenders who had committed similar acts in the past two to three years.

"Our statistics show that this sort of harassment has occurred only a few times in

the past. The frequency of this harassment is relatively low."

Meier said a description of the modus operandi of the perpetrator had been distributed among staff, security patrols had been increased, and student organisations on campus had been warned to be on the

Students advised not to walk in dark areas

lookout for the flasher.

"Seen in the light of the high number of people on campus and the vastness of the area, it is unfortunately not possible to guarantee that this sort of harassment will not take place again," Meier said.

Accosted females should laugh at the flasher: "People

who flash do not like being laughed at," he added.

The husband of the student, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the university was not doing enough to apprehend the man.

He said his wife had been accosted as she was about to exit a lift on campus at night. She had noticed the naked man masturbating on a walkway.

She could not recall what the flasher looked like because she had wanted to get away from him. She ran into the lift and managed to close the doors before he could reach her.

The husband said although his wife had received counselling, she feared the attacker could flash again.

Lisa Hattingh, RAU media spokesperson, said students were advised not to walk alone in dark areas on the campus, adding that video surveillance was used at female residences to help ensure safety.

Hard to get information on the funding schemes

Star 18/8/98

By EDWIN NAIDU

Repeated attempts to establish what the Government is doing about a national student funding scheme have been met with stony silence.

Education Minister Professor Sibiso Bengu's office has referred calls to Deputy-Director General Dr Nasima Bacha, who is busy working on the blueprint. Bacha could not be reached and did not respond to several calls from The Star to shed light on what her department is doing.

A spokesperson for the Education Department, who did not wish to "steal Bacha's thunder", said the apartheid-based funding formula which is determined according to student numbers, would be phased out in 2001. It would be replaced by a formula which takes into account curriculum and subjects offered at institutions.

While Bacha and the department appear to be locked in meetings discussing the way forward, several academics have provided advice.

Dr Salim Vally of the University of Witwatersrand Education Policy Unit, said the much bandied about idea regarding community service should be expanded upon.

Fees for students living in residences on campuses should be waived in lieu of those students working in communities nearby the university.

"The advantage is that the academic work is balanced by hands on experience they (students) will receive

while contributing to society," he said.

Prof Herbert Vilakazi, from the University of Zululand, said the Government should provide amnesty for the debts incurred by students and to relate university fees to the income of students, parents or guardians, calculated in the same way as income tax.

The Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, Reverend Njongonkulu Ndungane, has called for the establishment of a Jubilee 2000 fund to assist the thousands of students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

A bursary system which offers tuition and living expenses in ex-

Community service is good idea

change for community services continues to be proposed, however. Department of Education Chief Director Ahmed Essop said a comprehensive investigation into feasible options to address student funding crisis is in the process of being finalised.

Meanwhile, a report prepared for the Education Department predicts that the number of students requiring financial aid will grow to some 123 000 by 2005 and over 150 000 in 2010. It also called for a broader restructuring of the Tertiary Education Fund of SA, currently successfully administering the department's loan scheme.

Cash crisis for tertiary bodies

Government subsidies are falling and fewer students are paying their fees

Star 18/8/98 (714)

By Edwin Madoa

Cash-strapped tertiary institutions throughout the country are battling to make ends meet because of dwindling student numbers, unpaid student fees and declining amounts received in subsidies.

Several institutions said they were forced to cut down on staff and reduce the costs of teaching programmes and materials, so they could cope financially.

Collectively universities and technikons are owed R50-million in unpaid student fees. However, the debt is never settled in full because once students pay the previous year's amounts owed, they incur new debts for the current year of study.

While the Government considers a national student funding scheme, universities, tech-

nikons and colleges are facing a battle for survival as they play the role of a collection agency while at the same time attempting to teach.

Historically Disadvantaged Institutions (HDIs) have shown a marked decrease in student numbers and a decline in the amounts received in government subsidies over the past three years in comparison to inflation.

Student protests against expulsions have resulted in the suspension of classes and forced the closure of universities for periods of time, including University of Western Cape, Transkei, Fort Hare, Venda, Vista and Durban-Westville.

The University of Zululand, which closed for the first time this year last Friday following tension on campus, is owed a crippling R45-million. The university's increased tuition fees

has led to a decline in enrolment.

Spokesperson Carl de Villiers in Zululand made it extremely difficult to meet the required fees and that the amount received in subsidies had not kept up with inflation.

He said the escalating student debts and declining subsidy had impacted greatly on the university's effectiveness.

"Growth and improvement have become impossible and the university's energies are focused on survival. Everything is geared towards emergency maintenance buildings, teaching facilities and equipment are becoming rundown and outdated, but financial constraints prevent proper upgrading.

"The question is: how long will emergency measures be enough to keep things afloat? Long-term prospects, judging

by current trends, are bleak."

The University of Durban Westville, which is owed R38-million in unpaid fees, said students who do not pay will not get their results and be barred from registering again.

Vice-chancellor Professor Mapule Ramashaba has maintained a steadfast stand not to readmit failing students who do not pay fees as enrolment has dropped to 9 700 students from 10 500 last year.

"The reduction in subsidies has seriously impacted on UDW as in other previously disadvantaged universities."

Enrolment has also dropped at the University of the North (Turfloop) which is owed the highest amount among all tertiary institutions in unpaid fees. "We have lost students to other universities who have satellite campuses in the province. In 1982-83 we turned away 70 000 students because

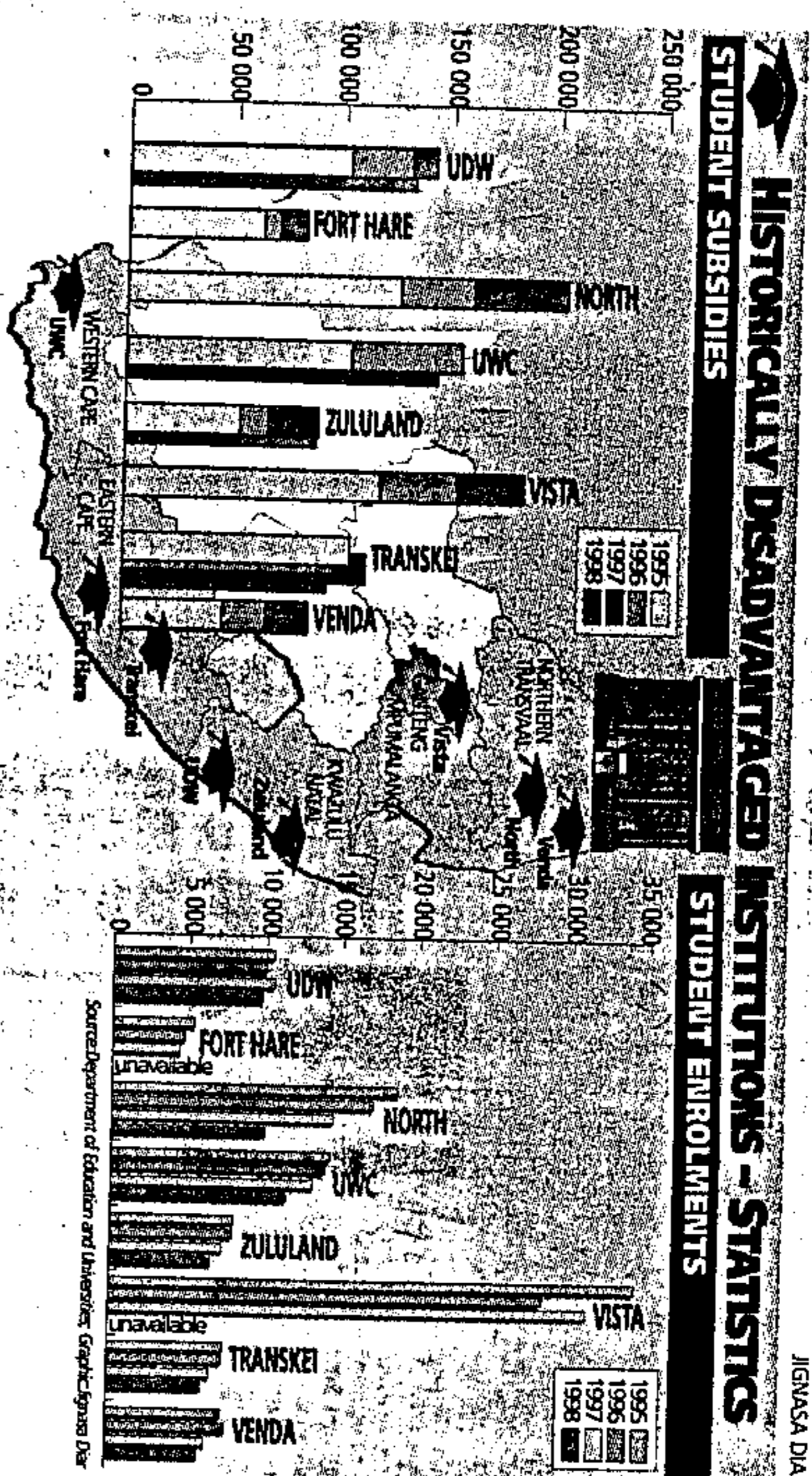
they did not have the best of symbols. Now we are battling to attract students," said Turfloop spokesperson Dr Alan Budell.

At the start of the year Turfloop was owed a staggering R33-million, but the figure now stands at R69-million.

"We are battling. The university budget last year had to be trimmed by R27-million to stay afloat. We are not in a position to take loans," he said.

University of Venda head Professor Gessler Nkondo said the R82-million received in subsidies this year was equal to 60% of what the university needs. In terms of the funding formula, Venda receives 40% less than it used to. "New programmes are very expensive and teaching materials and laboratory equipment impossible to replace," he said.

"Our subsidy has been cut by R21-million this year forcing us to put pressure on students to pay. This has resulted in unrest on campus," said Transkei vice-chancellor Professor Al-fred Moleah.



Source: Department of Education and Universities. Graphic: Ganga Das

Univen and Azasco in turmoil

By Khathu Mamalia

LIKE many other tertiary institutions in the country, the University of Venda (Univen) has had its fair share of turmoil. The conflict between students and management started last year when some students protested against a 13 percent fee hike.

The South African Students Congress (Sasco)-controlled students representative council and virtually all other student formations on campus - except the Azanian Students Convention (Azasco) - agreed to the proposed increase.

Azasco, the student wing of the Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo), rejected the hike and mobilised support on campus for its position. It became the strongest opponent of the university management.

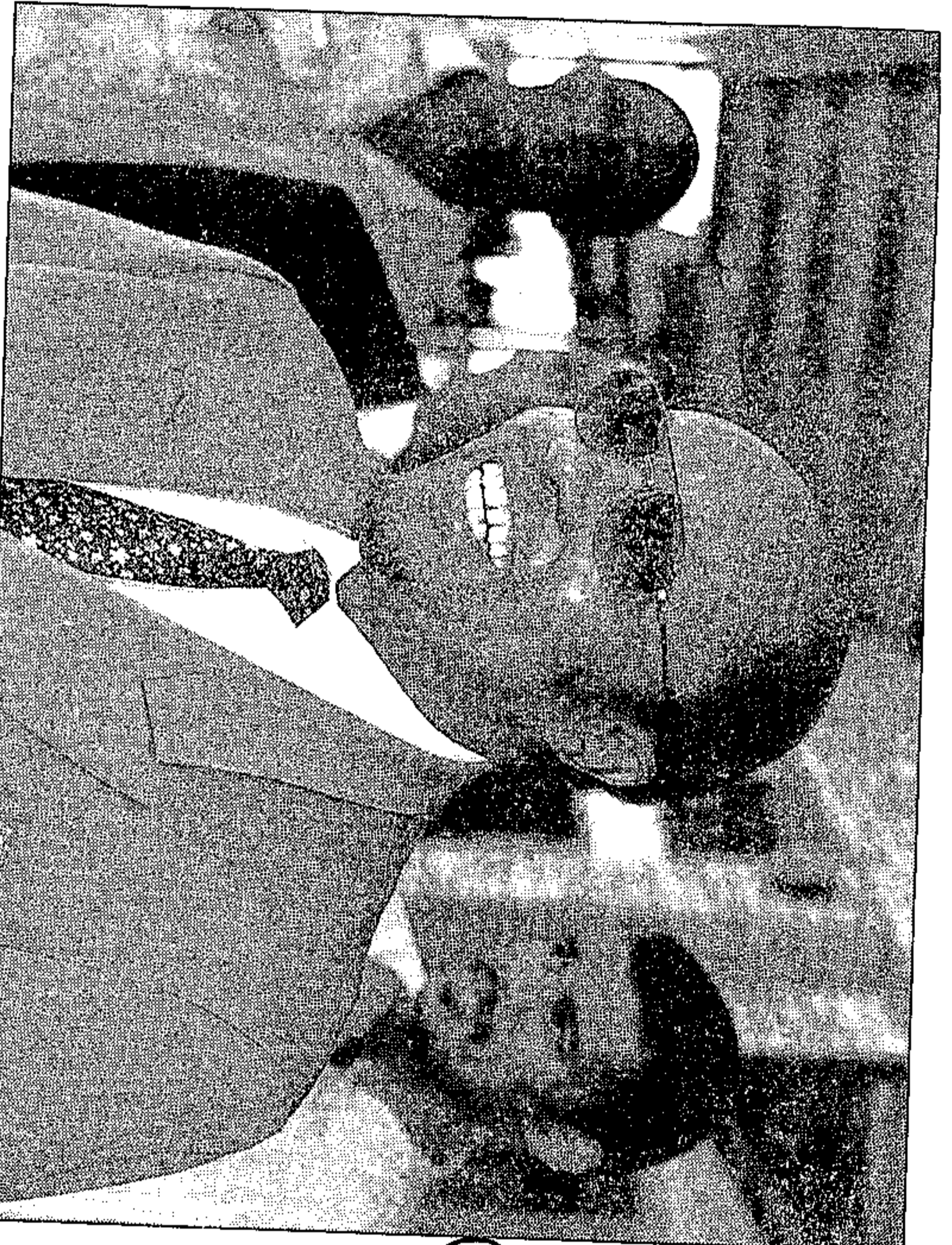
Its offices were closed down last year in an attempt to stop its activities on campus. But the closure achieved the opposite. It became so popular that when SRC elections were held towards the end of last year, it made history by ousting Sasco members from office.

Of the 10 executive positions in the SRC, the nine candidates it fielded won nine seats. The tenth executive position was won by a member of the Students Christian Movement, a nonpolitical organisation.

When the university reopened this year, management proposed a further 14 percent increment. The Azasco-led SRC opposed the move and argued that the increase could not be justified.

Instead, it accused management of failing to account for funds. They cited a R150 000 credit facility that was allegedly used by vice chancellor Professor Gesler Nkondo without the knowledge of the university council.

The SRC also campaigned to force the university to register students who had not settled their accounts in full. Management rejected this and insisted that those who did not have money



Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu ... the Azanian Students Convention wants him to intervene in the dispute between students and management at the University of Venda. (54)

could not register.

The rationale made perfect sense - by February, students already owed Univen around R9 million in unpaid fees.

The protracted battle between the students and management was characterised by class boycotts. In a few instances, top management members of the university were even held hostage by angry students.

Buildings were damaged and police became an almost permanent feature on campus. Dozens of students were arrested for public violence.

When the students realised that the university management would not accede to their demands, they called for Nkondo's immediate resignation. He ignored this call and management took drastic measures to entrench his authority.

All meetings on campus were banned. The SRC was suspended and

Azasco was banned from campus. There was a lull for a few weeks and classes resumed.

Then, in April, students demanded a freshers' ball. Last year the university allocated about R700 000 for the freshers' ball. This year the budget was cut by almost half.

This revived the militancy of the students as they concluded that the university had not allocated more money for the party because it was being organised by the Azasco-controlled SRC.

Management rejected these claims as ridiculous. Deputy vice chancellor and principal Dr Ndoro Vera said: "If people did something wrong in the past, it does not mean they should repeat it."

"We cannot say let us practise apartheid because it was the policy in the past. Transformation means that we should do things differently to the

advantage of all of us."

Reports that Univen students were each demanding 30 cans of beer and nine pieces of Kentucky Fried Chicken made national headlines. The matter was also raised in Parliament.

A blanket ban on all meetings was lifted a few weeks ago but the SRC and Azasco remain banned. The university also instituted charges of misconduct against SRC members.

Noting that the deadlock between management and the students was dragging on and threatening the education of about 8 000 students, Azasco and the SRC requested Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu to intervene.

The ministry agreed to send a high-powered delegation, led by deputy director-general for higher education Dr Nasima Badsha, to mediate in the dispute. The meeting was scheduled for August 6.

However, the university requested the Education Ministry to stop the mediation process and allow the university's disciplinary process to run its full course.

Education Ministry spokesman Bheki Khumalo said the university argued that the intervention by the ministry before the disciplinary process was completed would amount to interference. He said the ministry agreed to get out of the picture temporarily.

The students, on the other hand, have always argued that the university-appointed disciplinary committee was just a forum to legalise the expulsion of the suspended SRC members. This is why it wanted the Education Ministry to intervene.

When it was announced that the Education Ministry was no longer coming to the campus, the students went berserk. They damaged some buildings and looted the cafeteria. Police allegedly fired rubber bullets and teargas.

Sixty five students, including Azasco national president Boiki Tsedu, were arrested. They made a brief appearance in the Thohoyandou Magistrate's Court on August 7 and the case was postponed to August 20. All the students were refused bail.

Last week Azapo president Mosibudi Mangena visited the detained students and also paid a courtesy visit to Nkondo.

Speaking of his visit, Mangena said the situation needed to be resolved as a matter of urgency. He said a university should remain a place of intellectual debate and not a police barracks.

Both Azapo and the university management agreed that the impasse should be resolved. While a process has begun to resolve the impasse, it remains to be seen whether the confrontation will finally be resolved.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki has passed a proclamation authorising Judge Willem Heath's investigation unit to probe allegations of financial irregularities at Univen.

Bengu calls for transparency

(54) ~~128~~

Silence from some vice-chancellors and principals over annual salaries

Star 18/8/98

By EDWIN NAIDU

Despite a loud call by Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu for transparency from the heads of tertiary institutions, all but one of the 21 heads of universities in South Africa were shy to reveal their salary packages.

However, the vice-chancellors and principals collectively agreed on divulging that their gross salary packages varied from between R632 000 to R841 999 a year. The disclosure was made to the South African Vice-Chancellors Association (Sauvca) following growing calls for more transparency.

Deputy vice-chancellors receive a gross income of between R474 000 and R631 999, registrars earned a gross from R355 000 to R473 999 and deans received between R268 000 and R354 999.

The gross figure also in-



Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu

cludes benefits such as housing and car allowances but excludes bonuses or 13th cheques.

These figures are for the year ended December 31 1998.

However, a recent separate survey of the 21 heads of universities regarding salaries by The Star yielded only one positive response. All university heads, except the one, said they would make their salaries available through Sauvca.

Professor E T Mokgokong, former vice-chancellor of the Medical University of South Africa, revealed his salary

package was R350 000 when asked. The other 20 said they were not opposed to transparency but wanted to act as a united group through Sauvca.

Earlier this year Bengu called for the salary packages of senior management at tertiary institutions to be made public so that taxpayers could know how the R6,5-billion the Government spends on higher education subsidies is used.

Bengu told about 35 heads of tertiary institutions at a closed meeting there should be openness regarding their earnings since the salaries of all ministers and government officials were made public.

His comments followed a debate among vice-chancellors about discrepancies in salary packages.

Some are believed to earn more than R1-million a year.

Bengu told university council chairpersons they should

hold institutions more accountable and ensure transparency regarding salaries.

The issue of salary packages provoked fierce debate at the University of Western Cape where the Academic Staff Association has distributed a controversial document to its members.

The document, according to the association's acting chairperson Riekie Wandrag, was aimed at provoking debate and obtaining honest answers. Wandrag said Professor Cecil Abrahams, rector and vice-chancellor at UWC, promised to be transparent with regards to salary packages but has not done so as yet.

Abrahams, who was not available, said earlier this year he would divulge details of his package once the university council gives the go-ahead to submit his and senior management's details to the Sauvca.



Province to close colleges

(54)

Sowetan 19/8/98

By Khathu Mamaila

NORTHERN Province education department will close seven of the 10 remaining colleges of education in an effort to stop the production of teachers who may not be employed.

Acting superintendent-general of education Dr Harry Nengwekhulu said in an interview that there were thousands of qualified teachers who could not be absorbed by the system and it made no sense training teachers who could not be employed.

There are more than 20 000 unemployed teachers in the province.

About two years ago, the education department closed down 11 teachers' colleges in the province.

Nengwekhulu said 10 colleges were still more than enough.

He said the University of the North, University of Venda, University of South Africa and Vista University were also producing huge numbers of teachers.

Nengwekhulu said: "We do not need these teachers. We will keep only three colleges.

"We will only admit students who study science and commercial subjects because these are the teachers that we require."

Reduce expenditure

He said the education department, like other departments in the province, had a plan to reduce personnel expenditure.

He said 92 percent of the budget of R5,6 billion went to salaries. Only eight percent could be used to build classrooms and to purchase desks and books.

Unemployed teachers in

Northern Province have for many years being unable to secure jobs because there is a shortage of schools where they could work.

Talking about plans to improve matric results, Nengwekhulu said the trial examinations for all grade 12 pupils would go a long way to preparing them for the final examinations.

The department would also ensure that all candidates had attended a minimum number of days before they could sit for the exams.

Requirement

He said those who failed to meet the minimum requirement in days attended would only be allowed to write as part-time candidates. Pupils who failed more than twice would not be admitted to schools, in line with national policy.

Univen head ⁽⁵⁴⁾ pleads not guilty

Sowetan 19/8/98

By Khathu Mamaila

THE vice-chancellor and principal of the University of Venda has pleaded not guilty to a charge of failing to comply with a court order instructing him to pay maintenance for his three children to his former wife Ms Shalati Golele.

Professor Gesler Nkondo appeared before Mr J Mtubatse in the Mankweng Magistrate's Court on Monday.

Nkondo's counsel Mr Jimmy Kgosana said his client challenged the validity of the court order issued in June 1993.

Kgosana called on the state to prove where and when the order was issued. He said if such an order had, in fact, been made, Nkondo had not been made aware of it.

In her evidence, Golele said she had asked Nkondo to support his children - Ntsako (24), Muxe (21) and Mikatseko

(19). She said after she realised that Nkondo was not prepared to support his children, she approached the court for help.

She said on June 10 1993 a court order was made that Nkondo pay maintenance of R250 a month for each child. She said Nkondo had been present when the order was made, adding that he also appended his signature, accepting the order.

She said it had been arranged that the money would be deducted from Nkondo's salary at the University of the North where he had been working.

The money would then be channelled to the magistrate's office.

She said Nkondo paid for the first six months and stopped after his job at the University of the North was terminated.

Nkondo was in arrears of more than R17 000. The case was postponed to November 6.

Fewer students force cutbacks

As numbers and government subsidies to tertiary institutions take hold, universities are forced to take harsh action

By EDWIN NAIDU

While most of the country's tertiary institutions are struggling in the face of declining student numbers and decreasing government subsidies, the University of South Africa has cut some of the fat which threatened its existence.

Unisa, which is embroiled in a desperate search for a vice-chancellor, is in far better shape now than it was a year ago, when an auditor's report forecast a gloomy future.

The institution has reduced its financial deficit for 1997 from R123-million to a budgeted R25-million, through cutbacks on spending and the freezing of posts.

"We are not battling. We have trimmed our sails, so to

speak, and we hope to be out of the red by next year," said spokesperson Doreen Gough.

However, the university is owed R13-million in unpaid fees, compared to R9-million at the same time last year. Students who still owe their fees are required to pay a minimum amount before they sit examinations or receive their results.

Gough said that like most institutions in the country, enrolment had declined because poorer students were finding it difficult to raise money for their studies.

"We are not sure of all the reasons why enrolment has dropped. Since students can study at their own pace at Unisa, usually inflation means they simply register for fewer courses. Our fees are low compared to other universities -

from about R760 for a first-year course, R820 for a second-year to R1 200 for a third-year course."

She said Unisa received R402.8-million from Government this year, one of the highest amounts given to higher learning institutions in the country. It received R332.89-million last year and R356.6-million in 1996.

The institution has 117 046 registered students compared to 124 212 last year, 128 454 in 1996 and 128 198 in 1995.

While other institutions were reluctant to divulge their subsidies, The Star has learned that the University of Witwatersrand received R276-million as its allocation for 1997/98, while Rand Afrikaans University got R180-million, the University of Pretoria R399-million, University of Cape Town

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R249-million, University of Natal R248-million and Rhodes R75-million.

Brian Bolton, director of finance at Cape Technikon, which is owed R21-million in unpaid fees, said students who do not pay are not allowed to write examinations. "If they held and they will not be allowed to register for the following academic year."

The technician, which received R102-million from Government, said: "We are battling and unable to meet staff demands and supply new equipment at the rate needed to keep track with developing technology and the standards required by the business community who are the employers."

"The position is getting worse as our backs take effect and bad debts escalate."

By EDWIN NAIDU

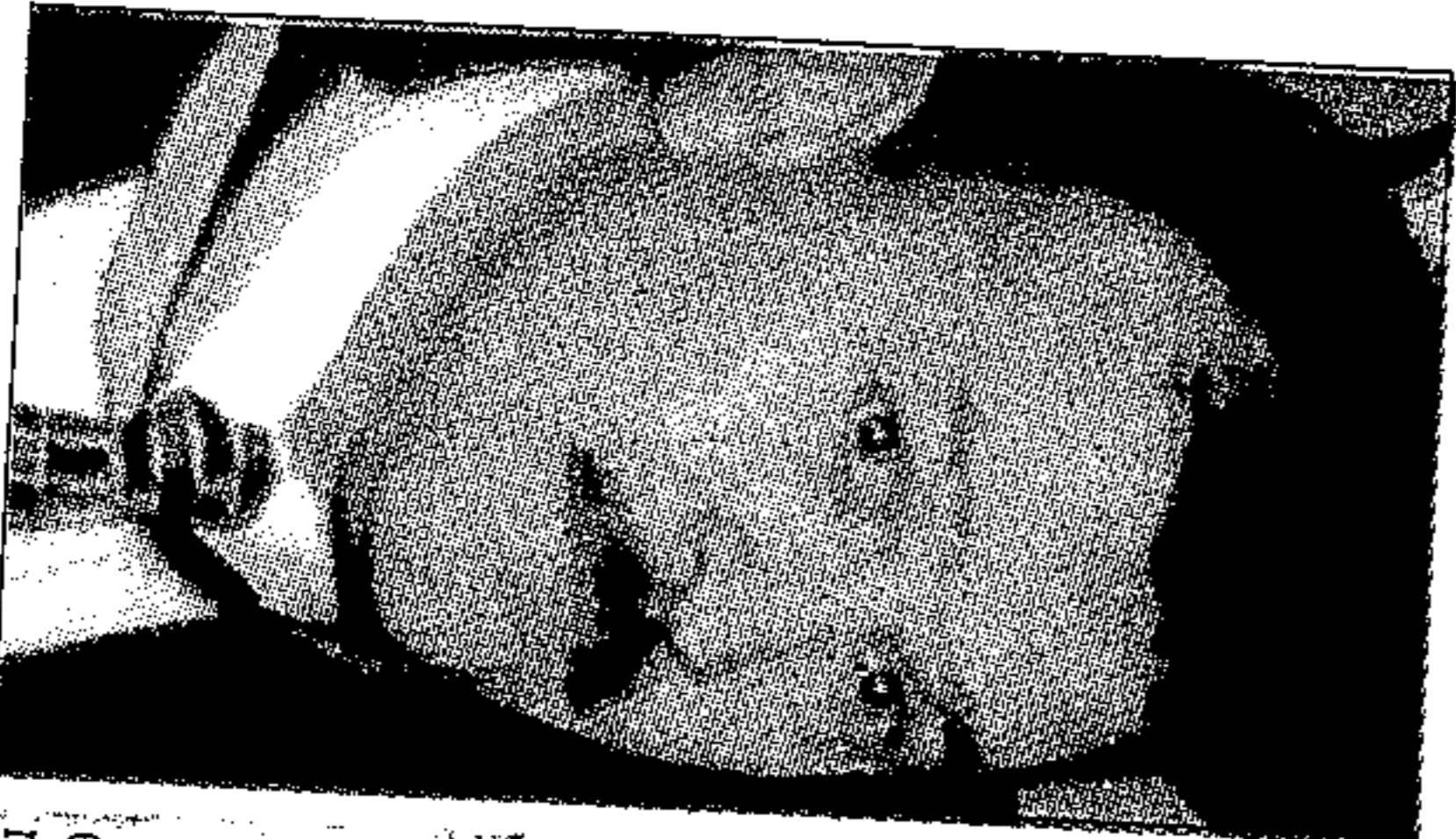
The government's conduit for funds to higher learning institutions has received a R20-million boost from a company with minority shareholding in the telephone service provider, Telkom.

It is the first donation from a private sector company made to the Tertiary Education Fund of South Africa (Tefsa). The Fund has received R300-million from Government and another R37 million from other sources this year.

The contribution was made at a presentation to Tefsa, which is still awaiting a decision by the national Department of Education regarding its future as a national bursary agent, at a function in Cape Town attended by Minister of Education Professor Sibusiso Bengu and Broadcasting Minister Jay Naidoo.

Joe Rajaratham, spokesperson for Thintana, said the R20-

Private sector company Thintana gives Tertiary Education Fund major fillip



A challenge ... Roy Jackson

million was given to Tefsa because the company wanted to invest in education, particularly at disadvantaged institutions. He added the company would give a further R120-million for various educational initiatives, including funding of historically black universities to develop infrastructure at campuses where resources are limited. Beneficiaries include the University of Durban-Westville, University of Western Cape, University of the North and Fort Hare.

Thintana has also committed itself to sending 50 students to study Information Technology in Malaysia. The first batch of 10 left in May.

He said the company would also fund a science and mathematics programme at secondary schools.

Roy Jackson, Tefsa chief executive office, welcomed the donation and challenges other companies to help develop South Africa's vast human resource potential.

"This is the first time the private sector has come to the party. We urge other corporate companies to do their bit and be good citizens," he said.

Meanwhile, the Development Bank of South Africa gave a R19-million loan agreement to the University of Fort Hare to purchase the All Saints

We urge others to do their bit in this arena

Campus in the Eastern Campus. Vice-chancellor Professor Mbulole Mzamane said the university would focus on distance and learning programmes. He said the loan would help Fort Hare to restructure and offer among the best tertiary education in Southern Africa.

Time to stress Africa in courses

sowetan 20/8/98
(54)

By Console Tleane

EVER since the movement for the transformation of higher education institutions was started, even long before the present political dispensation, a few areas have stood out in need of this process.

These are governance, funding – both student and institutional – the curriculum and organisational ethos.

A closer look at developments suggests a preoccupation with governance and funding issues.

While these are imperative, it is a source of concern that they occupy the centre stage at the expense of debates on curriculums.

The failure to flesh out the debate that raged at the University of Cape Town, when Professor Mahood Mamdani stuck out his neck in defence of an African curriculum, is lamentable.

It was indicative of the poverty of the transformation process at tertiary institutions.

The same happened at the University of South Africa a few years ago when it was revealed that the material being taught in the faculty of education was steeped in Verwoerdian ideology.

In both cases, there was merely a short-lived public uproar. Like the brief turmoil caused by a whirlwind, the debate died before it was even noticed.

Two points stand out in the debate on curriculum change. Firstly, the content. By and large the curriculums of almost all local universities are based on Western philosophical thought and practice.

African ideology is either absent or, where it exists, it is just on the periphery. It is even taught from and judged by the standards of Western thought.

This situation pertains mainly in the social and economic sciences. Our curriculum contains a lot of the work of Max Weber, Emile Durkheim, Adam Smith and other Western philosophers.

Local students know little about Ibn Khaldun, Cheik Anta Diop, Claude Ake, Walter Rodney and other African scholars who produced seminal works on the study of society and the development of humankind.

It is no wonder that the more they climb the academic ladder, the more students identify with the West than with Africa. But the situation does not end there.

Our institutions are also very selective in the content and possible intellectual implications of material from the West itself. Only classical and neo-classical theories are emphasised.

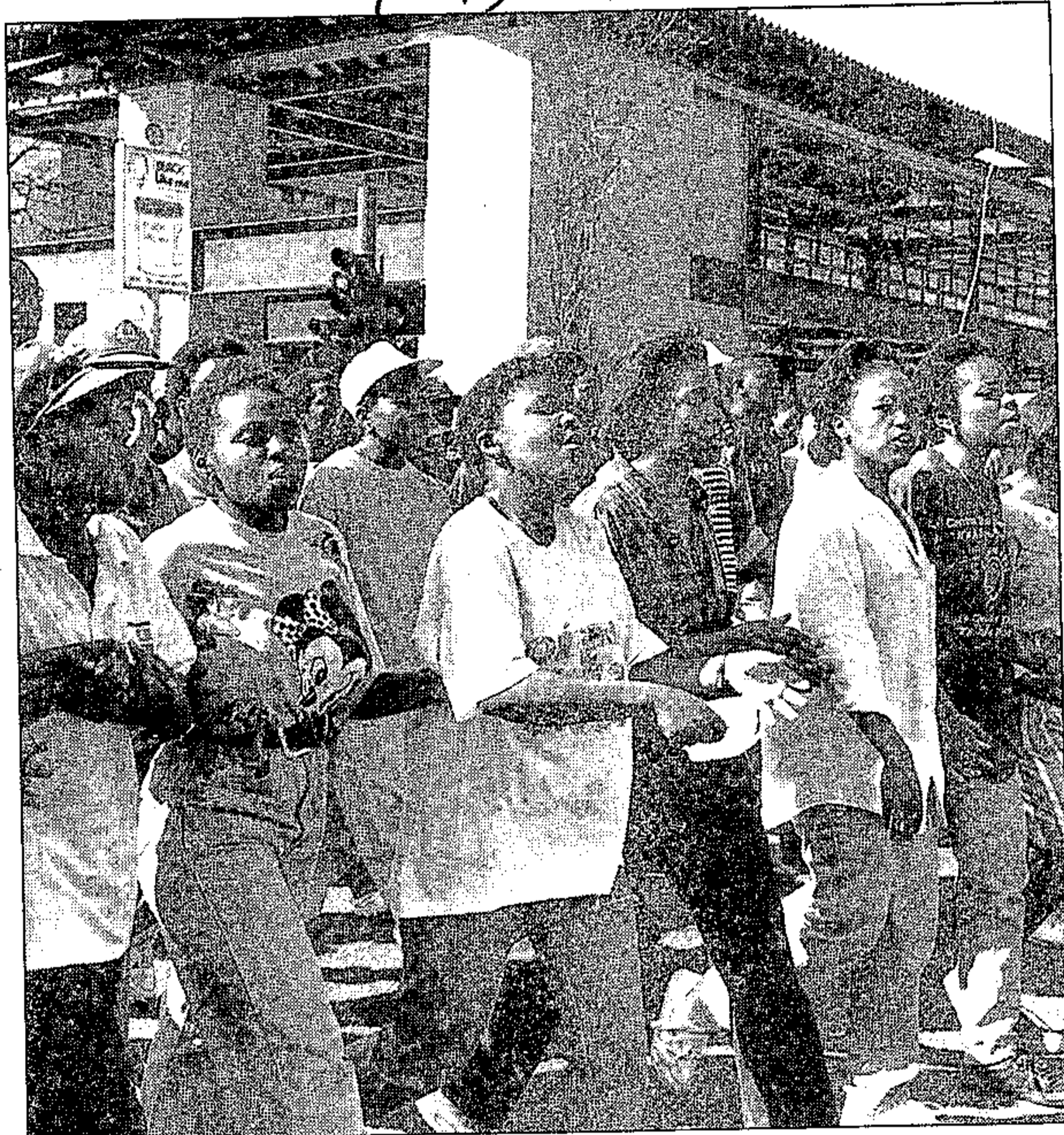
For instance, in economics only classical and of course Keynesian economics are taught.

Very little, if at all, is taught on Marxist economic models.

Little is also taught on the seminal works of people like Ernest Mandel, Samir Amin or Mohammed Babu. All these have developed their own economic theories.

The second point about curriculums revolves around methodology. The present method is that of an all-knowing lecturer who transmits information to a less knowledgeable student.

The demerit of this method is that it produces non-critical graduates who are unable to critique ideas.



Wits University students march in demand of transformation on their campus. However, disputes at tertiary institutions over governance and funding usually occupy centre stage at the expense of important debates over curriculums and their contents.

To quote Ngugi wa'Thiongo, this method produces "parrotology".

The participatory model developed by Brazilian educationist Paulo Freire is ignored in our higher education system. Initially developed for literacy and adult education training, it has a lot of relevance.

The participatory model entails that a lecturer enters into dialogue with the student on subject matter. The lecturer, because of superior training, then acts as a facilitator.

The merit of this model is that it instils critical thinking, facilitates dialogue and discourse, and encourages innovation and a quest for more knowledge and wisdom.

The last point on curriculums centres on the production and transmission of values.

Education should not only equip people with skills to enter specialised areas of work, as is now the case with the present system, which is market-oriented.

The present education system, based on a capitalist ethos, instils self-centredness and a quest for individual aggrandisement as opposed to social contribution and service characterised by selflessness.

Indeed, curriculum transformation is the most difficult component of transformation. As most people will argue, and rightly so, this is easier said than done.

Be that as it may, the need for such a change is a challenge to all those who hunger for real and far-reaching qualitative change. More so, it is a challenge to the progressive intellectual community.

The quest for genuine change will have to go past a multiplicity of obstacles. One of these obstacles will be that most university faculties and departments are agents of the old order.

Expecting any change from them borders on idealism, just like hoping for another transformation along the lines of Saul turning into St Paul on the road to Damascus.

Real transformation – like total and genuine liberation – will never be sur-

rendered on a silver platter by those who still hold on to the strings of power (in this case, intellectual power).

What is required are strategic plans to effect change. Primary among such plans will be for progressive intellectuals to form strong bonds aimed at exchanging ideas and supporting each other.

To sum up, the struggle for curriculum transformation should be underlined by the following philosophical and political resolutions.

These should be adhered to and informed by the intervention made by transformational agents:

- There should be a critical revisit of the basis and philosophical origins of the current curriculums;

- Alternative schools of thought with relevance to our material conditions should be studied with a view to making them the core of our curriculums;

- The need for the introduction of participatory pedagogy;

- Education should contribute towards the advancement of an individual with a view to developing a cadre for national development and upliftment of the poor; and

- Education should lead to the acquisition of knowledge and wisdom, leading to innovation and creativity.

The aim should be a cadreship which will put an end to too much dependence on the West for intellectual development – be it political, economic, social or technological.

The road ahead is going to be bumpy and dusty. With this country completely under the dominance of neoliberal policies, effective educational changes are not going to be easy to attain.

As one philosopher put it: "Ruling ideas in every society are the ideas of the ruling class."

The ruling class is surely going to fight tooth and nail to preserve the present curriculum. We better be prepared for this intellectual battle.

(The writer is a liaison officer of the University of South Africa's psychology department.)

Dispute over more land for Alex heats up again

(187) (54) Star 24/8/98
 By Anna Cox

A long-running row over the fate of Frankenwald, a 270ha vacant piece of land on the Alexandra border which belongs to the University of the Witwatersrand, has hotted-up again.

It was originally destined for housing to alleviate the overcrowding in Alexandra but has instead been the subject of a bitter battle for the past two years.

The land was sold by Wits to the Eastern council last year, but residents in the neighbouring suburbs of Kelvin and Buccleuch took the matter to court saying the sale was illegal because of several technical irregularities.

The Johannesburg High Court upheld this, set aside the sale and ordered the R25-million plus interest paid by council to Wits, be returned.

Earlier this month Alexandra residents staged a march at Wits and handed vice-chancellor Professor Colin Bundy a memorandum urging the university to release Frankenwald for development.

Some Alexandra organisations want it developed for low cost housing while others believe the number of housing units would be limited and a trade and technology school offering skills and employment would be of more use.

A memorandum was also

handed to council urging it to find ways of acquiring the land for residential development.

Mike Beea, speaking for five associations - the Alex Land and Property Owners' Association, the Alex Civic Association, the Alex Unemployed Residents' Association, the Alex Returnees' Support Committee and the Kelvin and Buccleuch Residents' Association - said because of granite on the land and a 550 cubic-metre dump which would have to be removed, at least R230-million would have to be spent before infrastructure could be put in.

"Then to put up 4 500 units at R15 000 each would be a waste. That money could be spent on improving conditions in Alex. We want it used for quality education for blacks who were specifically excluded by virtue of the 'Bantu education' legacy," he said.

Alexandra ANC deputy secretary Mike Mogomane said there was a desperate need for additional land in Alex.

"The political philosophy of Wits recognises the imbalances in communities and the land should therefore be made available," he said.

Wits vice-chancellor Professor Colin Bundy said the university council had decided last week not to rush into anything with regard to the Frankenwald land, and that all options would be studied carefully before a decision was reached.

US universities to play role in training law graduates

ET 25/8/98

(54)

RONALD MORRIS
JUSTICE WRITER

A PARTNERSHIP has been forged among selected South African and American universities to provide practical legal training for South African law graduates — to the ultimate benefit of the public.

The partnership would focus initially on historically disadvantaged universities, Minister of Justice Dullah Omar said.

A number of five-year programmes will be initiated. The details have yet to be decided.

The proposals follow a week-long visit to South Africa by members of the American Bar Association led by Dean White. They were invited by Omar.

The delegation met the deans of law faculties and members of bar councils, the Black Lawyers' Association (BLA) and the National Association of Democratic Lawyers (Nadel).

Retired Judge Henry Ramsey jun said on Friday that Omar had voiced several

concerns about clinical legal education in South Africa. He was interested to learn whether the American Bar Association could share experiences that might help to improve legal education and the delivery of legal services in South Africa.

Omar was also interested in broadening legal education to include skills that would allow a broader section of the public to gain legal advice.

Legal clinics could be used as a vehicle for delivering services and enhancing training.

The advantages would be that historically disadvantaged and underserved communities could be offered supervised legal services, while law students would gain practical experience.

The deans of law faculties had also identified a need for legal practitioners to improve their writing skills and research.

There was consensus that, as many graduates found it difficult to reconcile their academic knowledge with the demands of practice, there was a need to combine practical training with theory and for an integrated approach to legal

education and admissions.

Practical courses would better equip graduates to cope with problems in the real world of practice, Ramsey said.

Omar had agreed that local teaching methods were outdated and had to be looked at afresh.

Also, the legal profession was faced with anomalies that contributed to inequalities. These had to be brought to an end.

Among these was the need for uniform practical training for all graduates who wanted to practise, particularly in the Public Defender's office and legal aid clinics.

It was also agreed that the protection of the public required the raising of standards.

The LLB course has already been shortened from five to four years. Talks are under way to introduce skills training. It has yet to be decided whether students will have to serve in legal clinics as a degree requirement or after they have completed their degrees.

Omar said the transformation of the

justice system extended to the nature of the courses and training offered at universities.

White said some advocates and lecturers believed that historical practices were sound and could lead to positive changes.

"We did not, however, not find anyone who quarrelled with the objective of transformation — the only differences were over the means, not the end."

Ever Daniels, chief state law adviser, said that under the Constitution people had the right to be represented by an attorney.

The legal aid system was expensive and creative ways would have to be found to reduce the costs.

One way would be to introduce community service for law graduates. This would serve three functions: It would help people to gain legal representation; provide law graduates with training; and give graduates easier access to work.

The idea of community service would be coupled with the transformation of the legal profession and legal system, Daniels said.

"We're trying to redress historical imbalances between white and black attorneys. We in government need to make sure that the high cost of training is not wasted by graduates not getting jobs. One way to do this is through community service and practical training."

The biggest stumbling blocks were the lack of money and the dearth of opportunities for graduates to do articles, Daniels said.



PARTNERS IN LAW: Members of the American Bar Association discuss their partnership with South Africa, intended to improve the training of South African law students. They are (from left): Nnamdi Ezera, Ziyad Motata, a law professor. Michael Wolf, Dean White and Henry Ramsey jun, a retired judge.

PICTURE: IZON KNIFE

Softly-softly approach

Will not work at varsities

By Marcus Ramogale

IN the hurry-burry of South African politics, it is easy not to notice a significant political development when it happens. An event of this nature occurred on August 12.

A crucial agreement was signed by a delegation of the Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo), led by the organisation's president, Moshubudi Mangena, and the management of the University of Venda, led by its vice-chancellor and principal Professor Gessler Nkondo.

In an article in *Sowetan* on August 14, Khathu Mammala reported on this important agreement. Amongst other things, the two parties agreed that the authority of Nkondo as vice-chancellor and principal must be recognised and that violence and destruction of property should be condemned.

They also agreed that the university's academic programmes must be allowed to proceed without disruption. The agreement represents the Azapo leadership's attempts to return campus life to normal after the random destruction of university property and weeks of class boycotts spearheaded by a student representative council dominated by the Azanian Students Convention (Azasco).

The university has lost valuable

teaching and learning time because of the class boycott.

The Azapo leadership's intervention is indeed a noteworthy development, especially because its constructive approach stands in marked contrast to the indulgent slogans and faded revolutionary language of Azasco, the organisation's student wing.

Azapo, an organisation whose political purpose is to promote "the black cause", had no alternative but to undercut the disruptive behaviour of Azasco.

Through its unruly conduct, Azasco is encouraging the so-called black-against-black confrontation, while also creating room for the white right to embark on its anti-transformation manoeuvres.

By distancing itself from Azasco's conduct, the Azapo leadership has effectively exposed the unwanted canker within its student formation.

Of course Azapo is not alone in its worship of disruption. Other student organisations, some of them connected to the African National Congress, also profess the same belief when it suits them.

In fact, just below the article referred to above, Mammala also reported on the threat by the Congress of South African Students to disrupt learning in Northern Province unless

(574) *Sowetan* 25/8/98

the provincial education department abandons a plan that requires grade 12 pupils to pass their forthcoming trial examinations before they can be allowed to write final examinations.

If it is not learners who disrupt black education, then it is teachers through their trade unions.

The culture of disruption and scholastic sloth in our black educational institutions is a sad reminder that black South Africa continues to fail in the business of self-help and self-advancement.

Shamefully unsuccessful

Although we have won the political kingdom, we are shamefully unsuccessful in our attempts to create the necessary support structures, be they educational, economic, cultural or otherwise.

As *Sowetan* Editor-in-Chief Aggrey Klaaste warned several years ago at the beginning of his Nation Building programme, political kingdoms cannot survive "on their own".

To be effective they need "all sorts of power structures to underpin them".

Within an educational context, the requisite power structure that post-apartheid South Africa needs is the acquisition of knowledge and skills by the black masses.

Anyone who thinks that toy-

toying, chanting slogans and chasing black learners out of the classrooms will sustain the new political kingdom is a damn fool whose thickness must be seen as treasonous.

Unless black education is stabilised, the much-needed African renaissance will remain a chimerical notion.

Education is undoubtedly crucial to our national and continental revival as it develops the human resources without which we cannot move forward.

The Government has no choice now but to act decisively against the runners of our resurgence as a people.

The softly-softly approach of the past has failed to instil reasonableness in the mischief-makers who thrive on the chaos that characterises our educational institutions.

The nation can no longer be held to ransom by these wifid wrongdoers. When nothing is done, as is the case at present, the nation fails, and thus it becomes a pushover for the global conquerors who are on the lookout for



Azapo president Moshubudi Mangena has intervened at the University of Venda after the random destruction of university property.

ineffectual and indecisive societies.

It has to be borne in mind that we live in a world that does not forgive failures. The ruthlessly competitive world of today requires each nation to be vigilant and ready to protect its own turf when necessary.

We should not allow ourselves to be judged by the future as a generation that failed to build a strong and prosperous nation when it had the government and the opportunity to do so.

Professor Sibusiso Bengu, are you listening?

(Professor Ramogale is head of the department of English at the University of Venda, Thehojovindou.)

UCT's undergraduate degrees to be revamped

Primarashni Pillay

THE University of Cape Town's undergraduate degrees are to undergo an overhaul from next year, allowing students to take interdisciplinary courses intended to equip them better for the work place, said Helen Zille, the university's head of communications.

Also, the university will introduce a Philosophy, Politics and Economics degree to be taken through the humanities or commerce faculties.

The degree will focus on special economic, political and ethical aspects of policy formulation for nations like SA, an emerging market caught in the midst of fundamental political change.

It will also prepare students for occupations in international trade diplomacy, trade policy analyses or as advisors to nongovernment agencies.

Zille said the university had put together new course combinations that would allow students to be thinkers, analysts of problems, be effectively numerate, computer literate and able to work across disciplinary boundaries. She said the new degree combinations were formulated with career possibilities in mind.

The new combinations are a departure from past programmes and those that were flexible, like the arts and social science degrees, will become less flexible as they will have a focus, but

students will still have subject choices.

Zille said degrees which were highly structured would become flexible.

Other degree programmes include Cultural and literary studies which focus on interdisciplinary work in literature, visual studies, film, media, historical studies and cultural studies.

Next year's second-year students may be able to slot into the new programmes if their courses fit in with the new degrees.

The university's deputy vice-chancellor Wieland Geyers, who also serves on the SA Qualifications Authority—a newly created body under which all SA qualifications have to be registered—was instrumental in drafting the new

programmes.

He said the new programmes met the authority's requirements that courses must represent a planned combination of learning outcomes with a defined purpose and be compatible with those offered at other institutions.

Geyers said the new degree structure would provide a fundamentally sound education so that—for example—pharmacists “do not go out in the world without an understanding of economics”.

Geyers said the new programme would “create standards that nobody has heard of before. We want to raise the standard of performance of whole groups.”

(64)

BD 26/8/98

Rivals in distance education reduce Unisa enrolment

Primarashni Pillay

26/8/98 (04)
A POOR matric pass rate as well as increased competition in the field of distance education had resulted in student numbers at the University of SA (Unisa) dropping to 117 046 from last year's 124 212, Unisa spokesman Doreen Gough said yesterday.

She said other reasons for the student decrease included a decline in the economy and moves by several residential universities to offer distance education. There were 2 000 and 5 000 fewer white and black students registered this year respectively.

Of the students, 56% (65 234) were female, many black, which Gough attributed to a "social phenomenon where over the past five years women have been trying to improve themselves by studies."

She said between 20 000 and 30 000 students were teachers upgrading their qualifications. Meanwhile, women make up just more than half of Unisa's staff, but all deans and the majority of heads of department are men.

The faculty of economic and management sciences had the most degree registrations at 45 000; this indicated the needs of students who required practical degrees to equip them to compete in the fields of economics and management, she said.

The arts faculty had 42 500 degree registrations, and the science faculty had just more than 6 000 students.

The university had cut down its deficit by placing a moratorium on staff appointments, with strict budget controls as well. Also, of its 1 994 courses, about 150 were being phased out.

Food raids as UWC acts on unpaid bills

Dining halls looted

(54)
ARG 28/8/98

MARTHA QUMBA
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The University of the Western Cape has cut off meals to students who have not paid their food bills.

This week angry and hungry students looted dining halls and helped themselves to food.

About 1 200 students are thought to be going hungry after their food accounts were closed 10 days ago.

The university's dining rooms are open for those who pay.

University spokesman Ikey van der Rhee said the university would not deviate from its fee policy.

"Student must pay their fees, be it for studies, accommodation or food."

SRC spokesman Wanga Sigila said student leaders would continue to negotiate with university management for humane treatment of hungry students.

At a meeting called this week by the Pan-Africanist Student Movement of Azania and the Student League it emerged that some students had not eaten for four days.

The looting took place after the meeting when students marched to residence dining halls demanding food.

A student said: "We took action because our leadership is not visible enough. We have been starving for four days and this should have been sorted out by now."

Welcome Nkadameng, deputy secretary of the South African Student Congress (Sasco) on the campus, said students had legitimate demands. But, he said, the manner in which they had made themselves heard was wrong.

Sasco has the majority on the student representative council.

"We are against any form of action that is destructive. We do not support it and we will not be part of it," he said.

But Sasco did not agree with the university's "unilateral decision" to stop access to food, he said.

Nelvis Qekema, president of the Azanian Student Convention, said he was sceptical about whether looting dining rooms would resolve the crisis.

He condemned the university decision saying it was "irresponsible".

QUIET TIME:
Students at the University of Venda, where little learning has taken place over the past six months

GIDEON Tshivhase's unemployed parents have sold some of their cattle each year to finance his university studies so that when he graduates with a BCom this year he will be able to pay for his younger brothers' studies.

But the 23-year-old Tshivhase from Thohoyandou in Northern Province is a student at the University of Venda, where hardly any learning has taken place for six months.

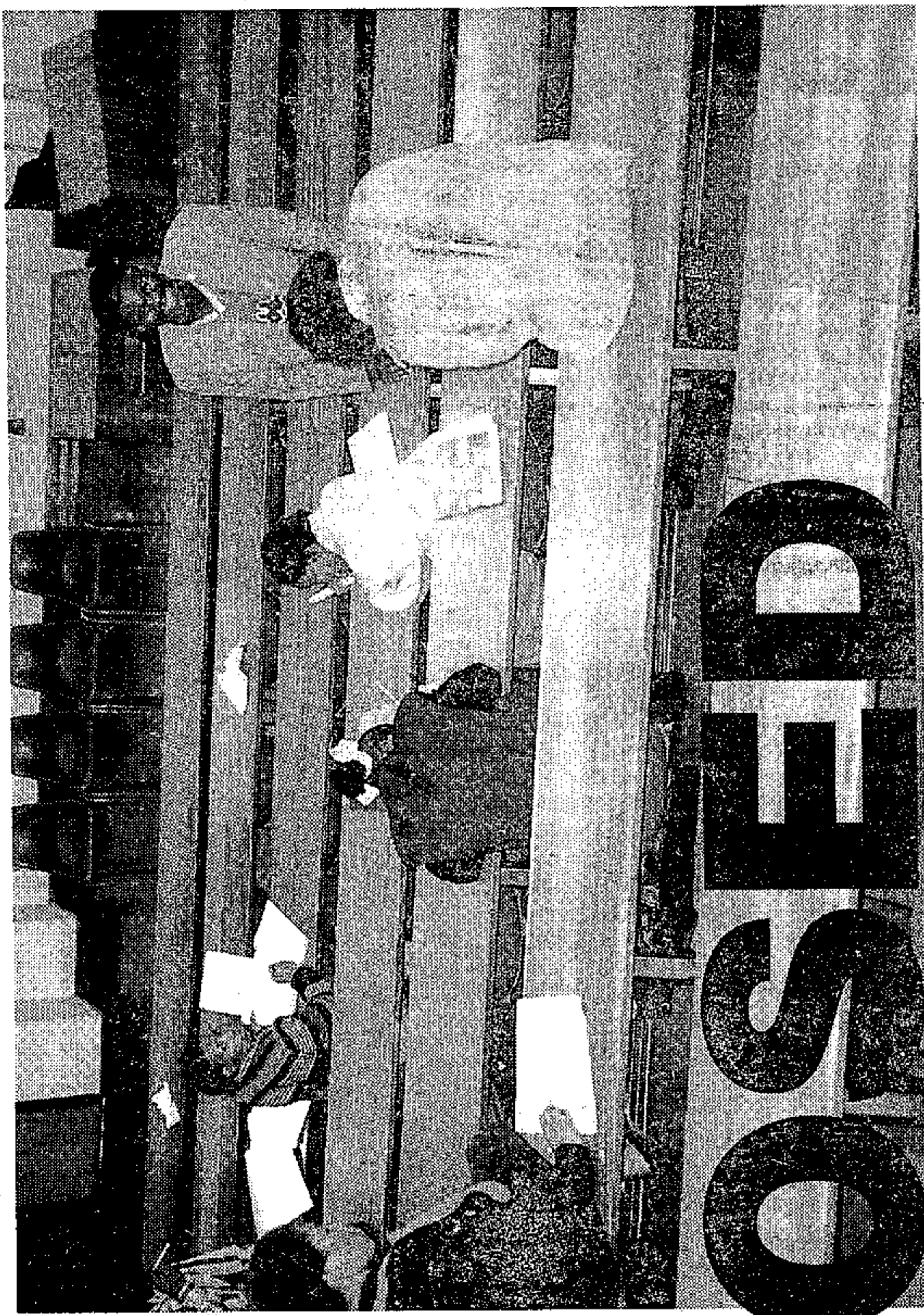
The campus has been in an uproar since March, when management suspended the Azanian Student's Convention and the SRC.

"I cannot afford to fail. If I do, this chance may never come again. This gives me sleepless nights because I've worked hard to be where I am today," said Tshivhase. "I have only one wish — that God could bring the management and the SRC together before it is too late."

Students say they have attended hardly any lectures over the past few months. With end-of-year exams only weeks away, the problem seems likely to persist as students continue to stay away from lectures in protest against the banning of the SRC and Azasco.

On Thursday SRC members walked out of a disciplinary

The doors of learning are CLOSED



committee hearing which many believed would see a return to normality. Mashudu Mutau, president of the suspended SRC, said the

decision was taken after management insisted the hearing continue despite the fact that they had indicated that their Pretoria-based

lawyer had failed to arrive. Lecturers, who have little to do, refused to comment. A first-year student said the last

time she attended a lecture was at the beginning of May. Her parents sent her pocket money, and all she did was wait to see if there would

Vera said the university expected a high failure rate this year. "If students fall on a large scale it means that our intake for next year will be minimal. We will have to turn people away, because of the mistakes of the others." Vera refused to comment on reports that the Health special investigating unit would probe alleged irregularities at the university. "They have not approached us officially yet so there is nothing I can say about it."

Others said they were angry with the principal after management decided to do away with a fresher-ball event. Vera said the students had demanded that each of them be given 30 cans of beer for the occasion at the institution's expense. Mutau denied the accusation.

"They were part of a meeting in which we agreed that fees should be increased, but they told students that they had rejected the ideas." Vera said management was surprised when the SRC told the students to boycott the fee increase.

The SRC apparently called for the institution to be rendered ungovernable and urged students to boycott lectures after its members were suspended. Mutau denied the boycott call had anything to do with the case of student leader Boikie Tsedu, whose application to the law department was refused after he had passed only four courses in four years. The institution applied for an interdict against Tsedu earlier this year after claims that he was fuelling unrest there, despite not being registered as a student.

Vera said the trouble started last year when management decided to increase tuition fees. The offices of the SRC, Azasco and the dean of students were burnt down. Deputy vice-chancellor and vice-principal Dr Ngoro Vera said students' records were lost when computers in the dean's office were destroyed by the fire in June. He said the behaviour of students left management no option but to suspend the student body.

The problem deteriorated to the extent that, in February, students held management hostage and blockaded routes to the university and vandalised property. Police rescued the hostages.

Mutau said the problems started when the institution raised tuition fees by 13 percent at the beginning of the year. Students protested against the rise and also called for the expulsion of the principal, Dr Gessler Nkondo, saying he was incapable of heading the institution.

be a solution. "I am far behind with my studies. I want us to return to classes soon. In fact, I will never set foot here next year," she said.

Universities 'for learning, not struggle'

— Mbeki

(64)

DEPUTY President Thabo Mbeki on Saturday expressed grave concern at the instability at some historically black universities and urged students to be mindful that universities were sites of learning and not of struggle.

He was speaking at a ceremony to mark the installation of Gauteng premier Mathole Motshekga and Dr Hugh Africa as chancellor and vice-chancellor respectively of Vista University's Soweto campus.

Mbeki also praised the university students who had volunteered their services to recount votes cast in Lesotho's recent election.

"I thank them for disproving the thesis that our students at institutions of higher learning are incapable of responding to the call to national duty, being devoted only to everything that serves their selfish interests," he said.

The 200 student volunteers from the University of the Free State and the QwaQwa campus of the University of the North on Saturday morning began recounting the 600 000 votes cast.

"They understood that ... they have an obligation to help where they can," Mbeki said.

Speaking out against those who propagated a vision of Africa steeped in failure, Mbeki said such people would denigrate these examples of an African commitment to the achievement of the greater good.

Education Minister Prof Sibusiso Bengu described Motshekga's appointment as Vista University chancellor as "a bold step forward" in the transformation of the university's leadership.

"We call it the changing of the guard, this replacement of the governance corps, and it is but the beginning ... in the ... task of truly transforming our institutions," he said.

Sapa
E02118798

Black staffers at Wits confident grievances will be dealt with

By Edwin Naidu

Despite low morale, black staff at the University of Witwatersrand are hopeful that vice-chancellor Professor Colin Bundy will deal with their grievances and take steps to ensure they are given opportunities denied to them in the past.

Thembi Nkacha, chairperson of the Wits Black Staff Forum, said blacks at Wits felt as if they were part of a voiceless minority group.

"We do not sit on committees that employ or deal with finance and take decisions. There may be a vague representation of blacks on committees to give it legitimacy," he said.

However, Nkacha, who represents about 2 000 academic and non academic staff, said while black staff were frustrated at being treated like outsiders, they had some hope that Bundy would listen to them and deal with the problems.

"We are committed to Wits

but do not feel as if we belong here. There are people who still behave as if the university is their personal empire but we are not going to give up.

"We are all committed, but don't feel as if we belong here"

"We are determined to work on the problems and wish to explore ways with Bundy to set up a process to put things right," he said.

Nkacha said racism was still alive on campus.

"When academics sit together it is in black or white clusters. Blacks do not go to

white dominated functions and vice versa. It seems as if people want to take comfort and security among their own," he said.

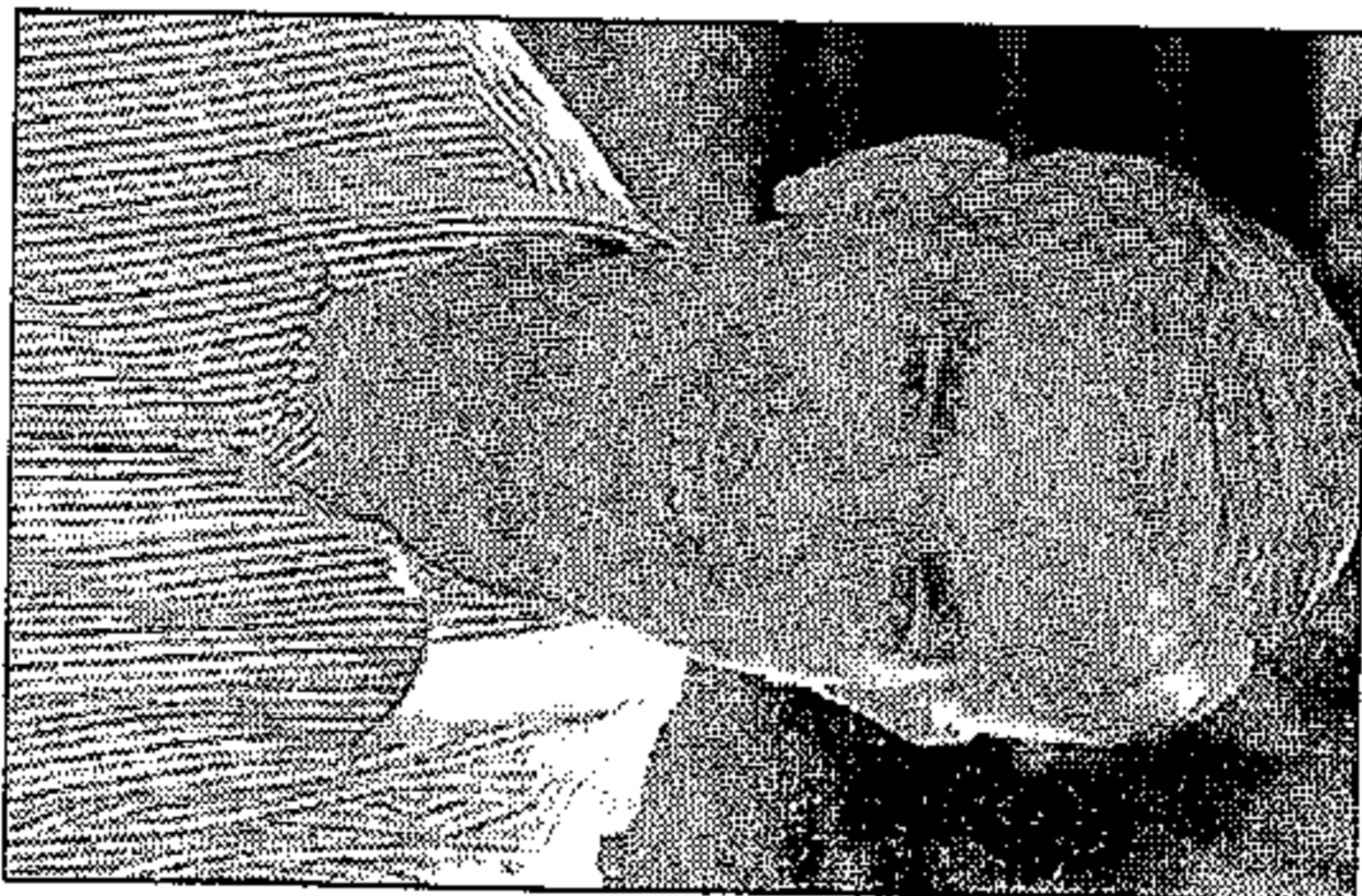
"But black staff have hope that Bundy will take the initiative in resolving the problems,"

He said Bundy should call for submissions from all groups on campus on how to deal with race and set up more representative committees to deal with grievances such as the lack of opportunities for blacks employees.

"Bundy should speak to blacks who feel alienated and marginalised. We are also important and belong here," he said.

As early as 1994, a Wits report which investigated a proposed R21-million pilot project to train black academics, found that morale at the institution was low and race relations poor.

The report, commissioned by the Africa Education Trust and carried out by consultant Yvonne Dladla, found that Wits, like other institutions, was ex-



Vice chancellor ... Colin Bundy

periencing strong pressure to change and that staff wanted the university to be more responsive to the needs of blacks.

Those taking part in the study said the university had the resources, infrastructure and highly skilled administrators and academics to imple-

(54) Star 1/9/98

ment the ten year project which would have made Wits a leader in the staff development stakes.

In the short-term, the study said Wits should have increased the number of black academics on staff, which then stood at 84 out of 1195 (7%).

However, 60% of the academics polled indicated at the time that Wits has had a "poor track record" and commitment in appointing, promoting and retaining black academics.

About 30% expressed some scepticism to the proposed pilot project.

The study said the project would boost and increase the morale of black academics, who were reported to be feeling marginalised and alienated within the institution.

Bundy said the report's recommendations had not been shelved and that the project, which was to have been driven by former deputy vice-chancellor Professor William Makgoba had found raising the required funds a stumbling block.

He denied reports that there was widespread exodus of black staff from the university, adding that between 1994 and 1998 the academic staff shrank from 1 589 to 1 469 but the numbers of black staff rose from 190 to 220. He said only 66 staff members left in the past year, of whom 12 were black.

Many programmes were underway to attract black staff for training and development.

Bundy said further efforts were underway to find responsible and effective ways to recruit and bring about diversity among its academic staff profile.

"The university is most sincere about transformation. There is no anti-black sentiment at Wits.

"Changes at Wits started years back when former vice-chancellor Professor Charlton sanctioned the founding of the university's transformation which has a very powerful voice at the institution," he said.

Star 3/9/98 (54)

University of Venda expels SRC president, suspends four

The University of Venda has expelled the president of its students' representative council and suspended four other SRC members following a disciplinary hearing.

Rufus Kharidzha, the university's communications director, yesterday said SRC

president Mashudu Mudau was found guilty of disrupting a meeting between students and management in February.

Students have been boycotting classes for nearly six months demanding that charges against Mudau and the SRC be dropped.

Mudau was expelled with immediate effect and would not be allowed on the university's premises for two years.

Four of Mudau's fellow SRC members were suspended for 18 months for helping him to disrupt the meeting. - Staff Reporter

Black vote gives Freedom Front shock victory

Evidence wa ka Ngobeni

The spirit of the rainbow nation came to haunt black student organisations at Pretoria Technikon this week when the Freedom Front won the Student Representative Council (SRC) elections.

A number of the FF's 756 winning votes were cast by black students. The party has only been organising on the campus for two months.

Black students said their strange choice — of a party which is campaigning nationally for a homeland in which blacks are not welcome — was made because they are disillusioned with their traditional organisations.

Engineering student Thomas Maluleka said: "If you vote for black organisations, they won't help you when you have a problem." He said

black student organisations campaigned for what he called the "gravy train". "They want technikon cars, cellphones, parties and trips around the country."

Information technology student Martha Ledwaba said: "I voted for the FF because other political parties on campus have lost their meaning and are not delivering to the students."

The FF entered the elections convinced that it would not win. FF students plastered the institution with campaign posters promising to fight against affirmative action in sport, burseries and staff appointments; and for Afrikaners as a medium of instruction.

The elections were also contested by the Pan African Student Movement of Azania (Pasma), the South African Students' Congress (Sasco), the Azanian Students' Convention (Azasco),

MTG 4-10/9/98 (54)

the National Party-aligned Rats and the United Democratic Movement.

Human resource management student Johnny Masinga said black students did not vote for black organisations because they only emerge during elections and are silent during the year. Masinga added: "The FF won because black organisations here are divided, and some black students end up voting for what they view as a progressive party."

The FF scooped 199 more votes than the next-highest party, last year's winner Sasco, who came in at 557. Azasco was third (211 votes), followed by Pasma (149), the UDM (140) and Rats (30).

The FF now has three seats on the SRC executive committee. Sasco has two, and the other parties have one each — except for Rats,

whose low tally did not win it a seat.

A former SRC member, who did not want to be named, said he was sure the new SRC would ignore gains made around affirmative action and compulsory community service for students, which it supported.

A Sasco member saw the election decided on bread-and-butter issues: "The Sasco-led SRC was divided and failed to resolve what many black students were really opposed to — a R1 fee for student transport. The buses were free before and are largely used by black students." Other students said the former SRC had done little to influence management decisions. All it did was fight against academic exclusions and for a larger SRC budget.

Black students, said Pretoria Technikon Sasco president Phatudi Malepe, did not understand the en-

vironment in which Sasco operated. "Let us be clear about this," he said. "We were voted out because the management froze our budget to make sure that during our leadership we did not deliver most of the things we promised last year."

This week the FF was organising a party to celebrate its victory and promised to invite black students as well. Party arrangements included buying large quantities of meat — just like party arrangements made by their fellow black students.

FF Pretoria Technikon leader Ralph Seymore said black students voted for his party because they wanted to ensure that every student's needs were recognised.

"Our party is for all and we want to take out the stigma of apartheid. Both black and white students at this technikon need a party they can trust. We are here for all students and we will help anyone, no matter if he or she is black or white," said Seymore.

Ntsebeza supports Unitra 'despot'

(54)

M+G 4-10/9/98

Mail & Guardian reporter

Minister of Education Sibusiso Bengu will not implement a request by the University of Transkei's (Unitra) council that he suspend its vice-chancellor, Professor Alfred Moleah. However, Bengu has promised that Professor Louis Skweyiya, whom he appointed to probe allegations of mismanagement on the campus, will complete his report within a month and it will be made public.

Unitra's council recommended to Bengu that he suspend Moleah on the grounds that he would interfere with material evidence and witnesses expected to assist with Skweyiya's probe. The council's chair, Truth and Reconciliation Commission chief investigator Dumisa Ntsebeza, voted against the resolution. Ntsebeza did not respond to several requests for comment from the *Mail & Guardian*, but was quoted in the *Daily Dispatch* newspaper as saying he believed the council's decision was "erroneous" and "based on emotions".

The *M&G* reported in July that Ntsebeza wrote to Moleah, addressing him as "Bro Alf" and assuring him of his backing in the face of the probe. Ntsebeza received more than R500 000 from Unitra for providing rooms in his guest house for foreign doctors working at its medical school.

Bheki Khumalo, Bengu's representative, said the minister did not currently have the power to suspend Moleah because he wasn't his employer. He said Skweyiya's appointment was made in terms of the Higher Education Act of 1997. Bengu had opted to appoint assessors to probe problems at tertiary institutions after "learning lessons" as a result of the more lengthy and expensive commissions of inquiry used in the past.

The commission of inquiry into the University of Durban-Westville took several months to complete, at a cost to the taxpayer of R3,4-million.

Skweyiya would make recommendations on Unitra to Bengu. "The minister will have to implement the decision of the assessor. But the council has its own authority if it wants to take action before the assessment," Khumalo said.

Unitra staff representative Toto Magwentshu welcomed the council's decision and said: "Our stand against the objectionable and downright despotic conduct of Professor Moleah has once more been vindicated. We find it unsavoury for Ntsebeza to distance himself from a democratic decision of council. This unethical conduct on his part comes as no surprise.

"As long as he continues to derive huge financial benefits from the coffers of the university, in circumstances that amount to a conflict of his personal interests with those of the university, Ntsebeza can never be expected to act impartially in any matter that involves the vice-chancellor. Ntsebeza's latest outbursts are calculated to undermine the integrity of council and constitute all the more reason why he should step down as its chair."

Moleah could not be reached for comment.

Free State varsity approves new sign language course

(54) ~~54~~

Star 4/9/98

Bloemfontein – A three-year undergraduate course in sign language, which will be recognised as a full language course, has been approved by the faculty of humanities at the University of the Free State.

This was announced by Dr Theo du Plessis, director

diversity of language.

The new unit will strive towards a functionally multilingual dispensation in South Africa that will empower linguistically disadvantaged citizens as a contribution towards the establishment of democracy.

The UFS unit is the biggest in the country. It runs simultaneous interpreting services for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), the Cape Metropolitan Chamber and the Free State Legislature.

It is the biggest training centre for interpreters in South Africa and is funded by the Flemish government.

In conjunction with the universities of Witwatersrand, Potchefstroom and Port Elizabeth and the Department of Justice, 1 500 court interpreters will now have access to formal training as a result of the new programme being planned.

Kobus Kellerman, chairman of Deaf SA, said the University of the Free State

was very motivated in its decision to promote the use and knowledge of sign language, but there were also other universities interested in this area.

He warned against sign language being given "novelty status". There was a need to prevent sign lan-

'Language can aid democracy'

of the unit for language facilitation and empowerment, at the launch of the unit in Bloemfontein on Wednesday night.

Du Plessis also said that from 1999, the programme of his unit will be organised so that sign language becomes an integral part of training.

He said that languages were important for democracy and democracy could be built by recognising the

Also runs interpreter services

guage structures becoming fragmented.

Kellerman said there were few resources in the field and too few qualified sign language interpreters.

He appealed to interested universities to set up an inter-university committee to ensure that sign language and interpreting services were developed and co-ordinated to achieve a common goal. – Sapa

Nkondo's contract at Univen extended

By Khathu Mamaila

DESPITE calls for the resignation of Professor Gesler Nkondo by a section of students, the council of the University of Venda (Univen) has extended his contract as vice-chancellor and principal of the university for another term.

Council chairman Dr Barney Pityana confirmed that Nkondo's contract had been extended.

A senior official at Univen told *Sowetan* at the weekend that "while Nkondo, like any other person, has made mistakes, his vision and strong leadership has been demonstrated throughout his period as head of Univen".

The official, who preferred not to be named, said Nkondo had been able to transform Univen into a truly African university.

Among Nkondo's achievements is the launching of the Friends of the University of Venda project. The project is aimed at fund raising for needy students.

When the project was launched early this year, Nkondo donated R5 000 from his own pocket.

Nkondo was unavailable for comment yesterday. However, his tenure at Univen has been dogged by controversy. He is presently a subject of an investigation by the Heath Commission over allegations of improper hiring, while students under the leadership of the Azanian Students' Convention (Azasco) have called for his resignation. The students allege that he is corrupt.

The students have embarked on sporadic boycotts of lectures that led to the suspension of the student representative council and Azasco.

Univen spokesman Mr Rufus Kharidzha said at the weekend that the suspension of the 10-member SRC had been lifted after the expulsion of its president Mr Mashudu Mudau and the suspension for 18 months of four other members.

The ban on Azasco, however, remains in force.

(54)
Sowetan 7/9/98

Minister issues subsidy threat to beleaguered Vaal Triangle Technikon

By EDWIN NAIDU

Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu has ordered the Vaal Triangle Technikon to get its house in order by implementing the recommendations of an independent assessor or face the prospect of having its government subsidy - estimated at around R97-million - withheld.

Bengu made the threat in a letter to the technikon and asked the institution to respond by Monday and give him a progress report in two weeks.

His letter follows the release of a report by Professor Jaap Durand on August 28, which recommended that the technikon resolve the long delay in the disciplinary process against suspended vice-chancellor Professor Aubrey Mokadi.

Mokadi has been suspended since October and the campus has been divided over how to

implement transformation.

"The one bold move by the council to appoint as rector a charismatic and dynamic black person, but who was then still very young with little managerial experience and totally inexperienced in the management of a tertiary institution,

Progress report demanded in two weeks

now seems to have ended in disaster," Durand said.

The technikon council would be dissolved and replaced by a new one, which would decide on Mokadi's future, irrespective of the outcome of the disciplinary hearing. This would normalise the situation on campus, he added.

Durand said the new council should appoint a chief executive officer until Mokadi's position is finalised.

The report said all appointments to senior posts which could lead to further controversy should be stopped and that the early retirement scheme on offer should be suspended.

This was a result of "gross errors of judgment and downright blunders" relating to some controversial appointments.

Durand recommended that vacancies caused by early retirements be filled on a permanent basis, preferably by affirmative action candidates, and that no contracts be entered into with those who have retired.

He also warned the council to refrain from any direct involvement in the management of the technikon and to stick to

its duties as the governing body of the technikon.

Durand's report cautioned that failure by the technikon to heed the recommendations would lead to public funds to the institutions being withheld.

In terms of section 42 of the

Council warned to stick to its duties (54)

Higher Education Act, Bengu has the power to withhold money to an institution if the council fails to comply with the "reasonable conditions imposed".

Vaal Triangle acting-vice-chancellor Professor Piet Swanepeel could not be reached for comment.

Star 11/9/98

Varsity chief in row over severance deal

(54) Star 11/9/98

Turfloop's ex vice-chancellor threatens taking case to high court after contract is questioned

BY EDWIN MAIDU

Former University of the North (Turfloop) vice-chancellor Professor Njabulo Ndebele, who left the university in July, is threatening to take the institution to court if it reneges on a deal to pay him his salary and benefits for nine months after the end of his contract.

The university council is investigating the contract relating to Ndebele's severance package, estimated at almost R600 000, drawn up by executive director of human resources Peter Franks in May in consultation with Ndebele.

The deal was sanctioned by former council chairperson Reverend Ndanganeni Phaswana, allegedly without the approval of all council members.

As a result, a legal battle is brewing between Ndebele and the institution he served for five stormy years.

Ndebele has threatened to go to court to ensure the contract is honoured while the university council is investigating the content of the agreement.

In terms of the deal, Ndebele would enjoy benefits available to all members of the academic staff, covering the payments of fees for children and vacations until March next year.

According to the contract, Ndebele refused a "golden handshake" but agreed to the offer of six months sabbatical leave.

In addition he would receive his accumulated leave, the university would pay the fees for his daughter at the University of Cape Town in 1999 and pension, medical aid, adjustment of packages, payment of bonus, increases and provision of housing

subsidy be dealt with according to the various applicable rules.

When Ndebele's contract was not renewed, the university council decided to conduct a probe into the package. The institution also suspended Franks on full pay last month until the matter is fully investigated.

Phaswana was also suspended and replaced by Benny Boshielo in an acting capacity.

Boshielo is ill and could not be reached for comment.

The law firm representing Ndebele said in terms of the settlement their client was to have been paid a "salary" for July and August.

"Our client has requested us to register his deep disappointment and grave concern at the turn of events. By referring, repeatedly, to an investigation regarding the settlement it is clear that this is in reference to some sort of impropriety on his part in negotiating his final severance package with the university," the firm said

in a letter to the university.

Ndebele has threatened to take action, including bringing a case to the high court, should the university not honour the terms of the contract.

Ndebele is about to leave for the United States and so could not be reached.

Phaswana said he had agreed that statements would be released through Boshielo and he was unable to comment.

Students representative council deputy chairperson Chris Lekalakala said the council had not revealed the details of the probe against Ndebele's package as yet. The SRC would comment once it had information on the matter.



Professor Ndebele

Seeking reasons for the turmoil

A commission of inquiry has been appointed to investigate allegations of corruption, unfair labour practice and reasons for turmoil at the University of the North (Turfloop).

Benny Boshielo, acting chairperson of the university council, has appointed Phineas M Mojapelo of Nel-spruit to probe spending in the finance, human resources, public affairs, information technology, student development and physical planning departments.

The students representative council, protection services and a campus pharmacy will also be scrutinised.

To give the commission legal muscle, Judge Willem Heath and his investigative unit have been asked to

work with Mojapelo.

The Mojapelo Commission will also investigate irregularities regarding management styles on campus - in particular checking the existence of clear guidelines, rules and policies on recruitment and suitability and promotion of staff.

It will also be asked to determine whether the university management styles complied with the constitution, Labour Relations Act, Employment Equity Bill and other laws of the country.

The commission is expected to start investigations next week and complete its work in 30 days. Mojapelo will be paid R3 000 a day as well as accommodation and travel.

Bengu issues an ultimatum

Primarashni Pillay

(54)

EDUCATION Minister Sibusiso Bengu had warned Vaal Triangle Technikon's council that its subsidy could be suspended if it failed to implement recommendations by independent assessor Prof Jaap Durand, technikon sources said yesterday.

Durand was appointed by Bengu more than a month ago to investigate problems on the campus.

Sources said his recommendations, which appear in a government gazette to be released today, include that the council appoint a chief executive officer to administer the campus until issues are resolved and that investigations around suspended vice-chancellor Aubrey Mokadi be concluded speedily.

Mokadi was suspended by the council last November on allegations of procedural irregularities in salary increases. Other allegations included staff favouritism and buying a second car through a car scheme without the necessary authorisation.

PD 11/9/98
The council appointed investigators to look into the case. However, council members were accused of internal fighting. Their apparent lack of unity was seen as a delaying factor in investigation. Last month they were summoned to a meeting with Bengu at which no solution was reached.

In July, service workers on the campus defied a court interdict to hold a protest demanding the reinstatement of Mokadi and the disbandment of the council. The workers were arrested.

Durand also called for the staff retirement scheme to stop. Students claim that staff who took early retirement received huge payouts. He also called for the technikon to bring its statutes in line with the Higher Education Act. This amounts to the council setting in motion a process which will culminate in its dissolution.

Sources said Bengu recently sent a letter to the council warning it to implement the recommendations or have its subsidy suspended. The technikon is believed to receive about R97m.

Graduate taxes considered to fund student aid

Primarashni Pillay

SA's national student financial aid scheme should take the form of a loan and bursary scheme that is extended to college students as well as those at universities and technikon, a report to government recommends.

The report, which will serve as a basis for government policy on funding higher education students, also suggested the scheme should be based on the current scheme administered by the Tertiary Education Fund of SA (Tefsa). It was compiled from research con-

ducted by, among others, Prof Charles Simpkins of Wits University and Punday Pillay of the education department's coordination and implementation unit.

The report suggests that should the loan scheme be unaffordable and unsustainable in the long term, graduate taxes, or employer taxes on companies that use educated manpower, be considered as a means of generating revenue to offset higher education costs.

The graduate tax would entail recipients of free or highly subsidised higher education being subjected to a higher than average tax after graduation.

The chief justification for a graduate tax is that it would generate more revenue than loan programmes. "Since payment of a graduate tax is linked to future earnings and not educational costs, tax payments can in theory be extracted long after a loan would have been paid off."

A drawback was that it may not be administratively feasible to track down graduates if revenue collection mechanisms were weak.

The option of payroll taxes between employers, employees and consumers could involve lower administrative and default costs than loan schemes. How-

ever, the identification and tracking down of graduate employees required a fairly efficient revenue service.

SA does not have an effective student financial aid scheme. Tefsa, which administers government funds and overseas sponsorships, caters for technikon and university students and its loan recovery mechanisms have been criticised.

However, the scheme should be applicable to all needy students in full-time, part-time, contact and distance education at all higher education institutions.

Student need should be determined in accordance with a nationally accepted

means test and repayment mechanisms should, as is currently the case, be instituted through the employer.

In the longer term, consideration should be given to channelling payment through the receiver of revenue and interest rates should be maintained above the inflation rate. Consideration should be given to the provision of tax incentives to encourage private sector contributions to the loan scheme.

Should Tefsa administer the scheme, it should be converted into a statutory agency that is administratively independent, the report recommends.

(54) RD 1/19/198

aid

Friday, September

PATEL NEW DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR

Facing the challenge at Wits

OCT 15/9/98 (54)

FORMER CAPE FLATS activist Leila Patel takes up her new post as deputy vice-chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand on October 1. She spoke to **JUDITH SOAL** about her interesting times.

IT'S a long way from the small general dealer at Knysna where Leila Patel grew up to the towers of academia at the University of the Witwatersrand where she has been appointed deputy vice-chancellor.

Patel's done time as an activist, a journalist, a social worker, an academic and most recently as director-general of the Department of Welfare. "These are all parts of what I am. I can't imagine saying one part is more important than another."

It's perhaps appropriate that Patel and Wits should come together again at this time in their histories. The institution is still fielding the fall-out after a nasty battle among senior staff which caused Malegapuru William Makgoba, the South African scientist head-hunted from the Royal Post-

graduate Medical School in London, to resign as deputy vice-chancellor (the position Patel is to take up). Patel recently resigned as welfare director-general after disagreements with Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi.

"It's been an interesting time," was all she would say on the subject. "A difficult time as well".

Patel says "going to Wits as a deputy VC is a big challenge".

She will be in charge of transformation, the subject of many of Makgoba's criticisms of Wits.

"These are demanding times for any university," she said. "On the one hand there is the increased public demand for access to higher learning and on the other there is a cut in resources to institutions of higher learning. Then there is also



MOVING ON: Leila Patel

the challenge of supporting under-prepared students.

"Yet this is also a time when there are great opportunities to go forward, and there has been a lot of change at Wits already. Almost 50% of the students are black. And there is a new vice-chancellor, Colin Bundy, who comes widely acknowledged after his work at UWC."

Patel says she will spend her first three months getting to know

the university again. "I haven't been there since 1990."

Her job may keep her in Johannesburg, but Patel is a Capey at heart. She cut her activist teeth in the squatter camps around Crossroads and on the Cape Flats in the 1970s. "There is a child care facility in Bishop Lavis that I helped organise that is still running today," she says proudly.

She returns to her home town of Knysna every year, with her husband, Safety and Security secretary Azhar Cachalia, and their two daughters, aged eight and 12.

"I love Knysna, it is such a beautiful place. It was a privilege to grow up in that environment, but it was also a very divided town.

"I'm the daughter of an Indian trader and we had a shop in town where we used to live, but we had to give all of that up to Group Areas.

"We weren't even allowed to try on clothing in that town. That whole experience was very painful and it is still part of who I am."

Sasco urges Bengu to appoint education monitor

Primarashni Pillay

(54)

ED 15/9/98

THE SA Students' Congress (Sasco) has called on Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu to appoint a monitoring team that will keep track of whether higher education institutions are implementing the Higher Education Act.

The act calls for, among other things, the changing of the statutes of higher education institutions so they are aligned with the act, as well as the revamping of institutions' governing structures.

Sasco secretary-general Tshilidzi Ratshitanga said yesterday that while most institutions were trying to implement the act, some were trying to "run away and most wanted to maintain their status quo".

Whenever Bengu intervened at institu-

tions hit by student protests, a number of deep-rooted problems were found to have surfaced, he said.

Ratshitanga said that should Bengu set up a monitoring structure, this structure would keep a check on the implications of the act and find out also what problems existed at these institutions.

Referring to Bengu's appointment of independent assessor Jaap Durand to investigate problems at Vaal Triangle Technikon, Sasco called on Bengu to "exercise his authority" and implement Durand's recommendations.

Durand recommended in a report to Bengu that investigations into suspended rector Aubrey Mokadi be concluded speedily and that the technikon appoint an external chief executive officer to run the campus.

Should the technikon council fail to implement the recommendations, then Bengu had the power to withhold subsidy payments to the technikon.

The council is contemplating court action against Bengu because of his warnings that he could withhold the technikon's subsidies.

Sasco has said it will put pressure on the technikon to implement the Durand recommendations.

Meanwhile, Sasco called on the management of the University of SA (Unisa) to stop the selection process for a new rector and to start afresh as one of the candidates — professor Antony Melck — has been involved in the drafting of the selection procedure and the criteria.

The position of rector became vacant at the

end of last year when Marinus Wiechers retired. Five candidates, including Melck, who is acting principal, were shortlisted.

However, Sasco said it was seeking legal advice as the organisation believed Melck did not qualify to stand as a candidate. Sasco says he has been advantaged because of his role in the drafting of the selection procedures.

Sasco president Jacob Mamabolo said: "We are calling on the authorities to stop the process or there will be confrontation between students and authorities."

Unisa spokesman Doreen Gough said Melck was involved only in the early stages of the drafting of selection procedures. "All stakeholders are perfectly happy with the procedure, which was seen to be fair by legal counsel," she said.

Weaving the threads of an integrated life

(54)

CT 16/9/99

The Wednesday Interview

WHATEVER YOUR view of her, there's no denying that the University of Cape Town's vice-chancellor is a controversial public figure. And it's probably because Mamphele Ramphela does not play to the gallery at all. Senior Writer VAZEED FAKIER reports.

WE come to the end of an interview that lasted two hours (actually scheduled for one). I leave with the feeling that I have just met a woman supremely at home in a world peopled by human beings of many cultures and beliefs, with traits as earthily different as she recognises them to be universally similar.

That keen appreciation is reflected in the easy manner in which African art pieces dreamily integrate with their European friends in the lobby, the lounge, the dining room.

The interior of Glenara, the official Rondebosch residence of the University of Cape Town (UCT) vice-chancellor, Dr Mamphele Ramphela, is tastefully decorated, stylish yet understated.

An exquisite balance of soft, neutral colours lends additional power to the muscled African sculptures, the latent force of the intricate pencil drawings and etchings, the emotional pain evident in the paintings.

Tellingly, Irma Stern's strong, broad, indulgent brush-strokes are also represented.

There's no sense of African exclusivity here. Not just some, but ALL South Africans are welcome ...

A pity, then, that our photographer's pre-occupation with matters mechanical robbed him of the opportunity to explore with his camera the revealing body of Glenara.

My hostess is gracious, charming and remarkably candid for a woman with such a prominent and public profile.

We've got to ... develop a culture that enables us to transcend the categories we like to put people in.

What values have remained from your childhood, that you absorbed from your parents and others around you?

It's the importance of human beings regardless of their station in life. I grew up in a home — we were not what you would call rich — where we were always taking in people who were less privileged than us.

We always had children from the farms and from other distant places who came to live with us because they needed to go to school. My father believed that education was the way to the future.

So the centrality of human beings as part of the definition of who one is, that's very important and that's always been there.

For the gardeners are as important as professors in some ways. I have my own home in Newlands and the only way

use it as a truly UCT house, which means that the UCT community must have access to this place — dinner, cocktail parties must be open to everybody.

A few months ago we had a get-together here for a trade union movement and the gardener said: "You know, we've only gone as far as the door here, we've never been inside this house. Now we come in as guests." And it wasn't a gimmick, it was simply an extension of my understanding of my world.

My father and mother were probably the most educated in that area and yet people used to come who couldn't read, who couldn't write and were treated with the same dignity as all those school inspectors and others who visited.

I was particularly struck by your comments in a recent interview. You said it's essential at times of transformation to deal with institutional cultural issues and that these included core values such as integrity, truth and respect for one another. Will this core value culture be the new frontier that will determine the success or otherwise of South Africa as a new nation? How important are these values?

I represent a way of thinking which makes people uncomfortable because it's a determination to hang on to values which fly in the face of what is popular, what is most comfortable and yet that enables me to relate to people across the spectrum.

I don't belong to a political party and I am able to be very close to people in the ANC, the DP, the PAC, IFP or those who are non-aligned.

For me the human being transcends the political box in which they are and I'm not saying political parties are not important, but we've got to be able to develop a culture that enables us to transcend those categories we like to put people in.

I should be able to hear you as a male person even though I'm a woman, as a white person even though I'm black, as an IFP person even though I may be ANC or non-aligned. Once you categorise people in a way that demonises them, you are unable to hear them in a way that takes a conversation forward.

And I think that comes from a lack of self-confidence, if I may say so.

I cut my political teeth in the Black Consciousness Movement and to engage at that time for us as black people, to be able to mount a successful

you're not going to keep us in bondage, I'm not going to compromise my dignity in order to survive physically."

What specifically allowed you to do that?

At the core of the BC movement is a way of self-understanding that says the world in which we found ourselves in the 60s, and unfortunately is still the world today, is one in which values were defined by white people, who were the dominant forces.

For example, we were called non-whites because white was the standard and beauty was judged in terms of white and black and intelligence was judged by whether you could speak English or German or French and so on.

So it is a refusal to be defined by others and a self-definition which got us to the point where we could actually mount a successful opposition to the system.

I arrived at a place in the late 70s when I was on my own, where I could hold my own and felt free as a spirit inside. I was confident that what I needed to do was to engage with my world in a way that says "I have a right to be here, a right to define who I am, to shape the future and nothing will stop me."

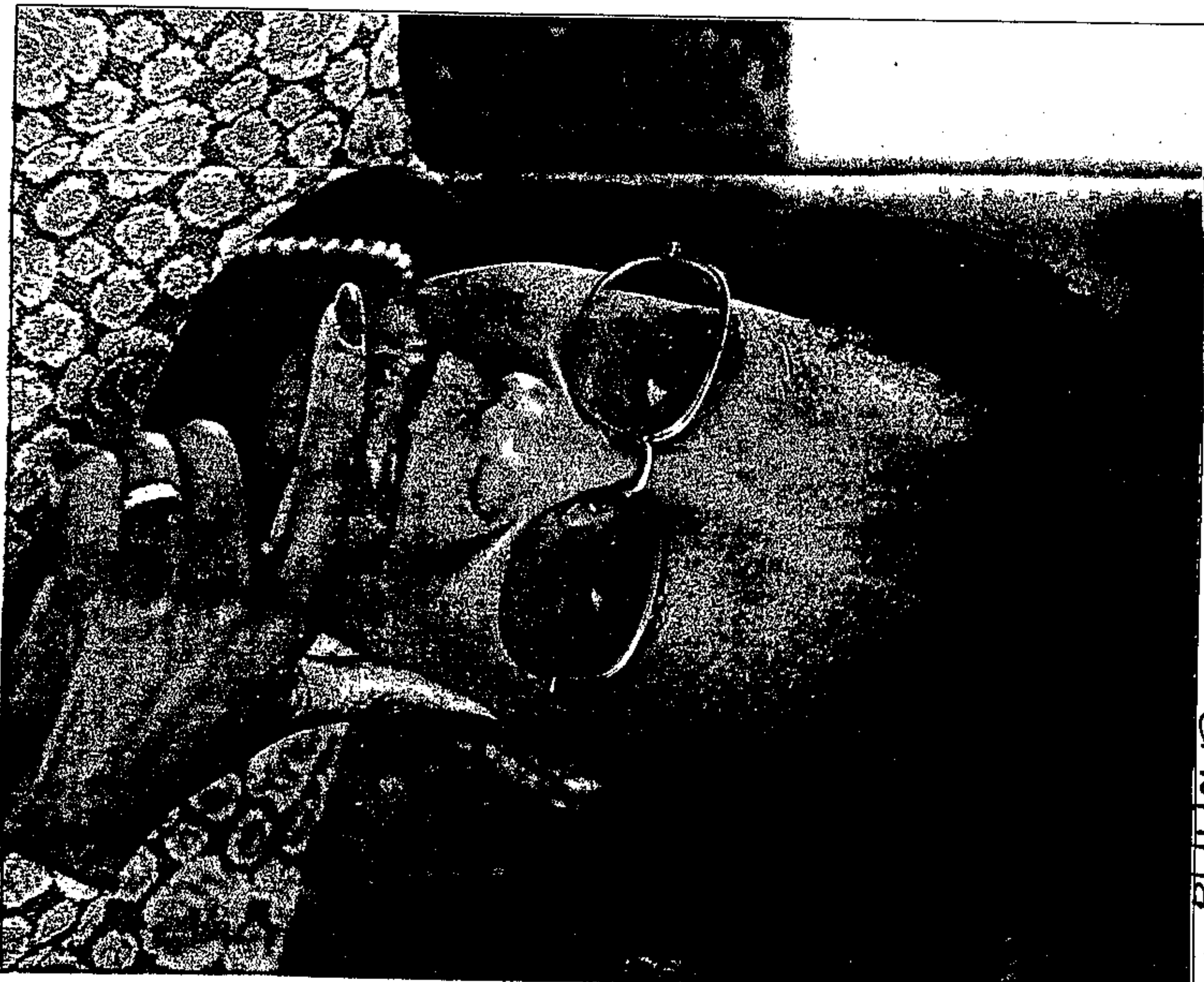
But also, having lost such close friends and comrades in the struggle, the fear of death really receded so that you couldn't scare me by saying "we'll kill you". It didn't even make sense, it didn't register a fear.

The toughest remaining aspects of your job — is one of them still the conservative mindset among certain sections of the white male academic constituency here at UCT?

Absolutely not. I wouldn't regard that as a serious problem, no. One of the points that perhaps needs to be made quite clearly is that I came into this position with large support from the white male constituency because they were the senior professors — 95% of the professors at that time were white and male and they were the people who supported me in getting this position.

That's the point that I think the media misses.

Also, I have an approach that does not assume that people are opposing me, even if I know that people don't agree with my approach or point of view. I assume that it's a disagreement which can be discussed and so I do not have enemies. I refuse to define anybody as my enemy, however much of a different viewpoint they may hold and that, I think, enables me to engage successfully people with a different viewpoint.



CHALLENGING NORMS: Mamphele Ramphela, vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town.

PICTURE: ALAN TAYLOR

To simply label all white people as "pad" is to mistake white power for the entire category of people called white.

It is, of course, true that there was a closer synergy between the majority of white people and white power. They did support that white power and that's one of the things that probably makes reconciliation so difficult — that white people deny their complicity in the atrocities of the past, that the NP could not have remained in power for so long without the support of the majority of white

You have so many pressures in your daily life — the pressure of the challenges posed by this institution, the fact that you're a woman, a mother, even the political legacy of Steve Biko. What sustains you?

The fact that my life is very integrated, even though I have all these things happening.

It all comes from my understanding of the meaning of life, that what I do at UCT is no different from what I do in my private life.

What people say about Mamphele Ramphela

SIVWE MATYELI,

education and training officer of the UCT branch of the Azanian Students Convention (Azasco).

Azasco is the student wing of the Black Consciousness movement-aligned Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo):

"People might want to be under the illusion that because we have a black person at the helm, it automatically turns UCT into a non-racial institution. That is not the case. The interests of the institution she is serving are still the same as they were before."

MBULILO NTLABATI,

a senior member of the UCT Student Representative Council.

"Having had meetings with her, I can say that as an individual, she's a very good person and has that sense of responsibility and genuinely cares about transformation. But she is in an environment which is white

— not to mention that it is all male — and this makes it difficult, if not impossible, for her to call the shots and say 'this is what I want to happen'."

STUART SAUNDERS,

former vice-chancellor of UCT:

"Dr Ramphela is an outstanding

person in that society, that those institutions can make the contributions that need to be made.

What sustains me is the fact that my spiritual life is fulfilled by my everyday engagement with the many aspects of my social, personal and professional life. You learn and everyday you grow."

The meaning of life, according to Dr Mamphele Ramphela? I think the meaning of life is about

by here. Not just some, but ALL South Africans are welcome ...

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develop a culture that enables us to transcend the categories we like to put people in.

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We always had children from the farms and from other distant places who came to live with us because they needed to go to school. My father believed that education was the way to the future.

So the centrality of human beings as part of the definition of who one is, that's very important and that's always been there.

For me gardeners are as important as professors in some ways. I have my own home in Newlands and the only way you can justify having this house (Glenara), which is an official residence, is to

I represent a way of thinking which makes people uncomfortable because it's a determination to hang on to values which fly in the face of what is popular, what is most comfortable and yet that enables me to relate to people across the spectrum.

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And I think that comes from a lack of self-confidence. If I may say so, I cut my political teeth in the Black Consciousness Movement and to engage at that time for us as black people, to be able to mount a successful struggle against the oppressors, we had to have the self-confidence to say "we are not going to be defined by you,

a light to define who I am, to shape the future and nothing will stop me". But also, having lost such close friends and comrades in the struggle, the fear of death really receded so that you couldn't scare me by saying "we'll kill you". It didn't even make sense; it didn't register a fear.

The toughest remaining aspects of your job — is one of them still the conservative mindset among certain sections of the white male academic constituency here at UCT?

Absolutely not. I wouldn't regard that as a serious problem, no. One of the points that perhaps needs to be made quite clearly is that I came into this position with large support from the white male constituency because they were the senior professors — 95% of the professors at that time were white and male — and they were the people who supported me in getting this position.

That's the point that I think the media misses.

Also, I have an approach that does not assume that people are opposing me, even if I know that people don't agree with my approach or point of view. I assume that it's a disagreement which can be discussed and so I do not have enemies. I refuse to define anybody as my enemy, however much of a different viewpoint they may hold and that, I think, enables me to engage sensibly people with a different viewpoint.

Coming here to UCT with the help of Francis Wilson, a white male who was a friend from the 70s, I didn't come here and categorise white males as enemies. I had to engage with them as human beings, colleagues. Some had very different views from what I have, but that didn't qualify them as enemies. I wanted to hear what those views were and I told them what my views were. We had arguments, sometimes very heated arguments, but the fact is I was listening; I wasn't threatened by them.

When I talk about having dinners at this house I'm not only having dinners with people who like me, who agree with me — the whole spectrum of UCT academia, and administration and workers come here. I can then listen to their point of view in a social setting and talk about what motivates me, why I believe this is a better way of doing things and so on.

Is this a lesson that could be well taken by those on the extreme left of the political spectrum and is there a future for those political parties with attitudes that may be regarded as having hardened post-1994?

Those hardened attitudes are precisely a reflection of a lack of self-confidence. If you know this is your country, then you'd want to engage with your country and you can't engage with your country out there in the margins.

You can only engage with it as it is — and white people are part of this country. I'm not saying they must now suddenly have white people as part of their party, but the anti-white rhetoric is really misplaced.

Anti-racism, yes. All of us are anti-racists. Anti-sexism, yes. But anti-white?



CHALLENGING NORMS. Mamphela Ramphele, vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town.

To simply label all white people as "bad" is to mistake white power for the entire category of people called white.

It is, of course, true that there was a closer synergy between the majority of white people and white power. They did support that white power and that's one of the things that probably makes reconciliation so difficult — that white people deny their complicity in the atrocities of the past, that the NP could not have remained in power for so long without the support of the majority of white people and without the majority of the private sector's support. That's a fact.

And it would help reconciliation in general if more white people would acknowledge their complicity and if Azapo and the other people who are holding these positions were prepared to also acknowledge that they are afraid to engage with white people, that some of them lack the self-confidence to engage with white people.

What I'm saying is that it is difficult to see what impact they will have on the political landscape of this country if they refuse to engage with the mainstream institutions which have white people in them.

Changing course slightly — have women drawn strength from your presence as head of this institution?

Absolutely, absolutely. And in a very tangible way, one could also argue that my own physical presence, symbolically shifts the paradigm in terms of what is a leader, what is the role and place of a woman, and so on.

For example, in the traditional male areas such as engineering we are rapidly increasing the proportion of women students. It's still small, but by international standards it's actually remarkable. People in the US, for instance, can't believe the rapid progress we have made.

From less than five percent women in the early 80s, we are now close to 15%. Last year, the top student who graduated in engineering was an African, rural woman from a single-parent family in KwaZulu-Natal.

Surgery is another field which is male dominated where the top student was an African woman.

You have so many pressures in your daily life — the pressure of the challenges posed by this institution, the fact that you're a woman, a mother, even the political legacy of Steve Biko. What sustains you?

The fact that my life is very integrated, even though I have all these things happening.

It all comes from my understanding of the meaning of life, that what I do at UCT is no different from what I do in my relationship with my family, that those core values run through my life like a thread.

I can't be fully myself unless I am engaged in work that adds value to the future of South Africa because that future is important for my children. (She has two children, Hlamelelo, 20, who is graduating this year in political science and history, and Mavis, 15.)

If I'm a responsible mother, I can't bring up children in a country that's going to undermine who they are and limit their opportunities. And to be able to do that I have to engage the institutions in them.

Heading UCT one of many achievements for Ramphele

MAMPHELA RAMPHELE was born in a little farm hospital run by German missionaries in Northern Transvaal, at a place called Bochim, after a German town bearing the same name.

One of seven children of teacher parents, she was raised at Mara, at the foot of the Soupanberg mountains.

In 1977 she was banished to desolate Lenyenye near Tzaneen, six months before the death in detention of Black Consciousness leader Steve Biko, the man she was planning to marry.

Yet she turned her pulverising adversity into triumph by building a clinic for the impoverished inhabitants of the township.

A medical doctor, she qualified at the University of Natal in 1972. In December 1990 she was appointed one of four deputy vice-

... the universities of the institution she is serving are still the same as they were before."

MBULELO NTLABATI, a senior member of the UCF Student Representative Council.

"Having had meetings with her, I can say that as an individual, she's a very good person and has that sense of responsibility and genuinely cares about transformation. But she is in an environment which is white — not to mention that it is all male — and this makes it difficult, if not impossible, for her to call the shots and say 'this is what I want to happen'."

STUART SAUNDERS, former vice-chancellor of UCT:

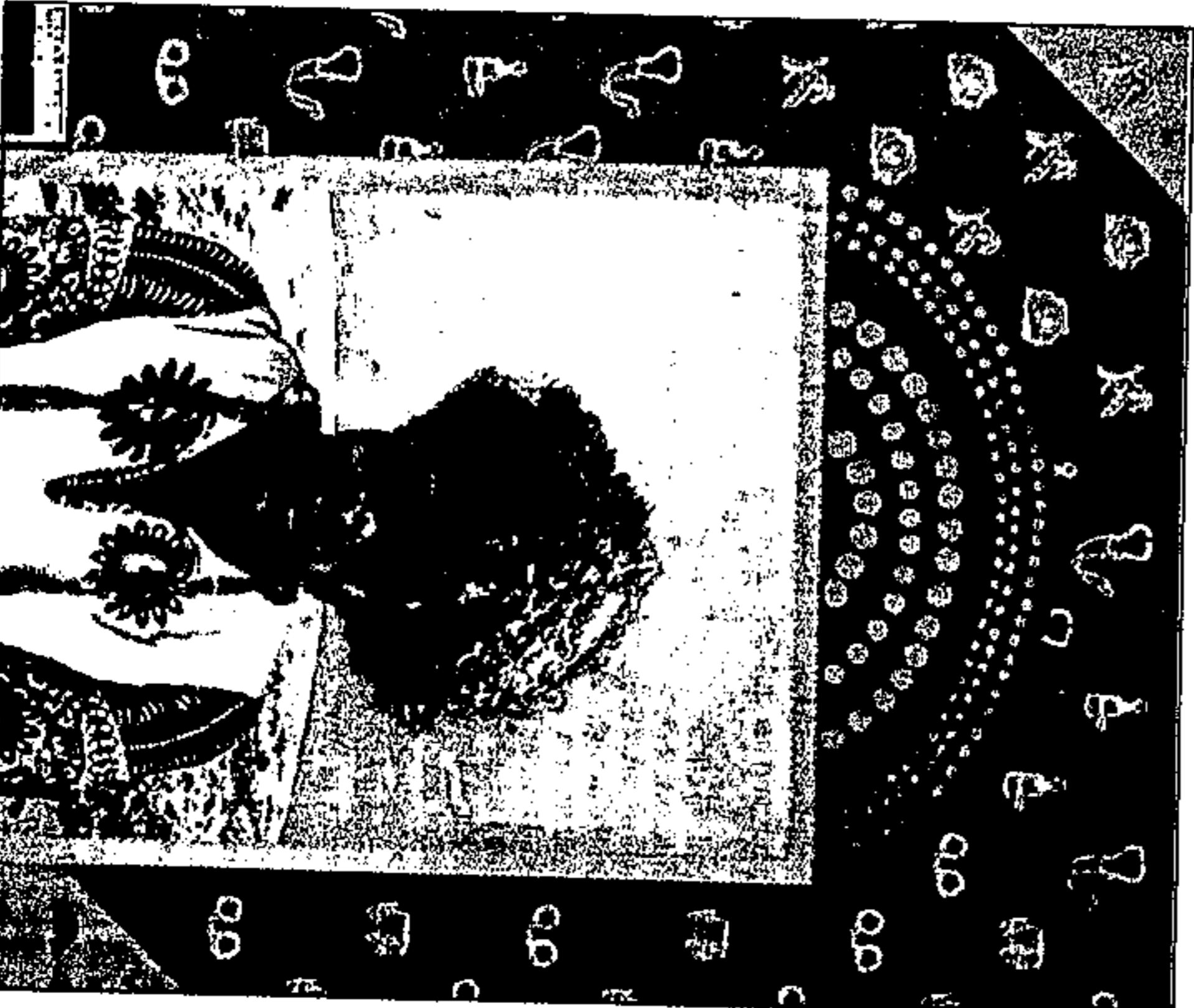
"Dr Ramphele is an outstanding vice-chancellor. I think she's her own person and has vision and courage and is forthright. She has an excellent value system; you'll know that from what she's written and said. I think she's an example to all South Africans."

WILMOT JAMES, executive director, Idasa:

"She's a strong, capable, courageous person with emotional mettle. She has a remarkable ability to cut through things and identify problems and also has a very clear commitment to this nation."

JAKES GERVEL, a fellow student in the "struggle days":

"She has always been a person with spirit and drive. The one thing that marks Mamphela is that she does not think there's any problem that cannot be solved. She's driven by her own analysis and conviction and is not prescribed to."



BACK THEN: An etching/screenprint of Mamphela Ramphele in 1977 when she was banished to Tzaneen, from A few South Africans by Sue Williamson.

MANAGEMENT

Wits Business School gets top marks in MBA survey

Business Day Reporter

WITS Business School (WBS) has once again beaten other SA business schools in a survey of institutions offering a master of business administration (MBA) or equivalent in SA.

In the 1998 survey, conducted by the Journal Professional Management Review, WBS came top with 8,7 points out of a possible 10 (up from 8,11 in 1997).

Unisa's Graduate School of Business Leadership was a very close second with 8,68 points.

UCT's Graduate School of Business, joint winners last year, slipped to third place with 8,58. Stellenbosch and Pretoria were fourth and fifth with 8,24 and 7,98 points respectively.

WBS was also ranked the

"most admired" institution among local university-affiliated institutions for the second year running.

Although private and overseas-affiliated institutions were given a separate category this year, their overall scores were lower than those attained by the established local universities. Top prize in this category was jointly awarded to the Graduate Institute of Management & Technology and Technikon Free State-University of Wales, both with 7,9 points.

Former WBS director Nick Binedell was voted most admired professor among business schools affiliated to local universities. His predecessor, Andy Andrews, who now heads the Graduate Institute of Management & Technology, won the "most admired" prize for institutions affiliated to overseas

(64) PD 17/9/98

universities.

The survey is based on the opinions of 300 human resource directors, recruitment directors or senior managers. There are now some 35 business schools offering an MBA or equivalent in SA; a few years ago there were only six.

WBS director, Prof Mike Ward, said: "In celebrating our 30th anniversary this year, it is most encouraging that our reputation remains the best in the country and that SA business has confidence in our ability to produce the managers and business leaders of tomorrow."

He said WBS's good standing had been recognised by Harvard Business School having chosen Wits as its partner to conduct the school's first senior executive programme in southern Africa.



WARD

Student loan scheme needs R392m a year

Primarashni Pillay

GOVERNMENT would have to contribute on average more than R392m a year to a national loan and bursary scheme if it were to be extended to cover college, distance and part-time students, said academic Stuart Saunders.

Saunders, a former Cape Town University principal, was responding to a discussion document on a framework for a national student financial aid programme just released by the education department.

The document draws, to a degree, on a report proposing a student financial aid scheme presented to the department by Saunders in October last year. Saunders was one of a group of researchers who examined funding programmes and produced

detailed, if conservative, projections of students in need of financial aid.

SA does not have an effective student financial aid scheme.

The current Tertiary Education Fund of SA, which administers government funds and overseas sponsorships as loans and bursaries, caters for technikon and university students only.

Meanwhile, the department's document recommends that SA's student financial aid programme should take the form of a loan and bursary scheme; that it should be extended to students at colleges of education and those involved in distance and part-time studies; and that it be based on the tertiary fund's principles.

The need for loans and bursaries should be determined in accordance with a nation-

ally accepted means test and repayment should, as is the case now, be instituted through the graduates' employers.

The document says repayment in the longer term should be channelled through the receiver of revenue.

While the fund's loan interest rate is 1% above inflation, the document says consideration should be given to raising the interest rate by one or two points.

If the proposed loan scheme turns out to be unsustainable and unaffordable, consideration should be given to introducing graduate taxes or imposing employer taxes.

Saunders and his researchers projected last year that the numbers of students in need of financial aid in the higher education sector would rise to 97 500 in 2000 and 123 000 in 2005.

(54) MD 17/9/98

Medical students (74) continue boycott

By McKeed Kotlolo

THE lecture boycott by Medical University of South Africa (Medunsa) students at Garankuwa, north of Pretoria, over the appointment of the new principal, enters its fifth day today.

The current principal of Medunsa, Professor Ephraim Mokgokong is reported to be retiring at the end of the year and his successor and current vice-chancellor Professor Ramaranka Mogotlane (52) has been appointed to the post.

Sources at Medunsa said not all the stakeholders, in particular students, were pleased with the procedures used in the appointment.

As a result, students resolved to boycott lectures since Monday after the authorities allegedly ignored their demand to have the appointment reversed.

Chairman of the students representative council Mr Dan Thokoane yesterday confirmed the students' demand

and said the student representative council would meet on Monday.

Thokoane confirmed students' allegations that "there has never been transparency since the process for the appointment started".

A press release from the university management confirmed the continued boycott of lectures.

"The students have taken part in the procedures that they are objecting to," management said in a statement.

Sources said students favoured Professor Taole Mokoena of the department of surgery at the University of Pretoria and Kalafong Hospital because "he has vision and is open-minded".

Sowetan was yesterday informed that the students were planning a protest march to the Union Buildings in Pretoria if the university management failed to meet demands. This was denied by Thokoane, who said the students decided to involve Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu.

Sniper lurks around Unitra

Nehawu boss fears for his life ⁽⁵⁴⁾

By PETER DICKSON

WITH the choking whiff of teargas hardly having dissipated from this year's troubled University of Transkei (Unitra) campus in Umtata, striking workers now allege to have seen a sniper on the roof.

Umtata police said early last week they had received a report implicating a senior Unitra official and a suspected sniper linked to a private security company, in a plot to kill ex-National Education Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) leader Mxoleli Nkuhlu.

Police spokesman Sgt Mongezeleli

Nqeto says Nkuhlu, who appeared for Unitra's striking workers in a successful interdict stave-off in the Durban Labour Court last Thursday, had not laid any charges yet.

However, he had asked for the Eastern Cape police protection as he feared for his life and that of his family.

Meanwhile, Nehawu official Toto Magwentshu has urged Unitra council chairman and Truth and Reconciliation Commission chief investigator, Dumisa Ntsebeza, to deal with the issue in a special meeting of the governing body.

Magwentshu says the alleged plot follows last Thursday's court victory when Justice Mlambo dismissed with costs an urgent application

by Unitra management for an interdict against campus industrial action.

The court's decision had been "the last straw" for Unitra vice-chancellor Alfred Moleah in an impasse over Unitra's restructuring process.

A surprised Prof Moleah said this week the alleged plot by "faceless" suspects was "strange" and that "no one will ever believe this James Bond-like story".

Challenging Nkuhlu and Magwentshu, Prof Moleah said: "I want to be the first to demand that these suspects be exposed."

Ntsebeza could not be reached for comment this week. - ECN Weekend Service

CP 20/9/98



THE Director of Fort Hare University's National Heritage and Cultural Studies Centre, Professor Themba Sirayi (left), explains to dignitaries how the centre will operate. With him is Education Minister Dr Sibusiso Bengu and an unidentified official. PAC of Azania deputy president Dr Motsoko Pheko stands listening attentively together with Azapo president Mosibudi Mangena (In white shirt and tie) and PAC KwaZulu-Natal leader Joe Mkhwanazi.

Fort Hare's new centre

By Mathatha Tsedu

THE recent launch of a R1 billion initiative was proof that the business community stands ready to play its part in the African renaissance, the chairman of Anglo American Corporation Julian Ogilvie Thompson said at the weekend. In a speech read on his behalf by Maggie Keeton at the launch of the National Heritage and Cultural Studies Centre at Fort Hare University, Ogilvie Thompson said business viewed the challenge posed by the African renaissance seriously. The centre, which also houses archives from liberation movements, was built from a donation of nearly R3 million from Anglo American and its sister companies AngloGold and De Beers. It is a three-storey building specially designed and built to ensure security of documents and artifacts as well as their restoration. Speakers at the ceremony hailed the project as part of a national drive to put the history and culture of the country in its proper perspective. The ceremony was attended by Education Minister Dr Sibusiso Bengu, who also represented the African National Congress, Dr Motsoko Pheko, deputy president of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, Mr Mosibudi Mangena, president of the Azanian People's Organisation, Mr F Janeke representing the Unity Movement of South Africa, Ms June

Udeman of the New Unity Movement and Chief Phathekile Holomisa of the Congress of Traditional Leaders.

The ANC has already delivered a consignment of documents but is still involved in negotiations with the university about how further archives will be managed. Also in the archive rooms are documents from the late Dr AC Jordan, writer and academic, who was father to Minister of the Environment Pallo Jordan.

Jordan senior's widow Dr Phyllis Jordan and her younger son, Lindi, also attended the ceremony.

The material in the centre will be available on the internet at www.ufh.ac.za/nhcsc

● See page 9.

UWC axes 40 academics in cash crisis

ARL 21/9/98 (54)

ANDREA BOTHA
EDUCATION REPORTER

The financial crisis at the University of the Western Cape has forced it to retrench 40 academics, including professors and senior lecturers.

On Friday, the university management and the academic staff association were deadlocked in negotiations on the issue and management informed 26 staff and four contract workers at the weekend they would have to leave at the end of the year.

Eight more staff are to leave by June 30 next year, and the last two at the end of 1999.

The cutbacks represent 8% of total teaching staff at the university.

The cuts will bite deepest in foreign languages and theology.

The various foreign-languages departments are to become one, and the faculty of theology is to become a department in the arts faculty.

University spokesman Alwyn van Gensen said the university had been negotiating with the two unions representing staff for the past few months to resolve problems due to the financial crisis.

The university is facing a R16-million deficit for next year because of unpaid

student fees and the cut in the Government subsidy. Mr Van Gensen said although the university's debt-collection agency had managed to retrieve R13-million in unpaid fees this year, it did not affect the deficit.

A university statement said: "In the end ... the retrenchment of staff has, regrettably ... had to be faced as a last option to effectively address our financial situation."

Lionel Nicholas, chairman of the University of the Western Cape Academic Staff Association, said news of the retrenchments came as a surprise as the union and university authorities had been discussing alternatives last week.

SA to have a private university

Primarashni Pillay

(54)

MIDRAND Campus, a division of JSE-listed company Educor Limited, is to begin operating next year as Midrand University, a fully-fledged private university catering for about 3 000 students at an undergraduate and post-graduate level.

The campus currently offers contact tuition for students who take on University of SA (Unisa) and overseas programmes. It caters for students in disciplines including the arts, science and law. The new university's director of studies, Susan Bedil, said a change in education legislation had prompted the decision.

Bedil said the institution had applied to the national education depart-

ment to be registered as a university. It had also applied to the newly created SA Qualifications Authority for its courses to be registered. Midrand Campus operates from a 40-acre property and its facilities have been upgraded to cater for its conversion to a university.

The courses it would offer would be in association with various overseas and local academic partners, including Santa Monica College and Kirkwood Community College, both in the US, Thames Valley University in the UK, Unisa and Technikon SA, Bedil said.

The university would offer degree, certificate and diploma courses in areas including accounting, business administration, economics, interior design, law and journalism.

BD 21/9/98

W Cape university retrenches 40 staff

Star 22/9/98 (54)
QWN CORRESPONDENT
Cape Town

The financial crisis at the University of the Western Cape has forced university authorities to retrench 40 academics, including professors, senior and junior lecturers.

On Friday the university management and the academic staff association deadlocked in their negotiations on the issue and management informed 26 staff members and four contract workers over the weekend that they would have to leave at the end of the year.

An additional eight members of staff are to leave by June 30 1999 and the last two at the end of 1999. The cut-backs represent 8% of the total teaching staff at the university.

The cuts will bite deepest in the areas of foreign languages and theology.

Various foreign language departments are to become one department, and the faculty of theology is to become a department in the arts faculty.

University spokesperson Alwyn van Gensen said the university had been negotiating with the two unions representing staff for

the past few months to resolve problems due to the financial crisis.

"This is a very difficult situation and the university has tried to cause the absolute minimum of pain," said Van Gensen.

The university is facing a R16-million deficit for next year because of unpaid student fees and a cut in the government subsidy.

Van Gensen said although the university's debt collection agency had managed to retrieve R13-million in unpaid fees this year, this did not affect the deficit.

He said university posts in all departments had been affected and that no particular department had been targeted. The merger of certain departments would make them more streamlined and effective.

A statement from the university says: "The university management and the academic staff association have been looking at various ways of cutting costs and reducing our deficit.

"In the end, however, the retrenchment of staff has, regrettably, been the reality that had to be faced as a last option to effectively address our financial situation."

STAFFS SHRINK AS UNIVERSITIES WIELD AXE

Cost-cutting by degrees ^{ET 22/9/98}

THE UNIVERSITY of the Western Cape has had to retrench staff, but Cape Town and Stellenbosch are using other ways to cut costs, reports Education Writer **PRISCILLA SINGH**.

CASH-STRAPPED universities in the Western Cape have had to adopt a hard line in trying to beat their "budget blues".

The University of Western Cape (UWC) had to retrench 40 academics at the weekend and expected that 10 more would have to leave by the end of next year because of the cash crisis.

The university faces a R16 million deficit next year because of government cutbacks and unpaid student fees.

A snap survey of the University of Stellenbosch and the University of Cape Town has found a less serious financial scenario, although these two institutions are also adjusting staffing and campus needs according to budgetary constraints.

The director of communications at UCT, Helen Zille, said although its approach was "different", the university would have to trim spending on core academic and support activities by 10% over the next three years.

"We do have to reduce our core operational expenditure so that we can free resources for strategic activities to achieve our vision of

being world-class," Zille said.

"This may include a limited reduction in staff, given that staffing accounts for between 60% and 70% of expenditure.

"We aim to reach a situation where our expenditure on core academic and support activities is covered by reliable subsidy and fee income. Any discretionary funds should be earmarked for strategic activities that we have identified as being essential for a world-class African university.

"Other options include voluntary retirement. This could involve closing down certain activities or re-deployment."

However, staff reductions would have to be justifiable on academic grounds, Zille said.

"This year, we negotiated a retrenchment procedure with the Academics Association. We are seeking ways of reducing expenditure as painlessly as possible.

"Natural attrition, through retirements and resignations, account for the turnover of about six percent of staff each year. It is important to take the opportunities this process offers of reducing costs where appropriate. However,

we will not pursue a policy of 'random misery'. This approach, in isolation, would not enable us to pursue our strategic objectives. We intend to pursue a more targeted approach."

Stellenbosch University spokesperson Hans Peter Bakker said a programme to reduce staff by 10% and personnel costs by 65% had been introduced in 1994. The university's budget deficit was about R7m, which was "pretty normal" for this time of year.

The restructuring of faculties and departments, begun in 1996, had decreased significantly the number of academic departments and was expected to streamline structures further. There had been 150 departments in 1996 and 143 last year. This year, there were 139.

"No academic staff have been retrenched," Bakker said. "Those staff close to retirement opted for voluntary severance packages."

Posts were frozen and departments amalgamated.

Non-essential services were rationalised, making about 160 posts redundant. However, most of the people in these posts had been employed by the private service providers who won the contracts.

"The remainder, with the assistance of the university, were employed elsewhere in the private sector."

Matties tighten belt to stretch budget

MONEY-SAVERS for the University of Stellenbosch include:

- Closure of the building division in 1995. Resulted in the reduction of 100 posts.
- Experimental farm, Faculty of Agriculture: Seven posts reduced with a decrease in annual expenditure from R3 million to R2m.
- Residences: Out-sourced cleaning and catering services in 1996/97, reduction of 300 posts.
- Gardening services: Out-sourced and rationalised in 1996, reduction of 56 posts and saving of about R800 000 a year.
- Internal auditors: Out-sourced auditing services in 1997, saving R150 000 a year.
- Audio-visual and media services: Out-sourced in 1998, reducing staff numbers by 27. Cost-saving of about R1m a year.
- Maintenance and development of the university's computer system is shared with two other universities: Resulted in a saving of R3m a year for Stellenbosch.
- The Langenhoven Student Centre was converted into a business centre with a profit motive. The annual saving to the university as result of this initiative amounts to R1m a year.



TONGUE LASHING: Neville Alexander says using a foreign language hampers learning.

Zulu or Xhosa varsity could be an

TROYE LUND

PATRICIA NJAMALO says her kids know how to be black.

"All you teach them is how to be successful in a white man's world," she told the principal on her daughter's first day at pre-school this year.

Njamalo begged the teacher not to let Portia speak any Xhosa at pre-school so that she could go to a decent English-medium school.

"These schools will only accept Portia if she can speak English and if she knows how to behave," said Njamalo.

So young Portia, a confident four-year old who is fluent in Xhosa, was

plunged into an English-speaking environment where she understood virtually nothing and where few people understood her.

University of Cape Town researcher Helen Robb said that by agreeing to requests similar to Njamalo's, teachers are displaying "dysfunctional rescuing" that is a form of modern racism because it reinforces the superiority of English over Xhosa.

Aside from failing to understand the importance of maintaining and developing the home language for social, emotional and cognitive development of the child, these teachers are failing to prepare pupils for the future when

indigenous-language South African universities will be established to compete on an equal international footing with existing Afrikaans- and English-language universities.

The former chairperson of the Pan South African Language Board (Pansalb), Neville Alexander, agrees that Xhosa- or Zulu-language universities are inconceivable today, but he predicts that before Portia is half-way through her life, they will exist.

"Ethnic and tribal stigmas that languages now have are mainly because of the Bantu education system," said Alexander. "But, they will go."

"The South African perception that anything worthwhile in international academic circles can only be produced in English will also have disappeared in the future.

"The fact is, as it is with Eastern languages, any South African work in an indigenous language that is of international standard and value will be translated."

Alexander added that the trend to raise the status of African languages has already begun in the government sector, and the private sector will soon follow.

It is for this reason that Alexander warns the government against under-

option in a generation

mining the independence of Pansalb, the language watchdog board that, among other things, has to promote, develop and raise the standard of marginalised languages.

However, Alexander believes, on paper the government has an excellent language policy.

But he argues that the resources will not stretch to allow it to be implemented properly.

"In particular, the massive in-service teacher training programmes necessary to help teachers cope with and to understand the strategies that can be used in multilingual classrooms are simply not happening."

"Without these in the short-term, the policy will remain a dead letter, and without properly researched pilot projects for the longer-term, we are going to remain bogged down in the brittle English second-language mire that we are presently trapped in."

The lack of political will and the refusal of government to prioritise language issues — as well as the "obvious attempts" by the department of arts, culture, science and technology to scale down the independent status of Pansalb — were the main reasons why Alexander decided, after two years of constant frustration, to resign from the board, he said.

Council slates Bengu's report

Mukoni T Ratshitanga

The Vaal Triangle Technikon council this week rubbished a report on the troubled institution commissioned by Minister of Education Sibusiso Bengu and announced it will challenge the minister's intervention in court.

The fight between the technikon and the minister was triggered by the council's decision to discipline rector Aubrey Mokadi, accused of inefficiency, abuse of technikon funds and nepotism.

In May, the Vereeniging Magistrate's Court ordered Mokadi to repay R32 000 to the technikon after he ordered human resource manager Chris Smith to hike his housing allowance from 8% to 14% last year.

Mokadi also bought a second car for personal use through technikon coffers without proper authorisation. The technikon has since repossessed the vehicle.

Other allegations against Mokadi include defrauding the technikon's international donors.

Bengu last month dispatched former deputy vice-chancellor of the University of the Western Cape, Professor Jaap Durand, to probe the technikon's troubles.

The report pinned the blame on the 25-member council rather than Mokadi, recommending the council be ousted and a new one decide Mokadi's fate. It suggested that the existing council's disciplinary hearing of the rector, chaired by Johannesburg advocate Ronald Sutherland, be ignored.

The council responded to Bengu: "If this recommendation is forced on to council by the minister, it will be seen as nothing short of a circumvention of justice."

The council said they rejected legitimacy of Durand's report, Bengu's handling of the report and the reasons behind Durand's appointment in the first place.

The council wrote to Bengu: "In terms of Section 45(b) of the Higher Education Act ... specific circumstances must first prevail at an institution of higher learning before such independent assessor may be appointed by the minister.

"Council has not been enlightened as to the prevailing circumstances necessitating the appointment by the minister nor when they first presented themselves at the institution."

While accepting the Mokadi

controversy fell outside of his terms of reference, Durand nonetheless devoted 16 of the 18 paragraphs of his report on the Mokadi matter.

The council told Bengu: "Council is left no alternative but to wonder how Durand managed to execute his terms of reference effectively when he spent so much time and energy focusing on Mokadi and his subsequent disciplinary inquiry."

The council's response to Bengu has savaged Durand's claim that the institution's woes began with Mokadi's suspension.

"To presume that all conflict in this institution arose after Mokadi's suspension and has solely to do with Mokadi shows a lack of insight into the complexities of student politics, institutions of higher learning and their individual nuances," the council said.

They claimed Durand's report

was "inconclusive and at best based on vague assessments, assumptions and perceptions. At worst it is completely void of any accurate facts."

How, they asked, could Bengu accept Durand's recommendations without

affording them the opportunity to respond?

The council claimed Durand's report was an excuse to address the issues of Mokadi and his subsequent suspension and disciplinary inquiry. "It is irregular in that it was not part and parcel of the investigation that Durand was mandated to complete," they added.

The council also hit at Durand's claim that it was meddling in the day-to-day affairs of the institution. For example, Durand criticised daily payments to members during times of unrest at the institution.

"Professor Mokadi, prior to his appointment as rector of our institution, was chair of our council. During that time, Professor Mokadi put in various claims against the institution amounting to R24 400 for a period of six months," the council hit back.

The outcome of Mokadi's disciplinary inquiry is due before the end of October.

Meanwhile, five members of the council who are believed to be close to Mokadi resigned last week, saying they believed Durand's report pointed to the lack of the council's credibility.

One of them, Winnie Johnson, had been accused of having a romantic affair with Mokadi.

'To presume that all conflict in this institution arose after Mokadi's suspension and has solely to do with Mokadi shows a lack of insight ...'

Student affairs:
Former Wits Technikon SRC president Mdu Matlotoro says SRC leaders are more concerned with bashes and trips than consistent student programmes.

PHOTOGRAPH:
MAGHLET THERON



Student leaders riding the gravy train

(514)

Evidence wa ka Ngobeni

Student Representative Council (SRC) leaders have boarded the gravy train at South Africa's universities and technikon. Some are paid "honorary" salaries, while other benefits include free vehicles, cellphones, housing, meals and trips around the country. SRCs also spend tens of thousands of rands each year on student bashes. And at one university, two top SRC officers are forging their studies because they are too occupied with their campus enterprises.

"SRCs today are only addressing periodic issues such as financial and academic exclusion in the beginning of the year ... There are no consistent [student] programmes which progress through the year," said Mdu Matlotoro, a former SRC president at Technikon Witswatersrand in Johannesburg. "They [SRC leaders] are more concerned with how many bashes and trips they are going to have." Matlotoro said Technikon Witswatersrand's SRC has an annual budget of more than

R460 000. The SRC spends R60 000 on a freshers' ball and more than R70 000 on residence balls at expensive hotels, he said.

He said SRC members are paid "honorary" salaries of R4 300 annually and are allocated free housing, pagers and cars.

Alex Gabashane, an SRC member at Technikon Northern Gauteng, said members receive salaries of R6 000 annually. He said this money is given to members to further their studies. In addition, Gabashane said, SRC member are provided with free cellphones, housing and meals. The University of Venda recently budgeted more than R450 000, almost the SRC's yearly budget, for the annual freshers' ball. Students demanded each be given 30 cans of free beer at the ball.

At the University of Cape Town, the SRC president and deputy are registered students, but they have put their studies on hold because of their paid SRC activities. A source at the university said the SRC leaders will resume their studies after their term of office expires. According to documents obtained by the

M+G 25/9-1/10/98

Mail & Guardian, the University of the North SRC this year spent more than R1,3-million on items such as hired cars, catering and clothes.

The total income for the SRC last year was almost R1,7-million, but the SRC spent more than R2-million, according to the documents.

University documents revealed the SRC had spent more than R6-million in the past three years, and was running the campus as its private business.

At most universities and technikon, SRCs are funded by institution management and students. The Department of Education says it is not involved in internal budgeting of tertiary institutions. But sources in the department said the institutions' finances are being hampered by rising student debts and reduced government funding while SRCs continue to increase their budgets.

These sources suggest that institutions receive SRC funding since academic departments struggle to finance their programs while SRCs spend large amounts of money on entertainment and benefits for members.

Fall of campus political groups

Evidence wa ka Ngobeni

Student political organisations at Technikon Witswatersrand have collapsed because they have failed to find roles in the new South Africa.

"The leadership here has been weakening because students are not united in dealing with issues which affect them," said student affairs official Andy Dass. "Student political organisations before the 1994 elections were united in fighting for a common goal, but now most of the things they were addressing are being addressed at management level."

Dass confirmed that three of the technikon's student political organisations had failed to qualify for funding because they could not attract the required 30 members from among the institution's more than 1 000 students.

Dass said deterioration of student leadership at the technikon had also been caused by many student leaders leaving the technikon for positions in the government and the private sector.

"We have identified that student leaders at the technikon lack the skills to engage in policies and management-level decisions," said Dass. Technikon students interviewed by the *Mail & Guardian* this week said student political parties were not addressing their problems.

An official at the student affairs department, who did not want to be named, said the lack of interest in campus politics involves South Africa's "transformation crisis" of student organisations. Student governance and leadership of the technikon hit an all-time low last year because of "weakening leadership", said Dass.

Last year three members were suspended from the SRC executive, and the SRC was later dissolved, said Dass.

Student affairs officials this week met students and former student leaders in a bid to iron out problems faced by student governance. "The two-day summit found the SRCs were not skilled to discuss issues like fee increments," said Dass.

But the summit agreed to re-establish the SRC. This week the students were preparing for SRC elections on Monday.

Dass said the only student political organisation that qualifies for funding at the technikon is the South African Student Congress. It has a strong leadership and enjoys support among students.

TEACHER TRAINING COLLEGES

OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF POCKET (54)

Austerity measures to hit historically black colleges

FM 25/9/98

SA's teacher training colleges are facing the axe. The lucky ones will merge with each other or with universities or technikons, but many will be forced to close.

The question is not whether government should rationalise the sector — it is long overdue — but whether budgetary constraints or educational imperatives are driving the process.

Despite the national education department's assurances that it will ensure a balanced geographic spread of rationalised colleges, the rectors fear that small, historically black colleges, dependent on the poorest provinces for funding, will bear the brunt of the cuts.

Recent statements by Northern Province education officials that seven of its 10 colleges will be closed have fuelled these fears.

The number of colleges has fallen from 113 to 96 over the past four years, mostly because of provincial budget cuts. Some colleges report that provinces are failing to pay their electricity, telephone and water bills, that routine maintenance has come to a standstill and that staff morale is at rock bottom.

Government has given colleges two options: either they become autonomous higher education institutions (which would necessitate mergers because no single college can accommodate the stipulated minimum of 2 000 students) or they merge with a university or technikon.

A task team of education officials will select which colleges should be upgraded into autonomous institutions. Thereafter they will be classified as higher educational institutions and funded by national government. Those that aren't selected or absorbed into universities or technikons will become community or further education and training colleges. Their future will depend on provincial budgets.

This sounds fair given that a 1995 audit found SA had an oversupply of education colleges, that they were poorly managed and too costly and that the quality of teaching left much to be desired. If anything, the situation has deteriorated since then and the surplus pool of teachers has grown. The Northern Province alone has

20 000 unemployed teachers.

But rectors say the policy is flawed, not least because government is scuttling its teacher training resources without knowing what the future demand for teachers will be.

Basil May, executive director of the Committee of College of Education Rectors of SA (Ccersa), says: "If this process is managed properly, teacher education can benefit and the colleges can emerge much better equipped, but if not, the inevitable result will be the wholesale closure of colleges in outlying areas."

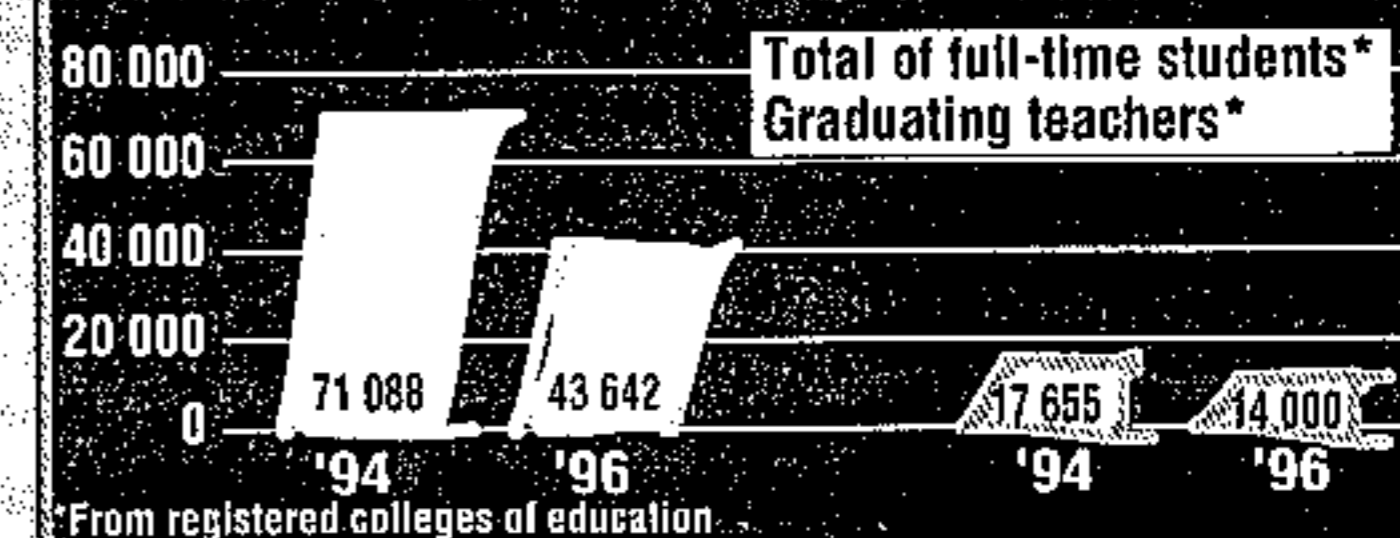
He says historically white, urban colleges should find homes in their corresponding universities fairly easily, but it will be harder for under-resourced colleges in outlying areas to survive the process. Not only are some situated far from universities and technikons, but the latter are resisting the incorporation of colleges as government has failed to guarantee that they will be reimbursed fully.

The Education Department's director of higher education colleges and teacher education, André le Roux, gives his assurance that even if a college has been disadvantaged and is under-resourced, government will take into account its location, the demographic situation, the supply and the demand for teachers, and the needs of the population when deciding its future.

"Colleges have a developmental role and often they are located in an area where there's a desperate need. We want to build capacity where the needs are," he says.

Ccersa's May warns that expedient mergers between colleges merely for the

• The number of colleges of education has fallen from 113 to 96 over the past four years



*From registered colleges of education

• It costs about R15m a year to maintain a collage
• If rationalisation continues at its current pace the number of new graduates could soon fall below 10 000 per year

SOURCE: THE COMMITTEE OF COLLEGE OF EDUCATION RECTORS OF SA (CCERSA)

CHALK DOWN

sake of meeting the minimum enrolment requirements are not in the interests of education. But many colleges will go this route for fear of being closed.

He adds that turning education colleges into polytechnics won't save the government money as it will have to retrain the staff to teach new disciplines. He asks how government can expect provinces, which cannot afford the existing teacher training service, to retrain the sector.

Merger talks between some universities and colleges are far advanced. The Johannesburg College of Education is considering merging with Wits University. The Cape Town College of Education is holding discussions with the University of Cape Town and the Cape Technikon.

Cape Town College of Education rector Ron Taylor is prepared for the pain of staff retrenchments, but he doesn't believe the quality of teaching or the college's output of teachers will be affected by such a move.

"It's neither good nor bad for education," he says. "It's a fact we have to live with."

Claire Bissek

HARASSMENT 'NOT A WOMEN'S ISSUE'

Pentech throws down gauntlet to sex pests

THE PENINSULA TECHNIKON has launched a booklet that spells out what does and doesn't constitute sexual harassment, reports **YAZEED FAKIER**.

CONFUSION among students about what constitutes sexual harassment has led to the Peninsula Technikon in Bellville launching an official sexual harassment policy on campus.

"The significance of this is that in disciplinary hearings we've had, we've found that students don't actually understand when they've stepped over the line in terms of sexual harassment," said Pentech rector Brian Figaji.

"We were then trying to deal with the issue of discipline where the transgressor actually didn't know he was the transgressor."

With the launch of the policy, the onus is now on students to familiarise themselves with its simple language and to understand what the consequences of their actions will be.

"We are trying to make the rules more explicit so that students are absolutely clear about what will happen when they violate someone else's rights."

Disciplinary measures include an oral or written reprimand, a fine, suspension, expulsion or dismissal.

Figaji said the institution also had a responsibility to "educate people rather than beat them with a stick all the time and to play an educative role and not just deal with this as a disciplinary issue".

The policy booklet says sexual harassment may include suggestive or insulting sounds such as whistling, wolf-calls or kissing sounds, telephone calls with sexual overtones and verbal behaviour of a sexual nature, such as persistent jokes about sex and gender-specific traits.

It also includes gestures such as "sexual looks", lewd gestures, indecent exposure and the public display of pornographic or other

offensive, derogatory or sexually explicit pictures, cartoons, drawings or symbols.

Behaviour not regarded as sexual harassment includes an occasional compliment and flirtation or banter when it is mutually acceptable.

The policy applies to all staff members, employees, students and people who have dealings with the technikon, including contractors and sub-contractors.

The guest speaker at the launch, Farid Esack, a commissioner with the Commission for Gender Equality, told a packed student meeting that there was a tendency to regard sexual harassment as a women's issue.

"In the same way that white people cannot turn around and say, 'Racism is a black person's problem — let the blacks sort it out,' men cannot walk away from the problem of sexual harassment and say it's a women's problem.

"My humanity is intrinsically tied up with your humanity. When I spit in your face or I pinch your bottom or I pass a lewd remark about you as a woman, I am denying myself my own humanity.

"When I spit in your face, I am tearing at my own skin. When I pass insulting comments or engage in insulting behaviour, it may be directed at you but the reality is that I as a man am diminished in the process."

Men often resorted to the weak argument that sexual harassment was "part of this or that culture".

He rejected the assertion that women wanted to be harassed and that when they said "no" to sexual advances they actually meant "yes".

"For years women have learnt to put up with sexual harassment because of the power dynamic in

our society.

(54) ET 25/9/98
"They have to negotiate with men all the time ... they have learnt to smile."

As for the argument that "she wants it", Esack said: "Yes, sadly it is true that there are many, many women who are abused by their partners, boyfriends, husbands — and they take it."

This was because they had "internalised their oppression to such an extent that they often do not know what it is to be free" and knew no life other than that of being abused.

"They prefer that to the vulnerability of a free relationship where they don't know where the money is going to come from to keep them alive.

"The fact that your partner or the woman you are harassing may prefer it that way does not mean that the prison of harassment or the prison of discrimination is ever acceptable.

"As conscious men and women, we have a responsibility to work for the liberation of each other and not for the ongoing imprisonment of each other for our own narrow sexual gratification."

Esack urged those present to learn to verbalise what they wanted in their relationships with others — especially in their sexual relationships.

"Let your 'yes' be 'yes' and let your 'no' be 'no'," he said, "and accept that if the other person says 'no' it means 'no'."

Men had to take responsibility for their actions and those who claimed that their sexual transgressions were caused by the kind of clothing or make-up a woman wore or the way she walked were only transferring the responsibility for their actions on to another person.

"They are in effect saying: 'I'm not an adult — I can't take charge of my own life.' They are the arguments of children."

University forced to tread painful path

(511) ARL 26/9/98

Higher education in South Africa is undergoing radical restructuring, which has major implications for every aspect of university life.

The various universities in the country are at different stages of institutional renewal so that they can align themselves with new national imperatives. The higher education system is becoming more planned and coordinated.

The White Paper and Higher Education Act envisage a national higher education plan.

The Department of Education's National and Institutional Planning Framework for the Higher Education System requires a comprehensive strategy comprising a rolling triennial plan, which will outline student enrolment projections and responses to national policy priorities and targets.

Linked to a new funding formula, based on student placement in approved programmes, this development is expected to lead to a more "planned economy", placing a high premium on accurate and efficient forward projections.

The future of the academic enterprise at the University of the Western Cape depends on effectively addressing external factors, at the same time as preserving the distinctive characteristics that make this a very special university.

The university is having to respond to these environmental pressures in circumstances of acute

budgetary constraints. Reduced state subsidies, escalating student debts, the weakness of the rand and related financial squeezes mean that the university will have to make some tough decisions - including contraction of some programmes and staffing levels. Such decisions are best made as the outcome of considered planning. Rationalisation must be rational.

The university also faces a more competitive environment. Higher education institutions are expected to become more aggressive in competing for students and funding.

Competition will surface in the identification of areas of excellence and niche markets; competition between different types of institutions; competition for research funding and research students; and competition from private institutions and institutions abroad.

The higher education system requires institutions to be more responsive to national development needs and to establishing equity.

In the country's attempt to gain advantage in a competitive global economic climate, higher education will need to support the Government's growth strategy.

The establishment of a national quality assurance body, a measure provided for by law, is likely to lead to a requirement of annual efficien-

cy gains. Consequently, all aspects of the university will increasingly come under scrutiny.

Recognising that the notion of quality is pre-eminently relative, the university will seek to enhance quality through the extent to which goals are met, planned to be met, monitored and evaluated.

A factor that places pressure on both the academic programme and the financial sustainability of UWC is the declining trend in student enrolment.

Higher education institutions now have to compete for students' and funds'

The inability of students to fund their studies fully and the inability of the university to carry large student debt is largely responsible for the university's insistence on linking access to a more structured and secured payment plan.

These declining student numbers have a direct bearing on the under-subscription to various academic offerings, bringing their continued viability into question.

The university is faced with extremely demanding challenges in reorganising its programmes and identifying the direction and areas of concentration to which it should shift its focus. This necessitates the restructuring, reorganisation and, in some instances, reduction in our staffing complement.

Furthermore, the financial realities the university has to face leaves

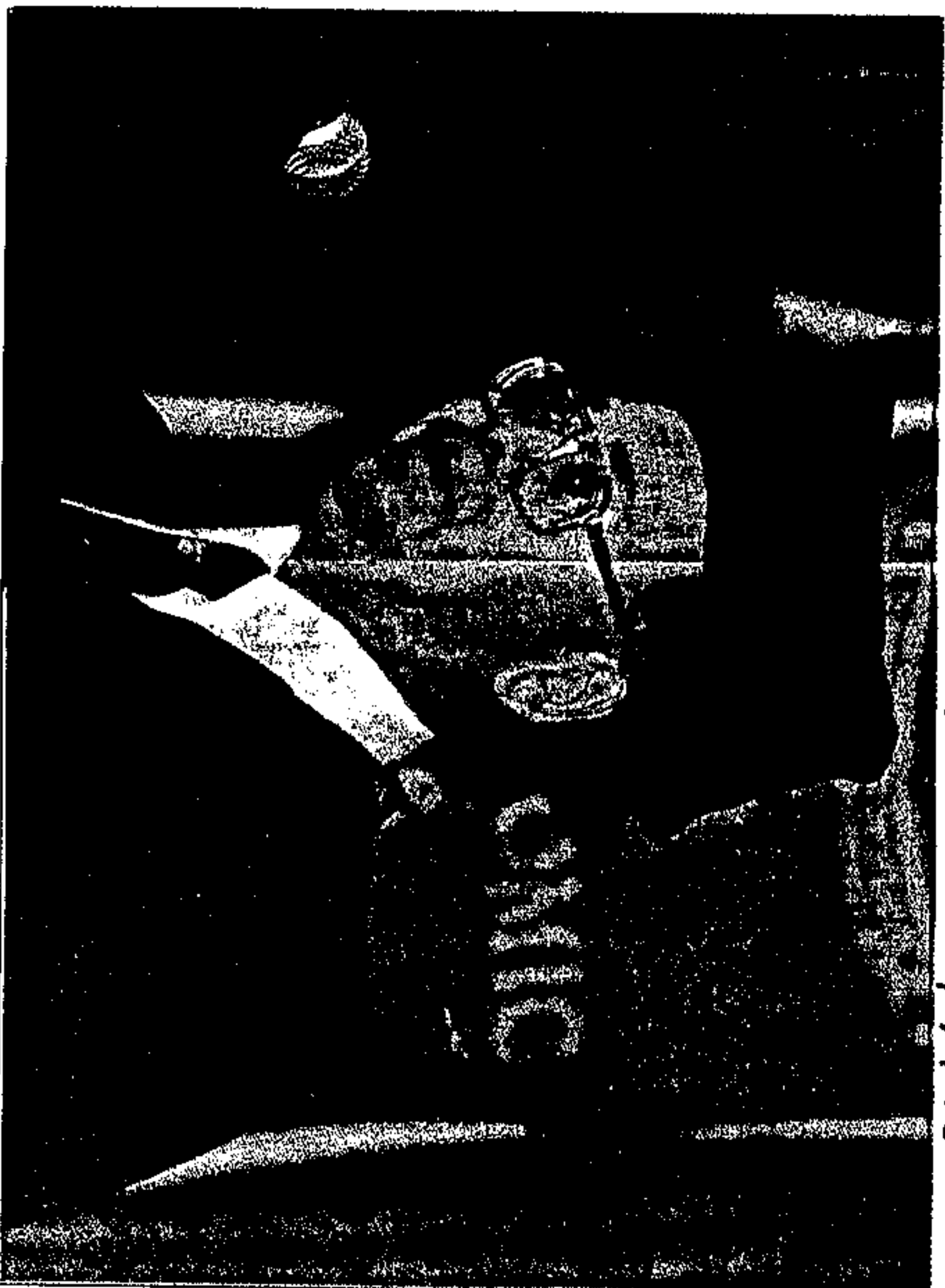
it with very limited choices in its endeavour to cut costs and to reduce its deficit. A week ago, the UWC announced the termination, over a period of one year, of the teaching and research appointments of 41 staff. Understandably, many UWC staff and interested members of the public expressed their concern and even outrage at this action.

Contrary to some campus opinion, the reduction of staff that the university has announced has not been a haphazard affair. As a legal entity, the university followed the provisions and guidelines of the Labour Relations Act carefully and started engaging its academic staff association (UWCASA) in deficit reduction consultations as early as May 1998.

Regrettably, UWCASA did not approach the consultations and the university's financial predicament in the focused manner that was required. By August, the university informed the staff association that since the deficit could not be addressed by savings in 15 non-retenement categories, the option to retrench academic staff had become a reality.

Furthermore, the university proposed various criteria by which the reductions could be effected and invited UWCASA to comment and to make further proposals. When it pointedly refused to do so, the university had no other option but to terminate some positions.

This process was done in an academically planned manner. The university consulted with the deans of



FACING THE FUTURE: Professor Cecil Abrahams, rector and vice-chancellor of the University of the Western Cape

faculties in order to effect the reductions.

In the process, 41 positions were identified. It is important to note that that represents only 8% of the permanent academics on campus.

Furthermore, many of the positions are in areas that UWC's academic plan has not singled out for development. Moreover, these are also areas where there has been a significant decline in student numbers.

This process, which marks a very painful but necessary path, is unavoidable if the university is to remain financially sustainable and able to offer a quality education and service to all its students and staff.

Campus turns against 'visionary' UWC rector

Abrahams says he will defy resignation calls by staff and students

AACT 29/9/98

(54)



Under fire: UWC rector Cecil Abrahams faces a crowd of students, academics and general staff who are demanding his resignation

'I can't believe this is happening'

A University of the Western Cape academic who believes she is the only black woman in the country with a doctorate in human ecology is one of the 41 to be axed.

The woman, who does not want to be identified to protect her teenage son from embarrassment, said she was "devastated and confused" about her retrenchment.

"I work in the field of nutrition and community development. When I read the document detailing how the people who are being retrenched were chosen I couldn't believe I was among them."

A university spokesman said yesterday that in some cases selection was based on "last in, first out" and had nothing to do with the individual's performance.

It is a crushing blow for the woman who says she has given UWC her heart and soul for the past four years.

"I have had three papers published this year and I won R50 000 for my department with a community project teaching women in Elsties River home management skills."

She advises half the honours students in the department on their

research, which includes work on food security, nutrition and tuberculosis.

She is also working on three research projects on women in small business, the employment opportunities for human-ecology students and infant feeding.

The humiliation of receiving a retrenchment letter was made worse because the university administration dropped her "Dr" title, calling her "Miss", and sent her letter to the wrong department.

"I cannot believe this is happening to me," she said.



CAROL CAMPBELL

SPECIAL WRITER

Embattled University of Western Cape rector Cecil Abrahams said today he will not go, even though staff and students unanimously endorsed a call for his resignation at a general assembly yesterday.

Their anger and the vote of no confidence in Professor Abrahams and the university council follows the announcement that 41 academics are to be retrenched.

A university spokesman said the mass retrenchment was part of a programme to refocus and prioritise the functions of the institution which has been crippled by student debt for several years.

"The issue of staff retrenchments is not new. During extensive consultation, from May 25 until September 18, we asked the academic staff association for alternatives to retrenchments but they came up with no constructive proposals."

Professor Abrahams's tough stand against students who do not pay fees has reduced debt from more than R80-million to an expected R18-million.

The number of students at UWC has also dropped substantially as hundreds of youngsters from poor rural areas have returned home.

The rationalisation programme, which had the full support of council, meant that several faculties and departments in non-crucial areas had to shrink, he said. Hardest hit is the Afrikaans department which is to lose eight academics, or 65% of its staff. "This department has had an 80% drop in student enrolment since 1990 so it was a logical place to cut back," said the spokesman.

The music department, usually the first to suffer in retrenchments, will not lose any staff.

"We are not chopping randomly. This whole process has been thought through and is part of an overall plan



Voices of protest: staff and students at UWC rally against the rector after an announcement that 41 academics are to be retrenched

to make the university more efficient." The faculty of theology and religious studies will become a department under the faculty of arts and four foreign languages departments will be incorporated into one.

"The Government wants higher education institutions to focus on science, technology, economics and management. We are trying to shift our priorities to incorporate the national vision," the spokesman said.

Professor Abrahams did not attend the meeting in the university's Great Hall called by the UWC Academic Staff Association and the National Health and Allied Workers Union, but he did brave a toyi-toyiing crowd to accept the memorandum calling for his resignation.

In the document staff and students said they had made a "gross error" in electing him as rector and he no longer had the respect of the campus community. They gave him five days to respond.

Professor Abrahams came back to South Africa in 1995 after 32 years in exile in Canada. He had an executive position at Arcadia University in Hal-

ifax. His appointment to UWC was hailed as a "victory for democracy" after students, staff and the university convocation were involved in interviewing and selecting him.

Yesterday the same staff and some of the students who interviewed him said: "None of the promises made in his visionary speech have materialised."

They said Professor Abrahams had "single-handedly" created a place where workers felt insecure about their jobs and students about their future.

Rector's appointment labelled 'a gross error'

ET 29/9/98

(54)

THE RETRENCHMENT of 41 academics has provoked an uproar at UWC, resulting in a call for the resignation of the rector, reports Education Writer **PRISCILLA SINGH**.

STUDENTS, academics and workers at the University of Western Cape have called for Cecil Abrahams to be sacked, describing his appointment as rector as a "gross error".

In a mass meeting yesterday, the three campus groups stood united for the first time since pandemonium broke out at the university at the beginning of the year, when students with outstanding fees were not admitted for enrolment.

A memorandum calling for a motion of no confidence in Abrahams and his management staff was read out at the meeting. An overwhelming majority voted in favour of its contents and for the resignation of Abrahams.

An excerpt from the memorandum reads: "Since taking office, Professor Abrahams has driven this campus into a crisis and provided no steerage. None of the promises made in his visionary speech have materialised. Promises to raise funding from international sources have yet to happen ... In a crisis we appointed an almost new executive. We have come to accept that our hasty decision resulted in incorrect appointments ..."

The university council has five working days in which to respond. Meanwhile, staff and unions are

proceeding with legally protected strike action this week.

Mounting tension has pervaded UWC since the announcement by Abrahams last week that 41 academics would be retrenched as part of a cost-cutting initiative to save the university from financial disaster.

The UWC Academic Staff Association, the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) and student bodies reacted strongly to the announcement and accused Abrahams of financial mismanagement, lack of leadership and running the university into the ground since he took over as rector two years ago.

Nehawu spokesperson Suraya Jawoodeen said student debt had tripled under his rectorship and the university was almost bankrupt. "The retrenchments were the final straw," she said.

Academic Staff Association chairperson Lionel Nicholas, a professor, said the retrenchment of 41 academics "without warning" constituted the "gravest crisis the university has had to deal with this year".

"The association specified in an agreement with management that no retrenchments would take place without negotiations. The rector added insult to injury by blaming the association. He has just passed the buck and taken no responsibility for his actions," Nicholas said.

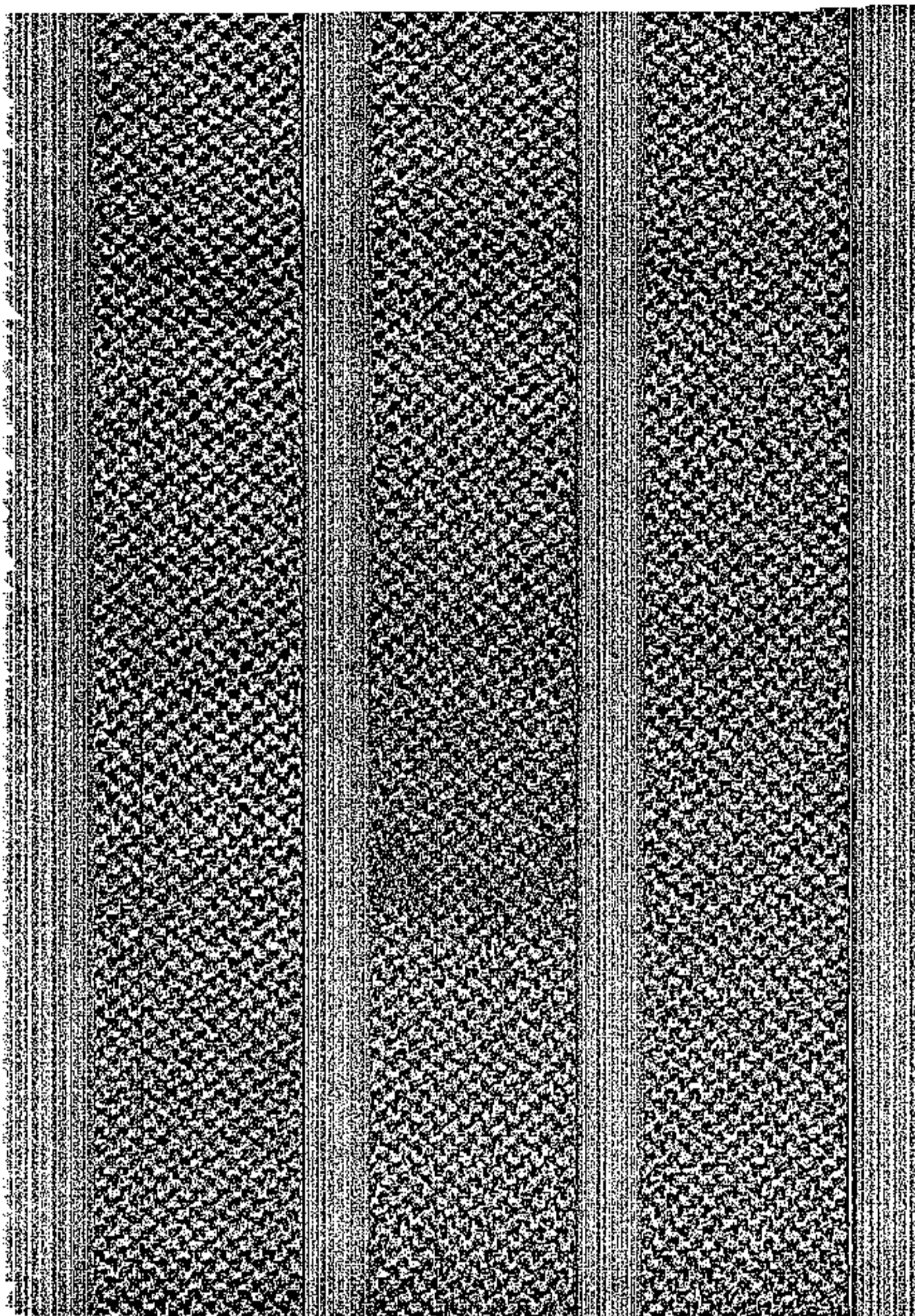
The student representative council, the South African Students' Congress, the Student League and the Pan African Student Organisation came out in full support of the call for Abrahams' resignation.

Abrahams told the *Cape Times* yesterday that the memorandum calling for his resignation would be discussed by the university council on Thursday.

"Senior management, including myself, were mandated by the council to deal with the financial crisis and we presented them with a plan which they approved. Our actions were in line with the council's views. What I have been trying to do is sustain the university financially," he said.

"If the council agrees with the memorandum, they will be in violation of their orders to management. One resigns only when one has done something wrong. I have done the right thing, so there is no reason for me to resign."

"One only resigns when one has done something wrong. I have done the right thing."



UNITED WE STAND: Academic staff, students and union members held a mass meeting yesterday at which they called for the resignation of UWC rector Cecil Abrahams.

CT 29/9/98

(54)

PICTURES: MUJAHID SAFODIEN

41 academics to fight retrenchment 'tooth and nail'

EDUCATION WRITER

THE 41 academics retrenched from the UWC campus are prepared to fight "tooth and nail" with the university management over what they regard as "unfair dismissals".

Two of the disgruntled academics spoke to the *Cape Times* yesterday. One was Christell Stander, who graduated from UWC last week with a doctorate — her third degree from that campus — and

the other a senior member of staff who declined to be named.

Both believe that in identifying those whose services are to be terminated, the criteria laid down by the university management were applied arbitrarily rather than consistently.

"It seems that staff who were involved in new academic programmes were targeted, and this was more in line with unfair dismissal than retrenchment," said

Stander.

"The way people were informed was done in the most inhumane way possible. Letters were delivered to our homes last weekend.

"Our private space was invaded and this has been detrimental to staff morale.

"It was an incredibly clever apartheid-type strategy to deliver news of this nature to people. Some received the letters at 2am," Stander said.

The other academic said he could not understand how Cecil Abrahams, who as rector was "only an administrator", could make a call on academic restructuring. He said senior professors on the campus were examining the rector's abilities in an academic environment.

"He (Abrahams) is selling off his intellectual property at a time when the university should be striving for academic excellence."

Abrahams must go, he's responsible for the present chaos, say



MAKHWENKWE TENGWA: No improvements or upgrading.

PRISCILLA SINGH
EDUCATION WRITER

STUDENTS at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) want to avoid the disruption of the year-end exams at all costs, but most agree that rector Cecil Abrahams "has got to go".

They blame him for the current crisis at the university, which began its academic year on the wrong footing when the management refused to admit students who had not paid fees from last year. Students with outstanding debts were de-registered and kicked



JOSEPHINE KELLA: 'We are sick and tired of Abrahams.'

out from the residences. Rampant chaos on the campus forced it to

close for at least three days.

First year BSc students Shiraz Moosa and Azhar Kazee from Durban said a disruption of the exam timetable would affect their study programme and delay their plans to go home.

"I think the rector has done a good job at UWC. He has taken a stern attitude and the majority who want him to leave are the students who are mostly unhappy with the de-registration and the situation at the residences," Kazee said.

Moosa said the library had been closed because of yesterday's mass



SHIRAZ MOOSA: Impact of protests already being felt.

meeting (see story below) and the effects of the student/staff actions

were already being felt.

Josephine Kella, a second-year BA student, said yesterday's developments were unavoidable and that tension had been building up on the campus since the rector's poor handling of situation earlier this year.

"We are sick and tired of him. He must go so that we can rebuild our university," she said.

Makhwenkwe Tengwa, who is studying education, said Abrahams should move because he "is not making improvements and upgrading UWC like rectors are doing for other universities."

ET 29/9/98

Students



AZHAR KAZEE: 'The rector has done a good job.'

Retrenchments reflect blurred vision

(54) CT 30/9/98

SALEEM BADAT

A UWC academic takes the university leadership to task over the manner in which recent retrenchments have been effected.

HIGHER education institutions are experiencing difficult times. Faced with declining government subsidies, they are also challenged to rapidly reorientate in accordance with the government's new policy goals.

Simultaneously, in the case of the historically black universities, a decline in student numbers this year has meant reduced income from tuition fees, alongside millions of rands in outstanding student fees. Still, while the new conditions represent constraints, they also offer opportunities.

The situation requires, more than at any time before, that institutional leaders choose vision, foresight, wisdom, bold leadership and creative policy-making in their strategic planning and execution of decisions. Such decisions may include retrenchments, but the latter should not have to be inevitable. There is a choice.

As social theorist Anthony Giddens reminds us: "As human beings, we are not condemned to be swept along by forces that have the inevitability of laws of nature ... we must be conscious of the alternative futures that are potentially open to us."

One caustic comment overheard last week was that the University of Western Cape, with notable exceptions, has a top management which, despite the vantage point of the upper floors of the administration building, struggles to see beyond the adjacent Freedom Square on a bright and clear day.

Another remark was that at a once visionary institution and aspirant "intellectual home of the Left", integrity, honesty and trust as core values have been altogether compromised, perhaps even sacrificed, in a desperate attempt to balance UWC's budget. Harsh statements these, but they reflect some of the dismay and anger which followed the retrenchment 10 days ago of 41 academics.

But it is not apparently the retrenchments *per se* that provoked such strong sentiments, as the context and character of this decision by top management.

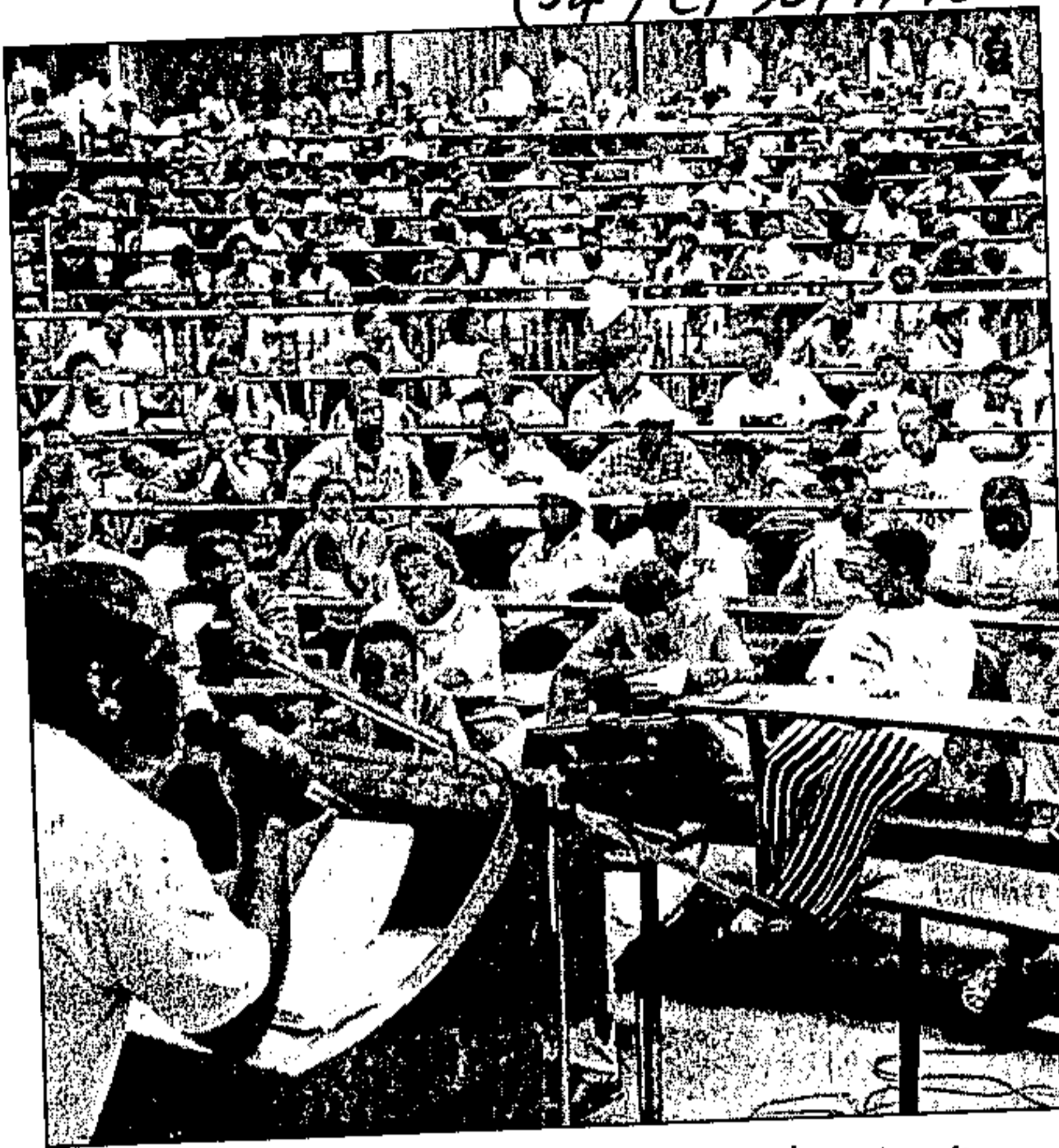
It has been common knowledge that the university would reach a projected R16-million deficit later this year — a deficit, it should be stressed, hardly of the academic staff's making and for which the leadership must bear some responsibility (some R35-million in student debts remains uncollected).

Certainly, numerous meetings have been held to find ways to reduce the deficit. But, until the eve of the issuing of retrenchment notices, the rector continued to emphasise that retrenchments were not on the immediate agenda.

This was a constant theme, frequently stated: retrenchments would only be a last resort and would, in any event, only be considered in relation to a new academic strategic plan for the university.

Then, suddenly, came the hammer-blow of retrenchments visited upon a largely unprepared academic staff.

Perhaps the rector's utterances to an anxious staff contributed to a sense of false security and even to a measure of complacency. A strategic academic plan had yet to see the light of day and there



UWC students attend a crisis meeting as the university gets to grips with its financial predicament.

The University of the Western Cape, with notable exceptions, has a top management that struggles to see beyond the adjacent Freedom Square on a bright and clear day.

were assurances that without it no rational decisions could be taken on academic staff requirements in isolation from decisions about the future direction, size and shape of the university.

There is a perception that, in hindsight, the utterances were naively taken at face value and accepted in too much good faith, and that among the leadership, processes were under way to retrench an identified number of academics, irrespective of any strategic plan. Hence the added perception that deceit, misinformation and the betrayal of trust constituted the hallmarks of the retrenchments process.

The UWC leadership may claim that an "Academic Plan" was produced.

Yet what exists is an extremely cursory and general document which is far from being an integrated and comprehensive academic strategic plan. Any attempt to present such a document as the strategic plan and to insist that it informed the decision to retrench

would be shortsighted.

It would add fuel to the charge of a crisis in effective leadership at UWC and the lack of vision and planning required to orchestrate and manage change appropriately.

The university leadership may also insist that academics had been forewarned of the possibility of retrenchments. Yet it is disingenuous for the top management to claim that discussions with the UWC Academic Staff Association on the projected financial deficit and salaries represented negotiations aimed at retrenchments.

There is no inexorable logic that financial deficits necessarily entail retrenchments, just as retrenchments do not occur only during times of financial deficit. Neither can it be so easily claimed that all alternatives to retrenchments were fully investigated with the UWC Academic Staff Association — several cost-cutting initiatives immediately come to mind — or that there has been full disclosure of all information requested by the association, including the remuneration packages of top management.

If there was exploration of alternatives, they were hardly joint investigations but unilateral initiatives of the management conducted increasingly against the seemingly foregone conclusion of "no alternatives" to retrenchment.

In the absence of an academic strategic plan, the principal bases of the retrenchments have been finance and "efficiency indicators" — in the jargon of the higher education information system, an academic department's senior lecturer equivalents (SLEs) to student full-time equivalents (FTEs) in relation to pre-established norms for departments (for example, one SLE to 34 FTEs).

This is not to deny that efficiency is important. An efficient department and institution is crucial, especially within the context of serving the poor and low-income social groups.

But efficiency, particularly in higher education, cannot be the sole criterion

when deciding which faculties, departments, disciplines, fields or programmes are to be supported and which are to be shut down.

Many other considerations must also come into play, such as quality, effectiveness, institutional goals and priorities, in relation to reconstruction and development needs.

Attention should be paid to many issues other than efficiency at UWC, where the dynamic of the institutional transformation began in the late 1980s and gave expression to the commitment of becoming an institution of excellence and quality — and of access to the historically disadvantaged.

The arguments of the past week seem perfectly legitimate: with foresight, planning and decisive leadership, UWC could have avoided resorting to the almost desperate, knee-jerk manner in which the retrenchments were undertaken.

In relation to the transformation of higher education and declining state subsidies, other higher education institutions have also been obliged to make agonisingly difficult choices, including staff lay-offs. However, they appear to have approached policy-making and planning with considerably more thoughtfulness, purpose and intellectual and organisational vigour than has been evident at UWC.

It is this which has provoked bitter comments that an unadulterated efficiency criterion has been wielded against departments and academics by a management whose own efficiency, effectiveness, foresight and leadership have been found wanting and which must be called into question.

Within this context, what is most worrying is that the management of a once vibrant and pioneering institution has possibly shattered the confidence and morale of its academic employees — the backbone of any academic institution of repute.

At a stroke, a dedicated academic staff profoundly committed to equality of access and opportunity for historically disadvantaged students, and which, under generally trying circumstances, takes pride in pursuing quality education and helping students graduate who many other institutions would not enrol, has had its commitment, motivation and morale heavily dented.

Yet because of who they are and why they are at the University of the Western Cape, these academics are almost certain to keep the needs of their students and the need for appropriate development squarely in focus.

Those who remain will continue to strive to the best of their ability to educate and train, to produce scholarship and research of excellence and relevance and to cultivate the sensitive and critical intellectuals essential for our fledgling democracy.

Yet one senses that it would be foolhardy to conflate and confuse the personal, professional and social commitments of these UWC academics to students and institutional and social transformation with an unambiguous commitment to all aspects of the institution.

On this score, and with respect to social relations and the core institutional values, significant repair and renewal work may be required on the part of the current and any future management.

Dr Saleem Badat is associate professor and director of the Education Policy Unit at UWC, which specialises in higher education policy research. He writes in his personal capacity.

UWC creates new posts after 41 academics axed

From page 1

ARG 30/9/98

prove they need them before academics are employed.

"Resources were freed from faculties and departments undersubscribed by students and out of kilter with market forces," said the spokesman.

The faculties and departments which lost staff are: Afrikaans and Nederlands, Arabic, English, French, German, Latin, philosophy, education didactics, educational psychology, philosophy of education, theology and religion, human movement studies and human ecology and the Institute for Historical Research. There were also small losses in botany, chemistry, mathematics and zoology.

"We are trying to run a tighter ship here.

"We do not have money to play with and we have to ensure that what we do have is spent effectively and in

the national good.

"There is no point keeping scarce resources locked in departments when students are voting with their feet by studying more marketable courses," he added.

The new jobs would be in study areas benefiting the South African economy and in line with a national vision to promote science and technology education.

This week the UWC Academic Staff Association, the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union and student organisations called for the resignation of the rector, Cecil Abrahams.

They blamed him for the axing of 41 lecturers and colleagues.

The National, Education, Health and Allied Workers Union went on strike yesterday when the university administration announced it could not afford to give workers salary increases.

Now UWC is hiring boffins

CAROL CAMPBELL

SPECIAL WRITER

(54)

ARG 30/9/98

Days after the axing of 41 academics, the University of the Western Cape has announced it will create 31 new posts in its science departments.

The 41 axed academics were mostly in arts departments and the money saved from their retrenchment will be used to improve science education across all disciplines.

A university spokesman confirmed today that economic and management sciences, the natural sciences and the health sciences, like dentistry, nursing physiotherapy and occupational therapy, would benefit most from the "reallocation" of resources.

The new posts have not been allocated yet and the benefiting departments will have to

To page 2

Confusion after 2 000 students told: pay or go

MARTHA QUMBA
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

(54)

The University of the Western Cape has said it will not bar students from writing their exams if they have not paid their fees but they will not be told their results until they do.

But close to 2 000 students have had letters from the university administration barring them from writing their final examinations this month unless they pay outstanding debt.

Today, head of student affairs Ikey van de Rheede said students had to write their exams irrespective of their financial situation which could be sorted out afterwards.

Students say they are confused by the mixed messages from management about their fees and exams.

The letter said the university was not in a position to keep students if they did not pay before September 30. Students Representative Council spokesman Thabo Masombuka confirmed that about 2 000 students had had letters from the administration but said they should be ignored.

"The SRC met the university mon-

itoring committee to discuss the matter and they agreed to suspend the deregistration process."

But the call to ignore the letters is too late for some who have already returned home.

A student, who did not want to be named, said: "I received a letter during the September holidays reminding me to finish paying my fees before September month end.

"I went to the university's finance department and they told me it was non-negotiable, I must pay. I am going home because I do not have the money to pay."

Sithembele Budaza, a management honours student, said: "The SRC should be blamed for the confusion which comes after the shock of the agreement they signed with the administration at the beginning of the year.

"The university is really demoralising us because this is a critical time. We are not focusing on the exams but the finance problem and that will lead to an incredibly high failure rate."

Another student said: "Students who are unable to pay must not come to university because tertiary education is a privilege."



Harassed: RAU students (from left) Lerato Lukhele, Happy Mabasa, Malcolm X and Pappia Madipa allege they have been assaulted by white students on the campus. PHOTOGRAPH: ZOE SELSKY

Black students 'living in fear'

Evidence wa ka Ngobeni

(54)

Black students at Rand Afrikaans University (RAU) in Johannesburg are being subjected to vicious assaults and humiliating harassment by white students.

Black students also say some "no go" areas for them at the university include white residences at the university.

A document handed to black students early this year by university management says they are not allowed in these areas because they do not follow the Afrikaner culture.

"Everyone has his/her own culture and norms and we will like to maintain this culture we inherited," the document stated.

But dean of students at the university, Professor Frederick de Jager, said: "The matter has been resolved. There are no longer such things here as 'no go' areas."

RAU was an all-white institution, but now has about 15% black students and over 60% white Afrikaner students.

Many black students live in fear because their complaints are not taken up by the university management and what students

called "white" security services.

In a recent incident, first-year law student Lerato Lukhele (21) said he was assaulted twice by a group of four white students.

"These guys forced me to worship and honour a statue of Jan van Riebeeck. They told me if I did not I will get killed or be thrown out of the university," said Lukhele.

De Jager said he is unaware of students worshipping statues around the university, but conceded that they may be regarded as a symbol for white students.

A first-year development studies student, Happy Mabasa (21), said a group of white students turned off the main electrical switch in his residence and broke into his room.

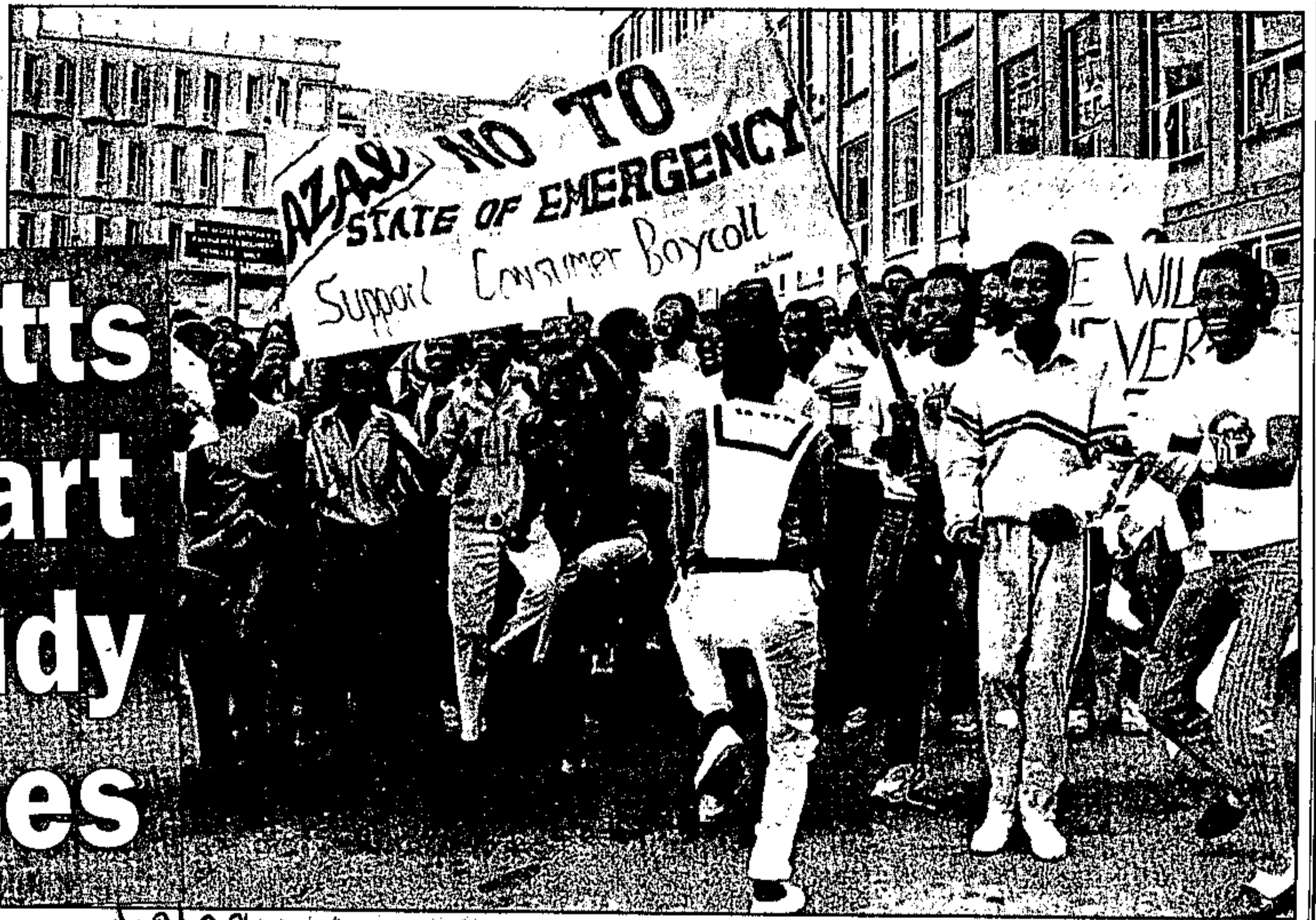
Mabasa said he sustained internal injuries following what he called a "brutal assault" by a group of white students.

"I took my case to the security services and the management, but nothing was done about the culprits. What they have done is to give me a letter for medical expenses," said Mabasa.

The Human Rights Commission is investigating the black students' complaints and is meeting RAU's management next week.

M+G 2-8/10/98

Students who go on class boycott suffer losses, possibilities of failure, lost time and pressure from parents who are worried about losing money



Boycotts not part of study courses

By Mark Mfiko

24 October 1998

STUDENT Representative Councils need to review their role as members of broader university councils, recent turmoil at tertiary institutions suggests.

The boycott of lectures by students at the Medical University of Southern Africa (Medunsa) and the standoff that continues at the University of Venda have highlighted this - and are a matter of serious concern to the Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo).

The conflict between Student Representative Councils (SRCs) and university councils are at the centre of the boycotts.

The irony of the matter is that the SRCs are supposed to be members of these councils. In my day as president of the Azanian Student's Convention (Azasco) some of us were opposed to students being part of councils when it became fashionable to go for this option.

The reasons advanced then were that membership would sacrifice student interests and create a possible conflict between the SRC and their constituency.

The analytical point was that the traditional structures of universities with power will, at strategic points, claim prerogative to manage - and give students the right to speak but not be heard.

The view that eventually won was that it would be strategic to have information about what was happening within councils and try to influence decisions at that level.

Understand the conflicts

The events at Medunsa and the University of Venda and the way university managements understand these conflicts suggest that there must be a change of attitude or SRCs should not be part of council anymore. In this way councils would need to consult with SRCs as separate entities, representing a particular power block, forming part of the university community.

This is the feeling of many students because they believe their presence in the council is being abused. The SRCs are being used to legitimise unpopular decisions because the catchphrase all the time is "but how can they criticise, the SRC was there".

What makes this situation unfair is that students cannot claim the prerogative. Irrespective of what anyone else is saying they will continue with their line. But management does it.

SRCs feel used by councils and this must change. To this end universities have a choice. Councils should represent a special interest and they are the lifeblood of university activity.

Management must recognise that it is painful to go on class boycott. Although management may sustain losses, these cannot be compared with the losses suffered by students with the possibilities of failure, lost time and pressure from parents who are worried about losing money.

Students do not want to have to resort to these measures, but they are forced to do so.

In this day and age we expect Barney Pitso to have sleepless nights because students from a univer-

sity of which he is a chancellor are in prison with hardened criminals.

(He should) be seen to be taking responsible measures to rectify the situation. We do not expect his university to be blocking their release.

When students have a problem with his council, they do not expect him to call them rude but to understand why they oppose a 13% increase in the cost of learning.

They are learning in a country where their parents, through no fault of their own, find themselves paying exorbitant interest rates on their house loans, paying extra for petrol, bread, maize meal and all the other essential things.

Further disruption

The council of Medunsa should remember, when they talk about a 13 percent increase in study fees, they are implementing a mechanism by which many more people will be excluded from accessing skills and participating in the development and opportunities this country and the world have to offer.

This will lead to further disruption of learning as students get involved in the struggle against financial exclusions.

These students expected to pay 13 percent higher fees are the dependents of people who are out on the streets for asking for far less in terms of income. Their parents are the members of Congress of South African Trade Unions, National Council of Trade Unions and the Banking, Insurance, Finance and Allied Workers Union.

University councils are actually employers but do not offer their employees anything near what they are expected to pay for their children at university.

An additional matter is that the leadership of universities must be acceptable to the public. The leadership of any university is important and must be acceptable to those who would be subordinates.

Not legitimate

The reason why students engaged in war in occupied Azania was that we did not recognise those who were in leadership in this country, and the reason why Kabila's Democratic Republic of Congo is a blood-bath is that his leadership is not legitimate to the people of Congo.

The University of Venda and Medunsa should recognise this need for leadership acceptability.

Students once engaged in a very protracted struggle to democratise councils and make them, if anything, more sensitive to student needs. Do not reverse gains achieved in this exercise.

All those involved should remember that being part of university councils was, and is now acknowledged, not a revolutionary stance where contradictions are sharpened, but rather an arena where conflicts are harmonised.

University community harmony is supposed to start at this level. Everyone needs to make sure this happens and university social organisation should not conflict with academic and career progress.

Councils must remember that students are at universities to study and should carefully scrutinise what they are doing - so they do not create another agenda for students aside from studying.



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Public Hearing: Provincial Emblems

The Standing Committee on Petitions and Public Participation will hold a public hearing on provincial emblems.

The cabinet of the Gauteng Provincial Government adopted a resolution on 9 June 1998 to approve in principle the adoption of flora and fauna emblems for Gauteng. The matter was referred to the Gauteng Legislature for approval, and the Speaker of the Legislature referred the matter to the Standing Committee to ensure that a process of public participation in discussion of provincial emblems was held.

The emblems would be used for purposes of marketing Gauteng as an eco-tourism destination. Emblems also contribute greatly to citizens' spirit of pride and love for their province.

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Date: Friday, 16 October 1998

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Closing date for written submissions: 12 October 1998.



Students who go on class boycott suffer losses, possibilities of failure, lost time and pressure from parents who are worried about losing money



Boycotts not part of study courses

By Mark Mfikoe

STUDENT Representative Councils need to review their role as members of broader university councils, recent turmoil at tertiary institutions suggests.

The boycott of lectures by students at the Medical University of Southern Africa (Medunsa) and the standoff that continues at the University of Venda have highlighted this - and are a matter of serious concern to the Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo).

The conflict between Student Representative Councils (SRCs) and university councils are at the centre of the boycotts.

The irony of the matter is that the SRCs are supposed to be members of these councils. In my day as president of the Azanian Student's Convention (Azaseo) some of us were opposed to students being part of councils when it became fashionable to go for this option.

The reasons advanced then were that membership would sacrifice student interests and create a possible conflict between the SRC and their constituency.

The analytical point was that the traditional structures of universities with power will, at strategic points, claim prerogative to manage - and give students the right to speak but not be heard.

The view that eventually won was that it would be strategic to have information about what was happening within councils and try to influence decisions at that level.

Understand the conflicts

The events at Medunsa and the University of Venda and the way university managements understand these conflicts suggest that there must be a change of attitude or SRCs should not be part of council anymore. In this way councils would need to consult with SRCs as separate entities, representing a particular power block, forming part of the university community.

This is the feeling of many students because they believe their presence in the council is being abused. The SRCs are being used to legitimise unpopular decisions because the catchphrase all the time is "but how can they criticise, the SRC was there".

What makes this situation unfair is that students cannot claim the prerogative. Irrespective of what anyone else is saying they will continue with their line. But management does it.

SRCs feel used by councils and this must change. To this end universities have a choice. Councils should recognise that students represent a special interest and they are the lifeblood of university activity.

Management must recognise that it is painful to go on class boycott. Although management may sustain losses, these cannot be compared with the losses suffered by students with the possibilities of failure, lost time and pressure from parents who are worried about losing money.

Students do not want to have to resort to these measures. But they are forced to do so.

In this day and age we expect Barney Pitso to have sleepless nights because students from a univer-

sity of which he is a chancellor are in prison with hardened criminals.

(He should) be seen to be taking responsible measures to rectify the situation. We do not expect his university to be blocking their release.

When students have a problem with his council, they do not expect him to call them rude but to understand why they oppose a 13% increase in the cost of learning.

They are learning in a country where their parents, through no fault of their own, find themselves paying exorbitant interest rates on their house loans, paying extra for petrol, bread, maize meal and all the other essential things.

Further disruption

The council of Medunsa should remember, when they talk about a 13 percent increase in study fees, they are implementing a mechanism by which many more people will be excluded from accessing skills and participating in the development and opportunities this country and the world have to offer.

This will lead to further disruption of learning as students get involved in the struggle against financial exclusions.

These students expected to pay 13 percent higher fees are the dependents of people who are out on the streets for asking for far less in terms of income. Their parents are the members of Congress of South African Trade Unions, National Council of Trade Unions and the Banking, Insurance, Finance and Allied Workers Union.

University councils are actually employers but do not offer their employees anything near what they are expected to pay for their children at university.

An additional matter is that the leadership of universities must be acceptable to the public. The rectorship of any university is important and must be acceptable to those who would be subordinates.

Not legitimate

The reason why students engaged in war in occupied Azania was that we did not recognise those who were in leadership in this country, and the reason why Kabila's Democratic Republic of Congo is a blood-bath is that his leadership is not legitimate to the people of Congo.

The University of Venda and Medunsa should recognise this need for leadership acceptability.

Students once engaged in a very protracted struggle to democratise councils and make them, if anything, more sensitive to student needs. Do not reverse gains achieved in this exercise.

All those involved should remember that being part of university councils was, and is now acknowledged, not a revolutionary stance where contradictions are sharpened, but rather an arena where conflicts are harmonised.

University community harmony is supposed to start at this level. Everyone needs to make sure this happens and university social organisation should not conflict with academic and career progress.

Councils must remember that students are at universities to study and should carefully scrutinise what they are doing - so they do not create another agenda for students aside from studying.



ST MARKS COLLEGE

St Marks College is a co-educational Anglican boarding school situated in the rural hills of Sekhukhuneland. The school was established at Jane Furse in 1985 and since then its excellent academic record can be attributed to a committed staff and generous donations from overseas and locally which have made possible the building of a well-equipped school.

St Marks offers a wide range of subjects, including an innovative scientific engineering subject called Design and Technology, as well as a Career Guidance programme. Mathematics is a compulsory subject.

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Public Hearing: Provincial Emblems

The Standing Committee on Petitions and Public Participation will hold a public hearing on provincial emblems.

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Gauteng
Legislature

'Great Trek' to Pretoria University continues

(M4)

BY JIMMY SEEPE

ONE of the key members of the University of the Witwatersrand's "Gang of 13" professors who allegedly conspired to remove Prof William Makgoba from the institution bowed out this week.

Prof Charles van Onselen, who was director of the Institute for Advanced Social Research at Wits, and who was considered to have led attempts to remove Makgoba from his position as the University Vice

Chancellor in 1996, quit the institution on Thursday.

Van Onselen's decision brings to nine the number of members who have quit the university after failing to remove Makgoba.

It is understood that Van Onselen will join the University of Pretoria, following other members of the original "gang", Prof June Sinclair and Prof Robin Crewe.

One of the "anti-Makgoba" group, Prof Etienne Mureinik, committed suicide at the Braamfontein Hotel by jumping

through a window of the room he had occupied.

The Gang of 13, as it came to be known in media and political circles, has been crumbling since the university decided to appoint Makgoba to a senior research position instead of sacking him from Wits.

The Makgoba Affair involved twelve white professors and one black professor.

Onselen will be remembered for his letter to the University of Natal enquiring about Makgoba's academic background.

The oddly-worded letter read: "I wondered whether your office could assist me with a rather esoteric enquiry (sic) for a piece of social history I am conducting.

"Is it possible for your office to indicate with any certainty who the first African scholar graduate was at the University of Natal to be awarded a distinction and a certificate of merit in medicine?"

The covert investigation of Makgoba was at the time widely condemned by academics who exposed Van Onselen's "esoteric enquiry" behind his back.

When contacted by City Press on Friday regarding Van Onselen's resignation, Makgoba said: "It is a blessing for the university. But I'm worried that the gang seems to be relocating to the University of Pretoria."

Makgoba, who said he was not surprised by Van Onselen's resignation, told City Press that "one has to ask oneself about the future position of Pretoria as it becomes a haven for conservatives in the country. It does not bode well for the process of change and transformation at that institution."

CP 4/10/98



**CAMPUS
RIGHT OR
WRONG:**

The project measures the efficiency and innovation of courses on offer to today's students

Picture:
ANDRZEJ
SAWA

Now we rate varsities

Are taxpayers — and students — getting value for their money?

CORNIA PRETORIUS

(54) ST 4/10/98
Sunday Times
BEST IN HIGHER EDUCATION

THE first annual survey of higher learning — an in-depth look at South Africa's 21 universities and 15 technikons — will be published by the Sunday Times on October 18.

Like our Top Schools project, the aim of the Sunday Times Best in Higher Education survey is to identify and celebrate various forms of excellence at universities and technikons nationwide. The aim is not to pick "winners" and rank them — a practice in countries like the US and Britain.

The circumstances that influence higher institutions persuaded us to use different criteria. Guided by our panel of experts, this survey examines how institutions are spending their money as a way to measure their efficiency.

Dr Nico Cloete, co-ordinator of the project and director of the Centre for Higher Education Transformation, says that the ideal is to have cost-efficient higher education which delivers graduates of a high quality.

But, he explains, some institutions hire large numbers of poorly qualified and poorly paid temporary lecturers and give them large classes to teach. "If they lower standards and produce large numbers of graduates, then such insti-

tutions will be very efficient in terms of cost per graduate, but no parent would like to send their child to such an institution.

"They would prefer to send their child to a place with highly qualified permanent staff members who teach small classes and spend almost half their time on research. Such an institution would be very expensive, could possibly be called cost inefficient, but may be very attractive to prospective students."

The idea is not only to acknowledge the achievements of universities and technikons in a changing society, but to spur debate among taxpayers — who provide the money for the institutions — about what they are doing right and wrong, and how they can improve.

The panel didn't judge these institutions by their academic quality because they agreed there was no single, clear-cut definition for the concept.

However, we hope in future surveys to include an examination of what quality means in higher education.

The panel used two yardsticks with which to compare universities with

universities and technikons with technikons. They were:

- Efficiency or cost-effectiveness — determining whether institutions are using their money in the best possible ways; and

- Innovation — looking at activities institutions are creating in response to what the government expects from them under new higher education policy. While measuring efficiency, institutions were compared in such a way as to try to accommodate historical inequalities.

In the end, the panel decided on the following criteria for efficiency:

- How institutions use their money to produce successful undergraduates;

- The impact of student fee increases on the number of students who graduate; and

- The number of academic staff with doctoral degrees who regularly publish research.

The second leg of the survey, innovation, was evaluated on the basis of information institutions provided on noteworthy projects which:

- Respond through teaching and

research to community and national needs;

- Promote students' access to and success at institutions;

- Improve the quality of teaching and learning; and

- Reflect regional co-operation between institutions.

The panel includes 13 local and international experts. They are: Professor Saleem Badat, director of the Education Policy Unit at the University of the Western Cape; Professor William Makgoba, chairman of the Medical Research Council; Professor Ian Bunting, dean of social sciences, University of Cape Town; George Subotzky, a senior researcher at the Education Policy Unit, UWC; Professor Charles Simkins of the University of Witwatersrand; Themble Kulati, Chet researcher; Dr Rolf Stumpf, president of the Human Sciences Research Council; Penny Vinjevoed, a consultant for the Joint Education Trust; Dr Luis Crouch, an international education consultant; Dr Fred Hayward, a senior associate at the American Council on Education; Dr Steve du Randt of Deloitte and Touche; and Professor Peter Scott, vice-chancellor of the University of Kingston in Britain.

The Sunday Times will showcase eight institutions which the panel thinks express fresh, imaginative ways of taking higher education forward.

Tertiary education 'is mired in R600m debt'

Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — Students at SA's universities and technikons owed their institutions an accumulated debt of almost R600m, Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu said yesterday.

Replying to a parliamentary question from National Party MP Gerhard Koornhof, Bengu said 21 universities and 15 technikons were owed R589 862 037 for outstanding tuition and residence fees as at June 30.

Koornhof described the figures as frightening and said the debt threatened the future of tertiary education institutions in the country.

He said it was clear that the culture of entitlement which had grown out of the days of the struggle still existed and "it looks as if the government is unable to reverse this tendency", creating instability in the higher education sector.

The education spokesman for the Democratic Party, Mike Ellis, said government's attempt to offer education to students regardless of their ability to pay had been disastrous and this could bring tertiary education in the country

to its knees.

"The fund designed to help needy students is clearly not working and this has added to the stress being felt by students and institutions which might have been relying on the fund. The minister must now show the political will to ensure that debts are paid and that students accepted have both the desire and the ability to fund their share," Ellis said.

Hardest hit is the University of the North which is owed more than R70m, followed by the University of Zululand with R55m, the Medical University of SA at R52m and the University of the Western Cape with R50m.

The University of SA, universities of Potchefstroom, Port Elizabeth, Rand Afrikaans and Rhodes are the best off, with an accumulated debt each of less than R5m.

Technikon SA, owed R48m, is the hardest hit of the technikons, followed by Peninsula in Cape Town at R24m, Northern Gauteng at R15m and Pretoria at R10m.

Three technikons — ML Sultan, Natal and Witwatersrand — failed to respond to the request for figures.

BD 6/10/98

(74)

Left-wingers pull off student council

Sasco-dominated council seen to be in cahoots with

ARC 7/10/98 (54)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The SRC at the University of the Western Cape has been ousted in an apparent coup by left-wing students.

The elected Student Representative Council, which was dominated by members of the South African Student Congress (Sasco), was pushed

out at yesterday's annual meeting by students from the Pan African Student Movement, the Azanian Student Congress and the Student League who say they have formed an interim SRC.

Today ousted SRC president Ntisie Netshitomboni said the SRC had been constantly harassed and heckled by radical students since taking power

after an election in August last year. "We were continuously threatened and assaulted.

"Every time we tried to call a meeting it was disrupted and it got to the point where we couldn't continue anymore," he said.

A student election should have taken place in August this year but according to Mr Netshitomboni meet-

ings to plan the election were also disrupted by radical students.

"These students don't want an election because they know Sasco will win again," he said.

It is understood that the major dissatisfaction with the Sasco-led SRC was its alleged complicity with the university administration in making students pay arrears fees.

The ousted SRC has, all along, appealed to students to pay their fees and was perceived to have given in to demands by the university administration to force students to pay what they couldn't afford.

Hundreds of students have been forced to leave the university and return home because of the administration's tough stand on fees.

administration over fees

Yesterday Thabiso Damoyi, a law student said: "I am very happy because the interim SRC is composed of students from various political backgrounds.

"The former SRC has neglected and deserted us. They were in cahoots with the university management.

Student Luvuyo Matibane added:

"The old SRC sold us out by signing an agreement (to make students pay fees) with the university management.

"The students must have trust in this interim SRC."

Sasco, chairperson Tando Tiyo said: "We accept the interim SRC but I am very doubtful they can do what the ousted SRC has managed to do."

Coup at UWC

Old Broeders don't quit, they return to haunt Maties

Deon Wiggert

The University of Stellenbosch has appointed its retired vice-rector into another position, raising fears that the institution has a special relationship with former Broederbonders. (54)

Professor Christo Viljoen, who retired in March, will head the newly established Office for Intellectual Property. The position was not advertised. M+C 9-15/16/98

University representative Douglas Davis says posts are often not advertised.

"The university is not compelled to advertise all vacant positions. When the best available candidate is already clearly identified, the university frequently saves on the huge advertising costs if the candidate accepts an offer.

"In the light of this, the university considers it unnecessary to advertise the position of director of the Office for Intellectual Property, since its negotiations with Professor Viljoen were successful," says Davis.

Several campus figures expressed their dismay about the appointment.

Wynoma Michaels, chair of the Student Representative Council, says Viljoen's appointment is "very problematic".

"The appointment wasn't only not transparent, but it assumes there are no people outside the university who are better qualified for the position. More importantly, it prevents fresh new thinking entering the university," she says.

Annie Gagiano of the English department says it "seems astonishing the university administration could make this appointment in this way — yet again avoiding open competition on merit and creating suspicion of nepotism. So much for the avowed commitment to transparency in university governance."

A student leader, who prefers to remain anonymous, says the appointment "reminds one of the sort of thing that happened on campus 10 years ago. The university is not compelled to advertise the position, but it is the fair thing to do.

"Every time a Broederbond member leaves the university, one thinks there would be a little more transparency in decision-making. Apparently the university merely reappoints the Broeders."

Viljoen was revealed as a Broederbond member in Ivor Wilkins and Hans Strydom's 1978 book *The Super-Afrikaners*.

Davis says Viljoen was appointed because he has "extensive knowledge of the university as institution" and "good contact with industry".

Viljoen, who has been involved with the institution for 32 years, will continue to receive his pension from the university, as well as a salary for his new position.

The Office for Intellectual Property is being set up to market the university's research internationally.

UWC could close, rector warns staff

Retrenchments 'the only way'

(54) ARG 9/10/98

Q&A

Cecil Abrahams



Cecil Abrahams: UWC 'faces closure'

ANDREA BOTHA
EDUCATION REPORTER

Rector of the University of the Western Cape Cecil Abrahams has warned that the university will be "seriously faced with closure" unless it goes through with emergency cost-cutting retrenchments.

But the university's academic staff are planning legal action to stop the university retrenching 41 academics. About 8% of the staff complement, including the academic staff, were given letters of retrenchment two weeks ago.

The Academic Staff Association claimed that the university did not follow correct negotiating procedures in terms of the Labour Relations Act.

But Professor Abrahams said the university negotiated with the union at length and could come to no agreement. The university had exhausted

all other non-retrenchment possibilities and could come up with no other way to reduce its R16,3million deficit.

The deficit was the result of massive student debt, coupled with a cut in government subsidy and foreign donations. The university had no resources or cash flow to cover the deficit.

He said the national Education Department had indicated earlier this year that there was no money available to bail out UWC and banks required a sound financial plan before approving loans.

Non-academic staff, represented by the the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union, have been on strike since Tuesday, demanding a wage increase of at least 8%.

Professor Abrahams said he was particularly concerned about the disruption of services and facilities, such as a library, in the crucial fourth term.

University of the Western Cape Rector Cecil Abrahams has come under fire for his leadership during the current financial crisis. In this question-and-answer interview, he sheds light on some of the key issues.

Q: Over recent weeks, the university's unions, staff and students have called for your resignation. Are you considering stepping down and, if not, why not?

A: I am not considering resigning. I think all the criticism levelled against me is unfair and not truthful.

I am trying to deal with structural problems that were at the university before I came on the scene. I am trying to be responsible and have been mandated by the university council. I am not acting alone.

Q: Can the university's financial problems not be addressed without retrenching staff and cutting wage increases?

A: When we first contacted Uwcasa and Nehawu in May, we provided them with 15 categories of non-retrenchment savings areas. We noted that if every staff member on the UWC payroll gave up for one year their bonus or 13th cheque, we would have a saving of R10-million.

This proposal and others were not accepted by Uwcasa. We are still awaiting a reply from Nehawu.

Q: How do you think the conflict between students, staff and university management is affecting the running of the university?

A: We are all very unhappy about what is happening and it is, indeed, affecting relations between some members of the staff, students and management. It is also affecting the running of the university. In particular, I am concerned about the library that has been closed now for several days because of the Nehawu strike.

Q: Last week, the university wanted to create 31 posts in science departments, shortly after 41 academic staff members in other departments were given retrenchment letters. Does this indicate a shift in focus about the importance of certain departments and courses?

A: In our planning we noted that if in future staff resigned or retired and posts became vacant, the university would assign the funds for those posts to programmes and faculties where we targeted development and growth.

Blame for crisis laid on all sides

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The University of the Western Cape has been shaken by marches and demonstrations once again as students and university employees have joined forces to protest against the university's management.

Although the two main unions on campus, the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union and the University of the Western Cape's Academic Staff Association have different concerns, both are unanimously calling for the resignation of rector Cecil Abrahams.

The unions accuse him of being negligent, inefficient and responsible for the financial problems the university is facing. The university has a deficit of R16,3-million as a result of massive student debts, a cut in Government funding and foreign dona-

tions and a drop in student numbers.

The latest campus crisis started two weeks ago when the university announced the retrenchment of 41 academics after negotiations with the academic staff union, Uwcasa, broke down. The union is now in the process of taking legal action against the university to prevent it from putting the retrenchments into effect.

Uwcasa claims the university did not act legally in terms of the Labour Relations Act, but the university says it followed the correct channels and that no agreement could be reached.

The administrative staff union, Nehawu, began striking on campus last week to protest against the breakdown in wage negotiations.

The union initially wanted a 12% pay increase, but has now settled for 8%. The university, however, is offering only a 5% increase for the next financial year.

Nehawu also fears that 300 of its

members could be retrenched later this year.

The university got an interdict restraining Nehawu members from disrupting activities and intimidating and assaulting university employees after union members allegedly prevented them from leaving their offices and the campus.

The atmosphere at the university this week was tense and uncertain. While some classes have been suspended, others have continued as usual.

The library and other administrative services have been closed for several days, preventing students from finishing assignments and preparing for exams which are to begin at the end of the month.

Professor Abrahams has indicated a possible postponement of exams.

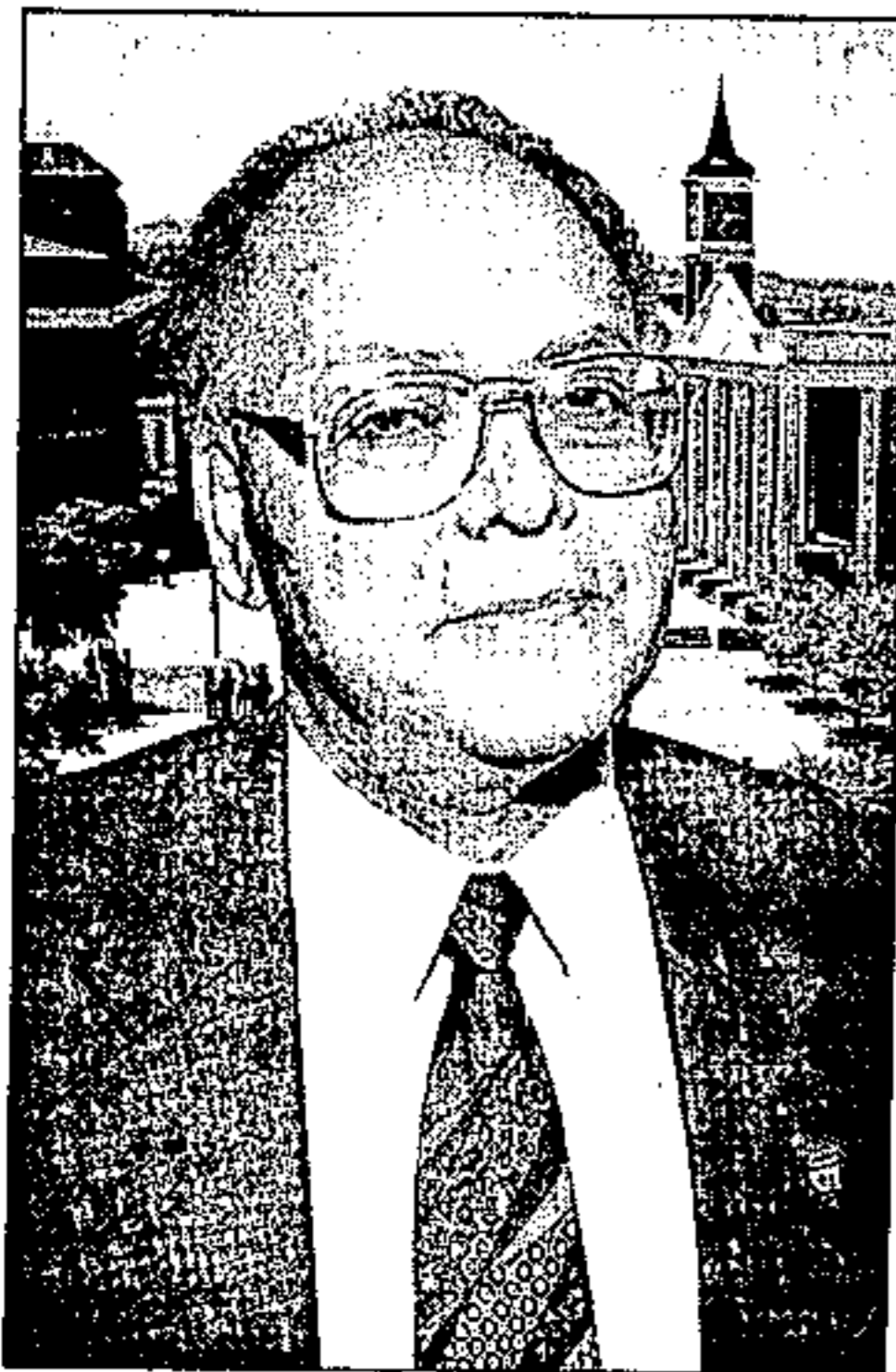
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Interview by Andrea Botha

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(54) ARG 9/10/98



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Q&A

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EDUCATION REPORTER

Rector of the University of the Western Cape Cecil Abrahams has warned that the university will be "seriously faced with closure" unless it goes through with emergency cost-cutting retrenchments.

But the university's academic staff are planning legal action to stop the university retrenching 41 academics. About 8% of the staff complement, including the academic staff, were given letters of retrenchment two weeks ago.

The Academic Staff Association claimed that the university did not follow correct negotiating procedures in terms of the Labour Relations Act.

But Professor Abrahams said the university negotiated with the union at length and could come to no agreement. The university had exhausted

all other non-retrenchment possibilities and could come up with no other way to reduce its R16,3million deficit.

The deficit was the result of massive student debt, coupled with a cut in government subsidy and foreign donations. The university had no resources or cash flow to cover the deficit.

He said the national Education Department had indicated earlier this year that there was no money available to bail out UWC and banks required a sound financial plan before approving loans.

Non-academic staff, represented by the the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union, have been on strike since Tuesday, demanding a wage increase of at least 8%.

Professor Abrahams said he was particularly concerned about the disruption of services and facilities, such as a library, in the crucial fourth term.

Blame for crisis laid on all sides

ANDREA BOTHA
EDUCATION REPORTER

The University of the Western Cape has been shaken by marches and demonstrations once again as students and university employees have joined forces to protest against the university's management.

Although the two main unions on campus, the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union and the University of the Western Cape's Academic Staff Association have different concerns, both are unanimously calling for the resignation of rector Cecil Abrahams.

The unions accuse him of being negligent, inefficient and responsible for the financial problems the university is facing. The university has a deficit of R16,3-million as a result of massive student debts, a cut in Government funding and foreign dona-

tions and a drop in student numbers.

The latest campus crisis started two weeks ago when the university announced the retrenchment of 41 academics after negotiations with the academic staff union, Uwcasa, broke down. The union is now in the process of taking legal action against the university to prevent it from putting the retrenchments into effect.

Uwcasa claims the university did not act legally in terms of the Labour Relations Act, but the university says it followed the correct channels and that no agreement could be reached.

The administrative staff union, Nehawu, began striking on campus last week to protest against the breakdown in wage negotiations.

The union initially wanted a 12% pay increase, but has now settled for 8%. The university, however, is offering only a 5% increase for the next financial year.

Nehawu also fears that 300 of its

members could be retrenched later this year.

The university got an interdict restraining Nehawu members from disrupting activities and intimidating and assaulting university employees after union members allegedly prevented them from leaving their offices and the campus.

The atmosphere at the university this week was tense and uncertain. While some classes have been suspended, others have continued as usual.

The library and other administrative services have been closed for several days, preventing students from finishing assignments and preparing for exams which are to begin at the end of the month.

Professor Abrahams has indicated a possible postponement of exams.

There also have been allegations of intimidation and harassment of non-striking staff.

Q&A

Cecil
Abrahams

University of the Western Cape Rector Cecil Abrahams has come under fire for his leadership during the current financial crisis. In this question-and-answer interview, he sheds light on some of the key issues.

Q: Over recent weeks, the university's unions, staff and students have called for your resignation. Are you considering stepping down and, if not, why not?

A: I am not considering resigning. I think all the criticism levelled against me is unfair and not truthful.

I am trying to deal with structural problems that were at the university before I came on the scene. I am trying to be responsible and have been mandated by the university council. I am not acting alone.

Q: Can the university's financial problems not be addressed without retrenching staff and cutting wage increases?

A: When we first contacted Uwcasa and Nehawu in May, we provided them with 15 categories of non-retrenchment savings areas. We noted that if every staff member on the UWC payroll gave up for one year their bonus or 13th cheque, we would have a saving of R10-million.

This proposal and others were not accepted by Uwcasa. We are still awaiting a reply from Nehawu.

Q: How do you think the conflict between students, staff and university management is affecting the running of the university?

A: We are all very unhappy about what is happening and it is, indeed, affecting relations between some members of the staff, students and management. It is also affecting the running of the university. In particular, I am concerned about the library that has been closed now for several days because of the Nehawu strike.

Q: Last week, the university wanted to create 31 posts in science departments, shortly after 41 academic staff members in other departments were given retrenchment letters. Does this indicate a shift in focus about the importance of certain departments and courses?

A: In our planning we noted that if in future staff resigned or retired and posts became vacant, the university would assign the funds for those posts to programmes and faculties where we targeted development and growth.

Interview by Andrea Botha

THREATS KEEP LIBRARY CLOSED

We have support, (54) claims UWC council

ET 9/10/98

STRIKING workers and students at UWC claim the community is united against the "hostile management". Not so, says the UWC council. Education Writer **PRISCILLA SINGH** reports.

Workers and students at the University of the Western Cape have made an ardent appeal to management to reverse the retrenchments of the 41 academics until a "fair procedure" has been negotiated.

When UWC rector Cecil Abrahams announced the retrenchments last month, it was met with dissent and rumblings from the UWC Academic Staff Association (UWCASA), the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) and student bodies on campus.

UWCASA, Nehawu and students, through the SRC, adopted a motion of no-confidence in Abrahams three weeks ago.

Last week the university council issued a statement reiterating their support and confidence in Abrahams' capabilities and decisions.

UWCASA said the retrenchment of the 41 academics has been the issue which has united the entire UWC community in rejecting Abrahams and his management staff. They claim the university is run through "duplicity and deceit, distortion, half-truth and evasion, and cynical exploitation of our commitment to UWC in order to further an agenda which is

basically hostile to the university".

Richard Stevens, UWC head of public affairs, said the status quo on the retrenchments still stood and a survey yesterday morning revealed that all departments were functioning normally and students were in lectures.

Council chairperson Gilbert Thomas said in a statement addressed to UWCASA, Nehawu and the SRC, that the financial position of UWC had been a cause of concern for the council long before Abrahams and the present rectorate took up their posts.

"Our income from government subsidies has declined and the guarantee of bursaries that prevailed at UWC has been removed."

Although it has been government policy that their reduced subsidy should be supplemented by a contribution from students, UWC has for years permitted payment practices which accommodate financially disadvantaged students.

"This has proved to be a cost we cannot carry indefinitely," Thomas said.

Responding to a UWCASA statement earlier this week, accusing the university of negotiating in bad faith, the council said that it was unethical for UWCASA to assume that "... the whole UWC community" was united in "their rejection of management".

"UWC has a large community and strong voices of support for the rector and his management have been registered with his office."

The council refused to comment on the pending CCMA case, brought by UWCASA, which will be heard on Monday. UWCASA is saying that the retrenchment was illegal, while Abrahams said in his speech to academics, that retrenchments would be looked at as a last option.

The council said the library was still closed because non-striking workers were being threatened by striking colleagues if they opened it.

"The workers are keeping the library closed, thereby undermining the students in their studies. While Nehawu is striking because of a breakdown in wage negotiations, they are involving students under false pretences and jeopardising their futures."

Final exams begin in two weeks.

"Strong voices of support for rector and management have been registered with his office."

In many ways, the University of the western Cape has lost its way, and its survival as an institution is at stake, writes a group of professors.

UWC: crisis in academia

(514)

AAU 10/10/98

The University of the Western Cape is no stranger to conflict, but the current crisis, and the fall-out it has generated, is more destructive than any it has faced.

This disturbing situation seems to be beyond the purview of three pieces which were recently published in *The Argus*: an article written by the Rector in the Saturday *Argus* of 26/27 September, an editorial of 30 September, and a statement by the UWC Council published on October 4.

As a set, these articles, which seem to have been designed to reinforce each other, make for dismal reading for anyone who has knowledge of what has been taking place at UWC. We must see these for what they are: an attempt by an embattled management to portray their recent decisions as a reasoned response to the crisis they currently face.

Anyone who knows UWC will know that it has a history of coping with crises over the years, that it has never been an affluent institution and it has frequently needed belt-tightening exercises. In the past, these situations were managed in such a way that it did not run out of control, and, crucially, the academic staff – the heart of every university – was kept on board.

In the current situation they have lost patience, and are alienated by management's style, and their recent decisions. Contrary to the commitments which brought them to the institution, they find themselves working in an environment in which they are treated as dispensable employees, and now feel both vulnerable and disposable.

The manner of the recent retrenchment of our colleagues – unsympathetic, perfunctory, and high-handed – leaves much to be desired.

The academic staff struggles to sustain an academic programme in a situation impoverished by the confusion of the managers of the university about the nature of academic work in a changing southern Africa. By its actions, university management has alienated the very people whose talents and commitments might give some substance to the high ideals which the university has recently articulated in its academic plan.

The out-migration from the institution of some of its key academic staff cannot casually be dismissed as the normal mobility of university personnel (as the university claims). It must be taken for what it is: the symptom of a deep-seated malaise amongst an academically gifted and committed staff.

It is certainly true that the traditional transformational ethos of UWC needed modification to guide the institution in a changed historical situation, but what has happened is, we believe, a betrayal of UWC's standing in the eyes of the community and the broader South African public.

When Professor Abrahams took office, UWC had valuable experience of how to maintain a vibrant academic project in a climate of shrinking financial resources; unfortunately, he chose to ignore this experience, marginalising those who had some understanding of how to nurture it. He adopted, instead, a stance which anticipated state bail-outs on



PROFESSOR ABRAHAM'S: 'adopted a stance which anticipated state bail-outs on behalf of the historically disadvantaged. This strategy was at the core of a series of stumbling decisions, most notably in respect to student demands around the issues of financial and academic exclusions; the cumulative impact of these decisions has precipitated the current financial crisis.'

There is more here: the style of university management has had devastating consequences for the institution; it has lacked a realistic understanding of what UWC could afford, of what its role might be in this place and time, and of sober and sustained planning based on an understanding of what is distinctive

of a university, and this one in particular. Management has lacked transparency and accountability, not in the populist sense, but in the ways in which members of the university community learn, with the broader public in the mass media, what is going on at their institution.

This is not merely a question of a failure to communicate; it is a style which has, in the name of efficiency and technical competence, systematically subverted the university's public spaces – such as the university's Senate, which shares responsibility for the university's place in society and in which a common purpose could at this crucial moment have been created.

The Higher Education Act, and actions of the National Department of Education must carry some of the responsibility for what is happening at UWC – their position on the funding of higher education does not adequately take account of the ways in which, during apartheid, some universities were grossly underfunded; moreover, their prescriptions for the governance of higher education institutions are based on flawed understandings of the nature of higher education.

Nonetheless the fanciful idea, which is a corrosive legacy of the rhetoric of political struggle, that the government does have the resources, and it is merely being churlish in providing more, does not belong in the real world of post-1994 South Africa.

This said, UWC has not been able to respond to these particular challenges in a way which might be expected of a university which is both engaged with the community and with links to the current government; as a result the university seems sadly out of touch with the debates in South African public policy.

At the very moment when UWC should have fulfilled its traditional leadership role in the fight to sustain

and strengthen higher education in South Africa, it finds itself perilously divided and tragically embattled. We believe that there is space for manoeuvre.

The university's leadership must find the courage to engage the constituencies they have alienated – in an open and democratic fashion the university's Senate must be included in the deliberations which will take the university into the new millennium; to rebuild its ethos, the university must revisit its commitment both to scholarship and to engagement with the community; to re-engage the academic community, revive the spirit of intellectual enquiry which set UWC apart from its peers; the council must re-handle the public confidence now so sadly lacking in the university – in an open-hearted fashion, it must take this public into its confidence.

UWC is a great university – of this there can be no mistaking; it possesses an indomitable and unwavering spirit which is rooted in the passion and achievements of all South Africa's people. To fulfil the destiny which the country has expected of UWC, now requires a decisive intervention.

Respectfully yours

Professor Denise Ackermann,
Professor David Bunn, Professor Alan Chamning, Professor Daan Cloete, Dr Jimmy Ellis, Professor Eva Hunter, Dr Frans Kotze, Professor Pieter le Roux, Professor Dirk Meekotter, Professor Wally Morrow, Professor Kole Omotoso, Professor Peter Vale

UWC tense after suicide

Grieving students blame university for death of popular psychology lecturer

(54)

AKG 10/10/98

**MOSES MITHHELELI MACKAY AND
MARTHA GUMBA**

The suicide of a lecturer at the University of the Western Cape on Thursday night has magnified the tension on the embattled campus.

Yesterday UWC academics, workers and students marched to the administration buildings to hand over their demands to rector Cecil Abrahams following the retrenchment of 41 academics.

The marchers, including the UWC Academic Staff Association, the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu), the interim Student Representative Council, various student structures and students, demanded that academic activity come to a halt until the crisis surrounding the retrenchments was resolved.

The protesters said they were distressed by the death of psychology lecturer Evan John Ramjoo-Mia.

Mr Ramjoo-Mia was found dead in a gas-filled car in Wellington on Thursday night.

Although he was not one of the 41 retrenched academics, there was speculation on campus that tensions at the university had contributed to his suicide.

A third-year psychology student, who asked not to be named, said: "It came as a shock to me and it is a great loss to this university."

"He was a very kind lecturer and he assisted us in our work. He was loved by every psychology student and the staff. The university has to be blamed for Mr Ramjoo-Mia's death."

Another student said: "I cannot believe that this happened to him

and that I won't see him again. I will never forget him and the university has to account. It is really a loss for us all."

Students and academics said that since Mr Ramjoo-Mia's suicide the crisis on the UWC campus had intensified.

Some said his death might have been related to stress at work, uncertainty about his future at UWC and the deteriorating situation at the university.

The university's Belinda Glass confirmed that Mr Ramjoo-Mia was not among the 41 retrenched staff.

At yesterday's meeting, the university community paid their last respects to the Mr Ramjoo-Mia. About 2 000 students, academics and union members attended the meeting.

They agreed that the university council should meet their representatives as a matter of urgency. They called for the intervention of university chancellor Archbishop Desmond Tutu before the situation got out of hand. They reaffirmed their motion of no confidence in Professor Abrahams, saying he was "unable to resolve the crisis".

The meeting called for academic activities to be suspended immediately and demanded that police leave the campus.

Professor Abrahams, accompanied by police and campus control members, received memoranda from students and Nehawu inside the building and immediately returned to his office to avoid a confrontation with the protesters.

Professor Abrahams and his senior colleagues will meet this weekend to discuss the memoranda and their responses.



EMBATTLED CAMPUS: part of the crowd who marched at UWC before handing over demands to rector Cecil Abrahams

Picture: LEON LESTRADE

UWC tense after suicide

Grieving students blame university for death of popular psychology lecturer

ARG 10/10/98 (64)

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EMBATTLED CAMPUS: part of the crowd who marched at UWC before handing over demands to rector Cecil Abrahams

Picture: LEON LESTRADE

HEARING CONTINUES NEXT WEEK

CCMA sits on UWC crisis

OF 13/10/98

(54)

THE FINAL-YEAR EXAMS at UWC may be postponed, according to a letter circulated on the campus yesterday. Education Writer **PRISCILLA SINGH** reports.

THE fairness of the academic retrenchments at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) will be determined by the Council for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA), which began its first hearing yesterday.

The status of final-year exams has not yet been finalised, but UWC Academic Staff Association (UWCASA) chairperson Lionel Nicholas said a letter circulated on campus yesterday indicated that exams may be postponed depending on the amount of time lost as a result of disruptions in the past six weeks.

UWCASA took the case to the CCMA because they believed the way in which rector Cecil Abrahams handled the retrenchments of 41 academics was unfair and illegal.

Nicholas said yesterday the CCMA will continue with the hearing next week, but in the meantime negotiations between UWCASA and the university council are continuing.

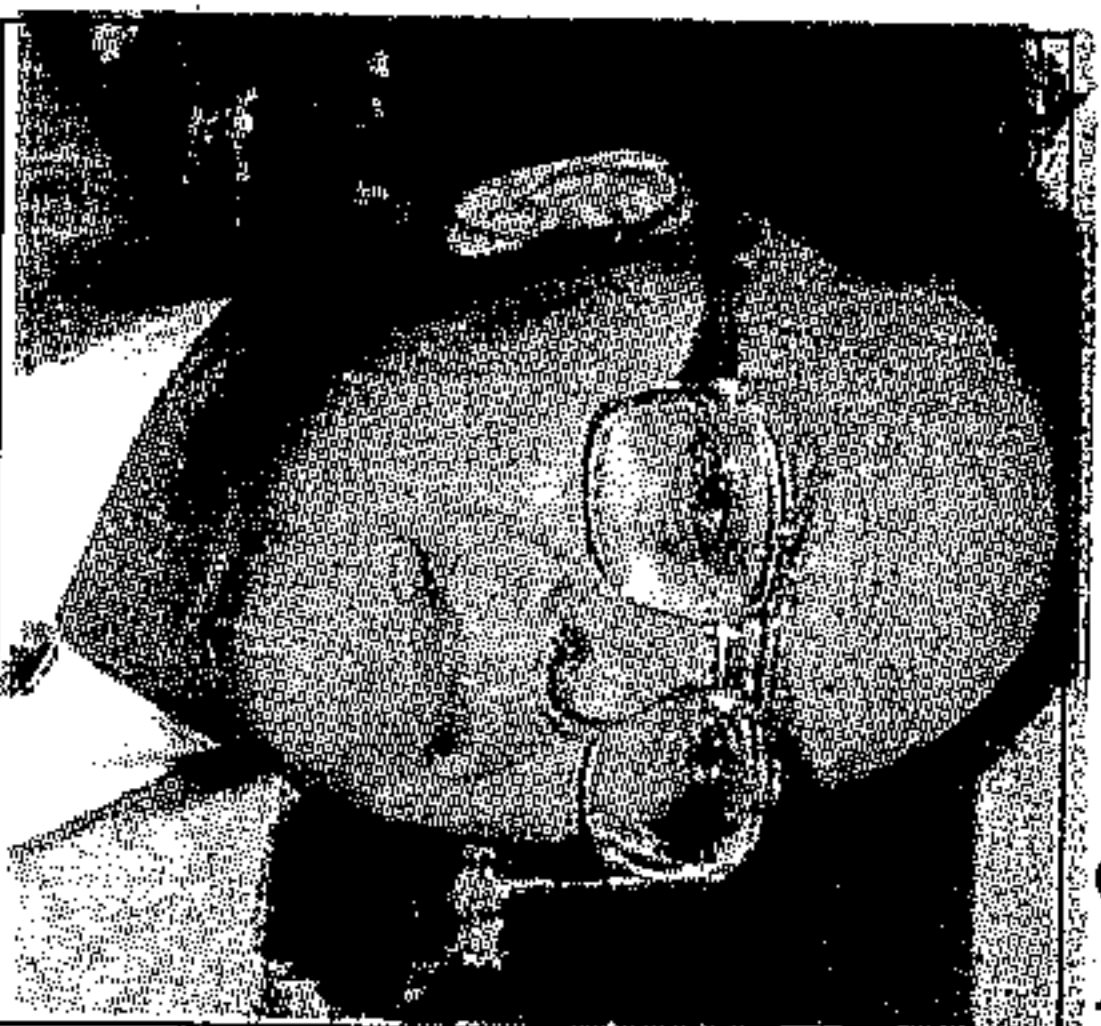
The bone of contention between UWCASA and Abrahams is the rec-

torate's timing of the retrenchments. UWCASA said they were given a letter on August 21 detailing retrenchment proposals for a meeting scheduled on August 24. The management says that UWCASA were given ample time to respond and inform their members of the retrenchments.

UWCASA says the management did not give them time or opportunity to come up with a suitable response and informed the university that its (UWCASA's) annual meeting was scheduled for August 25, and further negotiations on the issue would have to be entered into with the new executive elected at the meeting.

In a letter addressed to the university community, Abrahams said that "after the university accepted retrenchments as an option, and so informed UWCASA, deans were interacted and consulted with".

Nicholas says that UWCASA was only informed of retrenchments being an option on August 21, but deans were already consulted in July. "It therefore seems as though



DEANS WERE CONSULTED: UWC rector Cecil Abrahams

while the university was ostensibly still negotiating with UWCASA on ways to avoid retrenchments, and the rector was still saying at a public meeting on August 12, 'if we were thinking along these lines (retrenchments) ... there would be quite a number of steps to take. We would have to consult with UWCASA', they had already accepted it as an option and were consulting with the deans on the issue," said a UWCASA statement.

"It said it also must be made clear that throughout the above-mentioned negotiation process, the whole exercise was aimed at 'addressing the 1998 deficit'. While the university did finally put retrenchments to us as a real option for the first time, they also called it the 'university's final position with regard to addressing the deficit (R16,3 million)'."

Since then, and since the retrenchments of the 41 academics, management admitted during a meeting on wage negotiations on September 29, that the retrenchments would have no effect on the 1998 deficit, Nicholas said.

"We still maintain a vote of no confidence in Prof Abrahams and we want to get him out because he is not a competent rector.

"The situation at the moment is that we are sitting down with management to present various package options for the retrenched academics. Some of the affected staff also want academic reasons as to why they were retrenched," Nicholas said.

A Senate meeting yesterday on the UWC crisis was inconclusive and will be continued today. UWCASA will also meet the council today over retrenchment package proposals.

Court reinstates Unitra principal

(54)

Sowetan 13/10/98

UNIVERSITY of Transkei (Unitra) principal Professor Alfred Moleah obtained a Supreme Court interdict on Sunday night against the university council's decision to suspend him.

Unitra spokeswoman Ms Debbie Garraway-Stayers said the interdict allowed Moleah to continue as principal.

It put aside the council's decision on Friday to suspend him.

Friday's council meeting, chaired by Mr Dumisa Ntsebeza, decided to suspend Moleah with immediate effect.

Earlier Moleah had said he would contest the suspension on the grounds that the meeting contravened the Higher Education Act.

He said the voting was biased and members who tried to protest against

the impropriety of the meeting were overruled.

The Tshombe Commission, appointed by Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu, recommended earlier that the council suspend Moleah and an independent assessor be appointed to investigate the source of division and acrimony at the university.

Assessor Mr Louis Skweyiya was subsequently appointed and conducted a 10-day investigation which ended on Friday.

Skweyiya said his findings would be submitted to Bengu, who would determine the course of action to be taken.

Moleah said the commission's advice was based on fears that he would interfere with Skweyiya's investigation, which he said he did not. — Sapa.

Universities face financial crunch

By CATHY POWERS

As budget time rolls around again and universities thrash out proposed tuition fee increases for next year, many face high student debts, decreasing government subsidies and a drop in student numbers, say analysts.

University fee increases and harsher debt-collecting measures have reduced the R500-million student debt of the 21 universities, but this has been accompanied by a drop in student numbers.

"This means that universities are not raising revenue as effectively as they hoped over the past couple of years," said Wits University's Education Policy Unit director Salim Valli.

In other words, tuition fee increases will not bring much more money into already cash-strapped institutions, but will probably only cover inflationary costs.

Tuition fees at Wits University and the University of Zululand are going up by an average of 8%. The University of the Orange Free State's tuition fees are jumping 9,5%. Transkei and Cape Town universities and Unisa have not announced their increases yet.

A case in point is the University of Zululand. This institution raised its fees by 10% from 1996 to 1997, and its student numbers dropped by 1 000 to 6 600, said spokesperson Carl de Villiers. The university's accumulated debt

(54) 8 May 15/10/98
stands at R70-million, but current student debt stands at around R40-million.

Harsher debt-collecting policies - with students being excluded or not receiving their degrees if they are in debt - had helped, he said. But, in an effort to keep its head above water, the university had frozen staff posts and had not increased salaries. He added that government subsidies had dropped in real terms.

But Ahmed Essop, chief director of the Education Department's higher education unit, maintained that subsidy levels had remained fairly constant over the past couple of years.

Next year's subsidies would be announced in December, he said. Government subsidies for higher education institutions amounted to R6-billion this year.

A new funding mechanism which will be in place for the 1999/2000 budget is unlikely to provide cash-strapped universities with relief. It will change the current year-on-year budget exercise to a more long-term strategy. Universities will be required to produce a three-year rolling plan based on performance and equity targets, according to Valli.

Funds will also be available for "institutional redress" because many universities have closed down bridging courses for historically disadvantaged students.

■ The average tuition costs of a first-year degree in 1998 and the tuition fee increases:

University of the Witwatersrand

Tuition fee increase - 8%

BA - R9 000,

BComm - R9 700

BSc - R10 000

University of Zululand

Tuition fee increase - 8%

BA - R7 225

BComm - R7 225

BSc - R6 825

Unisa

Tuition fee increase - undecided

BA, BComm and BSc - R3 750

University of the Orange Free State

Tuition fee increase - 9,5%

BA - R5 500

BComm - R6 700

BSc - R6 600

University of Cape Town

Tuition fee increase - undecided

BA - R9 050

BComm - R10 050

BSc - R9 525

University of the Transkei

Fee increase - undecided

BA - R4 510

BComm - R4 510

BSc - R5 270

Vista University

Fee increase 5,4%

BA - R3 690

BComm - R3 690

BSc - R3 690

Bengu to meet Cape university management to discuss strike

Reneé Grawitzky
and Pearl Sebolao

PD 15/10/98

(152)

(54)

(54)

EDUCATION Minister Sibusiso Bengu has intervened in the three-week wage strike by National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) members at the University of Western Cape.

And the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has called off its 15-day strike at the Impala Platinum (Implats) refineries in Springs after a wage settlement was reached yesterday.

Bengu was expected to meet representatives of the university's management last night to "be apprised of the situation". Nehawu was to meet the university's councils in a bid to end the wage dispute.

The union had demanded a 12% increase, with the univer-

sity proposing a wage freeze this year and a 5% increase next year. The union lowered its demand to 8% in October, but the university, which has a R16,3m deficit, rejected this. The strike coincided with the retrenchment of 41 academics.

In the Implats dispute, the parties agreed to an 8,5% salary increase effective from July 1. The NUM said it had also agreed that disciplinary hearings for members implicated in assaults during the strike would be handled by Independent Mediation Services of SA (Imssa).

Workers would return to work today and the refinery would be back to full capacity by Monday. However, Implats said it would take several weeks to process the stockpile of materials built up during the strike.

The base and precious metals refineries complex had been operating at between 50% and 70% capacity since the strike began last month.

Meanwhile, the Edgars group accused the SA Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union (Saccawu) of not approaching today's mediation by Imssa "with the seriousness required to resolve the impasse".

While the Federated Council of Retail Workers promptly agreed to meet as early as 9am, Saccawu indicated that it could meet only at 3pm.

Edgars human resources director Nigel Unwin said an afternoon meeting would not allow enough time to resolve the dispute. Saccawu spokesman Piet Manjela denied the union was trying to stall the negotiations.

Bengu calls crisis talks with trouble-torn UWC

EDUCATION REPORTER

Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu has called an urgent meeting with officials of the University of the Western Cape after a decision by the university senate to censure rector Cecil Abrahams.

Dr Bengu said he was concerned about events at the university, which has been at a standstill for two weeks.

A meeting would help him decide how the Education Ministry could help.

Since Professor Abrahams announced the retrenchment of 41 academics, there have been protest meetings and disruptions on campus, with students, academic staff and union members passing a motion of no confidence in the rector and university management, and demanding retrenchments be reversed.

Prof Abrahams was told by the senate to apologise for the "short-sighted, inhuman and mechanical manner" in which the axings had been announced.

The senate, the university's most senior academic body, said the retrenchment crisis was a symptom of a "more general crisis of academic and human mismanagement".

But the senate conceded it should take some blame for what had happened, as it had been derelict in its duty to protect the academic "core business" of the university.

Prof Abrahams is in the United States raising funds for the university and to receive a honorary doctorate

from the State University of New York.

The senate decided to establish a taskforce to investigate the extent of the university's financial plight and to examine how to restructure expenditure to avoid retrenchments.

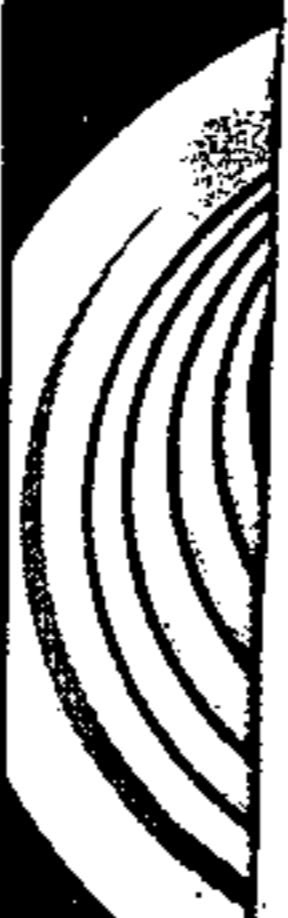
Meanwhile the university's new interim student representative council has been unable to use its offices, because the old SRC has refused to hand over the keys. The old SRC and management have refused to recognise the interim SRC.

ARC 15/10/98
64

CAVENDISH SQUARE
Upper Mall, Clarendon
Tel: 64-1796

RONDOPUSCH
Fountain Centre, Main Rd
Tel: 689-1122

TRAKWADSWAGE
Wahkani Street, Cape Town
Tel: 419-1010



FOR MORE INFO MAKE USE OF
<http://www.johans@a>

'INHUMAN MANNER' SLATED

UWC's senate raps rector on the knuckles

(54) 21/10/98

THE EXAMINATIONS at UWC have been postponed by two weeks following a wave of recent protests.

Education Writer **PRISCILLA SINGH** reports.

A SENATE resolution passed on Tuesday has censured University of Western Cape (UWC) rector Cecil Abrahams in the strongest terms for the "short-sighted, inhuman and mechanical manner" in which he handled the retrenchment of 41 academics.

Abrahams was unavailable for comment yesterday because he is in the US to raise funds for the Life Sciences building on campus.

He will also receive an honorary doctorate from the State University of New York, and address two international conferences before he returns to South Africa on Thursday, October 29.

The university council met with Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu yesterday about the deadlock between management and the UWC Academic Staff Association, (UWCASA) the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) and the interim Students' Representative Council.

Senate members said they noted with deep concern the deteriorating situation on campus and the understandable anger and pain felt by those affected by the retrenchment of the 41 academics and pending retrenchment of about 329 Nehawu workers.

The start of the final exams has been postponed by two weeks after

disruptions during protest action by academics and students.

Meanwhile, a task force comprising seven senate members has been established to investigate the campus crisis and will make its first report to the senate in 10 days.

Many believe the university's survival is at stake and realise that the impasse between the management and UWCASA, Nehawu and student unions cannot continue.

One of the issues the task force will tackle is the extent of the financial crisis of UWC and feasible steps to be taken that can avert retrenchment among academic and non-academic staff. It has also proposed that the whole issue of retrenchments should be looked at again. This report must be completed within three weeks.

The crisis of confidence in the leadership of the UWC, and particularly Abrahams, is another question the task force must resolve, as well as steps to ensure that all groups within the university are drawn together to rebuild it.

The task force will also look at revising the academic plan to focus on those issues that may impact on the viability of UWC as an academic association in the short term.

UWCASA spokesperson Sean Lewis said the senate meeting this week, chaired by Abrahams, was

attended by most senate members.

"Senate meetings have been characterised as usually dull, dour affairs, where senators are often too uninterested, or intimidated by the power of the rector and his following, that very few people speak. This week's meeting, on the contrary, featured some very lively debate and a great deal of participation by senators.

"While UWCASA embraces and salutes the senate's motion of censure, and feels that it vindicates our motion of no-confidence in the rector, and our call for his resignation, we feel that this motion of censure actually reinforces our call for Cecil Abrahams to resign as rector," Lewis said.

He said while the task force was welcomed, UWCASA was concerned that it consisted of only senate members, albeit with a mandate to consult other stakeholders.

"We feel that it is necessary that representatives of all the parties affected by the campus crisis be full participants in the task force, because the problem is not just an academic problem," Lewis said.

The senate resolution said it must take considerable blame for what has transpired at UWC.

"UWC is a great university and it has overcome terrible odds in establishing its reputation as the premier institution in the struggle against apartheid. These new challenges require of us the same spirit of commitment and dedication," the senate said.

Senate censures UWC rector over retrenchments

(74) M+G 16-22/10/98

Evidence wa ka Ngobeni

Final examinations at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) hang in the balance this year following ongoing unrest on the campus.

Examinations have been postponed for two weeks, but the administration has not yet set a date for them to begin.

In an extraordinary move, UWC's senate has censured its rector, Professor Cecil Abrahams, for the "short-sighted, inhuman and mechanical manner" in which he implemented a retrenchment process.

At a meeting this week, UWC's senate called on Abrahams to issue an apology to the university community "at an appropriate time". Ironically, the rector has left on a fund-raising trip to the United States and will only return on October 29.

There have been several protest meetings, a workers' strike and a student boycott at UWC over the past two weeks in protest against the proposed retrenchment of academic staff.

Students and academic staff have lodged a motion of no confidence in Abrahams.

At the senate meeting Abrahams admitted knowing how bad the university's financial crisis was when he assumed his post two years ago, but that he had done nothing to change its income and expenditure pattern.

The rector's office has decided to refuse admission to students who are unable to pay their fees, and to retrench 41 academic staff members.

There is also a growing possibility that hundreds of non-academic staffers will be retrenched.

The university's decision came after months of discussion on cost-saving measures. But students and

staff members are demanding that the administration withdraw its decision.

The academic staff association said UWC's administration did not properly consult them about the retrenchments. They said Abrahams was spreading misleading information about the retrenchments.

Abrahams said in an open letter to staff and students that negotiations about retrenchments began in May, and that the academic staff association failed to negotiate by not responding and by postponing meetings. He said he did everything possible to avoid retrenchments.

But the academic staff said Abrahams had never attended a single meeting to negotiate retrenchments and had not responded to a single letter they wrote him on the issue.

"This from a rector who claims to be sensitive to issues affecting the livelihood of staff, but who, on the other hand, admitted that he took bad decisions regarding finances which, among other things, resulted in the huge deficit the university is facing," the UWC staff association claimed.

"It is this deficit they now claim to be the reason for retrenchments.

"This also from a very open and honest rector who, together with his three vice-rectors, earn more than R2-million in salaries, according to the university budget. It is a feature of the current administration at UWC that promises made are not kept, agreements are broken and patent incompetence goes unmentioned.

"It is as if the senior administrators, when applying for their jobs, ticked the columns for large amounts of money, high status and other prerequisites, and placed neat crosses next to columns for accountability, accepting responsibility for errors and competence."

Amnesia about the nature and purpose of South African universities is the source of the disease that threatens to destroy our academics, writes Anthony Holiday

UWC's real danger: democracy

Amid all the sound and fury incited by the latest of the University of the Western Cape's perennial crises lurks the real danger that enrages but well-meaning academics, administrators and students will mistake symptoms for causes.

If they make this error, they will have done a grave disservice not only to the rest of the country's "historically disadvantaged" universities, which are anxiously observing the twists and turns of events at UWC, but to higher education in South Africa as a whole.

For there are lessons to be learnt from this whole sorry fracas: lessons about educational values, maxims governing what ideals must be retained at all costs and what shibboleths may be discarded as this nation struggles towards an African rebirth - insights that could make the difference between the birth of a new kind of civilisation in southern Africa and the descent into a sort of indolent barbarism.

As matters presently stand, all sectors of UWC's population seem united as never before around a single imperative: the university's rector, Professor Cecil Abraham, must go. The luckless rector still enjoys the support of the University Council, whose officers are de jure members of its convocation, but do not teach, study or work on its campus. For the rest, almost no one wants Professor Abraham to stay.

I share this view. Professor Abraham must go because - whatever the rights and wrongs of his retirement of 41 of his academic staff and regardless of how much or how little he is to blame for the state of his university's finances - the lack of support for and confidence in him from the people he needs to make the institution work render his position wholly untenable. He must go because, while he



CAMPUS TURMOIL: near-bankruptcy, rumours of astronomical remuneration packages and instances of notorious misbehaviour

stays, the university cannot find a way forward. The present inertia and confusion are quite literally killing UWC and cannot be allowed to continue for much longer.

Above all, he must go because hon-our requires it. On his appointment, Professor Abraham made a commitment to mould the university into a place of academic quality and intellectual flourishing. Under his rule, nothing like this has occurred. Instead we have Babel and near-

bankruptcy, rumours of astronomical remuneration packages and instances of notorious misbehaviour.

Whether this state of affairs is directly traceable to decisions he took or failed to take is a matter for debate. That he as rector must accept ultimate responsibility for it is not.

the easy one to tread. But the spectre of Professor Abraham is a mere epiphenomenon. He is far from being the root cause of the present travails.

Those who are baying loudest for his blood should remember that they were equally vocal in supporting the "democratic" and "transparent" selection process that resulted in his appointment. This innovation was UWC's inspired and was subsequently adopt-

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ed by other institutions, notably the universities of Cape Town and the Witwatersrand.

It required, among other things, that candidates submit themselves to public and often truculent cross-examination by undergraduates in packed halls, and that representatives of these same students, along with deputies "mandated" by the university workers, be given a say in what used to be considered a strictly academic appointment.

The dangers and disadvantages of this system should be obvious: it tends to discourage applications from first-rate academics, who are prone to consider its requirements an infringement on their professional dignity, and it encourages those who do apply to adopt populist postures better suited to an election platform than to academia.

This flawed system is itself the product of a political ideology that holds, firstly, that democracy is

always and everywhere the best of all possible worlds and, secondly, that universities are or ought to be democracies.

The first of these propositions is highly debatable. (I am fond of pointing out to my students that it was the Athenian democrats who put Socrates to death.) The second is certainly false. A university, for so long as it remains a university, can never be a democracy in the sense that a contemporary state can be a democracy. This is so because democracy is a political system among others and the virtues and vices of political systems are among the things that are continually being questioned in any university worthy of the name.

Moreover, a university cannot be a democracy, because democracy implies equality as well as liberty, and a university is essentially an association of unequals.

There is inequality between lecturers and students, inasmuch as the latter lack, but wish to acquire, the educational goods that (hopefully) are already possessed by the former. And there is inequality between members of the academic staff, because intellectual gifts, unlike things like human rights, are unequally distributed among humankind.

All this is so obvious that one wonders how it could have been lost to sight.

The answer is that our universities have become so blinded by political notions and the pursuit of political patronage and power that they have forgotten their own nature and purpose.

That amnesia, and not the person of Professor Abraham or anyone else, is the source of the disease that threatens to destroy our academics.

Dr Holiday teaches philosophy in the University of the Western Cape's School of Government

AKG 17/10/78

Day of destiny draws near for UWC students

Row with striking workers a threat to examinations

YVETTE VAN BREDA

UNIVERSITY of the Western Cape students will find out tomorrow if there is any chance of them salvaging the academic year after exams were postponed because of a strike by 500 workers on campus.

If management and the employees resolve their differences, the students will write exams, which have been postponed for two weeks, and the academic year should be successfully concluded.

Sean Lewis, a spokesman for the university's Academic Staff Association, said: "We are hopeful that things will be resolved."

A UWC spokesman said there was no way they would allow striking workers, whom he described as disruptive and violent, to scuttle the year's academic programme. "The students will write exams, no matter what," he said.

During the third week of their strike, workers disrupted classes before also stopping a national squash tournament by throwing objects onto the court and being aggressive on Friday, he said.

As UWC had applied for an interdict to stop disruptions, these actions were in violation of the

(10/12) (5/4)
court order, said the spokesman.

"It's sad when workers, in an attempt to settle a wage dispute, have to resort to this type of action," he said.

Lewis blamed the university's management for the crisis. "There is a climate of uncertainty and dishonesty here which management has created."

As tension mounted between management and staff this week, the university's senate voted to censure rector Cecil Abrahams "in the strongest terms, for the short-sighted, inhuman and mechanical manner around the process which led to recent retrenchments (of 41 academic staff members)".

The senate resolved to form a task force of seven senators to investigate UWC's financial crisis which has led to cost-cutting due to a projected budget deficit of R16-million for this year.

They will also look into the retrenchment of staff, and other problems on the campus.

The senate conceded that it had neglected its primary function — to protect the university's academic programme, "the core business" of the university — and asked for recommendations to help members become more directly involved in the day-to-day running of UWC.

The National Education, Health,

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and Allied Workers Union secretary on the campus, Suraya Jawoodeen, said: "While Rome is burning, Abrahams, who has been so widely discredited on this campus, is off getting some doctorate in America."

Abrahams is in the US to raise funds for a new life sciences building, receive an honorary doctorate from the State University of New York and address two international conferences. He is due back on October 29.

Negotiations between the management and the union will continue today.

Last month, after academic staff told the UWC management that none of the 15 proposals they suggested to reduce the deficit were feasible, management retrenched 41 academic staff, Lewis said.

Fearing similar action — fuelled by rumours that a retrenchment list of 329 workers existed (management has denied this) — the union has steered clear of engaging in any of the 15 options.

The union was demanding a clear financial plan from the university and a six-month moratorium on retrenchments to examine that plan, Jawoodeen said.

"Staff should not be made to feel they are responsible for the financial crisis at the university and should not be faced with salary cuts, retrenchments, or any of the other contractual benefits they suggest we give up."

There was a disconcerting lack of transparency around plans to cut the budget deficit, the retrenchment process and the wage negotiations, said Jawoodeen.

The strike started after management and the union could not agree on wage increases three weeks ago. Originally

management came to the negotiating table rejecting an increase for the workers. The union wanted 13 percent but dropped to 12 percent.

On Friday management offered five percent backdated to October 1 but refused to grant a six-month moratorium on retrenchments.

"Management needs to come up with creative ways to break this deadlock," said Jawoodeen.

The UWC spokesman said the striking workers had accepted the principal of no work, no pay, and now wanted to have that waived. "This is one of the main contentions over which there is a deadlock. The workers must be responsible when they don't work."

Let's avoid a new form of intellectual apartheid⁽⁷⁴⁾

Our universities must weld all of our scholarly inheritances if they want to serve South Africans well, argues DENNIS DAVIS

ST 18/10/98

THE new South African landscape is, at first blush, rather confusing. Old certainties are no longer, yet much remains the same.

Values and modes of critique employed to savage the vulgarities of apartheid South Africa are now rejected as being mere manifestations of Eurocentric liberalism. We are enjoined to work towards an African renaissance, in which we ground our new society in our African roots and produce a truly African response to the challenges of democratic transformation.

At the same time, the government warns that we must come to terms with the challenges of globalisation — that we cannot pretend that we are free to develop autonomous responses to our economic problems.

While delivery of goods and services promised to all in our Constitution remains tardy or non-existent, rapid change takes place in the boardrooms of our public companies so they may more adequately reflect our demographic composition.

A select few become significantly wealthy without any real hint as to how the fundamental structure of the economy, which underpinned an apartheid society, is going to produce the egalitarian vision prefigured in the Constitution.

By contrast, when I began my academic career more than 20 years ago, life was relatively simple. As a lawyer, two years out of university, the choice

was straightforward if one wanted to commit to a defence of decency against racist autocracy. Either one went to the Bar and followed the precedent of a few glorious exceptions like Ismail Mahomed, or one searched for a firm of solicitors who would take on cases such as Raymond Tucker's. The only other option was to become an academic and, through the university, try to preserve some recognition of the underlying values which law promised.

But the experience of academics during the P W Botha period was not too far removed from today's debates and consequent confusion. The role of universities is even more hotly contested, and the attack on prevailing models even sharper. But the stakes are higher in that universities now have to respond to debates which take place in a democracy, and their contribution is no longer purely defensive but focuses on questions of reconstruction.

All too often, the truth becomes that which is decreed by those who gain power.

One is entitled to observe, in the light of the truth commission hearings, that people like Wouter Basson and his cohorts were trained at SA universities. What view of truth, shaped by dominant power, allowed certain universities to produce such scientists? From this I derive two fundamental conclusions: firstly, nothing in our identity or our values, should

be taken for granted; secondly, one must guard against imposing a version of the world on all within society by virtue of the intoxicating fumes of the acquisition of power. Both propositions are relevant in a society in which a new patriotism is the clarion call.

The point of the rainbow nation seems to be to replace ethnic nationalism with civic nationalism, in which ethnic groups will live side by side in peace (via) shared loyalty to the state — strong and equitable enough to command their obedience. So we must all belong to a nation, but one that accommodates our reasonable differences within the framework of a constitutional patriotism. We all must buy into the one overarching vision, and that is our task — to build that vision into a concrete reality.

There is nothing wrong with that until the membership is accompanied by conditions — in particular, support for a dominant vision, a qualification that criticism must be reasonable and constructive and that any other form of critique emanates from the racist liberal, the ungrateful white nationalist or the unpatriotic black.

The task of universities is not to be cheerleaders or to accept platitudes that might bolster the nationalist enterprise. They are there to examine the dominant intellectual paradigms in which they operate, and others articulated in the country.

In the past, most English-language universities held on to the liberal model, in terms of which what was good at Oxbridge was excellent for us.

By contrast, Afrikaans-language universities were the forerunner of the cheerleader model — what was good for the *volk* was the aim of science.

The challenge is to resist both paths: the first because it admits to intellectual closure by a sleight of hand, in which its views ultimately claim to be the truth; the second because it conflates the transience of those in power with knowledge and excludes us from membership of the riches of humanity.

The call for Africanisation is commendable where it is designed to promote a greater inclusivity and an engagement with the riches of the identity, culture and history of Africa. That we need to test previous assumptions and shibboleths in the light of an engagement with Africa is surely a major educational imperative. But this is not to be conflated with a view that the education system must be there to emphasise the unity of the nation, at the expense of group or local diversity. The lesson should be clear — weld all our intellectual inheritances rather than develop a new form of intellectual apartheid.

● *Davis is a professor in the law faculty at the University of Cape Town. This is an edited version of a lecture delivered at Rhodes University in August*

UWC strikers chase squash players off court

RENÉ DU PREEZ

(54)

A NATIONAL squash club championship at the University of the Western Cape was relocated yesterday after striking workers from the National Education Health and Allied Workers Union chased players off the court on Friday.

Squash organisers hastily arranged a new venue after more than 30 players refused to return to the campus.

About 50 workers brandishing steel pipes descended on the squash courts and threw objects at the players.

The championship, which is being

contested at nine venues by 48 men and 36 women teams comprising 350 players, was due to end today but could now be extended until tomorrow.

The B Section group playing at UWC had to be moved to the Milnerton squash courts because of the incident.

Suraya Jawoodeen, a union spokeswoman, said: "If such disturbances did in fact take place, I would say it was because of the frustration and anger of workers and students."

Tournament organiser Glenda Erasmus said some of the women players said they were threatened physically.

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Varsity run like family business, claim

(54)

Star

Senior academic staff at the University of the North's QwaQwa campus in the Free State have accused the institution's rector, a Nigerian national, of mismanagement and corruption.

The academics - who include highly experienced scientists and educationists, have accused Professor Olusegun Oladipupo Dipeolu, who took charge of the campus in January 1997, of "running the university like a family business".

The academics, who asked not to be named, said Dipeolu allegedly undertook expensive "recruitment drives" into Africa, accompanied by his wife and children.

"Earlier this year, he returned and appointed six Nigerians as full professors," said a source.

Dipeolu was also criticised for sending a professor from the university on a "fruitless" three-month-long trip "around the world" to do a study on post-graduate research.

Nigerian professor defended over charges, which are blamed on 'a few right-wing staff members opposed to transformation'

"Dipeolu himself frequently entertains himself on lavish overseas trips. In addition to his African safari in June, he is presently on a month-long trip which will take him around the world.

"He is expected to return to South Africa on October 22 and go on another overseas trip in December," the source said.

The Star is in possession of a letter from a travel agency detailing Dipeolu's itinerary from September 20 to October 22, which includes stopovers in Perth, Brisbane, Sydney, Wagga Wagga, San Francisco, Atlanta, Washington, New York, Frankfurt, Berlin and Amsterdam.

His December trip will take him to Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur and Bombay.

Both trips are set to be undertaken on business-class air tickets and will cost the university R53 930.

It is further alleged that Dipeolu was using university maintenance officer Buks Greef as his private chauffeur.

"Greef, who is driving the post of acting executive director without the position being advertised," said another source.

Other allegations against Dipeolu are that he contracted a Harris-Smith-based firm to install a security system which included a gate and fence on his private property.

The Star is in possession of a copy of a university cheque dated June 2 made out to Mayday Alarms for R14 910.

University auditors who queried the payment were allegedly led to believe that the installations were made on university property in Harris-Smith.

The university owned a house in the town until it was sold early this year.

And a R38 250 contract to supply the university's choir with new gowns was awarded

May said the rector was entitled to executive travel for each year - a benefit granted to the principal, vice-principal and executive directors annually.

"His travel overseas is holiday-cum-work which is to the benefit of the institution," May added that only four Nigerian professors had been appointed, not six. "This was done after the posts were advertised in national newspapers for years without response from qualified South Africans.

"The posts were subsequently advertised in Africa and overseas," he said.

Regarding the student who graduated without passing a major course, May said that during the second semester of last year, all students' marks were adjusted in accordance with the recommendations of the Mawasha Commission.

On Dipeolu's "regular trips", allowances.

not an executive director, had been used from time to time to fetch the university's VIPs from Johannesburg International Airport. And, like any university employee, he was entitled to subsistence and travelling allowances.

May said Greef, who was a senior maintenance officer and said,

"But more interestingly, Greef was recently promoted to Dipeolu's family around during office hours, is supplementing his income by claiming subsistence and travelling allowances.

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student leader who was known to be behind the writings."

The sources added that the same student leader, who is known to The Star, failed a major course during his final examinations in June last year.

'The rector's overseas travel is of benefit to institution'

but was allowed to graduate in May this year and later register for an honours degree. The student's academic record was given to The Star to substantiate this claim.

In a written response, the

university said false rumours against Dipeolu had been spread by "a few white right-wing staff members who are dead against the transformation taking place at this campus".

The university said the installation of a security system at Dipeolu's private residence was through a loan he obtained from the university, and was already being repaid.

University spokesperson H S May denied the university had ordered gowns for the graduation ceremony "The management of the university choir ordered the gowns. It called and received three quotations before accepting the one from Arles Fashions since it was the lowest and the best," he said.

May said Greef, who was a senior maintenance officer and not an executive director, had been used from time to time to fetch the university's VIPs from Johannesburg International Airport. And, like any university employee, he was entitled to subsistence and travelling allowances.

On Dipeolu's "regular trips", allowances.

academics
19/10/98

By PHALARIE MOYALE
Crime Reporter

Varsity run like family business, claim academics

(64) Star 19/10/98

Nigerian professor defended over charges, which are blamed on 'a few right-wing staff members opposed to transformation'

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the post of acting executive director without the position being advertised," said another source.

Other allegations against Dipeolu are that he contracted a Harrismith-based firm to install a security system which included a gate and fence on his private property.

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University auditors who queried the payment were allegedly led to believe that the installations were made on university property in Harrismith.

The university owned a house in the town until it was sold early this year.

And a R38 250 contract to supply the university's choir with new gowns was awarded

to Dipeolu's wife, who owns a clothing boutique in Harrismith.

The university's tender committee apparently queried the deal, but nothing could be done as the order had already been executed.

The Star has a copy of a receipt for R19 250 made out by Artes Fashions on April 30, "being the balance of the cost of Uniqua choir uniforms".

Dipeolu is also allegedly making use of students "to further his agenda on campus", the academics claimed.

"Students on campus publish inflammatory notices whereby white academics are called 'academic dropouts' and 'terrorists'.

"But despite the racial implications, Dipeolu has never seen it expedient to censor a

student leader who was known to be behind the writings."

The sources added that the same student leader, who is known to The Star, failed a major course during his final examinations in June last year.

'The rector's overseas travel is of benefit to institution'

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Regarding the student who graduated without passing a major course, May said that during the second semester of last year, all students' marks were adjusted in accordance with the recommendations of the Mawasha Commission.

Shake-up for medical school curriculum

JUDITH SOAL
HEALTH WRITER

FORGET Anatomy 101. No more physiology or pathology lectures. Medical curricula are about to change dramatically. Doctors may soon need to specialise before they can open a private practice; medical degrees will be restructured and some medical schools will only accept graduates, health educationists said yesterday.

Max Price, the dean of Wits Medical School and Duma Bagwa, a member of the Family Medicine Consortium set up by South Africa's academic hospitals to investigate the structure of medical training, were addressing a meeting of Medical Education for South African Blacks (Mesab). Mesab is a US-initiated group that has donated R25 million in bursaries and support for black medical students. They said medical training was about to change substantially.

"Subjects that are broken up at the

moment will all be taught together. Instead of separate courses on anatomy, pathology and physiology students will do an introduction to medicine which includes all of these components," Price said.

For example, when learning about the heart, students will be taught its structure, together with what can go wrong, what should be done to prevent heart problems, and so on.

They will also start to work with patients from early on in their training.

"The way things are at the moment, students only see a patient in their fourth year. By their sixth year they only see patients and aren't taught any theory. This will change. They will be put in wards in their first year and still be taught theory in their sixth."

Price said that Wits was considering making its medical school a graduate school, along the lines of the US-model.

"We want to make it a shorter course,

maybe four-year degree, for graduates who already have another degree."

The emphasis of the training would be more community orientated. "It is inappropriate for students to assist in a lung operation when they will only ever do this if they specialise in that area. It would be better for them to spend more time in the community where they will practice," Price said.

There will also be a new emphasis on communication skills.

"At the moment we assume students will acquire these skills by watching role models, which they probably do, but they probably aren't learning model ways of communicating. In future we will teach them how to tell some one they are HIV-positive. Not only will we teach it we will examine students on these things."

Bagwa told the gathering that medical graduates would be required to do at least two years of further training after graduating before going into private practice.

(54)
CT 19/10/98
"We recommend reducing the duration of the medical degree to five core years, and say that no graduate should be able to leave medical school and go straight into private practice. We suggest two years further training, after which they can drop out and go private or continue for two more years to specialise in family medicine."

Nosisa Matsiliza, deputy dean of UCT medical school, said she was to present a formal proposal on the new teaching style to the university this month.

"It will be a dramatic change. But it is the only logical way to go, it is in line with international trends, national policy and university policy."

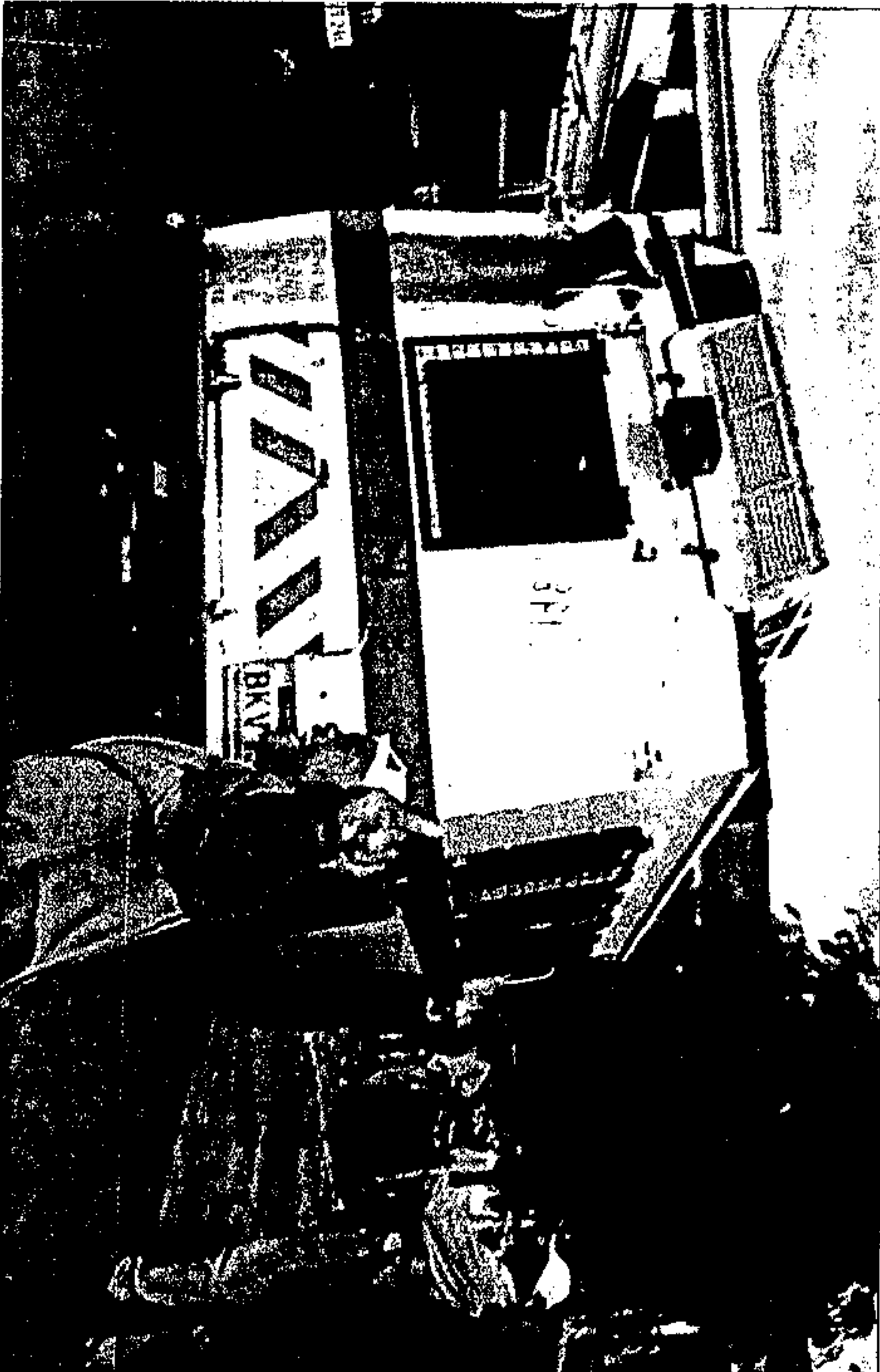
Matsiliza said UCT had not yet finalised its plans, but she did not believe the university would adopt the graduate model being proposed by Wits.

The universities hope the changes will attract more black and rural students to medicine.

Chaos reigns at UWC as riots threaten exams

AR4 20/10/98
(71)

Armoured vehicle escort for fearful admin staff after arson, stonings



LEON LESTRADE



Pointed protest: students at UWC voice their support for higher wage demands by members of the National Education Health and Allied Workers Union

STAFF REPORTERS

The University of the Western Cape has been plunged into chaos only weeks before final exams.

Several members of the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union were injured and four workers arrested when police were called yesterday to break up a protest during which strikers threatened to burn down the administration block.

One was bitten by a police dog and several were hurt when police fired rubber bullets and teargas.

The union is locked in a wage dispute with the cash-strapped university management which has announced the retrenchment of 41 academics.

Independent Complaints Directorate spokesman Riaz Saloojee said police were called by the union management to deal with vandalism.

When protesters threatened to torch the administration building, acting rector Aubrey Redelinghuys and his colleagues locked themselves in. They were later taken off the campus in police Casspirs.

Stone-throwing mobs smashed windows at the student centre and flooded one of the entrances.

Rubbish was strewn all over the campus, and about 30 refuse bins were set alight.

People attending a conference in the university library escaped through the windows.

A frightened woman said: "I did not know that there was turmoil here. We were not told. I am afraid now and I do not know what to do."

UWC union spokeswoman Suraya Jawooden said: "The mood is not tolerant on either side because manage-

ment will not break the deadlock". She said members were not prepared to take matters lying down and demanded the immediate release of those arrested.

Some students support the union and others have expressed concern about their final exams.

Sikhunana, a second-year BA student, said students sanctioned the action by workers because they felt they were being victimised.

Allstair Solomons said it was unfair for his university to be reduced to anarchy, adding: "There is one crisis after another on this campus. Academic progress is being stifled if not killed completely."

Manzi Maphunana said it was clear that UWC administration was not committed to academic excellence and that there was a conspiracy of silence from the Government.

Vukile Zonke, a second-year theology student, said: "It is time that Minister Sibusiso Bengu intervenes and stops the crisis immediately."

Second-year B Com student Palasa Mokwena, who was spotted checking her exam timetable on the notice

board next to a burning refuse bin, called on the Government to rescue UWC from destruction, saying students were unsure of their future.

A thion shop steward, Phindile Fassi, said: "The management is not prepared to listen to our demands, so we will continue with our industrial action until they give us a positive response. Police presence is making the situation worse."

Interim student representative council member Tiger Mgoqi said: "Management should normalise the situation so we can write our final

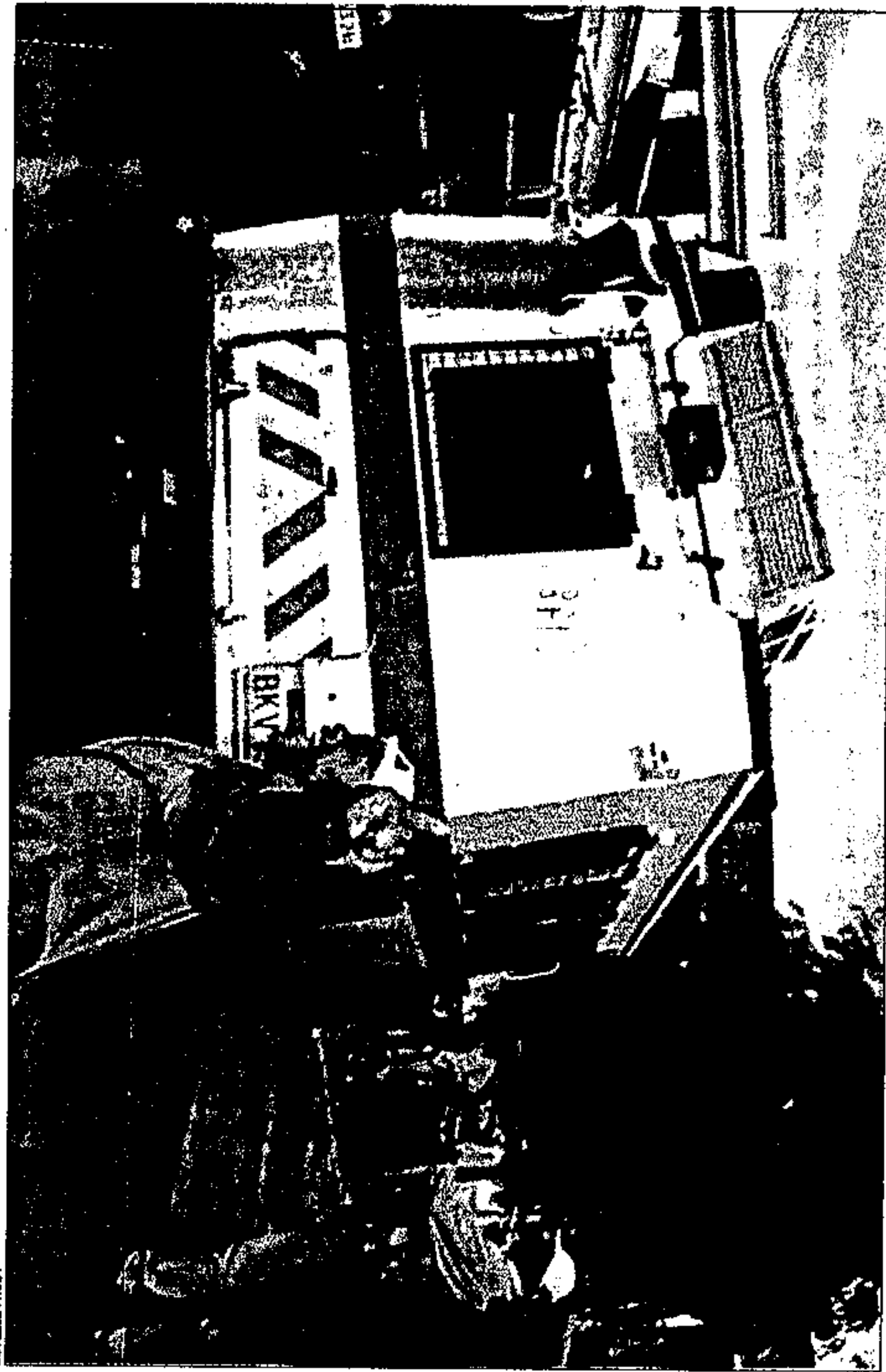
examination. We want to write our examination now and we should exert pressure on the management to accede to negotiations with Nehawu immediately. Students can't write under police protection. Police should be off the campus."

UWC Academic Staff Association spokesman Dev Pillay said: "We are calling for an independent mediator to intervene immediately so that negotiations resume within two days. We are absolutely against the closure of the university and what is happening now."

Chaos reigns at UWC as riots threaten exams

ARL 20/10/98
(F1)

Armoured vehicle escort for fearful admin staff after arson, stormings



Arrested development: police move in to break up protesters threatening to burn down the administration building at the University of the Western Cape

Pointed protest students at UWC voice their support for higher wage demands by members of the National Education Health and Allied Workers Union

STAFF REPORTERS

The University of the Western Cape has been plunged into chaos only weeks before final exams. Several members of the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union were injured and four workers arrested when police were called yesterday to break up a protest during which strikers threatened to burn down the administration block. One was bitten by a police dog and several were hurt when police fired rubber bullets and teargas.

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windows at the student centre and flooded one of the entrances. Rubbish was strewn all over the campus, and about 30 refuse bins were set alight. People attending a conference in the university library escaped through the windows. A frightened woman said: "I did not know that there was turmoil here. We were not told. I am afraid now and I do not know what to do."

UWC union spokeswoman Suraya Jawoodien said: "The mood is not tolerant on either side because management will not break the deadlock". She said members were not prepared to take matters lying down and demanded the immediate release of those arrested. Some students support the union and others have expressed concern about their final exams. Sabelo Sikhunana, a second-year BA student, said students sanctioned the action by workers because they felt they were being victimised.

Allisfair Solomons said it was unfair for his university to be reduced to anarchy, adding: "There is one crisis after another on this campus. Academic progress is being stifled if not killed completely." Manzini Maputuma said it was clear that UWC administration was not committed to academic excellence and that there was a conspiracy of silence from the Government. Vukile Zonke, a second-year theology student, said: "It is time that Minister Sibusiso Bengu intervenes and stops the crisis immediately."

Second-year B Com student Palasa Mokuwena, who was spotted checking her exam timetable on the notice board next to a burning refuse bin, called on the Government to rescue UWC from destruction, saying students were unsure of their future. A union shop steward, Phindile Fassi, said: "The management is not prepared to listen to our demands, so we will continue with our industrial action until they give us a positive response. Police presence is making the situation worse."

Interim student representative council member Tiger Mgoqi said: "Management should normalise the situation so we can write our final examination. We want to write examination now and we should exert pressure on the management to accede to negotiations with Nkomo immediately. Students can't work under police protection. Police should be off the campus." UWC Academic Staff Association spokesman Dev Pillay said: "We are calling for an independent media to intervene immediately so that negotiations resume within two days. We are absolutely against the closing of the university and what is happening now."

War-torn UWC halts classes for four days

ANDREA BOTHA

EDUCATION REPORTER

AKG 20/10/98

(54)

Classes at the University of the Western Cape will be suspended for four days in an emergency move to restore peace on the conflict-ridden campus.

At a late-night meeting yesterday, the university executive decided on the four-day cooling-off period starting today.

Police fired teargas and rubber bullets at striking workers and students yesterday after parts of the campus were trashed.

Tyres were burnt, property was damaged, buildings were broken into and staff alleged they were assaulted and intimidated. Several people were injured. University employees had to evacuate the administration buildings under police guard after students broke in and trashed several floors. Four demonstrators were arrested.

Exams have been postponed and no decision has been taken on when they will begin. A university spokesman said although classes had been suspended, the campus was not closed. For the rest of the week meetings will be held to try to resolve the wage dispute between management and the National Education Health Allied Workers Union workers. External mediators will probably be asked to facilitate negotiations.

"This is a very sad day for UWC," said a university spokesman.

The UWC Academic Staff Association condemned yesterday's events and questioned the university's will to resolve the crisis. It also criticised the absence of rector Cecil Abrahams, who is expected back from a fundraising trip in the United States only at the end of the month.

Chaos reigns as riots threaten exams, page 3

Casspiers return to UWC

CT 20/10/98

(74)

A SPOKESPERSON for the UWC Academic Staff Association says yesterday's clashes could have been avoided as the union and management were close to an agreement. Education Writer **PRISCILLA SINGH** reports.

CASSPIERS returned to the University of the Western Cape (UWC) yesterday and brute force was used to disperse protesting workers and students while management fled the troubled campus under police escort.

Two people were arrested and later released, another was bitten by a police dog and several workers and students were injured by the rubber bullets police used on the crowd. Teargas was also fired at the protesters.

Acting rector Audrey Redel-Inghuys locked himself and executive management staff in the administration building until they were able to flee the campus in a Casspir.

Students, the senate, academics and unions have called for "a two-day cooling off period" with no classes, no demonstrations and no police on campus. The senate executive met last night to discuss the merits of this and there were unfavourable reports that management had accepted the proposal.

Academics and students said the use of teargas, rubber bullets and dogs by the large police contingent on campus yesterday was reminiscent of the "terrible Eighties".

UWC was thrust under the spotlight about two months ago following the retrenchment of 41 academics and tension mounted further as management considered retrenching about 329 non-academic staff as part of its cost-cutting exercise.

To add to this, wage negotiations between the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) and management were not gaining any ground and

workers embarked on industrial action several weeks ago.

In the midst of the drama, rector Cecil Abrahams went to the United States on a fundraising tour for the university. Attempts to contact him were fruitless, and his assistant Alwyn van Gensen said yesterday that his discussions with Abrahams were strictly confidential.

The situation came to a head yesterday as workers, after three weeks of striking, put up barricades and burnt tyres at various points around campus, and resolved to fight their battle to the end.

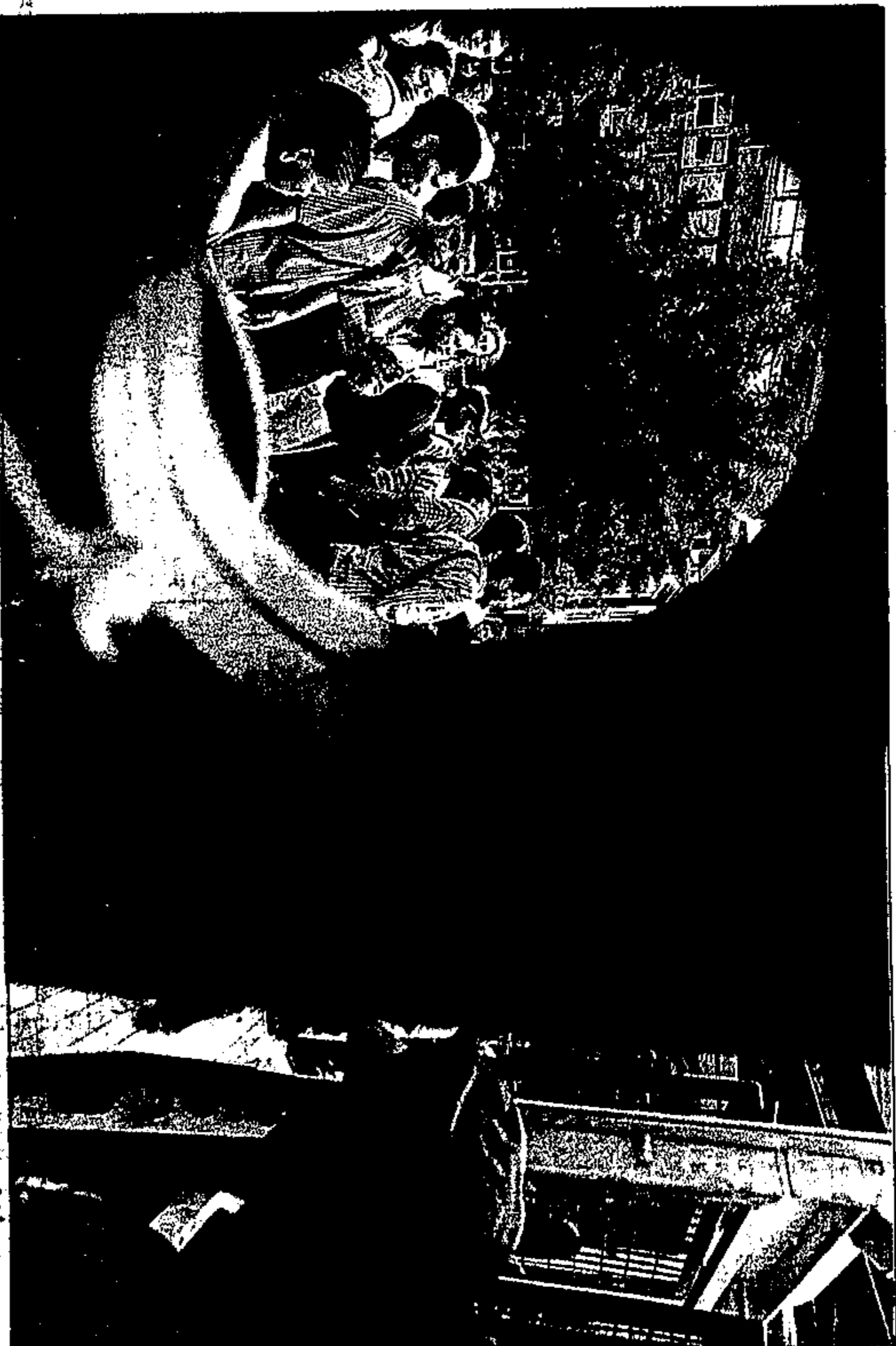
Sean Lewis, spokesperson for the UWC Academic Staff Association, said it was not necessary for the situation to deteriorate to this new low because Nehawu and management had come close to resolving the wage dispute and moving ahead with normalising the situation.

Nehawu was prepared to drop its wage increase demand from 12% to 5%, thus accepting management's offer. In exchange, Nehawu demanded that management not insist on the "no work, no pay" agreement.

One of the main reasons for this demand was that if Nehawu accepted a "no work, no pay" ruling, along with such an increase, then for at least the next year its workers would not feel the effect of the increase.

"The imposition of 'no work, no pay' effectively cancels any increase. The irony of this is that only those workers who did not strike will benefit from the strike," Lewis said.

"However, management seems to feel that they need to punish workers for striking, with comments like: 'That's what you get when you go on strike'.



CAMPUS BATTLE: Police clashed with workers and students at the University of the Western Cape yesterday after a breakdown in wage negotiations between management and unions.

PICTURE: MUSAHID SARODIEN

"It is a sick, petty game that management is playing when the university is under such severe threat," Lewis said.

Nehawu has an agreement with management that "no work, no pay" must be negotiated for every strike, and is not an automatic consequence of a strike. Management is ignoring this agreement, Lewis said. He said closing UWC would be a

"most calamitous happening", as it would not only adversely affect registered students who want to finish their academic year, but it also threatens the entire university and its viability in the future.

"In this context, it is incredibly shortsighted when the university management, who should take moral responsibility for this crisis happening and reaching this stage,

take some absurd position that they should be "punishing" workers, and that police, teargas and arrests are things they (workers) bring on themselves," Lewis said.

It was hoped negotiations between Nehawu and management would resume today, with the intervention of an independent mediator, in order to resolve the conflict before the university resumes its

academic programme. "With the rector in the US, and the acting rector and entire senior management having fled, one has to ask the question: 'What is management's commitment to the academic project, and to the university as a whole?'" Lewis said.

By late last night, the university management had still not commented on yesterday's incident.

Lectures suspended following violence on Western Cape campus

Dustin Chick
and Pearl Sebolo

SD 21/10/98
(54)
CLASSES at the University of the Western Cape had been suspended for the rest of the week and a revised examination timetable was likely to be announced on October 26, university sources said yesterday.

National Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) members have been on strike at the university since the beginning of September in what sources described as a "procedural industrial action".

Nehawu is demanding a 12% increase while the university is offering 5% to be implemented in October. The university originally offered 5% in January.

The campus remained calm yesterday after the strike action turned violent on Monday after workers and students blockaded entrances and trashed the administration building, causing damage of about R100 000.

Meanwhile, the National Union of Metalworkers of SA (Numsa) yesterday declared a dispute with Eskom and Public Enterprises Minister Stella Sigcau over the restructuring of the utility.

Numsa said the restructuring would lead to the closure of the services department and the loss of at least 5 000 jobs.

The union criticised Sigcau's failure to appear at a meeting to address the problem, which was scheduled to be held yesterday, as "a deliberate attempt to avoid the unions".

Eskom spokesman Peter Adams would not be drawn on the matter, but said the restructuring of Eskom was under discussion with the unions at the company's restructuring and transformation committee.

The committee, formed on Sigcau's instruction, acts as a forum for Eskom management and organised labour to engage each other on transformation.

Meanwhile, negotiations to end a six-week-old strike at Clover SA were expected to continue today after yesterday's meeting between management and the Food and Allied Workers' Union failed to resolve the wage dispute, the union's regional secretary Philly Magagula said.

Magagula said the "wage issue" remained the biggest stumbling block to an agreement.

Future is a scary place for UWC students

'Now it is everyone for himself'

ANDREA BOTHA
EDUCATION REPORTER

University of the Western Cape psychology student Liezl Mostert, 24, is swotting for her final exams in a dirty, wet, garbage-strewn campus cafeteria.

But she doesn't even know when she will write them. They have been postponed because of the unrest on the campus.

Classes have been suspended until Monday and the library has been closed for a month because of the strike by National Education Health and Allied Workers Union members over the breakdown of negotiations in their wage dispute with university management.

A demonstration by striking workers and students on Monday led to a rampage during which university property was trashed, the student cafeteria was flooded,

tyres were burnt, windows were stoned and university staff allegedly assaulted and intimidated.

At present the only activities allowed on the campus are emergency meetings and negotiations to resolve the crisis. The atmosphere on the campus is generally quiet. But the cracked windows, burnt refuse bins and the flooded, chaotic cafeteria testify to turmoil.

Some students can be seen working in the cafeteria, surrounded by trash and pools of water. Ms Mostert and others like her have nowhere else to study and university authorities have not yet finalised a date for the exams.

All students can do is wait. Most are not involved in the protests but are affected anyway, as the library and other facilities are closed.

Maintenance and some cleaning services are not taking place. Many students are afraid to ven-

ture on to the campus and prefer to stay away. Others, like Ms Mostert, are frustrated and angry.

She wants to do honours at the University of Stellenbosch next year and needs to get her results as soon as possible to finalise her admission. "I don't know what is happening to my future," she said.

Ms Mostert has paid for her studies herself, by working after hours and at weekends. She wants to concentrate on child clinical psychology.

"I am not being cold-hearted, but they have disrupted my life and it is affecting me personally. Now, it is everyone for himself."

She said not all students agreed with the protest action on the campus, which began over the axings of academic staff.

But she said students could not write exams until the problems between the union and the university management were resolved.



Come hell or high water: a student works grimly on in the university cafeteria, trashed by protesters this week

ANDREA BOTHA

(647) ARUS 22/10/98

UWC strike ends - but now trouble ⁽⁵⁴⁾ brews at UCT ^(A)

Wage talks stalled

ARG 23/10/98

ANDREA BOTHA AND CAROL CAMPBELL
STAFF REPORTERS

The crippling strike at the University of the Western Cape is over, but now trouble looms at the University of Cape Town.

UWC lectures will resume on Monday, while National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union members go back to work today after their four-week strike.

Meanwhile UCT management and representatives of the same union were in emergency talks today to stop a strike on Monday.

Union members on the campus voted this week to strike when wage negotiations with management stalled.

End-of-year exams are due to begin on Monday and there are fears of disruptions.

In this week's edition of the university newspaper *The Monday Paper*, the union's administrator on campus, Thembinkosi Qondela, said the primary concerns of union members were wage increases and job security.

While management had offered a 6% increase, the union wanted a R200 a month, across-the-board hike, irrespective of wage level, he said.

"Nehawu wants to put its demands more strongly following the collapse of negotiations," he said, adding that the union was concerned over the extent of the wage differential between the highest- and lowest-paid employees.

"Nehawu also wanted a guarantee of jobs for two years, when management would offer only one year," he said.

Paul Abrams, employee relations manager, said: "UCT has severe financial constraints. We are offering Nehawu 6%. Nehawu is asking for a lot more than we can offer. We greatly regret the fact that we haven't been able to reach agreement."

Meanwhile at UWC yesterday the atmosphere on campus was jubilant as workers braaied and played music.

Negotiators were last night still finalising an agreement reached in all-night discussions on Wednesday.

University management promised to give union members a salary increase of 6,5% from October 1.

This adjustment was to be reviewed in April, 1999, subject to confirmation of income from state subsidies and student enrollment.

An additional R1 000 would be handed to workers as a once-off payment at the end of next month.

The university also undertook not to retrench any non-academic staff before the end of January.

Both parties committed themselves to an exercise to restore relationships and ensure the enhancement of the academic project.

"This is a resolution of a temporary crisis, but the problems of the UWC are far from over," said Sean Lewis, spokesman for the University of the Western Cape Academic Staff Association.

ST (CTA) 25/10/98

Court vetoes UCT strike

A STRIKE planned by workers at the University of Cape Town has been declared illegal by the labour court, writes JANET HEARD. (54)

The UCT management won the interdict late on Friday.

While uncertainty hangs over UCT, classes are due to resume at the University of the Western Cape tomorrow following weeks of conflict when the workers' union and management reached a settlement.

UCT shop steward Leonard Malukazi said yesterday that the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union strike committee was looking at options in light of the court ruling. The union's options ranged from appealing to holding the strike.

"If there is a strike, it will be illegal and workers face possible dismissal," said UCT's director of Communications, Helen Zille.

ST 25/10/98

second opinion

MAMPHELA RAMPHELE

Higher education: Exposing the credibility gap

(54)

IF THEY stop to think about it, most newspaper readers will know what I mean by a "hierarchy of reads" (with apologies to Abraham Maslow). I use this phrase to describe the many levels at which we read newspapers. Posters on poles, bold headlines and the first few paragraphs of a story have a more powerful and immediate impact than in-depth analysis.

Regular newspaper readers know there is often a tenuous connection between the headline and the fine print. Sometimes there is an outright contradiction. Last week's Sunday Times provides a spectacular example. You didn't even have to buy it to learn from the poster that it had "rated" technicians and universities.

The supplement's headline announced that it was about the "Best in Higher Education". In normal English, "best" implies a quality rating. Those readers who got to the ninth paragraph of the supplement's front-page article learnt that the evaluation panel "decided not to measure the quality of education provided". The core of the panel's comparative analysis between institutions was based on an attempt to measure "efficiency".

Readers interested in how the panel reached its conclusions were urged to visit its web site for a "detailed report on the survey and its findings". (Unfortunately, this was more difficult than it seemed as the Internet address provided was wrong).

Those prepared to surf until they found the site would have been amazed to read the conclusion reached at the end of the quantitative analysis: "Most of all, this survey shows that, at this stage, higher education does not have the types of information and data that will allow it to participate meaningfully in public debates about quality and efficiency."

It is a pity that the necessary "information and data" were unavailable as the Sunday Times set out to do something appro-

priate and laudable: to hold public institutions accountable for the spending of taxpayers' money and to guide consumer choice. This is a growing trend worldwide, and I welcome it.

But the panel makes it clear that it was unable to fulfil this mandate because the necessary information wasn't available.

It was not fooled by its own study. But many readers would have been. Why? A tiny minority would have found the original findings on the web site. A few would have read the supplement's technical analysis (which included some of the crucial disclaimers). Many readers, however, would have based their conclusions on an article presented in the main body of the newspaper as a crisp, user-friendly summary.

Written by a member of the study panel, Professor William Makgoba — in his "personal capacity" — the article, "Let's axe all our lazy academics", contradicts the conclusions of the panel of which he was a member. Without any disclaimers about the availability of data and information, he states boldly: "No longer are the English-speaking institutions the trendsetters. They've been overtaken by the Afrikaans-speaking and some of the historically

disadvantaged institutions." His agenda, of course, is transparent. Any opportunity will do to poke a stick in the eye of Wits in particular, and "English-speaking" institutions in general.

In the same vein, Makgoba concludes that the Rand Afrikaans University is the "most efficient academic institution in South Africa, by all the criteria used in the study". This invites the crucial question: What criteria were used in the study?

The first was a comparison of the pass rates of undergraduate students relative to a university's total income. This means that an institution will look very efficient if it has few sources of income, a very high internal pass rate (unrelated to objective external standards or the quality of its curriculum), and if most of its students take low-cost degrees. It will look even better if it has a high proportion of part-time students (who cost less) and relatively few postgraduate students.

In contrast, institutions will look "inefficient" if they attract substantial amounts of funding for various purposes: for contract research (because of their acknowledged research quality), for bursaries, for computer laboratories, for capital projects and a host of other

investments in quality. Universities will tend to look inefficient if a high proportion of students are in high-cost degrees or studying at postgraduate level.

This shows up the flaws of trying to measure efficiency by comparing the undergraduate pass rates relative to the institution's total income. But even if it is possible to define "efficiency" as the highest pass rate at the lowest cost, what does this tell us? We all know, for example, that Hong Kong's factories are efficient in mass-producing toys at a low unit cost. But parents also know which products to avoid if they want something of quality.

By this I am not implying that the universities rated as "efficient" in the study do not offer a good product. They may. But the panel's method is unable to tell us this. Far less does it support the kind of conclusion Makgoba seeks to draw about "English-speaking" institutions.

The same flaws are apparent in the other quantitative indicators the panel uses — graduation rates relative to tuition fee increases, and research output relative to staff qualifications. On the latter point, the panel's full report is again explicit: "The analyses presented in this section do not allow one to identify the most efficient (or group of efficient) universities." Even this finding does not deter Makgoba from drawing the opposite conclusion.

If this survey tells us anything, it is to read beyond the headlines and question the fine print. That is what good universities the world over teach students to do. But what it tells the higher education system is that we must move without delay to develop quality indicators that make sense, that provide the basis for accurate analysis, and that can ensure institutions funded by taxpayers' money are publicly accountable.

Dr Ramphele is the vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town

Students must pay, Mandela warns

BY HOPEWELL RADEBE
AND SIMON ZWANE

President Nelson Mandela has come out strongly against students who failed to pay their tuition fees, and called principals and chancellors of tertiary institutions "cowards" for failing to act firmly against them.

Speaking at the launch of the ANC's voter registration campaign in Soweto yesterday, Mandela said he was opposed to the continuous funding of "irresponsible" students and urged chancellors to take a tough stand against the registration of students who failed to pay.

At the weekend, Mandela initiated the ANC election campaign - aimed at winning two-thirds of the votes - by addressing a people's forum in Tsakane on the East Rand, attending a forum in Orlando West, and speaking to the Afrikaner community at a public meeting in the Pretoria suburb of Garsfontein.

The Garsfontein school hall was packed yesterday, although some sections of the community had objected to a political

(54) Star 26/10/98
meeting being held on a Sunday.

Mandela told the Afrikaner community that their destiny was inextricably linked to that of all other South Africans.

"When things come to a push, whites in this country have other places to go, but the Afrikaner has no other place to go. Your duty is to work with all the people of South Africa to build your country and to promote the spirit of reconciliation," he said.

Mandela paid tribute to Afrikaner businesses that had responded positively to his plea for the funding of education.

Meanwhile, responding to questions at Uncle Tom's Hall in Orlando West, a stone's throw away from his former house, Mandela said he had found many chancellors - including his close friend, University of the Western Cape chancellor Archbishop Desmond Tutu - reluctant to make sure that "not a single student was allowed into the premises of their institutions without payment".

He said assistance should target only students seriously

in need. He came out strongly against the culture of entitlement and urged the youth to remember the plight of their colleagues in the rural areas who walked long distances to schools which had no facilities.

The Government was addressing the problem of lack of funds and had set aside R600-million in the next financial year to assist students with difficulties in paying their academic fees, he said.

Mandela cited the example of a student who had failed to pass a single course over a period of three years. He said that at one university, about 3 000 students who were being funded by the state had failed their exams.

He also came out against students who were withholding tuition funds given to them by their parents. "We are prepared to assist needy students, but resources should not be misused."

And he warned students: "It is not sufficient that you are black. If you don't pull up your socks and work harder, businesses, churches and NGOs, white or black, are going to give up on you."

Back to the blackboard at UWC, but UCT workers set to strike

ANDREA BOTHA
EDUCATION REPORTER

(54)

ARG 26/10/98

Lectures restarted at the University of the Western Cape today after weeks of unrest and a worker strike but industrial action was looming at the University of Cape Town.

More than 700 members of the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union on the UCT campus planned to strike today but called it off temporarily when

they got notice from university lawyers that they were about to go to court to get an interdict against them.

The members - mainly cleaners and administrative staff - voted unanimously for the strike after negotiations for annual wage increases with management failed. The workers initially wanted a R500 increase but have dropped their demand to R300.

University management offered a 6% increase, about R150

less than the union wants.

Union provincial secretary Andrew Madella said UCT was one of the richest universities in the country and should be able to pay the increase.

The university has cited financial constraints in negotiations.

Discussions have been set up with university management today to try to resolve the crisis.

Mr Madella said it was mere coincidence that industrial action at UCT followed the strike at UWC.

Ballot poser could sideline strike by disgruntled UCT staff

ANDREA BOTHA
EDUCATION REPORTER

The University of Cape Town has questioned a second strike ballot conducted by the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union.

Union workers have given UCT management 48 hours' notice of their

intention to go on strike, expected to start on Friday or Monday.

But the university today questioned whether the strike ballot was properly conducted. It is the second time university management has cast doubt over the ballot.

Last week, the majority of union members voted for a strike. After the university questioned the wording of

the ballot, it was changed and a second vote was held yesterday. After the first ballot, the university was granted a labour court interdict against the workers, prohibiting them from going on an illegal strike.

Yesterday, the majority of members again voted for a strike.

UCT spokeswoman Helen Zille said today: "We have reservations

about whether it was a properly conducted secret ballot that met the terms of the interdict, and we are seeking urgent clarification from Nehawu." Union provincial secretary Andrew Madella said he had not heard anything from the university stating it was unhappy with the second ballot.

The 730 union members on the

campus, mainly cleaners and administrative staff, decided to strike after annual wage increase negotiations with management failed.

The union members initially wanted a R500 increase, but dropped their demand to R200 across-the-board, which would amount to an average increase of 8,7%. The university is offering 6%.

ALT 28/10/98

(514)

(152)

Excess staff to present bridging course

Primarashni Pillay

THE University of Durban Westville is to boost the quality of school and university education in KwaZulu-Natal and countrywide by providing free academic and social life skills to pupils from grades 10 to 12 in a project which is expected to cost about R70m over four years.

About 38 staff members who were identified as being in excess due to the university's restructuring plans will be redeployed to assist with the implementation of this Upward Bound University-Wide Academic Enrichment Programme, while local post-graduate students and overseas university students will also play a role.

University vice-chancellor Mapule Ramashala said yesterday

that the private sector had been approached for assistance.

The programme is expected to take off in June next year and pupils will be screened. Learners will stay at the university residences during the school holidays and will receive exposure to basic mathematics, science, numeracy skills and basic life skills.

They will be assessed throughout the year and if they require further exposure to the programme they may continue with it until the end of Grade 12, or thereafter participate in foundation courses while simultaneously taking on first-year university courses.

The university could accommodate 500 learners in Grades 10 and 11 respectively and about 1 000 in Grade 12.

ND 29/10/98 (54)
The programme was aimed at demystifying the idea of a university, and pupils would be introduced to courses in their areas of interest, Ramashala said.

She said that the skills would enhance their performance in the matric examinations as well as significantly improve first-year university pass rates.

When universities admitted under-prepared students, the first-year failure rate was high.

However, this preparation would boost the confidence of these students.

Ramashala said the programme would be continually assessed. She stressed that in the light of the university's restructuring process, no staff would be retrenched. Instead, their skills would be used in this area.

'MANAGEMENT DRAGGED FEET'

UCT strike likely to affect exam schedules

CT 30/10/98 (54)

EXAM SCHEDULES at UCT stand to be upset if a Nehawu strike goes ahead on Monday. Education writer **PRISCILLA SINGH** reports.

STAFF belonging to the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) will embark on full strike action at the University of Cape Town on Monday after a breakdown in wage negotiations last week.

Nehawu's main demands are a R200 across-the-board raise amounting to an average 8,7% increase; a guarantee from UCT management that it will not retrench anyone in pay classes 1-4 in the next two years; more time off work for shop stewards to meet; an increase in the housing subsidy for a R60 000 bond; and for the housing allowance — for those who do not receive a subsidy — to be increased to R300 a month.

UCT is offering Nehawu members a 6% salary increase — which would be back-dated to July 1, 1998 — and has agreed that there will be no involuntary retrenchment until the end of June 1999. It has offered more time for shop stewards, but not as much as Nehawu has asked for. No increase in either the housing subsidy or housing allowance is being considered for this year.

Nehawu represents workers in pay classes 1-4, making up a total of 680 staff.

Each pay class has several salary notches but most staff are on the maximum notch for their pay class, according to UCT.

UCT's offer to Nehawu would bring the average cash salary to

BREAKDOWN OF UCT SALARY PACKAGES

Graphic: Nazleah Burch

	Payclass 1 Max RPM	Payclass 1 - 4 Ave RPM	Payclass 4 Max RPM
Salary	1 955	2 301	2 758
Provident Fund	427	600	727
Housing (max)	623	557	491
Medical Aid (m + 2)	761	835	835
Annual Bonus	163	192	230
TOTAL	3 929	4 485	5 041

R2 439 in pay classes 1-4 and the average package to R4 671. Recent salary surveys show that this is higher than the wages earned by 90% of service workers in other sectors of the economy. In cash terms alone, UCT remains a market leader.

Helen Zille, director of communications at UCT, said this week that management had reservations about whether Nehawu had conducted the strike ballot properly.

Andrew Madella, provincial secretary of Nehawu, disagreed.

"We complied with all the conditions in the recognition agreement and with all procedures needed to conduct a strike ballot.

"When the results were given to management, they showed no indication that they were unhappy. Management have still not communicated this to us yet.

"Nehawu workers are committed to going ahead with a strike. However, we are prepared to nego-

tiate with management at any time, but they have not indicated that they would like to meet with us," Madella said.

He added that most Nehawu members at UCT were administrative support staffers and that a strike would definitely affect the exam schedules.

He said the wage matter should have been settled in July, but "management dragged their feet and now that strike action is threatened Nehawu is seen as the bad influence wanting to disrupt the exams".

"Management should shoulder the blame if exams are affected in any way. Our intention is to be out in full force on Monday, with placard demonstrations and marches in and around the campus, but there will be no disruptions of classes," Madella said.

UCT management has issued a stern warning to Nehawu that disrupting an exam will be a dismissable offence.

"Management should shoulder the blame if exams are affected in any way."

Student victimised after M&G article

Stuart Hess

A student at Peninsula Technikon, Max Hamata, has received death threats for writing a story on campus prostitution for the *Mail & Guardian*. Technikon management has also placed pressure on him to reveal his sources.

After the article, "Sex for sale on campus", appeared on September 18, Hamata was harassed and verbally abused by other students. He was

called to the office of the deputy vice-chancellor, Vuyisa Tanga, who ordered him to reveal his sources. He was accused of being disloyal to the institution. Sources quoted in the article have been intimidated and threatened with expulsion.

This week, management held an informal fact-finding mission to investigate Hamata's coverage of the story. During the inquiry, chaired by the registrar of student affairs, Tobie Titus, and judicial officer

Cindy Ngaba, Hamata was questioned about his sources and accused of misquoting them. Titus, who serves as an executive member of the South African Rugby Football Union, was reluctant to comment, saying the issue was "an internal thing".

Hamata says the inquiry is having an adverse affect on him as he prepares for examinations. "I do not know where I stand," says Hamata. "I thought I was working in a free environment where people

are free to express themselves."

The head of journalism at the technikon, Eronimi Megwa, says the department has not received any official word from the administration. He feels that if the institution believes Hamata has infringed any regulations, appropriate action should be taken. "We teach our students to uphold the values which they respect as part of the profession," says Megwa.

Hamata approached the Student Representative Council for assis-

tance, but they have yet to take a position on the issue.

The Freedom of Expression Institute has voiced its concern over the technikon's treatment of Hamata. "What kind of message does this send out to other student journalists?" asked representative Jane Duncan. She says it is certainly in the public's interest to know if prostitution is taking place on campuses.

However, the national information and publicity officer of the South African Students Press Union, Mark Weinberg, expressed concern about the article. "There is some concern that [Hamata] didn't say which publication [the story] would be published in," says Weinberg.

(54) M&G 30/10 - 5/11/98

EDUCATION — UNIVERSITY

1998

NOV. — DEC.

UCT acts to stop strikers disrupting its exams

ANDREA BOTHA
EDUCATION REPORTER

ARG 3/11/98

The University of Cape Town has been granted an interdict restraining striking workers from going to the upper campus and disrupting exams.

This follows the arrest of two National Education Health and Allied Workers' Union members yesterday when workers and police clashed.

Director of communications at UCT Helen Zille said the majority of Nehawu workers were at work yesterday, the first day of the strike over a wage dispute.

She claimed that as support for the strike was so low, Nehawu had brought supporters from outside the campus to join their demonstrations.

About 700 Nehawu members are on strike in support of a demand for a R200 across-the-board pay rise, the equivalent of about 8%. The university is offering 6%.

A UCT spokesman said a group of Nehawu workers had marched around the campus yesterday, upsetting rubbish bins, turning on taps and disrupting exams by banging on windows. Police were called and violence broke out when they tried to drive the marchers back.

Two men were arrested on charges of assault.

Ms Zille said: "This is outrageous behaviour and it is illegal. It is also in bad faith, given the fact that both parties had agreed to continue negotiations on Monday on picketing rules."

She said that outside sympathisers had joined about 60 Nehawu workers on the march.

Students in two exam halls were given extra time to finish their papers after the disturbance. "Exams are sacrosanct at UCT," said Ms Zille.

Nehawu provincial secretary Andrew Madella denied that their members had been disruptive or violent. "They were moving in an orderly way towards the hall when police blocked their way."

He said violence broke out when police tried to push workers, who pushed back. The two men arrested had, in fact, been defending themselves, said Mr Madella.

Mpumalanga officials may be charged

(56)

BO 4/11/98

Heath unit finds sufficient evidence for a police investigation into Gray and senior politicians

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — The Heath special investigating unit has uncovered sufficient evidence for the police to consider charges of fraud against several senior Mpumalanga politicians and against suspended Mpumalanga Parks Board CEO Alan Gray.

A number of other former parks board members also faced possible prosecution, Judge Willem Heath said yesterday.

A report detailing the evidence would be handed over to the police's commercial branch next week, Heath said. The evidence in the Mpumalanga case was "sufficient for referral to the police".

Heath declined to name the others implicated in the investigation because it could jeopardise the inquiry, which was at a "sensitive stage".

However, it is understood the unit has investigated suspended former finance MEC Jacques Modipane and environmental affairs and tourism MEC David Mkhwanazi. Among other things, the two politicians were involved in a secret helicopter partnership with Gray in 1996.

The case against senior members of the Mpumalanga government, Gray and other former parks board members, had spread beyond the matter of the secret

issue of promissory notes worth R1,3bn, which were stopped, Heath said. The promissory notes were pledged as security for loans using parks board assets and game parks as collateral.

The broadening of the unit's investigation in the province had occurred after "a number of people had come forward with serious allegations" implicating board members and government officials. He declined to name the informants as he feared for their safety, and it could jeopardise the probe.

"We are investigating a number of other leads, following from actions of the parks board administration, which can be described, at the very least, as maladministration and misappropriation of funds and assets of the parks board. Some information clearly points to the illegal acquisition of assets, to the establishment of unauthorised bank accounts, private accounts illegally paid by the administration of the parks board as well as the keeping of fraudulent records."

Gray's lawyer, Pieter Swanepoel, declined to comment, saying he had not yet seen the Heath unit's report.

A source said the case involving Gray pointed to "an involved network of dealings to defraud the Mpumalanga govern-



Prosperity chairman Max Maisela at the services group, Prosperity Holdings, which Exchange and target its financial products of SA.

Listing details: Pa

ment and use funds for personal gain".

Heath said a new presidential proclamation was being prepared that would broaden the scope of the unit's investigation beyond the issue of the promissory notes, following a request by premier Mathews Phosa. Phosa asked the unit to investigate "all allegations of improper conduct by officials or members of the Mpumalanga Parks Board, politicians and provincial government employees".

Phosa himself was not under investigation, Heath said. In fact, he and his staff had provided information regarding various matters being investigated.

The unit's role is to investigate corruption, maladministration and fraud dealing with state assets and state monies.

CT 4/11/98

Protesters bused in to back UCT strike

EDUCATION WRITER

EXAMINATIONS at the University of Cape Town initially went ahead without disruptions yesterday, but busloads of 'imported' protesters once again went against the grain of picketing rules.

An urgent interdict was granted against the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) on Monday night.

It puts a stop to its members and supporters demonstrating on UCT's upper campus.

Final exams are in progress there.

While Nehawu abided by the terms of the interdict, it is believed the union brought in more than 300 people from the University of Western Cape to support about 80 workers protesting on the middle campus.

UCT's director of communications, Helen Zille, said yesterday that three or four buses had arrived on the middle campus and that workers, believed to be from UWC, had joined in the marching and shouting "for a while".

"Nehawu knows they cannot get enough support from here and that's why they have to rely on

sympathisers from the outside.

This is not recognised in terms of the picketing rules, and the legality of the strike is also in question.

"I want to reiterate our concern about putting outsiders on the campus, and I think our concerns are entirely justified in this regard," Zille said.

The strike on Monday came after a wage deadlock in which Nehawu is demanding an 8,7% across-the-board increase, while management's final offer is 6%.

On Friday the Labour Court granted an interdict preventing Nehawu workers from striking this

week on the grounds that the union's strike ballot was invalid.

In last week's ballot 420 Nehawu members rejected management's offer, and 135 accepted it. Management has claimed this was not a valid strike ballot because Nehawu members were not asked to vote specifically for a strike.

George Daniels, chairperson of the UCT Nehawu Shop Stewards' Council, said the union had a committee to manage the strike.

"I don't want to see the situation at UWC developing at UCT, but the ball is now in management's court," Daniels said.

THE stimulation of economic activity and sustainable job creation are fundamental challenges facing SA. Few realise the extent to which the coast can contribute to meeting these challenges. This aspect, as well as many others, is covered in the recently published coastal policy green paper.

SA's coast is a rich national heritage, with many direct and indirect benefits and development opportunities. In a time of financial uncertainty and insecurity, it represents real economic opportunities for all the people of SA. As Pallo Jordan, minister of environmental affairs and tourism, writes in his foreword to the green paper: "It is of the utmost importance to SA's broader economy that the opportunities provided by the coast are harnessed and managed in an equitable and sustainable manner."

The coastal management policy programme was initiated by the environmental affairs and tourism ministry, in response to the recognition of the vital role that the coast can play in SA's future development. Having secured funding from the British international development department, the ministry appointed a policy committee to prepare the draft policy.

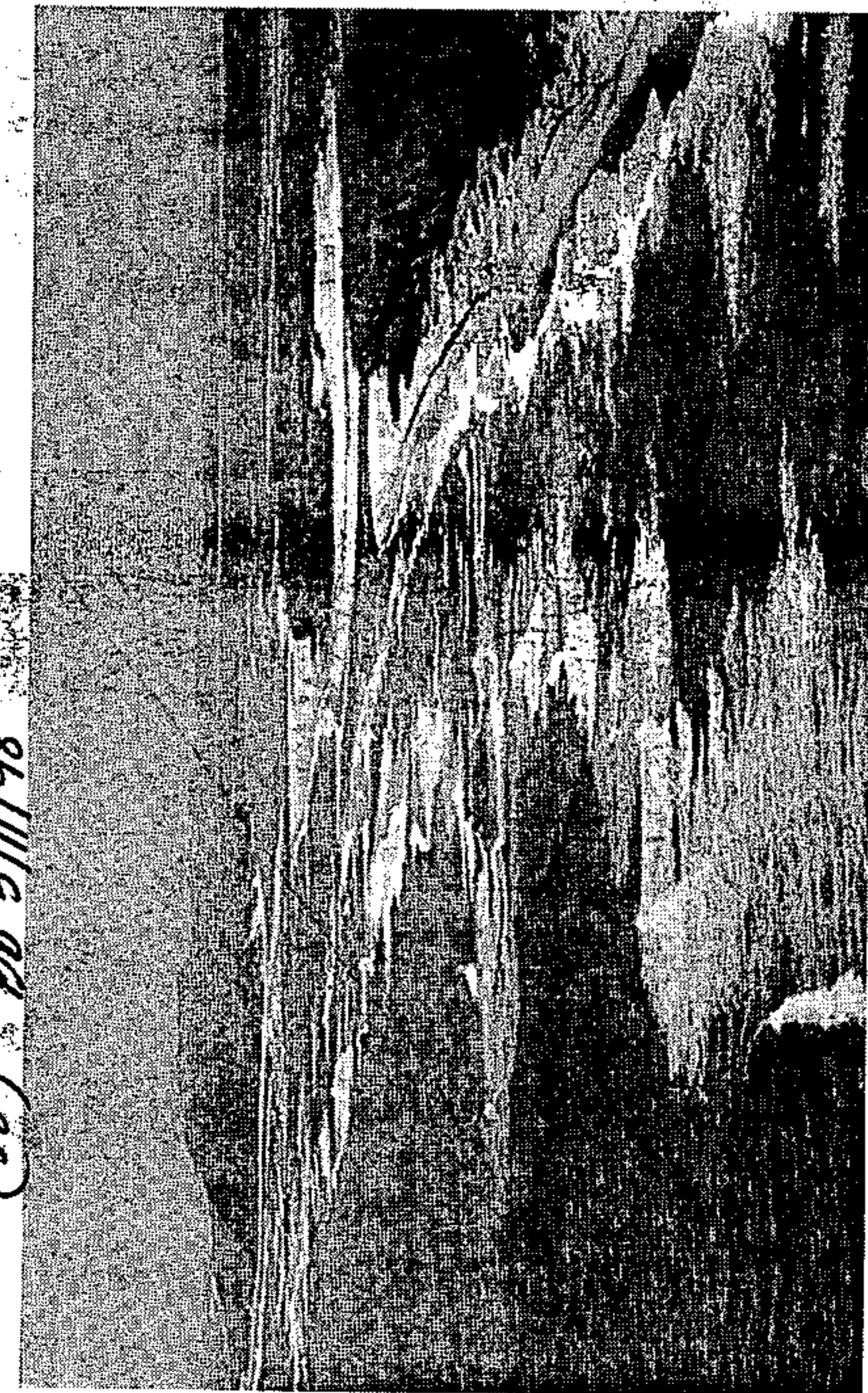
The policy programme has four fundamental goals: to promote meaningful public participation; develop a policy that has scientific integrity; promote integrated coastal management between government, civil society and the private sector; and develop a practical policy that includes policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of results.

The value of SA's coast is, largely, not acknowledged in investment decision-making, a surprisingly short-

SA's coastline must not be ignored

The release of the coastal policy green paper is an opportunity for the country to reflect seriously on the value of its coastline, writes Tracey Hawthorne

(56) PO 5/11/98



sighted approach when one considers that the benefits are conservatively estimated to be about R179bn a year — equivalent to about 37% of the country's GDP.

Included in this are subsistence and commercial food production (R12,19bn a year), diamond and titanium mining (R3,75bn a year), transport via ports and harbours (R4,58bn a year), recreation and tourism (R15,21bn a year) and turnover of property with sea views (R9,07bn a year).

"Indirect benefits", which cover such aspects as erosion control, waste treatment and climate regulation, come to R134,31bn a year.

That said, coastal management has, historically, been fragmented and uncoordinated, which has led to valuable coastal assets and development opportunities being squandered. A radical new management approach is needed, and it is this that is investigated in depth in the paper. An important aspect of this is the leadership that is required from government in order to realise the enormous benefits of our coast (both existing and potential).

Leadership is also vital to sustain these benefits, taking into account the very complex human/natural system interface our coast represents, and to promote proactive and co-operative governance through partnerships and co-responsibility.

This will not mean starting from

a central focus on the coast. Eight of the 10 SDIs are linked to the coast. They have a projected collective value of some R90bn and propose to create 90 000 jobs.

Realising the financial and developmental benefits of our coast will, similarly, not require a mental quantum leap — in fact, a gradual shift of economic activity to the coast is already under way. Fundamental changes in the SA economy over the last few decades have seen a de-emphasising of historically core industries such as mining and agriculture.

These industries were restricted, by their nature, to big business centres located inland. This being less the case than in the past, business opportunities have opened up on the coast like never before. The growth of information-based and service industries stresses the growing importance of skilled labour, and the siting of new businesses in locations along the coast serves as an incentive to prospective employees as business leaders seek out the best skills available.

At its most prosaic level, SA's coast is its physical interface with the rest of the world. More than R140bn worth of cargo is transported through SA ports each year, generating more than R4,2bn in annual revenue. As the country adjusts to trading in an increasingly globalised economy, business should be reflecting seriously on the value of the coast and on how this value can be reflected in benefits to shareholders.

□ The public can make submissions on the green paper until November 16 via the Coastal Management Policy Programme at (021) 424-5054.

□ Hawthorne is a freelance journalist and author of several natural history books.

Our coast is a rich national heritage, with many benefits and development opportunities. This is covered in the recently published coastal policy green paper.

Joint efforts between government or provincial authorities, the private sector and local communities. A prime example is the department of trade and industry's spatial development initiative (SDI) drive, which has

Major health hazard as Klip pours sewage into Vaal River

By PAUL EKSTEEN

Star 7/11/98 (56)

It's enough to make you sick. Then again, it probably will. The serene Klip River valley is being overloaded with black, greasy sewage effluent that is threatening to destroy the surrounding wildlife, and is already a health risk for people who use the river.

And the problem could turn into a catastrophe as the Klip River flows into the Vaal River, contaminating water downstream. Already, the Klip contains dangerous levels of toxins and, according to a Rand Water survey, if ingested, the water could bring about skin infections and intestinal disorders.

The problem was discovered when Gus Dorfling, chairperson of the Henley Environmental Group, found unfiltered sewage from the East Rand Water Care Company (ERWAT) sewerage works was seeping into the Klip River.

When the *Saturday Star* arrived there yesterday it was clear that the river and surrounding drainage ponds were a health hazard.

The stench emanating from the drainage ponds, which are supposed to rid the water of the sewage, was overwhelming.

The fight against ERWAT and its pollution of the river goes back more than 20 years. Last year, the

Henley Environmental Group succeeded in preventing ERWAT from pumping sewage into the reed pond further upstream. But after numerous other protests by this environmental group, ERWAT has reverted to its old ways.

Owen Thomas, vice-chairperson and secretary of the group, believes the government has to take some of the blame. "According to the new water act, this is illegal. Kader Asmal says everyone has the right to clean water. But where does that water come from? It doesn't come from the sky, it comes from the river. This just makes Asmal's job harder. We see this as a national problem," he said.

Thomas found it hard to hide his disbelief and anger as he stood on the bank of the drainage pond. "Water is supposed to collect here from upstream, and then flow out to the river as clean water. This is obviously not the case," he said.

The problem goes way beyond the question of drinking water. According to Thomas, the pollution level will prove dangerous for people in informal settlements who rely on the river for water. Then there are the farmers who use the river for irrigation, and the risk to wildlife. "There are fish and other aquatic life. This will probably kill them. In fact, it will kill them."



CERTAINLY NOT DRINKABLE: The Henley Environmental Group's Owen Thomas stands with a bucket of filth scooped from the Klip River. The River just south of Vereeniging and on into the Vaal River system

The sewage flows into the Vaal

Striking UCT staff slash tyres

(53) (54)
LYNNE RIPPENAAR

ART 7/11/98

University of Cape Town workers slashed car tyres in a march across the campus yesterday, as the strike for better wages continued.

Negotiations between Nehawu members and UCT management ended with workers rejecting UCT's settlement offer.

Management offered workers a once-off back payment, effective from July to the beginning of November, and an increase of 6% according to their different pay classes.

But Nehawu members are demanding a R200 increase across the board.

About 200 strikers marched across the campus from the Bremner building to the Protea building on lower campus. During the protest seven vehicles' tyres were slashed and some cars scratched.

Police suspect the damage was caused by workers because they were the only group that passed the building.

However, George Daniels, the chairperson of the Shopstewards Council, said he knew nothing of the incident or of Nehawu members' involvement.

Mr Daniels said they would discuss the offer made by management with the other members and that strikes would continue next week if a settlement was not reached.

He also alleged that management had decreased the initial offer given to members during mediation.

Cape sea water gets a clean bill of health

Council says most beaches have a low pollution level

BOBBY JORDAN

STCUM 8/11/98 (76)

CAPE Town's sea water has been given a clean bill of health for the festive season.

That's according to a Cape Metropolitan Council report which said the pollution level in Cape waters was relatively low and compared favourably with other coastal areas. The few exceptions are beaches near stormwater pipes opening into the sea.

The report, drawn up by the CMC's water quality committee, comes in the wake of mounting concern about pollution in False Bay blamed on overcrowded informal settlements on the Cape Flats. Recently there was also alarm over reports that blood from the Salt River morgue was ending up in stormwater pipes running into Table Bay.

But the CMC report said pollution targets were only exceeded at certain places, such as Kalk Bay harbour beach, Muizenberg, Three Anchor Bay and Hout Bay — usually only after heavy rains.

The chairman of the council's water and waste services committee, David Erleigh, said controlling water quality was part of an integrated approach to managing drainage catchments.

This week's water quality figures have raised hopes among tourism operators, many of whom complained of a quiet winter season.

In contrast, most are looking forward to a bumper festive season, with overseas flight bookings already pointing to packed beaches and shops.

"It's really superb for people to know they can come to the Cape and enjoy our beautiful beaches — they're one of our major drawcards," said Cheryl Mulder-Verbruggen from Waterfront-based Cape Courtesy tour company.

"The tourism industry needs as many positives as possible right now."

Cape waters were kept relatively clear of pollution from plastic by the southeaster, said Ken Evans, of Hout Bay-based Circe company that offers sea trips.

However, some surfers claim there is still a "serious" sewage problem in False Bay.

"It's a closed system — there's not enough circulation in the bay," said a surfer from Muizenberg. "Lots of people around here pick up ear infections and get bad throats. There's also a lot of brown algae around the place. It kind of makes you wonder."

Rector Mokadi must be fired, says commission

By TATE LUKHELE

THE COMMISSION of Inquiry instituted to look into the alleged misconduct of the controversial rector of the Vaal Triangle Technikon, Professor Aubrey Mokadi, has recommended that he be fired for his mean-spirited abuse of power.

Such a move may not go down well with the Minister of Education, Professor Sibusiso Bengu, a close confidante of Mokadi.

Bengu has been at loggerheads with the technikon's council for instituting the inquiry, and had personally, in his capacity as education minister, opposed it.

The technikon's council was threatening to take him to court for this.

The 86-page report was leaked to City Press this week, ahead of the council's meeting due to be held next week to discuss the commission's recommendations.

Council members have already indicated that the suspended Mokadi is going to be dismissed.

The inquiry, chaired by senior advocate Roland Sutherland, has found Mokadi guilty on five of 12 charges.

He was acquitted, because of a technicality, for the alleged misuse of a technikon credit card and for alleged over-expenditure on overseas trips.

Mokadi, whom the commission says had surrounded himself with "pliant yes-men", had consistently refused to acknowledge responsibility for the consequences of his own actions.

The commission said Mokadi had tried to argue that the blame was to be borne by his subordinates.

"The episodes in respect of finding him guilty of misconduct did not result from a lack of managerial experience."

It is alleged that on his Australian trip in September 1996, Mokadi overspent more than R18 000.

On his New Zealand trip in October of the same year he overspent R56 000.

In respect of the European trip he undertook in March last year, Mokadi overspent R44 000 and, in October last, he overspent more than R80 000 for his trip to South America and the United States.

Sutherland found that Mokadi had also improperly procured

an increase in his housing subsidy.

He qualified for a subsidy of R1 806 per month but he had substantially increased it.

"Perhaps an annual package of R447 000 is inadequate remuneration for the services he rendered to the technikon. It was not improper for him to request a revision of that remuneration," said Sutherland.

"It seems that on probabilities Mokadi required an injection of cash into his pocket. Why this might be so is unexplainable, and how he conceived of a housing subsidy being the appropriate way to achieve this is still unexplainable."

Perhaps, said Sutherland, in response to his duties as rector, Mokadi had incurred substantial expenditure at his home, and that was how one thing had led to another.

The commission also found Mokadi had acquired a second cellphone and a cellphone car kit without the proper authority.

His defence was that his cellphone did not work properly. He wanted to acquire a new one but did not get rid of the old one

(54)
EP8/11/98

World strategy aims to stop a sea of abuses

Asmal hails significant document

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

The world's oceans contribute an estimated R70 000-billion to the global economy each year, and some two-thirds of the world's population live on or close to a seashore.

The oceans are also crucial elements in the global hydrological cycle – without water, no life can exist on earth – and drive global weather cycles, which in turn define all patterns of human existence.

So why have people abused the oceans to the extent that this now constitutes a real global crisis?

That question and – more importantly – an internationally agreed strategy to reverse this situation, are outlined in a book that had its South African release in Cape Town last week and which is heralded as one of the most significant social documents of our time.

The Ocean, Our Future is the report of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans, chaired by former Portuguese president Mario Soares and launched at the United Nations University in Tokyo in December 1995.

The commission's brief was to review the existing status of the world's oceans and to make appropriate recommendations to reverse and improve this situation.

It presented its recommendations to the United Nations General Assembly and to the international community earlier this year: the International Year of the Ocean.

Now those recommendations have been released in an easily accessible, paperback book published by Cambridge University Press.

South Africa's Water Affairs and Forestry Minister, Kader Asmal, who was one of the commission's nine vice-presidents, said at the launch that the commission had attempted to deal with what it considered to be a "crisis facing our oceans".

"The study is, in its potential impact, every bit as important to the world as the great studies of our age on social, economic and environmental matters."

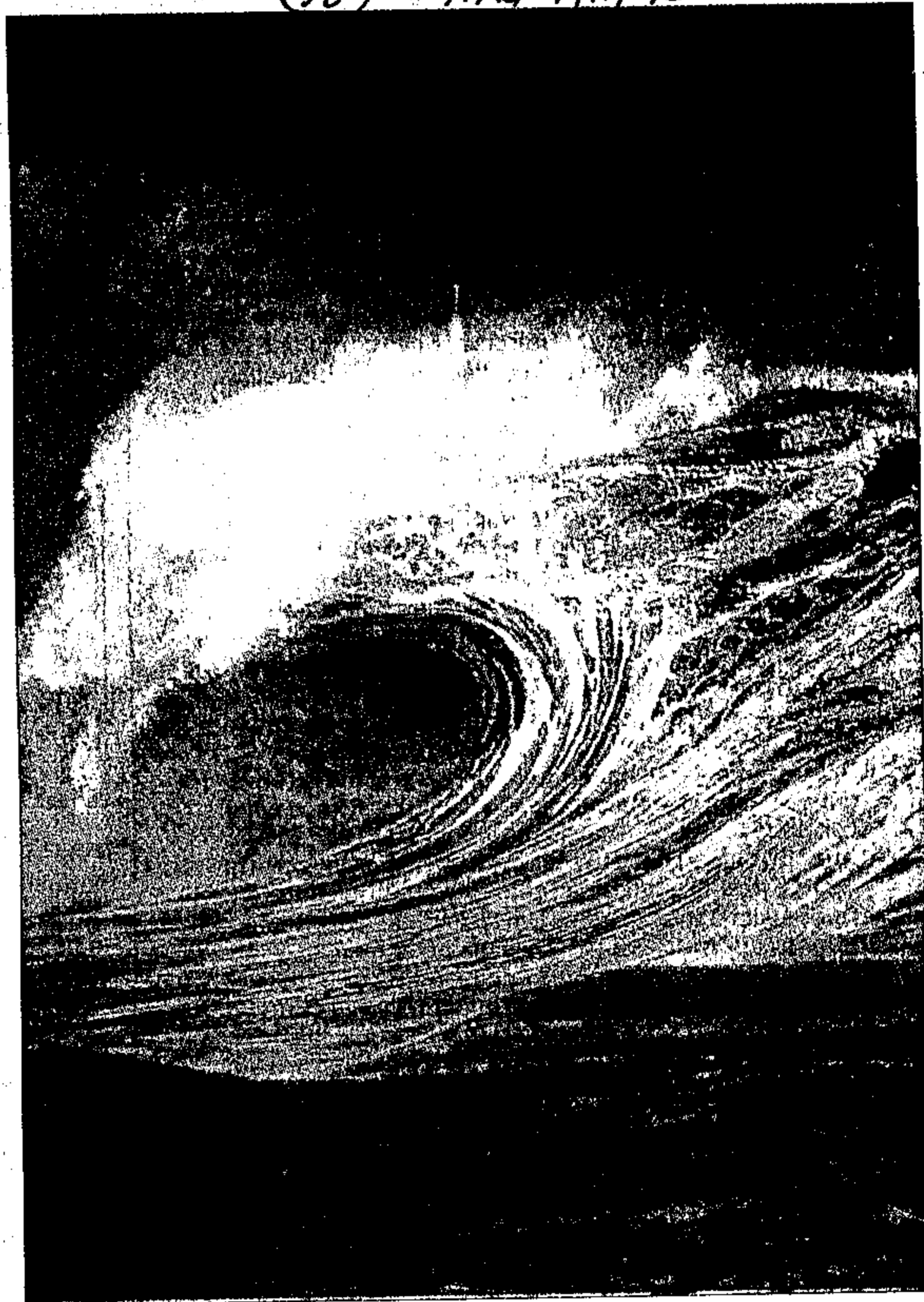
Professor Asmal also said that the commission had made a concerted effort to produce a readable and accessible report.

"I have no doubt that this well-produced, well-ordered and informative book will be of great value to universities, to businesses, to maritime agencies and concerns, and also – most important of all – to ordinary people who, in one volume, will have access to the best current thinking of the day on this critical subject," he said.

In his preface to the book, Dr Soares said the oceans' capacity to regenerate was enormous, but not – contrary to popular opinion – unlimited.

Many of its most significant living resources were being over-exploited, while non-living resources were equally at risk.

"(They) are being used up with scant attention to environmental regulations and in ignorance of the ecosystems which such form of exploitation necessarily threatens."



Ocean power: this remarkable photograph features on the cover of the newly published report of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans, entitled *The Ocean, Our Future*

change; terrorism; and over-congested shipping lanes, to name but some.

Dr Soares described the oceans as representing "a new frontier" which had to be opened with care if humanity as a whole – and not just the richer, more developed countries – was to share in the benefits.

"As we approach the new millennium, it is more evident than ever before that the oceans are a common asset of humanity as a whole," he wrote.

"The oceans are a privileged space for the strengthening of relationships between states: relationships forged on a spirit of co-operation, understanding and solidarity.

"With an economic approach prevailing

serve it for the benefit of present and future generations."

In his speech at the launch, Professor Asmal spoke of humanity's combined and growing resolve to save the oceans, and described the work of the commission as "the most comprehensive effort ever undertaken to restore and secure the oceans.

"As pressure mounts on world food and other resources, there is no doubt that the oceans will increasingly be viewed as ripe for harvesting," he said.

"It is our responsibility to ensure that their future health is sustained."

Professor Asmal said he was proud of the South African government's efforts in this

...book published by Cambridge University Press.

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Abuses included coastal territorial disputes that threaten peace and security; over-fishing and indiscriminate trawling; habitat destruction; species extinctions; pollution; illegal trafficking; piracy; global climate



Ocean power: this remarkable photograph features on the cover of the newly published report of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans, entitled *The Ocean, Our Future*

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"The oceans are a privileged space for the strengthening of relationships between states: relationships forged on a spirit of co-operation, understanding and solidarity.

"With an economic approach prevailing in these days of harsh competition, the important capital that the oceans represent to humanity is often overlooked ...

"This capital has no price, no replacement and no exchange value. We must pre-

serve it for the benefit of present and future generations."

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"As pressure mounts on world food and other resources, there is no doubt that the oceans will increasingly be viewed as ripe for harvesting," he said.

"It is our responsibility to ensure that their future health is sustained."

Professor Asmal said he was proud of the South African government's efforts in this connection, and he singled out the Coastal Policy Green Paper of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

"This shows the way ahead towards sustainable coastal development" he said.

Cape Town to host top-level summit

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

South Africa is hosting a top-level conference aimed at establishing a unified African approach to the protection and development of the continent's valuable coastal areas and marine resources.

The initiative, which starts later this month, is being heralded by senior government officials as part of the African Renaissance.

At the heart of discussions will be effective alternatives to the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions, which were designed to protect the coastal and marine environments of the east and west African coasts respectively, but which are both effectively defunct.

South Africa is not a signatory to either convention.

Three days of technical negotiations by leading scientists and resource managers will be followed by a two-day session involving some of Africa's top politicians and United Nations officials, including Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, UN secretary-general Kofi Annan, Organisation of African Unity secretary-general Ahmed Salim Salim, and Klaus Topfer, executive director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

The conference, organised by the non-government group Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (ACOPS) in association with the South African government and UNEP, starts in Cape Town on November 30.

"The organisers hope to revitalise the presently unsatisfactory, almost non-existent, co-operation in marine affairs among the sub-Saharan countries of Africa," an ACOPS spokesman said.

Deputy Environmental Affairs Minister

Peter Mokaba, who is one of ACOPS' vice-presidents, was even more blunt in his assessment. Addressing a media briefing about the conference, he said: "Although there are currently a number of conventions and actions plans addressing the coastal and marine environment, in which a number of African countries are participating, none could be considered remotely adequate or successful. Indeed, none of the multilateral environmental programmes have had any meaningful impact on African development."

The conference would enable African countries to determine their own priorities and to set an African agenda for partnerships in coastal and ocean management, Mr Mokaba said.

"This should be seen as part of the African Renaissance that is now sweeping the continent."

You can make a difference

National Marine Day has come and gone but the International Year of the Ocean is far from over.

While very little has been done in South Africa as a whole to celebrate the Year of the Ocean, the Expo '98: "The Oceans: A heritage for the future" which was held in Lisbon appears to have been a resounding success.

With over 30 000 visitors a day to the Expo, the message to save the ocean for the future has spread far and wide.

The Independent World Commission on the Oceans has presented its final report in the form of a book called *The Ocean, our future*. A statement of the central message of this report was released at the Expo in the form of "The 1998 Lisbon Declaration", which combines five elements: unity, urgency, potential, opportunity and trusteeship. Briefly, these endorse the following:

■ **Unity:** the traditional idea of the ocean as a number of distinct and separate oceans must be abandoned and all individuals must start thinking of one ocean only. This sense

of unity must be acquired by leaders and citizens alike for the future governance of the ocean.

■ **Urgency:** continued complacency towards the ocean could result in catastrophe in the next century.

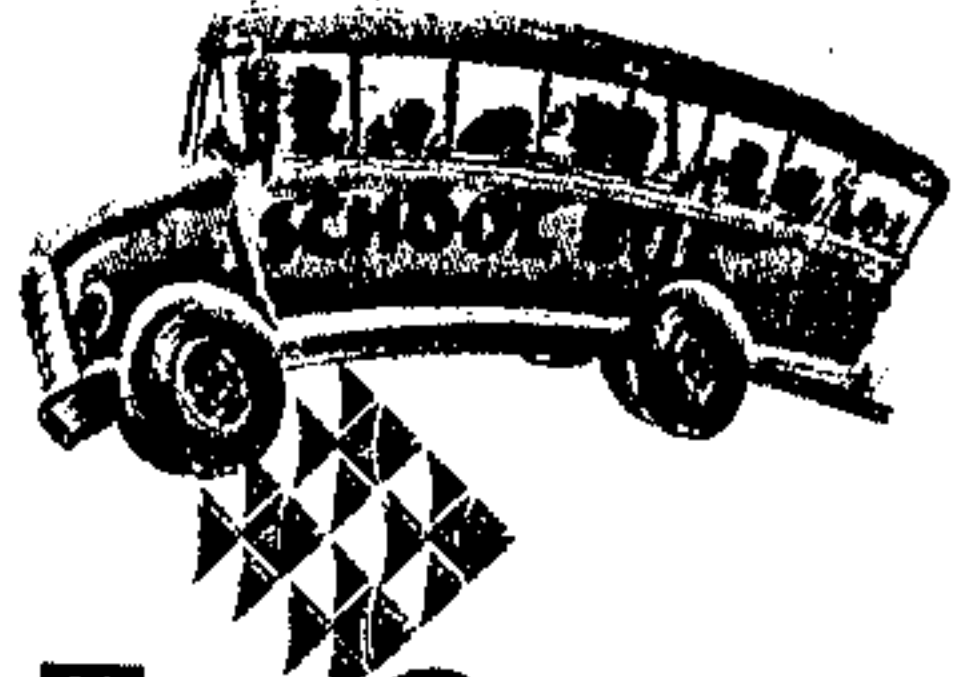
■ **Potential:** The ocean holds extraordinary bounty and promise to all people across the world if it is cared for and used creatively.

■ **Opportunity:** ocean concerns have at last been granted global visibility through the International Year of the Ocean. Seize the occasion and propose bold action.

■ **Trusteeship** refers to the active involvement of everyone, both leaders and citizens alike, in caring for the health of the ocean. A lasting relationship of public trust between humanity and the ocean must be established on the basis of a deepening understanding of all aspects of ocean use.

While the year of the Ocean will come to an end, the race to save the ocean is far from over. It is crucial that the momentum

CAPE ARGUS



Two Oceans AQUARIUM

achieved during the year is maintained and that everyone is actively engaged in caring for the ocean. One year may be all that is dedicated to the ocean, but remember there is only "One Earth, One Ocean, One Life" and each person can make a difference.

Dumped liquid waste very nasty 'but it's not sewage'

JOHN YELD AND MYOLISI GOPHE

Whatever it is, it's nasty and toxic – but it's definitely not sewage!

That's the word on the liquid waste a City of Cape Town employee was found dumping illegally from a council-owned tanker in the grounds of the Klipfontein municipal depot three weeks ago.

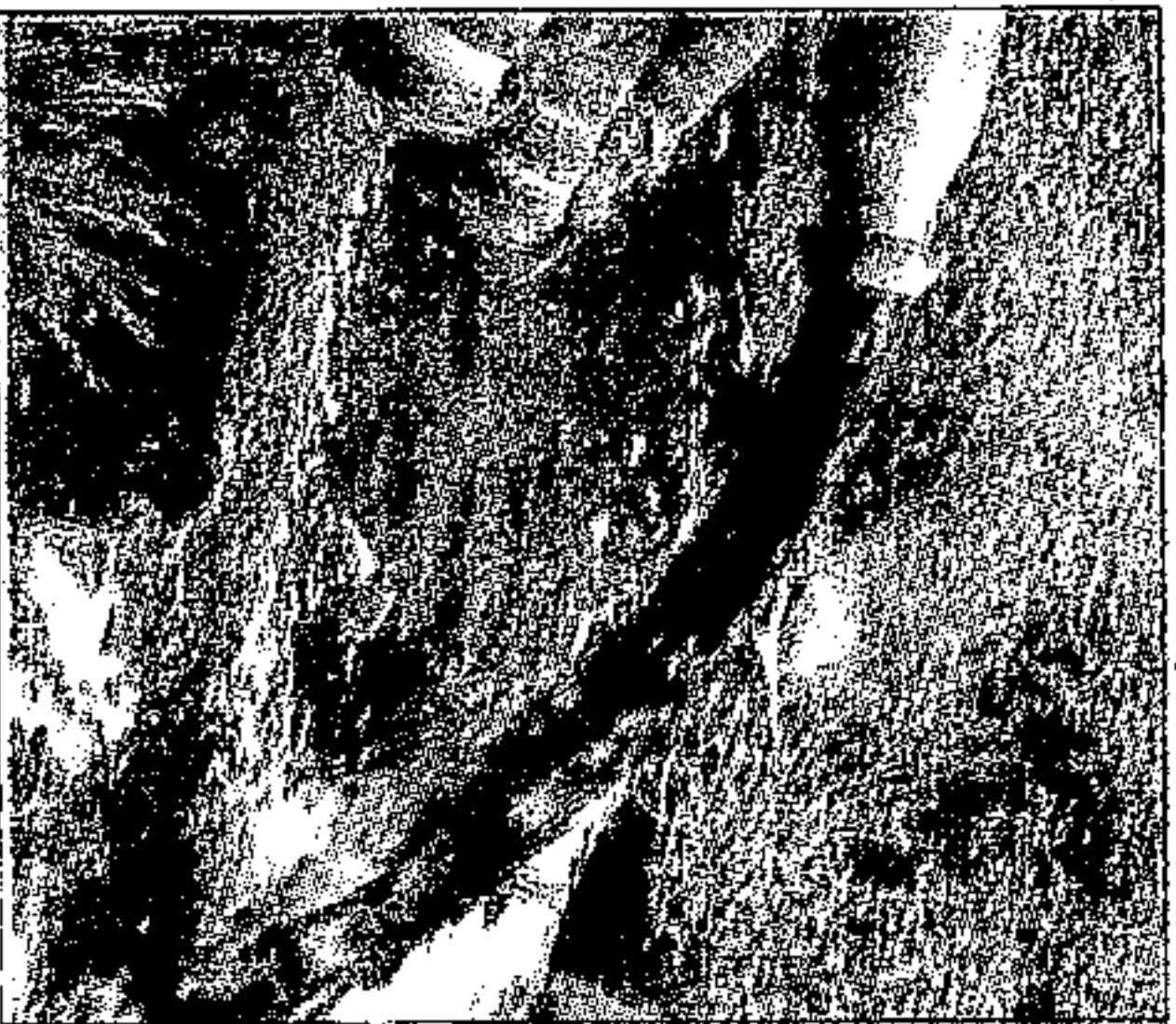
The incident followed disclosures the previous day that hundreds of thousands of litres of liquid waste from Phillippi industries were being dumped illegally in the bushes and down the council's sewers by private waste contractors and "moonlighting" municipal employees.

It was claimed at the time that companies were merely having their septic tanks emptied, and not dumping toxic industrial waste illegally, but that was contradicted by an analysis of a sample.

Phillippi factory owner Russell Rathbone, who blew the whistle on the dumpers, said in an affidavit that he had seen the municipal liquid waste tanker entering and leaving the premises of a drum recycling business twice on October 19.

On the second occasion, he followed the tanker to the Klipfontein cleans depot.

"It entered, without stopping and went to the back of the property, where its load of liquid waste was dumped," he said.



Pollutant: the dumped liquid waste

Mr Rathbone took a sample of the liquid waste, which he later gave to the Cape Argus. It was then taken to the food, science and technology branch of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in Rosebank.

There it was analysed for the presence of heavy metals cadmium, copper, lead, nickel and zinc, for its chemical oxygen demand to indicate the level of organic matter – in turn indicative of the presence of sewage or similar effluent – and for its bacterial content, to see whether it was sewage or contaminated by sewage, and therefore a health risk.

The CSIR supplied an analysis, but in terms of its standard contract

would not comment on the results.

The Cape Argus then asked University of Cape Town zoologist Jenny Day to interpret them.

Dr Day, director of UCT's Freshwater Research Unit and assistant dean in the science faculty, compared the findings with South African guidelines for "safe" concentrations of heavy metals and bacteria – guidelines she explained were still being developed.

"Domestic" guidelines indicated concentrations that were safe for humans to ingest, while "ecosystems" guidelines indicated when concentrations began to have adverse effects on rivers or wetlands.

The sample contained concentrations of lead, copper, nickel and zinc Dr Day found substantially above safe values for domestic and ecosystem guidelines.

Only cadmium was below the "safe" values. The chemical oxygen demand was not detected.

Dr Day said: "As far as these concentrations of heavy metals are concerned, we could expect significant effects on streams or wetlands if this contaminated water flowed into them.

"The values also indicate that this water would be bordering on the dangerous, as far as the heavy metals are concerned, if anybody were to ingest any of it."

Dr Day said the bacterial contami-



Sludge: results of a probe into the use of this waste tanker are expected later this week

nation of the sample was far more significant from the point of view of human health.

The "coliform" count was a measure of likely contamination by faeces, probably from mammals, while the "E coli" count indicated contamination by human faeces (although this test was not entirely definitive).

Domestic guidelines for coliforms in drinking water suggested that more than 100 per 100ml indicated contamination by faeces.

"Your sample had 42 560 per ml, which is about 4,256-million per 100ml," Dr Day said.

A value of more than 20 faecal coliforms – a slightly less specific measure, but roughly equivalent to E coli – per 100ml indicated a "significant risk" of contracting an infectious disease carried in faeces.

"Your sample had more than 1 000 per ml, and therefore more than 1-million per 100ml," Dr Day said.

But because of concerns about the accuracy of bacterial analyses, it would probably require an analysis of several samples of the waste to be certain of results, she warned. But the results indicated that the waste sample was definitely not sewage.

Saldanha's boom

could threaten the (S) Langebaan wetland

CT 10/11/98



WHEN the controversial Saldanha Steel plant was approved on the scenic West Coast, many opposed it because they believed it would trigger a rush of downstream industry. This is starting to happen, reports Environment Writer MELANIE GOSLING.

SALDANHA is set to become an industrial boom town with the government poised to declare the area an Industrial Development Zone (IDZ).

This will pave the way for substantial industrial growth around the West Coast towns of Saldanha and Vredenburg, and aims to attract foreign investment with drawbacks of possible "tax holidays" and exemptions from customs and excise tariffs.

Many of the new industries will use the opportunities created by the new R6,8 billion Saldanha Steel mill, regarded as the region's anchor project and the catalyst for kickstarting a host of "downstream" industries.

Industries that have already been approved by Saldanha-Vredenburg local authority are:

- An Anglo Alpha cement factory and
- A Dufenco steel plant, an R850m joint venture between the Industrial Development Corporation and a Swiss company.

Other industries in the pipeline include:

- A processing plant by PPC (Pretoria Portland Cement), which will convert slag from Saldanha Steel into slag cement.
- A R4,5 billion Anglo American zinc smelting plant.

- Extensions to the Namakwa Sands factory, doubling their present production capacity.
- A Shell pipeline from the Kudu natural gas fields in Namibia.
- A desalination plant.

Regional mineral deposits that can be mined economically are being identified, including zinc, limestone, phosphate and kaolin. There is a possibility of mining salt

near Yzerfontein.

Portnet has completed major extensions to the general cargo quay at Saldanha, and is building a new terminal building to handle increased cargo traffic.

The prospect of large-scale downstream development triggered by the Saldanha Steel plant was one of the major factors behind a public outcry in 1995 when plans for the steel factory became known.

The government appointed a board of inquiry into the issue. It found that 70% of public objections to the steel factory were related to its siting so close to Saldanha Bay, an integral part of Langebaan Lagoon and a wetland of international importance.

The inquiry's key recommendations were that the proposed steel mill be built at least six kilometres inland, and that the structure plan for the Saldanha-Vredenburg region, which determines land use in the area, be redone with extensive public input.

Both these recommendations have been ignored. The provincial authorities gave Saldanha Steel the go-ahead to build the factory on the same site it had applied for, but 1 500 metres closer to the eastern boundary.

The structure plan is being redone, but the local authority has already commissioned and approved an industrial development plan for Saldanha-Vredenburg, which earmarks another 900ha of land for heavy industry near Saldanha Steel, and adjacent land for light industry.

Some say this makes a mockery of doing a structure plan at all, as the siting for industry has already

been decided.

The steel factory was sold largely on the promise of local jobs it would create, but residents in Saldanha's former black townships of White City and Diazville say only a "handful" of locals have been employed.

Said Anna Vraagom: "Every morning you see just one busload from here going to work at Saldanha Steel, out of the thousands who live here."

Oupa Mabuya, who says he was one of about 10 people from White City who were trained by Saldanha Steel, said about 150 people were trained from the West Coast region.

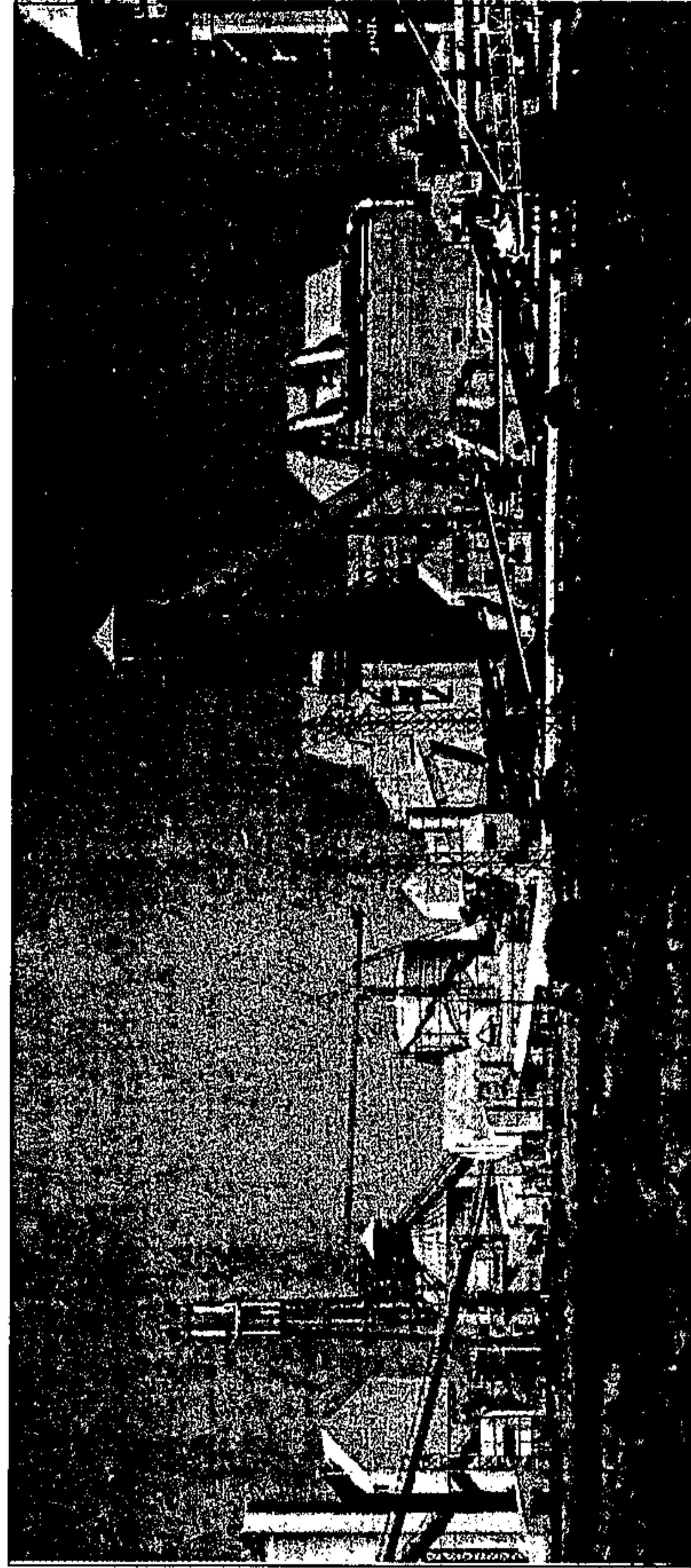
The proposed industrial growth for Saldanha is driven by the West Coast Investment Initiative, one of eight spatial development initiatives launched by the Department of Trade and Industry and by the Department of Transport.

Project manager of the West Coast Initiative Laurine Platky said the IDZs were to create zones with world-class services and conditions to attract foreign investors.

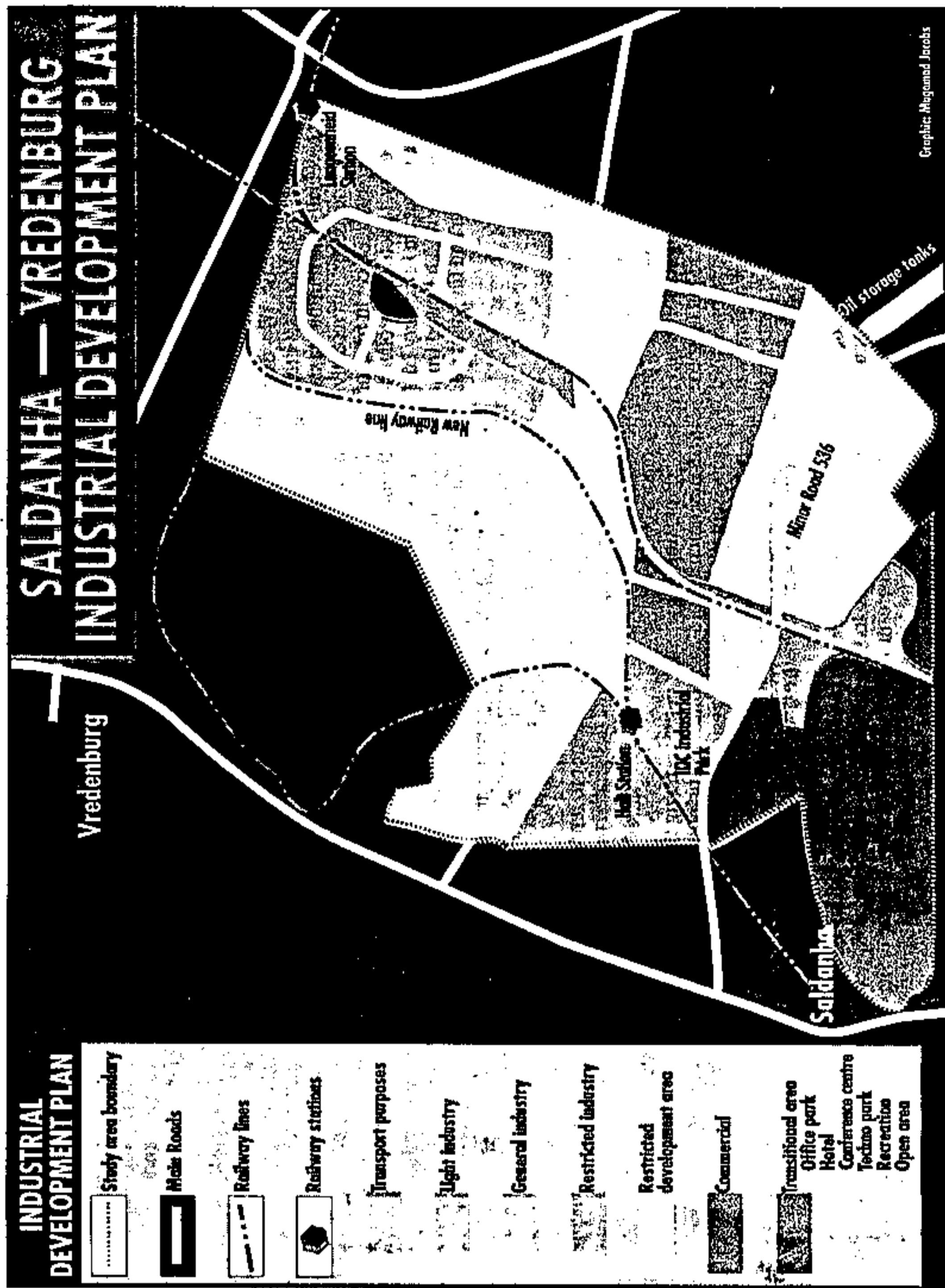
"We're trying to leapfrog into globalisation. The IDZ is a national concept that identifies zones adjacent to a port or airport that are suitable for world-class industries, with the focus on the export market. It will be a controlled duty free area, and there might be tax holidays."

She said the development would be environmentally sound and "sustainable" for at least 25 years.

Furthermore, each new industry would not be forced to start an environmental impact assessment from scratch, as 70% of the infor-



IRONCLAD PROMISES? Saldanha was sold on the promise of jobs, but residents of former black townships nearby say few have been offered.



Graphic: Magomed Jacobs

UCT strike is bad timing, say students

Exams disrupted

54 (15/11/98)
ARG 10/11/98

"It's just sad. So sad," sighs softly-spoken Odwa Zotongo.

The 19-year-old social sciences student shakes her head as she comments on the strike by the National Education Health and Allied Workers' Union at the University of Cape Town.

She has just finished writing an exam and is waiting for her bus to go back to her residence.

"I don't know a lot about what's happening, but there are two sides to every story. It is sad that it should have had to come to this," she says.

Union members on the campus went on strike last week demanding a R200 across the board pay increase, effectively 8%. UCT management has offered only 6% and says it will not increase the offer.

Negotiations broke down at the weekend and the strike is continuing. Meanwhile, students are writing exams under difficult conditions.

Demonstrators have disrupted exams and broken windows. They have also disturbed students trying to study at the library and at residences with noisy singing and dancing.

Medical student Gill Jacobs, 23, said she understood the workers'

ANDREA
BOTH



EDUCATION REPORTER

demands, but felt it was "terrible timing."

Trying to disrupt the exams was ineffective because students were unable to do anything.

"I don't see how that can make a difference. We are not involved."

But Khotso Sekhobo, 19, and Sizwe Radebe, 19, recognised the workers' timing as a ploy to get more attention.

"Management has to solve its problem with Nehawu. Students are being disturbed," said Mr Sekhobo.

Other students claimed not to know much about the strike and said they were too focused on their exams to care.

Others like Marjorie Ngwenya, 20, said she felt some of union's demands were justified, but a strike was not the right way to go about things. Other options should have been explored before strike action was taken.

Threat to suspend tech's funds if rector is sacked

Star 10/11/98 (54)
BY TEFU MOTHIBELI
Education Reporter

Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu has warned the council of the Vaal Triangle Technikon that he will withhold state funds if the council goes ahead and sacks suspended campus rector Professor Aubrey Mokadi.

Bengu, in a letter delivered to the council yesterday, insisted the existing council has no right to implement the findings of a disciplinary inquiry which it set up to probe Mokadi. Instead, he wants the council to dissolve itself in line with recommendations made by an independent assessor, Jaap Durand, whom Bengu appointed earlier this year to investigate problems at the technikon.

The council has not implemented Durand's recommendation.

Bengu's letter, leaked to The Star, was sent just hours before the council was due to meet last night to decide on Mokadi's fate, after a disciplinary inquiry last week recommended that he should be axed. He was found guilty on five of 11 charges of misconduct.

Education Ministry director-general Chabani

Manganyi, who wrote the letter on Bengu's behalf, said the minister was concerned about Mokadi's fate.

"The minister has been informed that the council is on the verge of taking actions which would be in conflict with the conditions set by him for the continued allocation of money by Parliament to the technikon."

Section 42 of the Higher Education Act empowers Bengu to withhold funds in certain cases.

The council was poised to endorse the recommendation to fire him. The Star understands that the majority of the council's members support the recommendation.

A part of the student community and workers' unions are also apparently in support of the move.

In the inquiry's report, advocate Roland Sutherland recommended that Mokadi, who has been paid more than R500 000 in salaries and other benefits since his suspension on full pay in October last year, be sacked.

The inquiry concluded that Mokadi had abused his powers and disregarded policy and procedures.

Decommissioning of AEC plant to cost R140m

Linda Ensor

CAPE TOWN — The decontamination and decommissioning of Atomic Energy Corporation's (AEC) nuclear enrichment and conversion facilities would cost about R140m over the next five or more years, chairman Don Ncube said in the AEC annual report tabled in Parliament yesterday.

The AEC board decided towards the end of last year to phase out its uranium enrichment activities. The plant would cease production towards the end of this year after all work-in-progress had been recovered.

Ncube said the slump in the gold mining industry last year had led to a further decline

in local uranium production levels to below the break-even requirement of AEC's uranium conversion plant. Also, there had been a general decline of about 25% in international prices for conversion services.

The annual report showed a marked decline in AEC's performance, though with new ventures in the pipeline, expectations for the year to end-March 1999 were high.

"The creation of a more focused commercial division in the near future will lead to better efficiencies and higher profit margins," Ncube noted.

In the last financial year AEC consolidated its commercial portfolio of products and services, phasing out uncompetitive product

lines. Ncube said that during the last seven years, the commercialisation of AEC's nuclear technological activities had reduced its dependence on the state by 77% (R732m) for operational costs.

Total revenue from products in 1997/98 amounted to R211m, a year-on-year decline of 26%. Of this amount, 43% was earned on the export market. Its accumulated deficit at the end of the year amounted to R607m.

Government gave AEC a grant of R296m but CEO Waldo Stumpf said the requirement that AEC redeem and service its government loans was a heavy financial burden. During the year long-term liabilities to the value of R180m had to be redeemed.

R0 11/11/98

Peninsula beaches given the all-clear

Pollution levels are 'acceptable'

ARG 11/11/98 (56)

NORMAN JOSEPH
METRO REPORTER

Holidaymakers and other fun-seekers on the Cape Peninsula's beaches can look forward to safe and relatively unpolluted seawater over the festive season.

Tests of water quality on all the city's beaches three weeks ago showed acceptable pollution levels with the exception of beaches close to stormwater outfalls.

These are at beaches in Kalk Bay, Muizenberg, Three Anchor Bay and Hout Bay where pollution of various kinds emerged after rainfall.

The tests to determine the average faecal bacteria levels at beaches showed that the dirtiest beaches were on the Atlantic coast.

While seawater at all popular beaches was generally safe, recent monitoring indicated that pollution levels sometimes slightly exceeded acceptable levels in certain areas.

However, all the Cape's beaches were given a clean bill of health by the CMC's coastal water quality committee in its report published on Monday.

Committee chairman Arthur Clayton said in the report that the quality of water along the coastline was very much dependent on the quality of water discharged from adjacent areas of land.

He said a working group was formed to address the causes of pollution in harbours such as Kalk Bay.

David Erleigh, the CMC's water and waste services committee

chairman said they monitored the quality of water along beaches, tested water at regular periods and ensured that standards were maintained.

The committee found the quality of seawater compared favourably with other holiday destinations in South Africa.

The quality here also matched resorts abroad.

Although testing at beaches has revealed small amounts of coliform contamination from stormwater run-offs, the count is close to the international target levels and are not considered to be dangerous.

The CMC disposes of about 12 000 megalitres of wastewater a year through three long, deep sea outfall pipelines - at Green Point, Camps Bay and Hout Bay.

NEGLECT 'A RECIPE FOR DISASTER'

Conservation jewels under threat — board

CT 11/11/98

(56)

DURBAN: A range of recommendations has been made to the government regarding the preservation of the country's parks and protected areas. **TONY CARNIE** reports.

A NATIONAL board of investigation into nature conservation has warned that the survival of several South African conservation jewels is under threat because of short-sighted government policies and "totally inadequate" financial support.

The board, chaired by Supreme Court judge Mark Kumleben, goes as far as suggesting that the present neglect of environment and nature conservation is a "recipe for national disaster".

It notes that a mere 0,28% of national funding was allocated to biodiversity conservation in 1996 — although protected areas are one of the prime drawcards for international tourists.

Deprived of the financial oxygen they need to survive, several nationally-important parks and protected areas "have no chance of surviving" because of the misguided belief by national and provincial governments that conservation can somehow pay for itself.

"Nature conservation as such can never be self-supporting ... (and) a prosperous economy cannot be built on a bankrupt environment," Kumleben warns in a report jointly authored by fellow board members Stan Sangweni (chairperson of the Public Service Commission) and John Ledger (director of the Endangered Wildlife Trust).

Appointed by Environment and Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan earlier this year, the board has also made important recommendations about the need for a thorough scientific reclassification of protected areas — a move which could result in KwaZulu-Natal looking after the province's first-ever "national" parks. The St Lucia and the Natal Drakensberg parks are believed to be in line for this new status.

Tasked to investigate the relative merits of unitary/national control of nature conservation versus federal/provincial control, the board suggests that the current

hybrid model of management in South Africa be retained — although the legal protection of all conservation areas should be strengthened further.

Whereas national parks can presently be deproclaimed by a simple majority of Parliament, the Kumleben report recommends that a two-thirds majority should be required to abolish any nationally-important parks.

The national government should also institute divorce proceedings, to separate "tourism" from the present Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism — so that the environment is a separate ministry, and tourism is either dumped entirely as a state department or incorporated into the Department of Trade and Industry.

As for funding, the government should make available sufficient funds to nature conservation and it should further allocate a fair percentage of National Lottery proceeds to conservation, extend "tax holidays" for donations to nature conservation and consider charging a small excise tax on hunting and fishing equipment.

Warning about SA's conservation areas

Star 11/11/98

(56)

Investigation suggests neglect is recipe for disaster

By **TONY CARNIE**
Durban

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Technikon council set for legal showdown 54

BD 11/11/98

Primarashni Pillay

VAAL Triangle Technikon's council looks set for a legal showdown with Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu, after it defied repeated warnings to dissolve and not to adjudicate on the future employment of sacked rector Aubrey Mokadi, who was dismissed this week by the council for alleged misconduct.

Mokadi was suspended by the council a year ago on allegations of procedural irregularities in salary increases. Other allegations against him included staff favouritism and the purchase of a second car through a car scheme without the necessary authorisation.

A report by advocate Roland Sutherland, who chaired Mokadi's disciplinary inquiry, said Mokadi abused his power by "procuring a secret salary increase"; that he abused his power "with the view to bringing about the termination (of service) of a subordinate employee"; and that he showed a "disregard and circumvention of established policy and procedures".

Sutherland said Mokadi's misconduct was not attributed to a lack of managerial experience, but that he "purported to arrogate to himself the power to do as he saw fit, rather than a failure to grasp the principles of management. Regrettably, he was surrounded by yes-men who, perhaps because they themselves may have been the products of an authoritarian society, served only in order to please."

Investigation of Mokadi took place this year, and the campus was hit by tensions and conflict and Bengu appointed independent assessor Jaap Durand to investigate the troubled campus.

Durand recommended in September that the council set in motion a process to bring the technikon's statutes in line with the Higher Education Act. This entailed the council dissolving itself.

He recommended, also, that a CEO be appointed on contract to administer the campus until issues surrounding Mokadi were resolved and that "irrespective of the outcome of the disciplinary hearing or recommendations of the presiding officer, the new council decide on the future of Prof Mokadi".

Bengu set deadlines in September for these recommendations to be implemented, and threatened suspension of the technikon's subsidy.

The council, however, rejected the recommendations, and sources said yesterday that, with the exception of lifting a court interdict that prevented political activities on campus, none of the other recommendations were implemented.

Technikon sources, meanwhile, said staff were "jubilant" about Mokadi's dismissal, though others were concerned that the technikon's management would become "too white".

Bengu's spokesman Bheki Khumalo declined to comment.

Vaal Technikon to sack campus rector

BY TEFU MOTHIBELI
Education Reporter

The council of the Vaal Triangle Technikon will go ahead with its decision to sack campus rector Professor Aubrey Mokadi, the council said yesterday.

The decision, which was a recommendation from advocate Roland Sutherland's disciplinary inquiry report, flies in the face of a warning from Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu.

Bengu said the decision was in conflict with the conditions set by him for the continued allocation of the Government's funding of the institution.

Council chairperson Dr Chrizanne van Eeden said the council was not perturbed: "We have not contravened any law. After all, we are a properly and legitimately constituted council for the technikon. We started the process involving Professor Mokadi and we had an obligation to see it to the end."

The council is bound to imple-

ment the recommendations of the report of the independent assessor, Jaap Durand, who was appointed by Bengu to probe the problems at the technikon.

Durand recommended that the council change the technikon's

“
**We're not
happy he
wasn't guilty
on all counts**
”

statutes, which would lead to the dissolution of the council and leave Mokadi's fate in the hands of a newly constituted council.

"The council is inevitably seen as a part of the forces against Professor Mokadi," Durand's report said.

Van Eeden said the council

had met most of the conditions set by the minister.

She added that the council was scheduled to meet in two weeks to decide on the appointment of a new rector.

Bengu's spokesperson Bheki Khumalo declined to comment on the next step the ministry was likely to take in response to the council's decision.

Bengu is empowered to withhold funds from the institution if he feels there are good enough grounds for this course of action. But the minister may not withhold funds on the basis of the council's action against Mokadi.

The Star understands that some council members were disappointed with the disciplinary inquiry, which absolved Mokadi of six of the 11 charges against him.

"We are not happy that he was not found guilty on the other charges. However, the five counts on which he was found guilty gave us sufficient grounds to fire him," a source said.

Shan 11/11/98

(74)



N Cape seeks funds for solar power

By MELANIE GOSLING
Cape Town

R2-bn is needed, but Eskom says plan is over-ambitious

(57) Kraw 12/11/98

The Northern Cape government is chasing revolutionary solar power station one-and-a-half times taller than Table Mountain.

The power station planned for the Northern Cape desert at a cost of R2-bn, will be up and running in five years time, if funding is found.

The station will generate 200 megawatts of power, about twice as much as "pocket nuke" power stations that Eskom plans to build here. In addition to the chimney,

the power station will have a circular glass "roof", about 4km in diameter.

Consultant Wolf Stinnes will work with the University of Stellenbosch's department of mechanical engineering on a feasibility study.

Dr Thomas Harms of the university's thermodynamics division, who will work on the project, said: "Probably the most important aspect is the scientific view regarding the effects of carbon dioxide

emissions from burning coal and oil, which contributes to global warming.

"Solar energy has no carbon dioxide emissions. This means there is international interest in getting a full-sized solar plant up and running."

He added: "Virtually all the cost of the solar plant is in the construction."

It also has a long lifespan - about 100 years, compared to about 50 years for a coal-fired station, reducing cost.

The solar station has a chimney 1500m high and 160m in diameter with turbines inside, surrounded by a horizontal glass structure 6m off the ground.

The glass roof "collects" the sun's radiation. Rather like a greenhouse, the short-wave radiation penetrates the glass and traps the longwave radiation from the heated ground.

The ground under the glass roof heats up and trans-

fers its heat to the air. This hot air flows up the chimney, driving the chimney turbines.

Rodney Buttle, head of Eskom's renewable energy research division, says they have reservations about the "very ambitious" project.

"Eskom is evaluating four types of solar power, one of which is the chimney. We don't believe we're in a position to elect one of the technologies above the others.

"The others have run ahead with the chimney technology ... We believe their project is very ambitious and has a lot of questions which remain unanswered.

Rector row splits UWC

Watchdog bid sparks fury

CAROL CAMPBELL
SPECIAL WRITER

ARU 13/11/98
(64)

A heated debate is raging in the University of the Western Cape senate over a top-secret proposal to install a watchdog group of academics to keep a close eye on the performance of rector Cecil Abrahams.

The document, produced by a special senate team, suggests ways to restore peace to the embattled university.

The senate, consisting of senior university academics, is bitterly divided over Professor Abrahams' future and the way he is managing the university.

The document, which has been debated all week and will be discussed again today, has not been accepted by the entire senate and Prof Abrahams has declined to comment until the proposal has been fully debated.

Although the document was compiled from submissions from within the senate, it has infuriated Prof Abrahams's supporters, who accuse its authors of deliberately undermining him.

One insider said it was reminiscent of the "Makgoba affair" which brought the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg to its knees in 1996, when 13 senior white academics accused black colleague William Makgoba of falsely embellishing his curriculum vitae.

The row turned into a racist battle with

no winners, which left the university's "liberal" image in tatters.

One of the UWC document's most controversial suggestions is that a monitoring team of five senior academics be appointed by the senate to report back in six months on the rector's "performance".

They would check that he had:

- Re-established his credibility with the staff and committed himself to transparency in all his dealings.

- Conscientiously done everything in his power to ensure that the resolutions taken by the senate on the basis of the recommendations of the task team were carried out.

- Worked to ensure mutual respect and proper working relationships between himself and other senior staff of the university.

The team that compiled the report consisted of Denise Ackerman (theology), Rose September (child and family guidance), Fatima Abrahams (economic and management sciences), Sipho Maseko (political science), Andrew Crouch (science), Pieter leRoux (institute for social development) and Wally Morrow (education).

The document also suggests that with the UWC Academic Staff Association and the National Education Health and Allied Workers Union, which represents many non-academic staff on campus, the senate set up a committee to monitor financial decisions

To page 6

Secret plan to set watchdog

on rector splits top UWC staff

ARU 13/11/98
(64)

supporters said there were deeper political motives at work at UWC.

"The retrenchment issue is really just being used to build mass support among the staff. It's very interesting to note that some of the loudest critics of this rector are white liberals," the source said on condition of anonymity.

But this was dismissed by a group of black academics, who said Prof Abrahams had surrounded himself with "a cabal of middle-class coloured men" who ran the university.

The problems at UWC are far from new, and Prof Abrahams's "autocratic" management style is being blamed for making them worse.

In 1996 students pressured him into "rolling over" their debt from year to year. This pushed the university into a financial crisis, with students more than R8-million in debt at the beginning of this year.

This year he began to play hardball with students who did not or could not pay. He turned away thousands who came looking for an education but had no money - a

From page 1
taken on behalf of the institution. The document, circulated on November 3, follows three weeks of intensive research by five academics, nominated by the senate, to get to the bottom of the financial and leadership problems on the campus.

A decision six weeks ago by the rectorate, led by Prof Abrahams, to axe 40 academics to cut costs sparked the current infighting and riots on the campus, but insiders say it was simply a match set to very dry tinder.

Apparently the senate debate has been so heated that at one stage academics were banging on their tables to silence senior social anthropology professor Kweisi Prah, who was "soapboxing" on the rector's merits.

Senators said Prof Abrahams, who was chairing the meeting, allowed Prof Prah to "ramble on" and would not stop him talking when his critics called a "point of order".

This week one of the rector's

stand for which he was publicly commended.

But the senate team report says the drop in student numbers - from about 13 000 last year to about 11 000 this year - will cost the university at least R20-million in future government subsidies.

Prof Abrahams's detractors say the decision was short-sighted and has cost more than it saved.

The report cites several other allegedly unsound financial decisions by the rector.

Sean Lewis of the UWC Academic Staff Association said the axing of 40 academics at the institution was done willy-nilly with no thought for academic needs or planning.

The association had called for all retrenchments to be stopped until the issue was resolved.

The senate report reads as a damning indictment of the rector and says that while retrenchments may be "unavoidable" if the university is to survive the "difficult years ahead", the lack of consultation with the senate and faculties cannot be condoned.

Baqwa protected dirty professor

86/11 at 19/11/98
M+G
(54)

The public protector tried to shield the disgraced rector of Vaal Technikon, who was fired after a commission of inquiry found him guilty of financial impropriety and abusing his position.

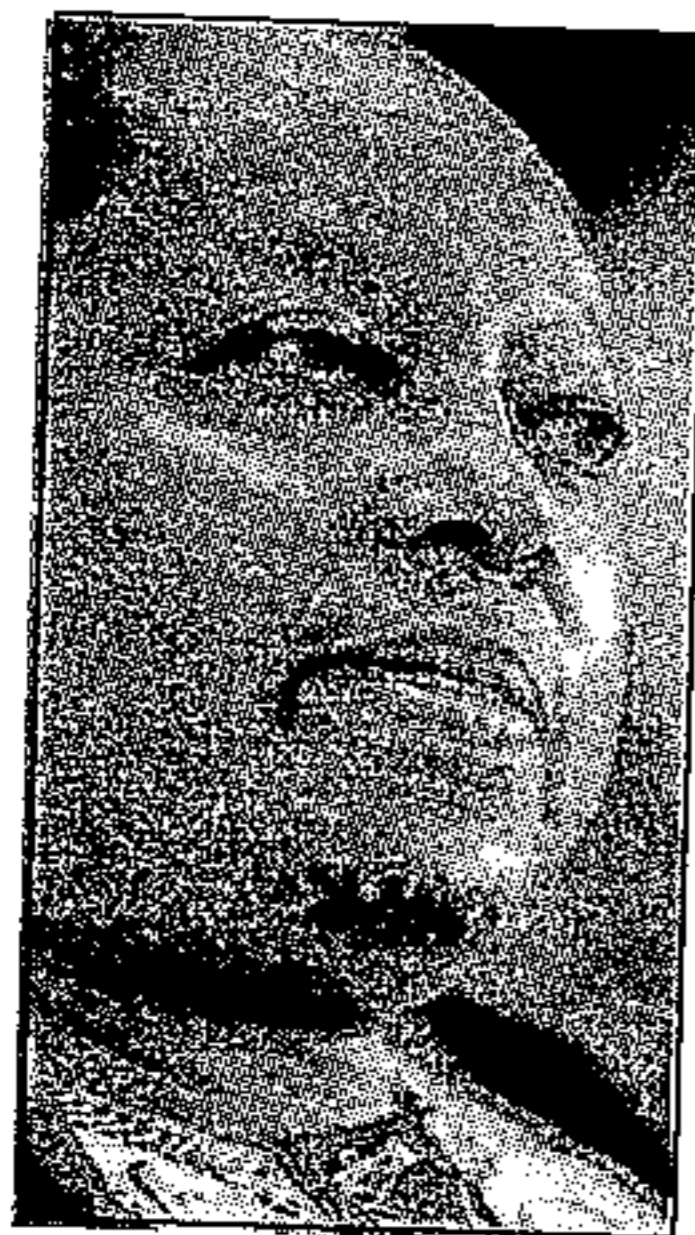
The technikon's council ousted Professor Aubrey Mokadi and attached several of his assets this week despite a threat from Minister of Education Sibusiso Bengu to cut off its funding. Bengu has consistently defended Mokadi, a close associate and confidant, since he was suspended last year for nepotism and misappropriation of funds.

But it has now emerged that Public Protector Selby Baqwa has effectively backed Bengu in his extraordinary defence of Mokadi for some time, going as far as to seek legal aid for Mokadi in March.

Baqwa's office has written six letters to the technikon's council. The latest, dated November 9, instructs the council to hold fire against Mokadi and effectively endorses Bengu's threat to cut off funding.

Mokadi's departure ends a year-long battle between the minister and the technikon over its decision to suspend Mokadi. Bengu dispatched an "independent assessor" to investigate the technikon's troubles — after a commission of inquiry had got under way. At one stage the technikon council was poised to take the minister to court over his intervention.

The commission of inquiry, headed by Johannesburg advocate Roland Sutherland, SC, found Mokadi guilty on five counts of misconduct, in-



Sibusiso Bengu: He has consistently defended disgraced Vaal Technikon rector Aubrey Mokadi

cluding granting himself a secret salary increase and attempting to sack a subordinate who blocked his attempt to buy a R1,2-million house at the technikon's expense.

Sutherland also accused Mokadi of riding roughshod over technikon regulations. But he did not broach more salacious allegations against Mokadi such as his decision to grant favours to a woman with whom he was caught in a compromising position in a car outside a local school.

The woman masterminded Mokadi's plot to secure himself a housing subsidy.

Sutherland — whose intervention was initially welcomed by Mokadi — said his decision to turn this woman into a scapegoat highlighted "the fact that he consciously and deliberately behaved in an patently underhand manner.

"Such findings in respect of Professor Mokadi are tragic. He is manifestly a talented and gregarious person," Sutherland's report says.

In his November 9 letter, Baqwa throws his weight behind Bengu's "independent assessor", Professor Jaap Durand, who found that the council was responsible for many of the problems at the institution, and recommended it be dissolved.

Durand, former deputy vice-chancellor of the University of the Western Cape, accused the council of using Mokadi as a scapegoat for its inability to embrace transformation.

Baqwa's letter to the technikon last week endorses Bengu's attempt to cut off its funding.

Baqwa wrote this week that he was "in receipt of a copy of a letter [from Bengu] which is addressed to yourself pertaining to the conditions set by the Minister of Education for the continued allocation of money and the implementation of the recommendations of the independent assessor".

He said the ousting of Mokadi would justify

"the enforcement of Section 42 of the Higher Education Act".

From the beginning of the correspondence, which started last November, Baqwa's office was at pains to explain that he merely wanted to ascertain the facts surrounding Mokadi's suspension.

In one letter, dated December 10, Baqwa's assistant wrote: "At the same time it should also be explained that the public protector is not acting on behalf of Prof Mokadi as his legal representative or spokesperson, but the aim of the inquiry is to find the facts to enable him to determine whether Mokadi is being improperly prejudiced."

The public protector also pointed out in two letters that Mokadi himself asked for help to secure legal aid.

However, the fact that Baqwa had copies of

correspondence from Bengu's office suggests the minister actively sought the involvement of the public protector in his battle with the technikon.

In its initial correspondence with the technikon, Baqwa's office did not suggest the council stop its action against Mokadi, but raised concerns that the council might be improperly biased against the former rector.

Baqwa — who has had to fight corruption with a measly budget of R7-million and a staff of 32 — was this week applauded at the anti-corruption summit in Cape Town, where the government announced it would increase his staff to 150.

One of the misconduct allegations against Mokadi related to a high-profile bash organised at the technikon's expense to give Bengu an award for an outstanding role and leader-

ship in education — an event which coincided with the birthday of Bengu's wife.

Council sources say Mokadi could owe the institution as much as R100 000. Mokadi will not receive any money from the technikon, which plans to reclaim R30 000 he ran up on his credit card while on suspension and R32 000 for his housing subsidy.

Bengu's office confirmed it had forwarded its correspondence to Baqwa who, it claimed, had been contacted by Mokadi last year. The council declined to comment on the role of the public protector in the affair.

Mokadi's departure has not put an end to the technikon's troubles: council members claimed they were threatened this week by the National Education Health and Allied Workers' Union, which has supported Mokadi and Bengu throughout the affair.

New sea-fishing licence rule reels in the anglers

CHRIS BATEMAN

SEA anglers, who have long considered their sport one of the few remaining free leisure activities, are in for a shock.

From today, they will have to pay R35 for an annual licence — a measure described by Sea Fisheries chief director Moses Mayekiso as “designed to ensure the continued existence of the natural resource upon which their leisure activities depend”.

The anglers can count the cash blow as fairly gentle in comparison with the R50 that others will have to fork out to indulge in their favourite marine pastime from today. These others include people spearfishing, using cast nets, hunting mud crab or any other type of marine bait, and diving for crayfish.

The West Coast closed season is from May 1 to November 15 and the East Coast closed season from November 1 to February 28.

If you're on a boat, don't be fooled. Each person will still have to pay R35 or R50, depending which of the activities mentioned they are pursuing.

Perlemoen have come in for special treatment because of their precarious conservation status.

Mayekiso said that while licences for all other activities would be available freely at all post offices, perlemoen licences were under review and “final details” would be announced before the season opened on December 16.

Anglers, bait collectors and divers would have to carry their licences with them at all times so they could be available for inspection.

A special dispensation for children under 12 will exempt them from needing permits for anything but perlemoen and West Coast lobster — which by law they may not take anyway.

Mayekiso added the caveat that if this exemption was “abused” by children aged under 12, Sea Fisheries would “reconsider” their position.

“No one enjoys paying more for his or her sport and recreation, but it should be understood that conservation of our marine resources comes at a price that can no longer be carried by the taxpayer only,” Mayekiso said.

Time to beef up the holiday pocket money for your teenagers, folks!

● What do you think about the fishing permits? Phone Teleletters at 488 4722 between 10am and noon.

ET 16/11/98

Green paper lays groundwork for underpinning

Star 16/11/98

(576)

By Jeff McCarthy

Research among people in Gauteng shows that when they choose a place to go on holiday, over two-thirds identify some coastal place as their preferred destination.

Coastal areas also head the list of the places to which people in Gauteng want to retire to. So we know that people in Gauteng, and other people not now living on the coast, actually care about the qualities of the coast. What are the people of South Africa and their Government doing to show that they care?

For the past two years I have served as chairperson of the Policy Committee on Coastal Management, which has been responsible for managing the production of the Green Paper on Coastal Policy, recently released by Minister Pallo Jordan.

The policy committee includes representatives from a cross section of our society with an interest

in coastal issues. The research and policy work that it has been doing has been generously funded by the British Department for International Development.

We have been working together with dozens of local and international experts and thousands of interested South Africans for about eighteen months now on the hard research, debate and policy inputs necessary to produce this green paper.

We have learnt many things in the process, and doubtless we will learn more in the months ahead. The purpose of any green paper, after all, is to allow policymakers to listen carefully to the responses we receive, before we make policy recommendations (in the form of a draft white paper) to the minister.

Although we are still learning, it seems to us even at this early stage, that one conclusion is inescapable – and that is the enormous and growing importance of the coast to the future of our country and region. For

this reason the green paper takes a new and innovative look at the value of our coast. It estimates the value of coastal goods and services in South Africa at about R179-billion annually. This is equivalent to 37% of our annual Gross Domestic Product.

The green paper also recognises those benefits to which one can't attribute a monetary value, such as the coast's cultural, aesthetic, educational, scientific and spiritual value. It is evident that the coast provides an important basis for economic development, poverty reduction and sustainable job creation in South Africa.

Is it any wonder, then, that eight of the current ten Spatial Development Initiatives are linked to the coast? Is it any wonder, also, that the recent Jobs Summit identified as its three initial focus areas for job creation, some key coastal areas – the Great St Lucia area, the Wild Coast and the Addo/Port Elizabeth area? Despite the enormous economic

significance and potential of our coast, until recently relatively little was known of our coastal environments. These are the physical and ecological systems that sustain and nurture our coastal potential, and which underlie the natural beauty of our coast. Many – perhaps most –

Could become theatre of socio-economic activity

South Africans do not appreciate how these systems work. The coast, for example cannot supply limitless fish catches without incurring long-term and possibly irreparable damage; the sea waters cannot be polluted with effluents without consequence; dunes cannot be impacted by buildings or by vehicles without consequences; and so on.

Yet when one compares the amount of intellectual energy in South Africa that went into fields like geology so as to facilitate mining, or agronomy and the related sciences so as to facilitate commercial agriculture, the amount of local knowledge that we have of coastal environments is actually quite small, and of relatively recent vintage. Most of what is known is, however, now summarised in the volumes that were prepared for the present project, and which backs up the green paper.

South Africa's slowness in recognising the importance of coastal environments perhaps relates to our economic and political history, where – from the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century – the agricultural and mineral resources of the interior of our country provided much of the focus for our turbulent past. But whereas in 1911 farming and mining made up about 50% of South Africa's GDP, by the 90s, this

its context, and partly as its foundation. The South African coast comprises a fascinatingly complex pattern of social and physical reality, with some of its parts more suited for certain purposes than others. So while there are general policy considerations pertaining to the coast as a whole, there is also need to recognise the prospect of sub-policies dealing with its parts. The policy committee, the programme project managers, the minister and his department do not have fixed perspectives on how best to address coastal policy. That's why the green paper has been issued to elicit public comment. Readers of The Star who wish to contribute should contact the programme managers at telephone (021) 424-5054 or by e-mailing: cmpp@iafrica.com. ■ Jeff McCarthy is a research professor at the University of Durban-Westville

Are we prepared for this? A major purpose of this green paper has been to lay the groundwork. The green paper sets out certain facts, issues and options. It is an invitation to the people of South Africa to contemplate the future of this increasingly important socio-economic arena, and the natural systems which serve partly as

but the trend does seem to be a powerful one. Economic growth and building activity in the South African coastal region, for example, have outpaced similar trends elsewhere in the country over the past two decades.

This is not necessarily our desire, but the trend does seem to be a powerful one. Economic growth and building activity in the South African coastal region, for example, have outpaced similar trends elsewhere in the country over the past two decades.

percentage is only about 20%. Thus the future geographical distribution of economic activity, we believe, will be somewhat different to our past. In common with much of the rest of the world, it is our coastal environments that are likely to become the theatres of more and more of the socio-economic action. This is not necessarily our desire, but the trend does seem to be a powerful one. Economic growth and building activity in the South African coastal region, for example, have outpaced similar trends elsewhere in the country over the past two decades.

our coastal areas

Five goals to save sea and shore

By MELANIE-ANNE FERIS
Environment Reporter

AP/W 16/11/96 (76)

For years South Africa's coast has been disturbed by man and its rich sea-life and resources plundered and abused in the name of development or monetary gain.

Companies and individuals have been allowed to overfish; mining companies have been given carte blanche to suck valuable minerals and gases from the ocean floor; pollution of the oceans and beaches has been allowed to continue almost unchecked; and residential and industrial development has been allowed irrespective of the damage to sensitive coastal areas.

Oceans worldwide have become dumping grounds for human garbage and sewage and it is estimated that three times more waste is dumped into oceans each year than the number of fish taken out.

Yet South Africa has some of the most beautiful and sensitive coastlines, which stretch for 3 000 km from the border of Namibia to Mozambique. They have somehow survived in spite of the lack of co-ordinated and meaningful legislation to protect this valuable resource.

It has taken hundreds of people more than two years to produce the Coastal Policy Green Paper, which proposes a new approach to coastal management in an effort to protect

the country's coasts. Consultative discussions about the paper are expected to end today. Thereafter a revised paper will be presented to Parliament. Environment Affairs and Tourism spokesperson Jay Singh did not expect the paper to become law before next year's elections.

The green paper has identified five goals: the protection of the coast as a natural heritage; coastal planning and development; pollution control and waste management; natural resource management and governance; and capacity building.

It aims to ensure that the public has the right to equitable access to the sea and the shore on a managed basis and that the state fulfils its duty as the legal custodian of coastal areas on behalf of the people of South Africa.

One of the main thrusts of the document is to implement pollution control and waste management measures to minimise and control discharges into coastal ecosystems.

Here the aim is to control marine disposal of effluent, oil spillage from ships, effluent disposal in harbours, litter and waste on beaches and dunes, as well as the direct discharge of untreated waste into the oceans.

All this has resulted in a realisation that significant changes on the part of government, developers, industry and individuals need to be brought about if we are to save our coasts.



RUAN HORN

A new approach to coastal management has been proposed to protect this threatened heritage

safeguard their natural resources. Eventually hotels were pumping raw sewage into the water and they ended up destroying what was a major attraction," Farr said.

South Africa's spectacular coastline attracts more than 20 million national and international visitors annually generating more than R15.2-billion in revenue. Added to this is the more than R4.2-billion in revenues which is generated annually by transporting cargo through South Africa's ports.

The country's commercial fishing industry is worth about R1,7-billion annually and employs 27 000 people and thousands more in secondary industries, while recreational fishing attracts more than 600 000 enthusiasts, employs over 131 000 people and generates more than R1.2-billion in revenue each year.

Five out of every 10 people are estimated to live in cities within 100 km of the sea and 13 of 15 largest cities in the world are situated on the coast.

South Africa's four largest coastal cities Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, East London and Durban together represent a population of more than 6 million people.

Already 3.6 million people in South Africa depend largely on coastal food sources through subsistence activities which are worth at least R1.1-billion annually. According to Pallo Jordan,

Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, it is of the utmost importance to South Africa's broader economy that the opportunities provided by the coast are harnessed and managed in an equitable and sustainable manner. "It is also both our privilege and our responsibility to preserve the integrity of the coast for current and future generations."

Prof Jeff McCarthy, who serves as the chairman of the Policy Committee on Coastal Management, said although they are still on a learning curve, it seems even at this early stage, that one conclusion is inescapable: The enormous and growing importance of the coast to the future of the country.

He says our coastal environments are likely to become the theatres for more and more of the socio-economic action, in common with much of the rest of the world. "This is not necessarily our desire, but the trend does seem to be a powerful one. Economic growth, and building activity in the South African coastal region, for example, have outpaced similar trends elsewhere in the country over the past two decades. "The underlying reasons for these trends seem unlikely to change," he said.

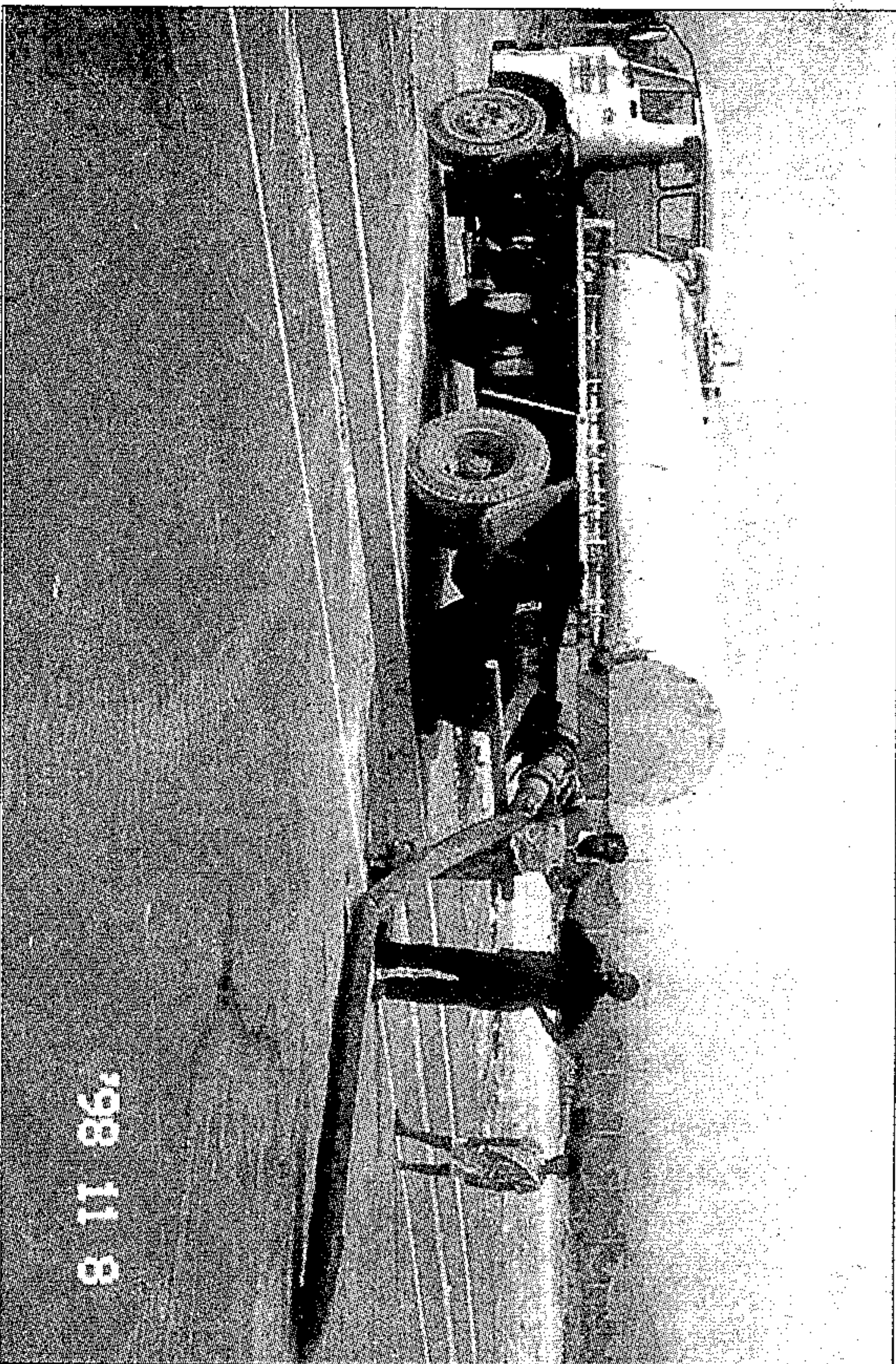
South Africa has come along with in recognising the need to protect its natural resources, but there is even longer journey that lies ahead to make sure that these resources are safeguarded.

Michael Farr, chief executive of floor for Setour, hailed the document as a good step in the right direction. "We welcome any proposed legislation which further protects our environment. We have marketed South

Africa as the preferred eco-tourist destination of the world, which means we have an obligation to preserve our resources rather than plunder them."

He said the tourist industry would not like to see South Africa go the same way as several Asian countries which failed to protect their coastal areas although they were major tourist draw cards. "These countries failed to

Toxic waste firms defying 'ban' Tankers seen emptying their cargo in Phillippi



camera: a waste tanker discharges its cargo into the sewerage system at Phillippi, in spite of a council order forbidding the practice

RUSSELL RATHBONE

98 11 8

INVOLVED

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

APR 17/11/98

Operators of two privately-owned liquid-waste tankers are ignoring an order by local authorities that industrial effluent may no longer be dumped into the municipal sewerage system at uncontrolled points.

Last week, they were seen discharging waste into a sewerage manhole in Phillippi, just days after the Cape Metropolitan Council forbade the practice.

The council's action followed closures in the Cape Argus that toxic waste was being dumped into the sewerage system illegally and in bush in Phillippi.

Phillippi factory owner Russell Rathbone, who initially blew the whistle on the dumpers, told the Cape Argus he had photographed a privately-owned tanker discharging liquid waste into the manhole on Monday and Thursday last week.

When he asked the driver why he was doing it, he was told that "the boss" had instructed him to do so.

Mr Rathbone said the manhole had been opened again yesterday, and it appeared it was still being used

for illegal dumping. "I don't believe this is still happening," he said.

Danie Klopper, head of the CMC's scientific services branch which is responsible for monitoring and policing the sewerage system, said letters had been sent to industries in Phillippi informing them of the withdrawal of permission to discharge liquid waste in uncontrolled manholes.

The letter says all "benign" liquid waste must be taken to the council's Raapenberg pump station so that random checks can be made to ensure it is suitable for disposal in the sewerage system.

Mr Klopper said the council was not aware of the latest discharges into the sewer at Phillippi, and that inspectors would check it.

He said the number of tankers discharging at Raapenberg had increased after permission to dump at uncontrolled points had been withdrawn.

Chocky Moodley, managing director of Peninsula Drums - the company for which Mr Rathbone alleged the tanker had been operating - denied getting any letter from the CMC.

But he said he had seen municipal officials making an inspection near his factory.

Board was manipulated — ex-boss

(56)

BD 18/11/98

NELSPRUIT — Mpumalanga's Parks Board "callously" manipulated and used its board of directors as a rubber stamp when approving highly irregular deals, says the board's former chairman, Patrick Maduna.

The deals included six illegal promissory notes worth more than R1,3bn, the R25bn Dolphin deal and a range of smaller schemes criticised in recent auditor-general reports.

Maduna said yesterday the board had been manipulated into approving many of the schemes through distorted or partial reports drafted by the parastatal's suspended CE Alan Gray.

Maduna added Gray barred the board from key policy meetings and refused to allow it to examine the financial details of schemes such as the R25bn Dolphin deal.

He warned yesterday that the irregular use of the Mpumalanga Parks Board to fund political and other activities for a small clique of senior provincial leaders was seriously endangering conservation in the area.

Maduna's statement forms part of his first public comment on the series of corruption scandals currently rocking the parks board.

"We were used and then just ignored. If we had a full picture of all

the behind-the-scenes dealings, we would have made very different decisions on how to use the tax money entrusted to us," said Maduna.

He personally had called in May last year for a full investigation into the roles of the parks board and the former environmental affairs MEC David Mkhwanazi in irregularities, but was ignored. Maduna said the board had to accept responsibility for some of the irregularities.

He congratulated new environmental MEC, Fish Mahlalela, for ordering forensic audits, police investigations and the speedy recovery of all lost state funds. — AENS.

Ex-parks board member regrets being used as 'rubber-stamp' (56)

By JUSTIN ARENSTEIN

Nelspruit — The Mpumalanga Parks Board manipulated its board of directors and used them as a rubber-stamp when approving highly irregular deals, the board's former chairperson, Dr Patrick Maduna, said yesterday.

The deals included six illegal promissory notes worth more than R1,3-billion; the R25-billion Dolphin deal and smaller schemes criticised in recent Auditor-General reports.

Maduna said in a statement yesterday that the board was manipulated into approving many schemes through distorted or partial reports drafted by the parastatal's suspended chief executive, Alan Gray.

Gray barred the board from

key policy meetings and refused to allow it to examine the financial details of schemes.

Reports from the Heath special investigative unit had been "a really shocking eye-opener," he said. "With hindsight we now realise why certain decisions were made and how we were manipulated into taking responsibility," said Maduna.

He said the irregular use of the MPB to fund political and other activities for a small clique of senior provincial leaders was seriously endangering conservation.

"We were used and then just ignored. If we'd had a full picture of all the behind-the-scenes dealings, we would have made very different decisions." — African Eye News Service

SAW 18/11/98

Companies (56) slammed on environment

By Russel Molefe
Environment Reporter

PUBLIC disclosure of industry-related environmental information, especially by companies in high environmental impact sectors such as mining and steel, leaves much to be desired, a study revealed yesterday.

The joint study by auditing firm KPMG and the University of Pretoria also found that companies in South Africa were five years behind international trends in environmental disclosure.

Coordinator of the study Professor Charl de Villiers of the University of Pretoria said that Johannesburg Stock Exchange-listed companies were showing a steady improvement in the disclosure of environmental matters.

Environmental information

De Villiers said there was a growing demand for environmental information by key users of South African reports.

"Most managers, auditors of financial statements and users of those statements agree that more corporate environmental reporting is needed," he said.

With the recent passing by Parliament of the National Environmental Management Act, most companies and the state itself run the risk of being taken to task for practices harmful to the environment.

The Act contains provisions that will ensure that any transgressor is legally liable for costs arising from harm to the environment because of their actions.

Sowetan 18/11/98

'Nehawu's action a breach of faith'

UCT promises disciplinary action after week-long strike



University of Cape Town staff, students, their parents and the community have a right to call the university's management to account for its actions, says **HELEN ZILLE**, director of UCT's department of communication, after the week-long Nehawu strike on campus

The widely publicised Nehawu strike at the University of Cape Town ended last week. But the consequences will be felt for some time as the university community takes stock of the week-long work stoppage, accompanied by disruption and vandalism.

From past experience, we have learnt that a retrospective evaluation of such episodes is as important as preparing for them.

For a public institution like UCT, stock-taking is even more important because staff, students, their parents and the broader community have a right to call the university's management to account for its handling of such events - particularly if they pose a potential threat to year-end exams.

The extent of public interest was demonstrated in media coverage and letters to newspapers, as well as telephone calls and e-mail queries. There have been questions about the terms of settlement, which have not been reported in the press. It is, therefore, worth putting them on record.

The settlement retained the 6% increase effective from July 1998, but offered workers the accumulated backpay of this increase as a once-off payment (this amount accumulated because the increase was not implemented in July as negotiations had deadlocked).

The moratorium on retrenchments remains the same, expiring in June. The principle of no-work, no-pay applies and strikers will forfeit three days' pay in December, two in January and two in February.

The university will pursue disciplinary action against individuals who engaged in unlawful actions and claim compensation for damages from Nehawu.

The union's leadership accepted these terms when the number of strikers dwindled to about 30 people (from an initial estimated 80 of the 680 Nehawu workers on campus).

Exams were drawing to a close as well, reducing the university's vulnerability to strike action.

This raises another frequently asked question: why were salary negotiations apparently held so close to year-end exams?

The answer is: they weren't. Salary negotiations began in June and deadlocked in August. It appears to have been a deliberate part of Nehawu's strategy to drag out the process in order to strike during exams, the high point of the academic year.

Union leaders know that, unlike the situation in commerce and industry, a workers' strike at UCT could go on indefinitely without affecting the institution's core business. Hence the decision to strike during exams.

There have also been questions relating to the vice-chancellor's decision, on the first day of the strike, to call the South African Police Service (SAPS) on to campus. Nehawu and some commentators have drawn comparisons with strategies used to quell resistance under apartheid.

Our response is that we now live in a democracy with a new labour dispensation, enshrined in law, that was the product of negotiations between labour, business and the Government. South Africa's priority, as a young democracy, is to establish the rule of just law.

If people flout due process of law and resort to vandalism and criminality to get their way, society becomes ungovernable and eventually lapses into anarchy. This strategy was used to undermine apartheid. It has no place in a democracy.

The central role of the SAPS is to uphold the rule of law. This is what they did, with great restraint, on UCT campus.

However, they also required the support of the courts in the form of an interdict prohibiting strikers and



Deliberate strategy? It appears as though Nehawu purposefully prolonged wage talks which deadlocked in August in order to strike during exam time, says Ms Zille

their supporters from entering the upper campus or disrupting examinations. Mr Justice Bashir Waglay granted this interdict at the close of the first disruptive day of the strike, giving the police the legal right to act pre-emptively to protect the examination process.

The decision to turn to the courts and the police was not taken lightly. It followed the failed attempts to negotiate acceptable picketing rules, and the resultant real risk to the examinations. Nehawu leaders demanded the right to bring outside supporters on

to campus for what they promised would be a "clean" and "gentlemanly" strike.

University management did not accept that Nehawu had a right to bus in support for a strike that clearly enjoyed limited internal backing.

In the middle of these negotiations on November 2, the strike began, taking the management team by surprise. There had been an assumption that Nehawu would, in good faith, conclude negotiations on the picketing rules before embarking on strike action.

Nehawu representatives have taken part in all aspects of change management, from drafting a new mission statement, to appointing the vice-chancellor. Its representatives sit on major university structures, including council and the university transformation forum.

Nehawu was also involved in the process of drawing up the new strategic planning framework, which lists integrity as a key institutional value. This did not seem to count for much when the chips were down.

This does not imply that Nehawu

did not have the right to strike in support of its demands.

The university recognises and respects this right (the fact that Nehawu workers at UCT earn more than 90% of service workers in other sectors of the economy is beside the point).

If the majority of members vote to strike for a higher increase, they have a right to withdraw their labour.

But Nehawu leaders and some supporters went far beyond the legal limits of strike action.

They knew that, with limited backing from union members, the withdrawal of labour would have very little impact.

So, they made their presence felt by bringing in outside support, flooding bathrooms, upturning furniture and dustbins, trying to invade examination venues, throwing crackers, slashing tyres and using intimidatory tactics to prevent fellow union members from working.

These actions once more demonstrated the relative ease with which a disruptive minority can undermine the basis on which successful institutions function: a tacit agreement to abide by the rules, share responsibility and behave predictably.

The examination process was saved on the crucial first day of the strike by invigilators and students determined to uphold these values in the face of severe provocation.

The same can be said of students, staff and the drivers of the "Jammie shuttle" who took the brunt of disruptive action on the lower campus where strikers concentrated their activities after the court interdict.

The fact that such disruptions characterise strikes in many parts of the world does not minimise the seriousness of such action or the threat it poses to emerging democracies.

This is why the vice-chancellor is determined to follow through by ensuring that incidents of disruption are recorded and costs of that disciplinary action is taken against perpetrators wherever evidence is available.

This is not only in UCT's interests, but in the interests of consolidating the rule of law and democratic governance in South Africa.

Wits Business School first African member of elite global body

Business Day Reporter

WITS Business School has become the first business school in Africa to be accepted as a member of the Programme in International Management (Pim).

The organisation defines itself as "an international consortium of higher education institutions, outstanding in their field and delivering a graduate-equivalent de-

gree in management".

The school said the decision to admit a new member was taken by consensus of existing members, the main condition for acceptance being that the applicant conducted student exchanges on an annual basis with at least 20% of the member institutions, of which there are now 35.

This was achieved at the international organisation's recent Paris conference, at

which Wits Business School director Mike

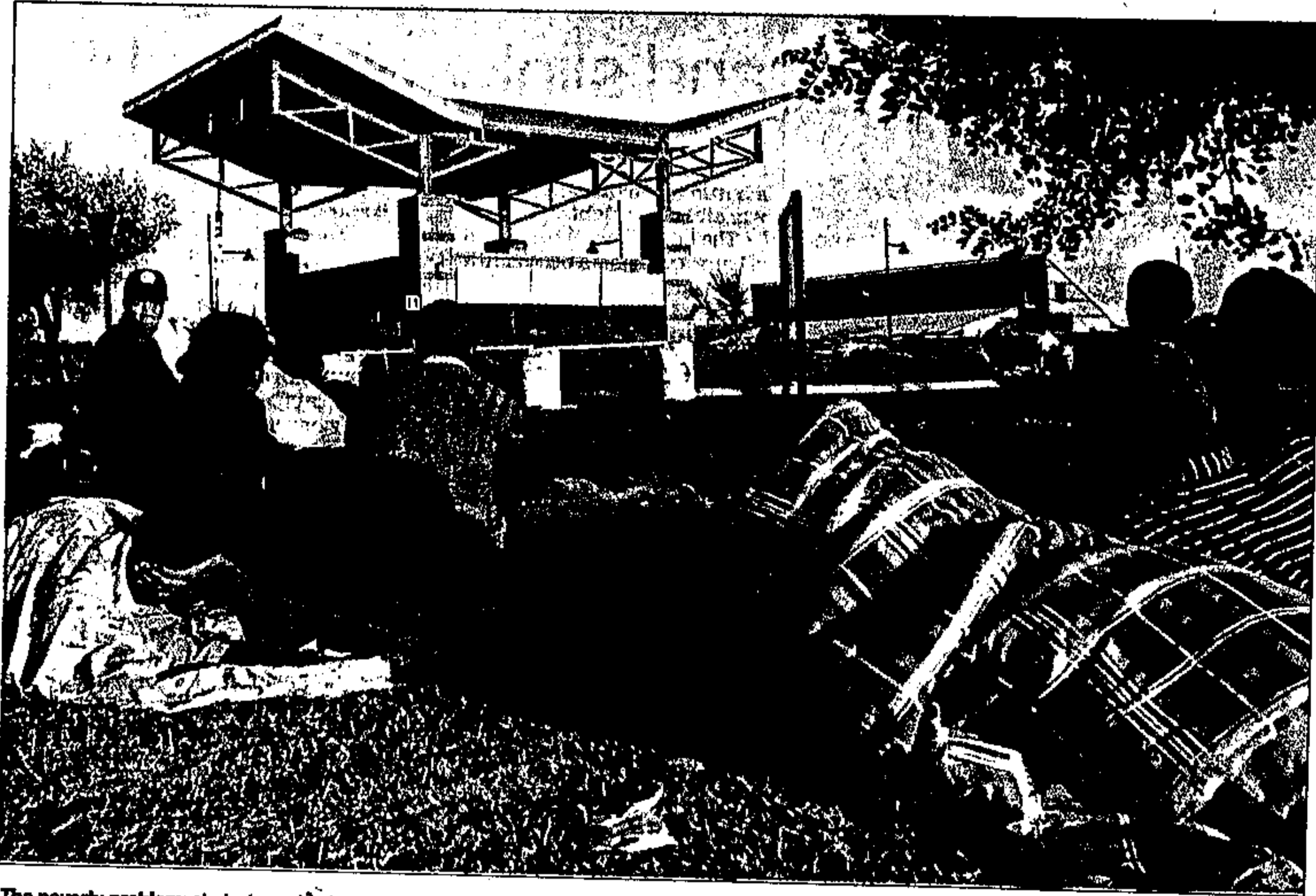
Ward was invited to make a presentation. "Our membership will provide a boost to our internationalisation drive by facilitating the forging of student exchange agreements with member institutions.

"It also offers numerous opportunities for international business tours, staff exchanges and collaborative research," Ward said.

"Pim is an elite grouping of business schools and membership serves as an international stamp of approval."

Earlier this year, the university's business school also became the first school in Africa to be invited to become a member of the Graduate Management Admissions Council, the organisation which is responsible for the Graduate Management Admissions Test.

CAPE ARGUS ISSUES



The poverty problem: students unable to pay their fees set up camp at the university after they were given an ultimatum to pay up or leave



Campus anger: academic staff joined students and non-academics

The painful price of progress at conflict

The most sobering time to visit the University of the Western Cape is the week before lectures begin in February when students, new and old, arrive on campus.

Minibus taxis pull up one after the other outside the main gate of the university in Modderdam Road near Bellville to unbundle excited passengers.

For many of the aspirant students this moment is their first on Cape soil. They have come to university with the expectations of their communities (mostly rural) on their shoulders, set to claw their way out of poverty. Each one has a story to tell and each story is uniquely South African.

They have chosen to study at UWC because they have heard that it is where poor people get an education.

It is this hope and determination which attracts a certain quality of teacher to an institution like UWC.

Most of the people who work there could have better jobs.

They do it because they recognise the raw potential sitting in front of them when they hold a lecture. They do it because success with this type of student brings deep fulfilment and satisfaction.

This is a place where one good teacher can and does make a difference.

But education has a price and, when no one can pay, conflict is inevitable.

At the head of the institution is a rector who had lived in exile in Canada since the 1960s.

Professor Cecil Abrahams was chosen, by broad consensus, to lead

the university, widely regarded as the country's most progressive, through transition.

His first battle was in the street. In 1996 toyi-toying students, who could not pay fees, demanded to be allowed to register, demanded to be allowed into residences, demanded to be given a chance. In the following years protests were routine.

At first the response from the rector was to sympathise and negotiate. Appeals for money were made to the government, to other institutions and business.

A compromise was reached, students got in and didn't pay - the debt mounted.

At the beginning of this year the university

was in a desperate financial predicament - R60 million in the red because of unpaid student debt.

The chips were down. Tough decisions had to be taken. Professor Abrahams was under mounting pressure to "get the situation under control".

"You're too soft," he was told by some colleagues.

And so he decreed: "Students who cannot pay will not be allowed to register at this university."

The hopefuls still came and for days slept outside the locked gates of the university, believing he would change his mind and let them in.

Eventually their money and food ran out, and so they got back in the taxis and went home.

Student numbers dropped dramatically. Those who were accepted back tried to pay and slowly the massive debt dropped.

But the situation was desperate and the rector decided to "rationalise". More sacrifices had to be made. With the support of the council he decided to retrench 41 academics.

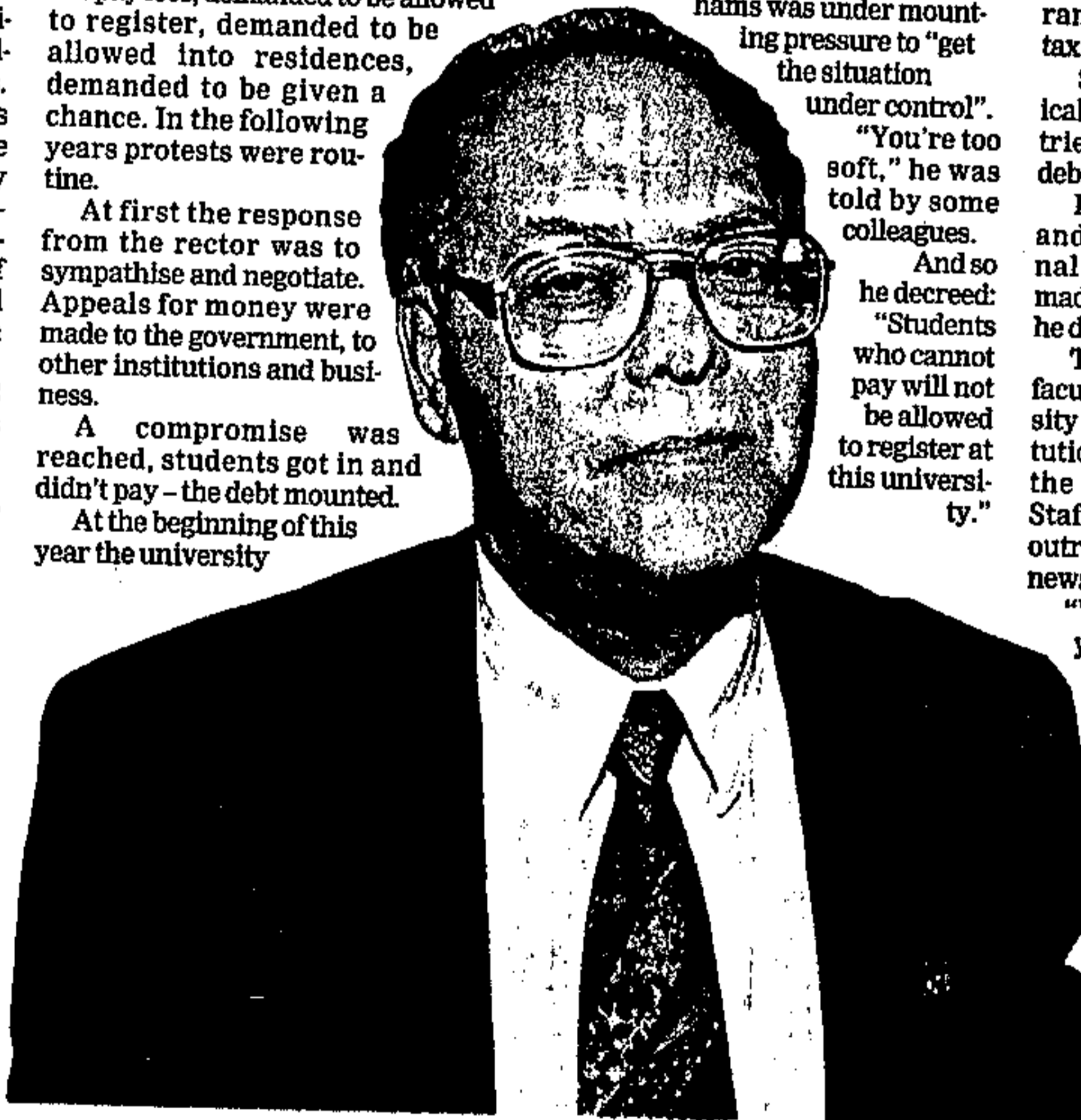
There were no discussions with faculty representatives or the university senate (the grouping of the institution's most senior academics) over the decision. The UWC Academic Staff Association rejected the plan outright. When academics heard the news they were outraged.

"What about the projects we spent years developing? What about plans we've drawn up for the future?"

The response from the rector's office was that the decision was based on "the university's academic plan".

The senate replied: "What! An academic plan none of the academics were involved in drawing up."

The Afrikaans department and theology faculty had the biggest staff losses.



Under fire: rector Cecil Abrahams has been fiercely criticised at UWC by staff and students alike



University, once seen as the court of last resort, is now seen as the court of first resort in the new South Africa

Staff in the Arts faculty (with the support of their dean) condemn the rector.

Last month the senate appointed a special task force to investigate the rector and the decisions he had taken. They produced a document, full of suggestions, which provoked a wave of heated debate and eventually came to a compromise to be ratified at the next meeting on December 4.

One accusation was that the academics opposing the rector were "racist" white liberals determined to win control of the institution but this was dismissed as "ludicrous".

Staff and students, from all races

CAPE ARGUS ISSUES



Campus anger: academic staff joined students and non-academic employees during protests this year

up or leave

Progress at conflict-ridden UWC

(64)

ART 19/11/98

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UWC: WHERE TO NOW?



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In a three part series Special Writer **CAROL CAMPBELL** examines how the university, once seen as the country's most progressive, is trying to find its place in the new South Africa.

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One accusation was that the academics opposing the rector were "racist" white liberals determined to win control of the institution but this was dismissed as "ludicrous".

Staff and students, from all races,

questioned Professor Abrahams's management style and the wisdom of recent financial decisions.

While the debate over the rector raged in senate the general workers, represented by the National Education Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu), were fighting for their annual increase. They too were offered retrenchment and went on to the street in protest.

A settlement was reached but relationships with workers and the rector remain strained.

The students too are divided. The turning away of thousands at the beginning of the year outraged many

leftwing student organisations and they disrupted the student representative council's annual meeting in August, claiming the SRC was no longer looking after student interests.

The South African Students Congress SRC, who are ANC-aligned, were thrown out of office by opposition groups.

An "interim" SRC took office. The old SRC refused to leave office. Accusations flew and the university administration seized the keys to the SRC offices.

The old SRC won a court interdict to get the keys back and retook office. The interim SRC took office nearby. Both say they are the legitimate body representing student interests. The administration talks to both.

The haggling continues and negotiations about what will happen when students return to campus next year have not yet begun.

No arrangements have been made for those who deserve to study but cannot afford to pay.

The lecturers who have been retrenched don't know for sure if they have to go.

The senate has recommended an appeals committee be set up to deal with each case. The university now is quiet as exams kick off and lecturers are kept busy marking.

Over the next two months it will empty for the Christmas holidays but, in February, the minibus taxis will roll in again bringing more hopeful faces determined, like those before them, to get an education.

Tomorrow: The battle for campus loyalties

Norwegian 'lumberjack' brings down SA alien

R2,6-m boost for plant project

ARLS 20/11/98 (56)

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

The chainsaw wielded expertly by Norwegian ambassador to South Africa Per Grimstad sliced through the thick Port Jackson tree like a hungry hunter's knife through Elim salami.

As the alien plant crashed to the ground on the banks of the Heuningnes River, a grinning Mr Grimstad handed the chainsaw back to the operator and remarked cheerfully: "I'm an experienced lumberjack - did you know that?"

They didn't, but they thoroughly approved of his actions nonetheless - for this was an occasion to mark the donation of R2,6-million from the Norwegian government to the "Working for Water" project at Elim, the Moravian Church mission community on the Agulhas plain.

The donation - part of an overall R120-million environmental aid package from Norway to South Africa - will enable some 76 people

from the 2 000-strong Elim community to be employed full-time for at least two years removing dense stands of alien vegetation like Port Jackson and pines from communal land surrounding the scenic village.

Their task is multi-functional: removing the "water-hungry" alien vegetation will help restore the area's rich biodiversity and unique plant life, making more land available for ecotourism in the community's Geelkop private nature reserve and for eco-friendly business opportunities like wildflower harvesting.

It will also make more water available in the Heuningnes and See-tendals rivers, thereby improving agricultural, domestic and recreational prospects in the region.

The implementing agent for the Elim "Working for Water" project is South African National Parks (formerly the National Parks Board), which is establishing a new national park centred at Cape Agulhas, but also incorporating significant portions of the surrounding Agulhas

plain.

Longer-term, sustainable employment opportunities for people employed on the water project include field guide work once the new national park becomes a reality.

At last week's function at Elim, SA National Parks' Agulhas project park co-ordinator Barry Heydenrych said the area was internationally renowned for its plant richness, which was comparable to that of the tropical rain forests. "But this area also has the highest density of alien invasives in the country," he said.

The 76 workers employed on the project range in age from 18 to over 60, and more than half are women. Many were previously either unemployed or were migrant workers.

Sub-manager Alliston Appel said the project was helping to unite the Elim community and was creating many opportunities.

Mr Grimstad said he hoped the project would lead to the creation of permanent jobs through associated economic opportunities.



Timber! Norwegian ambassador Per Grimstad shows his skill with a chainsaw at the Working for Water project at Elim, to which Norway has donated R2,6-million

JOHN YELD

Universities will have to register

ND 20/11/98 (54)
Primarashni Pillay

PRIVATE higher education institutions, many of them foreign, could face legal action if they fail to register with the national education department, says a notice in the Government Gazette.

The institutions have until March 31 to register with the department. From 2000 government could apply for court orders to shut down unregistered institutions.

The new requirement is an attempt to root out "fly-by-night" operations in higher education. In recent years there has been a proliferation of these institutions, either offering their own curriculums or linked to foreign universities.

The constitution allows private higher education institutions to operate at their own expense on condition that they are registered by the registrar of private higher education.

The gazette notice means that the private institutions have to meet the requirements of the SA Qualifications Authority. Some foreign institutions are allegedly offering qualifications inferior to those in their country of origin.

New institutions need to be registered before enrolling students or commencing tuition. Students have been urged to inquire from these institutions whether they are registered locally and if the qualifications they offer are recognised by a university or technikon.

Ronald Nicolson, the dean of the faculty of humanities at the Maritzburg campus of Natal University, said at least 15 British universities were offering courses in SA, mainly MBAs. "Some of the British universities which are validating degrees offered by SA private institutions score very low on the annual university ratings in The London Times," he warned. However, Nicolson said some universities offered high quality courses.

Student faces expulsion over sex story

STAFF REPORTER

(54) ARK 20/11/98

The Peninsula Technikon journalism student who wrote an article about student prostitution on campus, published in the Mail and Guardian in September, faces expulsion.

Max Hamata, 25, a first-year journalism student, was accused of bringing the technikon into disrepute in his article "Sex for sale on campus".

This week, Mr Hamata faced a technikon disciplinary committee which apparently recommended he be expelled.

But today technikon rector Brian Figaji said he had not been officially informed by

the disciplinary committee of their decision.

"I cannot comment until the student has been informed of the outcome of the inquiry," said Mr Figaji.

He did say the institution was not concerned that the story had been written, but rather that none of the facts in the article could not be corroborated.

The technikon will take the issue to the press ombudsman.

Mr Hamata's lawyer, Jacques Louw, said today he had not been notified of his client's expulsion, but that if it was true he would take the matter to review.

"What concerns me is that my client was not allowed legal representation of his

choice in the hearing on Tuesday and I was asked to leave."

In a letter to Mr Figaji, Stephen Wrottesley, who chairs the Pentech journalism advisory committee, called on the institution to drop all action against Mr Hamata because, should it continue its actions, it would result in "heinous consequences for the future of journalism and journalism education in South Africa".

Forum for Black Journalists chairman Joseph Aranes said Pentech had sent a clear message that they were not prepared to accept criticism of their institution and their actions were "reminiscent of the tactics used by the former apartheid regime".

Bitter showdown looms for student year as cashflow crisis divides camp

(54) 20/11/98

The cash flow crisis at the University of the Western Cape has divided students who cannot agree on how to meet demands for higher education by indigent communities.

The university now has two students' representative councils. One calls itself the "legitimate SRC". This is the SA Student Congress SRC voted in by students last year and which is known to be ANC-aligned.

The other is the "interim SRC". This is a team from the "far left" student groups: the Pan African Student Movement (Pasma), the Student League and the Azanian Student Congress (Azasco).

Both student groups answer the telephone with the same words: "UWC SRC, Hello!"

Neither plans to back down to allow the other full control and, right now, with exams in full swing and holidays coming up, their stand-off doesn't matter.

In February, when thousands of impoverished students needing financial aid begin arriving on campus and turn to the SRC for help, the fireworks between the two groups will begin.

The cause of the current unhappiness, like everything else at UWC, is the shortage of money and the rector's tough stand on debt-ridden students.

The "interim SRC" believes the "legitimate SRC" sold students out when they allowed the rector, Professor Cecil Abrahams, to implement "blanket" financial exclusions at the beginning of this year.

They believe the elected group did not use sufficient vigour in opposing Professor Abrahams when he refused to register students who had not paid their debt or did not pay a portion of their fees for the coming year upfront.

The "legitimate SRC" had agreed with the rector that academically deserving students, who could not pay, be given some financial assistance. In reality this translated into a handful of people.

Thousands of aspirant students, from across the country, were turned away and student numbers at the university dropped from about 14 000 to about 11 000.

Michael Canham, a leader of the "interim SRC", believes the "legitimate SRC" could not afford to rock the boat and fight harder for students' interests because of their loyalty to the ANC.

"The old SRC leaders are all after good jobs in Government. They have to toe the party line to ensure their CVs look good for their future jobs on the gravy train."

There is some justification for this remark. J J Tabane, SRC president in 1996 and 1997, now holds a senior position in the national Ministry for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development. He is also the SRC president credited with negotiating a deal so good for students that the university's debt shot to nearly R40-million in the two years he was in office.

Before he left the university he launched a "Masakhane campaign", encouraging students to pay their fees, but he never forgot that most



On the march: students get their message across in traditional style - with a protest march to demonstrate the seriousness of their intent during one of the campus' numerous conf



Waiting: a student with no classes to attend

were too poor to afford the registration fee, let alone the thousands of rands needed for years of study.

Goodenough Kodwa, SRC president in 1997-98, now deputy head of the ANC youth league in the Western Cape, continued his predecessor's work and tried to encourage students to pay what they could. He owed the university more than R20 000 in unpaid fees when he left at the beginning of this year.

It was under his leadership that Professor Abrahams persuaded student leaders to accept that students had to pay if UWC was to stay open. The "interim SRC" believe it was this agreement which has caused the divi-

sion. In August the annual general meeting of the SRC, which is held in preparation for the SRC elections a month later, was disrupted by the opposition groups and the result was that the planned elections never went ahead.

Instead the "interim SRC" installed themselves in office and the power struggle between the two groups threatened to become violent. Eventually UWC's deputy vice-rector of student affairs, Ikey van de Rheede, seized the keys to the SRC offices - but the "legitimate" SRC successfully applied for a court interdict to have them returned.

They went back into office and

have begun preparing to negotiate with the university administration to reach agreement on how next year's financial exclusions should be handled.

But the president of the "legitimate SRC", Ntsie Netshitomboni, says the administration is also talking to the "interim SRC", which puts him in a difficult position.

"Today the rector will talk to us about an issue and we'll agree on something - but then tomorrow he talks to the other SRC and tells them a different thing."

There is a feeling that the administration is quite happy with the student divisions because, while they

are fighting among themselves, the focus is off the university.

"We need to sort this out," said Mr Netshitomboni

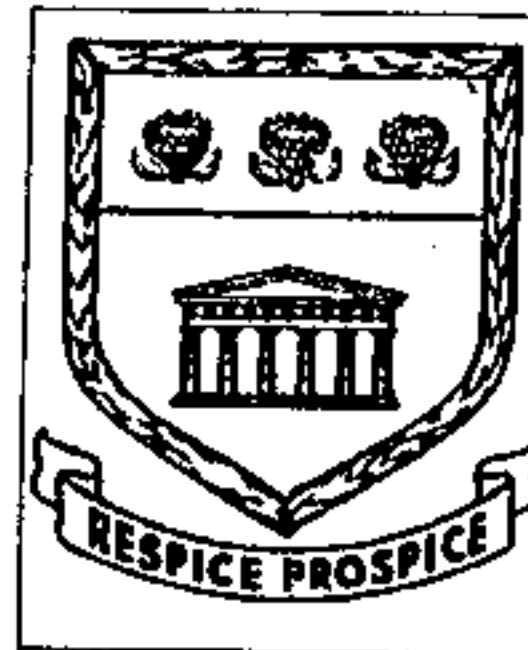
He produced a letter to both groups from Professor Van de Rheede which said the university executive and council only recognised his "fairly elected" SRC.

Professor Van de Rheede wrote: "The claim that the present SRC does not enjoy support and does not fulfil its mandate can only be tested at the ballot box through a process of free and fair elections."

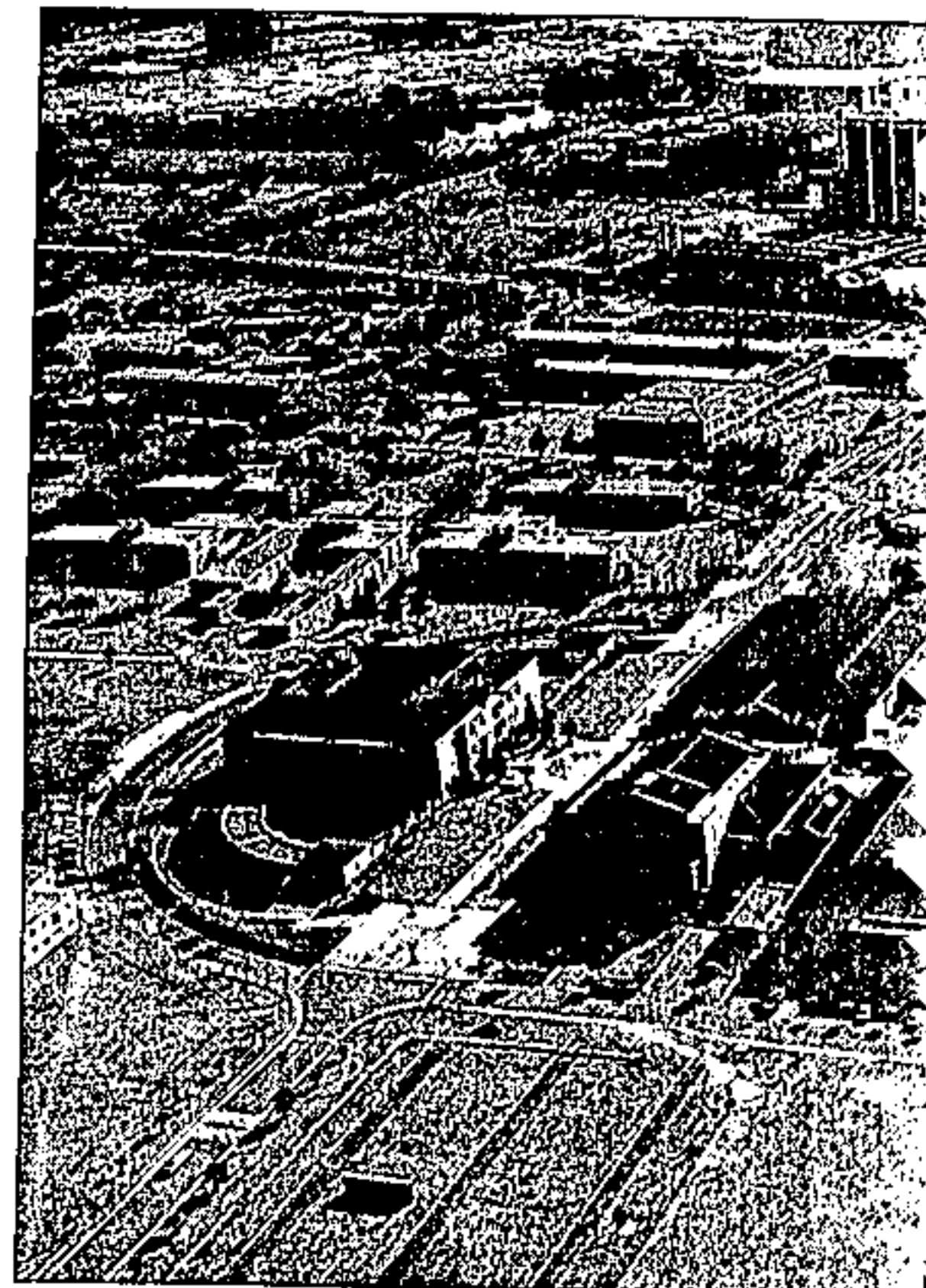
But a new election could be months away, as burning financial issues take up all students' time.

UWC: WHERE TO NOW?

UWC appears to lunge from one crisis to the next but its problems are simply a reflection of the difficulties of delivering



education to indigent South Africans. In a three part series Special Writer CAROL CAMPBELL examines how the university, once seen as the country's most progressive, is trying to find its place in the new South Africa



A view from above: the campus where so much strife has played

CAPE ARGUS ISSUES

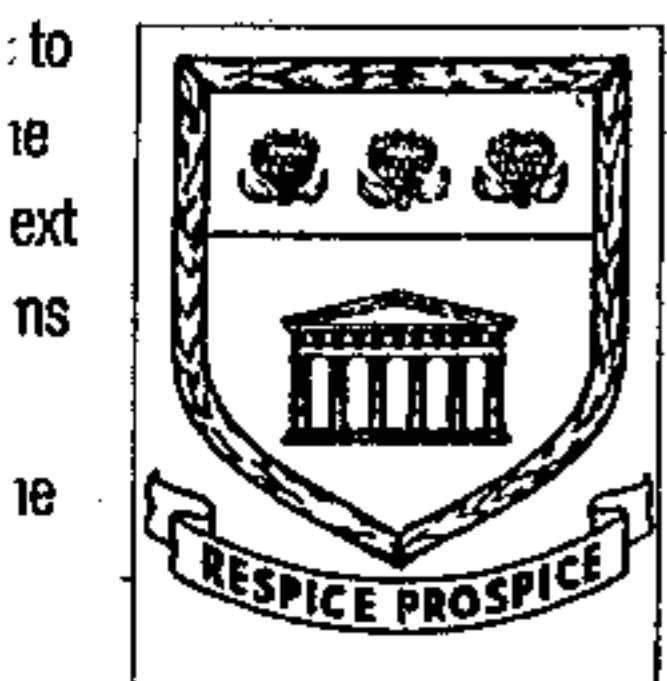
Protests for student leaders next Crisis divides campus at UWC



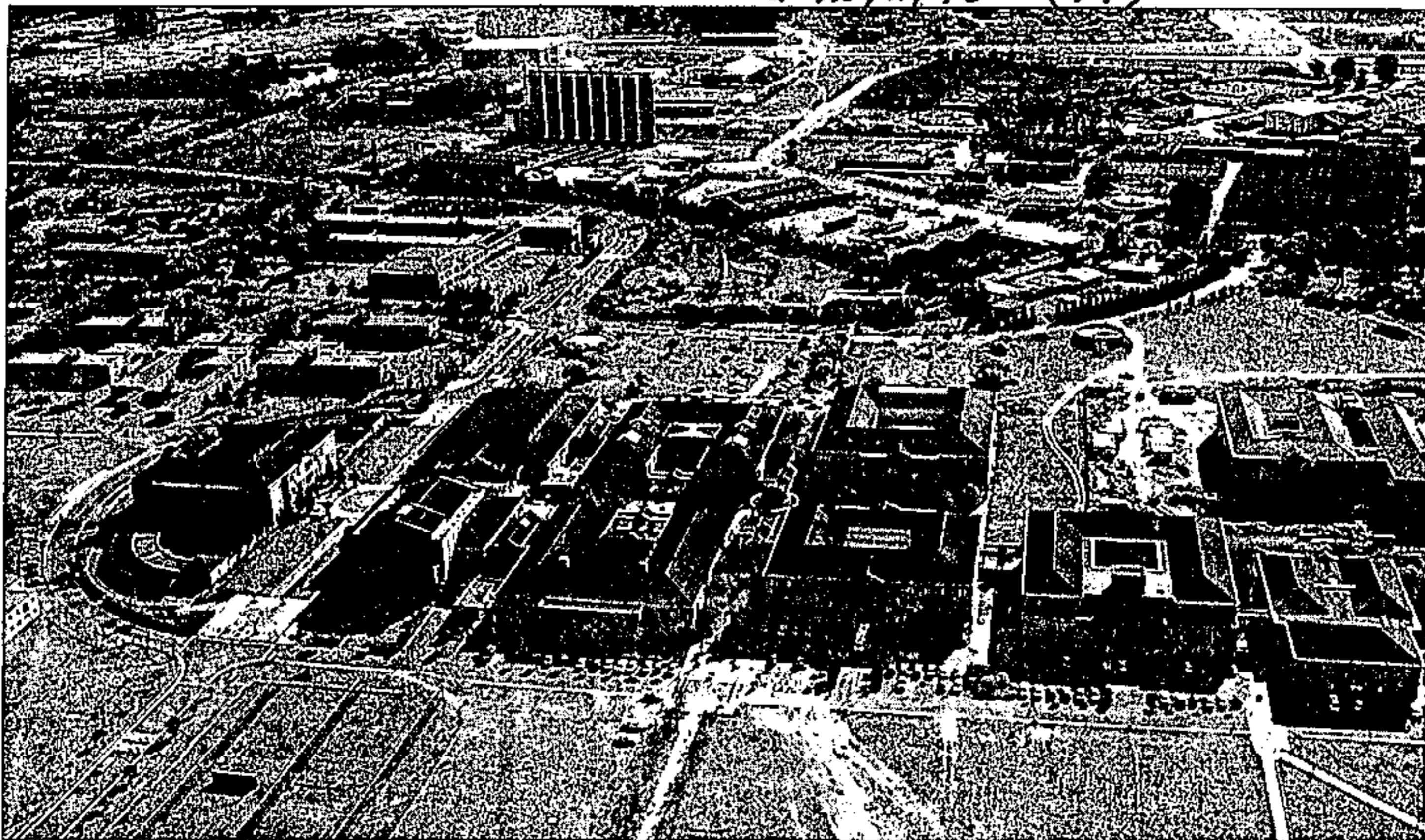
A protest march to demonstrate the seriousness of their intent during one of the campus' numerous conflicts

ARG 20/11/98 (54)

WHERE TO NOW?



Indigent South Africans. In a three part series Special Writer **CAROL CAMPBELL** examines how the university, once seen as the country's most progressive, is trying to find its place in the new South Africa



A view from above: the campus where so much strife has played out in recent years

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are fighting among themselves, the focus is off the university. "We need to sort this out," said Mr Netshitomboni. He produced a letter to both groups from Professor Van de Rheede which said the university executive and council only recognised his "fairly elected" SRC. Professor Van de Rheede wrote: "The claim that the present SRC does not enjoy support and does not fulfil its mandate can only be tested at the ballot box through a process of free and fair elections." But a new election could be months away, as burning financial issues take up all students' time.

Sasco representatives are confident they can still swing the majority on campus - after all, Sasco members dominate SRCs across the country. What concerns them more are the dwindling election percentage polls - unlike the situation in the past, most students just couldn't be bothered to vote. National SRC management trainer and former UWC student leader David Mashishi said many students now were more worried about personal success than fighting the collective cause. "In the old days we would stay up all night writing flyers and debating the stand we would take with the

administration. Now students tell you they have to study and don't have the time. For us it was revolution first, study later." Mr Mashishi believes that as higher education is limited to paying students, so bread and butter issues will fade from the forefront of black student politics. "This place will be like the University of Cape Town or Stellenbosch soon - campuses where student issues are really trivial compared to what has gone on on black campuses over the past few years. "I think it's the end of an era."

Tomorrow: xref to come

Student expelled over his campus sex-for-sale article

ET 20/11/98

(54)

RHODA DAVIDS and ERIC NTABAZALILA

STUDENT journalist Max Hamata did not realise the magnitude of the row he would unleash when he wrote a story on alleged student prostitutes operating at the Peninsula Technikon.

Now the 25-year-old Namibian, who was charged with bringing the technikon into disrepute after his article *Sex for Sale on Campus* appeared in the *Mail & Guardian* newspaper in September, has apparently been expelled from the technikon.

The *Mail & Guardian* and the Freedom of Expression Institute (FXI) have sprung to his defence and are backing him after it was revealed that he would seek a High Court interdict against the technikon.

In a statement yesterday the *Mail & Guardian* expressed shock and disappointment at the technikon's decision to expel Hamata — who has not yet been officially informed of his expulsion.

"Peninsula Technikon, despite the existence of its journalism department for more than a decade, does not seem to understand the basic tenets of journalism. It is not the journalist's duty to protect the reputation of an institution, but rather to find information and bring it to public attention," the statement said.

The FXI yesterday expressed outrage at Hamata's expulsion. Spokesperson Lauren Pollecut said: "The step that Peninsula Technikon has taken is a great disappointment and a great blow to freedom of

expression, which is guaranteed in this country's constitution. We will continue supporting Hamata in whatever steps he wishes to take against the technikon."

Hamata received death threats after the publication of the article. He had to avoid his room for fear of reprisals after the technikon released a statement condemning his article. Other students at the technikon felt that the article labelled all female students on the campus as prostitutes.

Hamata had interviewed students at Peninsula Technikon who claimed they were selling sex for extra cash. He also interviewed, on the record, various officials at the technikon who admitted they were aware of the problem.

The *Mail & Guardian* called on the technikon to reconsider its decision, saying the technikon did not challenge the facts in Hamata's story.

"They did not ask for a correction or retraction from the *Mail & Guardian*. The obvious conclusion we draw is that Hamata's story was accurate and a fair reflection of a problem on the campus."

At the disciplinary hearing, Hamata was not allowed legal representation, said the institute.

"If the technikon rules do not allow for legal representation then the rules are unconstitutional. No technikon rules or regulations can be above the constitution," Pollecut said.

The technikon refused to comment on the issue yesterday.

Pentech expels student journalist

M&G 20-26/11/98

(574)

Stuart Hess and Mukoni Rashitanga

Pentech Technikon (Pentech) has drawn a flurry of criticism following its extraordinary decision on Wednesday to expel student journalist Max Hamata.

Hamata's fallout with the institution comes in the wake of a report which was published in the *Mail & Guardian* and which this week led to him being booted out of the institution by an internal disciplinary committee.

For his article on September 18 to 25, Hamata interviewed students at Pentech who claimed that they were prostituting themselves for extra cash. He also interviewed, on the record, various officials at Pentech who admitted that they were aware of the problem.

The hearing, chaired by Pentech's registrar

for student affairs, Tobie Titus, dismissed Hamata on the grounds that he brought the technikon's name into disrepute.

When Hamata arrived at the hearing with his legal representative, Jacques Louw, he was told that he could not be represented by an outsider as this was a violation of technikon rules. Hamata refused to attend the hearing without Louw and waited outside as the proceedings continued and found him guilty.

A day after Hamata's expulsion, Pentech's rector, Brian Figaai, had not yet been informed of the decision. He said the institution was still to decide if it would lay a complaint with the press ombudsman.

The Freedom of Expression Institute (FXI) had grave misgivings with the decision. "In acting this way, the convenors of the hearing have

demonstrated a blatant disregard for the constitutional right of Mr Hamata to legal representation," the organisation said in a statement.

FXI added that Pentech failed to recognise that Hamata was "acting as journalist first and foremost and as a student second, and therefore to attempt to resolve the disputes around the article through a disciplinary procedure is tantamount to harassment of a journalist". The FXI announced it would throw its weight behind any possible court action against Pentech.

The South African Student Press Union (Saspu) echoed similar sentiments and likened the proceedings to repressive acts carried out under the apartheid regime.

Saspu called upon the ministers of justice and education to intervene and clarify the "aspects of autonomy and rules of institutions in compliance with the current Constitution".

Pentech's journalism department refused to comment as it had not yet received formal notification of Hamata's expulsion. However, the M&G understands that the management

of the engineering faculty — which includes the journalism department — appealed to the technikon's administration to drop the case, but this fell on deaf ears.

Students and staff at Pentech claimed that a day before the hearing, senior members of the disciplinary committee were seen asking journalism students to present them with documents on media ethics.

Each year Pentech journalism students are sent on 12-month internship programmes. Fears abound that with Hamata's expulsion, the students' ability to expose controversial issues during their training period will be impaired.

One of the regulations with which Hamata was charged prohibits students "whether on the technikon premises or not" from publishing material which discredits the technikon.

The regulations appear to be at odds with both the Higher Education Act and the Constitution, which guarantee freedom of expression.

Letters, PAGE 27

UWC, Unitra simmer over cuts

MTG 20-26/11/98 (54)

Evidence wa ka Ngobeni

The rector of the troubled University of the Western Cape (UWC), Cecil Abrahams, has not apologised to the university community for the "short-sighted, inhuman and mechanical manner" in which he implemented a retrenchment process.

Abrahams was censured by the university's senate and ordered to issue a public apology "at an appropriate time" after he decided to retrench 41 academic staffers.

He has, however, privately apologised for claiming in pamphlets distributed by the administration on campus that employee associations were consulted about the retrenchments.

But UWC staffers said Abrahams has not shown any indication that he intends to apologise publicly.

"It is clear that Abrahams is the root of the rot that has set into the moral fibre of this university. Even at this stage, he is unrepentant," said academic staff representative Sean Lewis.

Earlier this week, lawyers acting for the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) contacted Unitra council members, as well as Minister of Education Sibusiso Bengu and Unitra principal Professor AT Moleah, to demand that management stop moves to employ independent contractors in place of university workers.

Last week the Labour Court ruled that the services of "dismissed" uni-

versity workers had not been terminated until they were ratified by the university council.

Moleah then issued a directive saying workers were not to report to their posts because their services

were not required.

The university would, however, pay all affected employees their salaries and the matter would be finalised at a council meeting scheduled to take place at the end of the month.

Nehawu has appealed to council chair Dumisa Ntsebeza to intervene and warned that should the matter not be addressed this week, it intended to launch an urgent court application.

"We want Abrahams to show an indication that he acknowledges that his action has caused a crisis on campus," Lewis said. "Tensions grew on the campus when its administration announced that more than 300 non-academic staff members would be retrenched as well. There have been several protest meetings, a workers' strike and an academic boycott on the campus over the past two months.

UWC representative Alwyn van Gensen said Abrahams has not apologised yet, but would do so at an "appropriate occasion as per the senate's request".

He had, however, written letters of apology to the 41 staffers to be retrenched next month and those who felt aggrieved about the way he handled the retrenchment process. But the staff association is not satisfied. "UWC is simmering with anger. Abrahams must go," Lewis said.

"When issues are raised, [Abrahams] seems set on throwing as many of his worthless, whiny obstacles in the path of progress that he can find." The academic staff association wants the retrenchments rescinded because it was not consulted.

Chiara Carter reports

that workers and management are once again at loggerheads at the University of the Transkei (Unitra).

THE bottom line for SA business is no longer simply profit. More and more companies are beginning to talk about the "triple bottom line" for sustainable development — measured according to environmental, financial and social performance.

Ignore environmental issues and the financial bottom line will suffer. That is a clear message to emerge from the co-authors of the 1998 Survey of Environmental Reporting in SA which was released this week. The survey, now in its fifth year, was produced by the University of Pretoria's Social Accounting Unit in the Department of Accounting and by the environmental unit of the auditing and business advisory firm, KPMG.

Without environmental awareness big companies, among other things, risk losing out on international trade, they face prosecution or cleanup costs if they are responsible for contaminating an area, and they could find themselves having to spend a great deal of money on damage control to redeem themselves in the eyes of an increasingly vigilant public.

Although environmental reporting is not yet compulsory in SA, big business is making strides to slot into what the survey says is becoming a "powerful global trend". Of 514, or 97% of JSE-listed companies, 34% disclosed information on the environment in their '97 annual reports — a third more than the previous year.

And the best performers are bigger companies involved in high environmental impact activities like mining, steel and chemicals. Of these, 92% made reference to the environment and 77% reported on the environmental impact of their activities. The top three — Trans-Natal Coal/Ingwe Coal, Western Deep Levels and Samancor — are all mining companies.

There are several reasons for this, says co-author Wayne Visser, manager of KPMG's environmental unit. "Mining companies tend to be our big companies and there is a correlation between size of company and environmental reporting. They generally have more money to spend on environmental policies and the mining industry has been legislated far more stringently," he says.

But there is still some way to go. SA companies are five to six years behind their international counterparts. Co-author Professor Charl de Villiers, at the university's Department of Accounting, told BT that environmental awareness in

Environmental awareness can add growth to bottom line

How green are SA companies? The latest Survey of Environmental Reporting in SA indicates that there is still some way to go,

writes JANETTE BENNETT

ST(BT) 22/11/98

UK companies seemed to pick up around 1986. SA reached that point in 1992-93.

Last year, KPMG found that 71% of about 900 top companies in 13 countries included environmental information in their 1995 annual reports. "But we are not on a plateau. There has been an improvement every year; there's a definite trend. I think SA will catch up very quickly," De Villiers says.

He predicts that more than 70% of SA's top 50 companies — compared to 52% now — will disclose environmental information in annual reports within five years.

"Companies should be accountable to society at large," the survey says. "Transparent environmental reporting is one way of demonstrating that they are."

As Visser says, simply mentioning the environment is not enough for a company to make the grade. A checklist applied to annual reports includes 30 points, ranging from a business's mention of environmental impacts and risks to whether a senior manager is entrusted with environmental responsibility.

International pressure has played a big role in fuelling the trend in SA. "Business will only re-

act to pressure," De Villiers says. "Sometimes it is driven by the media. Sometimes it is driven by overseas customers, for example German companies which have to comply with certain standards."

Visser elaborates: "SA has opened up to international trade, and to do such trade, companies have to clean up their act."

Legislation and provisions to protect the environment are being beefed up, too. For example, the SA

Constitution's Bill of Rights includes an environmental clause which allows members of the public to take companies to court if they believe their rights to a clean environment are threatened. And the new Environmental Management Act stipulates that everyone must have access to information to enable them to protect their well-being and the environment.

And then there is public pressure. The Save the Vaal Environment's recent court success which delayed Sasol's plan to develop a mine in an area bordering the Vaal River is one example. Thor Chemicals is another: it still faces huge pressure from unions and environmentalists concerned about the leakage from drums of waste containing mercury.

Companies should be accountable to society at large. Transparent environmental reporting is one way of demonstrating that they are

P. T.O. For Diagram

Two weeks ago, the council of the Vaal Triangle Technikon - a campus plagued by racial violence in recent years - fired rector Professor Aubrey Mokadi after a disciplinary inquiry found him guilty on five of 11 counts of misconduct. The technikon council, whose dissolution was recommended by independent assessor, Jaap Durand, is fraught with its own contradictions, writes Simon Dagut

(54) 8/11/98

At first sight the trouble at the Vaal Triangle Technikon appears to be a simple story of the education minister flexing his newly-acquired muscles against a wayward and reactionary tertiary institution.

That institution had suspended its new black rector, was attempting to suppress student politics and had doled out too many generous golden handshakes to its old guard.

But, beneath this smooth surface lies a highly complex situation.

The essential elements of the story involve the rapid transformation of a diehard Afrikaner institution, an unlikely alliance of black and white staff, an ambitious ANC-aligned rector in a predominantly PAC institution, and a body of disadvantaged students suffering huge social and educational stress.

The students' present discontents and occasionally violent behaviour can only be understood in the context of the past.

The technikon was founded in 1966 in Vanderbijlpark, a model dormitory town for Iskor's white workers that now exists as a tract of predominantly white suburbia wedged uneasily between the Iskor plant and some of the most famous townships in South Africa: Sharpeville, Sebokeng and Boipatong.

The technikon's students and academic staff were all white and almost all Afrikaners, its medium of instruction was Afrikaans and its purpose was to train skilled workers for jobs at Iskor and in the Free State goldfield towns on the south side of the river.

By 1982 blacks made up roughly 15% of students at the Vanderbijlpark campus. The senior management of the technikon seems to have viewed this not as a precursor of things to come but as a problem of controlling a recalcitrant minority. For this purpose, they recruited Professor Kotie Grove, previously of the University of Port Elizabeth, as dean of students.

On his arrival at the technikon, he was shown a videotape by members of the management which, he was told, would "indicate very clearly and immediately ... who the guys among the blacks are ... causing all the problems".



ANDREAS VLACHAKIS

Kicked out ... Aubrey Mokadi is dedicated to education, but his plans for the technikon were far too ambitious.

Mokadi's misdiagnosis of where power really lay at the technikon. A considerable majority of the technikon's staff in all grades from management and lecturers to the cleaners and ground staff, are members of Nutessa - the National Union of Technikon Employees of South Africa.

Nutessa was founded in 1986 and has its roots in the old white technikon staff association. But, as its leader at the Vaal Triangle, Nic Coetzee, explains: "The members of the staff association felt that the times called for protection from something more muscular - a fully-fledged union."

What is more, Nutessa realised that if it were to have any real hope of success, it would have to attract a significant number of black members. This proved easier than might have been expected.

Neither the white staff nor most of the blacks liked the practical changes Mokadi was making. His handling of affirmative action was universally felt to be unsatisfactory. He also wanted everyone to work harder.

The all-white Nutessa leadership of early 1986 approached the PAC's affiliated union on campus, Mshawu, and offered not merely an alliance, but a complete merger and a change of name.

This offer, to what is on other campuses an insignificant minority union, was perceived as generous. The merger was accepted and, as a reciprocal concession, the name of Nutessa was kept.

Coetzee was appointed chairperson and now works with three black deputies, representing administrative staff, academics and manual workers.

The Nutessa leadership proved to be as successful at bread-and-butter unionism as they had been at political strategy. As the new majority union on the campus, they were able to secure wage increases for round and housing subsidies for categories of workers previously not eligible for them.

Ironically enough, Nutessa also proved to be the most important beneficiary of transformation and

which he handled the students. Of all the senior employees at the technikon, it was Mokadi who best understood their background and politics.

Mokadi, however, appears to have overreached himself in other spheres. He proposed, for example, to transform his technikon into a university of technology and what

force on the campus. Now the management of the technikon, still largely comprised of white Afrikaner males, was instructed to turn its attention to cultural and demographic transformation of the institution.

However, although there were several appointments of black people to middle-ranking and senior administrative positions in

education ministry that a new and more representative technikon council had to be created.

The council was duly reformed to represent the ministry, local and business interests, and all levels of technikon staff. Equally important was to find a head for this council.

It was fortunate that someone who seemed perfect for the job was at hand: Aubrey Mokadi was ap-

Swirling winds of change

and some of the most famous townships in South Africa: Sharpeville, Sebokeng and Boipatong.

The technikon's students and academic staff were all white and almost all Afrikaans and its instruction was Afrikaans and its purpose was to train skilled workers for jobs at Iskor and in the Free State goldfield towns on the south side of the river.

By 1992 blacks made up roughly 15% of students at the Vanderbijlpark campus. The senior management of the technikon seems to have viewed this not as a precursor of things to come but as a problem of controlling a recalcitrant minority. For this purpose, they recruited Professor Kotie Grove, previously of the University of Port Elizabeth, as dean of students.

On his arrival at the technikon, he was shown a videotape by members of the management which, he was told, would "indicate very clearly and immediately... who the guys among the blacks are... causing all the problems".

In fact, he proved to be the Trojan horse of change. In the area under his control, student affairs, he began to recruit black members of staff. The SRC was temporarily abolished and replaced by a student transformation forum of four black and four white members.

These changes no doubt created a more welcoming atmosphere for black students who grew in confidence as well as numbers. By 1994 blacks made up roughly half the student population. They were, though, a very discontented half. They complained that:

- Instruction continued to take place in Afrikaans and lecturers showed little concern for the problems specific to black students.
- The food in the canteen was of poor quality.
- The political leaders of white student opinion had easy access to the rector, Professor Pieter du Plessis, while black students found it very difficult to gain a hearing.
- White students were in general standoffish or openly hostile.
- There were strong rumours in the air of corruption in high places and the misuse of funds.

The spark came in early 1995, when a group of white students declared a section of one residence to be off-limits for blacks or, as they called it, a Volkskazerne or AWB hostel.

For several days, crowds of armed black and white students confronted each other and the police on the technikon's large but rather bleak lawns. Stones were thrown and insults hurled. The students on either side of the racial barrier viewed each other as a television documentary found, through a mist of hysteria, machismo and alcohol.

The rector appealed in vain for calm and declared that he was prepared to accept an inquiry into

Swirling winds of change

student concerns.

Asked to comment on the accusations against him of corruption and mismanagement, he denied any impropriety but said that he would prefer not to comment in any detail until the accusations had been formally presented to him.

He proved to be wise in his reticence. A commission of inquiry conducted by Advocate Johann Gautcht found that "the conduct of the rector... demonstrated a lack of competence rendering him unfit... to hold the office of rector... and justifying dismissal".

This was not an entirely surprising finding. Du Plessis had, most remarkably, been appointed rector at the Vaal Triangle after his dismissal on similar grounds as vice-chancellor of the University of Venda.

As vice-chancellor, he had been known for his supine compliance with student demands and his all-night drinking sessions with student leaders.

At the Vaal Triangle Technikon, his behaviour changed to some extent. Now, it appears from the Gautcht report, his drinking became more solitary in nature and his favouritism towards student leaders became more narrowly focused on whites only.

It seemed very likely to the committed right-wing student leaders in their hostility to blacks.

He had permitted "serious deficiencies in the administration and management of the technikon".

It was proved that Du Plessis had made "unauthorised and irregular use" of technikon funds to renovate his private house, but it was not possible to follow the paper trail further and much more serious accusations of corruption relating to the management and disciplinary hearings against Du Plessis and his closest colleague, Dr Kempen, were begun.

It was clear to everyone involved, which included an increasingly concerned and interventionist

education ministry that a new and more representative technikon council had to be created.

The council was duly reformed to represent the ministry, local and business interests, and all levels of technikon staff. Equally important was to find a head for this council.

It was fortunate that someone who seemed perfect for the job was at hand: Aubrey Mokadi was appointed chairman of the transformed technikon council in August 1995.

Although only 35, Mokadi had already had a varied career in universities, politics and business. Born and raised in the Vaal Triangle, he had studied at Fort Hare. In 1987, he took English honours at Wits and then taught at Bophuthatswana and Vista universities.

While at Vista, he obtained an MA from Unisa and continued to work on a Wits PhD. He had also become an important figure in local ANC-aligned politics, having been first chairman of the Vaal Civic.

He was, and has continued to be, deeply involved in local education organisations, including the Vaal Career College (of which he is chairman) and the Vaal Education Transformation Forum. Mokadi had also had a brief but significant experience of senior non-academic employment - positions which involved him in troubleshooting racial incidents.

After leaving Vista, he was appointed to Iskor's RDP office, where he worked until he was appointed rector at the technikon.

The events of February 1995 proved to be the last stand of white supremacist attitudes at the technikon. But far more than that changed.

Courses began to be taught in English as well as Afrikaans, and Afrikaans will shortly cease entirely to be a medium of instruction. White student numbers have fallen rapidly to 18% this year and this minority is not a political or cultural

force on the campus.

Now the management of the technikon, still largely comprised of white Afrikaans males, was instructed to turn its attention to cultural and demographic transformation of the institution.

However, although there were several appointments of black people to middle-ranking and senior administrative positions, in general transformation activity remained in the realm of ideas.

The council needed, of course, to find a new rector. A personnel consultancy was hired and a shortlist drawn up. In an unexpected development this list included the name of the council's own chairperson, Aubrey Mokadi. After he had duly resigned his position, the council voted upon the candidates and elected him rector.

It remains an odd decision for the council to have made and an even odder one for Mokadi to have permitted.

He was one of the biggest fish in the Vaal Triangle's political and economic pond. As chairperson of the technikon council he had a considerable amount of power to guide the technikon in the directions he wished without concerning himself too closely with everyday administration.

This is why his decision to take the step - formally a downward one - of becoming rector is hard to understand.

On the face of it, he was not well qualified to be rector of a large (12 000 students) tertiary institution focused exclusively on technical education.

In the brief period between his appointment in July 1996 and his suspension on October 31 1997, Professor Mokadi proved to be very good at some aspects of his new job.

He was undoubtedly energetic and hard-working, full of innovative and ambitious ideas, a setter of high standards. He is said regularly to have worked a 16-hour day and to have required his immediate colleagues to do the same.

He disapproved of the tendency of the technikon staff to leave work very early on Friday afternoons.

His greatest strength, though, was the confidence and insight with

which he handled the students. Of all the senior employees at the technikon, it was Mokadi who best understood their background and politics.

Mokadi, however, appears to have overreached himself in other spheres. He proposed, for example, to transform his technikon into a university of technology and what he had in mind went well beyond a cosmetic makeover.

He envisaged his institution as a centre of excellence in scientific and technical education, linked by student and staff exchange programmes to foreign technical universities and producing original research.

This plan ignored the fact that the teaching staff has no research experience that the library has only 33 000 books (less than half of 1% of books in the Wits library system), and that its laboratories are not equipped to university standard.

His announcement not only embarrassed the technikon administration, it also displeased the other technikon and the education ministry since any change of status should first have been agreed by all technikon and centrally co-ordinated.

On transformation, he was more cautious. His good sense and what he describes as his "fear of black failure" prevented him from appointing blacks fast enough to satisfy the black administrators and activists already on the campus.

Instead, he resorted to heavy use of talk-shops and symbolism. In the brief period before his suspension, he conducted a comprehensive "culture audit" of the technikon, to which all departments and interest groups were encouraged to contribute their hopes, fears and visions.

Considerable sums of money were spent on public relations exercises. A day of acknowledgement was held, at which awards for "friendship, contribution and

commitment" were given to the minister of education, to Iskor and to a number of other persons whom Mokadi chose to honour.

The rector's sayings and doings were reported in Tech News, the technikon's internal newsletter, in a breathlessly adulatory style, bizarrely reminiscent of the Soviet press.

His opponents also allege that he required his wife to be styled First Lady of the Vaal Triangle Technikon.

In October last year the inaugurations of Mokadi as rector and Tokyo Sexwale to the honorary position of chancellor of the technikon were celebrated with great pomp.

Yet, within weeks of this ceremony the technikon council suspended Mokadi and began the series of investigations into his conduct, one chaired by lawyer Ronald Sutherland.

The council, in classic coup style, decided upon the suspension while Mokadi was on an overseas trip. He was accused of having exceeded his budget on a series of visits to technical universities in Britain, the United States and New Zealand and was said to have used technikon funds to buy his wife a Volkswagen Jetta.

He had also, his accusers claim, a highly autocratic management style, and had given promotions to favourites rather than on merit or on plausible affirmative action grounds.

In May, the Vereeniging magistrate's court ordered Mokadi to repay R32 000 to the technikon after he had unilaterally increased his housing allowance from 8 to 14% and he is also accused of defrauding the technikon's international donors.

Undoubtedly Mokadi had been inept, unrealistic and insensitive - and this had lost him popularity and made him vulnerable to attack. But the attack derived its real venom from its surprising success from

the all-white Nutesa leadership of early 1996 approached the PAC's affiliated union on campus, Meshawu, and offered not merely an alliance, but a complete merger and a change of name.

This offer, to what is on other campuses an insignificant minority union, was perceived as generous. The merger was accepted and, as a reciprocal concession, the name of Nutesa was kept.

Coetzee was appointed chairperson and now works with three black deputies, representing administrative staff, academics and manual workers.

The Nutesa leadership proved to be as successful at bread-and-butter unionism as they had been at political strategy. As the new majority union on the campus, they were able to secure wage increases for all round and housing subsidies for categories of workers previously not eligible for them.

Ironically enough, Nutesa also proved to be the most important beneficiary of transformation and transparency.

As the majority union, it is obviously entitled to a powerful voice on the technikon council. It must also be kept informed and thoroughly consulted by management on all major issues.

When, therefore, the membership of Nutesa could no longer tolerate Mokadi's leadership, it was extremely well placed to start the process of removing him.

Since Mokadi's suspension, much less emphasis is being placed on the requirement for research. The fever pitch of the Mokadi era has thoroughly subsided. Public relations are low-key and office hours have regained their accustomed brevity.

The PAC-Afrikaans alliance that is Nutesa is a genuinely non-racial alliance, committed to achieving its goals through negotiated consensus. It looks after its members' material interests with great effectiveness.

Its leaders are charismatic and appear to be personally honest. But neither group has demonstrated a serious interest, despite the total quality management programme, in providing a decent level of tuition for the future.

Mokadi, for all his buffoonery and his more serious faults, cares deeply for education. The leadership (and so, by implication, the rank-and-file) of Nutesa, despite some of their rhetoric, do not give it as much priority.

The whites want an exit with a soft landing, while the blacks want a quick rise into jobs that are not over-demanding.

■ Simon Dagut is a history research fellow at the University of the Witwatersrand

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Afrikaans is soon to be dropped as a medium of instruction

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CONFERENCE CENTRE 'ILLEGAL'

Row over new facility on Table Mountain

CT 23/11/98 (56)

THE COUNCIL approved the renovation of the upper cable station as a shelter. Now it is being offered as a conference centre. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

A CONFERENCE centre on top of Table Mountain? There's one there already — and it's yours for R12 500 a day.

But the Cape Town City Council says the conference centre — in the revamped upper cableway station — is illegal and is not part of the approved plans.

Steven Townsend, of the city's planning department, said the "conference centre" had been built as a place where tourists could shelter while waiting for the cablecars in bad weather.

"The city was told by the cableway company that if we didn't approve this lounge, the first tourist who got hypothermia while waiting in the cold would be our responsibility," he said.

"Now it's being hired out as a conference centre. It's another one to add to our list of unauthorised usages and structures at the upper cableway station."

The managing director of the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company, John Harrison, confirmed that he was marketing the conference centre and claimed the city had approved it.

"There is a demand for a small conference centre," he said. "We also have two authorised small bedrooms and a small lounge."

But Louis de Waal, chairperson of the cableway company's board, says the board knew nothing about it.

"It's not meant to be hired out as a conference centre," he said.

"The beds are to be used for emergencies and the room is a place where we can sit down with staff.

"Of course, it's got a nice view, but the instructions (to hire it out) did not come from the board. I haven't been part of that decision."

The controversial renovations of the upper cableway station were approved with strict conditions by the city council and National Monuments Council. The intention of these conditions was to minimise the impact on the environment and to avoid an ugly visual effect.

When the renovations had been completed, the city council found that the cableway company had included features that flouted several of the conditions.

These features included viewing decks that protruded beyond the edge of the mountain and the conversion of the arrivals lounge into a bistro.

The company had also installed bigger and extra windows which, when the lights were on, created an "office block" appearance at night. The cableway company has since begun marketing the conference centre and built a wooden bar outside.

The city set March 31 this year as a deadline for the cableway company to put things right, but nothing was changed. Officials and the company have since had several meetings, chaired by city manager Andrew Boraine.

Last week, the city wrote the company "a final letter" asking it what it intended to do about the building deviations. The cableway company has stalled again.

"Harrison said he couldn't make the deadline as he was going to climb Kilimanjaro," Townsend said.

The co-ordinator of the Save the Mountain Campaign, Celia Assad, said the cableway company was "getting away with murder".

"They are also not allowing the traders who were at the lower cable station to return to put up their stalls," Assad said.

"We were to have had a meeting with the city council on Thursday about this, but it was cancelled."

Ed Tilanus, of the Wildlife and Environment Society, said it was known that the city council did not have the staff to enforce its conditions of approval.

"But this one is a biggie and I'm sure someone will have to take action," Tilanus said.

"I think Harrison is probably hoping to stall long enough for the storm to go away."

Alida Croudace, of the Redhill Landowners' Conservation Organisation, said the authorities had cracked down on "the little guys", but did not have the muscle to fight "the big guys".

"I know someone who wanted to build a toilet in his house and battled with the authorities to do so — but here this cableway company can do what it likes on public space, on a national monument and soon-to-be declared a world heritage site and (the authorities) turn a blind eye."

Louis de Villiers, who chairs the Peninsula Mountain Forum, said the authorities had a duty to enforce the conditions of approval.

"The SA National Parks said it could not do anything because it was not its land," he said.

"Now it is its land and it is still doing nothing."

David Daitz, of SA National Parks, said there were a "number of delicate issues" that needed to be resolved with the company.



POTENTIAL DISASTER Norman Brauteseth believes the National Environmental Management Bill has many pitfalls

Environment bill may delay developments

CT(BR)23/11/98 (56)
STAFF REPORTER

Durban — The National Environmental Management Bill, likely to be passed by parliament this session, had far-reaching implications for business and local authorities and could delay development projects for extended periods, Norman Brauteseth, a specialist in planning law at law firm Garlicke & Bousfield and a member of the Environmental Law Association, said last week.

Brauteseth said on the one hand the bill was a positive step towards protecting the environment, but on the other it tipped the scale in an unbalanced way, providing for suits and prosecutions against businesses by the man in the street which could drag on indefinitely.

"The effect of these aspects has not been thought through sufficiently," Brauteseth said. "For example, citizens will have the right to take environmental matters to the High Court without the risk of having any costs awarded against them should their application fail.

"This is because the bill, which has already been passed by Cabinet, clearly states that citizens have the right to sue even if they do not have a direct personal interest, and even if the application fails they may not have costs awarded against them if

the High Court believes they acted reasonably and out of concern for the environment.

"In the past, the government has been criticised for not doing enough to protect the environment. However, is the High Court the right forum for such contested issues, particularly when they may drag on for years and years?"

Brauteseth said in KwaZulu-Natal, where there were concerted efforts to attract investors and get developments off the ground quickly and in a manner beneficial to all the role players, litigation would present developers with huge costs. The same went for local authorities, who would be at the receiving end if developments or business expansions approved by them were opposed in court.

"Surely there should be another mechanism for breaking such deadlocks and reaching resolution in a quicker and more equitable way?" he asked. "This province is in the process of setting up a provincial Planning and Development Act which will incorporate environmental assessment into the development processes.

"My great concern is that the provisions of the bill will not assist but impede development where adequate assessments have in fact been carried out."

Bengu vows to expand loans for varsity students

Repayment vital to future students

(54)

ARC 23/11/98

The national student loan scheme has to be expanded so that as many talented young people as possible can have the opportunity to go to university, says education minister Dr Sibusiso Bengu.

It would be a "dire loss" for the country if capable students were excluded from higher education because of poverty, he said.

Dr Bengu was speaking at a dinner in Cape Town organised by the Tertiary Education Fund of South Africa (Tefsa) to honour the private sector and foreign governments who have invested millions in student financial aid over the past four years.

"South Africa cannot provide free higher education ... nevertheless we are aware of the

CAROL CAMPBELL



SPECIAL WRITER

severe limits to the capacity of many students and their families to pay for higher education," he said.

This year the government had committed R300-million to the National Student Financial Aid scheme. This was expected to be increased to R350-million next year.

Historically black universities across the country (like the University of the Western Cape) were in desperate financial trou-

ble because most of the students could not afford the fees.

Most of their funds came from Government subsidies which were in danger of being cut because of the sharp drop in student numbers. Students were leaving black universities because of unrest and because of the tough stand their administrations were taking with those who did not pay fees.

Allocations from the student financial aid scheme were regarded as essential funding for all these institutions.

Since 1994 the Government's financial contributions had totalled R860-million, augmented by R362,5-million in international donor contributions.

"Essential to the long term sustainability of the national

loan scheme is the repayment of loans and recycling of funds to support future groups of students. I can assure you no effort will be spared to strengthen the sustainability of the scheme," Dr Bengu said.

Topping the list of special guests at the dinner at the weekend were representatives of international telecommunications company Thintana which recently committed R20-million to the scheme.

The dinner, held at the Mount Nelson Hotel, was attended by captains of business and industry, vice-chancellors of institutions, the ambassadors of the countries that have supported the scheme and representatives from the president's and deputy president's office.

UWC agonies spring from fig

(54) 23/11/98

In an interview five years ago former University of the Western Cape rector Jakes Gerwel said the university was "not just a conveyor belt for capitalists" producing graduates for the job market. In the same breath, he acknowledged a university's role in making a country economically competitive.

Two opposing ideologies - socialism and capitalism - were fused in one sentence.

Four years after liberation, UWC is still struggling to define its role - the contradiction, encapsulated unintentionally in the words of its former rector, remains unresolved.

Is it a place where the poor are guaranteed an education regardless of their financial wherewithal and, if so, how or what should it teach. Or is it a self-sustaining "conveyor belt" producing workers for a capitalist economy?

It's a point picked up by the UWC academic staff association in its recent discussion paper: "Towards a political vision for UWC's future".

"Buying uncritically into the practice of efficiency and entrepreneurialism, (the university) management runs the risk of contradicting values intrinsic to UWC's history," it says.

It is that socialist history which Professor Gerwel was trying to defend when he made the comment about the conveyor belt.

He summed it up in 1987 when he called the institution the "intellectual home of the left" - a place of progressive thought and ideas, not a job training college.

Slowly now there is a reluctant consensus that it cannot be an "open" university and its academic programme has to be geared to the job market. The economic philosophy of the country is capitalist and the country is broke. The country needs workers who can do more with their hands and heads than hold their own in an argument. There are no millions to make political philosophies reality, no matter how noble.

Students must pay fees. Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu has made it clear a university education is a privilege.

Mr Bengu's spokesman, Bheki Khumalo, says that in future universities will be subsidised not on the number of students they attract but on the quality of programmes they offer. The programmes which will be rewarded will be in commerce, science, engineering - programmes which produce graduates the economy needs.

"This year the government has invested R6-billion in higher education and it wants a return on that money," says Mr Khumalo.

On the ground, students supporting the ANC agree that they should pay fees. But they don't because they are too poor.

It's a conflict which constantly has

them and the university administration at loggerheads. That they are all black and desperately needed as trained professionals in the economy adds more spin to the ball.

Colin Bundy, for years a UWC stalwart and now vice-chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), says the problem of financing universities can only be resolved politically.

"What we need is a sustainable bursary and loan scheme. What we have right now is not enough."

This year's budget for the national student bursary and loan scheme is R300-million. It is expected to increase to R350-million in the next financial year.

But Professor Bundy believes much more may be needed. "It sounds like a vast amount, but compare it with the R29-billion being spent on defence vessels and weapons," he says.

Ultimately, it is a question of priorities, Professor Bundy believes. "There has to be a commitment to higher education based on what it provides to the nation. The country has to decide what it wants from its universities."

At Wits, once the home of the white liberal, most students are black and as poor as those at UWC.

"There are good, talented people who are not coming to university because they don't want to incur the debt or because their families need them as a breadwinner," he says. It's an intellectual loss the country cannot afford.

For academics like Trevor Oosterwyk, a historian who has worked at UWC for 10 years, the realisation that the type of institution he fought so hard to create will never exist because of a cash shortage has been crushing.

"For so long all we wanted was a place where we could confidently pursue our intellectual work and develop penetrating academic programmes for our students.

"We wanted the institution to become ours and we wanted to make a difference to the people who really needed us," he says.

"Now we live with this constant fear that the work we are doing might be stopped because of a funds shortage or that the job we have will soon be redundant.

"What we need to get us through this is a clear vision for our institution. Where are we going? How can we cope with what has happened to us? It's this leadership which I, as an academic, am missing."

Whatever happens, says Oosterwyk, UWC must "remain standing" and continue to operate as a university - although he does suggest that students be given more post-school preparation before being allowed to register for a degree. "The leadership an institution like UWC has to give



Jakes Gerwel: 'we're not a conveyor belt for capitalists'

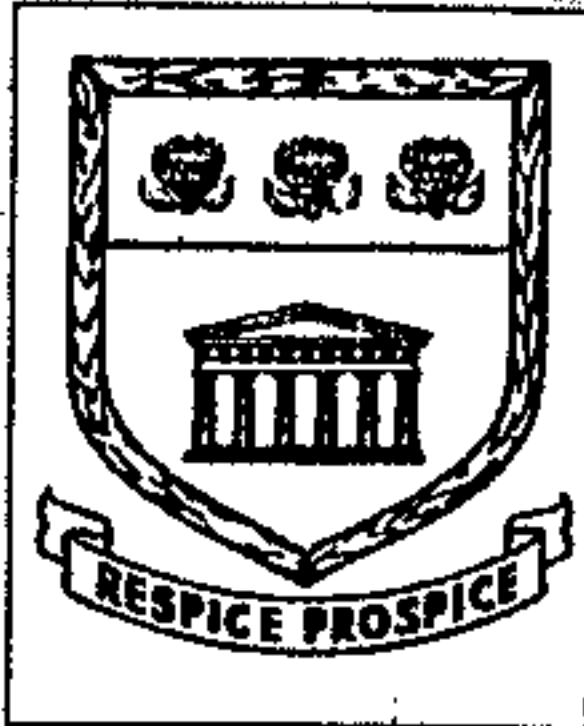
In search of

UWC: WHERE TO NOW?

UWC appears to lurch from one crisis to the next

but its problems are simply a reflection of the difficulties of delivering education to indigent South Africans. In the last article of her series, Special Writer CAROL

CAMPBELL examines how the university, once seen as the country's most progressive, is trying to find its place in the new South Africa



this country is no longer in the front line of protest but in the production of black academics, professionals and management who play a role in society."

It is trying to define that role which the campus community is finding so painful. In recent weeks there has been vigorous debate in the

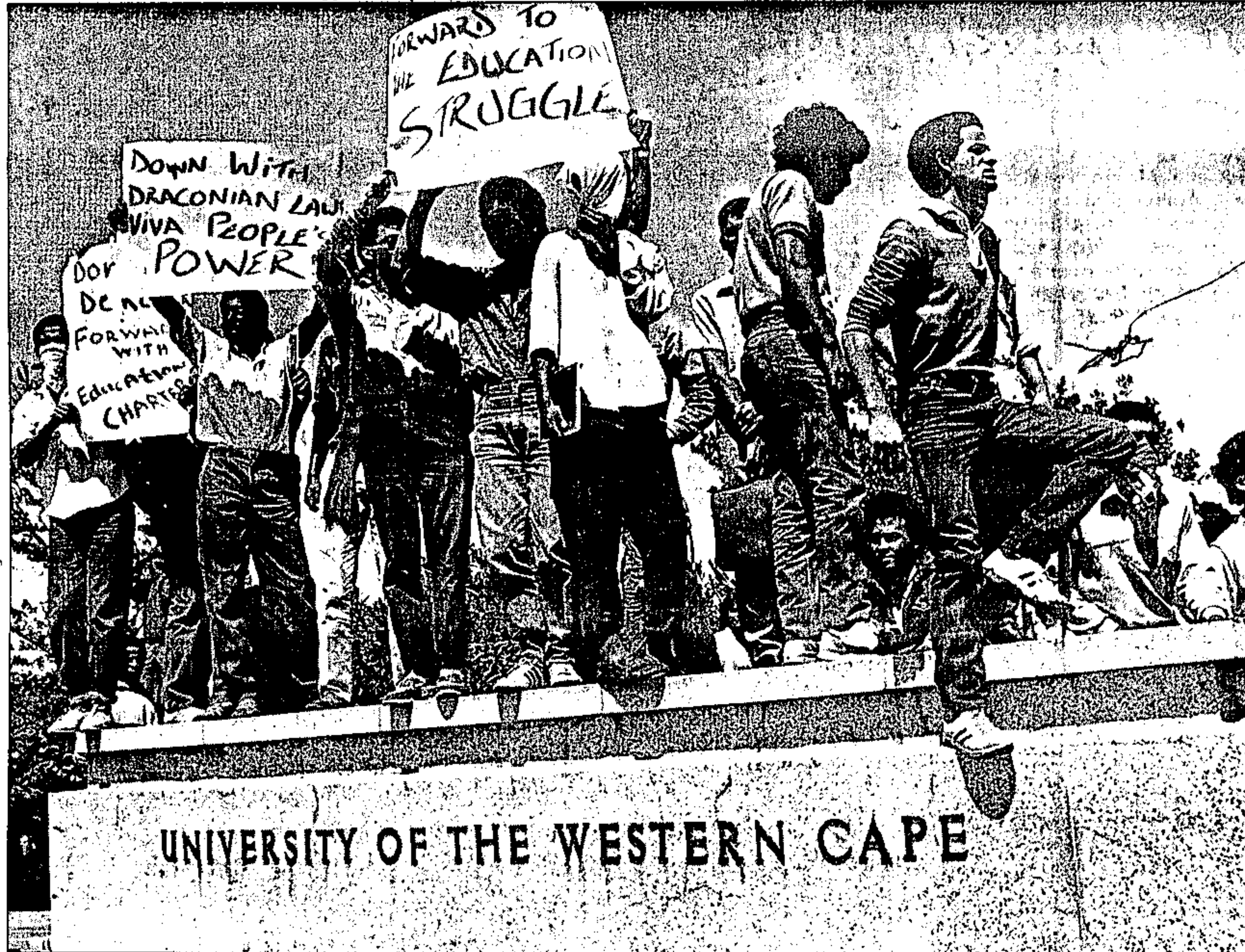
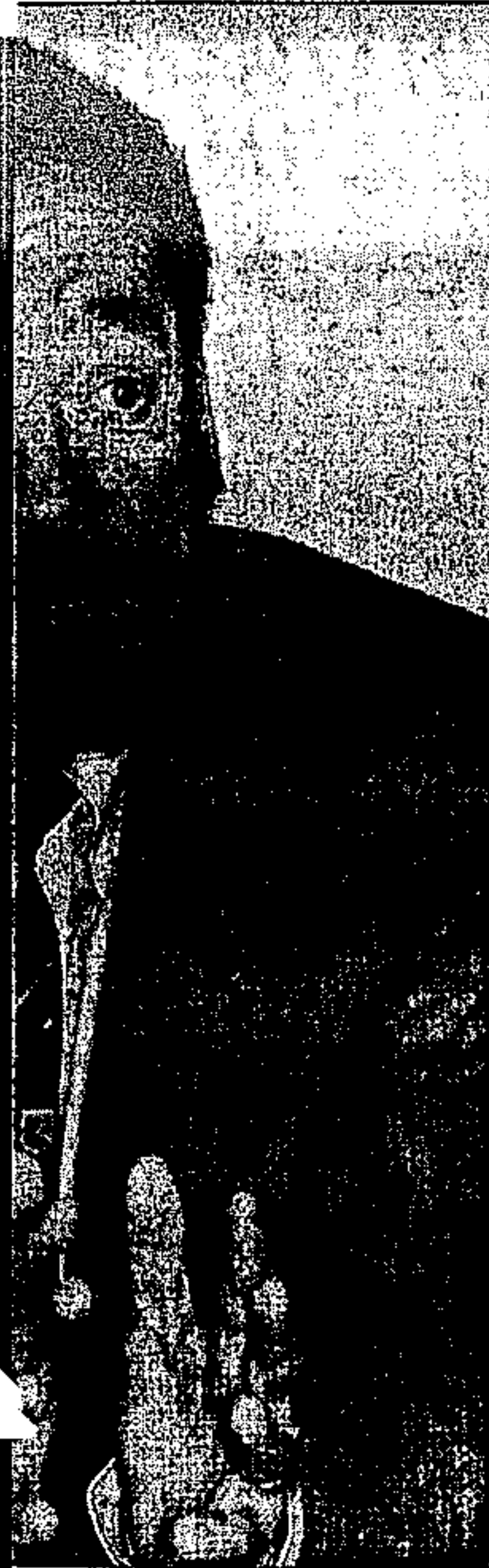
university senate (the university's most senior academics) on how the institution should be managed.

What is sure is that, sooner or later, a balance will be found. The scale will tip in favour of the conveyor belt but it is inevitable that UWC's history will ensure it will always be the intellectual home of the left.

from fight over its role in life

ART 23/11/98

(54)



or belt for capitalists'

In search of better education: a protest in the mid-1980s when students demanded better facilities and funding

HERE TO NOW?

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Graduation: UWC vice chancellor, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, caps a new graduate

Asbestos: A life enhancer or life c

CT 24/11/98 56

SOUTH AFRICA enters one of the most emotive environmental debates in the Western world today as the first National Asbestos Summit kicks off in Johannesburg. One of the most heated debates is likely to be whether or not to decontaminate public buildings where asbestos has been used during construction. **KARIN SCHIMKE** reports.

THE ceiling of the Cape Town station concourse was sprayed with lethal blue asbestos in the early '60s, which could pose a health threat to commuters and the station's workers.

It emerged this weekend that of the construction team of about 10 that did the work, at least one has died of lung disease and five have tested positive for asbestos-related diseases (ARD).

Robbie Johnston, a roofing specialist who now owns his own company, told this weekend of the public buildings contaminated with asbestos that he worked on during the early '60s.

They include the Old Assembly Hall in Parliament, the ceiling of the old Monte Carlo movie theatre, the Sanlam headquarters in Bellville and the SA Mutual headquarters in Pinelands.

The latter two have been decontaminated since, Johnston said.

A maintenance spokesman for the Parliament buildings said the Old Assembly Hall had been decontaminated, but it could not be established when and at what cost.

Whether the same was done to the Cape Town station could not be confirmed yesterday. Spoornet, as the sponsor of this week's summit, is however, tackling several asbestos-related problems in sites across the country.

Spokesperson Johan Hugo said Spoornet had been using and transporting asbestos since 1910 and it felt it had a responsibility to help the country's leaders discuss the issue and formulate policy for the future.

"In the past year and a half we've tested 19 000 of our workers for ARD. Only three have tested positive. One person suffering from ARD is one too many, but we are relieved that no more than that have been infected."

White asbestos is considered fairly safe when encased in cement or if it remains undisturbed, but according to Johnston — who has gained international experience on the use of asbestos in construction since establishing what a serious health risk it poses — the sprayed asbestos used in the station was left raw, with just a lashing of PVA paint to cover it.

"Asbestos can almost never be considered stable. The vibrations in the station alone are enough to loosen fibres and release them into the air."

He said that even if the asbestos was fairly stable, people could be at risk even now because of the enormous amount of asbestos dust that was released into the air during construction work. In closed areas such as the Monte Carlo movie theatre and the Old Assembly Hall, some fibres almost always remain suspended in the air.

Gwen Mahlangu, chairperson of the parliamentary Environmental Affairs and Tourism committee, said evidence showed that a single asbestos

fibre is as deadly as a kilogram of fibre.

Johnston said: "Asbestos is not biodegradable and there is no reason to believe that in buildings where it was used the fibres have cleared out (of the confines of the rooms) completely."

Brian Gibson, convener of the Asbestos User Group, which is giving the industry perspective at this week's summit, said it did not surprise him that asbestos had been used in these public buildings.

"There are hundreds of old buildings around the city that have asbestos in them. The asbestos industry believes strongly that under modern conditions white asbestos can and should be used safely, but it needs proper regulation and policing. We have to ensure that we don't land in the situation of replacing known hazards with new hazards." Removing

asbestos from buildings was a difficult and expensive exercise, he said. "I read recently that after removing asbestos from a building, there are 50 times more fibres in the air than before."

Johnston, who discovered accidentally that he had an ARD three years ago, has tried to track down the people who were on his construction team almost 35 years ago.

He found four of the people and referred them to Groote Schuur hospital, where they have tested positive for ARDs. One of these had asbestosis recorded as cause of death on his death certificate. His wife receives compensation of R1 500 a year. It is believed another on his team died of mesothelioma, the worst asbestos-related disease.

Johnston is pursuing compensation from the UK-based company Bells Asbestos & Engineering for whom he worked at the time he inhaled the asbestos that has caused his illness. Workers were given masks, but were not forced to use them, nor told of the dangers of asbestos. The UK firm representing Johnston is working on over 700 asbestos-related compensation cases. "What put a burr under my saddle," he said, "was that by the '60s, the asbestos industry had full knowledge of the dangers of working with asbestos."

Playing it safe robs the bank

CHASE Manhattan Bank's 62-floor headquarters in Wall Street, Manhattan, was plastered with an asbestos product called Limpet between 1958 and 1960. In the early 1990s, following evidence that it caused mesothelioma, the worst kind of asbestos-related disease, the bank had it scraped off at a cost of about R4 million a floor.

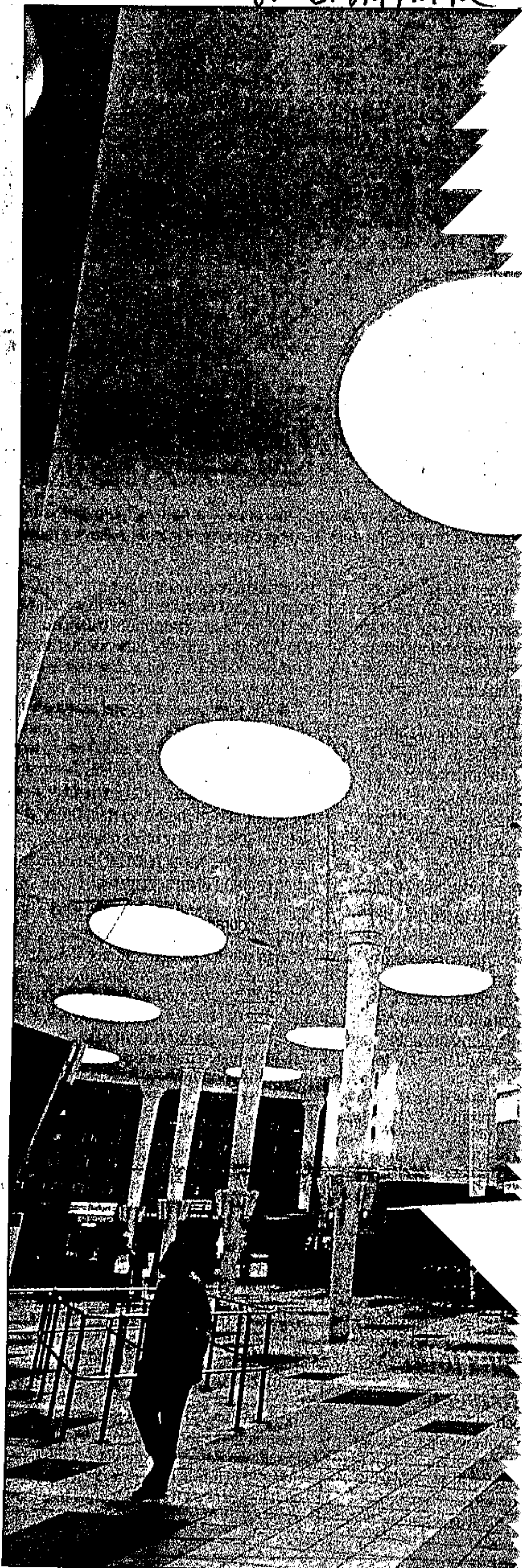
Chase Manhattan filed a multimillion-dollar suit against asbestos giant Turner and Newall.

Limpet was also used on the ceiling of the main concourse of the Cape Town station.



AT THE CROSSROADS: Slow, suffocating death is the price workers have paid for the country's lucrative asbestos mining industry.

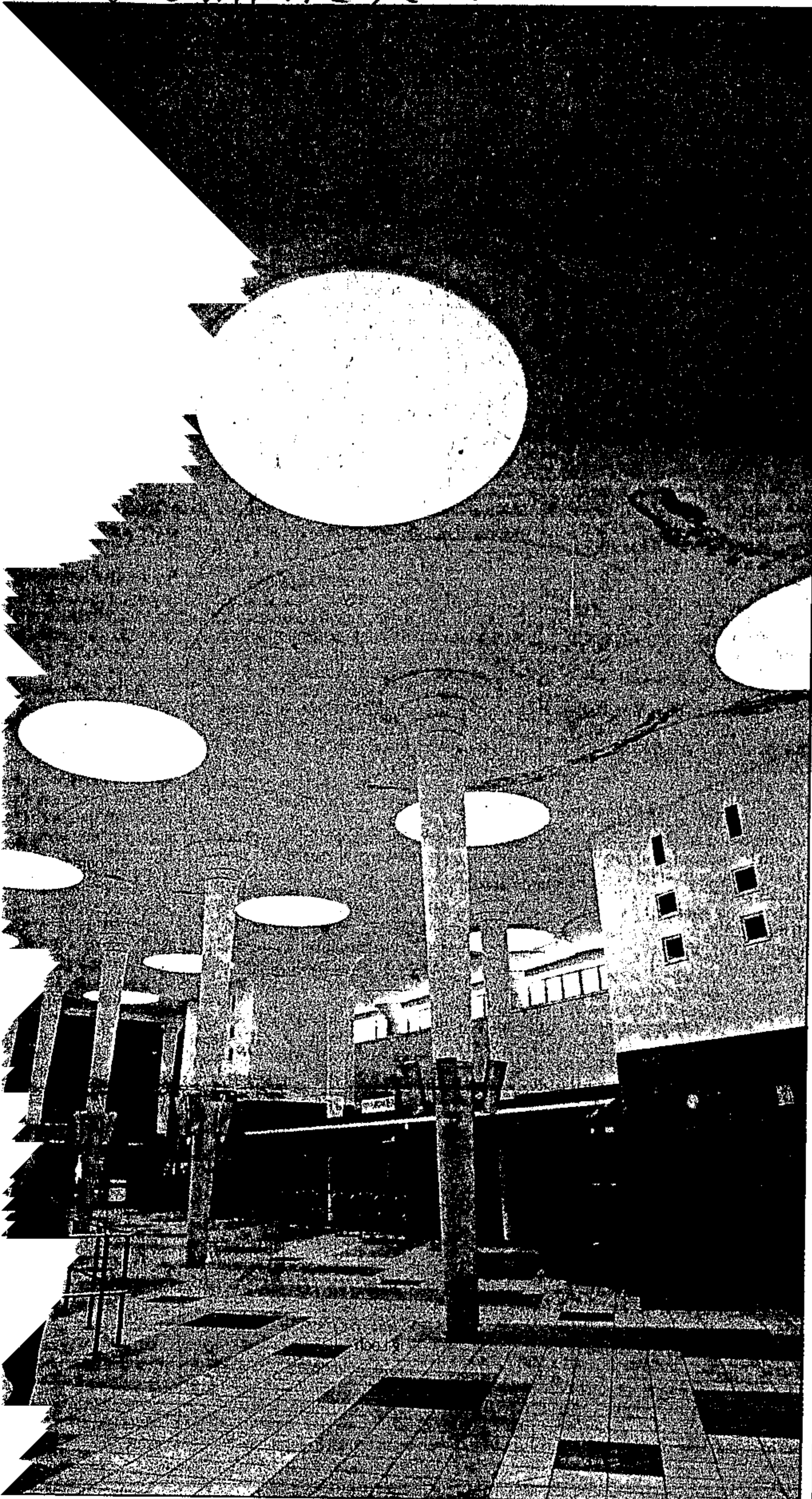
FILE PICTURE



INNER STATION BLUES: The ceiling of Cape Town station that was sprayed with asbestos has caused illness in commuters and station staff.

er or life destroyer in our midst?

CT 24/11/98 (56) (2000)



Reports on deaths led to first summit

MOST mine explosions are reported exhaustively by the media. A less spectacular mining tragedy has killed thousands of people in South Africa, but it has been given little attention.

Asbestos is lethal. Thousands of miners and many mineworkers' relatives who have been exposed to it have died. Added to these, it is estimated that about 5 500 people have died after being exposed to fibres in the environment. Researchers say asbestos exposure is a worse hazard than radiation because the fibres are indestructible.

As a result of investigative reports by the *Cape Times* into what is considered an asbestos epidemic, the first National Asbestos Summit is taking place. It opens in Johannesburg today.

The parliamentary portfolio committee on environmental affairs and tourism was so moved by reporter Lisa Templeton's investigation that it immediately set up a special task team to work towards stemming deaths from asbestos-related diseases.

It is the committee that has called the summit, which is to cover the dangers of asbestos inhalation, possible new legislative measures, questions of regulation and the compensation of those affected.

South Africa's permissible asbestos fibre count per millilitre of air is one of the highest in the Western world. Although it is mainly miners who have asbestos-related diseases, people in old mining towns, in the building industry and even those living or working in buildings where asbestos is present, stand the chance of developing lung diseases.

A question that is likely to come up often during the summit is whether white asbestos — or chrysotile — is dangerous. The material is used in many buildings, where it is encased in cement. The construction industry's standpoint has been that, used in this manner, it does not pose a threat to health. The other point of view is that as long as the direct threat of white asbestos cannot be determined precisely, it should be banned.

Blue (crocidolite) and brown (amosite) asbestos are no longer mined in South Africa. There has long been consensus that these present serious risks to health.

Another question that will be raised is whether asbestos should be removed from buildings, at what expense and whether doing so is not more dangerous than leaving it undisturbed as working with it creates the dangerous dust that causes permanent lung damage.

The portfolio committee on environmental affairs and tourism has also designed an information pamphlet on asbestos.

Gwen Mahlangu, who chairs the committee, says discussions at the summit are to be written up in a report, which is to include suggestions on new legislation.

"Every day that I get more information on asbestos, I wonder why we still use it," she said.

HE was set to become a farmer. His life was all mapped out for him, but he defied convention and family ties to go into fashion.

Read about this award-winning designer in the **WEDNESDAY INTERVIEW** with **DIANE CASSERE** in your *Cape Times* tomorrow.

UES: The ceiling of Cape Town station that was sprayed with lethal blue asbestos which could pose a threat to union staff.

PICTURE: ALAN TAYLOR

'Unitra's paranoid principal should go'

M+G 27/11-3/12/98 (54)

Chiara Carter

A damning report on the conflict-ridden University of the Transkei (Unitra) recommends that its principal, Alfred Moleah, take early retirement and the university's finances be investigated.

The report by independent assessor Louis Skweyiya was requested by Minister of Education Sibusiso Bengu. Skweyiya found that the relationship between Moleah and the rest of the university had "irretrievably" broken down and there was no chance of normality at the university while he remained in office.

Skweyiya recommends that Bengu persuade Moleah to go on leave and that council devise a retrenchment package for him. Should this not happen, council would have to deal with him, but should follow legal procedures. Moleah's post should immediately be advertised and a caretaker management should be installed for an interim period.

The report outlines how, although ultimate authority rests with the university council, Moleah had refused to implement decisions by the previous council and held the view that he had the right to make appointments. It mentions examples of unhappiness over "irregular" appointments.

The report also paints a picture of an extraordinary state of paranoia surrounding Moleah, who refused to allow his vice-principal to park his car alongside his because this would

threaten his safety. Moleah moves around campus with an armed bodyguard and has security guards at his house. He also has a closed-circuit television system in his office — a situation the report says is "unhealthy" and infringes on the privacy of colleagues.

Skweyiya says Moleah governs through a management team that has no credibility among students or senior academics. Meetings are described as haphazard. Committees which are supposed to let staff and students participate in running the university are described as "dysfunctional and [a] shambles". The report says essential services have collapsed.

The report also deals with unhappiness about the new council, which it says is perceived to have been "handpicked" after Moleah clashed with the previous council.

Skweyiya found no substance to allegations of impropriety in the renting of a property known as the White House to staff by council chair Dumisa Ntsebeza. However, after a letter from Ntsebeza to Moleah became public, there were perceptions among staff that Ntsebeza backed Moleah.

Skweyiya said the university's financial affairs were "alarming. In 1995 Unitra was R60-million in credit; the following year the university was R40-million in the red."

He said the university council should facilitate a probe into Unitra's finances to look into "rampant allegations" of corruption of "alarming proportions", theft and fraud.

Technikon rector's R1-million salary

MHG 27/11-2/12/98 (574)

Evidence wa ka Ngobeni

The rector of Technikon South Africa (TSA), Adriaan Buitendacht, is paid an annual salary of nearly R1-million. And he is scheduled to get a salary increase next year. Discontent is running high among workers, labour unions and senior staff at TSA about the "purported extravagant" salaries paid to top management, especially the rector and vice-rectors.

Directors of programmes at TSA are at present paid a maximum of R476 674 a year.

Senior directors and deans are paid up to R603 739 a year. These payments include benefits. TSA's four vice-rectors are each

paid up to R724 250 a year, making them among the highest-paid academics in the country.

Senior officials contend Buitendacht's R988 000 in annual benefits is unjustifiable expenditure of public funds. The rector's payment is decided by the TSA council.

But TSA representative Gerald Grobler said the technikon paid high salaries in order to attract competent people to serve the institution. The salary scale is competitive with the market for jobs of similar responsibility, Grobler said.

Buitendacht has served as rector for many higher education institutions in the country.

He was seconded by the apartheid national education department in

1980 to the rector of the Academy for Tertiary Education until 1985.

Buitendacht left the academy in 1991 to join the Vaal Triangle Technikon. He resigned a year later to join TSA.

Senior TSA officials acknowledge Buitendacht is a well-qualified academic, respected by academics in the country and some parts of Africa. But they still think he is paid too much.

Among other highly paid academics is the former rector of the Vaal Triangle Technikon, Aubrey Mokadi, who was dismissed for misusing technikon's funds. Mokadi was paid a R400 000 a year.

University of Western Cape rector Professor Cecil Abrahams was re-

ported to be earning about R660 000 a year, his deans R300 000 and vice-rector R440 000 a year.

The National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) has expressed dismay at the salaries paid to top management at TSA. "We want the technikon council to freeze these exorbitant salaries paid to the top management," said Nehawu provincial secretary Mike Dube.

Dube said Nehawu has called for the intervention of Minister of Education Sibusiso Bengu at the technikon.

"There is huge corruption activities involving the top management," Dube said. "The management has even refused to give stakeholders an internal audit report which exposed

more than 105 cases of corruption at the campus."

Nehawu is currently negotiating salary increases for the lower-grade workers at TSA. Management has offered a 5% increase and Nehawu is demanding a minimum increase of 10%. Nehawu has threatened a legal strike if the management did not address their concerns.

TSA representatives said salaries for the rector and vice-rectors for 1999 will be determined by an "appropriate" analysis of the Gauteng market.

National Department of Education officials this week said the education minister currently has no power to determine academics' salaries or to order them to disclose what they earn.

"The issue of salaries for rectors and academics is negotiated by the institution's council," said education department representative Beki Khumalo.

SA gets euro wake-up call

(74)

ARG 28/11/98

RICHARD STOVIN-BRADFORD

BANKING EDITOR

Johannesburg — A pointed wake-up call was delivered to South Africa yesterday by John Major, the former British prime minister, when he said that few people had grasped the sheer scale of the change or the after-shock represented by the advent of European Monetary Union (EMU) in January.

Speaking at a conference arranged by Warburg Dillon Read, the investment bank, on the practical consequences of the euro on South African investors and corporates, Major said the euro and the dollar would dominate world currency markets and the yen and pound would be a "long way behind".

The arrival of the euro would result in more changes than people had begun to grasp, he said.

"The euro is a currency that is to be born with a silver spoon in its mouth, it will be a currency with huge gold and foreign currency reserves behind it," said Major.

"Although it is going to be born in an economic downturn, I suspect that it'll get off to a rather good start," he said, nevertheless saying that its introduction was somewhat reckless, because of the degree of fudging certain countries had employed to meet the economic criteria for the euro's launch.

But, when the glamour wore off, there were some real economic dangers. The less well-performing economies — mostly in southern Europe — would not be able to compete with their northern European counterparts, partly because of rising unemployment in southern Europe. The Euroland economies were not properly converged, he said.

Major said that the extraordinary changes in the



WINDS OF CHANGE John Major, the former British prime minister, speaking at a conference arranged by Warburg Dillon Read yesterday. The subject was the practical effects of the euro on South African investors and corporations

PHOTO: JOHN WOODROOF

world, referring to the crises in Russia, Japan, Indonesia, China and Brazil, mattered as much in South Africa as they did anywhere else in the world.

"They provide very unexpected circumstances for the launch of a new currency in just a few weeks' time," he said. "The world economy is much more interdependent than ever in the past. South Africa cannot be immune from all this and it isn't," he said.

Addressing possible South African concerns about the recently established trend for local

companies to seek primary listings in overseas markets, Major said: "Many South African companies are moving their primary listings to London. It's the most liquid market in the world and an entirely logical place for world-class companies to have a primary listing.

"Capital will go where market conditions seem most favourable for it to go," he said, still praising the South African government's refusal to impose protectionist measures in the face of the emerging markets crisis and thereby divert foreign capital.

But, he said: "If the euro fails, the dollar may become even more of a safe-haven currency. However, if it succeeds, it will become a reserve currency and precisely the reverse may happen." The euro's status depended on the timing and speed with which it took on reserve currency attributes.

"What is certain is that as the euro becomes a reserve currency, it will lead to portfolio allocation switches. It will affect South Africa through financial market transactions and trade finance," Major said.

"The trade finance demands

for the euro are going to be tremendous. You'll need to be ready for that in South Africa."

He added: "I don't think South Africa need fear these changes — quite the reverse. It may create new opportunities."

South Africa needed to overcome the problems of the past. "Its future lies in developing its assets and maximising its relations in the world. If South Africa locks out the world ... the world will go elsewhere," he said.

There are 34 days remaining before EMU is introduced in 11 European states.



ANGRY... Professor Aubrey Mokadi says he does not recognise the decision to oust him.

■ Pic: ANDRIES MCINEKA

CP 29/11/98
Bengu says Vaal Tech Council defied him

By ZAKHELE SHIBA (54)

EDUCATION Minister Sibusiso Bengu has accused the Council of the Vaal TriAngle Technikon of defying him.

The follows the Council's decision to proceed with the action that later led to the dismissal of rector Professor Aubrey Mokadi.

Bengu said his ministry had this week brokered an agreement with the Vaal Technikon Council that it should disband in February next year.

If the Council failed to do so, he would withdraw funding for Vaal Technikon for the 1999 academic year.

Bengu said the Technikon Council had defied him by not implementing Professor Jaap Durand's recommendation that it should disband.

He said it was his duty, in the interim, to ensure that Vaal Technikon had a chief executive officer who would be appointed to run it until a rector was appointed.

But Mokadi (38), removed after being found guilty of financial impropriety by a special inquiry, this week said the battle between him and the Technikon was far from over.

"I will surprise everyone, especially those who want to hold transformation to ransom. I am not prepared to become a victim of cheap justice," Mokadi said.

After his suspension last October, Mokadi claimed he was a victim of a conspiracy by Council members who did not allow him to have legal representation while they were legally represented at the commission of inquiry.

Mokadi said of the inquiry's judgement: "I don't accept it and it will not stand because it is not objective."

He said the decision was not realistic and he did not owe the Technikon a cent.

He denied that the African National Congress had planted him at Vaal Technikon and vowed to fight on for his reinstatement and to ensure justice was done, "even if it means going to the highest court in the land".

The chairperson of the inquiry which brought Mokadi's tenure to an end, advocate Roland Sutherland, SC, told City Press it would be inappropriate for him to comment about Mokadi's reaction because his role was that of presiding officer.

Breaking new management ground

UWC course could serve as model for other countries

CAROL CAMPBELL

Special Writer

The University of the Western Cape is breaking new ground by helping small and medium business owners across Africa build their management skills to become serious players in the global economy.

Professor Per Lind, director of the Centre for Management and Infrastructure Development at Linköping University in Sweden, said the new management development programme currently under way at the university could successfully be emulated by other countries in the developing world.

Linköping University and the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences (EMS) at UWC, funded by the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency, have worked together to develop the course.

"Linköping will stay involved in the programme for the next three years, after which we will ease out and hopefully give of our expertise to



LEON LESTRADE

Discussion: Professor Per Lind of Sweden, second left, visits Mandalay Coatings set up similar programmes in Asia, Central America and possibly another centre in Africa," he said.

The Swedes had chosen to work with UWC because of its proud "struggle" history and reputation as the "intellectual home of the left" in

South Africa, he said.

"Our country supported the ANC during apartheid and now we feel this is one way we can make a positive contribution to South Africa."

There are 23 delegates from seven African countries attending the

programme, which will end at Linköping University in February next year.

Then students will be taken to visit successful Swedish small and medium businesses and enjoy an extensive lecture programme facilitated by internationally recognised business experts.

This week's programme included an intensive study of modern business principles and how they should be applied.

During the week delegates visited seven locally owned black businesses which they will use as case studies for the course.

"Small and medium businesses drive economic development in a successful country. This programme is intended to help the business community take full advantage of globalisation and build up their operations," said Professor Lind.

Kirsten Kennedy, spokesperson for the EMS faculty, said the university wanted to provide a service to small and medium business owners who often lacked the managerial skills to reach their full potential.

"Small and medium business owners that have become successful through trial and error have reached a point where they recognise the need for further assistance if their businesses are going to expand beyond their existing capacity and compete in an increasingly competitive market. This is the need to which the university is responding."

Galiem Jacobs, the owner of Mandalay Coatings, an Elsie's River paint manufacturing company used as a case study by the students this week, said huge opportunities existed for small and medium black businesses in South Africa.

"Provided you can offer good service and a quality product at a competitive price, the work is there to be had," he said.

But Mr Jacobs said he was constantly forced to wrestle with labour problems and low productivity - problems which a course like the one being run by UWC could help him tackle.

"I never work less than 15 hours a day and I never take a weekend. I know success takes hard work."

UCT tried to undermine workers' right to strike, says Nehawu

Nehawu at UCT wants to respond to the issues raised by Helen Zille on behalf of Ramphele (UCT vice-chairman Mamphele Ramphele) in the Cape Argus of November 18.

Helen manipulates the public by saying UCT is accounting to the public in that article. Besides this accountability being the attack on the union on campus and the right of workers to strike, how many things is UCT accounting for to the public? We still do not know how much Ramphele is earning at this university, let alone her increase in this year. Is it not in public interest to know and compare? Ramphele refused to reveal her salary even when it was asked by the National Minister of Education in order to be able to judge the allocation of budgets. The public demands to know this secret salary.

Helen does not give the full account of the strike for obvious reasons. She says nothing about the behaviour and conduct of UCT bosses. UCT bosses have been in bad faith right from the start. They never told us that mediation will not change their position, but allowed us to go to it as if they were prepared to offer something for conciliation. At mediation we gave up 50% of our demands in an attempt to meet them halfway. They added three of their demands instead and never moved an inch in their original offer.

It would have saved time and money should they have indicated that they are not prepared to offer anything, even if a mediator can intervene. This is one example of how they delayed the negotiations they blame on us for delay. In that mediation we had letters of support for SRC, SASCO and COMSOC (representing students on campus).

This bad faith has been repeated many times before and during the strike. When they applied for an interdict they left us in a meeting with their negotiating team, misleading us to believe that they were satisfied with our clarification of the ballot paper. As a result we never had an opportunity to oppose their application for an interdict.

The same happened for the second interdict. We were discussing the picketing rules with the CCMA commissioner when they applied for an interdict during the night without us knowing that they are in court over our strike. Even the ballot paper they questioned is the same ballot question that was in previous strikes and they accepted.

They know very well that South Africa has got the largest income differences in the world. This is because of slave wages paid to South African workers as a result of apartheid. Slave wages are slave wages. How can a progressive institution pride itself by comparing its slave treatment to other slave drivers. We have shown to the media payslips of people to show how much people are taking home.

The National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) takes issue with the University of Cape Town's director of communications Helen Zille on the recent strike on campus. Ms Zille, in a recent article in the Cape Argus, accused Nehawu of a breach of faith, and said this would have long-term consequences for industrial relations at the university

or a small minority. This is a desperate attempt to undermine the right of workers to strike. They are saying that their actions are in the interest of democracy. They opposed our ballot paper in disguise of democracy. Is it not a democratic right of the minority to strike when they see the need for striking as the workers' only weapon? When the majority of workers voted for a strike, UCT is quick to protect the right of the minority that is against the strike not to strike.

Here are the facts about numbers. We have 680 members on campus. This number includes members outside the bargaining unit. UCT bosses went out to intimidate our members. They said that people outside the bargaining unit will not be allowed to strike because their wages have been settled by the Staff Association and Academic Association. This was another attack on the right of workers to strike. Of 680 413 voted. This was done in the light of the rush to get re-balloting as the first ballot was rejected, and 371 workers voted in favour of a strike.

In spite of UCT bosses' intimidation strategy, more than 200 workers went on strike on the first day. This

was in the rain that lasted the whole week. The next day the number increased. Numbers were monitored by attendance register, which we kept with us and never gave to Helen Zille. We never settled because we were left with 39 workers on strike. Our national office organised that CCMA intervene to settle the dispute. Resolution to this dispute was in our interest as well.

In the first place we did not strike simply because people like to strike. The strike came out of the UCT bosses creating a situation that provoked workers into a strike. Our initiative to seek the intervention of senior bosses failed. They showed their irresponsibilities by referring our dissatisfaction to the recognition agreement mechanisms. This mechanism is nothing else but a strike they want to discipline workers for now. This was through Dan Ncwiyana and Joy Fish.

It is the lack of UCT bosses to understand that workers need decent pay. The fact that we settled without us achieving that decent pay must be seen in the light of us being keen to resolve the dispute that existed when the bosses are keen to pursue the matter further by creating a

violent situation. UCT can afford R200 to our members. Six percent is below the inflation rate. Moreover the inflation rate for workers is not the same to Ramphele and her fellow bosses.

During the strike very limited incidents of violence have occurred. UCT bosses should be blamed for this. They brought in the police on the very first day of the strike before the strike was officially launched. The presence of police provoked our members. Helen Zille gave police instructions to act and not just stand by while people were singing. As a result police charged the workers with batons and two of our shop stewards were arrested attempting to save a pregnant member from police attack. Police beat up people for no reason. We have had a case at Rondebosch police station against those police on behalf of the seriously injured worker.

The second incident of violence that is not reported by Zille is that of certain white students' attack on marchers at Leo Marquard. Our members were attacked on three occasions when marching around Tugwell and Leo Marquard by white students in front of UCT bosses and

Ramphele's strategies went so far as to invade our privacy in our meetings. This was reported to Paul Abrams (Human Resources Manager responsible for industrial relations). Obviously workers are not empowered by law to discipline such bosses. That is for the lawyers to do.

Ramphele is justifying all her misconduct by saying that she is protecting private property. A lot has been said about damage to property, which no one has reported so far.

What UCT leaves out is the psychological damage caused by the strike on the minds of everyone at this university and the public. This damage is not so important to them. Zille is proud about the fact that industrial relations have collapsed at UCT. This is a very serious concern to us.

The reputation of Ramphele herself is damaged by this strike, as proved by her behaviour. Now everyone is aware that Ramphele is capable of crushing the strike by using the same tactics as used by P W Botha during apartheid rule. We would not have known this without this strike.

The true face of transformation now is exposed to everyone at UCT. The fact that we have a woman vice-chancellor does not mean much to the workers here. It is actually wind-down dressing. UCT is still a liberal university for the elite. Disadvantaged students are still struggling to get into UCT because of white standards maintained by Ramphele.

On the third day, our marshal arrested a white student throwing stones at marchers in front of senior bosses and police. We forced the police to act against the students, but they refused and we then asked the person attacked to lay a charge at Rondebosch police station. UCT was pleased to see their propaganda working in the minds of some white students. They are the ones who were preaching to students that our strike is targeting them and their examinations.

The fact that Zille made a psychologically explosive statement that exams are sacrosanct at UCT just shows her own liberal indifference to the issues involved affecting workers. We want to know from Zille whether she is advocating the view that at tertiary institutions like UWC exams are not considered as sacrosanct?

Also, we want to know whether the fight for a living wage is not sacrosanct? Now the talk is about disciplinary action. Why? Who is going to discipline the bosses for their misconduct?

The fact that the majority of our members voted twice for a strike indicates that there is something wrong in the bosses of UCT. Let alone their intimidations, attacks, misconduct by bosses etc. Outside the strike committee meeting, a member of the investigation unit was caught listening to the meeting using a listening device.

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UCT shares R51-m to find Aids vaccine

(54)

Research in conjunction with a North Carolina university

Star 30/11/98

OWN CORRESPONDENT
Cape Town

The first research into an Aids vaccine based on the type of virus found in South Africa is set to begin at the University of Cape Town.

UCT virologist Carolyn Williams, together with researchers from the University of North Carolina in the United States, has received funding from the International Aids Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) to work on a candidate vaccine that will be viable for the developing world.

This project will share a grant of \$9,1-million (about R51-million) with a similar collaboration between the United Kingdom and Kenya.

"These projects are working on the most promising new vac-

cine technologies in the world," said Jaap Goudsmit, a scientific adviser for IAVI.

"They are also far enough along in the developmental process for us to be able to test them quickly in humans."

IAVI is a non-governmental organisation trying to promote the development of HIV vaccines.

Aids activists fear that, left to their own resources, private drug companies will ignore vaccine research - which isn't particularly profitable - or focus only on vaccines that can be used in affluent countries where the population can afford them.

The organisation receives funds from sources such as Princess Diana's memorial fund, the World Bank and the Rockefeller Foundation.

It chose the two collaborations from eight potential projects around the world.

"The approach used by the University of Carolina researchers is very exciting," said Williams.

"What we want to do now is use the same approach with the South African virus."

The US researchers have based their vaccine, which has already been tested on primates, from the strain of HIV found in North America and Europe, known as Clade B. Williams' job is to choose the best variant of Clade C HIV, found mainly in southern Africa, on which to build a new vaccine.

Williams is working with colleagues from KwaZulu Natal who are supplying samples of the virus for analysis.

(54)

Unitra accepts damning report

M+G 4-10/12/98
Chiara Carter

The University of Transkei (Unitra) council has accepted the major recommendations of a damning report on its affairs commissioned by Minister of Education Sibusiso Bengu.

These include the immediate departure of the university's controversial principal, Professor Alfred Moleah, the resumption of all official duties by its vice-principal Professor JM Noruwana and a forensic audit of the university's finances.

The report by lawyer Louis Skweyiya said the relationship between Moleah and the university community had broken down irretrievably. The council adopted a resolution noting that for "several cogent reasons" the continued tenure of Moleah was "untenable to both the university and Moleah".

The council accepted a letter from Moleah giving notice that he did not want to renew his contract, which expires in June next year. A severance package is to be agreed this week and Moleah is to go on paid leave from next weekend until his contract expires.

The council refused to ratify Moleah's dismissal of about 500 workers and said management had exceeded its authority.

Skweyiya advised the university to embark on a year-long restructuring process. Council agreed to examine plans for restructuring drawn up by university management and agreed that students must be made to pay fees.

Skweyiya noted widespread allegations of corruption, mismanagement and fraud and recommended a thorough investigation.

Dresssing apartheid's

Top varsity's medical school probes its past and finds it was

wounds

seriously wanting towards black doctors

ST 6/12/98 (54)

LAURICE TAITZ

A PARTHEID-era racism was so ludicrous and insulting that black doctors were not allowed to attend postmortem examinations on white bodies, according to a Wits University report.

Black students were made to wait outside the morgue until the body had been moved. They were then allowed in to view the organs, says one doctor in the report by the Internal Reconciliation Commission of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

The report documents racism in the faculty and resistance to apartheid by some members between 1940 and 1994. It was commissioned by Professor Max Price, the dean of the faculty, after the health sector hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

"It became clear that within the faculty and its associated hospital services there was much anger and resentment relating to past discrimination that had been neither acknowledged nor resolved," says the report, compiled by advocate Jules Browde, Professor Patrick Mokhoba and Dr Essop Jassat.

It says that during the '40s, Middleton Shaw, the dean of dentistry, didn't want blacks at Wits and was determined to never allow them into the university's Dental Hospital. In 1944 Humphrey Raikes, the principal, banned mixed sports.

When the National Party came to power in 1948, it pressured universities to observe apartheid laws. To ward off intervention, Wits tightened up social segregation and limited the intake of black students.

The first black medical students were allowed into white hospitals until Baragwanath and Coronation hospitals became available for training.

Discriminatory acts black students endured from the '50s onwards included:

- The Hospital Board ruled that they were not to come into contact with white patients;

- They had to enter and leave the Johannesburg General Hospital by back entrances;

- They were forbidden to wear white coats or carry stethoscopes in the hospital;

- They had separate facilities. Crockery and utensils were labelled EDR (European dining room) or NEDR (Non-European dining room);

- The final-year graduation photograph, traditionally taken outside Johannesburg General Hospital, was particularly insensitive given that black students weren't allowed into the hospital.

- Dr Suliman Dockrat, a dentist, recalled that for his final orthodontics exam, he was given a plaster cast of his exam subject. "I wasn't allowed to see the patient because I'm not white."

- Indian doctors earned 20 percent less than white doctors; African male doctors earned 40 percent less and African female doctors earned even less than that; and

- In 1987 black students were allowed in all sections of white hospitals except maternity and gynaecology wards.

Dr Haroon Tayob told the commission that conditions at black hospitals compromised patient care.

The report says staff who voiced opposition to the policies of the

Transvaal Provincial Authority were victimised.

"With a few exceptions the majority of those in authority were acquiescent by virtue of their silence."

Among those singled out for their defiance of apartheid are dentistry professors Mervyn Shear and John Lemmer. Five doctors from the Wits Medical School, acting in their personal capacities, also initiated legal proceedings resulting in the case against the doctors involved in Steve Biko's death.

In the mid-'80s it was police practice to identify protesters by their gunshot or birdshot wounds and then to arrest them. On several occasions staff refused to relinquish medical records.

Dr Grant Rex and Dr Robert Potenza, students in the '80s, write: "During this time [while we were members of the ANC underground] ... we also witnessed many courageous acts, activities and contributions."

These included lectures on community health which gave a political analysis of SA's health problems; the attendance by some staff of the funerals of victims of the Alexandra massacre in March 1986; and the establishment of the journal Critical Health and the Centre for Health Policy.

The report recommends that the faculty acknowledge past racism, apologise to victims, and accept responsibility for failing to challenge the status quo. It proposes steps to deal with the past and to tackle present inequities.

Price said the report would be distributed widely to invite responses.

The University of Cape Town's Medical School has decided to set a similar process in motion.

New varsity for Soweto, Alexandra

Soweto 8/12/98
(54)

By Victor Mecoamere
Education Correspondent

MAHARASHI Open University, based in Holland with campuses in 140 countries throughout the world, is due to open branches in Soweto and Alexandra, said Mr Taddy Blecher of the Community and Individual Development Association (Cida).

"Cida has made representations to Maharashi Open University (MOU) to allow community workers in Alexandra and Soweto to participate in the university's programmes at a highly reduced cost," said Blecher yesterday.

He said Cida, a community development organisation, was able to get an agreement from MOU that it (Cida) could offer bursaries to all successful candidates. They who join the university's Cida-run centres in Soweto and Alexandra.

He said: "In addition, MOU Soweto and Alexandra centres will be open to everyone, even to people who are not in possession of matric certificates but are capable of tackling the various courses.

"Normally fees are between R5 040 and R11 000 a year at tertiary institutions, but at the MOU Soweto and Alexandra centres the costs will be R550 due to bursary offers.

"This makes university education more affordable to many people who would otherwise not be able to study due to financial constraints."

Blecher said MOU offers certificates, diplomas and advanced diplomas as well as bachelor, masters and doctoral degrees in business management, natural healthcare, political science, public administration, natural agriculture and architecture.

He also said the university's courses would begin in February. A satellite dish would be erected at each study centre. Lectures would be delivered by Dutch lecturers in English. For more information telephone Blecher at (011) 782 7107 or at (011) 280 0357.

Technikons get a R60-m boost

By Gershwin Chuenyane

FOUR South African technikons are set to benefit from a R60 million assistance package that is intended to finance the Technical and Business Education Initiative in South Africa.

The multi-million-rand project was announced by Technikon Northern Gauteng chancellor Mr Cyril Ramaphosa during a ceremony at the technikon this week.

The project's main objective is to foster economic and social development in the black community.

It is funded by the European Union (EU) and is a joint initiative of a consortium of three European universities of

(57)
Sowetan 12/12/98

Covertry, Greenwich and Limerick with four local technikons, Northern Gauteng, M L Sultan, Eastern Cape and Peninsula.

It is hoped the combined expertise and experience of the three universities in the areas of technology-based education and entrepreneurship will provide a highly effective resource for socio-economic capacity building in South Africa.

Ramaphosa said the seven institutions will share in the fund and that the project will run for four years.

Models would be developed to evaluate the project's effectiveness in terms of realisation of its objectives, he added.

EU ambassador to South Africa Mr Michael Laidler said the EU was com-

mitted to fostering new partnerships between business, technical institutions, Government and students to create an enabling environment for the development and empowerment of youth in South Africa.

"Skill development, notably in the area of entrepreneurship, will be a major challenge in the South African economy in the coming years, Laidler said.

Higher standards

He said their multi-million rand commitment would contribute to the achievement of higher standards of training and skill provision to a larger number of South Africans.

And according to Ramaphosa, some of

the results expected from the venture include:

- Increased formal economic and business activity among formerly disadvantaged groups;

- Development and upgrading of the vocational educational infrastructure in relation to education, learning systems and programmes;

- Development of technology-based small business firms by the technikons' enterprise centres working in collaboration with staff, students and the broader community; and

- A comprehensive range of published and easily accessible learning resources integrating technological concepts and business applications.

Fly-by-night colleges on increase

(54) Nov 11/12/98

More than 400 unregistered ones dish out worthless qualifications

By **TEFO MOTHEBELI**
Education Reporter

More than 400 unregistered higher education colleges are dishing out tuition and worthless qualifications to about 800 000 students around the country, according to the Department of Education.

These range from correspondence colleges, computer schools to some institutions which offer foreign university degrees.

According to the Registrar of Higher Education, Paul Beezhoid, the Higher Education Act which came into effect last year stipulates that these

institutions must register for them to enjoy official standing. Private colleges did not have to acquire any official status before the act came into effect.

Beezhoid said these colleges have been told to register in order for their certificates, diplomas and degrees to be recognised by public institutions and many employers, but so far only nine have submitted complete applications for registration. Another 160 have requested forms.

The institutions that have forwarded their applications are Azaliah College, Southern University, South African College for Natural Medicine, Haute Couture School of Fash-

ion, De Montfort University, Business Management Training, Promat College, Open Pen-tecostal University and The Fashion Institute.

A key aim of the registration requirement is to put paid to fly-by-night operations.

To qualify for registration, these private institutions have to meet stringent requirements, including having to prove that their product is as good or better than what is offered in mainstream institutions. They must also have a sound financial base.

"This is done to ensure that students are getting their money's worth," Beezhoid added.

"After the March 31 1999 deadline we have issued for all institutions to register, we are going to shut down all illegal operations," he said.

Beezhoid added that some of these institutions could be waiting for accreditation from the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)

"The accreditation process takes about six months, but the colleges have to keep in contact with SAQA so as to know what is happening," he said.

He predicted that his office would probably be able to fully register about 100 institutions over the next three to four years.

Upbeat about Wits

Tackling equity issues at one of South Africa's largest universities is no easy feat, but for the University of the Witwatersrand's first black woman deputy vice-chancellor, it's an exciting challenge. Glenda Daniels reports

(51) Mar 16/1998



he recent fossil find has put Wits University back in the limelight in a positive way, which now makes it much easier for the newly elected deputy vice-chancellor Professor Leila Patel to be upbeat about its future.

The university has, for a few years now, been a site of upheaval and turmoil during its transformation process, and has often received negative publicity causing many to lambaste the institution.

But Patel oozes confidence. Dressed in a feminine power suit, she is secure and optimistic that the future for the university looks good. She feels she can handle all the challenges.

The forty-something mother of two was previously director-general of the Department of Welfare. Prior to that she was a research consultant and before that a lecturer at Wits in social policy and development. She's come full circle and is back at the institution, but at the elevated eleventh floor of Senate House.

From her office, which has huge windows overlooking Johannesburg, Patel sets the tone quickly by saying her views on transformation and diversity are not independent of the university's.

Still as fresh in the job as the roses on her desk, Patel clearly wants to operate carefully, without treading on too many toes.

Interestingly enough, the



ANDREAS VACHAKIS

Optimistic... Leila Patel believes that transformation of Wits is happening and will continue. She hopes to help bridge the culture gap between black and white students.

"among young people today. This is present at Wits as well, evidenced at the last SRC election, where there was only a 20% poll. Many students feel marginalised, she says, because they perceive a lack of opportunity and access in society. Nevertheless, Patel feels optimistic that this will change. She thinks that the next decade will be the test of all the new policies and mission statements of the university.

About equity issues and race and gender transformation, Patel says that Wits is better than other universities but it is still skewed. Only 15% of academic staff are black. And at management level the numbers of women are small.

"While the Employment Equity Act forces us into creating opportunities for blacks and women, we are committed to the process," says Patel. She says that Wits' gender forum has been revived and there are strong women at the helm who ensure that sexism is combated.

"The other important and tricky question is the creation of a safe environment for women students and lecturers in a society where crime is rife. So, while there are innumerable problems and challenges at Wits, Patel feels in control and remains undaunted.

We cannot force black and white students to socialise

First point she makes is not about race and gender but rather about the university being urban, in the economic heart of the country. It is an institution that must produce academics of excellence, who can compete internationally.

At the same time, the university cannot be an ivory tower separate from society. She feels strongly about interaction with the community. Patel does not feel that she has been appointed to begin a process of transformation. She is committed to the process that has been taking place for a few years already.

"That the old institution has been challenged is a good thing. The challenge has been to give previously disadvantaged students access to higher education. This has happened and

continues to happen."

About 10 years ago, 14% of the student population was black. Today the number stands at 52%.

Patel perceives this as a positive shift which supports diversity, multiculturalism and strength.

She concedes, however, that all does not come up smelling roses. The reality is that black and white students do not generally mix with each other socially.

Many white students today have moved out of residences, which now mainly house black students. At one point, the residences were mainly white with a sprinkling of black.

So how do you solve the problem of creating racial harmony at a university, which in many ways, is a

microcosm of our society?

"It's easy to label white students as racist. But this is not the case. We do not know what students feel about each other and what they think of diversity. We can't force students to mix with each other but we have to bridge the cultural gap somehow. The challenge is to create an environment which supports a greater appreciation and respect between the different cultures."

To this end, the university has recently appointed a dean of students, whose main task is to ensure that student governance is in place.

There are many issues to be tackled besides academic support programmes to enable black students to cope and pass, says Patel. There has to be greater training and development and ways to encourage students to get involved in the myriad of clubs and societies that are avail-

able, as well as utilising sporting facilities.

Recent statistics show a high level of apathy and apolitical sentiment among young people, who showed up in negligible numbers at the registration polls.

Do Wits students reflect the same sentiment? Patel agrees that the student population is experiencing the same thing but she would rather call it "disempowerment" rather than "ap-

FF moves in as Sasco loses grip on campuses

Evidence wa ka Ngobeni

The African National Congress's main student ally, the South African Student Congress (Sasco), is losing its grip on campuses across the country.

Freedom Front-aligned parties recently won student representative council (SRC) elections at the former Sasco strongholds of Pretoria University, the University of South Africa and the Pretoria Technikon. The FF also won the University of the Free State.

Sasco lost Natal University to a Democratic Party student ally, the South African Liberal Organisation. And at a number of other institutions — including ML Sultan and Cape Technikon — Sasco either lost to other student organisations or independent students.

Surprisingly, it was black students who gave the FF its margin of victory at the Pretoria Technikon. Some said they voted for the FF because they were disillusioned with Sas-

co, while many other students didn't vote.

During the pre-1994 campus elections, whites showed little interest in student politics because they were not threatened by the country's state of affairs, said FF president Kallie Kriel. In 1994, South Africa's first democratic elections put the black majority in control of government.

"Now white students, particularly the new generation, have stood up to fight against things like affirmative action against whites and the marginalisation of whites by the new government," said Kriel.

Sasco provided a political training ground for some of South Africa's leading political figures. These include chair of the youth commission, Mahlangi Bengu, and National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union deputy general secretary, David Makhoro.

But since 1994, Sasco's largely black constituencies indicated they have had enough of student politics and now want degrees and

jobs. The new fight for black students is for academic achievement and excellence.

"There is a decline in black students participation in the SRC elections," said Gilbert Kganayo, Sasco's newly elected president.

Critics say black students are tired of corruption among Sasco leaders. For example, at Natal University, Sasco's loss was attributed to corruption in the previous SRC, said Sasco general secretary Jomo Khoza.

In a statement this week, Sasco declared: "It has become a trend that Sasco-led SRCs are behaving in an unbecoming manner. Practices of abuse of office, maladministration and corruption have come to characterise a number of SRC's."

Sasco, the Pan African Student Movement and the Azanian Student Convention are "destructive" at the universities and technikons, and that is why they fail to unite black students to vote for them, Kriel said. "Sasco is performing poorly because of its student lead-

ers riding the gravy train." Kganayo echoes Kriel's sentiments: "We have realised that some of the Sasco-led SRCs, particularly individual SRC members, have not been able to account clearly for what their activities are in those SRCs."

"This has led to a situation where SRCs are seen as institutions of self-enrichment." Kganayo is a former SRC president at the University of the North where Sasco still controls the SRC. While Kganayo was president, the SRC was accused of misusing millions of rands of student funds.

But Sasco contends its members are intimidated in the previously white institutions.

Kganayo said "The FF has won SRC elections in institutions where traditionally the people who form a large part of the constituency are Afrikaners, and Africans or blacks are found to be very few in those institutions."

Kriel disputes Sasco's claim that only whites are voting for the FF on campus: "At the Pretoria Technikon, we won the SRC election while Afrikaners only constitute 30% of the student body."

(54) M+G 18-23/12/98

Wits racist, say black economics lecturers

University aware of need for greater diversity, says vice-chancellor

ND 18/12/98 (54)

Primarashni Pillay

BLACK academics at Wits University's economics department have accused the institution of racism in the selection of the committee that sets exams.

They allege that while they taught the first-year economics course this year, they were excluded from the course co-ordinating committee.

They said that in other economics courses, lecturers who taught also set the exams. Three black lecturers who in the first semester taught parts of the first-year economics course have also complained that they were told to mark the June exam scripts despite not having set the papers.

They refused, as the course co-ordinators had not taught courses in the first semester and they apparently lacked teaching experience.

Two of the black academics hold master's degrees in economics and economic history, while the senior lecturer has a PhD in economics.

They said the senior course co-ordinator had an honours degree in economic history, while another had just obtained a master's degree in

economics and was a former student of the senior black lecturer. The third person was studying towards a master's degree in economics.

One of the aggrieved academics said that their exclusion from the team of facilitators had undermined their status and consequently one had left in frustration. The two who refused to mark scripts faced disciplinary action.

The committee handling disciplinary processes met last month but nothing materialised because there were problems with its composition — it had three white representatives and an Indian.

It is known that in March this year the Commerce Advisory Committee approached a working group to assess the problems with governance of the economics department.

Headed by Prof Wiseman Nkhuhlu, chairman of the Council on Higher Education, and Prof John Dugard, a former human rights specialist at the university, the committee's report said that over the past few years the department lost opportunities to appoint senior black academics.

It cited an example in which Bethuel Setai, director-general of the

Free State at the time, and Renosi Mokate, who now teaches at the University of Pretoria, had applied for positions in the department but were not invited for interviews.

Instead, Helena Dolny, wife of the late housing minister Joe Slovo, was offered a junior lecturer post.

The report said the economics department's problems were a microcosm of those of other departments and the student body had not been matched by transformation of research and teaching staff.

University vice-chancellor Prof Colin Bundy yesterday expressed surprise that the issue had been taken to the media, since, when the academics "took specific allegations of racism to the university's executive, an investigation revealed no prima facie case".

The university had already set up a high-level facilitation exercise to explore and resolve difficulties in the department. A disciplinary hearing was under way and he regarded several of the issues as sub-judice.

"The university is aware of the need for more diversity in its staffing profile and is developing detailed strategies for achieving this."